



# CHICAGO CUBS DAILY CLIPS

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August 6, 2018

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<https://chicago.suntimes.com/sports/jon-lester-struggles-sloppy-cubs-lose-to-padres/>
- Chicago Sun-Times, **Cubs' Joe Maddon: 7-10 years right amount for one job in one place**  
<https://chicago.suntimes.com/sports/joe-maddon-7-10-years-right-amount-for-one-job-in-one-place/>
- Daily Herald, **A little raggedy, Chicago Cubs split series with Padres**  
<https://www.dailyherald.com/sports/20180805/a-little-raggedy-chicago-cubs-split-series-with-padres>
- Daily Herald, **Chicago Cubs' Maddon comfortable with contract situation**  
<https://www.dailyherald.com/sports/20180805/chicago-cubs-maddon-comfortable-with-contract-situation>
- The Athletic, **Cubs gambling Jon Lester, Cole Hamels have enough left for another playoff run**  
<https://theathletic.com/460226/2018/08/05/cubs-gambling-jon-lester-cole-hamels-have-enough-left-for-another-playoff-run/>
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- Cubs.com, **Maddon: Fundamentals key to fending off rivals**  
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- NBC Sports Chicago, **Anthony Rizzo goes off on umpiring: 'That call is unacceptable'**  
<https://www.nbcsports.com/chicago/cubs/anthony-rizzo-goes-umpiring-call-unacceptable-angel-hernandez-padres-wrigley-field>
- NBC Sports Chicago, **As Addison Russell's up-and-down season continues, how much of a concern is his hand?**  
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- NBC Sports Chicago, **'Pedro Strop Day' comes at a perfect time for the Cubs and their affable reliever**  
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- Chicago Tribune, **'That can't happen': Anthony Rizzo fumes at umpire after questionable call ends Cubs' 10-6 loss to Padres**  
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/baseball/cubs/ct-spt-cubs-padres-20180805-story.html#nt=oft03a-2gp2>

- Chicago Tribune, **'It's not fun': Kris Bryant doesn't know when he'll be able to swing a bat as DL stint drags on**  
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/baseball/cubs/ct-spt-cubs-kris-bryant-injury-20180805-story.html>
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<http://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/baseball/cubs/ct-spt-cubs-wrigley-field-lights-sullivan-20180803-story.html>

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### **Chicago Sun-Times**

Anthony Rizzo's argument, Pedro Strop's style sidebars in Cubs loss to Padres

By Brian Sandalow

The flashy Pedro Strop-inspired clothes the Cubs wore on their trip to Kansas City are fun and good for some catchy tweets. Anthony Rizzo saying Angel Hernandez's final strike call to end Sunday's game was "unacceptable" and "can't happen" will make for interesting quotes and soundbites.

"Angel told me to look at it. I looked at it, and he was wrong, and I would like for him to confirm that because that can't happen," Rizzo said during a measured but pointed session with the media that lasted 4½ minutes. "It can't happen in the major leagues, at Wrigley Field or at any field."

But Strop-style bling and Rizzo following one of the most notorious umpires in baseball down the first-base line after the last out were only sidebars to what happened in the Cubs' 10-6 loss to the Padres. The Cubs only split a four-game set with the National League's worst team and failed to extend their one-game lead over the Brewers.

Jon Lester allowed five runs, including homers to Freddy Galvis and Franmil Reyes. Lester also failed to go more than five innings for the second consecutive start and third time in four, and questions about how effective he'll be down the stretch will only get louder.

Lester, who gave up four runs in the first two innings, said his stuff early was “not really up to anybody’s expectations.”

“I felt like I had really good stuff today. Once again, no swing-and-miss stuff. Figure it out,” Lester said. “A little rut right now, and keep grinding.”

Lester is part of an experienced group of starters, and that gives manager Joe Maddon confidence the rotation can still improve. Any consistent uptick would help, considering the starters entered the game with a 4.10 ERA.

“Right now, we’re pitching [Kyle] Hendricks, Lester and [Cole] Hamels back-to-back-to-back, and then you throw in [Mike Montgomery] and [Jose Quintana]. That’s pretty good,” Maddon said before the game. “I really have a lot of faith that this is going to continue to get better.”

That’s what Maddon and the Cubs need, especially since the bullpen showed signs of being taxed. Carl Edwards Jr. (one run) and Randy Rosario (four runs) couldn’t back an offense that rallied from a 5-1 deficit.

There were other issues, too. Javy Baez was thrown out trying to steal third to end the fifth, and David Bote was picked off second to finish the sixth, both ruining scoring opportunities as a ragged stretch of play continued.

“We hurt ourselves on the bases, but I don’t want us to overthink it. I don’t want us to become less - aggressive,” Maddon said. “It’s just one of those things that happened today.”

Baez, who hit his career-best 24th homer, isn’t at risk of losing his aggression, even if it didn’t help here.

“Jav is Jav, so you’re going to expect a lot out of him,” Lester said. “Now I think we’ve all kind of seen him and what he’s turned into is as far as a baseball player, and I think the expectation now is for him to kind of put us on his back. He’s fun to watch.

“With all the good things he does, you have to sometimes take the minor bad things that he does and move on. I always accept being aggressive over passive any day, and that’s him as a player and that’s him as a person. Never question what he does on a baseball field.”

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### **Chicago Sun-Times**

Cubs’ Joe Maddon: 7-10 years right amount for one job in one place

By Brian Sandalow

Joe Maddon’s former boss might be approaching the end of his run. It’s a run Maddon doesn’t envision himself or others replicating.

Mike Scioscia, who called reports he’s leaving the Angels at the end of the season “poppycock,” is four months into his 19th campaign managing the team and finishing a 10-year, \$50 million deal. Maddon was asked whether he can see himself or anybody else lasting that long in one spot.

Maddon, who’s in the fourth year of a five-year deal, said “it’s hard to imagine that.”

"I've always thought 7-10 years was the right amount of time to do one job in one place, and then you can do another job in that place," Maddon said. "Like if you elevate from bench coach to manager, as an example. Or hitting coach to bench coach, whatever you want to call it.

Cubs manager Joe Maddon talks with the media prior to a game against the Indians at Progressive Field on April 24. (Photo by Jason Miller/Getty Images)

"But to do the same thing for that long, for me it would be difficult, quite frankly. There's a mental shelf life involved with something like that. I think you want to be challenged."

Since Scioscia was hired, Maddon has been in three organizations, as the bench coach with the Angels and manager for the Rays and Cubs.

"That's why the run from the bench coach with the Angels to the manager of the Rays was really important to me at that point for my development, because you do this other job in a rote matter because you've done it, done it, done it and you don't really have this opportunity to test your thoughts or ideas because you're not making the final decision," Maddon said. "Then you need to get to the point where you make the final decision, and then now you're carrying your baby opposed to holding somebody else's."

So will Maddon ask Theo Epstein for a 10-year deal such as the one Scioscia got?

"No, I would never, nope," Maddon said. "I don't think that would be appropriate."

What do Yu know?

Maddon had good news on Yu Darvish, who threw a 55-pitch bullpen session Saturday.

Maddon said he didn't know whether the next step would be in the bullpen or on the mound, but "it's trending in the right direction."

"He's doing good," Maddon said. "We're in the process of talking about what we're going to do with him in Kansas City, but he's doing really well."

Bling

Pedro Strop sounded honored the Cubs would dedicate a theme trip to him and his style.

"First of all, I'm really appreciate the stuff they're doing for me. I'm so happy to see that they can put it together," said Strop, who added the best outfit he had seen belonged to Steve Cishek. "I'm seeing really good outfits so far and looking forward to seeing some more."

Maddon said his ensemble wouldn't be complete because the Egyptian snake gold necklace he ordered didn't arrive in time, but he still thought the theme trip was worthwhile.

"You're playing these really, pretty difficult games, and it's a tight race," Maddon said. "So you start losing your mind a little bit. So relax, play baseball, have some fun with it. And I'm sure we'll play a better brand at that point."

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## Daily Herald

A little raggedy, Chicago Cubs split series with Padres

By Bruce Miles

Chicago Cubs frustrations boiled over at the end of Sunday's messy 10-6 loss to the San Diego Padres at Wrigley Field.

The frustration was directed from first baseman Anthony Rizzo to home-plate umpire Angel Hernandez, who called Rizzo out on a wide pitch to end the game.

Fair enough, but the Cubs have created enough frustrating things of their own making to address before they even get to the umpires.

In fact, manager Joe Maddon said he and the coaches were going to get together soon to talk about "process and fundamentals," with the team's play being raggedy around the edges of late.

As for Rizzo, he entered as a pinch hitter in the seventh inning and dunked an RBI single into left field to tie the game at 5-5. But the Padres scored a run in the eighth and 4 in the ninth.

Ben Zobrist hit a leadoff homer in the bottom of the ninth, and Rizzo was up with a man on third and two outs when he was rung up by Hernandez.

Rizzo followed Hernandez down the first-base line to argue the call, and he was joined by Maddon.

"I think it's well documented that I talk to a lot of these umpires all the time," Rizzo said. "I have the utmost respect for every single one of them. I kind of feel like I know them on a little personal basis. It's long games, long season, talk to them a lot. I feel like I have a great working relationship with pretty much the whole league.

"But with that being said, that call is unacceptable. Angel told me to look at it. I looked at it. And he was wrong, and I would like for him to confirm that because it can't happen. It can't happen in the major leagues at Wrigley Field, any field.

"Things like that can't happen, and it happened all game. Nothing happens, and I have to answer questions to you guys: 'Why can't you hit? Why are you striking out? Why can't you hit in the clutch in the ninth inning?' All these questions. It was literally ball four."

Maddon weighed in.

"You've got to play it straight right to the very end, and I'm not accusing anybody of not," he said. "But it's egregiously a bad call. We all see that. I think that's definitely why Anthony wanted to say something because he was trying to point out how bad the call was."

The Cubs split four games against the last-place team in the National League West, and didn't always look good doing it, from pitching to fielding to baserunning.

Jon Lester, Sunday's starting pitcher, pitched 5 innings, giving up 8 hits and 5 runs as his ERA went from 3.22 to 3.44. The Padres went ahead 4-0 by the second inning and 5-1 by the fourth. Over his last 8 starts, Lester has a 6.42 ERA.

"Not really up to anybody's expectations," he said. "I felt like I had really good stuff today. Once again, no swing-and-miss stuff. Figure it out. Little rut right now. Keep grinding."

There were two key baserunning plays that hurt the Cubs.

Javier Baez was out trying to steal third base to end the fifth, after the Cubs had scored a pair of runs to come within 5-3. Baez originally was called safe, but the call was overturned on replay.

In the sixth, David Bote was picked off second base by Padres catcher Austin Hedges to end the inning when the Cubs had runners on first and second.

"I didn't like the pickoff," Maddon said. "That was a big part of today's game. There's a couple plays that we haven't made that are kind of routine stuff, I thought, that we normally do make. There's no questioning the fight. The esprit de corps, the fight, wonderful, good.

"But I'm kind of a fundamentalist, and I just want to make sure that we are staying aware of that because sometimes when you have trouble at the plate, you can lose your focus in other parts of the game.

"I just want to make sure we maintain our defensive focus and the focus in the other areas, speaking about Javy possibly becoming an MVP, talking about the complete game. I want our guys to stay involved in the complete game, and if you're not hitting to not lose sight of that."

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## **Daily Herald**

Chicago Cubs' Maddon comfortable with contract situation

By Bruce Miles

Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon's five-year contract runs through the end of the 2019 season.

There has been no public talk from the Cubs about extending Maddon past that, and Maddon said he was not going to ask for anything like a 10-year deal.

"Nope," he said Sunday. "I don't think that would be appropriate."

The conversation got started when Maddon was asked about a report that had Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia retiring at the end of the season, a report Scioscia called "poppycock."

Maddon managed the Tampa Bay Rays for nine seasons before coming to the Cubs after the 2014 season.

"Nine years in Tampa Bay, I've always thought seven to 10 years was the right amount of time to do one job," he said. "You could do another job in that place, like if you elevate from bench coach to manager as an example or hitting coach to bench coach. But to do the same thing for that long, for me it would be difficult, quite frankly.

"So I think there's a mental shelf life involved in something like that. I think you want to be challenged. That's why going from the bench coach with the Angels to the manager of the Rays was really important to me at that point in my development because you do this other job in a rote manner because you've done it, done it, done it, done it.

"And you don't really have this opportunity to test your thoughts or ideas because you're not making the final decision."

Break out the bling:

The Cubs departed for Kansas City after Sunday's game, and it was another themed dress-up trip.

This time, Cubs players dressed like relief pitcher Pedro Strop, which meant a lot of bling and flashy clothes and shoes.

The idea was a group effort involving Joe Maddon, traveling secretary Vijay Tekchandani and catching coach Mike Borzello.

"They came up with this Strop Day, and I was like 'Oh, man,' " said Strop, who is popular among teammates.

Strop added he would have no trouble coming up with an outfit; all he'd have to do is look inside his closet.

Maddon is known for themed road trips, and he urged people not to take it too seriously.

"Lighten it up a little bit, folks," he said. "You get right now, you keep playing these very difficult games, tight race and so you start losing your mind a little bit. So just relax, play baseball, have some fun with it. I'm sure we'll play our better brand at that point."

DH doings:

With three games in Kansas City this week, the Cubs will get to use the designated hitter.

"It lengthens the lineup," Joe Maddon said. "It probably speaks to (Anthony) Rizzo even more so in the 1-hole. You can set up 8 and 9 without the pitcher. If you're in the American League, that's really attractive, to put on-base guys at the bottom and get like your best two hitters maybe 1 and 2."

Big Baez numbers:

Javier Baez again set a single-season high with his 24th home run in Sunday's 10-6 loss to the San Diego Padres. Baez also raised his batting average to .300, his highest postgame average since April 28 (.304).

Baez also heard chants of "MVP" from the Wrigley Field crowd of 41,136.

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### **The Athletic**

Cubs gambling Jon Lester, Cole Hamels have enough left for another playoff run

By Patrick Mooney

What year is this? A rotation fronted by Jon Lester and Cole Hamels would have sounded like the beginning of a dream team back when Joe Maddon managed the Tampa Bay Rays and defensive shifts and dress-up trips seemed exotic. But now everyone uses Big Data and wears silly costumes on the road. The numbers have de-emphasized starting pitchers and over-30 players, turning the game into more of a math equation.

Combined, Lester and Hamels have already willed their left arms through nearly 4,800 big-league innings — plus 28 playoff series — while competing in two of baseball’s most unforgiving cities, earning contracts that guaranteed them \$299 million. Together, they will have an outsized influence on the rest of this Cubs season, potentially making 24 of the 57 starts between the July 31 trade deadline and Game 162.

On the same weekend the Philadelphia Phillies celebrated the 10th anniversary of their World Series triumph over Maddon’s Rays, Hamels watched from the top step of the Wrigley Field dugout on Sunday afternoon as Lester labored to finish five innings during a 10-6 loss to the San Diego Padres.

“Not really up to anybody’s expectations,” Lester said. “We’ll figure it out. Little rut night now. Keep grinding.”

In the 91-degree heat and with the winds blowing 12 mph, you could see Lester’s shrinking margin for error when Freddy Galvis lifted a ball that just cleared the left-field basket for a home run. It happened again in the same second inning when Albert Almora Jr. dove at a line drive and didn’t make the spectacular catch in center field, giving Eric Hosmer a two-out, two-run triple and the Padres a 4-0 lead. Franmil Reyes left no doubt in the fourth inning, launching Lester’s 90-mph pitch toward the center-field camera well, ricocheting onto the second-deck roof above the batter’s eye. Estimated distance on Statcast: 477 feet.

Lester now has an 8.53 ERA since the All-Star Game and one quality start in his past eight outings. Really wish the Elias Sports Bureau had a database for games like this, but it sure seems like the Cubs historically don’t play well on themed-getaway days, even for an idea as inspired as “Dress Like Pedro Strop: Gold Chains Required.”

Considering the Cubs needed two one-run wins to split a four-game series at home against the National League’s worst team, there seemed to be way too much focus on the umpires. Anthony Rizzo jawed with home plate umpire Angel Hernandez after watching a 3-2 Kirby Yates fastball zoom by for a game-ending strikeout. Rizzo followed Hernandez up the first-base line and still sounded frustrated by the time reporters flocked to his locker. Rizzo said he appreciated how difficult the job is and stressed how much he respected all umpires and Hernandez in particular, but ...

“With that being said, that call was unacceptable,” Rizzo said. “That can’t happen. It can’t happen in the major leagues, at Wrigley Field, at any field.

“Things like that can’t happen, and it happened all game. And I have to answer questions to you guys: ‘Why can’t you hit? Why are you striking out? Why can’t you hit in the clutch in the ninth inning?’”

Also: Why haven’t the Cubs pitched anywhere close to expectations?

There were enough distractions Sunday, from the uncharacteristic base-running mistakes to a bullpen meltdown to the tilted hats, sunglasses, tight jeans and Adidas track pants that made up the Strop tributes.

But this was supposed to be the year of pure stuff, with the Cubs signing the pitcher with the highest strikeout rate per nine innings (11.04) since 2012 and betting on an escape from Coors Field. In reality, Yu Darvish is on the disabled list, and Tyler Chatwood is in the bullpen, and the shape of the entire pitching staff changes when Mike Montgomery is in the rotation.



“I’ll be accountable for what I do,” Hamels said, “and hopefully give the bullpen a much-needed rest. That’s what I’ve been able to do in my career. And that’s what I hope to continue here.”

It hasn’t quite been the changing-of-the-guard moment Lester envisioned when Kyle Hendricks started Game 1 against the Washington Nationals in last year’s playoffs. It hasn’t been the giant leap the Cubs pictured when José Quintana got away from the trade rumors, American League lineups and the White Sox rebuild. Even in Year 4 of his megadeal, the Cubs are still leaning hard on Lester and the guts he showed while earning two World Series rings with the Boston Red Sox.

Hamels, the 2008 World Series MVP, will make his second start in a Cubs uniform Monday night against the last-place Kansas City Royals at Kauffman Stadium. The Cubs aren’t banking on the renaissance Justin Verlander experienced last year while moving from the Detroit Tigers to the Houston Astros. The Cubs hope Hamels will rediscover his changeup, lock in his mechanics and feel refocused and reenergized after trying to block out (4.72 ERA) all the trade rumors surrounding a going-nowhere Texas Rangers team.

“I love it,” Maddon said. “Been there, done that matters. When I was with groups that had not done it to that point, there was a different believability about it. It’s more believable with people that have done it before. They’re going to rub off, too, Lester and Cole (with their presence). But Kyle’s been in the seventh game of a World Series. Monty’s thrown the last out of a World Series. Q’s looking to get there, so there’s a lot of great experience within the staff.

“That really should drive the engine right there. These five starters need to be prominent for us to really get where we want to get to.”

Of course, maybe the Cubs can win the NL Central race by maximizing their depth, overpowering inferior opponents and flipping the run-prevention script they followed during the 2016 playoff run.

“It happens once in a while, but it’s so hard to get to that last game of the year and win it without the pitching,” Maddon said. “I still have a lot of faith. Of course, Yu is hurt. But otherwise, they’re not. That’s where I take a lot of solace or encouragement in the fact that they’re not injured. If they’re injured, that’s different. But they’re not. And they definitely haven’t thrown too many innings to this point, so I still think there’s a lot to look forward to.”

The Cubs flushed Sunday’s loss so quickly that Strop gave Steve Cishek the Best Dressed Award for The Pedro Strop Road Trip. Strop also walked over to Cishek’s locker to spray him with cologne and complete the aura. Even without the 1-through-5 rotation firing on all cylinders, the Cubs still have the NL’s best record and a one-game lead over the Milwaukee Brewers in the division. We’ll see if that’s sustainable and how long the good times will last.

“It seems to be a topic every time I sit up here,” Lester said in the interview room. “You’re not always going to have all five guys clicking. Some seasons you are, some you aren’t. We got to keep taking our turns and figuring it out as we go. Right now, Q and Kyle have thrown the ball really well. Monty’s done a great job. Hopefully, Cole can pick me up.

“You’re not always going to have all five. But at the end of the day, we got to do a better job. That’s been on me really since the break to do a better job, and I haven’t. Back to the drawing board.”

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## **Cubs.com**

Cubs erase 4-run deficit, but drop finale to SD

By Jeff Arnold

CHICAGO -- The "M-V-P" chants that Javier Baez hears at Wrigley Field this season are only getting louder.

But even after the Cubs' star second baseman hit his career-high 24th home run and drove in his 86th run of the season with a fifth-inning double, Chicago's rally from four runs down came up short in a 10-6 loss to the Padres on Sunday.

Baez's solo blast in the third inning got the Cubs on the board, but not until after the Padres had tagged struggling starter Jon Lester for four runs. After starting the season 12-2, Chicago's ace has gone 0-2 with an 8.53 ERA over his past four starts.

"It's a Wrigley day, and you've got to deal with it. ... It didn't seem to affect their guy too much, but at the end of the day, I have to do a better job of keeping our team close enough to strike and minimize some damage," Lester said. "I wasn't able to do that."

Despite Lester's rough outing (five runs, eight hits over five innings), the Cubs took him off the hook. Baez's RBI double pulled them to within 5-3 in the fifth before Chicago drew even in the seventh inning with a pair of runs. Albert Almora Jr. and Anthony Rizzo -- who entered the game in the seventh as a pinch-hitter -- delivered RBI singles to tie the game.

At that point, the comeback Cubs appeared to be in business before the Padres jumped on Chicago's bullpen late.

"We just have to come back and we have to do the simple things," Baez said. "We tried to win this series, but this series was tough. [The Padres] did their homework, and they just got us today. We've got to compete this next series [against the Royals]."

Carl Edwards Jr. allowed a two-out walk in the eighth inning, which set up Cory Spangenberg's go-ahead double that gave San Diego a one-run lead. Randy Rosario allowed a two-run homer to Hunter Renfroe in the ninth inning, when the Padres scored four times to break the game open.

Ben Zobrist, who entered the game as a pinch-hitter in the seventh inning, led off the ninth inning with a home run off the video board in right field before San Diego reliever Kirby Yates closed out the victory with back-to-back strikeouts. Rizzo and manager Joe Maddon took exception to home-plate umpire Angel Hernandez's call on Yates' final pitch, a called strike three with a runner on third, the wind blowing out and dangerous hitters waiting.

"This team is never out of it. We've shown that time and time again," Rizzo said. "It just makes it even more frustrating that a game could be called on that bad of a pitch."

### **MOMENTS THAT MATTERED**

With two outs in the ninth inning, the Cubs trailing 10-6 and a runner on third base, Rizzo faced a 3-2 count. Yates' next offering was off the plate, but Hernandez called it a strike, ending the game. Rizzo immediately turned to Hernandez to voice his displeasure and then followed him down the first-base line, where the conversation continued.

Maddon also joined the conversation and characterized it as an "egregiously bad call."

"That call is unacceptable," said Rizzo, who said Hernandez told him to look at the pitch on video after the game. "That can't happen. It can't happen in the Major Leagues, at Wrigley Field, at any field."

HE SAID IT

"There's no questioning the fight, the esprit de corps, the fight -- it's all wonderful, everything's good. But I'm kind of a fundamentalist, and I just want to make sure we are staying aware of [the fundamentals]." -- Maddon

UP NEXT

Left-hander Cole Hamels will make his second Cubs start on Monday at Kauffman Stadium after he was acquired from the Rangers on July 27. Hamels allowed one unearned run on three hits and struck out nine over five innings in his Cubs debut on Wednesday in Pittsburgh. He will face the Royals' Jakob Junis in the first game of a three-game series, which begins at 7:15 p.m. CT.

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### **Cubs.com**

Maddon: Fundamentals key to fending off rivals

By Jeff Arnold

CHICAGO -- As August heats up, Cubs manager Joe Maddon doesn't foresee the hotly contested race for first place in the National League Central abating any time soon.

As his team clings to a slim lead over the Brewers, Maddon anticipates the competition sticking around for the long term. So from Maddon's perspective, that keeps the onus on the Cubs to do what they need to do over the final two months of the season.

Chicago has remained atop the division behind second baseman Javier Baez, who has established himself as a bona fide NL Most Valuable Player Award candidate, and first baseman Anthony Rizzo, who has flourished since moving into the leadoff spot. But as the Cubs seek their third straight division title at a time when Maddon says no one is putting up blistering offensive numbers, the Cubs must continue to follow the script that has been successful for them in the past.

"We've got to make the plays, give [opponents only] 27 outs, grind out our at-bats -- there's definitely a formula there," Maddon said before Sunday's game against the Padres.

"It really speaks even more loudly to us really following the process of the day as opposed to worrying about winning and losing. ... It's really going to be about process and fundamentals. Those are the two things that I think if you get away from, then everything goes away from you. If you stay with those, you should be able to play at your best level."

Another simulated game for Darvish

A day after Yu Darvish threw 50 pitches in a bullpen session, Maddon said he's waiting to hear back on what the next step for Darvish will be. Darvish said Saturday he was "very optimistic" he will return to the Cubs' rotation this season after being sidelined since late May with right elbow and triceps injuries.

Maddon anticipates Darvish throwing a simulated game in the coming days, and if that goes well, he'll move straight into a Minor League rehab assignment.

All about the bling

The Cubs will head to Kansas City after Sunday's game to begin a three-game set against the Royals. Cubs players will make the trip dressed like relief pitcher Pedro Strop, who is known for his fashion-forward wardrobe and accessories. While his teammates will do their best to pay homage to Strop's fashion sense, Strop said, "It's going to be normal for me."

Maddon said he has his Strop travel outfit ready, but he was disappointed that the Egyptian snake gold necklace he ordered for the occasion did not arrive in time.

"There are going to be some flashy boys," Strop said.

Maddon said he has wanted to do the Strop-themed trip for a while and decided given the short trip to Kansas City, Sunday was the day.

"Of course, nobody can actually be Pedro Strop," Maddon said. "But we all can attempt to be."

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### **NBC Sports Chicago**

Anthony Rizzo goes off on umpiring: 'That call is unacceptable'

By Tony Andracki

Frustration boiled over for the Cubs and Anthony Rizzo on the final pitch of a hot, humid and disappointing four-game series against the San Diego Padres.

With the Cubs trailing 10-6 to one of the worst teams in the National League, Rizzo came to the plate with two outs and Jason Heyward on base.

Rizzo proceeded to work the count full before staring at a pitch he thought was well outside. Thinking it was far outside and clearly Ball 4, the Cubs first baseman started getting ready to throw his bat toward the dugout and take his base.

Instead, home plate umpire Angel Hernandez rang it up as Strike 3 and the end of the game:

Rizzo exploded on Hernandez, walking with the umpire up the first base line and passionately pleading his case, but it didn't matter. The game was over.

Rizzo had a good half hour to cool off before he met with the media and gave a measured - but bold - statement.

"I think it's well-documented that I talk to a lot of these umpires all the time and I have the utmost respect for every single one of them," Rizzo said. "I feel like I know them on a personal basis just because long games, long season, talk to them at first. Feel like I have a great working relationship with pretty much the whole league.

"That being said, that call is unacceptable. He told me to look at it, I looked at it and he was wrong. And I would like for him to confirm that. That can't happen. That can't happen in the major leagues at Wrigley Field or any field."

Rizzo felt like even the Padres would admit that was not a strike.

Both sides were unhappy with Hernandez's zone all game. Rizzo said Cubs catcher Willson Contreras came back into the dugout at several points during the contest shaking his head, wondering how some of these pitches were called strikes for Cubs pitchers.

"Things like that can't happen and it happened all game," Rizzo said. "And nothing happens. And I have to answer questions to you guys - why can't you hit? Why are you striking out? Why can't you hit in the clutch in the ninth inning? All these questions.

"Right there was literally Ball 4. It stinks that now this has to be news, because Angel is such a good guy. I mean, I apologized to the guy in the 2016 NLCS for showing him up. I don't like talking bad about umpires and I'm not talking bad - he just made a really, really unfortunate call."

The moment Rizzo was referring to in the 2016 NLCS with Hernandez was a heart-warming clip caught on TV:

David Bote Fan Account

@TheBlogfines

Anthony Rizzo and Angel Hernandez have a cool moment. <https://www.clippituser.tv/c/agpvk>

Rizzo was fair, and pointed out how umpires have to deal with the heat all afternoon and have a tougher travel schedule than even the players do, working five or six weeks straight on the road.

He called Hernandez a "great guy" and said he hopes to hear from the umpire on the call, after both guys have had an opportunity to take a look at it now that the dust has settled.

The call obviously didn't decide the outcome of a 10-6 ballgame, but despite the low likelihood that they could come back, the Cubs would've preferred to have at least had the opportunity to try.

A Rizzo walk would've put them one more baserunner away from bringing the tying run to the plate on a day when the wind was blowing out 16+ mph at Wrigley Field.

"You saw both sides," Joe Maddon said. "You gotta play it straight right to the very end and I'm not accusing anybody of not. It's egregiously a bad call. We can all see that.

"I think that's why Anthony definitely wanted to say something, because he was trying to point out how bad the call was. And I know he talked to [crew chief Fieldin Culbreth] about it, also. We're fighting right there. The way the wind is blowing out, you get a couple more baserunners, anything can happen. You saw that they took advantage earlier. So yeah, it was a tough call to end the game on."

Rizzo agreed.

"This team's never out of it," he said. "We've shown that time and time again. So it makes it even more frustrating that a game can be called on that bad of a pitch."

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## **NBC Sports Chicago**

As Addison Russell's up-and-down season continues, how much of a concern is his hand?

By Tony Andracki

As Addison Russell's up-and-down season continues, it begs the question: How much concern is there about the shortstop's finger/hand issue?

He's been dealing with the injury on his left hand for the last couple months and while it hasn't had much of an impact on his play at shortstop, it has affected his swing.

During the weekend homestand against the Padres, Russell shrugged it off, saying his hand felt the best it has in a while and he believes he's gotten better at managing the issue.

But for a guy who hit 21 homers and drove in 95 runs two years ago, his 2018 pace of 7 homers and 53 RBI is noticeably light.

Is that because of the hand?

"His defense is as good as I've seen it," Joe Maddon said. "He's throwing the ball better than I've ever seen him throw the baseball. Defensively — top of his game.

"Offensively, using the other side of the field more consistently well. Power-wise, we're not seeing the same pop we saw a couple years ago and it could be because of his hand right now.

"...Maybe not the consistency we saw a couple years ago, but I know it's still in there. He's still strong. He doesn't lead on about his hand and how much it may be bothering him, but I know it is."

Russell entered Sunday's game carrying a modest five-game hitting streak and Maddon opted to let the shortstop hit cleanup while Anthony Rizzo, Ben Zobrist and Jason Heyward all had the day off. It made sense, as Russell is a .300 hitter with an .800+ OPS against left-handed pitchers.

Russell finished 0-for-4, but he was twice robbed of a hit by San Diego shortstop Freddy Galvis, and both times would've driven in a run for the Cubs with two outs. Maddon was pleased with Russell shooting a 98mph pitch into the right-centerfield gap in Pittsburgh and took that as a sign that maybe the 24-year-old is coming out of his slump.

Earlier this year, it looked as if Russell was taking major strides as an offensive player, even despite the low power output.

From April 29 to July 3, Russell slashed .318/.381/.468 (.850 OPS) in 195 plate appearances across 51 games. All 5 of his home runs and 25 of his 36 season RBI came during that stretch.

But the bookends of that two-month run are troublesome.

From Opening Day to April 29, Russell hit .215 with a .582 OPS. From July 4 up through Sunday, he was hitting .202 with a .531 OPS.

These aren't small sample sizes. These are 24- and 25-game stretches — a full month of action. That qualifies as a prolonged slump.

Entering the 2018 season, Russell was among the players the Cubs hoped would take a big step forward in their development.

But while Javy Baez, Ian Happ and Albert Almora Jr. have ascended, Russell is still riding the offensive roller coaster.

"He's fine," Joe Maddon said. "His swing is not where it wants to be 100 percent, but the rest of his game, I'm kind of liking right now. I want to be proactive in resting him with all the little maladies he's got going on.

"I just want to keep giving him periodic rest, to make sure that the hand doesn't become an issue. And it's not. But otherwise, I think most of his game is actually getting better."

Maddon is right — Russell has taken the rest of his game to the next level, even with the hand injury.

He's taken some flak over the last week for his baserunning after he was thrown out at third base in Pittsburgh and then did not tag up and score on a tough pop-up Friday at Wrigley Field.

But he actually rates as the 9th-best baserunner in the entire game by FanGraphs' metric, just behind his teammate Javy Baez (6th) and ahead of guys like Mike Trout (10th), Mookie Betts (13th) and Dee Gordon (16th).

Russell also ranks 9th in all of baseball (regardless of position) in Defensive Runs Saved. Among shortstops, Russell is tied with Francisco Lindor for 3rd behind Andrelton Simmons and Nick Ahmed in DRS. Among 13 qualified NL shortstops, Russell has the 5th-highest WAR (2.0).

The postseason is still almost two months away, but as it stands right now, Russell is going to be a big part of what the Cubs do in October.

His presence at shortstop allows Baez to stay at second base and create maybe the best up-the-middle defense in baseball.

But at this point, Russell is a big question mark at the plate, both in terms of production and health.

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### **NBC Sports Chicago**

'Pedro Strop Day' comes at a perfect time for the Cubs and their affable reliever  
By Tony Andracki

"Pedro Strop Day" could not have come at a better time.

The Cubs' affable veteran reliever smiles and laughs every single day he's at the ballpark anyways, but he had plenty of reason for a bounce in his step Sunday morning after notching saves in back-to-back games.

Strop has been locking down the closer's role for the last couple weeks with Brandon Morrow on the shelf and shut down the Padres in the ninth inning both Friday and Saturday afternoon.

As they're about to embark on a quick three-day trip a few hours south to Kansas City, the Cubs thought it'd be the perfect time for a theme day. And not just any theme, but a "Dress Like Pedro Strop" trip, mimicking the flashy, loud wardrobe of the team's longest-tenured reliever.

This is the brainchild of Cubs manager Joe Maddon, who is a big fan of having his teams play dress-up on road trips, but has toned it down a bit this season.

"Of course nobody — NOBODY — could actually be Pedro Strop," Maddon said. "But we can all attempt to be.

"I've been after it for a while. I always thought it'd be great to have a Pedro Strop look-a-like road trip."

Maddon is bummed because he ordered an Egyptian snake necklace for the occasion, but it didn't arrive in time.

Still, the theme promises to deliver some laughs.

Strop was handing out gold chains and wacky hats at his locker for anybody that needed one. He was most excited to see Randy Bush all dressed up because he picked out the entire outfit for the Cubs front office executive.

Ben Zobrist entered the clubhouse Sunday morning with ripped jeans and a pair of bright-green shoes with wings — yes wings — coming out of the sides.

Strop knew it wouldn't be difficult to pick out his most "Pedro Strop" outfit from his closet, but he made sure to select something particularly "loud."

At the very least, this is a great, light-hearted tribute to the longest-tenured member of the Cubs bullpen, a guy fellow reliever Steve Cishek calls "a beast."

This is the dude who celebrates walk-offs by high-stepping along with Kris Bryant down the third-base line:

Strop has been a model of consistency since he came over from the Baltimore Orioles in the trade with Jake Arrieta in the middle of the 2013 season, never posting an ERA over 2.91 or WHIP over 1.17 in a Cubs uniform. He's racked up 112 holds and 13 saves over those six seasons, including a career-high 7 saves this year.

Maddon attributes a lot of that sustained success to Strop's sheer physical strength and ability to keep his arm healthy.

"He puts the ball on the ground and he has a wipeout slider that works against righties and lefties," Maddon said. "So I think the fact that he's been healthy and as strong as he is with really dominant stuff — he has the kind of stuff that can be closer stuff, but he's so valuable being able to move him around.

"If you look at his numbers over the last several years, he's probably as consistent as any reliever in baseball."

But Strop doesn't only want his impact on the team to be felt on the days he pitches.

He looks at himself as an ambassador of morale within the clubhouse.

"We have fun," he said. "That's part of the game. I don't want to go home 10 years from now and when my kids ask me, 'Hey Papi, did you have fun when you played?' I want to say yes.

"I try to put my teammates in the same mood every time. Sometimes you're in a bad mood, but I make sure they're in a good mood by the time they go and pitch."



When asked about how he has his own personal road trip theme in tribute of his style and personality, Strop couldn't do much but smile ear-to-ear and shrug.

"It's just me," he said. "They accept me the way I am and I love the way they accept me."

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### **Chicago Tribune**

'That can't happen': Anthony Rizzo fumes at umpire after questionable call ends Cubs' 10-6 loss to Padres

By Paul Sullivan

It has been 17 years since the famous incident at Wrigley Field in which Bears great Steve McMichael ripped into plate umpire Angel Hernandez during the seventh-inning stretch.

"Don't worry, I'll have some speaks with that home-plate umpire after the game," McMichael said from the TV booth after a bad call, inciting Cubs fans as Hernandez fumed while watching from the field.

Anthony Rizzo was a day shy of 12 at the time, but on Sunday the Cubs star delivered a dead-on impersonation of Mongo while having some "speaks" with Hernandez after a 10-6 loss to the Padres.

Called out on strikes on a questionable 3-2 pitch from Kirby Yates, Rizzo followed Hernandez all the way down the first-base line to state his case. Because the game was over, Rizzo could not be ejected, as McMichael allegedly was after calling out Hernandez in 2001.

Afterward, Rizzo prefaced his remarks by saying he had "respect" for umpires and a "great working relationship" with all the umps.

"But with that being said, that call is unacceptable," he said. "Angel told me to look at it. I looked at it, and he's wrong. And I would like for him to confirm that. That can't happen. That can't happen in the major leagues, at Wrigley Field, at any field."

Hernandez's call wasn't to blame for the Cubs losing and splitting a four-game series with the worst team in the National League.

A poor five-inning performance by Jon Lester, who gave up five runs on eight hits while striking out one, was a big factor. Lester has a 6.42 ERA in his last eight starts after carrying the rotation in the first half.

"I felt like I had really good stuff today," he said. "Once again, no swing-and-miss stuff. I'll figure it out. In a little rut right now. Keep grinding."

Also "unacceptable" were questionable baserunning decisions by Javier Baez, who was thrown out trying to steal third with two outs to end the fifth, and David Bote, who was picked off second to end the sixth.

Rizzo's pinch RBI single in the seventh tied the game 5-5, but Carl Edwards Jr. gave up the lead in the eighth and Randy Rosario was smacked around during the Padres' four-run ninth.

After Ben Zobrist homered off the video board in right field to lead off the bottom of the ninth and Jason Heyward coaxed a one-out walk, Baez struck out and Rizzo was called out on a 3-2 pitch.

Had Rizzo walked, the Cubs still would've had to score four runs to tie the game. But Rizzo's point was every pitch matters, especially when the wind is blowing out.

"This team is never out," he said. "We've seen it time and time again. That makes it even more frustrating, that a game could be called on that bad of a pitch."

Manager Joe Maddon agreed, saying it was an "egregiously bad call" by Hernandez.

"We could all see that," he said. "So that's why Anthony definitely wanted to say something. He wanted to point out how bad the call was, and he talked about it with (umpire Fieldin Culbreth) as well.

"We're fighting right there. The way the wind is blowing, you get a couple more baserunners and anything can happen. ... It was a tough call to end the game on."

Rizzo said Padres catcher Austin Hedges and Yates would agree with him that the pitch was "off" the plate.

"Things like that can't happen, and they happened all game," Rizzo said. "Nothing happens (to the umpires), and I have to answer questions from (the media): 'Why can't you hit? Why are you striking out? Why can't you hit in the clutch in the ninth inning?'"

"All these questions. It was literally ball four. It stinks that this now has to be news. Because Angel is such a good guy. I apologized to him in the 2016 NLCS for showing him up."

Rizzo was referring to Game 4 of the National League Championship Series against the Dodgers when he dropped his bat and headed to first base on a pitch Hernandez called a strike.

Rizzo apologized before his next at-bat, and Hernandez replied, "C'mon, you're good, bro." The moment was captured on video and played during the telecast. Many described it as an example of good sportsmanship.

Still, Rizzo thought he had to make a stand Sunday against what he deemed a "really unfortunate call," knowing in the end his voice would not be heard.

Like McMichael during the legendary stretch moment that has been viewed hundreds of thousands of times since on YouTube, Rizzo just felt he needed to vent.

"It's a hang-with-'em," he said. "Because nothing is going to happen."

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### **Chicago Tribune**

'It's not fun': Kris Bryant doesn't know when he'll be able to swing a bat as DL stint drags on  
By Paul Sullivan

It has been two weeks since Kris Bryant laid down his bat to calm the left shoulder inflammation that landed him on the disabled list.

Bryant said Sunday he doesn't know when he'll be able to swing the bat, much less go on a rehab stint to get his timing back.

“Just strengthening it and going through what the trainers are recommending,” he said. “I’m feeling pretty good. Time to recover is only going to help. They haven’t really talked about (a rehab stint). We’re just trying to be smart about it, and I think it’s something we can really knock out.”

Being on the disabled list for a second time is difficult to deal with, and Bryant isn’t inherently patient.

“It’s not fun,” he said. “It would be nice to miss only a couple games, but sometimes things take a little longer. It’s just unfortunate, but I think everybody has to go through it at some point of their career. It’s just another thing we all have to learn from.”

Asked if there were any long-term concerns, he replied: “None at all.” The only positive from Bryant’s absence has been the development of David Bote, who has proved he can be an everyday player in the majors.

“He’s been great,” Bryant said. “There are a lot of people on this team that are pretty dang good, the position players we have. He could’ve easily been up here earlier, or been here the whole time, but we have so many good players.”

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### **Chicago Tribune**

3 things we learned from the Cubs-Padres series

By Paul Sullivan

Here are three things we learned from the Cubs’ four-game split with the Padres at Wrigley Field:

#### 1. Aggressive baserunning can be a blessing and a curse.

Javier Baez was caught stealing third with two outs in the fifth on a call that was overturned. There was no need for Baez to be running in that situation with the Cubs trailing 5-3. David Bote was caught off second by catcher Austin Hedges with two on and two outs in the sixth. There was no need for Bote to be that far off second. Manager Joe Maddon wasn’t happy with either play, calling them “two of our best baserunners” making bad decisions. “There’s no questioning the fight,” Maddon said. “But I’m kind of a fundamentalist, and I want to be sure we’re staying aware of that.” On Saturday Anthony Rizzo also failed to run hard on a fly ball he thought was gone. It landed on the warning track and Rizzo had to hustle to reach second. That can’t happen in a pennant race.

#### 2. The Cubs are still livid over Alex Rodriguez’s criticism of Yu Darvish, and President Theo Epstein revealed he texted the ESPN analyst to tell him it was an inaccurate attack on his pitcher.

But Darvish’s sarcastic response, that if A-Rod texts him he’ll take a screenshot and print it and frame it as a keepsake, was the perfect way to diffuse the situation. The Yu vs. A-Rod saga has taken on a life of its own, so it should be interesting when Rodriguez comes to Wrigley Field next week for “Sunday Night Baseball.”

#### 3. The Cubs could really use another left-hander in the bullpen.

No, really. Rookie Randy Rosario walked the only hitter he faced Friday and was pummeled in the ninth inning Sunday, giving up four runs on four hits to put the game out of reach. Justin Wilson has a 9.82 ERA in six appearances since the All-Star break with a 1.909 WHIP. Brian Duensing was ineffective and now is on the disabled list with left shoulder inflammation. The solution is to move Mike Montgomery

from the rotation. It wouldn't be fair to Montgomery and there's no obvious replacement for him except the recently demoted Tyler Chatwood. But the Cubs do miss Montgomery's experience and ability to retire lefties in late-inning relief.

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### **Chicago Tribune**

Joe Maddon: It's 'hard to imagine' managers lasting as long as Angels' Mike Scioscia

By Paul Sullivan

Manager Mike Scioscia denied he was ending his 19-year career with the Angels, calling a report "poppycock."

Joe Maddon was a coach on Scioscia's staff earlier in his career, and had been a candidate for the Angels' job when Scioscia was hired.

Maddon said former Angels general manager Bill Stoneman "made the right decision" by choosing Scioscia over him. He hadn't spoken with Scioscia about the rumor first reported on The Athletic.

Scioscia, 59, is in the final year of a 10-year deal and has managed 19 consecutive seasons with the Angels. The only managers with more consecutive years in charge are Connie Mack (50 years), John McGraw (31), Walter Alston (23), and Bobby Cox and Tommy Lasorda (21 each).

Could Maddon see anyone managing that long nowadays?

"It's hard to imagine that," he said. "The nine years in Tampa Bay (was long). I've always thought seven-10 years was the right amount of time to do one job in one place. And then you can do another job in that place. Like if you elevate from bench coach to manager, or hitting coach to bench coach.

"But for me to do the same thing for that long, for me it would be difficult, quite frankly.

"So I think there's a mental shelf life involved in something like that. I think you want to be challenged. That's why going from bench coach from the Angels to manager of the Rays was really important in my development.

"You do this other job in a rote manager ... and you don't really have this opportunity to test your thoughts or your ideas because you're not making the final decision. Then you need to get to the point where you make the final decision, and now you're carrying your baby as opposed to holding somebody else.

"So all that stuff matters. Seven to 10 years is the appropriate time to do one thing in one place."

The end of Maddon's 5-year deal comes up after next season. There have been no public discussions about an extension, which seems likely to happen next year.

Just don't look for the 64-year Maddon to seek a 10-year deal.

"I don't think that would be appropriate," he said.

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## **Chicago Tribune**

Be like Pedro Strop? Cubs latest theme trip revolves around reliever's flashy outfits

By Paul Sullivan

The Cubs haven't had many costume theme trips this season, but they're going all-out Sunday with a Dress Like Pedro Strop trip to Kansas City.

"They came up with this Strop Day, and I was like 'Oh, man!'" Strop said. "There's going to be some flashy clothes."

The idea is to dress as flashy as you can, wear a lot of bling and have a cool hat that's cocked to the side.

"Some gold chains, obviously," Kris Bryant said. "Tight jeans. Sunglasses. He's got his hats he's passing out, and everyone's (wearing) bright shoes. I think overall just looking good.

"I think sometimes guys don't really try, but he's really tip-top. He takes his time when he puts on his outfits. It's been fun."

Strop credited catching coach Mike Borzello and director of team travel Vijay Tekchandani for the idea, and said he was honored by the tribute.

As for Strop, he just dressed as he always does.

"It's going to be normal for me," he said, adding he just looks in his closet and sees what looks best.

Strop is the kind of guy that takes it upon himself to help keep the clubhouse loose, even if the laughs are at his expense.

"Sometimes the guys are down, and I think I help them with my energy," he said. "It's just me. They accept me the way I am, and I love the way they accept it."

Manager Joe Maddon was upset his Egyptian snake gold necklace didn't arrive in the mail in time for Dress Like Pedro Strop Day.

"I gave them plenty of time to get here," Maddon fumed. "So it's not totally complete, but..."

Maddon said "nobody could actually be Pedro Strop but we all attempt to be." He also had a message for the fun police who get upset when hearing about theme trips, which he's been doing since he was managing in Tampa Bay.

"Lighten up a little bit, folks," Maddon said. "You get right now, and you're playing very difficult games and it's a tight game, so you start losing your mind a little bit.

"So just relax, play baseball and have some fun with it."

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## **Chicago Tribune**

Remember 8-8-88? How night baseball changed the Cubs and Wrigleyville

By Teddy Greenstein

The first word on the historic “Let there be lights” game at Wrigley Field goes to Bill Murray, who threw on some shades and stuck out his tongue moments before he joined Harry Caray for a pregame spot on WGN-9, on Aug. 8, 1988.

“I don’t know how I feel about night baseball,” Murray told Caray that rainy night. “It’s great in the minor leagues. But it’s someplace else to go in town besides your restaurant, which is a good thing.”

Years later Murray remembered the night like this: “I was able to get my hands on 25 tickets; they were the worst seats in the Wrigley Field right-field upper deck. My mom was exhausted by the time we got to the seats. And then the rain began, and it was coming out of the north right into our faces. The first batter hits a home run off (Rick) Sutcliffe, and then it got worse.

“It was supposed to be the first night game, and then the rug gets pulled out from you. It’s a good Chicago joke; I like it.”

We spoke to Cubs legends Ryne Sandberg and Rick Sutcliffe, team business President Crane Kenney, manager Joe Maddon, Ald. Tom Tunney, bar owner Beth Murphy, community activist Charlotte Newfeld and Steve Stone, who now broadcasts White Sox games but then was teamed with Caray.

We asked for memories leading to 8/8/88 and how night baseball has changed the franchise. Here goes:

Tribune Co. purchased the Cubs from William Wrigley in 1981 and began pushing to install lights. With neighborhood activists and tavern owners voicing concerns, the Illinois General Assembly and Chicago City Council passed legislation that effectively banned night games at Wrigley Field. Cubs management threatened to move to Schaumburg, and MLB officials floated moving hypothetical World Series games to a ballpark that could accommodate a prime-time TV audience.

Beth Murphy, owner of Murphy’s Bleachers: The Cubs sent out Dallas Green as their ambassador. He was interested in winning ballgames, not in talking to neighbors.

Charlotte Newfeld, chair of C.U.B.S (Citizens United for Baseball in Sunshine): About 3,500 people signed up. Our concern was that the whole neighborhood would get tied up with night games, and kids would have a difficult time going to sleep with the crowd noise on school nights. We love baseball, but the neighborhood and neighborhood businesses were too important. This shouldn’t turn into Wrigleyville; it’s East Lakeview.

Ald. Tom Tunney (44th Ward, which includes Wrigley Field): I was not an elected official at the time. I was involved as a business owner in terms of the negotiations for the lights. I felt it was a good thing, contrary to some of the electeds in the neighborhood at that time. It was my belief that if the Cubs did not get night games, they would have moved. And I wouldn’t have blamed them, to be honest with you. That being said, it does impact other businesses. People say: “There’s a night game at Wrigley. I’m going to Bucktown or North Center.” Whether it’s congestion or parking ... there is an impact on businesses and residents.

Crane Kenney, Cubs business president: People said: “You will absolutely ruin Wrigley Field.” Charlotte predicted doom and the whole neighborhood would decline. And obviously quite the opposite, the neighborhood is thriving.

Ryne Sandberg, Cubs second baseman, 1982-1997: Leading up to ’88, the talk within the organization was that lights were necessary to create a schedule more conducive to resting the home team, getting

us out of the sun. Before that, with some of those 10-day homestands with all day games (it was) in 90-plus temperatures.

Rick Sutcliffe, Cubs pitcher, 1984-1991: There's nothing better than playing a day game and going home to have dinner with your family. But when you come back from a West Coast trip, and let's say you had a long game ... sometimes we went straight from the airport to the ballpark. It's really difficult that whole homestand. You just feel wiped out. ... I would throw nine innings at Dodger Stadium and might lose anywhere from 2 to 4 pounds. There were times at Wrigley Field during that heat that I lost 10 to 15 pounds. I would love to go start a game to lose 15 right now!

Steve Stone, Cubs pitcher, 1974-76; Cubs announcer, 1983-2004: I think playing (home) day games all season long does wear down a ballclub. A lot went into the 108-year drought. Part of it, certainly for the first 80 years, was that they played all day games. If you get a hot summer in the Midwest, you're going to end up paying the price and you don't have any "helpers" these days like you did in the old days because of drug testing. I think it grinded down a lot of very good Cubs teams. In '69, '70 and '71 they essentially had the National League All-Star team and yet they couldn't seal the deal.

Sandberg: They tried 2:20 and 3 p.m. games the year before. We'd go into extra innings and it would be dusk so we couldn't finish. We'd go home with no winner in the game, come back at 9 the next morning, finish at noon and then start the next one. That was a very odd experience.

A city ordinance passes allowing for a maximum of 18 night games per season at Wrigley. The first night game is set for Monday, Aug. 8, 1988 against the Phillies. Sandberg bats second. Sutcliffe gets the ball. It's 91 degrees and humid.

Sutcliffe: It was the biggest event I've ever been involved in. Easily. That includes getting called up to the big leagues, the playoffs, throwing a shutout in the first game at Camden Yards and 10 opening days. My thought was: There would be more opening days. But there's never going to be another opening night. I got incredible phone calls before the playoffs in '84. From Bill Murray to Mark Harmon, to Alabama, the country music group. But it was 10 times that for opening night.

Phil Bradley takes Sutcliffe to Waveland Avenue on his third pitch of the night.

Sutcliffe: I don't talk to anybody the day I pitch. I rarely talk to my wife. Someone comes up to me and says: "We want the ball from the first pitch to go to the Hall of Fame. And we don't want to take a chance of losing it." He basically told me, with (catcher) Damon Berryhill standing there by me, if I throw the fastball eight inches off the outside corner, home plate umpire Eric Gregg will call it a strike. He normally calls that pitch a strike anyway.

As I turned to throw it, I thought my nerves had gotten me. I saw this big flash from people taking pictures. Harry Caray thought there was an explosion. I paint Berryhill's glove. (Gregg calls it a ball.) Years later I say to Eric Gregg: "Hey, what happened?!" He said: "I didn't want to be on record missing the first pitch." Bradley takes me out to the frickin' street and Bill Murray sees the lights and says: "Turn em off!"

A thunderstorm hits between the top and bottom of the fourth inning.

Newfeld: We went to the American Indian Center in Uptown. We said: Would it be insulting to you if we ask for a rain dance? They said: We don't do rain dances. We're from northern Wisconsin, we get enough rain.

Murphy: Chicago was in a drought that summer. There were dust storms and we were waiting for tumbleweed to go by. So when it started, it was kind of nice. It wasn't a little bit of rain; it was a statement. It was like God was making a commentary on the Cubs having night games. It was biblical.

Newfeld: God, she peed on Wrigley Field.

The game is called after a 2-hour, 10-minute delay. So Wrigley's first official night game is Aug. 9, 1988, a rain-free 6-4 Cubs triumph over the Mets. The crowd of 36,399 saw Frank DiPino get the victory and Rich Gossage get the save. Sid Fernandez took the loss for the Mets.

Murphy: I'm OK with the night games. People were concerned about how it would change the neighborhood, whether it would be more dangerous. People are afraid of the unknown. ... I have to say when the lights came in, it's a beautiful light in the neighborhood.

Joe Maddon, Cubs manager: There's something about the visual of the lit ballpark at night in a neighborhood. And then how well-maintained it is, the vibe created inside by the fans. All the bars and restaurants, the hotel, the little park surrounding it. It's a happening. I think Fenway is awesome but the way we have it set up right now, I think it's the best venue in the world probably for a professional event.

Stone: When you come to night games, you tend to do more what people do in the nighttime, which is go out and have a libation or two. Express yourself to your friends and the people around you. It became a little different crowd, but no less rabid.

Kenney: I said this once at a Cubs Convention: We have two principle obligations. The first is to win a championship; the second is to save Wrigley Field. And resources help us do both of those. As to the question, do we make more money for night games? I'd say it depends on the time of year. As most of us do spend our lives working, night games allow us to attract a larger audience in the ballpark, especially when kids go back to school. But the main driver here is flexibility in the schedule to allow the team to have the best chance of success.

Murphy: I don't think they should go crazy with the night games. I know they don't want any rules (restrictions) but I think they should adhere to some of their own tradition. I don't think it's a bad thing to be different.

The Cubs currently are limited to 43 night events, eight of which they are using on concerts.

Tunney: The Cubs don't want any restrictions ... but given the history of how this whole thing evolved there has to be somebody out there watching out for the peace of mind and quality of life for the families who live around the ballpark. It's in the middle of a bustling neighborhood. I've been to these other ballparks. Wrigley Field is different.

Kenney: Night games do not come up anymore as one of the topics that the community cares about. They care about crime, they care about schools, they care about traffic, they care about parking. Night games is not an issue. The league average is 54 night games. I would see us (wanting to be) somewhat below that number. Today we're at 43. It's just, why does one of the 30 teams have this handicap no other team has? Why are we not loosening this to make it easier for the club? We've witnessed what happens when we play in the playoffs and, with some good fortune, all the way through the World Series. It's a huge revenue driver for the city, creating thousands of jobs. So what is the opposition to night games? There is a cure without a disease.



Newfeld: Before night games came in, you had peddlers with interesting stuff. The neighborhood was much more varied and diverse. People without huge incomes don't want to pay \$8 for a hot dog. There's very little place for people who can afford a bleacher seat every once in a while.

Stone: I think it's a healthier franchise now; the players stay stronger longer. ... (Chairman) Tom Ricketts and his family have done a great job on the neighborhood. The ballpark looks as good as it possibly could considering its age. It was always fun to go to baseball games there; it's probably more fun now because there's a lot going on. The neighborhood is cleaner than it used to be. The hotel (Zachary) is gorgeous and the places around it are terrific. It always was a baseball mecca for the hard-core fans. Now it's a mecca for baseball and the modern fan. You come early, you leave late.

Maddon: Is the quality of play better? I think the quality of life is. You need rest to be at your optimal performance. I think you can tie the (Cubs') overall lack of success for so many years to all-day baseball combined with whatever the pregame was insisted upon. The guys had to be in a constant state of fatigue.

Sutcliffe: You think about your body over the course of the year (with all day games). It's just flat ... it's going to be worn down. I had those conversations with Ron Santo and Fergie (Jenkins) and Ernie Banks. Night games now, I think it's the perfect scenario for a player if they're set up right. You get that rest and then it sets up for a day game where you're home having dinner with your family at 6 o'clock. Or if you're Mark Grace, you're on a pub crawl for the rest of the night.

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### **Chicago Tribune**

The night that changed Cubs baseball forever  
By Paul Sullivan

An entire generation of Cubs fans has grown up with lights at Wrigley Field, and all those fears about the effect on night games on the neighborhood were put to sleep long ago.

Wednesday marks the 30th anniversary of the first night game, or 8-8-88 in shorthand, and the tributes will be flowing over one of the most hyped games in Cubs history.

It was indeed a great night from start to rainout, a cosmic joke that resulted in the first official night game being played the next day against the Mets.

We always will remember the light bulbs flashing when Rick Sutcliffe made his first pitch, Morganna the Kissing Bandit trespassing on the field to try unsuccessfully to kiss Ryne Sandberg (although the WGN-9 telecast missed her running onto the field), the brass section of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra playing "Also Sprach Zarathustra," the old man pushing a button and pronouncing "Let there be Lights," and the Cubs players who performed belly flops on the wet tarp during the rain delay.

Of course what most people don't remember is the years-long build-up to 8-8-88, the raucous debate over whether lights would ruin the neighborhood and/or the aura of Cubs baseball. Yellow T-shirts and placards reading "No Lights at Wrigley Field" were ubiquitous, and people argued in bar rooms and on beaches, in the city council and in the state legislature. There was no middle ground.

In the summer of 1982, six years before the first night game, I wrote an article for the Tribune on a fan group called C.U.B.S., an acronym for "Citizens United for Baseball in Sunshine." One of the group's founders said "this whole neighborhood would fall apart with night baseball. We'd pack up and move. I

don't want my daughter exposed to someone out in the alley peeing on my car. We just don't want those kinds of people around."

Anyone who still lives in the neighborhood has seen their value of their house go up a million-fold since the early 1980s, which is a fair trade-off for having a few people use the alley as a urinal.

There were threats of moving the Cubs to Schaumburg, which no one took seriously, and of moving postseason games to St. Louis if the Cubs made the playoffs, which got everyone's attention. Fortunately we never had to see that occur because the 1985 Cubs were beset by pitching injuries and flopped early on. The Cubs didn't contend again until 1989, when they won the National League East and played their first night playoff game at Wrigley on Oct. 4, losing 11-3 to the Giants in the National League Championship Series.

That first night game was filled with celebrities, but I remember talking to a 65-year-old season-ticket holder from Rogers Park named Cele Rooney, who said the atmosphere was even better than the 1945 World Series.

"I don't think the media, especially without TV, hyped it as much back then," Rooney said. "You know, I was here for Gabby Hartnett's homer in the gloamin', and that was exciting, but a lot darker."

Then the rains came and everyone blamed it on God or Cubbie karma, thinking they were the only ones to come up with that theory. At least 13 fans ran out onto the field to take head-first slides on the tarp, imitating a scene from the film "Bull Durham," which had been released a couple of months earlier. One of them ran into the third-base wall while trying to escape security and left on a stretcher. Some fans applauded. After all, the party started in the afternoon, and a little rain was not going to stop things.

Watching the fun on the clubhouse TV, Jody Davis, Les Lancaster and Greg Maddux decided to take a slide themselves, much to the chagrin of manager Don Zimmer. They were greeted with much applause as well, and unlike the fans didn't have to go to Town Hall with the local police.

The night was an unqualified success, even with the rain. Those who scalped tickets got soaked, literally and figuratively, but no one seemed to care. The official first night game, which was the next day on 8-9-88, was extremely forgettable and anticlimactic.

Thirty years later, we can look back and laugh about all the animosity, the lame predictions and the chest-thumping by the Cubs over their "win" in the long-running debate. The Cubs wound up winning their championship 28 years after installing lights, so I guess it worked.

But just Friday afternoon I heard manager Joe Maddon talk about how his players looked "wilted" playing on a comfortable night Thursday evening. Thirty years ago the lights were supposed to solve that problem. Go figure.

Would the Cubs have won it all eventually if they never had installed lights at Wrigley Field?

The Cubs obviously will tell you no, but we'll never know.

Hopefully the tradition of day baseball carries on for the next generation, with a fixed amount of night games to pacify the Cubs' owners.

Traditions still matter, at least in this town.

