



# 2018 KANSAS CITY ROYALS

## Spring Training Game Notes

**Kansas City Royals (6-4-1) @ Chicago White Sox (7-5-1)**  
**Thursday, March 8, 2018**

**BREW CREW PREVAILS WITH 4-RUN EIGHTH**--The Royals dropped their second straight on Wednesday, losing a 10-6 affair to Milwaukee in Surprise... Kansas City plated three seventh inning runs to tie the game at 6-6, but the Brewers came right back with a four-spot in the eighth off of Foster Griffin to take the contest...KC's pitching was strong early as Jakob Junis made his first start of the spring and allowed just a solo homer over his 2.0 innings of work, while fanning three...Kelvin Herrera and Brandon Maurer each worked a scoreless frame before Burch Smith ran into some issues by surrendering five runs over 2.0 innings... the Royals collected 12 hits on the day with starting second baseman Ramón Torres going 3-for-3, while Lucas Duda and Michael Saunders each added a pair of knocks with an RBI.

**ATOP THE TEAM BATTING CHART**--Yes, it's only spring training, but clubs would much rather see progress offensively during camp than the alternative...the Royals enter today's action just shy of the midway point in camp with a Major League leading team batting average of .310...the only other club eclipsing the .300 mark is San Francisco hitting at a .304 clip...KC is also third among all squads in on-base pct. at .368 and fourth in OPS at .876.

**NOLASCO SIGNED**--The Royals yesterday added to their mound depth with the free agent signing of right-handed pitcher Ricky Nolasco...it was a minor league signing, though he will join the big league club in camp tomorrow...the 35-year old has 114 career wins over a 12-year span that began with the Marlins for eight seasons followed by stops with the Dodgers, Minnesota and the Angels...he will wear #47.

**VS. CHISOX**--Today is the last of two exhibition games against the White Sox, with Kansas City dropping a 9-5 decision last Saturday in Surprise...these two clubs will see plenty of each other during the regular season, including the first series of the year as Chicago invades Kauffman Stadium for a 3-game set to open the 2018 campaign on March 29, followed by a day off on the 30th and then resumption of the series on March 31 and April 1...all told, the Royals and ChiSox will meet 19 times during the regular campaign, though KC's first trip to the Windy City won't be until the final series before the All-Star break on July 13-15.

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

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

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

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

**ROSTER BREAKDOWN**--With yesterday's addition of Ricky Nolasco to the non-roster invites, the Royals have 67 players in camp, though pitcher Jesse Hahn has been placed on the 60-day D.L....the breakdown includes 33 pitchers (10 non-roster), 7 catchers (5 non-roster), 16 infielders (8 non-roster) and 11 outfielders (5 non-roster)...among the 32 active pitchers in camp, 7 are left-handed...of the 28 non-roster players in camp with Kansas City, 10 have previous Major League experience, including eight who had time in "The Show" in 2017...of the 37 roster players in camp, nine have yet to accrue any big league service time.

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

**SPRING WORK**--After yesterday's loss to Milwaukee, the Royals have an all-time exhibition record of 687-629 with 41 ties for a .522 winning pct...the 2018 exhibition season is the 16th here in the Valley of the Sun where the club has posted a 256-205 mark with 19 ties for a .555 mark...the Royals spent their first 34 seasons training in Florida, beginning with Fort Myers (1969-87), followed by a 15-year stint in Baseball City (1988-2002).

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

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

**THE WEEK AHEAD**--The Royals will have their first split-squad action of the spring tomorrow when they host Arizona in Surprise and return a squad here to Glendale to meet the Dodgers...the Royals and D-backs will get together with full squads again on Saturday as KC pays its first of two spring visits to Salt River Field in Scottsdale...the week wraps up with an afternoon affair in Surprise vs. Cleveland on Sunday...next week will begin with a split-squad doubleheader in Surprise with San Diego playing a noon game vs. the Royals and then KC hosting the Rangers in a 6:00 p.m. affair.

**ON THE AIRWAVES**--Today against the White Sox is the first of three straight games that will be carried exclusively on the web with Steve Stewart and his cast of guests providing the call...the home game tomorrow against Arizona and then Saturday's visit to the Diamondbacks at Salt River Field will also be on the web...the next over-the-air broadcast will be Sunday's game against Cleveland, with Denny Matthews, Steve Physioc and Steve Stewart providing the call on 610 Sports and the Royals Radio Network...Monday's split-squad will see the noon game against San Diego on the web and the night game vs. the Rangers on 610 Sports.

### Upcoming Probables

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

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

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

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

TBA

vs.

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

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

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

vs.

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

#### Saturday vs. Arizona Diamondbacks @ Salt River Field (1:10)

TBA

vs.

TBA

#### Sunday vs. Cleveland Indians @ Surprise Stadium (1:05)

TBA

vs.

TBA

