



CHICAGO CUBS DAILY CLIPS

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January 3, 2019

- ESPNChicago.com, **Joe Maddon fills out coaching staff for Cubs**
http://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/25670257/chicago-cubs-hire-bench-coach-mark-loretta-fill-coaching-staff
- ESPNChicago.com, **Do Cubs have enough to keep up in baseball's toughest division?**
http://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/25668790/do-cubs-enough-keep-baseball-toughest-division
- NBC Sports Chicago, **Cubs name new bench coach in former All-Star infielder Mark Loretta**
<https://www.nbcsports.com/chicago/cubs/cubs-name-new-bench-coach-former-all-star-infielder-mark-loretta>
- Chicago Tribune, **Cubs name Mark Loretta as team's new bench coach**
<https://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/baseball/cubs/ct-spt-cubs-bench-coach-loretta-20190102-story.html>
- Chicago Sun-Times, **Cubs hire Mark Loretta as bench coach to fill final staff vacancy**
<https://chicago.suntimes.com/sports/cubs-hire-mark-loretta-bench-coach/>
- Daily Herald, **Cubs name new bench coach, mental skills coordinator**
<https://www.dailyherald.com/sports/20190102/cubs-name-new-bench-coach-mental-skills-coordinator>
- The Athletic, **A critical year for the Cubs begins with the hiring of Mark Loretta, Bob Tewksbury**
<https://theathletic.com/746208/2019/01/02/a-critical-year-for-the-cubs-begins-with-the-hiring-of-mark-loretta-bob-tewksbury/>
- Cubs.com, **Cubs tab Loretta as new bench coach**
<https://www.mlb.com/cubs/news/cubs-hire-mark-loretta-as-new-bench-coach/c-302311118>

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ESPNChicago.com

Joe Maddon fills out coaching staff for Cubs

By Jesse Rogers

CHICAGO -- The Cubs hired former major league infielder Mark Loretta as their bench coach Wednesday, replacing Brandon Hyde, who was hired as the manager of the Baltimore Orioles last month.

Loretta, 47, had spent the past nine years in the front office of the San Diego Padres. He'll be manager Joe Maddon's bench coach -- the Cubs' third in as many years -- for the final year of his current contract.

The Cubs also hired former pitcher Bob Tewksbury as the team's mental skills coordinator. Tewksbury served a similar role with the San Francisco Giants the past two seasons, as well as working for the Boston Red Sox for a decade when Cubs president Theo Epstein was there as general manager.

Loretta also spent time in Boston under Epstein during his playing days.

The hirings complete a busy offseason in the coaching department for the Cubs, who also have a new pitching and hitting coach for the third time in three seasons.

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ESPNChicago.com

Do Cubs have enough to keep up in baseball's toughest division?

By Jesse Rogers

CHICAGO -- Search "Cubs" on any social media platform these days, and you're not going to find the same vibe that existed after the 2016 World Series. A team coming off a disappointing finish -- combined with a quiet winter so far -- is starting to feel the heat from an expectant fan base.

More important, the Cubs are feeling the heat from a division they seemingly owned at this time a year ago. That hold has faded. Milwaukee overtook Chicago for the NL Central title in 2018, and St. Louis and Cincinnati have been as active as anyone this offseason. The gap is closing in a division without a rebuilding team. That's a rarity in baseball these days, and there will be no easy wins.

Consider this: The fourth-place team in the NL Central last season, the Pittsburgh Pirates, finished with the best record in the division, at 43-33. Parity was, and is, abundant.

"I've been saying it all [last] year," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said last month. "I think we have the best division in baseball. I really do. Team for team, I think we're the best because of the ascension of these other groups. Playing the Cardinals is no fun again."

Maddon made those comments not long after the Cardinals traded for slugger Paul Goldschmidt and before St. Louis signed lefty reliever Andrew Miller. It was also before the Reds traded for Yasiel Puig, Matt Kemp and Alex Wood.

Meanwhile, the Cubs have not made a significant upgrade from their 2018 team, though they were able to retain starter Cole Hamels, who came over in a midseason trade. So far, there have been no major changes to an offense that sputtered in the second half of last season, nor has the front office reinforced a bullpen that we already know will be missing closer Brandon Morrow to start the season. He hasn't pitched since before the All-Star break.

That's the bad news.

The good news is it's not always easy to connect the dots from winning the winter to winning in October. The best teams are the best teams because they already have good players. In fact, doesn't it seem like the teams that win the winter are the ones that need to the most?

"Look, St. Louis is doing a lot right now because they needed to," one veteran scout of the division said. "You don't see the Red Sox overhauling their team or making big trades because they have a championship team right now."

That argument holds at least some water for Chicago. The Cubs, Reds and Brewers, for example, have All-Star-caliber players at first base. Now the Cardinals have joined the club. The Miller signing helps the Cards overcome the time and money they put into lefty Brett Cecil, who has been terrible since signing a

four-year, \$30.5 million deal before 2017. They needed Miller. If Cecil had been effective in his first two years, perhaps Miller isn't signed, and the Cardinals aren't being praised for an active winter.

The adage "don't confuse activity with accomplishment" is important to keep in mind when teams make a flurry of moves in December. The Cardinals have made moves to compete with the Cubs and Brewers. Those teams are established winners, and it's not exactly easy to improve on 95- and 96-win teams. In fact, the Brewers have also had a quiet offseason. That doesn't mean they are any less committed to winning.

"I think everybody knows the season finished, and we have something left to do," manager Craig Counsell said at the winter meetings.

Of course, right about now, a Cubs or Brewers fan could be yelling something about "resting on your laurels" and wouldn't be wrong. The Cubs need a lefty reliever like Miller. And just because they have talent on offense and finished with 95 wins doesn't change the fact that they couldn't hit their weight at the end of the season. Here's the bottom line for any playoff-caliber team: Any of them can bring back the same team and compete, but fortifying and plugging holes can only make you better.

"Look, St. Louis is doing a lot right now because they needed to. You don't see the Red Sox overhauling their team or making big trades because they have a championship team right now."
A scout on offseason moves in the NL Central

For the Cubs, the entire vibe to the offseason, as well as 2019, can turn with one move: signing Bryce Harper. It was around this time last winter that the team got serious about pitcher Yu Darvish after seemingly being out of the bidding early.

The state of baseball free agency these days means uncertainty is the norm. Things change. Markets collapse. Signing Harper would be the crown jewel of the winter for the Cubs, but then again, the same was said about Darvish. His season was as forgettable as Cecil's with the Cardinals.

Either way, the calendar has only just turned to January -- not April. The Cubs will fortify their bullpen before Opening Day and are likely to make some offensive improvements, but they might not be the big ones the Reds and Cardinals made. Perhaps they don't need to be.

No matter what, one thing is for sure, and Maddon feels it just like he did last season.

"Our division is going to be very difficult again this year," he said.

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NBC Sports Chicago

Cubs name new bench coach in former All-Star infielder Mark Loretta
By Vinnie Duber

The Cubs have their replacement former Brandon Hyde. And it's a longtime Milwaukee Brewer.

Mark Loretta, the former All-Star infielder who logged 15 big league seasons with the Brewers, San Diego Padres and Boston Red Sox, among a couple other teams, takes over as Joe Maddon's right-hand man, the team announced Wednesday afternoon. Loretta replaces Hyde, who left to become the new manager of the Baltimore Orioles earlier this offseason.

Loretta comes over from the Padres, where he was a part of that front office for nine years. Cubs general manager Jed Hoyer was the general manager in San Diego from 2009 to 2011 and worked with Loretta there. Hoyer and Cubs president Theo Epstein were both part of the Boston Red Sox front office during Loretta's All-Star season there in 2006.

While Loretta was drafted by the Brew Crew and spent eight seasons in Milwaukee, he's not without his Chicago connections. Loretta attended Northwestern.

In addition to the addition of Loretta, the Cubs also announced Wednesday that Bob Tewksbury is the team's new mental skills coordinator. He held that post with the Red Sox from 2004 to 2013 and again from 2015 to 2016. He spent the last two seasons as a mental performance coach for the San Francisco Giants.

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Chicago Tribune

Cubs name Mark Loretta as team's new bench coach

By Teddy Greenstein

Mark Loretta, a two-time All-Star second baseman who starred at Northwestern, will be the Cubs' new bench coach, the team announced Wednesday.

He replaces Brandon Hyde, who left to become the Orioles manager. The Tribune first reported Loretta's hiring.

Loretta joins Cubs manager Joe Maddon's coaching staff after nine years as special assistant to baseball operations with the Padres. He worked in San Diego with Jed Hoyer, now the Cubs general manager. Before that, Hoyer acquired Loretta for the Red Sox in 2005 via a trade with the Padres.

Loretta earned a reputation as an astute player during his 15-year career, which featured All-Star Game appearances in 2004 with the Padres and 2006 with the Red Sox and two postseason trips with the 2005 Padres and 2009 Dodgers. The infielder hit .295 for his career, which also included stints with the Brewers and Astros.

Loretta, 47, played shortstop and pitched on occasion during an All-America career at Northwestern in the early 1990s.

The Cubs are believed to have also considered David Ross and Mark DeRosa for the job. DeRosa is sticking with MLB Network, and Ross signed a multiyear deal with ESPN last month.

The Cubs also announced the hiring of former major-league pitcher Bob Tewksbury, a 1992 All-Star for the Cardinals, as their mental skills coordinator. Tewksbury previously served in the same role for the Giants and Red Sox.

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Chicago Sun-Times

Cubs hire Mark Loretta as bench coach to fill final staff vacancy

By Gordon Wittenmyer

Any remaining hope by fans that David Ross might dance his way back to the Cubs as a bench coach was eliminated Wednesday with the announcement that the Cubs hired Mark Loretta to fill their final coaching staff vacancy.

Loretta, 47, spent the last nine seasons in the San Diego Padres' front office after a 15-year big-league career that included two All-Star selections.

The Cubs also announced another high-profile hiring Wednesday, naming former Cubs pitcher and one-time All-Star Bob Tewksbury as mental skills coordinator, replacing sports psychology pioneer Ken Ravizza, who died in July after suffering a heart attack.

Loretta, a former infielder and Northwestern alum, joins a staff that also includes newcomers in pitching coach Tommy Hottovy, hitting coach Anthony Iapoce, assistant hitting coach Termel Sledge.

The Cubs have their third coach in three seasons at all four spots on the staff.

The Cubs also had reached out to former clubhouse leaders Ross and Mark DeRosa for the bench coach vacancy.

Like Ravizza, Tewksbury, 58, is considered a leader in his field in the sport, having earned an undergraduate degree in physical education and master's of education in sports psychology and counseling after his retirement as a player. His most recent work during a 15-year career in mental skills in baseball came with the Giants the last two seasons.

He authored a book on the subject with writer Scott Miller that was published last year: "Ninety Percent Mental: An All-Star Player Turned Mental Skills Coach Reveals the Hidden Game of Baseball."

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Daily Herald

Cubs name new bench coach, mental skills coordinator

By Bruce Miles

The Chicago Cubs rang in 2019 by naming a couple additions to their coaching and support staff.

Former big-leaguer Mark Loretta is the new bench coach, replacing Brandon Hyde, who left to become manager of the Baltimore Orioles.

Bob Tewksbury, who pitched for the Cubs in 1987-88, is the new mental skills coordinator.

The 47-year-old Loretta is a 1993 graduate of Northwestern University. He spent the last nine seasons in the San Diego Padres front office after retiring as a player in January 2010. He most recently served as a special assistant, baseball operations.

Loretta came up with the Milwaukee Brewers in 1995 and played in parts of 15 major-league seasons. He had a career batting line of .295/.360/.395 with 76 homers. He was an all-star with the Padres in 2004 and with the Red Sox in 2006.

Tewksbury, 58, enters his 38th year in professional baseball, including 13 years as a major-league pitcher and 15 years in mental skills.

He had a career record of 110-102 with a 3.92 ERA from 1986-98 with six teams. Tewksbury was an all-star with the Cardinals in 1992.

After retiring as a player, Tewksbury earned his B.S. in physical education from St. Leo University (2000) and his master's of education in sport psychology and counseling from Boston University (2004). He spent 10 years as the mental-skills coordinator for the Red Sox from 2004-13, was the director of player development for the MLB Players Association in 2014, returned to the Red Sox for two seasons from 2015-16 and most recently served as mental performance coach for the San Francisco Giants from 2017-18.

Tewksbury essentially fills the job previously held by noted sports psychologist Ken Ravizza, who died during the 2018 baseball season. He is author of the book, "Ninety Percent Mental: An All-Star Player Turned Mental Skills Coach Reveals the Hidden Game of Baseball."

During a segment on WSCR radio's "Hit and Run" with Daily Herald columnist Barry Rozner, Tewksbury said last summer he wrote the book to "share the story of understanding performance from a mental perspective." He noted that the mental aspect of sports have become more demanding, especially with players having to deal with social media, money, media demands and the demands of time and training.

Tewksbury also told "Hit and Run" that he has known Cubs stars Jon Lester and Anthony Rizzo since they were young players coming up in the Boston system.

He talked in the interview of Lester being able to "go out and dominate" despite the mental block of not being able to throw to first base. He also recalled Rizzo complaining to him while in Class A ball of not being able to "get more than 1 hit in a game."

"I said, 'Listen to yourself,'" Tewksbury said with a laugh during the radio interview.

The Cubs have put a big emphasis on mental-skills coaching in recent years, with the full blessing of team president Theo Epstein and manager Joe Maddon.

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The Athletic

A critical year for the Cubs begins with the hiring of Mark Loretta, Bob Tewksbury
By Patrick Mooney

In what is already shaping up to be a critical year for the entire organization, the Cubs have hired Mark Loretta to be Joe Maddon's bench coach and added Bob Tewksbury to the staff as a mental skills coordinator.

With hiring season dragging into early January, Cubs executives Theo Epstein and Jed Hoyer again used their connections to the Boston Red Sox and San Diego Padres, bringing in two accomplished ex-players who lasted 28 years combined in the big leagues.

As the Padres general manager in 2010, Hoyer initially helped Loretta transition into a post-playing career, hiring him as a special assistant. Loretta – a Northwestern University graduate and an All-Star infielder for the Padres (2004) and Red Sox (2006) – remained in San Diego's baseball operations department for the last nine seasons. Loretta visited prospects at minor-league affiliates, scouted players before the trade deadline and did some community outreach for the Padres. He was also a coach for Team Israel in the 2013 World Baseball Classic qualifier.

After pitching for six different big-league teams, Tewksbury earned a master's of education degree in sport psychology and counseling from Boston University in 2004. Tewksbury spent 10 seasons as the mental skills coordinator for the Red Sox, developing relationships with future Cubs players like Jon Lester and Anthony Rizzo. Tewksbury then spent a year with the Major League Baseball Players Association, returned to the Red Sox for two more seasons (2015-16) and most recently worked with the San Francisco Giants as a mental performance coach (2017-18). Tewksbury and co-author Scott Miller, a longtime baseball writer, published a book last year: "Ninety Percent Mental: An All-Star Player Turned Mental Skills Coach Reveals the Hidden Game of Baseball."

Wednesday's moves look good on paper, especially given the uncertainty surrounding Maddon in the final year of his contract, and the reality that popular ex-Cubs like Mark DeRosa and David Ross have great setups with MLB Network and ESPN — meaning they aren't necessarily in a rush to leave the TV studio and can be patient if they want to pursue future managerial openings.

With limited flexibility in the budget for baseball operations this winter, the Cubs are banking on improved health, internal improvements and attitude adjustments. That has given extra weight to these personnel decisions. Maddon's coaching staff now barely resembles the group from last season, much less the 2016 World Series.

Loretta replaces Brandon Hyde, the new Baltimore Orioles manager who has already added Tim Cossins to his coaching staff. Cossins had been a key behind-the-scenes figure for the Cubs in player development as the minor-league field/catching coordinator.

The Cubs also felt a void in their organization after Ken Ravizza died last summer at the age of 70. Ravizza, a trailblazing sports psychologist, first met Maddon in the mid-1980s and worked as a consultant for the Cubs during the last four playoff seasons. Tewksbury should be a presence for a team that will be facing enormous expectations again in 2019.

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Cubs.com

Cubs tab Loretta as new bench coach

By Jordan Bastian

When the Orioles found their new manager in Brandon Hyde last month, the Cubs were once again scrambling to fill a spot on their coaching staff. Joe Maddon's staff in Chicago has seen a high rate of turnover this winter, but more new pieces fell into place Wednesday.

The Cubs announced the hiring of former infielder Mark Loretta as Maddon's new bench coach to replace Hyde, who had been a part of Chicago's staff for the past six seasons. The club also named former pitcher Bob Tewksbury its mental skills coordinator -- a role he previously held for the Giants and Red Sox.

Loretta joins pitching coach Tommy Hottovy, hitting coach Anthony Iapoce and assistant hitting coach Terrmel Sledge as new additions to Maddon's Major League field staff. Those moves come after pitching coach Jim Hickey stepped down for personal reasons, hitting coach Chili Davis (now the Mets' hitting coach) was dismissed and assistant hitting coach Andy Haines landed the main hitting job with the Brewers.

Two other changes to the Cubs' staff this offseason included hiring Chris Denorfia as a quality assurance coach and adding "associate pitching coach" to Mike Borzello's job description. Borzello also serves as the team's catching and strategy coach.

The 47-year-old Loretta, who starred at Northwestern University, joins the Cubs after spending the past nine years in the Padres' front office as a special assistant to baseball operations. Following a 15-year playing career, Loretta retired and joined San Diego's staff in 2010. Over his career -- one that included stints with the Brewers, Astros, Padres, Red Sox and Dodgers -- Loretta hit .295 in 1,726 games and was a two-time All-Star.

Tewksbury, 58, spent 13 years in the Majors between tours with the Yankees, Cubs, Cardinals, Rangers, Padres and Twins. He went 110-102 with a 3.92 ERA in 302 games, made one All-Star team and finished third in National League Cy Young voting in 1992. After retiring in '98, Tewksbury earned a Masters of Education in sports psychology and counseling from Boston University.

Tewksbury served as a mental skills coordinator for the Red Sox from 2004-13 and '15-16, taking a one-year break in '14 to work as a director of player development for the MLB Players Association. Over the past two seasons, Tewksbury was the mental performance coach for the Giants.

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