

Daily Clips



September 13, 2018

LOS ANGELES DODGERS
DAILY CLIPS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

MLB.COM

Wood bumped from Sunday start vs. Cardinals - Ken Gurnick
Dodgers take down nemesis Reds in finale - Ken Gurnick

LA TIMES

Dodgers push back Alex Wood's next start; he won't pitch in St. Louis - Andy McCullough
Dodgers finally get a win against the dismal Cincinnati Reds - Andy McCullough
Dodgers Dugout: A closer look at the Dodgers' record - Houston Mitchell

OC REGISTER

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts on lineup changes: 'Our players have got to accept it' - Bill Plunkett
Dodgers escape Reds menace with 8-1 win in Cincinnati - Bill Plunkett

TRUE BLUE LA

Turner and Grandal lead offense in series finale win over Reds - Stacie Wheeler
Thomas slams Quakes past Oaks, Drillers walk off winners - David Hood

DODGER INSIDER

Dodgers get series finale Red-emption - Rowan Kavner
Farm Fresh: Tulsa and Rancho each one win away from league titles - Cary Osborne
LA teams up on 9/11 - Erin Edwards

THE ATHLETIC

Yasmani Grandal is finding the right balance at the right time for the Dodgers - Pedro Moura

WALL STREET JOURNAL

Why the Los Angeles Dodgers Are Feeling Blue - Jared Diamond

DODGER INSIDER

Dodgers Salvage Season Series With 8-1 Win in Cincinnati - Michael Duarte

LOS ANGELES DODGERS
DAILY CLIPS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

MLB.COM

Wood bumped from Sunday start vs. Cardinals

By Ken Gurnick

CINCINNATI -- The Dodgers are juggling their rotation again, which not only is bad news for odd man out Alex Wood, but is also a contributing factor to a historical oddity for a franchise built upon starting pitching.

First, Wood. After the left-hander's 3 2/3-inning start in Tuesday night's loss, manager Dave Roberts said Wood's next outing hasn't been determined. His turn would come up Sunday in St. Louis, but Roberts said Wednesday starter Ross Stripling and Hyun-Jin Ryu are currently the candidates, with Wood "potentially" on Monday.

Stripling allowed one run over 3 1/3 innings in Wednesday's 8-1 win over the Reds at Great American Ball Park, his first start since Aug. 9. Roberts said he's still in the running for Sunday.

"He could be an option," Roberts said. "He threw 51 pitches today. We've got to talk through it and we'll figure out what's best for him. We haven't made a decision."

Stripling said he would be ready to relieve by Saturday -- if not start on Sunday.

"Definitely a little rusty," Stripling said after permitting the first three batters to reach base, including a homer by Jose Peraza. "I should be fine by Sunday. I'll be ready, Sunday Night Baseball."

Roberts said St. Louis' lineup is one factor in the decision not to start Wood, but he conceded that Wood's recent inconsistent outings are at least of equal consideration. He allowed three runs in four innings against the Cardinals last month in Los Angeles.

"He was really sharp in the Texas start [on Aug. 29 with seven scoreless innings], but outside of that, he hasn't been as sharp as he has been early this year," Roberts said. "He said he feels strong, but the fact is it's not as crisp as it was earlier this year."

Wood has never regained the velocity from the first half of 2017, when he was an All-Star. He was bothered after last year's All-Star break by sternum discomfort, then decided during the offseason to abandon the windup and pitch exclusively out of the stretch. The velocity, however, never returned.

In the first half of 2017, Wood's fastball velocity averaged 92.6 mph, and he used the pitch 51.7 percent of the time. In the second half of 2018, the average fastball velocity has been 89.5 mph, with a frequency usage of 43.1 percent.

As for the historical oddity, while pitcher victories have lost their luster to some, the Dodgers don't have a starter with at least double-digit wins and might finish the season that way. Part of the explanation is that every starter except Wood has been on the disabled list at least once. Clayton Kershaw has been sidelined twice, which will snap his eight-year streak of at least 12 victories.

The Dodgers already are assured of breaking the franchise record for the most games played in a season without a 10-game winner, set during World War II in 1944, when it took 147 games before Curt Davis won his 10th. The Dodgers will play their 148th game on Friday and no current pitcher has more than eight wins.

Dodgers take down nemesis Reds in finale

By Ken Gurnick

CINCINNATI -- He was joking, but not really.

"We can beat them," a relieved manager Dave Roberts said after the Dodgers finally beat -- and beat up -- the Reds, 8-1, on Wednesday at Great American Ball Park to end a season series of suffering.

"These guys had our number all year," Roberts said. "Just to get out of here with a win, where we're at, is a good thing."

The Dodgers are 1 1/2 games out of first place in the National League West and now head to St. Louis for four contests against a club two games ahead of Los Angeles for the second Wild Card spot.

The Dodgers had lost their previous six meetings against Cincinnati this year, with the Reds seeking the first season sweep of the Dodgers in the 119-year history of the rivalry. But the Dodgers won the finale as Joc Pederson homered and doubled, Justin Turner and Yasmani Grandal each drove in three runs, Yasiel Puig collected three hits and seven pitchers combined on a five-hitter.

Reds starter Anthony DeSclafani retired the first nine Dodgers, but Pederson led off the fourth inning with his 21st homer and second in as many games, triggering the type of lineup-wide production from the Dodgers at their best.

"In the past week or so, we've scored a lot of runs on just home runs and haven't done the best job of hitting runners in," Pederson said. "J.T.'s two RBIs on a single up the middle was huge just to get the flow going so we don't have to rely on the long ball. Situational hitting is key in big games."

Turner, the National League Player of the Month Award winner for August, has debated reporters recently on the consistency of the Dodgers' offense.

"We're all well aware of the conversations going on about the boom or bust, the hot or cold, the all home runs or nothing," said Turner, who returned from a brief breather on Tuesday night with a double and single. "Today, obviously, we had a lot of hits in scoring position and good results."

Ross Stripling made his first start for the Dodgers since Aug. 9 and exceeded the projected three innings by one out, allowing only one run and leaving with a 2-1 lead. He might come back and start in St. Louis on short rest Sunday, Roberts said.

A bullpen game followed Stripling, with Caleb Ferguson (6-2) given the win for striking out the side in the fifth inning and closer Kenley Jansen pitching the ninth, his first work since skipping the Colorado series as a health precaution.

"For me, today the bullpen was what it was about," Roberts said. "The guys did an outstanding job."

Grandal contributed three run-scoring hits. He said some of the offense's recent inconsistency should be credited to good opposing pitching and, in his case specifically, bad luck on good swings.

"I've looked at some numbers that say I should be hitting .340," Grandal said, referring to exit velocity and launch angle. "That's all I care about, as long as I'm hitting the ball hard somewhere, as long as I'm walking. If I'm walking, I'm good. When I'm striking out a lot, that's when I need to figure out what I'm doing."

SOUND SMART

The Dodgers have homered in 20 consecutive games, extending their Los Angeles record. They are four shy of the Brooklyn franchise record set in 1953.

YOU GOTTA SEE THIS

In his first outing in a week, Jansen retired the Reds in order in the ninth, although he said he wasn't comfortable during the at-bat of Joey Votto, whose drive to the warning track was run down by Puig. But Jansen got a called strikeout of Eugenio Suarez and Scooter Gennett on a popout. Jansen missed the series in Colorado last weekend on doctor's orders because of his heart condition.

HE SAID IT

"We've had hiccups, every 'pen has hiccups, but the whole body of work, I think the 'pen's done a nice job." -- Roberts

MITEL REPLAY OF THE DAY

Grandal's two-out line drive to the top of the right-center wall was ruled a double on fan interference when a young fan reached over and caught the ball. Umpires ruled that Max Muncy, who was on first base, would have scored and awarded the Dodgers a run. The Reds challenged, but the call stood upon review.

UP NEXT

Clayton Kershaw was pushed back one day to start Thursday's 4:15 p.m. PT opener against the Cardinals and Austin Gomber. Kershaw has been typically tough as nails down the stretch. He hasn't allowed more than two earned runs in a start since July 15 and hasn't lasted fewer than six innings since June 28. He has lost only once since April 25.

LA TIMES

Dodgers push back Alex Wood's next start; he won't pitch in St. Louis

By Andy McCullough

After giving up seven runs to the Reds on Monday, Alex Wood will not face St. Louis this weekend as the Dodgers are still pondering their starter for Sunday's series finale against the Cardinals.

The two options are Hyun-Jin Ryu on regular rest or Ross Stripling on short rest. Stripling started Wednesday's game against the Reds and lasted 3 1/3 innings.

"It depends on today," manager Dave Roberts said before Wednesday's game. "That's why we're kind of leaving it open."

Roberts suggested the decision was related to how Wood matches up with the right-handed hitters in the Cardinals lineup. The Dodgers previously gave Wood extra rest to keep him out of a crucial series with Arizona.

The Dodgers have not announced their rotation for next week's series at Dodger Stadium against Colorado. Wood could start on Monday. Or the team could skip Wood, who has pitched past the fifth inning only once in his last five outings. Wood owns a 3.17 earned-run average in the second half, but Roberts remains concerned about the consistency of his arsenal.

"He hasn't been as sharp," Roberts said. "He was really sharp during that Texas start," in which Wood pitched seven scoreless innings, "but outside of that, he hasn't been as sharp as he has been earlier this year."

Wood's fastball velocity dipped in the second half of his All-Star campaign in 2017, and the numbers have continued to drop this season. His average fastball clocked at 91.8 mph in 2017, according to FanGraphs. His velocity now sits at 89.9.

In the process, his strikeout rate has dropped. Wood struck out 8.92 batters per nine innings last season. He has struck out 7.97 per nine innings in 2018.

Wood has made 27 starts this season, with only one brief stint on the disabled list. No Dodgers starter has taken the ball more often this season. He made 27 starts in the entirety of 2017.

"With my eyes, obviously when you're talking about workload, that certainly plays a part in it," Roberts said. "Talking to him and the training staff, he feels strong. The fact is that it's not as crisp as it was earlier this year."

Dodgers finally get a win against the dismal Cincinnati Reds

By Andy McCullough

Dave Roberts crossed his arms and allowed himself to exhale. He was seated inside the visiting manager's office at Great American Ball Park, the home of the Cincinnati Reds, the unlikeliest thorn in the side of the Dodgers in 2018.

"We can beat them," he said.

He was being facetious — but only to a point. On the seventh try, the Dodgers managed to defeat the Reds, pounding out an 8-1 victory on Wednesday to avoid a season-long sweep by a last-place team. The afternoon presented all the elements that offer hope for this team, should they reach the playoffs. The offense ground opposing pitchers into dust. The bullpen held firm on a day without a bona fide starting pitcher.

A solo home run by Joc Pederson opened the scoring in the fourth. Justin Turner drove in three runs. Yasmani Grandal did the same. Yasiel Puig catalyzed a pair of rallies, and Pederson scored twice. Starting for the first time since Aug. 9, Ross Stripling logged 3 1/3 innings before handing the game over to the rest of the relief corps. He yielded a solo homer in the first inning but settled down from there.

"Every game matters right now," Turner said. "To salvage today was huge for us."

The victory prevented the Colorado Rockies from widening their lead in the National League West. The Dodgers reduced their deficit in the Wild Card race to two games behind St. Louis, the leader for the second spot in the play-in game

A collection of players gathered around the clubhouse television post-game to watch the Cardinals fall to Pittsburgh. The Dodgers could fortify their playoff position by leap-frogging St. Louis during a four-game series this weekend at Busch Stadium. The team will return home to start a three-game series with the Rockies on Monday.

"The way we're seeing it is we're going to take it one day at a time," Grandal said. "It's like a playoff game. Whatever we need to do to win a game, that's what we're going to do."

The Dodgers (79-67) could not replicate that atmosphere during the first two nights here. The games were sparsely attended and poorly played. There was little to be done about the attendance on Wednesday. But at least the offense showed up.

After losing six in a row to Cincinnati, Roberts appeared lost for answers for his team's inability to solve the Reds — just as he was unable to explain his offense's inconsistency.

Since taking over as manager in 2016, Roberts has sought to integrate the philosophical suggestions from president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman and general manager Farhan Zaidi. They built a

culture centered on the concept of sacrifice in pursuit of a common goal. That culture is easier to sustain when you're running away with a division title.

"When things aren't going well, you can look a lot of different things," Pederson said. "There's no one thing that works it out, which is going to be a quick fix. So I don't know."

As the losses have mounted, Roberts has come under fire for daily manipulations to the lineup. The batting order is an amorphous thing, shifting based on the handedness and predilections of the opposing pitcher. The different lineups are unlikely to change, even as the offense struggles.

"It's something I believe in," Roberts said. "Our players have to accept it. Because this is the way it's got to be with our roster."

Outside of Max Muncy, who has lost at-bats because of his defensive limitations, the hitters placed in platoons have earned their part-time status. Cody Bellinger has posted a .698 on-base plus slugging percentage against left-handed pitchers in 2018. Chris Taylor has struck out in 33.3% of his at-bats against right-handed pitchers. Puig has struggled against left-handers for the last two seasons, and Pederson has never hit left-handers. Matt Kemp owns a .636 OPS since making the All-Star team.

For the Dodgers, rare is the player like Turner, who can hit right-handers and left-handers.

"That's the thing — when you don't have eight Justin Turners, that's what happens," Roberts said. "This is the way I feel gives us the best chance to win."

Wednesday did not begin well for Stripling. He gave up a leadoff walk to former Dodger Scott Schebler, who was thrown out trying to steal second base. Jose Peraza, another former Dodger, boomed a solo home run. Joey Votto added another single.

Stripling recovered from the opening salvo. He made it through three innings without permitting another run. He pitched around a leadoff double in the third and struck out Votto to strand a runner at third base.

"When it goes like that, you've just got to bear down and get guys out," Stripling said. "Luckily, I was able to limit the damage to one."

The offense was meek before Reds starter Anthony DeSclafani through three innings. He put down the first nine batters he faced. The tide turned with the first at-bat of the fourth. Pederson demolished a 96-mph fastball for a solo shot. A two-out single by Muncy set up Yasmani Grandal.

Grandal crushed a 2-2 curveball. The pitch zoomed toward the right-field fence. As it approached, a boy reached over the partition and nabbed the baseball. The umpires awarded Grandal a double, but ruled Muncy would have scored before the young fan's interference. The hit gave the Dodgers their first lead of this series.

The lineup tacked on four more in the fifth. Yasiel Puig led off with a walk. Joc Pederson flicked a 1-2 fastball down the left-field line for a double. Both runners scored when Turner splashed a single in center field. Pederson slid in safely just before being crunched by Reds catcher Tucker Barnhart.

“That was huge,” Pederson said. “We don’t need to rely on the long ball.”

Cincinnati unraveled soon after. When DeSclafani walked Muncy, Reds manager Jim Riggleman tried reliever Wandy Peralta. Grandal greeted him with an RBI single. A grounder from Bellinger rolled beneath the glove of second baseman Scooter Gennett to bring home a fourth run in the inning.

The flood continued into the sixth. Puig sparked the group again with a leadoff double. After David Freese came off the bench to walk, Turner thumped an RBI double. Grandal contributed his second run-scoring single in as many innings.

“Today was a good day,” Turner said. “A lot of hits with guys in scoring position. Good results.”

Dodgers Dugout: A closer look at the Dodgers' record

By Houston Mitchell

Hi, and welcome to another edition of Dodgers Dugout. My name is Houston Mitchell, and there are only 16 games left in the season.

So what else is new?

The Dodgers lost two of three to the dismal Cincinnati Reds, leaving them at 79-67. Here’s an interesting thing about that though. They are 12-4 against San Diego and 4-0 against Texas, meaning they are 63-63 against everyone else.

Let’s break down their record a little more.

Against teams .500 or better: 48-41 (.539)

Against teams under .500: 31-26 (.544)

Before All-Star break: 53-43 (.552)

After All-Star break: 25-24 (.510)

One-run games: 21-21 (.500)

Home: 39-36 (.520)

Road: 40-31 (.563)

March/April: 12-16 (.429)

May: 14-14 (.500)

June: 17-9 (.654)

July: 16-10 (.615)

August: 14-13 (.519)

September: 6-5 (.545)

And now let's look at who their 12 best players have been this season, according to WAR:

1. Clayton Kershaw, 4.3

2. Max Muncy, 3.5

3. Justin Turner, 3.5

4. Chris Taylor, 3.4

5. Cody Bellinger, 3.3

6. Ross Stripling, 2.9

7. Walker Buehler, 2.5

8. Yasmani Grandal, 2.4

9. Manny Machado, 2.1

10. Yasiel Puig, 1.8

11. Kiké Hernández, 1.7

12. Joc Pederson, 1.7

A 4.3 would have been fifth best on last year's team behind Turner (5.8), Corey Seager (5.6), Kershaw (5.2) and Taylor (4.8).

And the 12 worst:

1. Logan Forsythe, -0.7
2. Wilmer Font, -0.7
3. Yimi Garcia, -0.6
4. Brock Stewart, -0.5
5. Ryan Madson, -0.4
6. Daniel Hudson, -0.3
7. John Axford, -0.3
8. Dennis Santana, -0.2
9. Edward Paredes, -0.2
10. Tony Cingrani, -0.1
11. Andrew Toles, -0.1
12. Brian Dozier, -0.1

There are a lot of relievers on that list.

So, what does all this mean? Well, one of the problems with stats is that I can find a stat for pretty much everyone that makes them look like one of the best players in the league, or one of the worst. That's why I always encourage you to seek out as many stats as you can find about a player and team and make judgments based on all of them. For example, the Dodgers have outscored their opponents by 133 runs this season, easily the best in the NL. If we just looked at that, they look great. But we can't look at just that.

The Dodgers are what they are: A team that hits poorly with runners in scoring position and which usually gets solid starting pitching but has a very erratic bullpen. Just when you think someone is going to step up and be this year's Brandon Morrow, they fall apart.

It's what we have talked about all season. I get so many emails from readers filled with anger and rage after losses. They call the team a bunch of losers and choke artists. But here's the thing. The Dodgers aren't out of it yet. They are making it difficult for themselves, but they still can make the playoffs. I don't know if they will. You don't either. If they do make it, I don't know if they will win the World Series. You don't either. There have been teams that have won 84 games and won the World Series.

There have been teams that have won 116 games and got knocked out before the World Series. Anything can happen, you just need some guys to get hot.

What I would recommend to some of you is that you don't let each game linger in your mind. If you are still seething over a Dodgers loss more than 10 minutes after the game ends, then you are doing it wrong. Calm down. Relax. If being in a playoff race isn't an overall enjoyable experience for you, then you may want to find something else to do with your time. It's not worth the stress. There are fans of other teams that haven't made the playoffs in years. They'd love if their team had won one division title recently, let alone five in a row. So, if you are angry, spend some time with your friends. Hug your significant other. Play with your kids. Pet your dog. But you can still ignore your cat, because cats are evil and were sent here from an alien planet as spies.

The NL West standings

Colorado, 80-65

Dodgers, 79-67, 1 ½ GB

Arizona, 77-69, 3 ½ GB

The wild-card standings

Milwaukee, 84-63

St. Louis, 81-65

Dodgers, 79-67, 2 GB

Arizona, 77-69, 4 GB

Philadelphia, 74-71, 6 ½ GB

Next up for the Dodgers is a four-game series at St. Louis.

Ask Ross Porter

Hi, fans! It's good to be back with you to answer your questions during this baseball season. Please send your questions to Houston, and he will pass them on to me. List the city in which you live.

Barry Moon and Tony Piscitelli of Hayden, Idaho, ask: Umpires are important in baseball. Ross, can you give some insight into the profession today?

Ross: There are 76 umpires paid by Major League Baseball who had to achieve high grades in umpire school. Their salaries range from \$120,000 to \$350,000 a year. In addition, they receive benefits like

first-class airfare, travel expenses, \$375 daily per diem for meals, hotels and incidentals, and four weeks of paid vacation during the season. Bill Russell, who played in a Los Angeles Dodger record 2,181 games, has been an MLB umpire supervisor since 2002 and sees all Angels and Dodgers home games. Bill tells me the umpiring is as good today as when he played. But the attitudes and patterns are different with fewer bunts and stolen bases. He thinks these umps are more lenient and less likely to make ejections because of instant replay and many calls overturned.

Lance Davis asks: How are umpires graded, Ross?

Ross: Russell files a report nightly with MLB in New York. He may see an umpire out of position for example and mentions that to his superiors, who contact the umpire. Bill praises the current umpires for their hustle and ability to be in the right position and says he does not cost anyone his job. "Yes, they miss calls, but are right most of the time." All umpires are graded each game, and the ones with the highest scores get the postseason assignments. Joe West is in his record 41st season, has leg problems, and that kept him from working last year's World Series.

Geoff Crosson of Trinidad, Colo., asks: Why is the third and final game of a series called the "rubber game"?

Ross: Geoff, it is the deciding match in an odd-numbered series and originated in 1590 with lawn bowling in England.

Lyle Palaski of West Hollywood asks: Can a switch hitter change sides of the plate during an at-bat?

Ross: Yes, Lyle, after each pitch if he likes, but before the pitcher steps on the rubber. Also, the batter must wear a "double flap" helmet.

By the way everyone, we are now registering entries for the 13th annual Ross Porter celebrity golf classic on Nov. 5 at El Caballero Country Club in Tarzana. This raises money for Stillpoint Family Resources, which plans to buy homes for special needs adults without family. In 12 years, 88 different celebrities have participated in our tournament, either playing golf or attending the dinner. For more information, go to www.stillpointfamilyresources.org/celebrity-golf-classic. Please join us. You will enjoy the day.

Up next

Thursday, 4:15 p.m.: Dodgers (Clayton Kershaw, 7-5, 2.42 ERA) at St. Louis (Austin Gomber, 5-0, 2.93 ERA)

Friday, 5:15 p.m.: Dodgers (Walker Buehler, 6-5, 3.09 ERA) at St. Louis (Jack Flaherty, 8-6, 2.92 ERA)

Saturday, 10 a.m.: Dodgers (Rich Hill, 8-5, 3.88 ERA) at St. Louis (John Gant, 7-5, 3.16 ERA)

Sunday, 5 p.m.: Dodgers (TBD) at St. Louis (Adam Wainwright, 1-3, 4.70 ERA)

And finally

Kenley Jansen expects to have offseason heart surgery.

OC REGISTER

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts on lineup changes: 'Our players have got to accept it'

By Bill Plunkett

CINCINNATI — In his first two years as manager, the Dodgers won 195 games and reached the World Series with Dave Roberts mixing and matching lineups based on splits and analytic input, making frequent pitching changes in search of matchups and limiting the exposure of starting pitchers.

In his third year, the Dodgers are underachieving, cut out of the playoff seeding chart with 16 games to play and Roberts is being criticized for ... mixing and matching lineups based on splits and analytic input, making frequent pitching changes in search of matchups and limiting the exposure of starting pitchers.

“When I write the lineup, I believe that’s what gives us the best chance to win that day,” said Roberts, who has used 141 different lineups this season. He used 147 during the regular season last year and 120 as a rookie manager in 2016.

“Would you rather have every single guy that you run out there that hits righties and lefties the same, both have the same OPS north of .800? Yeah, but that’s not the case. So when you have a roster that you can manipulate or manage it – yeah, that’s what we have. Every manager would like to have that. ... When you don’t have eight Justin Turners then ... that’s what happens. And this is the way I feel gives us the best chance to win.”

It has been more pronounced this year due to performance – or, rather, lack of performance.

Players who were everyday players at one point have been reduced to platoon pieces because of a lack of production against a certain type of pitching (Cody Bellinger, Yasiel Puig and Joc Pederson against left-handers) or significant dropoffs in the second half of the season (Matt Kemp and Max Muncy, most prominently).

With expanded rosters in September, Roberts has enough options that he has been able to “manipulate” the lineup from one day to the next, loading up on right- or left-handed batters as the matchup dictates – and switching again with pinch-hitters against relievers of the opposite hand. In one game against the Colorado Rockies last weekend, he started an all right-handed lineup, then used five consecutive left-handed pinch-hitters mid-game.

Roberts has repeatedly praised players for “buying in” to the concept of playing the percentages, even if it costs them playing time as individuals. That sales pitch is more difficult for him to make when the

results aren't the same, Roberts admitted. But he does not believe the inconsistency in the lineup is the cause of an offense that has failed to perform with any consistency.

"It's something I believe in. Our players have got to accept it because this is the way it's gotta be with our roster," Roberts said. "I know it's going to turn. We haven't had (offensive) consistency all year. September, we obviously have a deeper roster but we've had these same inconsistencies all year. So it's not about just September and this sample of September. We haven't had traction offensively all year as far as consistency. I can't just say, 'Now we have more players and we're playing a right-handed, left-handed lineup. Now this is the reason why,' because it's been the same all year.

"The challenge for all of us, myself included, is to look at yourself honestly and figure out what you need to do better and not make excuses. I think with any role, whatever we do, it's not easy. You still have to do the best when given an opportunity. And that's all of us."

PLAN AHEAD

The Dodgers will start Clayton Kershaw, Walker Buehler and Rich Hill in the first three games of their four-game series in St. Louis this week. Left-hander Alex Wood will not start in the series. Instead, he will be pushed back and "potentially" start during the series against the Colorado Rockies at home next week, Roberts said.

Left-hander Hyun-Jin Ryu could start Sunday on regular rest or right-hander Ross Stripling could come back on short rest after his 3-1/3-inning start against the Reds on Wednesday, looking to take advantage of the Cardinals' heavily right-handed lineup, according to Roberts.

"We haven't made that decision," Roberts said Wednesday.

Wood leads the Dodgers in games started (27) and innings pitched (148). But his average fastball velocity has dipped below 90 mph and the Dodgers have pushed Wood back in the rotation multiple times in the second half. Over his past six starts, Wood has pitched beyond the fifth inning just twice, posting a 3.52 ERA and 1.47 WHIP in those six starts.

"He hasn't been as sharp," Roberts said. "He was really sharp in that Texas start (seven scoreless innings on eight days' rest). But outside of that, he hasn't been as sharp as he has been earlier this year.

"With my eyes, obviously when you're talking about workload, that certainly plays a part in it. Talking to him and the training staff, he feels strong. But the fact is it's not as crisp as it was earlier this year."

UP NEXT

Dodgers (LHP Clayton Kershaw, 7-5, 2.42 ERA) at Cardinals (LHP Austin Gomber, 5-0, 2.93 ERA), Thursday, 4:15 p.m., SportsNet LA (where available), MLB Network (out of market only)

Dodgers escape Reds menace with 8-1 win in Cincinnati

By Bill Plunkett

CINCINNATI — Order has been restored in the baseball universe.

The Dodgers avoided their first season sweep by the Cincinnati Reds in franchise history, breaking out offensively for an 8-1 victory Wednesday afternoon.

The win followed six consecutive losses to the Reds this season, the Dodgers' longest losing streak to the Reds since 1978-79.

"We can beat 'em," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts joked with a heavy sigh as reporters entered his office following the game.

"More important that we got a win leaving here. But these guys had our number all year and credit to those guys. They play hard."

The Dodgers now head to another National League Central city to face another team that swept them in a series at Dodger Stadium. The St. Louis Cardinals took three close games last month with Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen giving up home runs in the ninth inning to take two of the losses.

"They didn't see me at my best," Jansen said, admitting that he is looking forward to the four-game rematch with the Cardinals, who hold a two-game lead on the Dodgers for the National League's second wild-card spot.

The Dodgers, who remained 1½ games behind the NL West-leading Rockies after Colorado beat Arizona on a walk-off home run later Wednesday, certainly saw the best of the Reds. Even Wednesday started off looking like the spell would not be broken. Reds starter Anthony DeSclafani retired the first nine batters he faced, striking out four.

But Joc Pederson hit a solo home run in the fourth inning and the Dodgers scored seven more times before the end of the sixth inning, chasing DeSclafani in the fifth.

Justin Turner, who was back in the lineup after getting Tuesday night off, drove in three of those runs with a two-run single and an RBI double. Yasmani Grandal also had three RBIs, one on a ground-rule double when a fan in the right-field stands reached over and caught his drive just before it would have hit the top of the wall. Grandal also had a pair of RBI singles. Yasiel Puig was on base four times (two singles, a double and a walk).

It was the 11th time in 50 games since the All-Star break the Dodgers have scored eight or more runs in a game – on the heels of Tuesday's loss, the 25th time in that stretch they were held to three runs or fewer.

“We’re all well aware of the conversations that are going on about the boom-or-bust, the hot-or-cold, home runs-or-nothing,” Turner said, returning to a running theme. “Today was a good day – a lot of hits with runners in scoring position (4 for 12) and good results.

“You look at the way the innings were put together – walks, base hits, finding holes, putting balls in play. It was a good day for the offense as a whole, not just hitting home runs.”

Ross Stripling made his first start since Aug. 9 and was limited to 51 pitches over 3-1/3 innings with the possibility of another start on three days’ rest Sunday in St. Louis. He allowed a solo home run to Jose Peraza in the first inning.

“I felt a little rusty,” Stripling said. “Started out walk, home run – I was thinking, ‘Man, I’ve been down for a while and this is how it’s going to start off?’

“I just had to bear down and make pitches.”

He did that effectively. Stripling and six relievers combined to hold the Reds scoreless on three hits over the final eight innings. The relievers, including Jansen who saw his first game action in a week, retired the final nine Reds and 13 of the final 14.

Public enemy No. 1 at times this season, the Dodgers’ bullpen seems to have stabilized. The relievers have not allowed a run in their past 10-2/3 innings and have a 2.25 ERA over the past eight games, with five of the seven runs they have allowed charged to Ryan Madson who has struggled since joining the group.

“Today, for me, the bullpen was what it was about,” Roberts said. “They’ve had a good run. They really have. Obviously, we had some hiccups. Everybody has hiccups. But I think if you look at the whole body of work, I think the ‘pen has done a nice job. I really do. You can kind of poke holes. But I think the thing for us is to just continue to instill confidence in those guys.”

TRUE BLUE LA

Turner and Grandal lead offense in series finale win over Reds

By Stacie Wheeler

The Dodgers avoided an embarrassing season sweep by the Reds and salvaged a 8-1 win at the Great American Ball Park on Wednesday afternoon. The offense came alive, going 4-for-12 with runners in scoring position.

Ross Stripling hadn’t made a start in over a month, and his rust was apparent right away in a 21-pitch first inning. Yasmani Grandal threw out Scott Schebler at second on a steal attempt, and that would turn out to be an important out. Jose Peraza hit a home run in the next at-bat, giving the Reds an early 1-0 lead.

Anthony DeSclafani was perfect through the first three innings, striking out four. It looked as if the Dodgers' offense was dead again. The bats finally woke up, and they strung together some key hits in the fourth, plating two runs and taking a lead in the series for the first time.

For the second straight game, Joc Pederson hit a homer. His solo shot off DeSclafani in the top of the fourth tied the game at a run apiece.

Max Muncy singled, and Grandal hit a long fly ball to center field for a go-ahead double. A little boy interfered to reach out and catch the ball, and the umpires ruled it a double. Muncy was allowed to score on the play since he was running with the pitch and likely would have scored if it had bounced off the wall. The Reds challenged the call, but the call was upheld.

Stripling left the game in the bottom of the fourth with the Dodgers in front. He went 3 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings and allowed one run on three hits with four strikeouts and a walk on 51 pitches (30 strikes).

The Dodgers batted around in the fifth, plating four more runs. Justin Turner's two-run RBI single gave the Dodgers a 4-1 lead. The Reds went to their bullpen, but the Dodgers' bats weren't fazed. Grandal came up with his second scoring base hit, a RBI single off left-hander Wandy Peralta. An error on second baseman Scooter Gennett allowed Cody Bellinger to reach safely and the fourth run of the frame to score with Muncy.

Turner continued to show Cincy who looks better in red in the sixth with a RBI double off the wall. For the third inning in a row, Grandal drove in a run with a RBI single off Matt Wisler, and the Dodgers took a commanding 8-1 lead.

Yasiel Puig also quietly had a great day at the plate, going 3-for-4 with a walk, a strikeout and a stolen base.

Paul Goldschmidt eat your heart out.

The Dodgers' bullpen did an admirable job as well. Zac Rosscup, Caleb Ferguson, Dylan Floro, Pat Venditte, Josh Fields and Kenley Jansen combined to pitch 5.2 scoreless innings in relief of Stripling.

That one felt good.

Up Next

The Dodgers travel to St. Louis to take on the red hot Cardinals for a challenging four-game series at Busch Stadium that could make or break the season for LA. Clayton Kershaw (7-5, 2.42 ERA, 3.03 FIP) will face rookie southpaw Austin Gomber (5-0, 2.93 ERA, 3.65 FIP) in the series opener on Thursday with first pitch at 4:15 PM PST.

Wednesday particulars

Home runs: Peraza (11), Joc Pederson (21)

WP - Caleb Ferguson (6-2): 1 IP, 0 hits, 0 runs, 0 walks, 3 strikeouts, 2 walks, 9 strikeouts

LP - Anthony DeSclafani (7-5): 4 $\frac{2}{3}$ IP, 5 hits, 6 runs (5 earned), 3 walks, 5 strikeouts

Thomas slams Quakes past Oaks, Drillers walk off winners

By David Hood

An exciting night on the farm as the bats break out in Rancho Cucamonga while the Drillers win it late once again.

Player of the day

A fifth inning grand slam by Cody Thomas started a barrage of scoring for the Quakes on Wednesday. Thomas also had a triple and later came around to score in the seventh inning. Thomas' four runs driven in paced all Dodger farm hands Wednesday night.

Double-A Tulsa

A wild pitch in the ninth inning allowed Drew Jackson to trot home and the Drillers walked off the San Antonio Missions (Padres) 6-5 to win game two of the Texas League Championship. Prior to scoring the winning run, Drew Jackson reached base on his third walk of the game, and stole third for his second steal of the game. The top of the lineup continues to lead the Drillers, with Gavin Lux collecting a pair of hits and runs scored, while Keibert Ruiz drove in the tying run in the ninth as part of a two for five game.

The Drillers bullpen held the Missions scoreless for the final five innings after they scored five runs off of starter Ben Holmes. Yadier Alvarez was especially dominant with three strikeouts in two innings of work.

Class-A Rancho Cucamonga

A middle inning burst of offense and solid relief pitching led the Quakes to a rebound game two victory over the Visalia Oaks (Diamondbacks) 9-3 in the California League Championship. Cody Thomas' grand slam in the fifth started the scoring and provided the winning boost. Cristian Santana also homered and scored a pair of runs, and Connor Wong also went two for five with a double.

Dennis Santana allowed just one hit in two innings, but that hit was a home run by Jazz Chisholm. Santana struck out three and walked just one. Wills Montgomerie worked around danger in 2.2 innings, walking four but striking out six to take the win. Logan Salow followed with 1.1 inning of scoreless relief.

Transactions

No transactions were reported for this day.

Wednesday scores

Tulsa 6, San Antonio 5

Rancho Cucamonga 9, Visalia 3

Thursday schedule

Both Tulsa and Rancho Cucamonga are off for a travel day.

DODGER INSIDER

Dodgers get series finale Red-emption

By Rowan Kavner

Seventh time's a charm.

The Dodgers avoided their first ever season series sweep by Cincinnati with an offensive barrage in the middle innings of Wednesday's 8-1 win against the Reds, who had won the previous six matchups between the teams this year.

"These guys had our number all year," said manager Dave Roberts. "Credit to those guys. ... Just to get out of here with a win, with where we were at, is a good thing."

Despite dropping two of three games in the series, the Dodgers left Cincinnati trailing by only a game in the division with an important four-game series against the Wild Card-contending Cardinals coming up to end a 10-game road trip.

Wednesday's victory started like the previous couple games with the Reds striking first, but the Dodgers struck for eight unanswered runs in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings.

Ross Stripling, in his first start since Aug. 9, allowed the first three Reds batters to reach but retired nine of the next 10 batters he faced.

"Definitely a little rusty," Stripling said. "Started off walk, homer, base hit. Kind of settled in after that."

He was supposed to go three innings and ended up going 3 1/3, allowing one run with four strikeouts. The effort might earn him another start Sunday on short rest in St. Louis, though that spot in the rotation is not yet finalized.

The day went the opposite way for Reds starter Anthony DeSclafani, who retired the first nine Dodger batters before Joc Pederson hit a solo homer for the second straight day to tie the game in the fourth inning.

Later in the inning, Yasmani Grandal followed a two-out single by Max Muncy with a deep drive to right field. A child reached over the wall and caught the ball. Despite the fan interference, Muncy was given a run on the play and the Dodgers were given their first lead of the series.

They'd pour on from there.

Justin Turner's two-run single in the fifth inning broke the game open and started a four-run inning that included the second of three run-scoring hits on the day from Grandal.

"It seems like every night I'm praising JT for his at-bats and big hits," Roberts said.

Both Grandal and Yasiel Puig finished with three-hit days. It was Grandal's first multi-hit game of the month and the second for Puig.

"Obviously we're going into a series that's very important for us," Grandal said to SportsNet LA's Alanna Rizzo. "You want to end this series on a good note."

The Dodger bullpen kept the Reds scoreless for the final 5 2/3 innings.

Dylan Floro threw another scoreless innings against his former team and hasn't been charged with a run in any of his last 11 appearances. Since his most recent call-up Aug. 21, Pat Venditte has thrown seven scoreless innings in seven appearances. Zac Rosscup now has five straight scoreless appearances, while Josh Fields threw 1 1/3 scoreless innings Wednesday.

Despite a seven-run lead, the victory was finished off by Kenley Jansen, who threw a perfect ninth after being off for a week. The work should help him feel ready for an important weekend in St. Louis.

Farm Fresh: Tulsa and Rancho each one win away from league titles

By Cary Osborne

The Dodgers' Double-A and High-A partners are each one victory away from winning their league championship.

The Double-A Tulsa Drillers took a 2-0 lead in the Texas League Championship Series Wednesday night by beating the San Antonio Missions (Padres) 6-5 on a walk-off wild pitch.

The High-A Rancho Cucamonga Quakes took a 2-0 California League Championship Series lead by beating the Visalia Rawhide (Diamondbacks) 9-3 on Wednesday.

For Tulsa, Dodgers No. 2 prospect Keibert Ruiz has been at the center of both wins, collecting a walk-off single in the bottom of the 10th inning in Game 1 and then hitting a score-tying RBI single in the bottom of the ninth in Game 2. He also hit a solo homer in the first inning on Wednesday.

Ruiz is 12-for-31 in the postseason. No. 6 prospect Gavin Lux has hit safely in his first seven postseason games for Tulsa, going 12-for-29 at the plate.

For Rancho, right fielder Cody Thomas hit a grand slam in the fifth inning in Wednesday's Game 2 and No. 24 prospect third baseman Cristian Santana hit a three-run homer in the seventh.

Rancho won Game 1 on Tuesday 5–4, getting a go-ahead homer from second baseman Jared Walker in the top of the ninth inning.

Rancho hosts Visalia in Game 3 on Friday.

Tulsa travels to San Antonio to play Game 3 on Friday.

LA teams up on 9/11

By Erin Edwards

“We can't bring our loved ones back. But perhaps in tribute we can work to rekindle the spirit of unity that arose in the aftermath of the attacks.”

These words from Alice Hoagland, who lost her son on Flight 93, reflects the purpose of Tuesday's National Day of Service. The hope is to turn a day of tragedy into a day of doing good. The Los Angeles Dodgers, Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (LADF) and the Los Angeles Chargers teamed up on Sept. 11 for LA Meal Pack, one of four major meal-packing projects in the country.

LA Meal Pack was a 9/11 Day hosted program to honor the 17th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. More than 1,000 volunteers packed more than 300,000 meals for distribution to children, families and military veterans in the Los Angeles area at risk of hunger. Dodger Alumni Steve Yeager and Manny Mota, LADF staff, Dodgers community relations staff and Charger players were part of the volunteers who worked to measure and pack the meal ingredients at the Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center.

This year, more than 6,500 volunteers in New York, San Francisco, Phoenix and Los Angeles participated in the Meal Pack programs aimed at combating hunger. More than 1.7 million meals were packed to help people in need. Each Sept. 11, millions of Americans volunteer and perform good deeds to promote national unity and to honor the victims and those who responded to the attacks on America.

To learn more about 9/11 Day, visit www.911day.org.

THE ATHLETIC

Yasmani Grandal is finding the right balance at the right time for the Dodgers

By Pedro Moura

CINCINNATI — Cherry-pick a few weeks out of any major leaguer's season and streaks of extremes can be found. Good months don't guarantee good players. Good players have bad months. But switch-hitting Dodgers catcher Yasmani Grandal takes the extremes to extremes.

From the start of this season through the opener of a May 19 doubleheader, Grandal paced the Dodgers on offense. His on-base percentage stood at a lofty .386, his slugging percentage .516. From May 19 until June 30, Grandal was the team's worst hitter. His on-base percentage was just .220, his slugging percentage .297.

From July 1 until Aug. 2, he recaptured his season-opening form, with a best-in-baseball .495 on-base percentage and .787 slugging mark. And then, from Aug. 3 until this week in Cincinnati, he was their worst again. The on-base: .247. The slugging: .244.

After his three-hit, three-RBI game in the Dodgers' 8-1 Wednesday series-salvaging win over the Reds that might spark his latest great stretch, Grandal told The Athletic he has come to understand why. He described times when he is on a run and confident within an at-bat, when he'll battle to two strikes and the pitcher will fire a two-seamer that bites right across the edge of the strike zone.

"And he doesn't get the call," Grandal said of the pitcher.

Then, there will be at-bats like one he had to finish the Dodgers' loss Saturday in Colorado. He waited out Wade Davis until the count was 3-2, and then watched a cutter float outside. Once he caught it, Rockies catcher Chris Iannetta gently moved his glove inside, and Grandal flung his bat and started for first. But plate umpire Laz Díaz signaled for a strike. Grandal was incredulous.

"I don't want to throw him under the bus, because I like the guy," he said of Díaz. "But that was a clear ball. Iannetta did a good job presenting it to him, and he thought it was a strike. It wasn't a strike."

Grandal knows he is not alone in benefiting from favorable calls and hurting from hard-luck decisions. But he believes his selectivity makes him more susceptible to streaks, because he tunes his eye to how borderline pitches are being called currently. When that changes, he is compromised.

"You get used to not getting that pitch called," he said. "And, then all of the sudden you get guys who are dotting it right there, expanding the zone, and then that pitch is called a strike."

His selectivity is extreme. Only eight of 147 qualified hitters have swung less often than Grandal this season, according to Baseball-Reference.com. Among that group are five of the seven best hitters in baseball, in terms of wRC+: Mike Trout, Mookie Betts, Alex Bregman, José Ramirez and Matt Carpenter.

And his passivity holds throughout an at-bat. Only 12 hitters swing less often at the first pitch than Grandal. Only 17 get to 2-0 counts more frequently. Only six get to 3-1 counts more often.

Grandal, 29, was encouraged when he saw statistics this week that showed he should be hitting better than he is, based on the speed and angle at which he is hitting balls. Entering play Wednesday, his expected slugging percentage was 33 points better than his actual slugging percentage. He is paying attention to his average launch angle for the first time this season, but he was unaware of a metric that encapsulated it into production.

“As long as I’m hitting the ball hard somewhere, as long as I’m walking,” he said. “When I’m striking out a lot, then that’s when I need to figure out what it is that I’m doing, why I’m not seeing the ball.”

During the last bad stretch, from Aug. 3 until, perhaps, Sept. 9, Grandal was striking out too much, roughly a third of the time, and losing plate appearances to Austin Barnes.

“So, I had to go back and figure out how I could slow myself down, see it and react,” he said. “Actually, for me, it clicked in the first game of the series here, both lefty and righty.”

He was swinging right-handed at soft tosses from assistant hitting coach Brant Brown on Monday afternoon at Great American Ball Park. One swing felt right, so he switched to his left-handed swing, where it felt right too.

“Oh shit,” Grandal thought. “I got it.”

Now, the bat is traveling his preferred path through the zone. Grandal is uncertain what he was doing differently, but certain that this feels much better. Overall, his season is going quite well, his on-base percentage at .345, his slugging at .468, the overall package much more than most catchers produce. But the longer he can keep a good streak going, the better his line will look at month’s end.

“We went back and looked at footage of when I was going good and when I was going quote-unquote bad,” he said. “The only difference was the amount of strikes that were being called. My plan of attack was the same inside the strike zone, and I was getting a lot of balls outside the strike zone. When I’m going really good, I’m still attacking inside the strike zone, and I’m getting more calls outside. It goes both ways.”

His words sound like manager Dave Roberts’ about his team, with 16 games to play, a game to make up in the standings, and a big series in St. Louis looming. The Dodgers must find the right balance between aggressive and passive.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

Why the Los Angeles Dodgers Are Feeling Blue

By Jared Diamond

The Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday afternoon. This statement ordinarily wouldn’t fall under the category of “news.” The reigning National League champions, a team sporting a payroll of more than \$185 million, should beat an opponent on pace to finish with more than 90 losses more times than not.

But nothing about the 2018 Dodgers makes the slightest bit of sense, least of all their performance against the lowly Reds. Before Wednesday’s 8-1 victory, the Dodgers had dropped their first six contests to Cincinnati, a sad truth that encapsulates a season that defies all logic.

The Dodgers lead the National League in ERA, bolstered by a dominant starting rotation that features Clayton Kershaw, Alex Wood and heralded rookie Walker Buehler. Heading into Wednesday night's slate of action, they also led the NL in runs, thanks to a lineup boasting Manny Machado, Justin Turner and breakout star Max Muncy. All told, the Dodgers have scored 133 more runs than they have allowed, comfortably ahead of the Chicago Cubs for the best differential in the NL.

Typically, a recipe of "scoring a lot of runs" mixed with "not giving up a lot of runs" results in a delicious meal of "winning a lot of baseball games." And yet, with 2 1/2 weeks left in the regular season, the Dodgers continue to fight for their playoff lives, currently sitting just outside the division and wild-card races.

Should the Dodgers fall short of October, they would have few modern parallels. Since the introduction of the wild card in 1995, 45 of the 46 teams that led their league in run differential reached the postseason, with the 2005 Cleveland Indians serving as the lone exception. No team has led the NL in run differential and missed the playoffs since the New York Mets in 1990.

Those Mets, however, went 91-71. At this rate, these Dodgers would finish 87-75—remarkably disappointing, considering their underlying stats. In the wild-card era, no team that led the league in run differential finished with fewer than 88 victories, and two-thirds of them had the league's best record. Since 1903, the teams with their league's best run differential had an average winning percentage of .618, which translates to 100 wins.

None of that does much for the Dodgers, who, for all of their talent, keep struggling in clutch situations.

With runners in scoring position, their batting average drops to .242, second-worst in the NL. With runners in scoring position and two outs, it sinks even further, to .194—worst in the major leagues.

According to the "Clutch" metric on the statistics website FanGraphs, which measures whether a team has fared better or worse than expected in high-leverage situations, the Dodgers are among the least clutch teams in the past 45 years.

All of this suggests that the Dodgers should have a better record than they actually do, which in mid-September provides little consolation for a team that won 104 games in 2017 and entered the season with serious championship aspirations.

If their fortune doesn't change soon, they will have all of October to sit at home and think about what went gone wrong.

NBC LOS ANGELES

Dodgers Salvage Season Series With 8-1 Win in Cincinnati

By Michael Duarte and AP

Yasmani Grandal and Justin Turner drove in three runs each, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Cincinnati 8-1 Wednesday to avoid a season sweep by the last-place Reds.

Joc Pederson homered for the Dodgers, and Grandal had three hits.

Los Angeles began the day 1½ games behind NL West-leading Colorado and three games back of St. Louis for the second NL wild card. The Dodgers had been 0-6 against the Reds and were on the verge of being swept by Cincinnati in a season for the first time.

"These guys had our number all year," said Dodgers manager Dave Roberts. "Credit to those guys, they play hard. Just to get out of here with a win, where we were at, is a good thing."

Cincinnati's Scooter Gennett went 1 for 4, keeping his league-leading batting average at .321.

Left-hander Caleb Ferguson (6-2), the third of seven Dodgers pitchers, struck out three in the fifth.

Anthony DeSclafani (7-5) allowed six runs — five earned — five hits and three walks in 4 2/3 innings. He failed to last five innings for the third straight start.

Ross Stripling started for the Dodgers in a bullpen game and allowed one run on three hits with one walk and four strikeouts in three and 1/3 innings.

"Definitely a little rusty," Stripling said of his first start since Aug. 9. "I gave up a homer and I was able to settle in after that. I've been away for so long and haven't made a start for a while. When it goes like that you just have to bear down and get guys out. I was able to limit the damage."

Jose Peraza put Cincinnati ahead with his first inning homer, but Pederson tied it 1-1 with a leadoff drive in the fourth, his second two games and 21st this season.

Grandal hit a go-ahead double later in the inning, a ball caught by a young fan with a glove reaching over the wall with the ball still in play. Max Muncy scored from first and Reds manager Jim Riggleman argued unsuccessfully he should have been stopped at third, but the umpires' decision was upheld in a video review.

"Obviously we're going into a series with St. Louis that's going to be very important for us," said Grandal. "So we wanted to end this series on a good note."

Turner hit a two-run single in a four-run fifth.

UP NEXT

Dodgers: LHP Clayton Kershaw (7-5) is to make his first start of the season against St. Louis on Thursday. He is 6-5 with a 2.99 ERA in 16 starts against the Cardinals.

Reds: RHP Matt Harvey (7-8) limited the Cubs to one run and five hits in 5 1/3 innings of a 10-inning Cincinnati loss on Aug. 24.