



# CHICAGO CUBS DAILY CLIPS

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July 8, 2018

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<https://chicago.suntimes.com/sports/cubs-erase-two-five-run-deficits-to-beat-reds-8-7/>
- Chicago Sun-Times, **Kris Bryant flashes power as Cubs await his return**  
<https://chicago.suntimes.com/sports/bryant-flashes-power-as-cubs-await-return/>
- Daily Herald, **Comeback kids! Chicago Cubs rally again to overcome another poor Chatwood start**  
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<https://theathletic.com/424015/2018/07/07/javy-baez-comeback-cubs-work-their-magic-again-in-8-7-win-over-reds/>
- Cubs.com, **Cubs rediscover mojo, erase late 5-run deficit**  
<https://www.mlb.com/cubs/news/cubs-rally-from-five-down-to-beat-reds/c-284691586>
- Cubs.com, **Heyward exits after taking foul ball to groin**  
<https://www.mlb.com/cubs/news/jason-heyward-exits-after-hit-by-foul-ball/c-284687022>
- Cubs.com, **Bryant (shoulder) close to rehab games**  
<https://www.mlb.com/cubs/news/kris-bryant-close-to-playing-rehab-games/c-284678368>
- NBC Sports Chicago, **Another Cubs game, another Javier Baez highlight reel**  
<https://www.nbcsports.com/chicago/cubs/another-cubs-game-another-javier-baez-highlight-reel>
- NBC Sports Chicago, **Kris Bryant close to return, Maddon ready to play 'Lineup Roulette'**  
<https://www.nbcsports.com/chicago/cubs/kris-bryant-close-return-maddon-ready-play-lineup-roulette>
- Chicago Tribune, **Cubs' Kris Bryant headed out soon on minor-league rehab assignment**  
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/baseball/cubs/ct-spt-cubs-kris-bryant-rehab-assignment-20180707-story.html>

- Chicago Tribune, **Cubs' Joe Maddon plans to lighten catcher Willson Contreras' workload with return of Victor Caratini**  
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/baseball/cubs/ct-spt-cubs-willson-contreras-victor-caratini-workload-20180707-story.html>
- Chicago Tribune, **Javier Baez burnishes All-Star resume while helping spark Cubs' rally for 8-7 win over Reds**  
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/baseball/cubs/ct-spt-cubs-reds-20180707-story.html>

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### **Chicago Sun-Times**

Cubs score four in eighth to rally past Reds 8-7

By Tom Musick

By the time Javy Baez walked from the on-deck circle to the batter's box, the crowd's chant had swelled into a roar.

Ja-vy! Ja-vy! Ja-vy!

"It pumps me [up]," Baez said. "But at the same time, I've got to stay focused."

Moments later, the Cubs' most dazzling player delivered yet again. He connected on his fourth hit of the game with an infield single that evened the score at 7. Anthony Rizzo followed with an RBI groundout to cap a wild 8-7 comeback win against the Reds on Saturday.

The Cubs trailed by five runs twice (5-0 and 7-2) and overcame another erratic performance by Tyler Chatwood. Each of the team's last eight wins have been in come-from-behind fashion.

"I love the fight," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "I thought we had great at-bats all game."

Baez provided several of those great at-bats. He singled in the third and the fifth before going deep to lead off the seventh for his 17th home run, which tied Kyle Schwarber for the team lead.

Despite his early production, the Cubs trailed 7-4 entering the eighth.

That's when they loaded the bases on walks to Victor Caratini and Addison Russell and a pinch-hit single by David Bote. Ben Zobrist then ripped a two-run double to left-center field to trim the deficit to 7-6.

After Albert Almora Jr. struck out, Baez hit a comebacker that Reds pitcher Jared Hughes couldn't handle. Bote broke for home to score the tying run, and Zobrist scored the go-ahead run on Rizzo's grounder to second.

The rally surprised no one in the Cubs' clubhouse.

"That's what we do," Baez said. "We fight until the end. We've been coming back since 2016, we've been doing this. We've just got to realize who we've got in our lineup. It doesn't matter how many runs we're down. I think we can do a lot of damage if we turn the page to the next guy."

The comeback prevented a loss for Chatwood, who gave up seven runs, nine hits and four walks in 5⅓ innings. He also threw back-to-back wild pitches that allowed two runs to score in the first.

Chatwood said he felt fine after throwing a career-high 120 pitches. He heard several rounds of boos from the crowd.

"I can't control what they do," Chatwood said. "If I pitch good, they'll probably cheer. So I guess pitch better is the moral of that story."

Baez finished 4-for-5 with a home run, two RBI and a stolen base. He leads the team with 26 multihit games and is batting .465 (20-for-43) with three home runs and 12 RBI in his last 10 games. It's not bad timing with All-Star rosters set to be announced Sunday night.

"I think he should be [an All-Star], and I think the fans would want it," Maddon said. "How could you not have him on the All-Star team? How could you not want him on the All-Star team? That's what they're attempting to showcase, MLB-wise, to draw the young fans into the game are players like Javy.

"He has a mass appeal, not only among us, I think in baseball in general. People want to see Javy at this game. ... I have to believe, I want to believe, he's got to get on that team somehow. Because you can look at numbers all you want, but that's what people want to see. They want to see Baez play baseball."

Especially in big moments.

"That's what it's about," Bote said. "Javy embraces that. He thrives on it. He's a special player."

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### **Chicago Sun-Times**

Kris Bryant flashes power as Cubs await his return

By Tom Musick

A group of fans and tourists sat in the left-field bleachers several hours before the game Saturday and listened to a Wrigley Field tour guide speak about the stadium and its history.

Suddenly, someone let out an excited shriek. A batting-practice home run ball flew toward the group, prompting a sudden scramble for the souvenir after it landed several feet away.

The blast was one of several off the bat of Kris Bryant, who took live batting practice as he approaches a return from an injured left shoulder that has sidelined him since June 23. He sat out his 13th game since going on the disabled list.

Cubs manager Joe Maddon said Bryant likely will head to the minor leagues for a rehabilitation assignment, although he didn't yet know when or where.

"I talked to him yesterday on the bench, and he's feeling a lot better," Maddon said. "I talked to him specifically about take your swings, and then we'll figure it out, try to figure out how many at-bats you may need to feel comfortable coming back and playing with us. That's going to be the next step.

"[He's] probably going to go somewhere, get some at-bats. We did not decide or determine how many, and I want to leave that up to him. Basically, how do you feel? Are you seeing the ball well? Does your shoulder feel good? Those kind of things."

Before his first career trip to the disabled list, Bryant was hitting .280 with nine home runs and 36 RBI in 66 games.

What a relief

It's hard to imagine how the Cubs' 8-7 win over the Reds could have gone better for Randy Rosario.

He improved to 4-0 after throwing 2⅓ innings of scoreless relief in place of Tyler Chatwood. His consistency gave the Cubs a chance to come back with one run in the sixth, one in the seventh and four in the eighth.

Rosario also collected his first big-league hit with a run-scoring single to right-center field in the sixth.

"Randy was outstanding," Maddon said. "He has pitched well for us, but that was one of his better outings overall, and then it puts us in a position to win the game."

Tell me what happens

Albert Almora Jr. didn't hesitate when asked whether he would check out the All-Star Game selection show Sunday.

"No, I won't be watching," said Almora, who ranks among baseball's leaders with a .324 batting average. "I'm just focused on these games we've got left. I really can't think of personal stuff right now, personal accolades. I'll find out if something happens, trust me."

Almora is one of several Cubs in the running for a spot on the All-Star team. But the 24-year-old could face a tougher path to be included because he wasn't listed on the fans' ballot or the players' ballot.

Almora didn't start Saturday, but he replaced Jason Heyward in the fourth. Heyward left after taking a foul ball to the groin, and his status for the series finale Sunday is uncertain.

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### **Daily Herald**

Comeback kids! Chicago Cubs rally again to overcome another poor Chatwood start  
By Bruce Miles

The record shows that the Chicago Cubs have come from behind in each of their last 8 victories.

Javier Baez, who has helped author a few of those comebacks, added the title of historian to his role of author after Saturday's stunning 8-7 victory over the Cincinnati Reds at Wrigley Field.

"We've been coming back since 2016; we've been doing this," said Baez, whose RBI single in the Cubs' 4-run eighth inning tied the game at 7-7. Anthony Rizzo then had a run-scoring groundout to put the Cubs ahead.

"We've just got to realize who we've got in our lineup," Baez continued. "It doesn't matter how many runs we're down. I think we can do a lot of damage if we turn the page to the next guy."

The Cubs entered the eighth inning down 7-4, thanks in large part to another poor outing by their starting pitcher Tyler Chatwood. More about him in a second.

The offense -- along with relievers Randy Rosario (4-0) and Brandon Morrow (20th save) -- picked up Chatwood by drawing a pair of walks in the eighth against lefty reliever Amir Garrett. Rookie pinch hitter David Bote singled to load the bases.

Ben Zobrist, who knows a few things about clutch hits (see the 2016 World Series), doubled to the opposite field against right-hander Jared Hughes, setting the stage for Baez (4-for-5 with a home run on the day) and Rizzo.

"And that guy's tough on Zo right there, that sinkerball down and away," said manager Joe Maddon, whose team is 50-36. "It's part of what we've been doing. If he's trying to pull that ball, it's a double play, and everything is not being talked about.

"But he went with it. And that's what we've been doing. We've been avoiding rollover double plays a bit."

Now for the reason the Cubs needed a comeback.

Chatwood found himself in trouble early and often Saturday. He uncorked a pair of back-to-back wild pitches in the first inning, each one bringing home a Reds runner from third. He gave up a 3-run homer to Eugenio Suarez in the third, as the Reds took a 5-0 lead.

With a bullpen he didn't want to overtax, Maddon extended Chatwood to a career-high 120 pitches over 5½ innings. Chatwood gave up 9 hits and 7 runs while walking four and striking out four as his ERA went from 4.54 to 5.01. His WHIP is an astronomical 1.78, and he has not turned in a quality start since April 29.

"We've got to keep working, we got to keep talking to him," Maddon said. "It wasn't the walk as much, although the walk was definitely part of it, but then again, they got some big hits against him, the 3-run homer on a slider that was left middle-in. It all comes down to execution. If he's feeling good about his fastball command, he's not going to make those same mistakes.

"There's stuff to work through, I'm not denying that. But, God, he fights. He just fights. He's a fighter. I love him for it. We've just got to get all the delivery, strike-throwing stuff straightened out."

Chatwood said he was happy his teammates picked him up again.

"We're winning games, so you can't be too frustrated," he said. "Selfishly, if you wanted to, yeah, I'm very frustrated, but we're winning games, so I think that's all that matters right now."

Chatwood also heard boos from the crowd of 41,538.

"I can't control what they do," he said. "If I pitch good, they'll probably cheer. I guess pitch better is the moral of that story."

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## **Daily Herald**

Lester figures to lead Chicago Cubs' all-star contingent

By Bruce Miles

The rosters for the American League and National League all-star teams will be announced at 6 p.m. Sunday, and the Chicago Cubs should be well represented.

Catcher Willson Contreras had moved into the lead over the San Francisco Giants' Buster Posey in fan balloting, and second baseman Javier Baez was within striking distance of a spot. It's possible center fielder Albert Almora Jr. could be added as a reserve or placed on the fans' final ballot.

One shoo-in should be Sunday's starting pitcher Jon Lester, who takes a record of 11-2 and an ERA of 2.25 against the Cincinnati Reds.

Lester, 34, is doing this as the second half of his six-year, \$155 million deal has kicked in.

"He's just such a reliable guy," Cubs president Theo Epstein said. "Anytime you sign a free-agent contract, you feel like the first half of the contract is where you get the majority of your value, and you hope for contributions in the second half of the contract."

"As he has started the second half of his deal this year, to perform the way that he has is just a huge testament to his work ethic, his desire, how much he wants to win. I think he's a guy who really competes with himself to pitch in a manner that he can be proud of, and he's certainly done that."

Baez, who upped his line to .294/.327/.565 on Saturday, said he would love to make it.

"I'm sure every player wants to be in the All-Star Game," he said. "It is what it is. If I got the number to go, hopefully I go. That's one of my goals."

Baez hit his 17th homer of the season Saturday in the Cubs' 8-7 victory over the Reds. That ties him for the team lead with Kyle Schwarber.

Bryant steps it up:

Third baseman Kris Bryant took early batting practice on the field Saturday morning and then fielded grounders.

It's more than likely Bryant soon will head out on a minor-league rehab assignment as he finishes his time on the disabled list from inflammation in his left shoulder.

"I talked to him (Friday) on the bench, and he's feeling a lot better," manager Joe Maddon said. "Just talking specifically about, 'Take your swing and then we'll figure it out and try to figure out how many you need, how many at-bats you may need to feel comfortable coming back and playing with us.' That's going to be the next step."

This and that:

Jason Heyward, who started in center field, left the game in the fourth inning after taking a foul ball to the groin in the bottom of the third. ... Brandon Morrow is the first Cubs pitcher with at least 20 saves before the all-star break since Kerry Wood had 24 in 2008. ... Reliever Randy Rosario tied a career high with 2⅓ innings pitched and also collected his first career hit and RBI with a single in the sixth. He leads all Cubs relievers with 4 wins.

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## **Daily Herald**

Rozner: Chicago Cubs' rotation better get the job done

By Barry Rozner

Theo Epstein always has the cavalry standing by just in case.

Do not doubt that the Chicago Cubs president will do what's necessary to ensure the Cubs' best opportunity to win another World Series, assuming he believes his team capable of winning in 2018.

But he sent a message to his starting rotation Friday at Wrigley Field, letting his staff know that backup might not be coming and should not be necessary.

"You're always looking to fortify and to add a little bit," Epstein said. "You always have Plan B and Plan C in case of injury or really bad performance, but there's no way we're going to go out and acquire starters the caliber of a locked-in Kyle Hendricks or a locked-in Jose Quintana.

"The majority of our answers lie within. That's how we're looking at it."

In other words, the guys who are here have to do their jobs or the Cubs will be facing some problems in the postseason.

Epstein spent a lot of money -- and, in the case of Quintana, traded significant prospects -- to build a rotation worthy of a ring, and to this point it hasn't been pretty.

As they sit here right now, which starters do the Cubs feel good about going into October?

Jon Lester, period.

Over his last 6 starts, Hendricks is 1-4 with a 6.75 ERA and averaging less than 5 innings with a WHIP of 1.67.

Over his last 8 starts, Quintana is 2-3 with a 3.95 ERA and averaging a little more than 5 innings with a WHIP of 1.34.

Over his last 4 starts, Mike Montgomery is 1-1 with a 4.50 ERA and averaging 5 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings with a WHIP of 1.59.

Over his last 8 starts, Tyler Chatwood is 0-2 with a 7.25 ERA and averaging 4 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings with a WHIP of 2.14 because of his absurd walk rate, though you could take any sample you want from Chatwood's season.

"We'll learn a lot more over the next few weeks," Epstein said. "There are a couple guys in some ruts that we expect to get out of and get locked in, but we need to see more."

The Cubs hope Yu Darvish will be back sometime in August, but there is no genuine timeline for his return while he rehabs from injury.

"Based on the reports we got, there's no structural damage or anything serious in there," Epstein said. "It might not be on the timeline that we all hope, but we're all very optimistic he's going to make a solid contribution."

Just having passed the midway point of the season, there's plenty of time left for Cubs starters to figure it out, but this was supposed to be a top-five rotation, and it has not pitched to a level approaching that.

In the meantime, the bullpen is going to be worn out by the time August arrives, with the team fifth in baseball in average relief innings per game. If the current pace continues, the Drew Smyly project becomes all the more relevant.

The Cubs signed Smyly as a 2019 option since he's only a year off Tommy John right now, but if he's ready to go in the second half the Cubs have to consider him as a rotation piece this year.

"We're probably going to stretch him out on a rehab assignment. We'll see how he's feeling," Epstein said. "We'll see what our needs are when he comes back, but it makes sense to give him a prolonged outing.

"I don't think he's going to get to a point where he's going super deep in games. That's more for next year, but it makes sense to get him some reps and see how he responds to multiple innings."

In other words, the Cubs will take whatever they can get, because it can't be worse than what they've seen from most of their rotation over the last month and for much of the season.

If Smyly is effective the Cubs will be happy to have him, and depending on where Darvish is in his comeback, it could mean a trip back to the bullpen for Montgomery or a move of Chatwood out of the rotation.

However you do the math, the Cubs need better starting pitching, and it needs to happen soon or Epstein may have to search the market for options.

It was expected that the bullpen would need fortification this season, but the rotation was not supposed to be an issue.

Thus, Epstein's message to the starters Friday, which was do your jobs because answers from the outside will not be easy to find.

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### **The Athletic**

Chatwood struggles, Báez delivers, and the Comeback Cubs validate their reputation  
By Sahadev Sharma

In a stretch filled with comeback victories, the Cubs pulled off one of their most memorable of the season, a thrilling 8-7 win over the Cincinnati Reds on Saturday afternoon. The Cubs overcame two five-run deficits and starter Tyler Chatwood slogging through 5 2/3 innings of work (120 pitches) and giving up seven earned runs.

Chatwood's struggles continue to be an issue, as his ERA ballooned to 5.01 on the season amid more calls for him to be removed from the rotation. But despite allowing seven runs for the second consecutive start, Chatwood can thank a relentless offense that helped the Cubs notch their 27th comeback victory of the season.

Javier Báez added to his All-Star resume by knocking four hits, including a home run and an RBI single that tied the score at seven in the eighth inning. During his press conference after the game, Báez donned a bright yellow shirt and a pair of gold chains, one of which appropriately hung from his neck with a diamond-encrusted star.



“That’s what we do,” Báez said. “We fight till the end. We’ve been coming back since 2016 we’ve been doing this. We just gotta realize who we got in our lineup. It don’t matter how many runs we’re down. We can do a lot of damage if we turn the page to the next guy.”

Of the Cubs’ 13 hits, Báez’s solo shot was the lone home run, and the offense raised its batting average and on-base percentage to .267 and .347, respectively, both tops in baseball. They’ve reached double-digit hits in eight of their last 10 games, and have scored at least five runs in nine of their last 10. After losing five straight nearly two weeks ago, they’ve won eight of 10, climbing back to a season-best 14 games over .500.

David Bote — who is in Chicago only because of Kris Bryant’s DL stint — had a big pinch-hit single in that fateful eighth inning to load up the bases with no outs and eventually scored the tying run while flashing some strong base-running skills.

“It’s fantastic,” Bote said. “The quality at-bats the whole last two weeks have been so exciting and so fun to be a part of and watch. Everybody’s in the same at-bat with them. That’s the team mentality of it all. We got it done today. We put the pressure on them yesterday too. We had a chance to win it there. It’s not always going to go the way you [want], but the quality at-bats and the pressure we put on the pitchers is what we can ask for.”

Manager Joe Maddon has been harping on how he wants to see his team spray the ball to all fields. And in an era when strikeouts are at an all-time high, the organization seems to be preaching the philosophy of contact. Pitchers throw home runs, Maddon likes to say, so with the proper approach and a contact-oriented mindset, the Cubs will access their natural power while also forcing the other team to constantly be on their toes because of their ability to put the ball in play.

The Cubs are only 18th in baseball in contact rate, but they are tied for third with a 9.8 percent walk rate and strike out just 21 percent of the time, 21st in the game. That adds up to a lot of men on base with enough balls in play to make a defense work. Saturday was a perfect example of that as the Cubs continually hit the ball hard, but struggled to find that big hit early. Then it all broke through for them in the eighth.

“I love the fight,” Maddon said. “I thought we had great at-bats all game. Hit a lot of balls well at people. That’s been happening a little bit. Both sides wanted to win. We got it in the end.”

Perhaps nothing demonstrated the Cubs’ dramatic change in their approach better than Ben Zobrist’s bases-loaded at-bat in the eighth. On a Jared Hughes sinker below the zone, Zobrist lined the ball to left-center and cut the deficit to one.

“That guy’s tough on Zo right there,” Maddon said. “That sinker ball down and away. It’s part of what we’ve been doing. If he’s trying to pull that ball, it’s a double play and everything is not being talked about. But he went with it. That’s what we’ve been doing. We’ve been avoiding rollover double plays a bit.”

Hughes said that he executed the pitch exactly where he wanted it. It just didn’t go his way.

“Zobrist did an incredible job getting underneath that ball,” Hughes said. “I put it below the zone exactly where I wanted it down there hoping to get the ground ball. He got underneath it and got it into the outfield. I have to tip my cap there.”

It was hardly the first, and won't be the last time the Cubs force the opponent to tip their caps. And once again, they watched in awe as Báez continued to show why he's All-Star worthy. His solo home run in the seventh brought the deficit down to three, his ability to make contact in a big situation in the eighth tied the game up and his baserunning kept Anthony Rizzo's go-ahead RBI ground-out from being an inning-ending double play.

When he steps to the plate in a big moment or pulls off the unbelievable on defense, inevitably, the Wrigley Field crowd erupts with chants of "Javy! Javy!"

"You love it," Bote said of the chants. "That's what it's about. Javy embraces it, he thrives on it. He's a special player. The fans recognize that. There's nothing else to say. He's just a special player."

Báez said getting to the All-Star Game was one of his goals and Maddon wondered how he possibly couldn't get there. After another great day at the plate, Báez has a 132 wRC+, 17 home runs and continues to wow in the infield. But in his manager's eyes, it's about so much more than numbers.

"I think he should be and I think the fans would want it. How could you not have him on the All-Star Team? How could you not want him on the All-Star Team?" Maddon said. "That's what you're attempting to showcase, MLB-wise, to draw young fans into the game. Players like Javy. He has a mass appeal.

"I have to believe, I want to believe, he's gotta get on that team somehow. You could look at numbers all you want, but that's what people want to see. They want to see Báez play baseball."

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### **Cubs.com**

Cubs rediscover mojo, erase late 5-run deficit

By Carrie Muskat

In the decisive four-run eighth inning, Javier Baez hit a game-tying RBI single, Ben Zobrist delivered a clutch two-run double and Anthony Rizzo drove in the go-ahead run on a groundout to spark the Cubs to an 8-7 comeback victory over the Reds on Saturday at Wrigley Field.

"I love the fight," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said.

With the Cubs trailing 7-4 in the eighth, Reds reliever Amir Garrett walked Victor Caratini and Addison Russell before serving up a single to David Bote to load the bases. Garrett was lifted for Jared Hughes, whom Zobrist greeted with his double. One out later, Baez hit a comebacker to Hughes, who fell trying to pick up the ball.

"I just didn't make the play to Baez," Hughes said. "It was right there in my glove. I made an error."

Bote scored on Baez's infield hit to tie the game at 7. Rizzo then grounded out to second, driving in Zobrist with the go-ahead run.

It was the Cubs' 27th come-from-behind win this season. Chicago has rallied in each of its last eight victories, the longest streak by a Cubs team since May 27-June 3, 2008.

"That's what we do," Baez said. "That's what we do, we fight to the end. We've been coming back since 2016, we've been doing this. We just have to realize who we have in our lineup. It doesn't matter how many runs we're down. I think we can do a lot of damage if we turn the page to the next guy."

Baez always seems to be in the middle of such rallies.

"You have to have your head on a swivel, knowing where he is all the time," Maddon said. "His at-bats have exponentially gotten better. Even with the dribbler [to Hughes], at least he made contact."

The crowd of 41,538 was chanting "Ja-vy, Ja-vy" during his at-bat in the eighth. He delivered, even if the ball only went 52 feet.

"It pumps me, but at the same time, I have to stay focused," Baez said. "Knowing the situation is key for me. I thought [Hughes] was going to throw me a first-pitch fastball there. I had the right approach to make contact. When you make contact, good things happen."

Added Reds interim manager Jim Riggleman: "Baez is on fire. It seems like if he's not getting a hit, he's putting the ball on the barrel anyway, somewhere, and hitting balls very hard throughout the series."

The Cubs have scored 166 runs in the seventh inning or later in games.

Baez had led off the seventh with a home run. One year ago, he recorded 10 homers and 33 RBIs in the first half; he now has 17 and 63 this season and will find out Sunday if he was named to the NL All-Star team.

"I'm sure every player wants to be in the All-Star Game," Baez said. "That's one of my goals. We'll see what happens."

#### MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Kyle Schwarber singled to open the Cubs' fourth and scored on Caratini's double. Caratini, promoted from Triple-A Iowa on Wednesday, reached third on an error by shortstop Jose Peraza and then scored on Russell's groundout to cut the deficit to 5-2.

Caratini was starting in place of catcher Willson Contreras, who Maddon says will likely not start more than three days in a row.

#### WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

The Reds lead the Majors in walks. So does Chicago starter Tyler Chatwood. The right-hander issued four free passes and two run-scoring wild pitches over 5 2/3 innings to raise his Major League-leading walks total to 70. He was lifted after throwing a career-high 120 pitches and, unfortunately, greeted by boos from the Wrigley Field crowd.

"You never want to hear that," Maddon said. "I understand when the fans get frustrated. When you're sitting in the dugout and know the guy as well as you do, it's frustrating to us. He'll tell you he probably thought he might have deserved it. Heck, I've gotten booed taking pitchers out of games, I've gotten booed walking out to take a pitcher out of a game. I think it means somebody cares."

Added Chatwood: "We're winning games, so you can't be too frustrated. Selfishly, if you wanted to, yeah, [I'm] very frustrated. We're winning games, and that's all that matters now. ... I can't control what [the fans] do. If I pitch good, they'll probably cheer. I guess pitch better."

## SOUND SMART

The Cubs (50-36) have reached 50 wins prior to the All-Star break for the seventh time in franchise history.

## YOU GOTTA SEE THIS

Randy Rosario has become a force in the Cubs' bullpen. Maybe he needs more at-bats. In the sixth, Russell blooped a double to right that dropped between Scott Schebler and second baseman Scooter Gennett. In his second career plate appearance, Rosario singled to center to score Russell. It was his first Major League hit and RBI. In his only other plate appearance, Rosario walked.

## INJURY UPDATE

Cubs outfielder Jason Heyward fouled a ball off his groin area during his at-bat in the third inning and exited the game after grounding out.

## HE SAID IT

"How could you not have him on the All-Star team? How could you not want him on the All-Star team? That's what we're attempting to showcase Major League Baseball-wise to draw young fans into the game are players like Javy. He has mass appeal. People want to see Javy at this game. They see him in the World Baseball Classic and he's very popular there. I have to believe, I want to believe, he'll get on that team somehow. You can look at numbers all you want, but that's what people want to see, they want to see Baez play baseball." -- Maddon on Baez

## UP NEXT

Jon Lester will start the series finale against the Reds. Lester won his seventh in a row in his last outing against the Twins after giving up two earned runs over five-plus innings. He also contributed at the plate, hitting a three-run homer to highlight an eight-run second inning. He's 5-1 with a 1.49 ERA in eight home starts. The Reds will counter with Luis Castillo. First pitch is scheduled for 1:20 p.m. CT from Wrigley Field.

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## **Cubs.com**

Heyward exits after taking foul ball to groin  
By Matthew Martell

CHICAGO -- Jason Heyward was removed from Saturday's 8-7 victory over the Reds at Wrigley Field after his third-inning at-bat in which he fouled a ball off his groin. Albert Almora Jr. replaced Heyward in center field to start the fourth.

Heyward grimaced in pain but finished off the at-bat, grounding out to first base before leaving the game 0-for-2.

Since coming off the disabled list on May 18, Heyward is batting .312/.348/.474 over 41 games, including Saturday.

"That got him in a very unfortunate spot," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said.

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## **Cubs.com**

Bryant (shoulder) close to rehab games

By Carrie Muskat

CHICAGO -- The Cubs' Kris Bryant appears to be close to a rehab assignment.

Bryant, who has been sidelined since June 23 because of inflammation in his left shoulder, took batting practice on the field and did some defensive drills on Saturday at Wrigley Field.

Cubs manager Joe Maddon talked to Bryant on the bench on Friday.

"I talked to him specifically about taking your swings and we'll try to figure out how many at-bats you may need to feel comfortable coming back to play with us," Maddon said Saturday.

"We did not decide or determine how many [at-bats in the Minors] -- I want to leave that up to him. Basically, 'How do you feel? Are you seeing the ball well? Does your shoulder feel good?' [We talked about] those kind of things."

Where Bryant will play has yet to be determined. The Triple-A Iowa team is currently in Nashville, then has Monday through Wednesday off for the Pacific Coast League All-Star Game. Double-A Tennessee will be home next week against Montgomery and Class A Advanced Myrtle Beach will be home against Carolina. Class A South Bend is at Lansing on Monday, off Tuesday, then home Wednesday against Beloit.

Darvish to travel

Yu Darvish (right triceps tendinitis) will accompany the Cubs on their next road trip to San Francisco and San Diego. There's no date set for when he will resume throwing.

"Let him dictate to us how you're feeling and then we'll start to create the rest of the program," Maddon said. "He's talking good and feeling better, and that's the best sign."

A declining run game

Players aren't running as much as they used to, and Maddon has noticed a difference. In 2008, the Rockies led the National League with 141 steals; last year, the Brewers were first in the NL with 128. The Cubs totaled 87 stolen bases in '08, 62 last season.

"Part of it is the analytical component of the game where you don't want to make outs on the bases," Maddon said.

The Nationals' Trea Turner, the Reds' Billy Hamilton and the Braves' Ozzie Albies are players who can run. Atlanta's Ender Inciarte and Washington's Michael A. Taylor currently lead the NL with 23 thefts apiece.

"I like basestealing," Maddon said. "I like speed in the game. I think it's gotten away from that in general terms. It's been more of a bludgeoning kind of thing, whether it's hitting or pitching. I do like finesse. Billy Hamilton is a pain. When he gets on base, he's almost always going to score. I know the opposition feels the same way about Javy [Baez]."

"I think it's a game changer, and I love it," Maddon said. "I do hope we see a resurgence in the basestealer."

Baez leads the Cubs with 15 stolen bases. No other player is in double digits.

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## **NBC Sports Chicago**

Another Cubs game, another Javier Baez highlight reel

By Chris Kuc

Another Cubs game, another Javier Baez highlight reel.

The infielder continued to prove he is among the most exciting players in baseball during the Cubs' scintillating 8-7 victory over the Reds on Saturday afternoon at Wrigley Field.

Baez went 4-for-5 with a home run, two RBIs and a stolen base to help the Cubs twice rally from five-run deficits and snap a five-game losing skid to the Reds. In his last 10 games, Baez is batting .465 with 12 RBIs and 13 runs and now leads the Cubs with 26 multi-hit games. He continues to dazzle at the plate, in the field and on the base paths.

"I can't think of a player who is any more instinctual or is any more exciting than him," Cubs President Theo Epstein said. "Those are some great qualities to have. I don't think he gets enough credit for his pure baseball intelligence. He sees the game so well. His innate sense of timing and anticipation is really unrivaled. He's someone you don't take your eyes off on the field. Those guys don't come around very often."

The Cubs are fortunate Baez is around these days as he continues to help the offense bail out a starting pitching staff that save for Jon Lester has continued to struggle. On Saturday it was Tyler Chatwood who got off the hook as Baez belted his 17th homer of the season—tied with Kyle Schwarber for tops on the Cubs—in the seventh inning to spark the rally and then in the eighth tied the game at 7-7 with an infield single, all with the crowd of 41,358 chanting, "Javy, Javy."

After grounding out in the first inning, Baez collected four consecutive hits to lift his season average to .294 to go along with a team-leading 63 RBIs.

"For me, it takes one AB to see where I'm at on my swing, on my timing," Baez said afterward. "During the game, I get looser (and) I get on-time with my timing."

The timing of Baez's exploits couldn't be better with All-Star Game rosters set to be announced Sunday. Cubs manager Joe Maddon was emphatic after the game, saying Baez should be an All-Star when the game is played later this month in Washington D.C.

"I think he should be and I think the fans would want it," Maddon said. "How could you not have him on the All-Star team? How could you not want him on the All-Star team? What you're attempting to showcase MLB-wise to draw young fans into the game are players like Javy."

"I have to believe, I want to believe he's got to get on that team somehow because you could look at numbers all you want, but that's what people want to see, they want to see Baez play baseball," Maddon added.

The 25-year-old Baez acknowledged that being an All-Star "is one of my goals."

"I'm sure every player wants to be in the All-Star Game," Baez said. "If I have the numbers to go, hopefully I go. Whoever gets picked gets picked the right way, with the numbers. We'll see what happens."

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## **NBC Sports Chicago**

Kris Bryant close to return, Maddon ready to play 'Lineup Roulette'

By Chris Kuc

Kris Bryant was back to depositing balls into the Wrigley Field bleachers Saturday afternoon.

The third baseman took batting practice and fielded grounders prior to the Cubs' thrilling 8-7 come-from-behind victory over the Reds on a perfect day for baseball on the North Side. Bryant is nearing a return to the lineup after missing the past two weeks with a sore left shoulder. Manager Joe Maddon said Bryant will go on a minor-league rehab assignment before he re-enters the Cubs' lineup.

"(Bryant will) probably go out somewhere and gets some at bats," Maddon said. "We didn't determine how many and I want to leave that up to him. It's basically, how do you feel? Are you seeing the ball well? And does your shoulder feel good? Those kind of things."

When those questions are answered and Bryant returns to the Cubs, Maddon will again have to play Lineup Roulette on a daily basis. That means juggling the playing time—and positions—of the likes of Javier Baez, Ben Zobrist, Ian Happ, Albert Almora Jr. and Tommy La Stella, among others.

That is not an easy task and the occasional massaging of egos is needed.

"It is difficult (but) it's a good difficult because you have good options," Maddon said. "All the players are looking for is definition all the time and I can define it as best as I possibly can but there a lot of times guys still aren't going to be happy with that. They want their at bats."

"It's not like you're bopping in and out veteran players who could use the rest," Maddon added.

"(Zobrist) is the outlier with that. He's OK with the rest on occasion. The younger guys want to play so it is difficult and I try to balance it out. We have (11) guys with 100 plate appearances or more. That's good stuff. It speaks to depth and it speaks to what we're going to be able to do later on the season."

While that depth comes in handy, it means Maddon has to put on his thinking cap when filling out each day's lineup. The decisions on who plays and where go far beyond righty-lefty matchups. Take, for example, Maddon's decisions on Saturday's lineup.

"Writing it out today, I'm not using Albert, (I'm) wanting to use 'Zo' against (Reds starter Mart Harvey), Bryant being out (means) Happ goes to third but with (Tyler) Chatwood, the ball should be funneled more to the middle than the corners so I wanted Javy at second,:" Maddon said. "Those are things you think about."

Cubs President Theo Epstein said having too many players who can be considered regulars is a good thing.

"Having essentially 10 regulars when we can only play eight can be the subject of a lot of questions early in the season and can occasionally lead to headaches but we have guys with amazing team-first attitudes that has kept everyone working hard and playing hard and feeling good about their role," Epstein said. "And then as the season drags on, you really see the benefits of it."

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## **Chicago Tribune**

Cubs' Kris Bryant headed out soon on minor-league rehab assignment

By Phil Rogers

Kris Bryant fielded ground balls at third base for a long time Saturday morning, but that will probably be the last time he does that at Wrigley Field until after the All-Star Game.

Cubs manager Joe Maddon indicated Bryant is about to be sent out on a minor-league rehab assignment to test his strained left shoulder.

Maddon said there is no set length for the assignment. The Cubs want to make sure Bryant is completely comfortable before activating him.

“We did not decide or determine how many (at-bats),” Maddon said. “I want to leave that up to him. Basically (it’s) how do you feel? Are you seeing the ball well? Does your shoulder feel good? Those kind of things.”

Bryant last played June 22. The Cubs are 8-5 without him, using four players at third base. Ian Happ was there in Saturday’s 8-7 victory over the Reds.

Extra innings: Jason Heyward left in the fourth after fouling a ball off his groin. He’ll be re-evaluated Sunday. ... Tyler Chatwood on being booed: “I can’t control what fans do. If I pitch good, they’ll probably cheer.” ... Anthony Rizzo was hit by a pitch for the 13th time this season, one behind leader C.J. Cron of the Rays. Rizzo led the majors with 24 last season and with 30 in 2015. ... Rizzo just missed bunting for a hit against the shift in the third. The ball rolled foul. ... Maddon has an interesting take on one reason the stolen base is an endangered species: “I just don’t think a lot of guys like to beat themselves up. When the boys used to steal 100 bags — Rickey (Henderson), (Lou) Brock or Maury (Wills) — they’d beat their body up pretty good.”

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## **Chicago Tribune**

Cubs' Joe Maddon plans to lighten catcher Willson Contreras' workload with return of Victor Caratini

By Phil Rogers

Willson Contreras is catching more often than any major-leaguer, but the last thing Joe Maddon wants to do is turn him into another version of Randy Hundley. He plans to use rookie Victor Caratini on a regular basis to help keep Contreras fresh for September and October.

Hundley never had to worry about October during his great career with the Cubs. But manager Leo Durocher did allow him to set a record that will never be broken, catching 160 games and 1,385 innings in 1968.

Imagine doing that while playing only day games at home during the hot Chicago summer. Is it any wonder he and the rest of his team wilted down the stretch in '69?

Last year, the Angels’ Martin Maldonado led the majors with 137 starts at catcher and 1,146 innings caught. Maldonado and the Dodgers’ Yasmani Grandal are the only catchers close to Contreras’ workload this season.



Contreras was at 68 games started and 73 caught entering Saturday, when Maddon had the switch-hitting Caratini face Reds right-hander Matt Harvey. That's a pace to start 130 games and catch 1,182 innings.

Caratini won the backup job in spring training but wasn't getting enough at-bats to stay sharp, so he was shipped to Triple-A Iowa in late May. He hit .313 with four homers and an .887 OPS in 32 games there, earning a return to Wrigley Field.

Maddon plans to start Caratini behind the plate at least once every four games, he said, limiting Contreras to three consecutive starts.

"Victor being back, I've got to play him," Maddon said. "Victor's another guy who needs to be played, not sat on. He's good. He showed that when he went back to Triple-A again. It will benefit both Victor and Willson by moving them back and forth."

Caratini was 2-for-3 with a double and a walk Saturday in the Cubs' 8-7 victory. The Reds stole four bases, including three by Billy Hamilton.

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### **Chicago Tribune**

Javier Baez burnishes All-Star resume while helping spark Cubs' rally for 8-7 win over Reds

By Phil Rogers

Javier Baez already had won a decision on points over Scooter Gennett in the unofficial undercard Saturday afternoon at Wrigley Field.

But Baez is playing to get the Cubs back to the World Series, not merely to land a spot in the All-Star Game. So he wouldn't have left happy if he hadn't also helped swing the main event.

He succeeded there, too, driving in the tying run as the Cubs rallied for a dramatic 8-7 victory over the Reds. This was Joe Maddon's boys doing what they've been doing, delivering their eighth comeback win in their last 10 games.

"That's what we do," said Baez, who was 4-for-5 with a homer. "We fight to the end. We've been coming back since 2016. We just have to realize who we have in our lineup. It doesn't matter how many runs we're down. We can do our damage if we turn the page to the next guy."

This has been a remarkable stretch for the second-place Cubs, who are finding ways to win without consistent starting pitching. They rallied for an 11-5 win June 28 at Dodger Stadium, scoring seven runs in the seventh inning, and beat the Twins 10-6, 14-9 and 11-10 last weekend at Wrigley Field.

Maddon had a sense the Reds might be vulnerable Saturday because they had used closer Raisel Iglesias for 35 pitches over 1 2/3 innings Friday to win 3-2. It turned out Maddon was correct as David Hernandez, Amir Garrett and Jared Hughes couldn't hold the lead they inherited from Matt Harvey, who has been transformed by his trade to Cincinnati.

Addison Russell scored in the sixth when Reds right fielder Scott Schebler lost a routine fly in the sun, and the Cubs made it 7-4 on a Baez homer off Hernandez in the seventh.

Garrett opened the door in the eighth by walking the first two hitters, Victor Caratini and Russell. David Bote loaded the bases with a pinch-hit single to right. Reds manager Jim Riggleman brought in the right-handed Hughes to move Ben Zobrist to the left side of the plate, and he dropped an opposite-field single into left.

“That guy is tough on Zo right there — sinkers down and away,” Maddon said. “But it’s part of what we’ve been doing. If he tries to pull that ball, it’s a double play and everything is not being talked about. But he went with it. That’s what we’ve been doing.”

Bote alertly went from first to third as third-base coach Brian Butterfield waved Russell home from second, and Zobrist grabbed an extra base on Billy Hamilton’s throw to third. That sequence proved huge.

With one out, Baez hit a one-hopper back to the mound. Bote was running on contact, which seemed to affect Hughes. He muffed the play and couldn’t get an out anywhere, with Bote tying the score 7-7. The Cubs went ahead when Anthony Rizzo forced Gennett to go to his right to field a grounder, giving him no shot at the plate or a double play.

Maddon loved a lot of things that happened, but nothing more than Bote’s aggressiveness.

“Great baserunning by Bote,” Maddon said. “Everyone talks about hitting, but watch (Bote) on the bases. He’s outstanding.”

Baez, who was credited with a single on the ball to the mound, finished with two RBIs and a stolen base.

It had appeared Gennett would be the aspiring All-Star who helped his team carry the day. His singles in the first and third helped the Reds put Tyler Chatwood in a 7-2 hole.

The matchup of Baez and Gennett is worth noting because there might not be room for both on the National League All-Star team, which will be named Sunday. The Braves’ Ozzie Albies is expected to win the fan vote, and it’s unclear if manager Dave Roberts will take three second basemen.

Gennett, who had a four-homer game last year, leads the NL with a .329 batting average and has 14 homers and 58 RBIs. Baez is hitting .294 with 17 homers, 63 RBIs and 17 stolen bases (two of home) while making jaws drop in the field.

Both should be headed to the July 17 All-Star Game at Nationals Park, but they won’t know until Sunday.

Baez is hopeful he’ll be selected.

“I’m sure every player wants to be in the All-Star Game,” he said. “If I have the numbers, I should go. It’s one of my goals.”

Maddon can’t imagine a gathering of baseball’s best players without Baez, whose electrifying play reminds him of Francisco Lindor, Jose Altuve and even Hall of Famer Roberto Alomar.

“How can you not want him on the All-Star team?” Maddon said. “That (kind of play) is what they’re attempting to showcase to draw young fans into the game. He has a mass appeal, not just with us but in general. People want to see Javy at this game.”

“You can look at numbers all you want, but that’s what people want to see — they want to see Baez play baseball.”

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