

Cincinnati Reds Press Clippings November 8, 2018

THIS DAY IN REDS HISTORY

1999-Relief pitcher, Scott Williamson, is named the National League Rookie of the Year. Williamson appears in 62 games in the 1999 season, going 12-7 with a 2.41 ERA, 19 saves, 93.1 innings pitched and 107 strikeouts

MLB.COM

Here's what happened in Wednesday's AFL action

MLB.com

2:08 AM EST

Here's a team-by-team breakdown of how all 30 teams' prospects fared in Arizona Fall League action on Wednesday:

AL East

Blue Jays (Surprise)

Blue Jays No. 4 prospect Nate Pearson (No. 90 overall) turned in his best start of the Fall League. The hard-throwing right-hander spun four perfect frames and struck out five. Vladimir Guerrero Jr. (No. 1 overall) went 0-for-4 but is still hitting .357 in the AFL. Cavan Biggio (No. 9) continued his hot stretch with a hit up the middle in his first at-bat. Biggio went 1-for-3 but has hits in seven of his past eight games.

Orioles (Glendale)

Martin Cervenka hit his first Fall League home run while going 1-for-4 with two RBIs and a run scored. Steve Wilkerson went 2-for-5 with a pair of singles, and Tanner Chleborad pitched 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief.

Rays (Peoria)

Joe McCarthy, Tampa Bay's No. 17 prospect, was the designated hitter and went 2-for-4 with a double and an eighth-inning solo homer, driving in two runs. Left-hander Dalton Moats gave up an unearned run on one hit, walking one and fanning one over two innings.

Red Sox (Mesa)

Red Sox No. 10 prospect Josh Ockimey hit his first AFL home run and went 1-for-3 with two RBIs and a run scored. Bobby Dalbec (No. 6) went 1-for-3 with an RBI, a walk and a run scored. Esteban Quiroz went 3-for-4 with a double, an RBI and a run scored. Darwinzon Hernandez (No. 7) notched his first save of the Fall League, tossing 1 1/3 scoreless innings with three strikeouts.

Yankees (Glendale)

No Yankees prospects played on Wednesday.

AL Central

Indians (Glendale)

Indians No. 6 prospect Yu Chang went 0-for-3 with a pair of walks and a run scored. Connor Marabell went 1-for-4, while Rob Kaminsky allowed one run in one inning of relief.

Royals (Surprise)

Royals No. 2 prospect Khalil Lee had a tough day at the plate, striking out three times and finishing 1-for-4. Meibrys Vilorio also went 1-for-4 and struck out twice. Nick Heath came up big for the Saguaros as he tripled in the ninth and scored the game-winning run on Cole Tucker's walk-off hit. Grant Gavin pitched one inning and gave up one run on two hits.

Tigers (Mesa)

Tigers No. 8 prospect Daz Cameron hit his first home run in the Fall League while going 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored out of the leadoff spot. Daniel Pinero went 1-for-3 with a walk and a run scored, while Jake Rogers (No. 12) went 0-for-4. John Schreiber allowed one run in an inning of relief.

Twins (Salt River)

Second baseman Travis Blankenhorn, Minnesota's No. 18 prospect, was 0-for-5 and is hitting .191 during AFL play. Right fielder Jaylin Davis went 1-for-3 with a single and a walk. Left-hander Devin Smeltzer allowed two runs (one earned) on two hits while walking two in one-third of an inning.

White Sox (Glendale)

White Sox No. 4 prospect Luis Robert (No. 44 overall) hit his second home run of the AFL season, going 1-for-4. Luis Alexander Basabe (Chicago's No. 9) went 1-for-5 from the leadoff spot. Tanner Banks got the start for the Desert Dogs and took the loss, allowing five earned runs in 1 2/3 innings. Zach Thompson pitched two scoreless innings of relief, allowing one hit and striking out three.

AL West

A's (Mesa)

Luis Barrera went 0-for-3, and Sam Sheehan didn't allow a run in two-thirds of an inning in relief, walking two and striking out one.

Angels (Mesa)

Angels No. 12 prospect Jesus Castillo got the start for the Solar Sox and notched his second win of the AFL season. Castillo allowed one earned run on four hits in four innings, walking two and striking out three.

Astros (Scottsdale)

Although right-hander J.B. Bukauskas struggled with his control, issuing five walks in four innings, the Astros' No. 8 prospect once again showed impressive stuff as he paired a 96-98 mph fastball with a hard slider at 86-88 mph. He struck out two and allowed one earned run on three hits, lowering his AFL ERA to 2.61. Abraham Toro scored two of Scottsdale's four runs and is now hitting .315 in the Fall League after a 1-for-3 performance.

Mariners (Peoria)

Mariners No. 2 prospect Evan White went 1-for-5 with a single, an RBI and a run scored. Right-hander Wyatt Mills (No. 9) gave up an unearned run on one hit with one strikeout in the sixth inning, lowering his AFL ERA to 2.08. Ian Miller (No. 20) was 0-for-2 with three walks out of the leadoff spot.

Rangers (Surprise)

A pair of Rangers pitchers threw in relief with very different results. Demarcus Evans picked up his first win of the Fall League season after throwing a scoreless ninth, while Joe Kuzia gave up three runs -- all via a homer from C.J. Hinojosa -- in his inning. Kuzia has given up eight runs (seven earned) in 3 1/3 AFL innings.

NL East

Braves (Peoria)

Braves No. 12 prospect Kyle Muller threw an inning of relief, allowing one hit, walking one and striking out two. Izzy Wilson (No. 23) had a big game, going 2-for-4 with a triple, a home run, two RBIs and two runs scored. Shortstop Ray-Patrick Didder went 1-for-3 with a double and an RBI. Left-hander Adam McCreery followed Muller out of the bullpen, throwing two scoreless innings over which he yielded one hit, walked one and fanned one.

Marlins (Salt River)

Marlins No. 2 prospect Monte Harrison went 1-for-5 with a single and an RBI, while Brian Miller (No. 12) came in as a pinch-runner and did not have a plate appearance. Right-hander Chad Smith could not complete a five-out save, giving up a run on one hit and striking out one over 1 2/3 innings.

Phillies (Scottsdale)

Outfielder Austin Listi singled in his final trip to the plate to finish 1-for-4. Relievers Jonathan Hennigan and Luke Leftwich each tossed a scoreless inning out of the bullpen.

Nationals (Salt River)

Third baseman Jake Noll had a solid day at the plate with three singles and a walk in five trips. He drove in a run and scored a run. Left-hander Ben Braymer gave up a solo homer in the fourth inning but struck out the side.

Mets (Scottsdale)

Mets Nos. 1 and 2 prospect Andres Gimenez and Peter Alonso -- MLB Pipeline's Nos. 55 and 58 overall prospects, respectively -- both went 0-for-3, though Alonso reached once via a walk and also stole his third base in the Fall League. Catcher Ali Sanchez was held hitless in three at-bats but threw out three of four attempted basestealers.

NL Central

Brewers (Peoria)

Milwaukee's No. 1 prospect, Keston Hiura (No. 30 overall), went 1-for-5 with a single and a run scored. He's hitting .342 during AFL play. Right-hander Bubba Derby started for Peoria and was hit hard for five runs on seven hits over three innings. Derby walked two and struck out three.

Cardinals (Surprise)

Conner Greene, the Cardinals' No. 27 prospect, walked one and struck out one in a scoreless inning. While Wednesday's outing was good, the right-hander has struggled in the AFL, giving up nine earned runs in eight innings. Will Latchman, who has also struggled in the Fall League, threw a scoreless inning as well for Surprise. At the plate, Andy Young jump-started the Saguaros' four-run ninth with a two-run homer, his third home run of the AFL. Young, who finished 1-for-2, also drew a pair of walks. Lane Thomas went 1-for-2 and also made a nice running catch in right field.

Cubs (Mesa)

It was a quiet night for Cubs prospects as Nico Hoerner (No. 6) and Trent Giambrone (No. 29) combined to go 0-for-8 with two strikeouts. Bailey Clark and Manuel Rondon each allowed one earned run in an inning of relief.

Pirates (Surprise)

Pirates No. 5 prospect Cole Tucker lifted Surprise to a victory with a one-out walkoff single in the ninth. Tucker, who is hitting .368 in the Fall League, finished 2-for-4 and has put together three straight two-hit games. Will Craig (No. 16) hit his fourth homer of the Fall League to tie the game in the bottom of the ninth, the highlight of his 1-for-4 day.

Reds (Scottsdale)

No. 17 overall prospect Taylor Trammell (Reds' No. 2) went 1-for-4 with a double as the Scorpions' No. 3 hitter, while Shed Long (No. 8) doubled in two trips to the plate before an injury, suffered when he took a Vladimir Guerrero Jr. line drive off his left forearm/wrist and left the game. Right-hander Wyatt Strahan fanned two batters during a clean inning in relief. Alex Powers took the loss after allowing four earned runs on four hits, including two home runs, while recording just one out in the ninth inning.

NL West

D-backs (Salt River)

Shortstop Jazz Chisholm, the D-backs' No. 3 prospect, continued his torrid hitting in AFL play, going 2-for-5 with a double and a solo homer. He's hitting .438 for the AFL season. Arizona's No. 4 prospect, Pavin Smith, served as the designated hitter and went 1-for-4 with a single. Dominic Miroglio (No. 30) was also 1-for-4 with a double, RBI and run scored. Right-hander Tyler Mark pitched a scoreless seventh inning, striking out one.

Dodgers (Glendale)

Jared Walker hit his third home run of the Fall League campaign while going 1-for-3 from the bottom of the order. Dodgers No. 20 prospect Errol Robinson went 2-for-3 with a walk. Cody Thomas went 0-for-3 with a walk. Jordan Sheffield (No. 26) and Andre Scrubb each pitched a perfect inning of relief, with Sheffield notching two strikeouts.

Giants (Scottsdale)

Giants No. 28 prospect C.J. Hinojosa hit a three-run home run to left field after entering the game as a replacement for an injured Shed Long. It was the first AFL homer for Hinojosa, who finished 1-for-2. Heath Quinn (No. 10) went 0-for-3 with two strikeouts but scored a run. Right-hander Melvin Adon struck out a pair during a perfect eighth inning. Adon, the Giants' No. 19 prospect, has racked up 21 strikeouts in 10 2/3 innings out of Scottsdale's bullpen.

Padres (Peoria)

The Padres had three top-30 prospects appear in this game. No. 13 prospect Buddy Reed went 2-for-5 with a solo homer, raising his AFL average to .368. Hudson Potts (No. 23) was 1-for-4 with a double. Austin Allen (No. 25) had a rough night, going 0-for-5 with three strikeouts, dropping his average during AFL play to .240.

Rockies (Salt River)

Colorado's No. 9 prospect, Sam Hilliard, went 1-for-3 with a pair of RBIs and a pair of runs scored. He's hitting .370 in AFL play. No. 11 prospect Tyler Nevin played first base and went 1-for-4 with a walk. Right-hander Ryan Castellani (No. 10) started and gave up four runs on six hits over three innings, walking two and striking out four. Jesus Tinoco (No. 20) went two scoreless frames, yielding only a walk over the fifth and sixth innings.

CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

How the Cincinnati Reds landed the pitching coach and hitting coach atop their wish list

Bobby Nightengale, Cincinnati Enquirer

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CARLSBAD, Calif. – Building his first coaching staff, Reds manager David Bell and the club's front office had to act quickly on their first two hires: pitching coach Derek Johnson and hitting coach Turner Ward.

Bell, Dick Williams and Nick Krall traveled to Nashville to meet Johnson for a face-to-face meeting and dinner, convincing him to join their organization. With Ward, Bell and front office executives spent nearly the entire day on the phone Sunday pitching their vision.

The first two coaches on Bell's staff weren't on their initial list of candidates. They didn't know either would be available. Johnson had a window to talk to other teams in his contract with the Milwaukee Brewers and Ward's contract expired after the Los Angeles Dodgers lost in the World Series.

It's one thing to want to bring respected coaches onto their Major League staff and it's another to sell them on joining an organization that has finished in last place in the National League Central for the last four seasons.

"Both of those guys, in the end, they are in it for the right reasons and they're in it to make a difference, take all their experiences, all their expertise to help people around them," Bell said. "Really, when you see it that way, you almost start seeking out situations where you know you can make the biggest difference.

"I think they recognize this is a great organization. It's a team on the brink of success. They also recognize that they have the ability to take all that they learned and come in and help us get over the hump."

One of the big selling points from Bell and the front office was an opportunity for both coaches to set a philosophy that will be used in the Major Leagues and minor leagues. It was an opportunity to put their stamp across the entire organization.

Plus, it's clear the Reds are putting extra money into their Major League coaching staff to hold off other teams from signing Johnson and Ward.

"Honestly, it's about investing in people," Krall said. "It's top to bottom in our organization. We're trying to get good people in to be able to maximize and have an impact on the field, off the field, scouting, development, whatever we're doing. We're trying to bring as much impact talent in as we can."

Bell is the only manager at the General Managers Meetings near San Diego, joining several front office members after they traveled to Arizona last weekend. He lives in Northern California, but the goal is to stay near the front office so it's easier to communicate and conduct coaching staff interviews together.

When the Reds were pursuing Johnson and Ward, they felt it was important to spend an entire day with them whether it was on the phone or in person.

"I want them to be as excited about it as I am," Bell said. "Until that happens, then it's not a fit. We were able to get there with both of them."

Bell believes coaches can make a bigger impact in today's game than when he was playing from 1995-2006. That's a reason why he felt it was important to land Johnson and Ward, confident their experience working with young players makes them a great fit.

"It's more important now than ever before," Bell said. "Not too long ago, I played on teams where I don't know if the coaches made that big of a difference, although I had some great coaches along the way. Now, I really think we have a chance to have a big impact on players. I feel a responsibility about players to get the best people in place."

The Reds haven't announced if any coaches from last year will be brought back. Jim Riggleman won't return and he's reportedly a candidate for bench coach with the New York Mets. Pat Kelly, who served as an interim bench coach, is expected to return to the Reds' minor league system.

Williams said it was important to give Bell room to shape his own message.

“I look at our team and I really do like what we have,” Bell said. “The success hasn’t really started yet, but a lot of work up to this point has been put in by a lot of really good people.”

MINOR LEAGUE FREE AGENTS: The Reds had 22 minor league players elect free agency because they weren’t placed on the 40-man roster.

The list of players includes second baseman Dilson Herrera, outfielder Mason Williams, outfielder Gabriel Guerrero, left-handed pitcher Kyle Crockett and right-handed pitcher Rookie Davis. Herrera, Williams and Guerrero were outrighted off the 40-man roster after the end of the season.

Crockett was outrighted to the minor leagues in July and Davis was outrighted in August.

Transactions

11/08/18

Pittsburgh Pirates signed free agent 3B Jung Ho Kang.

11/07/18

New York Yankees signed free agent LHP CC Sabathia.
