



CHICAGO CUBS DAILY CLIPS

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- Chicago Tribune, **Offseason renovations resume at Wrigley Field — and Captain Morgan Club is the first to go**
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/baseball/cubs/ct-spt-cubs-wrigley-field-offseason-renovations-20181018-story.html>
- Daily Herald, **Rozner: Baseball schools collide in NLCS**
<https://www.dailyherald.com/sports/20181017/rozner-baseball-schools-collide-in-nlcs>
- Cubs.com, **Zobrist mourns season in Instagram music video**
<https://www.mlb.com/cubs/news/ben-zobrist-funny-instagram-music-video/c-298235220>
- Cubs.com, **Cubs prospects dominate in 18-run day in AFL**
<https://www.mlb.com/cubs/news/cubs-prospects-dominate-in-fall-league/c-298317302>
- Cubs.com, **Former Cubs orthopedic consultant dies at 76**
<https://www.mlb.com/cubs/news/former-cubs-orthopedic-consultant-dies-at-76/c-298326408>
- NBC Sports Chicago, **Ben Zobrist provides a hilarious glimpse into how he's spending a free October**
<https://www.nbcsports.com/chicago/cubs/ben-zobrist-provides-hilarious-glimpse-how-hes-spending-free-october-world-series>

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Chicago Tribune

Offseason renovations resume at Wrigley Field — and Captain Morgan Club is the first to go
By Tim Bannon

The Captain got the hook.

Offseason renovations at Wrigley Field have begun — a few weeks earlier than the Cubs would have liked, thanks to the Brewers and the Rockies — and the first building to fall was the Captain Morgan Club/DraftKings Sports Zone at Addison and Sheffield.

The 8,000-square-foot bar opened in 2009 and had a capacity for 500 people on game days and 300 on non-game days.

Going up in its place, according to the Cubs, will be a two-story retail/entertainment addition to the right-field corner of Wrigley Field. It is expected to be ready for the Cubs' home opener April 8 against the Pirates.

The DraftKings Zone will be rebuilt as an outdoor food and beverage space as an extension of the ballpark.

The new structure's rooftop area will be connected to the ballpark's terrace concourse and will include more concession areas and washrooms, accessible from the upper deck.

Among other projects expected to be completed this offseason:

Visitors clubhouse. Three seasons after the home team got a sparkling new clubhouse, the counterpart on the first base side will be renovated. It has long been considered one of the smallest in the major leagues. But Dodgers outfielder Carl Crawford told the Tribune in 2016 that every player knows what is in store for them when they come to Chicago. "We're used to it," Crawford said. "It has been like this forever. We don't even think about it. It's been like that for 100 years."

Maker's Mark Barrel Room, just behind the visitors dugout down the first-base line. It will accommodate approximately 250 season ticket holders and offer views of the Cubs' batting tunnels.

The W Club on the third base side. This new club will also accommodate nearly 250 season ticket holders and offer views of the Cubs' batting tunnels.

Catalina Club, in the upper level behind home plate, replacing the concession stand under the press box. The name comes from the spring training home of the Cubs from most of 1921 through 1951 on Santa Catalina Island in California, and the indoor/outdoor space is designed to give fans views of the field and the lake to the east and the skyline to the west. The popular Jim Beam Patio, which was open to all seating-bowl ticket holders, occupied much of that space. No word on how much of that space will still be available to all ticket holders.

Renovation work on the 104-year-old Wrigley, the second-oldest ballpark in the majors behind Fenway Park, began after the 2014 season. Major changes have included the expanded bleachers, two new video boards, the park adjacent to the Wrigley's west entrance, wider and deeper dugouts, bullpens relocated from the field to under the bleachers, and the exclusive 1914 Club, the first, largest and most expensive of four planned Cubs premium clubs at Wrigley.

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Daily Herald

Rozner: Baseball schools collide in NLCS

By Barry Rozner

As if launch angle wasn't a hot enough topic around the game of baseball, it will be even more of a conversation this winter and during spring training as we parse the words of Theo Epstein and Joe Maddon and ponder the approach of a third Cubs hitting coach in three years.

It was quite the issue on the FS1 postgame show after the 13-inning marathon Tuesday night that ended at 1:25 a.m. Wednesday, so you probably didn't hang around to hear more about the Dodgers' 2-1 victory, if you even stayed up for the conclusion.

But for those of us who did, we were treated to a discussion among Alex Rodriguez (696 home runs), David Ortiz (541) and Frank Thomas (521), who wondered why there was no use of the bunt in that game.

The bunt? That's a dangerous road to travel these days.

In this climate, you're not allowed to have an opinion if it differs from the groupthink. You will be shouted down and called a fool or -- by the laziest screamers -- a dinosaur.

There is only one solution to a problem. It's black and white and you must fall in line or be excoriated by those who possess the unambiguous answer to an inexhaustible question.

So it was fascinating to hear three pretty accomplished players -- all three in the top 20 all-time in home runs -- discuss what occurred that night.

"This is one of the greatest bullpens I've ever seen," Thomas said of Milwaukee. "So many swing-and-miss guys. The Dodgers had 17 strikeouts (Tuesday), 14 (Monday).

"I'm sorry, but you have to dial it down a little bit and try to use the whole ballpark to get some offense going. As a hitter, if you're struggling, go the opposite way. It'll clean up your pull swing."

"We used to talk about it all the time as players," Rodriguez said. "Slap the ball the other way with runners in scoring position."

"When you go the other way," said Ortiz, "you are trying to stay through the ball longer and get your rhythm back."

"Baseball," Rodriguez insisted, "is a game of confidence and rhythm and feel."

Well, there's no metric for that, so that's not going to work for many experts.

Look, the metrics have advanced the game and are essential to furthering our understanding of baseball. To ignore them is absurd, but to pretend there is nothing else in baseball except a spreadsheet is equally obtuse.

And all three men, prodigious bombers, could not believe what they were watching for 5 hours, 15 minutes.

"It's so frustrating," Rodriguez said. "Bunt the guy to third when you have a man on second and nobody out.

"I know sabermetrics are running this. Well, when you have a guy on third and less than two outs, the chances of scoring are 67 percent. It's simple math. Get the guy over to third with a bunt."

"We understand analytics. We get it. It works," Thomas said. "But it's basic strategy when you get to the postseason. Sometimes you have to make the easy play. We've been doing it in baseball for over 100 years."

Careful now, big fella. Just because you were a Hall of Fame player, it doesn't mean you'll be permitted a viewpoint.

"If you want the ring, sometimes you have to do the little things," Thomas said. "In a series with great pitching like this, someone's gonna have to put down a bunt or use a hit-and-run to move the runner to get him in scoring position."

Rodriguez was particularly appalled that Milwaukee shortstop Orlando Arcia, who had 1 bunt in 366 plate appearances in 2018, did not move a runner after a leadoff double in the top of the seventh of a 1-1 game.

Arcia popped to left for the first out and the Brewers failed to score.

"The argument against it is he hasn't bunted during the season," Rodriguez said. "That's a front office issue.

"If a guy hits 3 home runs in the regular season and doesn't know how to bunt, that's an enormous problem. That ego, that philosophy, could cost a team a world championship.

"When I was a young shortstop (in Seattle), (Lou) Piniella would meet me at the top step of the dugout and say, 'Alex, bunt him over. If he misses (with the pitch), look for the hit-and-run 1-0.' "

And Rodriguez was obviously capable of hitting a home run.

"The game has changed a lot," Ortiz said. "Most of these players, when they are about to sign in pro ball, the scouts and everyone else just want them to start launching balls and forget practicing bunting.

"Coming up through the minors, that's something we had to practice. That will save a game. This game took that long because nobody tried to bunt."

"With these great bullpens," Thomas said, "you have to try some hit-and-run. Line drives travel. But right now it's all launch angle.

"Moving runners, this is what you have to do against these bullpens. You're not going to score a lot of runs. There's too much velocity. You're not catching up to these arms."

The Dodgers came back Wednesday afternoon in Los Angeles with a 5-3 victory on 4 RBI singles the opposite way or up the middle, plus an RBI groundout.

"I love it," Rodriguez said. "We were begging, Big Hurt. Walt Hriniaak was your mentor. He loved the head down, go the other way. I saw a lot of head down today.

"They keep that up, the Dodgers will go to the World Series."

"I call it smart ball," Thomas said. "Gotta get back through the middle. Shorten that swing against guys throwing 95 and above. Good things happen when you put the ball in play."

Guys who love home runs -- guys who loved hitting home runs -- merely telling you what they see.

If you're a metrics zealot, this will drive you insane, and if you're strictly old school, you probably enjoyed the conversation and hate the state of today's game.

My belief is there's room in the middle for both, and some independent thinking is necessary to fully comprehend a complicated game.

And in today's world, the middle is a lonely place to be.

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Cubs.com

Zobrist mourns season in Instagram music video

By Carrie Muskat

CHICAGO -- If Cubs fans are having a tough time adjusting to life without baseball after the team's abrupt ending in the National League Wild Card Game, they should know the players also are struggling to cope. Ben Zobrist expressed his frustrations in a clever music video that included a note to fans.

"It always takes me a few weeks to process the season and begin the offseason," Zobrist said in an Instagram post. "Here are my thoughts ... along with a unique way of making light of the postseason that should have been ..."

With the help of pitcher, filmmaker and good friend Tim Dillard, Zobrist's post is accompanied by a video in which the veteran infielder lipsyncs to Mumford and Sons, "I Will Wait for You."

Zobrist, 37, is shown watching the Brewers and Dodgers play Game 5 of the NL Championship Series on Wednesday and taking swings in his living room against Los Angeles starter Clayton Kershaw.

He's also shown sadly holding his glove. It's obvious. Zobrist just wants to be playing.

He wrote a long note to his followers as well.

"Maybe you feel the way I do," Zobrist said in his post. "It was a very quick and abrupt ending to a good season for us. It leaves a sour taste in my mouth. But let's not forget all the good that happened. This game and this team gives us something to pass the time, to express our love and passion, to feel the joy of the wins and the pains of the losses, and it calls us to unity when we so easily can be divided about so many other things. Each game is a microcosm of life.

"The game itself is not Life, but it helps us deal with life in a way. I'm thankful for even the painful losses at the end. The game can be a great teacher. I felt privileged to play with this team and play for our fans all year. We were stretched and we great in new ways as individuals and as a group and that is always a good thing. We strive to win championships, but more often, the process is the goal. We will be stronger because of all that we went through this year.

"What will I do now? I will travel and watch my wife crush her book tour. I will be in and out of Chi-town. I just got back home to Franklin, TN. I will find joy in raising and watching my kids grow and continue becoming their own person. I will rest and begin preparing for next season. I will work hard in mind, body, and spirit. I will help other players with @patriotforward and @showandgo. I will focus on personal growth and charitable endeavors, and become a better man, teammate, friend and player.

"To Baseball and Fans: For the next 5 months until I play next year ...

"I will wait for you."

The "Show and Go" reference is a podcast that Zobrist, Dillard, a baseball coach and a personal trainer have combined on which is aimed at young ballplayers interested in learning the game behind the game. Zobrist's wife, Julianna, has a new book called "Pull It Off: Removing Your Fears and Putting on Confidence."

As for Zobrist himself, he's coming off an impressive comeback season in which he batted .305. He'll just have to wait until next year to play.

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Cubs.com

Cubs prospects dominate in 18-run day in AFL

By Andre Simms

SURPRISE, Ariz. -- A quartet of Cubs prospects shined for the Mesa Solar Sox in an 18-2 rout over the Surprise Saguaros in Arizona Fall League action Thursday.

Cubs' No. 8 prospect Justin Steele set the tone early with three no-hit innings for the Solar Sox.

Thursday was Steele's second start of the Fall League season. After giving up four earned runs in just 1 2/3 innings against Peoria last Thursday, Steele settled in with his scoreless performance.

"I was probably a little too amped up for my first start in the Fall League," Steele said. "Nerves were a little calmer today and I had my stuff so I felt good."

Steele was a fifth-round pick in 2014 out of George County High School in Mississippi. After struggling in his first two full professional seasons, Steele was finding his groove with Class A Advanced Myrtle Beach before tearing his UCL in 2017.

Coming off Tommy John surgery, Steele returned to the mound in early July. He got 11 starts across three levels in the Cubs' organization, and it feels like the Fall League innings are crucial.

"Whatever I do here is probably gonna have a direct impact on what I do next year as far as innings and where I start at and all that." Steele said. "I worked really hard all offseason rehabbing from Tommy John, so I'm very glad to be here."

His battery mate was P.J. Higgins, who had a breakout performance offensively. A 12th-rounder in 2015, Higgins finished the day 2-for-5 with a three-run homer and two runs scored.

Higgins and Steele, who are roommates, have known each other for years and have rose through the ranks together. As both continue to progress, they know the chemistry can be big going forward.

"We've got a good a relationship. I've known him since South Bend." Higgins said. "We work well together and it's always enjoyable."

Higgins had been held hitless until Thursday, but credits film for helping him bust out of the skid.

D.J. Wilson, a fourth-round pick and the Cubs' No. 16 prospect, led off for the Solar Sox and proved to be a table setter for his team. Wilson finished 1-for-3 with three walks and four runs.

The Cubs' No. 6 prospect, shortstop Nico Hoerner, drove in the first two runs on a single.

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Cubs.com

Former Cubs orthopedic consultant dies at 76

By Carrie Muskat

CHICAGO -- Dr. Michael Schafer, who was the Cubs' orthopedic consultant for more than 30 years, passed away Wednesday night. He was 76.

Among the many Cubs players Schafer treated were Andre Dawson, Ryne Sandberg and Rick Sutcliffe, who shared his memories of Schafer on Twitter.

Schafer specialized in the treatment of spinal disorders and sports injuries. He earned his medical degree from the University of Iowa in 1967 and was the chairman of the department of orthopedics at Northwestern Memorial Hospital for 35 years.

During the 2000 Winter Meetings, Schafer was honored by the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society (PBATS) with a 20-year physician's award for his contributions to baseball medicine.

Visitation will be Sunday from 2-8 p.m. CT at Donnellan Family Funeral Home, 10045 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, Ill. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Michael F. Schafer, M.D. Research and Education Endowment at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, 420 East Superior Street, Rubloff Building, Ninth Floor, Chicago, IL 60611.

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NBC Sports Chicago

Ben Zobrist provides a hilarious glimpse into how he's spending a free October

By Tony Andracki

Ben Zobrist won't win the Comeback Player of the Year award this winter, but maybe he can take home a Grammy for Best New Artist?

The Cubs veteran infielder/outfielder posted a hilarious video on his Instagram Wednesday night showcasing how he's been spending October after the Cubs were unceremoniously ousted from the playoffs after on the third day of the month.

It's a fantastic music video of Zobrist lip-syncing to Mumford & Sons' "I Will Wait" while he nearly knocks the TV off the wall of his home by swinging the bat indoors pretending to hit off Clayton Kershaw and frolicking around a field that looks shockingly similar to Hershel's farm from the second season of "The Walking Dead":

Zobrist also posted a lengthy caption on his perspective on the Cubs' disappointing end to the season:

"It always takes me a few weeks to process the season and begin the offseason. Here are my thoughts.....along with a unique way of making light of the postseason that should have been..... (special thanks to @dimtillard for help with Video) Maybe you feel the way I do. It was a very quick and abrupt ending to a good season for us. It leaves a sour taste in my mouth. But let's not forget all the good that happened. This game and this team gives us something to pass the time, to express our love and passion, to feel the joy of the wins and the pains of the losses, and it calls us to unity when we so easily can be divided about so many other things. Each game is a microcosm of life. The game itself is not Life, but it helps us deal with life in a way. I'm thankful for even the painful losses at the end. The game can be a great teacher. I felt privileged to play with this team and play for our fans all year. We were stretched and we grew in new ways as individuals and as a group and that is always a good thing. We strive to win championships, but more often the process is the goal. We will be stronger because of

all that we went through this year. What will I do now? I will travel and watch my wife crush her book tour. I will be in and out of Chi-town. I just got back home to Franklin, TN. I will find joy in raising and watching my kids grow and continue becoming their own person. I will rest and begin preparing for next season. I will work hard in mind, body, and spirit. I will help other players with @patriotforward and @showandgo. I will focus on personal growth and charitable endeavors and become a better man, teammate, friend, and player. To Baseball and Fans: For the next 5 months until I play next year.... I will wait for you....”

Come for the Zobrist lip sync, but stay for the 37-year-old using a bat as a guitar while wearing a sleeveless shirt and rocking an old-timey top hat.

A year ago, Zobrist completely reshaped his offseason workout plan after three straight years of playing deep into October. It appears he's added another new trick to his winter workout — hopping over fences even though there is a clear opening just a foot away.

Hey, whatever works...

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