

Cincinnati Reds Press Clippings February 6, 2019

THIS DAY IN REDS HISTORY

1934-The Reds purchase 43-year-old Dazzy Vance from the Cardinals for \$7,500. The future Hall of Famer will only make two starts for the Reds, pitching 18.0 innings over six games, with a 7.50 ERA

MLB.COM

Reds load up for 1,825-mile trip to Arizona
By Mark Sheldon MLB.com @m_sheldon
Feb. 5th, 2019

CINCINNATI -- Stacks of boxes, suitcases and baseball equipment were piled up in the loading dock at Great American Ball Park on Tuesday. Clubhouse workers were grabbing them and loading them into an 18-wheeler truck.

That means it's almost time for Reds Spring Training, which opens in Goodyear, Ariz., next week. Led by vice president of home clubhouse operations Rick Stowe, who began working for the club in 1981 and became head of the clubhouse in 1997, the Reds have a well-oiled machine with regard to packing up and moving out.

"It's about a three- or fourth-month process, and we get done in about one hour," said Tony Walter, a home clubhouse assistant. "It's a lot of planning, buildup and anticipation for about an hour's worth of work that's completed relatively efficiently."

The truck is scheduled to leave Cincinnati on Wednesday for a 1,825-mile trek to the Reds' player development complex in Goodyear.

Reds pitchers and catchers will report to Spring Training for physicals on Feb. 12 and work out for the first time the following day. The first full-squad workout will be held on Feb. 18, and Cactus League play will open on Feb. 23 vs. the Indians at Goodyear Ballpark. Camp will break on March 24, and Opening Day for the 2019 regular season will be March 28 against the Pirates at Great American Ball Park.

"We are out there for 45 straight days, so everybody tries to pack efficiently and not leave out anything we might need," Walter said.

What were among the items going west?

- 10,000 baseballs
- 1,000 bats
- 500 hats
- 400 socks
- 400 pants
- 300 T-shirts
- 200 batting practice jerseys
- 200 hooded sweatshirts
- 100 game jerseys
- 160 buckets of bubble gum
- 120 batting helmets
- 100 cases of sunflower seeds

There were also cases of office supplies, medical equipment, computers, kitchen supplies and food supplies put on the truck. Then there were personal items for players and staff, including suitcases, toys for their kids, fishing poles and more.

"We take extra of everything that we use," Walter said. "There will be 60 to 65 players in camp, so we don't want to want for anything while we're out there."

Mark Sheldon has covered the Reds for MLB.com since 2006, and previously covered the Twins from 2001-05. Follow him on Twitter @m_sheldon and Facebook and listen to his podcast.

10 former stars you forgot were once Reds

By Mark Sheldon MLB.com @m_sheldon

Feb. 5th, 2019

CINCINNATI -- The 2019 season marks the Reds' 150th anniversary, and as the oldest professional baseball franchise, many great players have worn the uniform for Cincinnati.

Many players like Johnny Bench, Barry Larkin and Joey Votto have spent, or are spending, their playing careers in a Reds uniform.

But there's more than a few former stars who have passed through that may spark the thought, "I didn't know that guy played for the Reds ..."

Here is a closer look at the 10 former Reds who had outstanding careers elsewhere before wearing the wishbone or Old English "C" on their caps.

Christy Mathewson, 1916

Considered the first great pitcher in the modern era with 373 career wins, Mathewson starred for the New York Giants and was part of the inaugural class inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936. Although drafted by the Reds in 1900, he was promptly traded to the Giants and played 17 seasons. During the 1916 season, the right-hander was traded to the Reds to be their player-manager. He pitched in one game on Sept. 4 vs. the Cubs, and despite giving up eight runs and 15 hits, it was a complete-game victory. Mathewson managed the Reds until 1918, when he left to enlist in the Army and fight in World War I.

Jim Thorpe, 1917

Considered to be one of the greatest athletes of the early 20th century, Thorpe won the decathlon in the 1912 Olympics but did not get his gold medals because he played semi-pro baseball. From 1913-19 he had a Major League Baseball career as an outfielder, mostly with the New York Giants. But his pit stop in Cincinnati began on April 23, 1917, when his contract was purchased by the Reds. On Aug. 18, he was returned to the Giants after 77 games for Cincinnati.

Leo Durocher, 1930-33

A player for 17 seasons from 1925-45, Durocher was considered one of the better managers of his time for the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants. He won three National League pennants and the '54 World Series. Purchased by the Reds from the Yankees before the '30 season, Durocher was a shortstop and played 399 games for Cincinnati and batted .227 in four seasons. He was traded to the Cardinals during the '33 season.

Curt Flood, 1956-57

Considered a Cardinals all-time great center fielder, the end of Flood's career is well-known for his challenge of a 1969 trade to the Phillies and the game's reserve clause against Commissioner Bowie Kuhn. The case wound up in the Supreme Court and MLB won, but Flood's efforts pioneered later attempts by players to successfully get free agency. The start of his career came in Cincinnati, where he appeared in just eight games over two seasons before being traded to St. Louis.

Don Newcombe, 1958-60

One of the first African-American players in baseball when he debuted for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1949, Newcombe was the game's first Cy Young Award winner in '56, also winning the NL MVP that season. He was part of the Dodgers' World Series win in '55. Following the team's move to Los Angeles for the '58 season, Newcombe was 0-6 with a 7.86 ERA when he was traded to the Reds for four players. In 66 games over three seasons with Cincinnati, he was 24-21 with a 3.64 ERA. His contract was purchased by Cleveland during the '60 season.

Billy Martin, 1960

A popular player for the Yankees in the 1950s, and an even more popular manager in the Bronx during a turbulent and often winning era in the '70s and '80s, Martin bounced to a few clubs near the end of his playing career. In December 1959, the Indians traded him to the Reds, with whom the second baseman batted .246 over 103 games. Cincinnati sold his contract to the Milwaukee Braves following the '60 season.

Kent Tekulve, 1989

Tekulve was born and raised around Cincinnati, but most of his career was spent with the Pirates. An All-Star closer, the submarine-throwing right-hander was a star of the 1979 championship club with three saves in the World Series. After 12 years with the Pirates and four with the Phillies, a 42-year-old Tekulve wrapped up his career with his hometown team. Alas, it was not a successful partnership as he went 0-3 with a 5.02 ERA in 37 appearances.

Frank Viola, 1995

An American League Cy Young Award winner, All-Star and World Series champ in the 1980s for the Twins, Viola's second phase of his career was with his hometown Mets and then the Red Sox. Near the end of his playing days, in '95 after he was released by Toronto, Viola briefly pitched for the Reds. In three starts, he was 0-1 with a 6.28 ERA. As a free agent that offseason, he returned to the Blue Jays for his final season.

Vince Coleman, 1996

An All-Star left fielder and speed demon for the Cardinals in the 1980s, Coleman swiped more than 100 bases in each of his first three seasons. That includes a Major League rookie record 110 steals in '85. But after signing with the Mets as a free agent before the '91 season, his career fizzled, and Coleman became a journeyman. After signing with the Reds in '96, he batted .155 with 12 stolen bases and was released that June.

Jim Edmonds, 2010

A flashy center fielder mostly for the Angels and Cardinals, Edmonds slashed .284/.376/.527 over his 17 seasons, with 393 home runs, four All-Star selections, a Silver Slugger Award and a World Series title with the Cardinals in 2006. Beat up by injuries at the end of his career, the Brewers traded a 40-year-old Edmonds to the Reds in '10. It reunited him with his former general manager, Walt Jocketty, with the deal expected to shore up Cincinnati's bench for the stretch run toward a division title. It didn't happen, as Edmonds batted .207 in 13 games. His career ended when he injured his Achilles tendon during a home run trot. It left him unavailable for the postseason, and the Reds were swept in three games by the Phillies in the NL Division Series.

Honorable mention

Leon Durham, 1988

Jeff Reardon, 1993

Tony Fernandez, 1994

Ron Gant, 1994-95

Greg Vaughn, 1999

Mike Cameron, 1999

Dante Bichette, 2000

Shawn Estes, 2002

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CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

Cincinnati Reds question: Will Michael Lorenzen become the team's first two-way play in modern history

John Fay, Cincinnati Enquirer

Published 6:00 a.m. ET Feb. 6, 2019

As spring training approaches — pitchers and catchers report Feb. 12 — we're looking at 10 questions the Reds face heading into the 2019 season. Today's question:

Will Michael Lorenzen become the first two-way player in modern Reds history?

The other questions in this series will greatly impact how many games the Reds will win this year. The Lorenzen question won't. It falls under the fun question category.

Lorenzen was a centerfielder/closer in the college. He's shown he can hit in the big leagues. He hit .290/.333/.710 with four home runs and 10 RBI in 54 at-bats last season. He is in the argument for the fastest runner on the team now that Billy Hamilton is gone.

But his play in the outfield has been limited to one inning and no chances. That came last season.

New manager David Bell opened up the possibility of Lorenzen playing much more outfield at the Winter Meetings.

"I don't know him as well as everyone else in the organization, but I would have no hesitation to putting him in any role, any position," Bell said. "He's so competitive. He takes such great care of himself. He's going to do well in this game for a long time, and it'll be important for us to find at the best way to use him, the best way to maximize who he is."

Lorenzen, 27, has never lacked confidence. In 2017, he said this: "Do I believe I can be a great starter in the major leagues? Of course, do I believe I can be a great closer, reliever in the major leagues? Of course. Do I believe I can be a great center fielder in the major leagues? I do."

The Reds don't have a true center fielder on the roster. Top prospect Nick Senzel will get a lot of time in center in the spring. The other in-house candidates are Scott Schebler and Yasiel Puig. Neither one of them rates well as a corner outfielder.

But Reds president of baseball operations Dick Williams made it clear that Lorenzen is not competing for a significant role as a position player. Lorenzen's value as a pitcher — he went 4-2 with a 3.11 ERA last year — is such that the Reds want pitching to be the biggest part of his job.

"I don't see any scenario he's competing for regular playing time in center field," Williams said. "It's more like it be nice to know that in occasional double-switch you put him to run the bases, you can put him into play some defense. That's more what we're looking at as far as his center field ability."

The way Lorenzen was used last year — he went more than one inning in 23 of 45 appearances — it lent itself to him being available off the bench because he often needed a day off from pitching.

Adding the outfield option gives the Reds, well, more options.

"I don't want to speak for David on how he's going to use him games as opposed to practice," Williams. "Michael is one of those guys who has always taken balls in the outfield and will continue to take balls in the outfield."

"David wants to see with own eyes how Michael performs out there. I think it one of those things that would be nice to know if Michael has it, where we feel like he can go out there as needed."

2019 Cincinnati Reds questions: Who will be the Opening Day starter?
Bobby Nightengale, Cincinnati Enquirer
Published 8:50 p.m. ET Feb. 5, 2019

Editor's note: With Spring Training approaching, we'll answer an important question about the Cincinnati Reds each day until pitchers and catchers report Feb. 12. Today's question: Who will be the Opening Day starter?

There's no question that the Reds improved their starting rotation through three offseason trades. Sonny Gray, Alex Wood and Tanner Roark are all expected to bring stability and they instantly created more depth.

But none of them would be classified as an ace.

Combine the trio of newcomers with Luis Castillo and Anthony DeSclafani for the leading group of candidates to open the season in the five-man rotation. Who will receive the Opening Day nod? Gray is probably the early leader.

The Reds have already shown their confidence in Gray, agreeing to a three-year, \$30.5 million contract extension as a part of their trade with the New York Yankees. Gray was a two-time Opening Day starter with the Oakland A's.

It's clear the Reds see a lot of potential in Gray, who had a 6.98 ERA at Yankee Stadium and a 3.17 ERA in road games last year. Gray will reunite with Reds pitching coach Derek Johnson, his pitching coach at Vanderbilt, and catcher Curt Casali, a college teammate.

Gray couldn't explain why he struggled in New York, but the Reds were encouraged that his fastball velocity and curveball spin rate remained the same as his best days in Oakland.

"You're talking about a guy who pitched right away at a pretty high level in college," Johnson said about Gray. "You're talking about a guy who for all intents and purposes blew through the minor leagues and became a quality Major Leaguer early. I think it's not only a testament to his ability, but also his drive, his competitiveness."

If it's not Gray, the Reds would love to see Castillo benefit from the increased competition in Spring Training. Castillo, 26, might have the best pure stuff on the staff. His changeup can make hitters look foolish. His fastball reached 99 mph in his final start of the 2018 season.

Castillo, entering his third year in the Majors, will face bigger expectations. He had a 2.44 ERA in 11 starts following the All-Star break last season. As the Reds look to open their competitive window, it will depend on young players like Castillo continuing to develop.

"Castillo, he's only got a year-plus of service in the big leagues. I mean, he's still learning at this," Reds general manager Nick Krall said at the beginning of the offseason. "You look at him from the beginning of the year to the end of the year and the improvement he made toward the end of the year. The last game he pitched in Miami was just absolutely lights out."

Beyond picking an Opening Day starter, the Reds are hopeful that their starting rotation will be the club's best in the last five years. Since Johnny Cueto was traded in 2015, the Reds had three separate Opening Day starters: Raisel Iglesias (2016), Scott Feldman ('17) and Homer Bailey ('18).

Wood and Roark are entering the final year of their contracts. Wood, a lefty, owns a career 3.29 ERA in six Major League seasons with the Atlanta Braves and Los Angeles Dodgers. Roark pitched at least 180 innings in four of the last five seasons.

WCPO - Channel 9

The truck is loaded -- Here's what the Reds have packed for spring training

Posted: 3:17 PM, Feb 05, 2019 Updated: 3:17 PM, Feb 05, 2019

By: WCPO staff

CINCINNATI — Pitchers and catchers report for spring training in Goodyear, Arizona next week. Before the first pitch is thrown, Cincinnati Reds clubhouse staffers were up at bat to ensure the equipment beats them there.

That equipment includes at least 10,000 baseballs, 1,000 bats and 120 batting helmets, all loaded onto a semi Tuesday morning. The packing for spring training is about as planned as the season itself.

“It’s about a three, four month process that we get done in about one hour or so,” said Cincinnati Reds clubhouse assistant Tony Walter. “It’s a lot of planning and buildup and anticipation for about an hour’s worth of work that’s completed relatively efficiently.”

The truck driver will embark on the 1,825-mile trek from Great American Ball Park to Goodyear Wednesday with the trip taking two to three days.

The truck is packed with 400 socks, 200 hoodies, 100 jerseys, 160 buckets of bubble gum and, of course, sunflower seeds.

“We take a skid of sunflower seeds. I would say there’s no less than 100 cases of seeds,” Walter said.

Reds staff and about 65 players will be at spring training for 45 straight days. Walter said preparing is key.

“We don’t want to want for anything when we’re out there,” he said.

The Reds take extra of every piece of equipment. Once in Arizona, unloading the truck will only take about another hour.

The first full-squad workout for the Reds is Feb. 18. The first spring training game is Feb. 23 against the Cleveland Indians.

ESPN.COM

Fifteen position players poised to break out in 2019

Feb. 6, 2019

Jeff Sullivan

Special to ESPN.com

A year ago, when writing this kind of article, one might have been able to identify Mitch Haniger as an up-and-coming young player. One might have been able to identify Alex Bregman, Brandon Nimmo, Whit Merrifield, Javier Baez and even -- taking into account his nontraditional path -- Max Muncy. All of those players are now coming off breakout seasons. There were reasons to believe in the upside of each of them. It was just a matter of spotting the right indicators.

We're forever enchanted by the breakout concept. Not that there's anything wrong with a debut such as Ronald Acuna's, but relatively speaking, that was easy to see ahead of time. A breakout doesn't usually apply to a rookie. It's more about players who already have made a first impression. Thinking about breakouts feeds two desires of human nature: the desire to experience new things and the desire to see into the future.

I've come up with 15 young position players who are breakout candidates for 2019. (We'll look at pitchers in a future column.) Whether you think of them as breakout candidates or up-and-comers, I'm not sure there's a meaningful difference. These are players who should play more significant roles than they have so far and, in certain

cases, draw far greater national recognition. Some are names you already know, while others are likely unfamiliar. All of them, listed in alphabetical order, should have what it takes to have a big year ahead.

Jesse Winker, OF, Cincinnati Reds

There's nothing exciting about a young hitter coming off shoulder labrum surgery. Even though Winker is young and young people tend to recover well from operations, it remains to be seen if he will come back at full strength. But here's the list of last year's top players in K-BB ratio: Jose Ramirez, Carlos Santana, Alex Bregman, Joey Votto, Jesse Winker and Mike Trout. Winker was one of just five hitters to finish with more walks than strikeouts, and when a player can do that while flashing legitimate power, you have little choice but to believe in the upside. Winker knows everything there is to know about his strike zone. From that foundation, outstanding careers can be built.

CINCINNATI BUSINESS COURIER

Greater Cincinnati museum hosts Reds 'road trip'

By Bill Cieslewicz

Managing editor, Cincinnati Business Courier

Feb 5, 2019, 3:17pm EST

A local museum is hosting a special exhibit that showcases Cincinnati Reds artwork, sculptures, sketches and photographs while the Hall of Fame Museum undergoes a renovation.

Fitton Center for Creative Arts in Hamilton, located at 101 S. Monument Ave., presents the Reds Hall of Fame Museum Road Trip Exhibit through April 5. "Road Trip," which opened Feb. 2, features artwork from the HOF Museum collection – including 89 pieces of art – and from the HOF network of artist fans.

Some of the art pays tribute to late Reds legend Joe Nuxhall, a Hamilton native. The show also includes sports-themed paintings and abstract glass pieces from InsideOut Studio in Hamilton, which provides opportunities for artists with disabilities to sell their work.

"We are truly excited to host a fabulous collection of baseball-themed art and create opportunities for the community to enjoy art and sports together in activities that emphasize teamwork," Cathy Mayhugh, Fitton's director of exhibitions, said in a release.

The Reds Hall of Fame & Museum closed Nov. 1 so that renovations to the 16,000-square-foot facility connected to Great American Ball Park can be completed. A new design that incorporates more technology and historical artifacts will be put in place before the museum reopens in March with a ribbon-cutting ceremony prior to Opening Day.

For information on the free exhibit, email Mayhugh at cathy@fittoncenter.org or call 513-863- 8873, ext. 122.

CHARLESTON GAZETTE-MAIL (CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA)

Christian's Sports Beat: Local boy takes over Reds reins

By Christian Deiss

Feb. 6, 2019

There's a new manager in the Cincinnati Reds dugout this season, but the new head of the National League Central Division club is a familiar face to baseball fans in the Queen City.

David Bell, who grew up watching his father play for the Reds, was named the club's new manager, not long after the conclusion of the 2018 season.

Each season, the Reds conduct team caravans throughout areas that have a Reds following, and one of those stops last month was at the Huntington Mall in Barboursville. Before Bell met with the hundreds of Reds fans waiting to meet the skipper of the ballclub, the 46-year-old former Major Leaguer told me his new position was a dream come true.

“Having an opportunity to manage a Major League team is special in itself,” Bell said. “So much goes into that, but to be able to do that in your hometown, where I grew up, it just means that much more.”

Bell is the grandson of Gus Bell and son of Buddy Bell, both former Major Leaguers and both former Cincinnati Reds players.

Bell became the Reds’ 63rd manager in franchise history on Oct. 21, 2018, after a one-year stint as the vice president of player development for the San Francisco Giants.

I wanted to know how quickly he started to reach out to the players. “Actually, that has been my favorite part of the job, the time I have been able to spend with the players and start to build relationships with them and support them,” he said. “I want to start to challenge them to be the best they can be, as a person and as a player.”

Bell made his Major League debut on May 3, 1995 for the Cleveland Indians, while his career came to an end on Oct. 1, 2006 as a member of the Milwaukee Brewers.

While any new manager taking over a ball club does his research on all of his new players, I found out that the players do the same thing.

Joining Bell on the caravan was Reds right-fielder Jesse Winker, who wanted to know more about his new leader.

“The Bells have a historic baseball background,” Winker said, “so you really don’t have to look too far to read about his dad and his grandfather and, of course, David’s career, as well. I am looking forward to learning from David, and being with him on the caravan has helped getting to know him even more. It’s going to be fun.”

Winker batted .299 for the Reds in 2018.

The first-year manager was known for his all-out play during his Major League career for six different ball clubs. Bell explained to me that by challenging each player to do his best, he believes that creates a positive comfort zone.

“Having an environment that gives players a chance to challenge themselves helps them understand that my expectations are high, but they realize I am here to help them get to the point where they want to be,” Bell said.

Bell, whose brother, Mike, is also a former Major Leaguer, is a member of one of five families to have three generations to play in the big leagues.

Coaching third base for the Reds this season is Nitro native J.R. House.

Bell said House brings a lot to the club. “He is very enthusiastic, a really hard worker, competitive. I think he has the best personality to coach third base. I’m just glad he accepted my offer.”

House will also serve as Bell’s Spring Training coordinator that starts later this month.

It’s going to be fun to follow the Reds this year, with Bell as the manager. I feel good things are going to happen if the players follow his lead.

TRANSACTIONS

02/05/19

Miami Marlins signed free agent OF Curtis Granderson to a minor league contract and invited him to spring training.

Arizona Diamondbacks traded RHP Jake Barrett to San Francisco Giants for cash.

San Francisco Giants designated RF John Andreoli for assignment.

Toronto Blue Jays sent Danny Barnes outright to Buffalo Bisons.