



2018 KANSAS CITY ROYALS

Spring Training Game Notes

Milwaukee Brewers (7-4-1) @ Kansas City Royals (6-3-1)

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

LATE TALLY SPOILS EVENING--The first night game of the spring on Tuesday resulted in a 5-4 loss to the Padres here in Surprise Stadium, as San Diego executed a suicide squeeze to push across the tie-breaking run in the ninth inning...Kevin McCarthy (1-1) allowed a leadoff double then after the runner was moved to third on an infield single, the eventual game-winner scored on veteran Matt Szczur's bunt...Nate Karns made his first appearance since undergoing thoracic outlet surgery last summer, working 1.2 innings allowing a hit and three walks while fanning three...Brad Keller and Eric Skoglund continued their solid starts to the spring, with Keller working 1.1 scoreless frames while fanning three and Skoglund tossing 2.0 innings with only a hit allowed and a pair of K's...the Royals were held to seven hits on the night, the biggest blow a solo homer by Cheslor Cuthbert off of former mate Chris Young.

JON JAY SIGNED--The Royals yesterday added to their outfield depth with the free agent signing of Jon Jay...the 32-year old left-handed hitter spent last season with the Chicago Cubs batting .296 with a .374 on-base percentage in 141 games...he came up with the St. Louis Cardinals in 2010, playing there for six seasons, then was with the Padres in 2016 before joining Chicago last year...to make room on the 40-man roster the Royals have placed right-handed pitcher Jesse Hahn on the 60-day disabled list (right ulnar collateral ligament sprain)...Hahn will be eligible for reinstatement on May 28...Jay will wear #25, which is also the same jersey number as Cody Asche, so KC will have duplicate numbers for the time being.

WHIT STREAK HALTED--It's a proven fact that anytime a streak of any kind is mentioned to MLB.com's Jeffrey Flanagan, the life span of the streak is immediately jeopardized...last night was no different, as Whit Merrifield entered the contest going 6-for-6 in his first at bat in each contest this spring, with three doubles, a triple and four runs scored...once that stat was in the hands of Mr. Flanagan and others, the streak was doomed as Whit fanned in his first AB of last night's game.

V.S. BREWERS--Today is the first of two exhibition meetings with the Brew Crew, with Kansas City visiting Maryvale on March 22...these clubs will matchup on a couple of occasions during the regular season as part of Interleague play with Milwaukee invading Kauffman Stadium on April 24-25 and the Royals returning the favor with a visit to Miller Park on June 26-27.

DENNY BACK FOR #50--The one common thread between the start of the Royals' franchise in 1969 and the start of 2018 is the voice of Denny Matthews, who will be in the booth today for this contest with the Padres...the 2007 Ford Frick Award winner will be at the mic for his 50th season this year, the same anniversary the organization is celebrating, with only the Dodgers' Vin Scully (67 years) and Jaime Jarrin (59 years) having longer stretches in the baseball broadcast booth.

TUBE TIME--The Royals will have plenty of television exposure toward the end of the week as Saturday in Scottsdale vs. the D-backs will be shown on FSKC...also on the slate is Sunday's tilt in Surprise vs. the Tribe and then the second game of Monday's split-squad with Texas, an 8:05 start (Kansas City time).

50TH SEASON OF ROYALS BASEBALL--The 2018 campaign is the Golden Anniversary season of the Royals who began play in 1969 in Ft. Myers, FL...this 33-game exhibition slate will feature 32 games here in Arizona and then will be capped with a stop in Omaha against KC's AAA affiliate for all 50 seasons of the franchise's existence...KC has 11 games remaining in Surprise, 10 of which will be as the home club...the 2018 spring slate also features four split-squad days, including two (this Friday and March 23) with 1:05 starts (Arizona time) and a pair of day/night doubleheaders (next Monday and March 19) with starts at noon and 6:05 (Arizona time)...the 2018 exhibition slate is a strange one in that the Royals will not play the Los Angeles Angels or the Colorado Rockies...there are a pair of off days in the spring slate on March 5 and 19...the 2018 regular season starts on Thursday, March 29 in Kauffman Stadium against the White Sox in the first of a 3-game series.

SURPRISE STADIUM RATED NUMERO UNO--At USA TODAY's request, ReviewTrackers conducted a study of more than 36,000 online reviews of the 23 spring training ballparks and analyzed 130,000 key words used in the reviews...the study provided a look at how baseball fans feel about the ballparks used for exhibition games...to create a score for each spring training stadium, ReviewTrackers examined how fans felt about four aspects of their visits: the facility; family friendliness; food; and the fan experience...to no surprise (pun intended), the Surprise Stadium, spring home of the Royals and Rangers, generated the highest overall score of the 10 Cactus League venues, finishing first in family friendliness...the park also topped all 23 spring parks (Arizona and Florida combined) in the facility and fan-experience categories.

ROSTER BREAKDOWN--With the addition of Jon Jay and the non-roster return of Billy Burns, the Royals have 66 players in camp, though pitcher Jesse Hahn has been placed on the 60-day D.L....the breakdown includes 32 pitchers (9 non-roster), 7 catchers (5 non-roster), 16 infielders (8 non-roster) and 11 outfielders (5 non-roster)...among the 32 pitchers in camp, 7 are left-handed...of the 27 non-roster players in camp with Kansas City, nine have previous Major League experience, including seven who had time in "The Show" in 2017...of the 37 roster players in camp, nine have yet to accrue any big league service time.

COMING OFF SUB .500 CAMPAIGN--The Royals had their first sub-.500 season since 2012 with last year's 80-82 ledger, finishing in third place in the A.L. Central, 22 games behind the division winning Indians...Kansas City has gone 431-379 in its last five seasons, tying the New York Yankees for the third best record in the American League in that span, trailing Cleveland (454-354) and Boston (432-378).

SPRING WORK--After last night's loss to San Diego, the Royals have an all-time exhibition record of 687-628 with 41 ties for a .522 winning pct...the 2018 exhibition season is the 16th here in the Valley of the Sun where the club has posted a 256-204 mark with 19 ties for a .557 mark...the Royals spent their first 34 seasons training in Florida, beginning with Fort Myers (1969-87), followed by a 15-year stint in Baseball City (1988-2002).

WORKING TOWARD THE START OF A NEW YEAR--The 2018 campaign will see the earliest start for the Royals, with the lid-lifter scheduled for Thursday, March 29 against the Chicago White Sox...that 3:15 contest will be the first of a 3-game series, that will see a "weather" off day on Friday, March 30, then resumption with games on Saturday (6:15 p.m.) and Sunday (1:15 p.m.)...KC will then depart on its first road swing of the year with a 6-game journey through Detroit (3) and Cleveland (3)...the first two trips of the campaign will include 3-game stops in the Motor City to battle the Tigers, then the Royals will not travel to Detroit again until the final trip of the year in late September...Kansas City will take on the National League Central in Interleague action, playing home & home 2-game sets with Milwaukee and Cincinnati, a home & home 3-game series with St. Louis and then a 3-game series in Kauffman Stadium against the Chicago Cubs (August 6-8) and 3-game road trip to Pittsburgh (September 17-19).

AT THE HELM--The winningest manager in franchise history, Ned Yost begins his eighth full season with the club, taking the reins on May 13, 2010...he has a 629-632 regular season record at the helm for the Royals, surpassing Whitey Herzog's previous team mark of 410 wins (1975-79)...Yost is the 16th full-time manager in franchise history and enters this year sixth among active managers in games (2,220) and wins (1,086)...his postseason winning pct. of .710 (22-9) is tops among all managers in history who have worked at least 20 playoff games...this is his second stint as a big league manager after nearly six full campaigns at the helm for the Milwaukee Brewers (2003-2008)...he compiled a 457-502 record with the Brew Crew including a 166-146 mark in his last two seasons...Yost, a catcher during his playing days, began his coaching career in the Atlanta organization, including 12 straight seasons on Bobby Cox's big league staff (1991-2002).

THE WEEK AHEAD--The Royals will travel to Glendale tomorrow for the final spring meeting with the White Sox...KC's first split-squad action of the spring will be Friday when the Royals play host to Arizona here and travel a squad to Glendale to meet the Dodgers...the Royals and D-backs will get together with full squads again on Saturday as KC pays its first of two visits to Salt River Field in Scottsdale...this week wraps up with an after affair in Surprise vs. Cleveland on Sunday.

ON THE AIRWAVES--Today's game is the seventh of 20 spring radio broadcasts on KCSP Radio (610 Sports) and the Royals Radio Network...Denny Matthews, Ryan Lefebvre, Steve Physioc and Steve Stewart will be mikeside all spring...tomorrow against the White Sox in Glendale, and Friday and Saturday vs. the Diamondbacks will all be on the web.

Upcoming Probables

Today vs. Milwaukee Brewers @ Surprise Stadium (1:05)

Junior Guerra, Corbin Burnes, Oliver Drake, Josh Hader (L)
vs.

Jakob Junis, Foster Griffin (L), Kelvin Herrera, Brandon Maurer, Burch Smith, Scott Blewett, Mike Broadway

Tomorrow vs. Chicago White Sox @ Camelback Ranch (1:05)

Danny Duffy (L), Sam Gaviglio, Trevor Oaks, Eric Stout (L), Blaine Boyer, Miguel Almonte, Richard Lovelady (L)
vs.

Michael Kopech, Bruce Rondon, Jordan Stephens, Xavier Cedeño (L), Brian Clark, (L), Chris Volstad

Friday (SS) vs. Arizona Diamondbacks @ Surprise Stadium (1:05)

TBA

vs.

Ian Kennedy, Wily Peralta, Glenn Sparkman, Brad Keller, Kevin McCarthy, Seth Maness

Friday (SS) vs. Los Angeles Dodgers @ Camelback Ranch (1:05)

Scott Barlow, Brian Flynn (L), Kyle Zimmer, Kevin Lenik, Heath Fillmyer, Andres Machado
vs.

Kenta Maeda, Kenley Jansen, Tony Cingrani (L), Josh Fields, Adam Liberatore (L), Ross Stripling, J.T. Chargois

Saturday vs. Arizona Diamondbacks @ Salt River Field (1:05)

TBA

vs.

TBA

