

Cincinnati Reds Press Clippings January 10, 2019

THIS DAY IN REDS HISTORY

1903-A meeting at the St. Nicholas Hotel in Cincinnati between the National League and American League produce the "Cincinnati Peace Treaty." A governing structure and a three-member governing board, consisting of the president of the two leagues and a club president agreed to by both, named the "National Commission," is the result

1973-The Reds select pitcher Ray Guy in the third round of the winter amateur draft. Guy pursues professional football instead, becoming a Pro Football Hall of Fame punter with the Raiders

MLB.COM

Cotham ready to crunch data for Reds' pitchers
Former big leaguer joins Bell's staff to break down analytics
By Mark Sheldon MLB.com
Jan. 9th, 2019

CINCINNATI -- The data analysis side of baseball is often generalized as being handled by young people with Ivy League degrees parked in a cubicle with eyeballs fixed firmly on a computer screen. Information gained is delivered impersonally to clubhouses.

But what if there was someone who was not only highly skilled at poring over analytical information, but was also a former big league player? That's what the Reds believe they have in former reliever Caleb Cotham, who was named their assistant pitching coach on Jan. 2.

"I think he's going to bring a great deal to not only our pitching staff but personally to me as well," Reds pitching coach Derek Johnson said. "He's got a really good handle on some of the analytical information that's out there."

Cotham, 31, did not have a distinguished Major League career, with a 7.15 ERA over 35 appearances in two seasons. After spending 2015 with the Yankees, he was sent to Cincinnati with three other players for closer Aroldis Chapman. Following 23 games with the Reds in '16, a knee injury ended his playing career.

However, Cotham caught the early wave of pitchers using analytics. In 2013, he began learning techniques at Driveline, a data-driven baseball performance center near Seattle that's been embraced by big leaguers such as Trevor Bauer, Dan Straily and Brandon McCarthy.

"It really opened my eyes about player development, in terms of what pitching could be and the types of tools that are out there," Cotham said. "Everybody is talking about the same things, but what really spoke to me is that this was a bit more objective. It was a bit more factual. It was, 'Here's what's going on. Here's what you're good at, and here's what you stink at.' I liked that."

For the past two years, Cotham was director of pitching for the Bledsoe Agency.

"He was doing a lot of ditch work, so to speak, just a lot of digging and deep dives with the different players they have," said Johnson, who coached Cotham at Vanderbilt University. "That's what he'll do with us too. He's a guy who takes a pitcher and dives really deep into some of the things he's doing and maybe some things he could do better."

Cotham believes he can absorb volumes of data for the pitchers and break it down into simpler terms that are easier to understand and integrate into games.

"Without some of these tools, there is still an element of guesswork. But when you combine all of those, you work hard to make it simple and digestible for the player, what I've seen turns into real big conviction into the work," Cotham said.

Cotham already leverages data provided by Statcast™ and Trackman but plans to utilize other forms of technology. That could include using Rapsodo, a ball-tracking radar in the ground that measures velocity, spin rate and spin efficiency and shows horizontal and vertical movement along with release point and extension.

Other tools include Edgertronic, a high-speed camera that films from 1,000 to 20,000 frames per second and can show hand positioning on the baseball, and FlightScope, a 3D Doppler-tracking radar.

The goal is to have Reds pitchers working smarter and more efficiently.

"Because feel, a lot of times, just isn't real," Cotham said. "A lot of guys think they're throwing a 12-6 curveball, but then you look at it and it's closer to a slider. Without high-speed cameras or really chewing into the Trackman, you could be practicing and working on your curveball for months, and it could have been addressed maybe in one session. It's dealing more in the reality and what are some absolutes."

Only a handful of teams have coaches like Cotham. The Red Sox employ former starter Brian Bannister as a vice president of pitching development and assistant pitching coach. Others, like Dan Haren for the D-backs and Jeremy Sowers for the Rays, work behind the scenes as pitching strategists. For several clubs, coaches already mine data but must fit in time for it among their myriad duties.

Besides number crunching, Cotham will also assist Johnson in working with pitchers and helping them prepare for opponents. He will be part of a relatively youthful staff under new manager David Bell. Assistant hitting coach Donnie Ecker is 32 years old, while Bell is 46 and Johnson is 47. Like Cotham, Ecker was brought in partly because of his strength in analytics.

"I think it's a good mix for our group," Johnson said. "You have some guys who have been around and have done it for a while. Then you have some younger guys who are just breaking in but are really very bright and energized."

Being only a few years removed from his big league career, Cotham played alongside a few current Reds, including Raisel Iglesias, Anthony DeSclafani and Michael Lorenzen. During rehab assignments, he saw Sal Romano and Tyler Mahle.

Cotham felt familiarity was an asset despite a lack of coaching experience.

"I think the player is just really interested in getting better and being good at baseball," he said. "It's just trying to facilitate that, communicate really well, paying attention to the language we use and how we communicate. Since I am close to these guys in terms of age, I view that as a decent skill set of mine. I'm still speaking this language, thinking about these things, and tie into how they think about it."

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.

**Reds' top 2 prospects among non-roster invites
Senzel to compete for roster spot; Trammell headed to first MLB camp
By Mark Sheldon
Jan. 9th, 2019**

CINCINNATI -- The Reds will have their top two prospects among the non-roster invitations to big league Spring Training next month.

Infielder/outfielder Nick Senzel and outfielder Taylor Trammell were two of the 18 non-roster invites announced by the club on Wednesday. MLB Pipeline ranks Senzel No. 1 in the organization (No. 6 in baseball) and Trammell No. 2 (No. 17 overall).

Senzel, who will be in big league camp for the second time, will be competing for a spot on the Opening Day roster. There is an opening in center field that he would like to get, but he could also earn a place in a utility role that allows him to still play regularly.

This will be Trammell's first big league camp.

Also invited to camp were right-handers Anthony Bass, Odrisamer Despaigne, Vladimir Gutierrez, Alex Powers and Tony Santillan, catchers Juan Graterol, Chris Okey and Tyler Stephenson, infielders Christian Colon and Alfredo Rodriguez, and outfielders Aristides Aquino, TJ Friedl, Brian O'Grady, Jordan Patterson, Mason Williams and Kyle Wren.

Bass, Despaigne, Graterol and Colon have big league experience with other clubs and signed Minor League contracts that came with camp invites.

MINOR LEAGUE COACHING STAFFS NAMED

The Reds' Minor League affiliates announced their managers and coaching staffs on Wednesday. At Triple-A Louisville, Jody Davis will manage the team for the first time with pitching coach Jeff Fassero, hitting coach Leon Durham and bench coach Dick

Schofield. Davis was manager at Double-A Pensacola last season. Schofield, who was the interim manager last season, returns to his previous role.

For Double-A Chattanooga, Pat Kelly will be manager with Danny Darwin at pitching coach, Daryle Ward as hitting coach and Darren Bragg as the bench coach. Last season, Kelly served as the Reds' interim bench coach and Darwin was their pitching coach under interim manager Jim Rigglesman. Although most of the big league coaching staff was not retained, both Kelly and Darwin were promised they would have roles back in player development.

Here are the field staffs for the other Reds affiliates:

Class A Advanced Daytona

Manager: Ricky Gutierrez

Pitching coach: Tom Brown

Hitting coach: Alex Pelaez

Bench coach: Lenny Harris

Class A Dayton Dragons

Manager: Luis Bolivar

Pitching coach: Seth Etherton

Hitting coach: Mike Devereaux

Bench coach: Kevin Mahar

Rookie-level Billings

Manager: Ray Martinez

Pitching coach: Chris Booker

Hitting coach: Darryl Brinkley

Bench coach: Bryan LaHair

Rookie-level Greeneville

Manager: Gookie Dawkins

Pitching coach: Derin Ebert

Hitting coach: Luis Terrero

Bench coach: Reggie Williams

Dominican Summer League Reds

Manager: Luis Saturria

Pitching coach: Luis Montano

Pitching coach: Luis Andujar

Coach: Cristobal Rodriguez

Coach: Jose Castro

1 question for each club before Spring Training

MLB.com

Jan. 7th, 2019

REDS: Will they add an ace starting pitcher?

The Reds have been busy this offseason trying to make upgrades, with most of their focus on the rotation. Through trades, they added right-hander Tanner Roark from the Nationals and lefty Alex Wood from the Dodgers. Both seem ready to slot in the middle of the rotation. But president of baseball operations Dick Williams noted the club wasn't done trying to improve in the starting five and that the Reds have both payroll space and prospect capital that can be used. If they want to aim high, Dallas Keuchel remains available on the free agent board. However, Keuchel's asking price is high and the amount of years is long.

On the trade front, either Corey Kluber or Trevor Bauer from the Indians would provide an instant jolt but come with an expected hefty return required. Also seemingly available are Sonny Gray from the Yankees and Marcus Stroman of the Blue Jays, with both being in need of bounce-back seasons. Free agents like Derek Holland, Wade Miley and Gio Gonzalez are also still on the market. Other than the two Cleveland pitchers and Keuchel, few of the other options would likely provide one of the National League's worst rotations the past couple of seasons with any more tangible credibility.

-- *Mark Sheldon*

CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

Cincinnati Reds invite 18 non-roster players to Spring Training, announce minor league coaches Bobby Nightengale, Cincinnati Enquirer

Published 12:27 p.m. ET Jan. 9, 2019 | Updated 12:48 p.m. ET Jan. 9, 2019

In addition to players on the 40-man roster, the Reds announced Wednesday that they are inviting 18 more players to Spring Training next month.

Teams can extend non-roster invitations to upper-level prospects who are not on the 40-man roster and invitations can be included when players sign minor league contracts during the offseason. The 18 non-roster invitees are right-handed pitchers Anthony Bass, Odrisamer Despaigne, Vladimir Gutierrez, Alex Powers and Tony Santillan, catchers Juan Graterol, Chris Okey and Tyler Stephenson, infielders Christian Colón and Alfredo Rodriguez, and outfielders Aristides Aquino, TJ Friedl, Brian O'Grady, Jordan Patterson, Nick Senzel, Taylor Trammell, Mason Williams and Kyle Wren.

Bass made 16 relief appearances with the Chicago Cubs last season, allowing five earned runs in 15 1/3 innings while striking out 14. Despaigne made 19 appearances (five starts) with the Miami Marlins and Los Angeles Angels last year, recording a 6.69 ERA in 39 innings. According to Sportsnet, Despaigne will make \$875,000 if he makes the big-league roster.

Senzel and Trammell highlight the club's top prospects who are invited to camp, respectively ranked No. 1 and No. 2 in the organization by MLB.com. Santillan is ranked No. 5, Stephenson is No. 6, Gutierrez is No. 8, Friedl is No. 14, Rodriguez is No. 20 and Okey is No. 24.

Pitchers and catchers will report to Goodyear, Arizona on Feb. 12 and have their first workout on the following day. Position players will report on Feb. 17 and the Reds will have their first full-squad workout on Feb. 18.

On Wednesday morning, the Reds' minor league affiliates announced their coaching staffs for the 2019 season.

Louisville Bats (AAA)

Manager: Jody Davis
Pitching Coach: Jeff Fassero
Hitting Coach: Leon Durham
Bench Coach: Dick Schofield
S&C Coach: Matt Hall
Athletic Trainer: Steve Gober

Davis guided Double-A Pensacola to the Southern League playoffs last year. He spent 2016 and '17 as the hitting coach at Louisville. Schofield spent most of last season as Louisville's manager.

Chattanooga Lookouts (AA)

Manager: Pat Kelly
Pitching Coach: Danny Darwin
Hitting Coach: Daryle Ward
Bench Coach: Darren Bragg
S&C Coach: Joseph Miranda
Athletic Trainer: Tyler Moos

After starting last season as the manager at Triple-A, Kelly was named interim bench coach at the Major League level. Kelly previously managed in Chattanooga in 1993-94. Darwin, who was the Reds' interim pitching coach last season, was the Double-A pitching coach in 2016 and '17.

Daytona Tortugas (A+)

Manager: Ricky Gutierrez
Pitching Coach: Tom Brown
Hitting Coach: Alex Pelaez
Bench Coach: Lenny Harris
S&C Coach: Trey Strickland
Athletic Trainer: Ryan Ross

Gutierrez led Daytona to the Florida State League playoffs last year and will return as manager for the second straight season. Brown will enter his 13th season in the Reds' organization, his fourth consecutive as Daytona's pitching coach.

Dayton Dragons (A)

Manager: Luis Bolivar
Pitching Coach: Seth Etherton
Hitting Coach: Mike Devereaux

Bench Coach: Kevin Mahar
S&C Coach: Justin Bucko
Athletic Trainer: Andrew Cleves

Bolivar will manage for the third consecutive season at Dayton. Mahar will continue as bench coach for the third year. Devereaux, entering his second season in the Reds' organization, was the hitting coach at Double-A last year.

Billings Mustangs (R)
Manager: Ray Martinez
Pitching Coach: Chris Booker
Hitting Coach: Darryl Brinkley
Bench Coach: Bryan LaHair
S&C Coach: Blaine Taylor
Athletic Trainer: Brandon Blascak

It will be Martinez's fourth season managing at Billings. Brinkley was the hitting coach at Greeneville last year. LaHair will enter his second year as a professional coach.

Greeneville Reds (R)
Manager: Gookie Dawkins
Pitching Coach/Assistant to the Pitching Coordinator: Derrin Ebert
Hitting Coach: Luis Terrero
Bench Coach: Reggie Williams
S&C Coach: Alex Puskarich
Athletic Trainer: Josh Hobson
Dawkins and Williams return for the second straight year. Terrero played in 243 Major League games, mostly with the Diamondbacks.

DSL Reds (R)
Manager: Luis Saturria
Pitching Coach: Luis Montaño
Pitching Coach: Luis Andujar
Coach: Cristobal Rodriguez
Coach: Jose Castro
Coach: Jefry Sierra
Coach: Edward Bens
S&C Coach: Eduardo Garcia
S&C Coach: Rafael Hernandez
Athletic Trainer: Aric Quinney
Athletic Trainer: Jaime de los Santos
Athletic Trainer: Lauren Powers
Video Assistant: Luis Garrido

AZL Reds (R)
Manager/Extended Spring Training Coordinator: Jose Nieves
Pitching Coach: Elmer Dessens
Hitting Coach: Todd Takayoshi
Bench Coach: Donald Lutz
S&C Coach: Cole Durham
Athletic Trainer: Clete Sigwart
Athletic Trainer: Wade Hebrink

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Reds invite Senzel, Trammell, others to major league spring training camp
Five of team's top-10 prospects on list released Wednesday
By David Jablonski
Jan. 9, 2019

CINCINNATI — The Cincinnati Reds, who open their Cactus League schedule on Feb. 23 against the Cleveland Indians in Goodyear, Ariz., announced a list of players they have invited to major league spring training camp. Among the names are:

- Infielder/outfielder Nick Senzel: The No. 1 prospect for the Reds in 2019, according to MLB.com, Senzel hit .310 with six home runs and 25 RBIs in 44 games in 2018 at Triple-A Louisville before breaking his right index finger and missing the rest of the season. He was the team's top pick in 2016.
- Outfielder Taylor Trammell: The No. 2 prospect, a first-round pick in 2016, hit .277 with Single-A Daytona.
- Right-handed pitcher Tony Santillan: The No. 5 prospect, a second-round pick in 2015, was 4-3 with a 3.61 ERA in 11 starts for Double-A Pensacola.
- Catcher Tyler Stephenson: The No. 6 prospect, a first-round pick in 2015, hit .250 with Daytona.
- Right-handed pitcher Vladimir Gutierrez: The No. 8 prospect was 9-10 with a 4.35 ERA with Pensacola.
- Outfielder TJ Friedl: The No. 14 prospect, who signed as an undrafted free agent in 2016, hit .276 with Pensacola.
- Catcher Chris Okey: The No. 24 prospect, a second-round pick in 2016, hit .198 in 78 games with Pensacola.

The other invitations went to: right-handed pitchers Anthony Bass, Odrisamer Despaigne and Alex Powers; catcher Juan Graterol; infielders Christian Colón and Alfredo Rodriguez; and outfielders Aristides Aquino, Brian O'Grady, Jordan Patterson, Mason Williams and Kyle Wren.

TRANSACTIONS

01/09/19

Cincinnati Reds invited non-roster RHP Vladimir Gutierrez to spring training.
 Cincinnati Reds invited non-roster RHP Alex Powers to spring training.
 Cincinnati Reds invited non-roster RHP Tony Santillan to spring training.
 Cincinnati Reds invited non-roster C Chris Okey to spring training.
 Cincinnati Reds invited non-roster C Tyler Stephenson to spring training.
 Cincinnati Reds invited non-roster SS Alfredo Rodriguez to spring training.
 Cincinnati Reds invited non-roster 3B Nick Senzel to spring training.
 Cincinnati Reds invited non-roster LF TJ Friedl to spring training.
 Cincinnati Reds invited non-roster LF Brian O'Grady to spring training.
 Cincinnati Reds invited non-roster CF Taylor Trammell to spring training.
 Texas Rangers signed free agent RHP Shelby Miller.
 Texas Rangers signed free agent RHP Jeanmar Gomez to a minor league contract and invited him to spring training.
 Texas Rangers signed free agent CF Danny Santana to a minor league contract and invited him to spring training.

01/08/19

Kansas City Royals invited non-roster RHP Zach Lovvorn to spring training.
 Kansas City Royals invited non-roster SS Jecksson Flores to spring training.
 Kansas City Royals invited non-roster LHP Foster Griffin to spring training.
 Kansas City Royals invited non-roster LHP Jake Kalish to spring training.
 Kansas City Royals invited non-roster LHP Richard Lovelady to spring training.
 Kansas City Royals invited non-roster C Nick Dini to spring training.
 Kansas City Royals invited non-roster C MJ Melendez to spring training.
 Kansas City Royals invited non-roster C Xavier Fernandez to spring training.
 Kansas City Royals invited non-roster C Sebastian Rivero to spring training.
 Kansas City Royals invited non-roster 3B Humberto Arteaga to spring training.
 Kansas City Royals invited non-roster LF Erick Mejia to spring training.
 Chicago White Sox signed free agent RHP Kelvin Herrera.
 Chicago White Sox designated LHP Ian Clarkin for assignment.
 Kansas City Royals invited non-roster SS Nicky Lopez to spring training.
 Kansas City Royals invited non-roster 1B Frank Schwindel to spring training.
 Kansas City Royals invited non-roster RF Elier Hernandez to spring training.
 Tampa Bay Rays traded RHP Jaime Schultz to Los Angeles Dodgers for RHP Caleb Sampen.
 Cincinnati Reds signed free agent RHP Odrisamer Despaigne to a minor league contract and invited him to spring training.

01/07/19

New York Mets released 3B David Wright.