

Cincinnati Reds

Press Clippings

July 11, 2018

THIS DAY IN REDS HISTORY

1939-Reds pitcher Paul Derringer starts for the National League in the All-Star Game and pitches 3.0 shutout innings. Derringer allows two hits, with one strikeout, before Bill Lee receives the loss for the National League

MLB.COM

Votto, Reds stun Tribe with 7-run 9th
By Casey Harrison MLB.com
1:50 AM EDT

CLEVELAND -- There wasn't anything Joey Votto could do against Indians starter Trevor Bauer. Despite an 0-for-4 showing against the right-hander, the All-Star first baseman got the last laugh Tuesday at Progressive Field.

With reliever Dan Otero on the mound in the ninth, Votto ripped a full-count fastball to the right-center-field alley to clear the bases, which gave the Reds (41-51) their first lead in an eventual seven-run comeback in the ninth inning to beat the Indians, 7-4.

"Who do you want up in a 3-2 count in the bottom of the ninth inning in the World Series?" Reds starter Sal Romano asked, smirking. "Joey Votto. He got the pitch he wanted, and he knew what to do."

It wasn't until after Bauer's departure that the Reds could manufacture anything on the bases -- the Indians' All-Star went eight innings, allowing three hits and striking out 12. The Reds tallied six runs in the ninth off Indians closer Cody Allen. Allen started the inning by hitting Scooter Gennett with a pitch and giving up an infield single. Jose Peraza scored the team's first run on a bloop single just past the reach of Yonder Alonso down the first-base line, and a pinch-hit, two-run double for Adam Duvall brought tensions to a head.

Votto, the ninth man to bat in the tumultuous rally, ripped the fastball off Otero, who came in to repair Allen's jam. Eugenio Suarez knocked in Votto with a single, but a baserunning mishap by Gennett ended the frame. Raisel Iglesias came on in the bottom of the ninth to secure his 19th save.

"I knew he was going to give a good at-bat," Reds interim manager Jim Riggleman said of Votto. "But you don't know, he might hit that ball, and it may go right to the right fielder. Once you hit it, you're kind of out of control."

Though Votto's hit was about as clutch as any for the Reds this season, it may not have happened without a communication error between Indians manager Terry Francona and pitching coach Carl Willis.

Francona called for left-hander Oliver Perez to warm up and face Votto, a lefty. Willis heard "O.T.," Otero's nickname, rather than "O.P." for Perez. What ensued may have caused the Tribe to lose its fourth in a row.

"That one lands squarely on me," said Francona. "There's no getting around it. I've got to be responsible for that."

Riggleman said pregame that his team has shown nothing but fight when faced with adversity. Votto said, with the Reds winning four of their past six, momentum is helping the team through its hardships.

"With each and every win, with each and every comeback win, with a performance of the night from somebody different, I think our team gets more confident, and I think we get more excited about the present and the future," Votto said. "The Cleveland Indians are for real, but with every win, with every comeback, we feel like we're more for real."

Despite a sluggish start from Romano -- who gave up home runs to Francisco Lindor and Jose Ramirez in the first and allowed two more runs in the second -- he pitched into the eighth. The righty finished with four runs (three earned) yielded in 7 1/3 innings.

"I think I was a little pumped up in the beginning, that's just normal," Romano said. "But I kinda just realized that I couldn't overthrow anymore. I was leaving the ball up in the zone.

"That was the most fun I've ever had in a baseball game, watching those guys do what they did in the ninth inning. I give all the credit to them and all the plays they made in the field today -- I think I struck out one guy. We were able to get some weak contact and get some groundouts and some weak popups. So it was just an unbelievable win."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Progress for Romano: The 24-year-old right-hander settled down nicely after the first two innings. Following homers from Lindor and Ramirez, the Tribe put up two more the next inning -- Romano led off the inning by walking Jason Kipnis and giving up a double to Tyler Naquin. Roberto Perez reached on a fielding error by Suarez, which scored Kipnis, and a groundout from Lindor scored Naquin.

But after Lindor's groundout, Romano set down the next 13 in order before letting two on with one out in the seventh. He then retired Greg Allen and Lindor to get out of the jam. Romano's night ended after two walks, one strikeout and 100 pitches -- he gave up a one-out double to Ramirez, who was stranded at third after Kyle Crockett retired two in a row to escape the inning. Crockett notched the win.

"I looked up at the scoreboard a couple of times and was kind of like, 'Hey, we're starting to get in cruise control right now. I have to keep this team in the game,'" Romano said. "At the end of the game, the Reds won, and I think that's what's most important."

Romano said his outing against the Tribe could be enough to help him change the path of his season. He entered the game with losses in five of his past 10 starts, and he was averaging 1.61 homers per nine innings -- the ninth-worst among all starters in the Majors.

"To be able to [go up] against that kind of lineup, a lefty-heavy lineup, the experience they have with the postseason and stuff like that," Romano said. "And the way I started, to be able to battle through and to pitch into the eighth inning against a team like that is definitely a confidence booster. And learning how to pitch in the big leagues, I really learned a lot about myself today. I know I just didn't want to give up on the team, and we came out on top in the end."

SOUND SMART

Since becoming the Reds' interim manager after the team's 3-15 start under former skipper Bryan Price, Rigglesman has led the Reds to a 38-36 record. The win Tuesday marks Rigglesman's 700th overall as a manager. Rigglesman, 65, began his managerial career in 1992 with the Padres, and he went 112-179 over three seasons. He also got chances with the Cubs, Mariners and Nationals. Through 13 seasons, he's 700-860.

HE SAID IT

"He's much sharper than I remember. He's just gotten better. I think his fastball command is better. I think his curveball command is better. He seems to have a much better idea. I just think he's a better pitcher. This is probably what he had in mind from when he entered the league. This is the version of the pitcher he probably wanted to be, and he showed it tonight. He was a handful for us. We ended up scoring all of our runs when he exited the game. There's a reason why he's an All-Star, and there's a reason why he's fast becoming one of the better pitchers, if not one of the best pitchers, in the game." -- Votto, on Bauer

"He can hit everything. It's a chess match, like I said earlier. So I went to throw something that I don't typically throw in those counts. That makes it tough for 'Berto. He knows how I like to throw. So going through the progression, normally it's, 'This pitch in this count, not that one, then it's this one. OK, not that one, maybe this one. All right, what haven't I called yet?' That's all that was. Just trying to mix things up. Play the chess match a little bit and keep him off-balance." -- Bauer, on shaking off eight signs from catcher Perez before pitching to Votto

UP NEXT

Tyler Mahle (7-6, 3.66 ERA) will take the mound at Progressive Field on Wednesday to attempt to complete the sweep. The 23-year-old right-hander struck out a season-high 12 and gave up three runs (one earned) on six hits in 5 2/3 innings against the Brewers on June 30, then yielded just one run over 6 2/3 to the Cubs on Friday. The Tribe will counter with right-hander Carlos Carrasco, who got the win last Friday against the A's. First pitch is scheduled for 7:10 p.m. ET.

CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

Cincinnati Reds score 7 runs in the 9th inning, stun Cleveland Indians for comeback win
Bobby Nightengale, Cincinnati Enquirer
Published 10:02 p.m. ET July 10, 2018 | Updated 12:39 a.m. ET July 11, 2018

CLEVELAND – The Reds couldn't create much offense in eight innings against Cleveland Indians starter Trevor Bauer on Tuesday.

Against the Indians bullpen? Now that's a different story.

With the bases loaded and two outs in the top of the ninth inning, Joey Votto smacked a three-run double to the wall in right-center for the go-ahead runs in a 7-4 comeback win at Progressive Field in front of 21,908 fans.

Reds interim manager Jim Riggleman, who won his 700th career game, called it "the best inning that I've been involved in in a long time."

Starting pitcher Sal Romano said it was the most fun he's had while watching a game.

All seven runs in the top of the ninth inning scored with two outs. Seven straight Reds hitters reached base to waste Bauer's masterful performance.

"That's something special," said Adam Duvall, who hit a pinch-hit, two-run double in the ninth inning.

In the game's biggest moment, the Indians turned to right-handed reliever Dan Otero to face Votto. In a full count, Votto drilled the seventh pitch of the at-bat to the wall in right-center field. Votto clapped a few times when he stopped at second base.

"He's tough, man," Votto said of Otero, entering the at-bat hitless in four at-bats against the reliever. "I've never liked facing him. Today was one of those occasions where I got a good pitch to hit, I put it in play and good things happen."

Indians manager Terry Francona told reporters afterward he actually wanted left-handed reliever Oliver Perez to face Votto, but he had a miscommunication with pitching coach Carl Willis.

Before the go-ahead double, Votto took a 3-1 pitch down the heart of the plate. He fouled off the next pitch before crushing another fastball left over the middle.

"I was very, very apprehensive about swinging there just because we're one pitch away from tying it," Votto said. "In that situation, the same pitch that comes 3-1, you're supposed to expect the same one at 3-2. They are very, very similar situations.

"I trust my instincts enough in a 3-2 counts to foul balls off or hopefully put a ball in play with good direction."

It was the Reds' largest comeback in the ninth inning since June 2006 when they erased a four-run deficit to, coincidentally, beat Cleveland.

Two pinch-hitters, Duvall and Jose Peraza, delivered run-scoring hits and Dilson Herrera drew a key seven-pitch walk. The home crowd booed when the inning ended.

"We've got a good offensive ballclub and it was on display there," Riggleman said.

The Reds couldn't do much against Bauer, who tossed eight scoreless innings. Bauer struck out 12, including five on called third strikes.

Things didn't start as well for Romano.

Before Tuesday's game, Riggleman raved about the power from Indians shortstop Francisco Lindor and third baseman Jose Ramirez against right-handed pitching – "off the charts," he said.

It didn't take long to understand his point.

Lindor and Ramirez, Cleveland's All-Star infielders, hit a pair of solo home runs in the first inning.

"(Romano) got knocked around in the first inning and kept working and battling," Riggleman said. "Tucker (Barnhart) helped him get through it."

The Indians, on a four-game losing streak, scored two more runs in the second inning through an error and groundout.

From there, Romano looked like a different pitcher. Following the second-inning error by Eugenio Suarez, Romano retired 15 consecutive batters.

Romano completed 7 ½ innings, allowing four hits and three earned runs. It was his second-longest start of the season.

"I really learned a lot about myself today," Romano said. "I just didn't want to give up on the team and we came out on top."

As Reds pitchers will often say, keep the score close enough and the offense will find a way to score a few runs.

Seven runs later and the Reds won for the second straight night, improving their record to 10-2 during interleague play.

Cincinnati Reds reliever Amir Garrett likely to be limited to shorter outings

Bobby Nightengale, Cincinnati Enquirer

Published 6:23 p.m. ET July 10, 2018 | Updated 7:51 p.m. ET July 10, 2018

CLEVELAND – Reds left-handed reliever Amir Garrett doesn't make excuses for giving up five runs and three walks in his last two outings.

"We're all professional athletes," Garrett said. "You just have to find a way to get your job done."

In both appearances, all the damage happened in his second inning on the mound.

He pitched a scoreless eighth inning in Monday's win over the Cleveland Indians. In the ninth, he issued a leadoff walk and surrendered a two-run homer to Jason Kipnis.

Garrett entered Saturday's game against the Chicago Cubs in the seventh inning and completed the frame with two strikeouts and a fly out. Returning to the mound in the eighth, he allowed two walks and a single – all runners who eventually scored.

"Coming back out for the second, I just have to have the same mindset that I had in the first," Garrett said. "At the end of the day, you have to get your job done no matter what, one inning, half inning, whatever, one batter. You have to just go out there and get outs."

Reds interim manager Jim Riggleman said he doesn't want to limit Garrett to one inning because "he's such a dynamic guy." But that will likely be the plan for the 26-year-old lefty in the immediate future.

"I think we will try to go one inning at a time for a while and see if he gets more comfortable with that," Riggleman said.

It's not just Garrett who has been hit around in recent outings.

Entering Tuesday, the Reds' bullpen had allowed 19 earned runs in 28 ½ innings (6.04 ERA) during the month of July.

"I think we're just a little bit fatigued," Garrett said. "But this is our job at the end of the day. You have to find a way no matter what, fatigued or not. It's not something that can't be done. Everybody does it. Guys get tired, they have to play through it."

As the Reds have started to win more games, Riggleman noted that's meant more innings for the team's top relievers in close games.

"We're just going to have to get the point where we trust (Tanner) Rainey and (Jackson) Stephens," Riggleman said. "Based on the way Rainey threw the ball (Monday) night, that was encouraging."

Garrett, a starter for most of last year, entered Tuesday ranked sixth in the National League with 43 relief appearances.

"It's something that's catching up to me a little bit," Garrett said, "but like I said you have to find a way."

LORENZEN REMEMBERS RAVIZZA: When Michael Lorenzen was in college, he took a class from Cal State Fullerton professor, Dr. Ken Ravizza, one of the top sports psychologists in the nation.

Ravizza died Sunday night at 70, six days after suffering a heart attack. He was hired as a consultant by the Cubs in 2015.

"The mental side of it is just so important when it comes to going out there and competing," Lorenzen said. "I've been taking that approach to the pitching side of things and it's paying off big time. I work hard but I'm not stressing about it. I'm enjoying it and having fun."

Lorenzen said one of his travel-ball coaches gave him Ravizza's book, "Heads-Up Baseball: Playing the Game One Pitch at a Time" when he was 12 years old.

"He'd be in our dugout for some games," Lorenzen said of Ravizza at Fullerton. "It was awesome. I was in Wrigley my rookie year, my first start there and he made sure to come over to our side, come meet me and say, 'Hi.' Awesome human being, for sure.

"Ever since I was 12 years old, before I ever met him, he's had an impact on how I went about everything."

How Scooter Gennett transformed from a Cincinnati Reds waiver claim into an All-Star
Bobby Nightengale, Cincinnati Enquirer
Published 7:44 p.m. ET July 10, 2018

CLEVELAND – There was never any doubt in Scooter Gennett's mind that he could become a solid hitter at the Major League level.

The biggest problem throughout his career was finding a regular spot in the starting lineup.

Claimed off waivers by the Reds near the end of Spring Training in 2017, Gennett was supposed to be a left-handed bat off the bench with some versatility in the field.

Now he's an All-Star.

"I look at some of these guys and they are big, big time prospects, first-round guys, you know they are going to get that opportunity because the team has a lot of money invested in them," Gennett said. "But I wasn't one of those guys. I had to figure out a different path."

In hindsight, it's a no-brainer decision to add Gennett to the lineup. Behind the scenes, it was a frantic 48 hours for the Reds' front office when Gennett was placed on waivers by the Milwaukee Brewers.

Gennett's salary exceeded \$2.5 million and it's tough to predict how certain players will fit in each clubhouse, especially so close to the start of the season.

The Reds did save some extra money in their budget for potential additions.

Dick Williams, the Reds president of baseball operations, said it helped that Gennett played for another team in the division, giving everyone more familiarity with him. The Reds' pro scouting department, including Terry Reynolds who scouts the National League Central, flagged Gennett as a player they really liked.

"Our pro scouts really felt a conviction," Williams said. "When you have to make a decision under those circumstances, it makes it a lot easier when they are convinced that he's going to be a good guy."

The front office, Williams said, didn't fully realize Gennett's ties to Cincinnati until after they added him to the team.

But they liked the fact he was under contract until the conclusion of the 2019 season.

"We went to ownership and Bob (Castellini) was on board and was excited about it," Williams said. "He even made the comment like, 'I've been watching that guy kill us from the other side of the field. Yeah, go for it.'"

Gennett made it look like a genius decision on his first day.

In his first Spring Training at-bat with the Reds, Gennett faced Cleveland Indians reliever Andrew Miller, one of the toughest left-handed pitchers in the sport. Gennett drilled a 2-2 pitch over the wall in left-center for a solo home run.

And this was the guy the Reds added to hit righties.

"He hits the home run and I'm like, 'Wow, that makes us look pretty good,'" Williams said. "It just kind of went from there. But he was instantly accepted as a good clubhouse guy. He made his presence known and honestly as much as we'd like to say we were that smart – we did see him as a role player."

Gennett made his biggest adjustment at the plate in one of his final seasons with the Brewers. Working with Milwaukee's assistant hitting coach Jason Lane in the batting cages, Lane told Gennett to change where his back foot landed at the end of his swing.

It helped Gennett keep his front hip closed on swings and the immediate impact was he started to hit for more power.

The next step was a mental adjustment. Gennett started to accept some of the game's failures. He understood he was facing elite pitchers and there were times he would strike out.

"Past couple of years I just realized I'm good, but I'm not perfect," Gennett said. "I'm not going to hit 1.000. Control what I can control and that's my attitude and my preparation. The rest will kind of work itself out."

At the beginning of the 2017 season, Gennett continued in his role as a strong bat off the bench. Things started to change on his famous four-homer night against the St. Louis Cardinals.

He always wanted to start – like every Major League player does – but he focused on adapting himself into the Reds clubhouse in his first few months with his new team.

Once he became an everyday starter at second base, he's continued to thrive. Entering Tuesday, Gennett ranked second in the National League with a .322 batting average and 12th in slugging percentage (.509).

"Things started to fall into place pretty nicely," Gennett said. "I got comfortable over here with the guys and it was back to normal baseball. I still didn't let go of that priority for the team. What can I do to help the Reds win, which is something that I wanted since I was 2 years old watching the Reds.

"That's crazy how things work out. I'm definitely a believer in things happen for a reason and certain things are meant to be."

Gennett learned of his All-Star selection when he met with interim manager Jim Riggleman and Williams before Sunday's game against the Chicago Cubs.

He smiled and surely was thrilled about becoming a first-time selection. He admitted it was a little validation for his hard work.

"I fought my way into the lineup last year," Gennett said. "Once I've been in there every day, the rest is kind of history in a sense. I think the true player in me came out and that's been a lot of fun."

Reds beat blog: Would the Reds trade a closer (Iglesias) and/or an All-Star (Gennett)? They did both in one trade in 1998 **REDS BLOG**

John Fay, Cincinnati Enquirer

Published 11:20 a.m. ET July 10, 2018 | Updated 12:41 p.m. ET July 10, 2018

Welcome to another edition of the Reds Beat Blog. We asked if history could repeat itself:

As we close in on the July 31 Major League Baseball trade deadline, two Reds that will take a spin or two on the old rumor mill are Scooter Gennett and Raisel Iglesias.

Would the Reds trade an All-Star? Would the Reds trade their closer?

In 1998, they did both in one trade. They sent Jeff Shaw to the Los Angeles Dodgers on July 4 – after he had been named as an All-Star.

Shaw, who had signed a team-friendly deal and lived up the road in the Washington Court House, was more than little unhappy with then-GM Jim Bowden for making the deal.

But given what the Reds got for Shaw – Paul Konerko and Dennys Reyes – the deal worked out for the Reds. The Reds would flip Konerko to White Sox for Mike Cameron in the offseason. Cameron and Reyes were a big part of the 1999 team that won 96 games. Cameron was the principle in the Ken Griffey Jr. trade in February of 2000.

In retrospect, keeping Konerko or Cameron might have been the wise thing to do. But there's no question that trading an All-Star closer was the right thing to do in '98.

Is trading Gennett and/or Iglesias the right thing to do in 2018?

If the Reds could get the kind of value they did for Shaw, absolutely.

That said, I can see them moving Iglesias but not Gennett, partly for sentimental reasons, partly for business reasons. Gennett is the kind of player that owner Bob Castellini loves, and having Gennett on the roster helps sell tickets for 2019.

Iglesias isn't the kind of fan favorite Gennett is. Nor is Iglesias as big a part of the clubhouse.

Trading either would likely hurt the team for the rest of 2018, but standing pat because of the recent surge would seem like folly.

One of the recent trade rumors tied Gennett to Dodgers. The precedent has been set for a player making the All-Star team as a Red and playing in the game as a Dodger.

RELIEF HELP? With the bullpen struggles recently, left-handers Brandon Finnegan and Wandy Peralta could find themselves back in the bigs – if they pitch well at Louisville.

Neither has good overall numbers for Bats – Peralta has a 5.68 ERA in seven games, Finnegan's allowed four runs in 6 1/3 innings since being moved to the bullpen.

Both have been better in their last few outings.

RELIEF LOAD: When I was checking Reyes' numbers for 1999, the innings pitched for the three primary right-handers in the bullpen jumped out to me.

Danny Graves threw 111 innings and had 27 saves, Scott Sullivan threw 113 2/3 innings and had three saves, and Scott Williamson threw 93 1/3 innings and had 19 saves.

No Red reliever this year is on pace for more than 85 innings.

THE ATHLETIC

Sal Romano: 'I really learned a lot about myself' in Reds' win over Indians

By C. Trent Rosecrans 5m ago

CLEVELAND – Reds starter Sal Romano gave up two solo home runs in the first inning on Tuesday and started the second inning with a walk and a double. And after Roberto Pérez hit a ball to third that Eugenio Suárez dropped, allowing Cleveland's third run of the game to score, catcher Tucker Barnhart went out to the mound to talk to his pitcher.

"Hey man, you're pitching the best game of your life and I need the best out of you and I need you to focus," Barnhart recalled telling Romano. "I need you to just get outs. I don't care about these runs."

From there, it may have been the best game of his life – Romano retired the next 15 batters, pitched into the eighth inning and recorded his sixth quality start of the season as the Reds would score seven runs in the ninth for a 7-4 victory.

"I think I was a little pumped up in the beginning, that's just normal," Romano said. "But I kinda just realized that I couldn't overthrow anymore, I was leaving the ball up in the zone."

Romano has a 7.11 ERA in the first inning this season after Wednesday, giving up 15 total earned runs in the first frame of his 19 starts. The only other inning he's allowed that many runs is in the fifth (also 15 runs, but in two fewer innings).

"The reason he settled down wasn't because I went down there, he wasn't overthrowing after the second inning and he was able to get some early contact," Barnhart said. "That's how he pitches when he has success. He did it in Kansas City, he kept his pitch count down, he did it against the Tigers in Cincinnati, where he was able to get early contact. With as good of stuff as he has, he's not a strikeout pitcher.

"He has great stuff, but he doesn't have strikeout stuff. There's a difference and so he needs to get early contact in order for him to pitch deep into games because guys can fight off his stuff, they can take his breaking ball because he does throw it out of the zone a lot because that can put you in a hole a little bit and they make you pitch defensively a little if they aren't expanding the strike zone, which they weren't early."

After the error, Greg Allen was retired on a sacrifice, Francisco Lindor (who led off the Indians' half of the first with a homer) had an RBI groundout and Michael Brantley grounded out, walking off the mound with a 4-0 deficit.

Romano said he really felt that he only had his fastball – and that’s why he threw just 17 sliders and eight changeups in his 100 pitches. And true to Barnhart’s observation, he didn’t have swing-and-miss stuff, getting just two swinging strikes in the game. While Cleveland pitcher Trevor Bauer mowed down Reds batters, striking out 12, Romano had just one – Pérez to end the fourth.

But like Anthony DeSclafani the night before, Romano didn’t ring up strikeouts but got the outs. After throwing 35 pitches in the first inning, he needed just 34 total to get through the next four innings.

“I looked up at the scoreboard a couple of times and was kind of like, ‘Hey, we’re starting to get in cruise control right now, I have to keep this team in the game,’” Romano said. “Eventually our bats were gonna come through. Yeah, it was in the ninth inning, but we won.”

After a 21-pitch seventh that saw him give up a walk and a hit, Riggles sent him back out to start the eighth. Romano is the only Reds starter to see the eighth when he pitched eight full in Kansas City last month.

The Reds used four relievers Monday night and didn’t have Amir Garrett for the game Tuesday, so Riggles wanted to see just how much he could get out of Romano. He gave up a double and another batter reached on a fielder’s choice and error, so with the Reds still trailing 4-0, Riggles called on former Indian lefty Kyle Crockett to get left-handers Yonder Alonso and Jason Kipnis. He got both, the Reds offense came through with seven in the top of the ninth before Raisel Iglesias finished the game off.

“To be able to against that kind of lineup, a lefty-heavy lineup, the experience they have with the postseason and stuff like that,” Romano said. “And the way I started, to be able to battle through and to pitch into the eighth inning against a team like that is definitely a confidence booster. And learning how to pitch in the big leagues, I really learned a lot about myself today. I know I just didn’t want to give up on the team and we came out on top in the end.”

Joey Votto shows why every Red wants him at bat with a game on the line **By C. Trent Rosecrans Jul 11, 2018**

CLEVELAND – There was no hesitation by any member of the Cincinnati Reds asked for an anonymous poll for The Athletic: Bottom of the ninth, Game 7 of the World Series, who do you want at the plate?

Some just looked to a corner of the clubhouse, others pointed, but the answer was the same, and nobody thought too long – of all the players in baseball, there’s nobody the Reds pitchers and hitters would rather have at the plate than Joey Votto.

It wasn’t Game 7 on Tuesday at Progressive Field, but if the Reds had champagne in the visitor’s clubhouse, they may have sprayed it.

The Reds scored seven runs with two outs in the ninth inning of Tuesday’s game. Three of those, including the go-ahead run, were scored on a Votto double against Cleveland’s Dan Otero in what was an eventual 7-4 Reds victory.

The win improved the Reds’ record to 41-51 – not the type of mark that will clear calendars for October at Great American Ball Park, but the type of record that looks damn good after a 3-18 start. Tuesday’s game was the team’s 33rd win in its last 57 games.

And it wasn’t just against any team, it was the Indians, a team that has its warts, but still has the largest lead of any division leader in baseball.

“With each and every win, with each and every comeback win, with a performance of the night from somebody different, I think our team gets more confident and I think we get more excited about the present and the future,” Votto said following the game. “The Cleveland Indians are for real, but with every win, with every comeback, we feel like we’re more for real. We feel like we’re coming along.”

The Reds nearly blew a lead on Monday but eked out a victory. On Tuesday, they looked like they had no shot against Indians starter Trevor Bauer, who struck out 12 in eight innings.

The Cleveland bullpen that was the talk of the postseason two years ago is anything but. Andrew Miller is on the disabled list and Cody Allen has a 4.66 ERA.

So even though the Reds had managed just three hits in the first eight innings, a four-run deficit was hardly insurmountable. Heck, the previous night the home team scored four off the Reds’ bullpen to make a game close.

Indians manager Terry Francona removed Bauer and sent his closer, Allen, to start the ninth. Allen walked Scooter Gennett and then gave up a single to Eugenio Suárez before striking out Jesse Winker and getting Tucker Barnhart to fly out.

Reds interim manager Jim Riggleman replaced Alex Blandino with pinch-hitter José Peraza, who blooped the first pitch he saw into right field over the head of first baseman Yonder Alonso, scoring the team's first run of the game.

Riggleman then went to his bench again, sending Adam Duvall to hit for Billy Hamilton.

“You hate pinch-hitting people, to tell you the truth. I hate to pinch-hit for people because you're taking the bat out of somebody's hands,” Riggleman said. “Billy's been so good, he's had a great month of baseball, but we needed a homer there. I was looking to tie it with one swing. I was looking for a homer more than a baserunner.”

Duvall doubled, pulling the Reds to within a run, 4-3. Francona elected to walk Scott Schebler to face Dilson Herrera, who was 0 for 3 with two strikeouts in his first big-league at-bats since 2015.

In what Riggleman called the at-bat of the game, Herrera worked a walk to bring up the guy everyone in the Reds dugout wanted to the plate.

Francona went to the mound and signaled for a left-hander, but right-hander Dan Otero came into the game.

Otero threw two balls to start the at-bat, allowing Votto to get ahead. He swung through the third pitch to make it 2-1.

The next pitch was down the middle, but Votto just looked at it.

“I was very, very apprehensive about swinging there just because we're one pitch away from tying it. In that situation, the same pitch that comes 3-1, you're supposed to expect the same one at 3-2,” he explained. “They are very, very similar situations. He's one ball away from tying the game. I trust my instincts enough in a 3-2 counts to foul balls off or hopefully put a ball in play with good direction. He's tough, man. I've never liked facing him. Today was one of those occasions where I got a good pitch to hit, I put it in play and good things happen.”

Votto fouled off one pitch before getting the pitch he wanted – down and slightly in. He ripped it into right-center, clearing the bases.

“He got the pitch he wanted and he knew what to do,” said starter Sal Romano, who had been among those to mention Votto earlier in the day as the guy he wanted in that situation.

The Reds added another on a Suárez single before Raisel Iglesias came in to close.

It was the second time in his career that Votto had come to the plate with the bases loaded, two outs, down one in the ninth inning of his career. The other time he hit a walk-off grand slam on May 13, 2012, against the Nationals.

Votto is hitting .298/.460/.536 for his career in the ninth inning or later with a chance to tie or take the lead. The only players since 1970 with a higher OPS than his .996 in those situations are Barry Bonds (1.022), Chipper Jones (1.004), Gary Sheffield (1.002) and Todd Helton (.998).

“I didn't really think about it. The situation didn't really register with me,” Votto said after the game. “I didn't even know we were down by one and I didn't know that we went up. Every at-bat feels the same. I think deeper into games, at-bats feel a little better just because you're warmer and your adrenaline is flowing, you're just in the flow of the game, you find your timing and you've seen pitches. I would've been pretty upset if I left that game ... I think I would've been upset leaving that game and taking the last pitch or putting on a poor swing and ending the game like that.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indians allow 7 in 9th, lose to Reds 7-4 after Bauer's gem

By The Associated Press

Today

CLEVELAND (AP) — Joey Votto hit a go-ahead three-run double during a seven-run ninth inning and the Cleveland Indians bullpen wasted a gem from Trevor Bauer in a 7-4 loss to the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday night.

Indians closer Cody Allen (2-4) allowed six runs after getting two outs in the ninth, the last three charged on Votto's sharp hit to right off Dan Otero. Adam Duvall also doubled in two in the ninth, while Jose Peraza and Eugenio Suarez each hit an RBI single.

Cincinnati had seven straight batters reach with two outs, and the inning didn't end until Scooter Gennett ran into the third out at third base on Suarez's single.

Cleveland's bullpen entered Tuesday with a 5.13 ERA, better only than the Rockies (5.28) and Royals (5.35).

Bauer was brilliant, striking out 12 over eight scoreless innings in his first appearance since being named to the All-Star team for the first time. The right-hander allowed three singles, walked one and didn't allow a hit until Jesse Winker hit a one-out single in the fifth.

Former Cleveland reliever Kyle Crockett (1-0) recorded the final two outs in the eighth, and Raisel Iglesias worked the ninth for his second save in two nights and his 19th of the season.

CANADIANBASEBALLNETWORK

Votto moves into second on all-time Canuck home run list

By Kevin Glew

Canadian Baseball Network

Etobicoke, Ont., native Joey Votto clubbed a solo home run off of Cleveland Indians pitcher Mike Clevinger in the top of the fifth inning on Monday for his 266th career homer.

This round-tripper moved him past Matt Stairs (Fredericton, N.B.) and into second place on the all-time Canadian major league home runs list. Larry Walker (Maple Ridge, B.C.) sits first with 383 career home runs.

Cincinnati Reds

✓

@Reds

Full count, full power. ~~5~~#RedsCountry

8:55 PM - Jul 9, 2018

Here's a list of the 10 Canadians who have hit the most major league home runs (courtesy of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame):

Last Name	First	HR
Walker	Larry	383
Votto	Joey	266
Stairs	Matt	265
Morneau	Justin	247
Bay	Jason	222
Heath	Jeff	194
Martin	Russell	181
Koskie	Corey	124
Selkirk	George	108
Ward	Pete	98

Earlier in the day yesterday, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame shared that Votto did pass Walker in another statistical category:

CDN Baseball HOF

✓

@CDNBaseballHOF

With Joey Votto being named to his 6th All-Star game (2010-13, 2017-18) he now holds the record for Canadians passing @Cdnmooselips33 (1992, 1997-99, 2001). Third on the list is @russellmartin55 & Justin Morneau with 4. @Reds @RedsPR

9:45 AM - Jul 9, 2018

Transactions

07/10/18

Cleveland Indians placed RHP Josh Tomlin on the 10-day disabled list. Right hamstring strain.

St. Louis Cardinals signed free agent RHP Ramon Fernandez to a minor league contract.

San Diego Padres optioned RHP Walker Lockett to El Paso Chihuahuas.
Milwaukee Brewers released SS Eric Sogard.
Kansas City Royals activated RHP Ian Kennedy from the 10-day disabled list.
Kansas City Royals optioned RHP Jason Adam to Omaha Storm Chasers.
Washington Nationals placed LHP Sean Doolittle on the 10-day disabled list retroactive to July 7, 2018. Left big toe inflammation.
Los Angeles Angels recalled CF Michael Hermosillo from Salt Lake Bees.
Los Angeles Angels optioned RHP Deck McGuire to Salt Lake Bees.
Washington Nationals recalled RHP Wander Suero from Syracuse Chiefs.
Washington Nationals recalled RHP Austin Voth from Syracuse Chiefs.
Washington Nationals placed LHP Sean Doolittle on the 10-day disabled list retroactive to July 7, 2017. Strained left big toe.
Washington Nationals optioned Jefry Rodriguez to Syracuse Chiefs.
Cincinnati Reds signed free agent LHP Carlos Diaz to a minor league contract.
New York Yankees optioned Giovanni Gallegos to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders.
New York Yankees optioned Luis Cessa to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders.
Baltimore Orioles optioned RHP Jimmy Yacabonis to Norfolk Tides.
Colorado Rockies signed free agent LHP Jorman Aponte to a minor league contract.
Los Angeles Dodgers optioned LHP Edward Paredes to Oklahoma City Dodgers.
Los Angeles Dodgers activated RHP Kenta Maeda from the paternity list.
New York Yankees optioned 3B Brandon Drury to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders.
Tampa Bay Rays recalled 1B Ji-Man Choi from Durham Bulls.
Tampa Bay Rays optioned RF Johnny Field to Durham Bulls.
Baltimore Orioles optioned RHP Yefry Ramirez to Norfolk Tides.
Baltimore Orioles optioned RHP Ryan Meisinger to Norfolk Tides.
Jake Thompson returned to Lehigh Valley IronPigs from Philadelphia Phillies.
Baltimore Orioles selected the contract of RHP Jhan Marinez from Norfolk Tides.
Baltimore Orioles recalled LHP Donnie Hart from Norfolk Tides.
Colorado Rockies activated C Tom Murphy from the paternity list.
Colorado Rockies optioned 1B Jordan Patterson to Albuquerque Isotopes.
Washington Nationals sent RHP Stephen Strasburg on a rehab assignment to Potomac Nationals.
Philadelphia Phillies selected the contract of 2B Trevor Plouffe from Lehigh Valley IronPigs.
Philadelphia Phillies selected the contract of Enyel De Los Santos from Lehigh Valley IronPigs.
Philadelphia Phillies optioned Dylan Cozens to Lehigh Valley IronPigs.
Philadelphia Phillies designated LHP Hoby Milner for assignment.
Philadelphia Phillies placed SS Pedro Florimon on the 60-day disabled list retroactive to May 30, 2018. Right foot fracture.
New York Mets optioned RHP Jacob Rhame to Las Vegas 51s.
New York Mets selected the contract of RHP Drew Gagnon from Las Vegas 51s.
New York Mets optioned RHP Paul Sewald to Las Vegas 51s.
Baltimore Orioles sent RHP Chris Tillman on a rehab assignment to Frederick Keys.
Oakland Athletics optioned RHP Frankie Montas to Nashville Sounds.
Oakland Athletics recalled RHP Ryan Dull from Nashville Sounds.
Pittsburgh Pirates activated RHP Joe Musgrove from the 10-day disabled list.
Pittsburgh Pirates optioned RHP Alex McRae to Indianapolis Indians.
Houston Astros recalled CF Jake Marisnick from Fresno Grizzlies.
Houston Astros placed RHP Gerrit Cole on the bereavement list.
Seattle Mariners placed RHP Felix Hernandez on the 10-day disabled list retroactive to July 8, 2018. Lower back stiffness.
Seattle Mariners optioned RF John Andreoli to Tacoma Rainiers.
Seattle Mariners recalled RHP Nick Rumbelow from Tacoma Rainiers.
Seattle Mariners recalled 2B Gordon Beckham from Tacoma Rainiers.
Cleveland Indians recalled RHP Adam Plutko from Columbus Clippers.
San Diego Padres recalled RF Franmil Reyes from El Paso Chihuahuas.
Minnesota Twins sent RHP Ervin Santana on a rehab assignment to Chattanooga Lookouts.
RHP David Hale elected free agency.
Chicago White Sox placed RF Avisail Garcia on the 10-day disabled list retroactive to July 9, 2018. Strained right hamstring.
Chicago White Sox activated CF Ryan LaMarre.
Chicago Cubs sent LHP Brian Duensing on a rehab assignment to Tennessee Smokies.
Boston Red Sox optioned RHP William Cuevas to Pawtucket Red Sox.
Boston Red Sox recalled LHP Jalen Beeks from Pawtucket Red Sox.
New York Yankees activated RHP Masahiro Tanaka from the 10-day disabled list.
New York Mets designated RHP Chris Beck for assignment.
