

Cincinnati Reds Press Clippings February 1, 2019

THIS DAY IN REDS HISTORY

1968-Ground-breaking ceremonies are held on the future site of Riverfront Stadium

MLB.COM

Bell bringing new ideas to Spring Training
By Mark Sheldon MLB.com @m_sheldon
Jan. 31st, 2019

CINCINNATI -- A new manager and coaching staff for the Reds also means some new ideas. Manager David Bell and his coaches have been busy formulating how they want to conduct business for the 2019 season, starting with how Spring Training will be run.

"One thing about being so busy during the offseason is it's kind of sneaking up on me a little bit," Bell said recently. "You're preparing so many different ways. There's so much to accomplish. In some ways, baseball has been the last thing that I've thought about, but that's OK. That part hopefully will come a little more natural. Definitely you're starting to think about personnel and more details about Spring Training and how it's going to come together."

Since Bell was hired in October, he and the front office have assembled an 11-man coaching staff, with only Freddie Benavides back from the previous group. Benavides, the former first-base coach under Bryan Price and Jim Riggleman, will be Bell's bench coach.

A first-time manager in the Major Leagues and a Cincinnati native, Bell moved back to his hometown full-time after the holidays and has kept an office both in the clubhouse and upstairs with the club executives as the team has made deals to upgrade the rotation and other additions. Besides being in on talks and other team offseason business, he's in constant contact with his coaches.

"Our coaching staff and I talk every single day at this point," Bell said. "There's planning going on for Spring Training. Even in those conversations, it's more detail about positions, coverage we have at positions during Spring Training. So, it's happening now. You can definitely see it right around the corner."

Reds pitchers and catchers are scheduled to report to Spring Training in Goodyear, Ariz., on Feb. 12, with the first workout set for the following day.

How exactly Spring Training will be run will become apparent once players arrive at camp and Bell holds his first team meeting. One difference that will be immediately noticed is the later start time for workouts.

Many players and coaches often showed up to Cincinnati's spring complex before sunrise to prepare on their own ahead of the usual workouts that usually began around 9:30 a.m. Bell doesn't want the clubhouse opened too early and is planning later start time for workouts, so players can stay rested.

"It's not too much later," Bell said. "If you can shift it just 30 minutes or an hour, then guys get an extra hour of sleep. We all know how important sleep is. It's not going to cut down on our work. Actually, it will help us be very focused on doing the same amount of work, if not more, in a shorter period of time. The idea isn't to get finished early. It's to start a little bit later, give guys more rest. We're trying to think of everything."

Mark Sheldon has covered the Reds for MLB.com since 2006, and previously covered the Twins from 2001-05. Follow him on Twitter @m_sheldon and Facebook and listen to his podcast.

Reds host baseball, softball coaches' clinic
Cincinnati Reds
Jan. 31st, 2019

CINCINNATI -- The Reds hosted 173 baseball and softball coaches on Jan. 27 at the P&G MLB Cincinnati Reds Youth Academy for a coaches' education and training program.

The event was held with support from Major League Baseball, the MLB Players Association and the American Baseball Coaches Association. Former Reds player Dmitri Young, two-time U.S. softball Olympic gold medalist Crystl Bustos, Eastern Kentucky University's baseball hitting coach Jayson Langfels and hitting guru Howard Carrier were all on hand as instructors.

They offered hitting tips and drills to the coaches as additional tools to aid the development of their youth baseball and softball players. Coaches were encouraged to take notes while listening, volunteered in demonstrations and engaged in a Q&A session with the special guests during the two-hour clinic.

Langfels was selected in the 16th round of the 2010 Draft by the Colorado Rockies and made it to Double-A. He is also a member of ECU's all-century team. Carrier has more than 30 years of experience as an instructor, including as a coach for Bustos. He has coached more than 5,000 players in his lifetime and has manufactured hitting tools that have been implemented by several MLB teams.

The instructors were eager to share their knowledge with the coaches. Young, a two-time All-Star over his 13 Major League seasons, took a red-eye flight after serving as a coach at Reds Fantasy Camp in Goodyear, Ariz., in order to attend the clinic. He also serves as a special instructor for MLB youth programs and has helped teach in various MLB developmental programs.

"I truly enjoyed the experience of having a coaches' clinic with this group," Young said. "It's not always what you tell the youth but how to give the information. Teaching the youth the right way is important and having them enjoy the experience creates positivity and confidence."

Bustos was equally excited to share her wisdom. One of Carrier's many pupils over the years, she lauded the program's integration of baseball and softball.

"This event was by far one of my favorites," said Bustos, a 2018 National Softball Hall of Fame inductee. "It was well organized and ran smoothly. I especially like how it was put on with baseball and softball instruction happening at the same time. So many people try to separate our sports, but not this event. I love it! A simultaneous baseball and softball focus at the Reds Youth Academy is the future of our sport. We need to be working together, not apart."

CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

Why does Cincinnati Reds outfielder Yasiel Puig lick his bats? Allow him to explain.
Bobby Nightengale, Cincinnati Enquirer
Published 6:00 p.m. ET Jan. 31, 2019

Standing in front of more than 40 boys and girls at the Reds' urban youth academy Wednesday, Yasiel Puig took questions from the kids about what sports he played growing up, whether he tried Skyline chili and what did he want to do in Cincinnati.

During Puig's 15-minute chat with kids – he wrote on Twitter that it was the best part of his day – he offered some advice: "Don't lick your bats. It's nasty."

That doesn't mean Puig plans to stop his unusual, perhaps bizarre, habit during the upcoming season. He feels like he can't stop. Like many players, he's superstitious. Only his superstition involves licking his bat between pitches.

Facing the Arizona Diamondbacks in Game 1 of the NLDS in 2017, Puig stepped into the batter's box against Taijuan Walker. It turned into a nine-pitch at-bat, including four foul balls. After the eighth pitch, Puig licked his bat and had a disgusted look on his face, possibly tasting some pine tar. This at-bat was more important than the taste.

On the ninth pitch, Puig laced a double into the right-center gap, hitting an RBI double for a 4-0 lead in the first inning. The Dodgers won the game, 9-5.

"I said, 'Wow. This is cool,'" Puig said Wednesday. "I started doing this after a couple fouls, two or three fouls, or when I know that I miss something right on the plate, good (pitches) to hit the ball."

Puig will take his bat licking superstition to humorous lengths. He licked his bat multiple times during a World Series at-bat against Justin Verlander, though it ended with a groundout to shortstop.

"There's something good (to hit) and I miss it, I lick my bat, or I try to talk to my bat like, 'Hey, if you can give me something good right in this moment,'" Puig said. "He listens to me – I believe so – and the next pitch, I hit a home run, or I put my team winning. That's a reason I do lick the bat, but I don't like it."

Puig, the 6-foot-2, 240-pound outfielder, is known for his eccentric personality. That includes the bat licking, bat flips, tongue wagging and kissing hitting coach Turner Ward after home runs. He laughs that some of his Dodgers teammates would remind him that he forgot to kiss Ward.

Will he continue to kiss Ward this season?

"I need to hit first," Puig said. "If I don't hit, I'm not going to kiss Turner Ward."

ANOTHER BULLPEN OPTION: The Reds announced they signed left-hander Ian Krol to a minor league contract Wednesday, which includes a non-roster invitation to Spring Training.

Krol owns a 4.50 ERA in 225 career MLB relief appearances. The 27-year-old pitched in Triple-A for the Los Angeles Angels and New York Mets last season, making one Major League appearance.

The Reds had Amir Garrett, Wandy Peralta and Cody Reed as left-handed options out of their bullpen last year.

NEW COACH: Cristian Pérez was announced as the Reds' assistant bullpen/advance scouting coach Wednesday. Pérez, 23, worked for the commissioner's office last season, serving as a fellow in the league's economics and operations department with a focus on international first-year player acquisitions and Asian transfers.

Pérez, a former catcher, played college baseball at Duke and Southern California. He was the 11th big-league coach named to David Bell's staff.

ESPN.COM

Impact 20: Prospects ready to rock MLB in 2019

Keith Law

ESPN Senior Writer

When I published my ranking of the top 100 prospects in baseball, I was considering the long-term value of the players on the list and off of it. I was also considering how far away they were and the risk that they might not reach their ceilings and might fail to reach the majors at all. Potential impact in 2019 was a small consideration. Although there's clear value in being confident that Player X is going to produce for you this year, few teams will give up big, long-term upside for the certainty of a player in the short term.

Baseball is loaded with young talent. Who are the next breakout stars, following the likes of Ronald Acuña and Juan Soto? Here's the best of the best.

With baseball enjoying a surge in young talent, we look at which up-and-comers should be part of the next wave.

They didn't quite make the list, but they still have plenty of talent and upside. Meet an extraordinarily deep pool of "just missed" prospects.

This list, however, looks just at potential production in 2019 in light of what I think each player's likely playing time might be, though we have two months left before teams set their Opening Day rosters. Many players I've written up here will probably start the year in the minors or on a bench, but they seem likely enough to get significant major league time in 2019 that I've ranked them accordingly.

I have written about the top 20 prospects for this year, and I have listed in a separate section at the end anyone else I think has a good shot of producing this year, in roughly descending order.

5. Nick Senzel, something something, Cincinnati Reds: The Reds can't seem to settle on a position for Senzel, who turned himself into a good third baseman for his draft year, could almost certainly play above-average defense in center, has had a series of odd injuries and now apparently is learning to play center field. I think he'll hit wherever he plays, probably for average and doubles power but fewer than 20 homers, even considering the home park, though I think he'll eventually come into more home run power than that.

IRONTON TRIBUNE (IRONTON, OHIO)

Foster, Brennaman speak Saturday to chapter members

By Jim Walker

Ironton Tribune

The big voice and the big stick are coming.

Cincinnati Reds' National Hall of Fame play-by-play announcer Marty Brennaman and Reds' Hall of Fame home run slugger George Foster will be the featured speakers on Saturday at a regional gathering of four area Reds' Hall of Fame and Museum chapters.

Brennaman and Foster will be at Park Place, 1701 Central Avenue, in Ashland, Ky., from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday for members of the Ironton, Portsmouth, Huntington and Morehead chapters.

However, persons who would like to join the chapters at this time may do so at the door. Current members may renew their memberships.

The event cost is \$25. Memberships are available at different levels: \$60, \$90, \$200 and \$1,000.

Among the items available to memberships are bobbleheads, Reds Fest tickets, game tickets, collectible gifts, free admission to the Hall of Fame Museum and discounts on merchandise.

Interested persons should call chapter leaders or Sherry Rowland at (513)-765-7926 or Luke Schafer at (513) 765-7925 at the Reds Hall of Fame & Museum or go online at the Reds Hall of Fame and Museum page of the Cincinnati Reds.com website.

Brennaman recently announced he would retire after his 46th season as the Reds' announcer.

Foster hit 348 career home runs and drove in 1,239 runs playing for the Reds, Giants, Mets and White Sox. He was a five-time all-star and was a vital cog of the Big Red Machine 1975-76 World Championship teams.

The 1977 National League Most Valuable Player, Foster led the league in home runs in 1977 and 1978 and was the NL RBI champion from 1976-78. He won a Silver Slugger award in 1981.

TRANSACTIONS

01/31/19

Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster 3B Michael Brosseau to spring training.
Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster SS Jake Cronenworth to spring training.
Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster 1B Nathaniel Lowe to spring training.
Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster C David Rodriguez to spring training.
Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster SS Lucius Fox to spring training.
Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster RHP Mike Franco to spring training.
Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster RHP Ian Gardeck to spring training.
Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster C Mac James to spring training.
Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster RHP Andrew Kittredge to spring training.
Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster LHP Dalton Moats to spring training.
Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster LHP Colin Poche to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks invited non-roster RHP Ryan Atkinson to spring training.
Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster 2B Nick Solak to spring training.
Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster RHP Curtis Taylor to spring training.
Tampa Bay Rays invited non-roster 2B Kean Wong to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks invited non-roster RHP Kevin Ginkel to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks invited non-roster RHP Troy Scribner to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks invited non-roster RHP Braden Shipley to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks invited non-roster RHP Stefan Crichton to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks invited non-roster RHP Jon Duplantier to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks invited non-roster RHP Rubby De La Rosa to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks invited non-roster RHP Taylor Widener to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks invited non-roster SS Jazz Chisholm to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks invited non-roster C Daulton Varsho to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks invited non-roster 2B Juniel Querecuto to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks invited non-roster 2B Andy Young to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks invited non-roster LF Yasmany Tomas to spring training.
Arizona Diamondbacks signed free agent RHP Greg Holland.
Arizona Diamondbacks designated RHP Jake Barrett for assignment.