THIS DAY IN REDS HISTORY
1967-The Reds play the longest game in club history and lose to the Giants, 1-0, in 21 innings

MLB.COM

Reds ride trio of HRs to series win over Mets
By Anthony DiComo and John Fay / MLB.com | August 31st, 2017 + 126 COMMENTS

CINCINNATI -- Scooter Gennett's ascension to the National League's upper crust of infielders continued Thursday, when he hit his career-high 23rd home run off NL Cy Young candidate Jacob deGrom in the Reds' 7-2 win over the Mets at Great American Ball Park.

Gennett cracked a two-run homer off deGrom in the second inning, then added an RBI double against deGrom in the fifth to finish 2-for-4. Joey Votto and Stuart Turner homered as well to back Reds starter Robert Stephenson, who completed six innings to submit his first quality start of the season.

The win allowed the Reds to finish August with a 15-14 record.

"It may have gone unnoticed," Reds manager Bryan Price said. "If we lose that game, we have a sub-.500 month. For a team in our spot in the standings, it may not seem like much, but it means a lot. We really want to build a trend going forward."

Also lasting six innings, deGrom limited the damage to four runs (three earned) on six hits and three walks, temporarily overtaking Jeff Samardzija for the NL innings lead. deGrom also ranks second in the league in strikeouts -- he established a career high with 206 -- though he could not record his 15th victory, which would have matched the NL's leaders.

"I'm going to tell you something, he's not happy," Mets manager Terry Collins said of deGrom. "You go talk to him, this guy wants to win. He wants to win desperately. And he knows what his job is. That's why he gets frustrated every once in a while. He wants to compete. It's nice to run him out there. I'll take my chances every night he's there."

Billy Hamilton also stole his league-leading 55th base for the Reds, while the Mets' Travis Taijeron picked up his first career hit, a double to left off Stephenson in the fourth.

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Scooting home: Mets shortstop Amed Rosario couldn't quite make a play on Eugenio Suarez's ground ball to lead off the second inning, resulting in an infield hit. If the sequence seemed relatively benign at the time, Gennett made sure it would prove impactful when he followed with a two-run homer to give Cincinnati a 2-1 lead. The Reds never trailed again.

Deep and gone: If the Mets had designs on a late comeback, Votto increased the degree of difficulty when he launched a Jeurys Familia splitter a Statcast-projected 397 feet in the seventh inning, parking it halfway up the right-field seating bowl. The solo home run was Votto's 34th, tying him with Cody Bellinger for second in the National League behind Giancarlo Stanton. It also put Votto three shy of the career-high 37 he hit back in 2010. More >

QUOTABLE

"The goal is now to get to 200 innings. The guys who are normally the best in the game pitch 200 innings. So that's one of my goals this year."

-- deGrom, who leads the NL with 178 2/3 innings

"He built a little street cred with the guys,"

-- Price, on Stephenson after he took a shot off the hip in the third and stayed in the game

SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS
deGrom's career ERA in day games jumped to 1.94, which is still MLB’s lowest among pitchers with 200 or more matinee innings dating back to at least 1913. Next on the list is Mellie Wolfgang, whose five-year career with the White Sox from 1914-18 produced a 2.15 day-game ERA.

WHAT'S NEXT

Mets: The Mets plan to volunteer in Hurricane Harvey relief efforts Friday during an off-day in Houston. They will then report to Minute Maid Park for a split doubleheader Saturday, playing the first games in Houston since the storm. Matt Harvey will come off the disabled list to start the 2:10 p.m. ET opener opposite Charlie Morton, with Seth Lugo and Brad Peacock pitching the 8:10 ET nightcap.

Reds: The Reds open a three-game series in Pittsburgh with a 7:05 p.m. ET game on Friday. It's a rematch of the Luis Castillo - Gerrit Cole duel from Saturday, which Cole won, 1-0. His home run was the difference.

Anthony DiComo has covered the Mets for MLB.com since 2008. Follow him on Twitter @AnthonyDiComo and Facebook. John Fay is a contributor to MLB.com based in Cincinnati. This story was not subject to the approval of Major League Baseball or its clubs.

Slider proving key to Stephenson in strong run
By John Fay / Special to MLB.com | August 31st, 2017 + 6 COMMENTS

CINCINNATI -- Robert Stephenson has always had the fastball to succeed. Now he has the confidence and the slider.

Stephenson went six innings and allowed two runs on five hits in the Reds’ 7-2 victory over the Mets on Thursday at Great American Ball Park. He walked three and struck out seven. The 24-year-old right-hander is 3-0 with a 2.61 ERA over his last five outings. In that span, he's gone 24 1/3 innings and allowed 17 hits with 13 walks and 28 strikeouts.

"I've got to say the slider," Stephenson said. "It's been working really well for me lately. I think when I get in a jam, I turn to that. When I get ahead in the count, I turn to that. That's been a really big factor in the success lately."

"The fact that he has secondary pitches that he can throw from behind in the count [is key]," Reds manager Bryan Price said. "He leaned on offspeed stuff after the third inning."

The success has boosted Stephenson's confidence.

"I think a big part of baseball is confidence," Stephenson said. "I think that was what hurt me last year. I had a pretty rough stretch. I never got to feel like I was confident in my stuff. Lately, I've been able to be confident in my stuff."

It's beginning to look like Stephenson, the club's No. 1 pick in 2011, is finding himself. He started the season with the Reds, but was sent to Triple-A Louisville after posting an 8.03 ERA in 13 relief appearances.

He picked up the slider in Spring Training, but used it sparingly early on.

"I really worked on it a lot more in Triple-A," he said. "It was a good time to throw it more often, especially as a starter."

On Thursday, Stephenson allowed a run in the first and worked out of a no-out, two-on jam in the second. The game could have gone sideways on him in the third. He walked Jose Reyes to start the inning. An out later, Asdrubal Cabrera singled, sending Reyes to third.

Brandon Nimmo followed with a line drive that hit Stephenson flush on the right hip. The ball caromed all the way to first baseman Joey Votto and a run scored to make it a 2-2 game.

After being checked out and throwing a few warmup pitches, Stephenson stayed in the game and got a ground ball and strikeout to strand the runners.

"It was definitely tight," Stephenson said. "I'll be sore tomorrow. But I didn't want to come out of that game at all. I think it was a little bit of a wakeup call. I got better after that."

The Mets did not threaten in the fourth, fifth or sixth.
"At no point in time did it become a concern," Price said. "Those can be fallback positions for guys to come out a game. . . He built a little street cred with the guys," Price said.

John Fay is a contributor to MLB.com based in Cincinnati. This story was not subject to the approval of Major League Baseball or its clubs.

Cozart beginning to look ahead to free agency
By John Fay / Special to MLB.com | August 31st, 2017 + 16 COMMENTS

CINCINNATI -- Zack Cozart thought for certain he would not end the year as a Red, but now that Aug. 31 has come and gone -- the deadline for players to be traded via waivers and still be eligible for the postseason -- it's pretty much ensured that he will finish the season in Cincinnati.

"It's weird," Cozart said. "I feel like the past two years -- not that I've been walking around on eggshells -- but any day could be that day. I've seen in the past two years so many guys go that I played with [uncertainty] for a good bit.

"I thought it was inevitable that I would be gone. I probably would have been gone if it wasn't for my quad."

Cozart spent two stints on the disabled list with a right quad strain, so despite having his best year, he was a tough player to trade. He went into Thursday's game five plate appearances shy of qualifying for the National League leaderboard. If he were qualified, he would be leading NL shortstops in average (.309), on-base percentage (.402) and slugging percentage (.556).

Cozart, 32, was relieved to get the trade possibility out of the way.

"Now I can concentrate on finishing out the year," he said. "I'm feeling a lot better physically. That's a positive."

The Reds talked about the possibility of extending Cozart, but he said there have been no talks, so he's preparing to become a free agent.

"I've thought about it," Cozart said. "To be honest with you, the thing I keep thinking about is how weird it's going to be to not be affiliated with a team. Usually, I'm in contact with [strength and conditioning coach] Sean Marohn and getting my workout schedule. I'll probably stick to whatever workout routine I've done.

"It's just weird knowing that I don't have to go to Redsfest."

The Reds could offer Cozart a qualifying offer, which figures to be around $18 million. But at Cozart's age, he sees the advantage of long-term deal.

"Free agency can be a great thing or it can be really stressful -- all of a sudden, you're late in the offseason and you don't have a squad," Cozart said. "You can get a little antsy. We'll see what happens."

John Fay is a contributor to MLB.com based in Cincinnati. This story was not subject to the approval of Major League Baseball or its clubs.

Barnhart to paternity list; Reds summon Wallach
By John Fay / Special to MLB.com | August 31st, 2017 + 1 COMMENT

CINCINNATI -- The Reds placed catcher Tucker Barnhart on the three-day paternity list Thursday. The club called Chad Wallach up from Triple-A Louisville to take Barnhart's spot the roster.

It's the second time in a week that Wallach has been called up to take a catcher's spot on the roster while he was on paternity leave.

Stuart Turner was on leave over the weekend to attend to the birth of his son, Easton.

Wallach, the son of former big leaguer Tim Wallach, made one start, going 0-for-4.

John Fay is a contributor to MLB.com. This story was not subject to the approval of Major League Baseball or its clubs.
Castillo, Cole set for rematch as rosters expand
By Adam Berry / MLB.com | @adamdberry | August 31st, 2017 + 6 COMMENTS

Five days after wrapping up a series in Cincinnati, the Pirates and Reds will meet again this weekend at PNC Park. Both clubs may feature some new faces, however, as Major League rosters are set to expand from 25 to 40 players before Friday's series opener.

The Bucs took two of three from the Reds last weekend at Great American Ball Park, their first series victory of the year against Cincinnati. Pittsburgh right-hander Gerrit Cole pitched the most memorable game of that series when he "Little Leagued" the Reds, as manager Clint Hurdle said, with seven shutout innings and a home run off Luis Castillo in the Pirates' 1-0 victory on Saturday. The two pitchers will square off in a rematch on Friday.

Cole's homer was the only damage done against Castillo, as the 24-year-old right-hander allowed two other hits and one walk while tying a career high with nine strikeouts. It was the end of a strong month for Castillo, who recorded a 2.76 ERA and 32 strikeouts while holding opponents to a .178 batting average in five August starts despite going 0-3.

Cole is also rounding into form down the stretch of an up-and-down season. He has worked at least six innings in each of his last 10 starts, posting a 3.17 ERA with 68 strikeouts in 65 1/3 innings during that stretch.

Things to know about this game

• Andrew McCutchen might be more ready than anyone to turn the page on August. After performing at his MVP-level best in June and July, McCutchen slashed .222/.300/.283 with only one home run and eight RBIs in 28 August games. McCutchen's average exit velocity is slightly up from his hot two-month stretch, according to Statcast, but his average launch angle ticked down from 15 degrees to 12.4 degrees in August.

• For all their past success against Cole, only one current Reds hitter has homered against him: Adam Duvall. Scooter Gennett and Billy Hamilton have been particularly tough on Cole, posting identical .391 on-base percentages in 23 career plate appearances each.

• When Cole outdueled Castillo on Saturday in Cincinnati, Cole's 101.3-mph homer off Castillo was the second-hardest batted ball the Pirates hit off the Reds' starter. Meanwhile, Cole only gave up two batted balls that had higher exit velocities.

Adam Berry has covered the Pirates for MLB.com since 2015. Follow him on Twitter and Facebook and read his blog. This story was not subject to the approval of Major League Baseball or its clubs.

CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

BAR: Could the Reds land Japanese star Shohei Otani?
Zach Buchanan, zbuchanan@enquirer.com Published 10:55 a.m. ET Sept. 1, 2017

The Blog Above Replacement a daily look at the Cincinnati Reds, their minor leagues and whatever else is on the mind of Enquirer Reds beat writers, C. Trent Rosecrans and Zach Buchanan. You can follow them on Twitter (@ctrent and @ZachENQ), Facebook (C. Trent Rosecrans and Zach Buchanan) and Instagram (ENQReds).

*Peter Griffin "Road House" parody voice* Mailbag.

Reds were apparently in attendance to scout Otani. Any real interest/ability or just doing due diligence? #heyBARtender

The Reds were there because they now have scouts in Asia, and you always scout guys like Shohei Otana, the two-way Japanese phenom. I'd guess it's more just doing due diligence than anything else, and I'll tell you why.

("Why?)

Well, that's because Otani very likely to command more money than the Reds could offer. For one, he can't sign for a big money bonus for two years, when he turns 25. That's due to a chance in the new collective bargaining agreement that classifies him as an amateur player. If he decided to come to the U.S. now, the highest bonus he could make is $10 million.

("Well, the Reds could pay that much!")

Except they can't. Because they busted their limit in their last international signing period, the Reds cannot hand out bonuses worth more than $300,000 the next two cycles. They've already traded away some of their pool allotment for minor-leaguers. Otani would be taking a huge pay cut to come to the U.S. now, and an even bigger one to come to Cincinnati.
Once Otani turns 25 and can sign for whatever a team will throw at him, well we all know how the Reds usually fare in those situations.

Is there a method to the madness of putting players on waivers in August? Do you hold some of your more "tradeable" guys back towards the end of the month to create pressure for someone to try and trade for him in a short timeline? Do some teams shotgun blast all their guys on waivers at once? -- John Meyer, Philadelphia

Teams do it all sorts of ways. Some run every player through waivers at once, some wait for a strategic time to do so.

What's important to remember is that a team's trade leverage increases when a player clears waivers and can be traded to any team. No team is hoping their trade chips get claimed, because then the market is done to one, if that. Zack Cozart was claimed by a team that doesn't need him, all so another team who did cannot get him.

There is no limit to the number of waiver claims a team can submit, so teams will claim as many attractive players as they can.

What does it say about the Reds MiLB system that the only 2 top-30 prospects currently in LOU are Nos. 24 & 25 on that list? #heyBARtender

First of all, assuming you're using MLB.com's ranking, this is incorrect. Jimmy Herget is ranked 18th, and Rookie Davis is ranked 19th. Then you get to Ariel Hernandez at No. 24 and Alex Blandino at No. 25.

But, in general, what it should tell you is how much talent the team has added recently, and how many players have graduated to the majors. To the first point, 13 of the top 20 players on that list were acquired since the 2015 draft. Eleven were added since the 2016 draft.

On the second point, Triple-A has been pretty much a major-league staging area all year. Robert Stephenson, Luis Castillo and Sal Romano would have been on this list, but are now in the majors. Cody Reed lost his prospect status when he used up his rookie eligibility last year.

Tyler Male (No. 4), Jesse Winker (No. 5) and Phillip Ervin (No. 23) are in the majors right now and will lose their eligibility for this list at some point, too.

ICYMI

- Robert Stephenson is missing a lot of bats.

- Joey Votto gave a young fan fighting cancer a special memory, along with a few mementos.

- Zack Cozart will finish the season as Red, and that surprises him.

Minor-league roundup

Triple-A: Indianapolis 8, Louisville 6. Called up from High-A to fill a hole, things did not go well for RHP Wendolyn Bautista. He didn't record an out and gave up seven runs, though only five were earned. 3B/1B Brandon Dixon went 2 for 5 with two doubles.

Double-A: Jacksonville 5, Pensacola 2. RHP Deck McGuire allowed two runs and struck out 11 in six innings. 2B Shed Long went 1 for 4 with a double and a walk.

High-A: Daytona 8, Florida 3. RHP Jake Paulson gave up three runs in five innings, but walked none and struck out six. 1B James Vasquez homered, and DH Luis Gonzalez was 4 for 4 with a double.

Low-A: Bowling Green 6, Dayton 0. RHP Alex Webb allowed four runs in five innings. RF Michael Beltre tripled.

Rookie-Advanced: Billings 5, Missoula 4. In his second start since coming up from the Arizona Rookie League, LHP Jacob Heatherly allowed four runs in 3 1/3 innings. LF J.D. Salmon-Williams was 2 for 4 with a homer, and CF And Sigulio and DH Hendrik Clementina each went 3 for 5.
Joey Votto gives home run bat, jersey to young fan battling cancer
C. Trent Rosecrans, crosecrans@enquirer.com Published 4:52 p.m. ET Aug. 31, 2017 | Updated 7:23 a.m. ET Sept. 1, 2017

Wally Herbert couldn’t believe that Reds first baseman Joey Votto had pointed to his son, 6-year-old Walter “SuperBubz” Herbert, before his seventh-inning at-bat.

What came next? Well, that was beyond belief.

Votto hit the second pitch he saw from Mets reliever Jeurys Familia half-way up the stands in right field for his 34th home run of the season. It was an impressive display of power, followed by a more impressive display of humanity.

Votto high-fived Herbert before he made it to the dugout. Then he raised one finger, as if to say, ‘wait, there’s more.’ And there was. Votto went through the camera well on the first-base dugout side to hand Herbert the bat he’d used for the home run. And then he went into the tunnel connected to the dugout to get another jersey, taking the one he was wearing off his back and handing it to Herbert.

“These are the days you remember when you have the bad days,” Wally Herbert said.

The younger Herbert is suffering from Stage 4 neuroblastoma, one of the most common types of pediatric cancer. When the cancer spread throughout his body, the family decided to enjoy their final time together.

Last week Herbert served as the team’s honorary captain for a game against the Pirates. That’s when he met Votto for the first time and received an autographed bat.

Wally Herbert thought Votto may say hello as the family sat in the first row of the Diamond Club near the Reds’ on-deck circle. He did more than that.

“Knowing how focused Joey Votto is down here, him to come talk to him was neat,” Wally Herbert said. “The neatest thing to me was Joey Votto hits a home run and points back at him. Then gives him a high-five afterwards. That takes a lot for a professional ballplayer, especially one the caliber Joey is, the memorabilia stuff is always going to be something we keep on display.”

Emily Herbert, Walter’s mother, added: “Joey Votto has a huge heart.”

Afterward, Votto said he wanted to keep it as a personal moment between him and the family.

“I honestly, I don't really want to chat about this one,” Votto noted.

When told that it had meant the world to Walter and his family, Votto responded, “that's all that matters.”

Votto then noted that the Herbert family was holding a fundraiser at the Public House in Cheviot on Sept. 16 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. He also plugged Jay Bruce’s fundraising effort for Hurricane Harvey relief funds.

“I'd be remiss if I didn't say long-time teammate and long-time friend of mine, Jay Bruce, has opened a Twitter account and if I'm not mistaken, he's trying to raise money for the Hurricane Harvey relief effort,” Votto said. “If anyone wants to support that in any way, shape or form, I know Jay would love that.”

Bruce, a Beaumont, Texas native, is matching donations up to $100,000 at Indians.com/Bruce. The Reds donated $20,000 to Bruce’s efforts and another $20,000 for the American Red Cross as part of the Reds Community Fund’s portion of split the pot ticket sales during the three-game Mets series. The team also received donations from Mike and Michele Schuster of Michael Schuster Associates and Levi Blackman of StubWorld.

Robert Stephenson not whiffing on his latest rotation shot
Zach Buchanan, zbuchanan@enquirer.com Published 5:13 p.m. ET Aug. 31, 2017 | Updated 5:40 p.m. ET Aug. 31, 2017

Robert Stephenson whiffed on his first shot at being a major-league starter. The second time around, he’s whiffing everyone else.

Thursday, the Cincinnati Reds right-hander held the New York Mets to two runs over six innings in a 7-2 win, lowering his ERA to 3.71 since he returned from Triple-A in July. He's posted a 2.22 mark in August.

More impressively, he’s been racking up strikeouts. Stephenson fanned seven against the Mets, and struck out a career-best 11 in the start before that. Since returning from a minor shoulder injury on Aug. 13, Stephenson has the fourth-best whiff rate among major-league starters at 16.6 percent.
What’s the difference?

“I gotta say the slider,” Stephenson said. “I feel like it’s been a really good pitch for me lately. When I get in a jam, I turn to that. When I get ahead in the count, I turn to that.”

Bullpen coach Ted Power introduced Stephenson to the pitch in spring training. The grip wasn’t much different from his curveball. Stephenson positions his fingers higher on the horseshoe of the seam, and he throws it like a fastball with a wrist flick at the end instead of fully turning his wrist like he would with his curve.

It was a project pitch at first, and an ignored one. Stephenson was pitching out of the big-league bullpen to begin the season, but didn’t feel comfortable using the slider with any regularity. Then came a late-May demotion to Triple-A, and a return to starting. The slider became his new best friend.

About a month in, the pitch began to click. Since Stephenson has come back, it’s been perhaps his best pitch. He threw it 30 times in 92 pitches against the Mets, and induced a swing-and-miss more than a quarter of the time. Since coming back from the shoulder problem, batters have fanned at it 30 percent of the times he’s thrown it. That’s the fifth-best rate of any major-league pitcher who has thrown at least 50 sliders in that span.

Along with his change-up and his now little-used curve, Stephenson is showing the ability to steer away from over-reliance on his fastball. In his final three innings against the Mets on Thursday, Stephenson threw 12 fastballs but 16 sliders and 10 change-ups.

“What a great sense of confidence when you know you’re not constantly having to get yourself back in every count with the fastball,” Reds manager Bryan Price said.

There still is some tightening to be done on Stephenson’s game. His whiff rates may be impressive, but Thursday was the first time in six big-league starts this year that he completed six innings. He has a WHIP just north of 1.5 in those outings.

His offspeed mix has allowed him to get back into counts and get out of jams, but it also has truncated his outings. The next step is avoiding those jams in the first place.

“He wants nothing more than to pound the zone with good quality stuff,” Price said. “We’re constantly working with the delivery to put him in a good position to deliver quality strikes. We’ve seen improvement, and I think we’ll continue to see that. But that’s the growth part.”

Reds recap: Robert Stephenson earns another W
C. Trent Rosecrans, crosecrans@enquirer.com Published 3:19 p.m. ET Aug. 31, 2017

The Reds finished their three-game series with the Mets with a 7-2 victory over New York on Thursday afternoon.

Here are the main storylines from Thursday’s game:

Stephenson shines again: Since coming back from the disabled list, right-hander Robert Stephenson is 3-0 with a 2.70 ERA in three starts. Thursday was his first career quality start, allowing two runs on five hits over six innings. He walked three and struck out seven.

In those three starts, he has 21 strikeouts and 10 walks.

Stephenson was hit in the hip by a liner off the bat of Brandon Nimmo in the third. The Mets’ second run of the game scored on the infield single, but after walking around the infield for about a minute and a visit from the trainers, Stephenson stayed in the game. He would allow only one more hit, a double by Travis Taijeron in the fourth.

Bryan Price pulled him for a pinch hitter in the bottom of the sixth.

Scooter keeps scooting: Scooter Gennett hit a two-run home run in the second to give the Reds a 2-1 lead and then doubled in a run in the fifth to extend the team’s lead to 4-2.

It was Gennett’s 23rd home run of the season and 19th double. He now has 81 RBI on the season.

Votto hits No. 34: Joey Votto hit a towering home run in the seventh, his 34th of the season.

Votto’s career-high for home runs is 37, set in his MVP season of 2010. He hit 29 home runs in each of the previous two seasons.
Dad strength: In his first start since the birth of his son Easton Michael on Saturday, Reds catcher Stuart Turner hit his second home run of the season.

Before the game, his fellow catcher Tucker Barnhart was placed on paternity leave for the birth of his first child, also a boy. Earlier in August, another Reds catcher, Devin Mesoraco, and his wife also had their first child, another boy.

That guy again: For the third time in as many games, Mets leadoff man Jose Reyes reached base and scored in the first inning. Thursday he hit a ground-rule double off of Robert Stephenson to start the game. He went to third on fielder’s choice and scored on a sacrifice fly to give the Mets an early 1-0 lead.

Reyes also led off the third with a walk and scored when Brandon Nimmo lined a ball off the hip of Stephenson for a RBI single.

Reyes walked in scored the Mets’ first run on Tuesday and doubled and scored on Wednesday.

**Brandon Phillips reaches 2,000 hits with mom on hand in Philadelphia**

*Dave Clark, dclark@cincinnati.com Published 2:42 p.m. ET Aug. 30, 2017 | Updated 1:35 p.m. ET Aug. 31, 2017*

Brandon Phillips, who played 11 seasons for the Cincinnati Reds before the team traded him to the Atlanta Braves this past offseason, recorded his 2,000th career hit on Wednesday with an RBI single in the 1st inning against the Philadelphia Phillies in Philadelphia.

And Phillips’ mother flew to Philadelphia to surprise him for the big occasion.

Phillips had 1,774 of his 2,000 career hits as a Red.

**Reds 'Kickin' it with Bronson Arroyo' set for Sept. 23**

*Dave Clark, dclark@cincinnati.com Published 12:19 p.m. ET Aug. 31, 2017*

Bronson Arroyo’s 16-year Major League Baseball career - the majority (nine seasons) of which was spent with the Cincinnati Reds - will be celebrated during pre-game ceremonies and a post-game-concert at Great American Ball Park on Sept. 23.

The Reds face the Boston Red Sox - a team for which Arroyo played for three seasons from 2003 to 2005 and won a World Series in 2004 - at 4:10 p.m. that day at GABP.

More from the Reds:

This special night called “Kickin’ it with Bronson” will include pre-game ceremonies saluting Bronson’s career with the Reds and tribute videos from Bronson’s former teammates, coaches, friends and celebrities.

Following the game, Bronson and his band will play a 40-minute concert, presented by Budweiser, for all fans in attendance.

The evening will be capped off by a Rozzi’s Famous Fireworks show, presented by United Dairy Farmers, with a soundtrack featuring some of Bronson’s favorite songs and artists.

Fans can purchase a $10 field pass add-on to their game ticket to watch the post-game concert from the infield, with all proceeds benefiting the Reds Community Fund.

VIP packages are also available that include a game ticket, meet and greet with Bronson and field pass for the concert.

Tickets and additional details are available Reds.com/Bronson.

Bronson ranks among the franchise’s all-time leaders in strikeouts (1,157; 6th), starts (279; 17th), wins (108; T12th) and innings pitched (1,761.1; 12th).


He was a 2006 MLB All-Star and won the Rawlings Gold Glove Award for fielding excellence in 2010.

The 40-year-old Arroyo is on the 60-day disabled list and acknowledged earlier this season that his playing career is over.
Reds notes: Zack Cozart sticking around — for now
C. Trent Rosecrans, crosecrans@enquirer.com Published 12:19 p.m. ET Aug. 31, 2017 | Updated 12:48 p.m. ET Aug. 31, 2017

Even as he nears free agency, Reds shortstop Zack Cozart finally feels like he has some sort of stability about his immediate future, at least.

Cozart will finish the season with the Reds, despite his impending free agency after the season. On Wednesday, FanRagSports.com’s Jon Heyman reported that Cozart had been claimed by a team when placed on waivers and the Reds pulled him back off the waiver wire. That means he can’t be traded the rest of the season.

“I feel like the past, at least two years, not that I've been walking on eggshells, but you kind of know that any day could be that day,” Cozart said. "I've seen in the past two or three years so many guys go that I've played with for a good bit. I just thought it was inevitable that I'd be gone, but I probably would have been gone had it not been for my quad. It's just one of those things that I can kind of finish out the year.”

Waiver trades can be made throughout the month of September, but any traded players will lose postseason eligibility, making a Cozart deal more or less pointless for a potential contender.

Cozart was nearly traded at the non-waiver trade deadline in 2016, but this year he was on the disabled list with a quad injury at the July 31 non-waiver trade deadline. However, since returning from the DL, he’s hit .282/.400/.507 with five home runs in 20 games entering Thursday while still getting regular days off to rest the quad. Cozart was not in Thursday’s lineup.

While the Reds had expressed some interest in trying to sign Cozart to an extension during the season, nothing has come of that, and with just a month before he’s a free agent, there’s little to no chance anything will.

At 32, Cozart will be searching for a multi-year deal in free agency. Always a defensive standout, Cozart has put together the best offensive season of his career and was the starting shortstop for the National League in the All-Star Game.

The Reds drafted Cozart out of Ole Miss in the second round of the 2007 draft. He’s been in the big leagues since 2011 and the team’s starting shortstop since 2012. He suffered a season-ending knee injury in June of 2015, cutting short that season. Last year he started the season with the team, but he missed the last month of the season due to the same knee. This year his right quad has been a persistent issue, forcing two DL stints.

Cozart can file for free agency after the World Series.

“To be honest with you, the thing I keep thinking about is how weird it's going to be after the season it's going to be technically not affiliated with the team,” he said. “Usually, I'm in contact with (strength and conditioning coordinator) Sean Marohn and getting my workout schedule. I'll probably stick to whatever workout routine that I've done. It's just weird knowing that I don't have to go to RedsFest.”

“I don't know, it's one of those things that free agency can be a great thing or it can be really stressful, I'm guessing. Because all of a sudden you're late in the offseason and you're not on a squad yet. You can get a little antsy. We'll see what happens, it'll be interesting.”

For the next month, at least, the player called “Coach” by his teammates will be with the Reds.

September call-ups to trickle in

Major League Baseball teams can expand their rosters Sept. 1, but don’t expect an overflow of players in the PNC Park clubhouse on Friday. Triple-A Louisville has four more games remaining after Thursday, and the schedule starting pitchers for those games will finish out the season for the Bats.

Starters on the Reds’ 40-man roster in Louisville are left-handers Cody Reed and Amir Garrett and right-handers Luke Farrell, Rookie Davis and Jackson Stephens. Relievers Barrett Astin and Ariel Hernandez are also on the 40-man roster.

“The bulk of the guys that are currently in the rotation in Louisville, those who will be added, most of them will make their final appearances before they’re brought here,” Reds manager Bryan Price said before Thursday’s game. “Probably a couple of those guys will pick up for (Tyler) Mahle and (Luis) Castillo when their time is done. But I wouldn’t expect a full influx of all those candidates or all the guys who are expected to come to arrive tomorrow. Maybe two.”

Mahle and Castillo are close to their innings limits. Castillo is expected to make two more starts.
The only other healthy players on the 40-man roster currently in the minor leagues are Pensacola right-hander Keury Mella and outfielder Aristides Aquino. Neither are likely to get a call-up, especially with Pensacola readying for the playoffs.

CINCINNATI -- When a season is as hopeless as the Reds', you look for some signs of, well, hope for the future.

Not the down-the-road future, but for next year.

Lately, the Reds have gotten some performances to maybe move the needle slightly toward cautiously optimistic for 2018. To wit:

Robert Stephenson is 2-0 with a 2.76 ERA over his last three starts. He’s gone 16 1/3 innings and allowed 15 hits, nine walks and 18 strike outs.

Sal Romano is 2-0 in with a 2.70 ERA over his last three starts. He’s gone 20 innings and allowed 17 hits, seven walks and 15 strike outs.

Tyler Mahle was decent in his first start in the majors -- five innings, three runs on four hits, four walks, five strikeouts.

Given that Luis Castillo has been good since he arrived in the big leagues, it’s starting to look like some prospects are ready to produce in 2018. A couple of good starts doesn’t prove much.

But if Stephenson and Romano had continued to struggle, things would look a lot bleaker for next year.

I've written it dozens of times: To return to respectability, the young starting pitching has to get better. This season was lost because the tops prospects -- Stephenson, Romano, Cody Reed and Amir Garrett -- weren’t ready early in the year to pitch consistently well in the big leagues.

Stephenson and Romano can show they’re ready now.

“It’s imperative,” Reds manager Bryan Price said. “Because of the importance of knowing what we have going into spring training. We have to look at and know where Sal and Rob and Castillo and Mahle and these guys fit.

“Tyler a little less. He’s going to have less opportunity here. He’s going to have a handful of starts and then his season will be over. We’ve had a good opportunity to look at Castillo, Stephenson and Romano -- and with really positive results.”

Castillo is the one guy guaranteed a spot. A 3.26 ERA over 13 starts will do that. If Stephenson and Romano pitch well through September, you can probably pencil them into the rotation.

“The final month is a way to rubber stamp their ability to compete at this level with enough consistency to where any of us would be comfortable assuming they’re on the team next year,” Price said. “Quality performances are important. Not everyone is going to assure themselves of a spot, but they can at least give us to confidence that they’re a front runner.”

Right now, the rotation is Homer Bailey and the aforementioned young guys. Bailey will be in the rotation if healthy next year. The same is true of Anthony DeSclafani. I wouldn’t go that far with Brandon Finnegan.

Price has said he also thinks the Reds need to bring in a veteran. General Manager Dick Williams has said the Reds will shop on the free agent market.

That would seemingly make it tough for Castillo, Stephenson, Romano and Mahle to be in the rotation.

But the last two years have taught the Reds one thing about pitching: Stuff happens, i.e., guys get hurt.
“The depth of the organization is key,” Price said. “I think we have that. We certainly need this group of kids who are currently in Triple-A to improve. For those who don’t make the club next year, they’ve got to be the next line to step in and not have a significant falloff.”

Price was referring to Cody Reed and Amir Garrett. Both of whom were ahead of Castillo, Stephenson, Romano and Mahle on the prospect list when the season started.

But Reed (4-9, 3.66 ERA) and Garrett (1-4, 6.38) have struggled at Triple-A after struggling in the majors. They’ll likely get a chance to pitch for the Reds in September. If they can take the steps like Stephenson and Romano have, it will increase the hopeful feelings in Redland.

“Our goal is to get considerably better,” Price said. “It’s not to five games better, eight games better, but considerably better. In order to do that, there has to be a reliability factor with the starting pitching. It has to be there.”

It’s there with Castillo. Stephenson and Romano will get another month to make their cases. If they do, hope away, Reds fans.

**Joey Votto gives HR bat to 6-year-old fan battling cancer**

WCPO Staff  
5:42 PM, Aug 31, 2017  
12:34 AM, Sep 1, 2017

CINCINNATI -- Reds fans won’t soon forget Joey Votto’s 34th home run of the season.

The Reds first baseman hit the homer off New York Mets reliever Jeurys Familia Thursday afternoon. The fact that the home run gave the Reds a 5-2 lead paled in comparison to the light in the eyes and smile of a 6-year-old fan as Votto handed him his home-run bat and jersey.

Walter Herbert, nicknamed "Superbubz" by his friends and family, is fighting stage 4 neuroblastoma, a form of childhood cancer, The Score reported. Chive Charities, an organization dedicated to helping individuals with rare medical conditions, helped the Herbert family meet Votto at the Reds clubhouse the week before the home run.

Herbert’s father, Wally Herbert, thought Votto might say hello to his son as he walked by the stands Thursday. When Votto came over for a high five and then gifted him the bat and jersey, “I kind of lost it, personally,” the elder Herbert said.

“I think they really have connected, and it’s r

The younger Walter Herbert had practiced with FC Cincinnati earlier in the day, also courtesy of Chive. His father said moments like these help buoy his son through cancer treatments and other less rosy experiences.

"When the bad days happen, this gives us something to talk about to Bubz,” he said. "What (Votto) did for Bubz was amazing. I was tearing up. You can't have a better day than we had today.”

Walter left Great American Ball Park Thursday with Votto’s jersey, bat and ball.

The Herbert family hopes it can help more children like Walter by raising money to make September Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month. They’ll be holding a fundraiser to support that cause at the Public House Sept. 16 in Cheviot, Ohio.

**DAYTON DAILY NEWS**

Check out what Joey Votto did for 6-year-old cancer patient during Reds game  
Marcus Hartman  
10:19 a.m. Friday, Sept. 1, 2017

Joey Votto wrote another chapter in his growing legacy as one of the greats on and off the field Thursday.

The Cincinnati slugger hit a home run to right-center field in the seventh inning against the Mets then handed his bat to a youngster in the front row.

That fan, 6-year-old Walter Herbert, is a Votto fan who is battling stage four high-risk neuroblastoma.

He also gave Walter his game-worn jersey later in the day.
Hal McCoy: Reds owner learns hard truth about winning
By Hal McCoy - Contributing Writer
Posted: 6:26 a.m. Friday, September 01, 2017

Hall of Fame baseball writer Hal McCoy knows a thing or two about our nation’s pastime. Tap into that knowledge with an email to halmccoy1@hotmail.com.

Q: You have written that over the years you voted for this player or that player for the Cy Young, the Hall of Fame or MVP. Does that kind of status warrant having a bodyguard? — DAVE, Miamisburg/Centerville/Beavercreek.

A: You forgot Rookie of the Year, Manager of the Year and Comeback Player of the Year. You suggest bribery might be involved? Or maybe a threat because I didn’t vote for somebody? I have never felt coercion nor have I ever been offered a bribe. The only need I might have for a bodyguard is to protect my cigar collection.

Q: I thought after the 2010 season the Reds were destined to be winners for the rest of the decade, but now it feels like 2001-07 all over again. How long will it take to contend, because when I hear the front office say rebuild I prepare myself for 10 more years of misery? — WILL, Williamson, W.Va.

A: When Bob Castellini took over 12 years ago he said he intended to make the Reds winners again. Unfortunately, he discovered it isn’t that easy. In his 12 years, the Reds have lost more games than they did in the 12 years before he took over. Nobody wants to win more than Castellini, but it is a difficult process that involves solid drafting, good trades, good free agent signings and a full pot of luck. They have had good drafts in recent years and made some solid trades. It all depends on some of those young arms becoming solid big league pitchers because baseball begins (and sometimes ends) with pitching. It might take two years, it might take 10 and it might not happen in our lifetime. The Reds have had five winning seasons in their last 21. Not good.

Q: Is Joey Votto’s focus more impressive since it is happening without the Reds playing meaningful games or does the lack of pennant race pressure make it easier? — LARRY, Centerville.

A: Votto’s concentration is meditation-like. His ability to shut out external distractions is incredible. It takes somebody with total focus to draw eight walks in nine plate appearances. And for Votto it doesn’t matter if the Reds are first or last, in or out of contention. Remember he won MVP in 2010 when the Reds won the division. Joey Votto is a breed unto himself.

Q: Why aren’t Jay Bruce’s total 2017 statistics (particularly HRs and RBIs) included in American League statistics as a member of the Cleveland Indians? — THAN, Urbana.

A: Bruce went from the National League New York Mets to the American League Cleveland Indians. For some silly, inexplicable reason, even though there is at least one interleague game nearly every day, AL and NL statistics are compiled separately. If Bruce had been traded to an NL team, his statistics would have continued. But with an AL team, he starts over. I assume it is because MVP, Cy Young and all awards are given for each league. I see no plausible reason his NL stats shouldn’t carry over to the AL, especially because there is so much interleague play. As so often happens in baseball, some of the rules make no sense.

Q: Of all the Reds’ young starting pitchers, who would you guess will have the best career? — ALAN, Sugarcreek Twp.

A: You asked it correctly. It’s a guess. So much can happen with young pitchers. Remember how great Amir Garrett started? Now he has disappeared. Luis Castillo, right now, looks the best because of his stuff and his composure. But, like Garrett’s fast start, it is a minuscule sampling. Hitters have seen much of him and haven’t adjusted. Will they? Or is he that good? Robert Stephenson, Sal Romano and Tyler Mahle are showing flashes. Can they sustain it? We’ll see how they adjust when hitters adjust to them. But a guess? Luis Castillo, but hold your breath.

Q: Is it time for Little League to move back the distances on the basepaths and the fences because kids have outgrown the dimensions? — LARRY, Piqua.

A: I have said that for years. With aluminum bats, better baseballs and kids getting bigger and stronger and faster, Williamsport seems like the Little League version of Great American Small Park. I wouldn’t say that when I was a kid. We used wood bats and soggy baseballs. The fence was 200 feet from home plate and in two years I hit one home run. But until high school I was a shrimp. But some of the home runs you see hit in Williamsport these days would leave Great American. Move ‘em back.


A: His future always seems to be permanent residence in the training room. The poor guy can’t stay healthy. That makes it very difficult to trade him. Tucker Barnhart probably is a better defensive catcher, but lacks Mesoraco’s power — when he is healthy, like 2014 when he hit 25 home runs. He hasn’t played more than 56 games since. Fortunately, the Reds system is full of high-
quality catchers. Mesoraco has been paid nearly $15 the last three years when he basically couldn’t pay. They will pay him $13 million next year, the last year of his contract. I suspect next year is he last chance to stay healthy.

Q: I believe it’s time for a change in manager just because of the body language of some of the players. Do you agree? — BUD, Naples, Fla.

A: No, Bud, I don’t. But that doesn’t mean it won’t happen. Sometimes change is made just for change, to make fans believe the front office is doing something and the manager always takes the fall. But Bryan Price can’t be blamed for the abysmal pitching. And I see no body language problems. In fact, the team plays hard for Price. You see it time and again how hard the team tries to come from behind in games that appear hopelessly lost. He hasn’t lost the players. Not at all. But, of course, you can’t fire an entire team.

Q: I heard they are thinking about shutting down Luis Castillo soon, but don’t you think they’d want to build up his arm strength? — JAY, Englewood.

A: They aren’t thinking about it, they are going to do it. And he won’t be the only one of the young pitchers they will shut down due to innings limits. I’m with you. Pitchers are babied way too much these days. Castillo is just getting his feet firmly planted on the mound and they are going to take it away from him. It’s what they do these days, but that doesn’t make it right. There is no statistical data that this method works. Let ‘em pitch.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Q: If the trade deadline is July 31, how could the Mets trade Jay Bruce to the Indians after the deadline? And is he eligible for the playoffs? — DEAN, Eaton.

A: That is confusing to most fans. The July 31 deadline is a non-waiver deadline. That means teams can trade any player without putting him on waivers. After July 31, before a player can be traded he must be placed on waivers. That means any team can claim him without making a trade. If that player clears waivers (no team claims him) then he can be traded. If another team claims the player, his team can pull him off waivers and keep him or let him go. Yes, you will see Jay Bruce in the playoffs. To be eligible, a player must be on a team’s roster before Sept. 1. And Bruce will make a difference for the Tribe. New York was not for him, but Cleveland is.

Reds bounce back to beat Mets, secure winning month

By Mark Schmetzer - Contributing Writer

Updated: 8:02 p.m. Thursday, August 31, 2017 | Posted: 4:37 p.m. Thursday, August 31, 2017

CINCINNATI — Scooter Gennett couldn’t quite come through for the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday, but he needed fewer than 24 hours to make up for it.

The second baseman drove in three runs with a two-run home run and a double off New York ace Jacob deGrom and the Reds took the rubber game of their three-game series against the New York Mets with a 7-2 win Thursday.

Stuart Turner also hit a two-run homer and Joey Votto added a solo as the Reds went 4-5 on their nine-game home stand. They finished August with a 15-14 record, their first winning month since going 13-11 in July 2016.

“We get their best guy in game three of the series,” manager Bryan Price said. “What was under the radar is, if we lose that, we finish the month under .500. If we win, we’re 15-14. That may seem like a small thing to most people, but it means a lot to us.”

Rookie right-hander Robert Stephenson (3-4) shook off getting plunked by a line drive in the third inning to last a season-high six, allowing five hits and three walks with seven strikeouts.

“It’s definitely sore, and it will be a little tight (on Friday), but I didn’t want to come out of that game,” Stephenson said. “It was a little bit of a wakeup call.”

Stephenson has won his last three starts. His effort dropped the starting pitchers’ combined ERA over their last seven starts to 3.16.

deGrom (14-8) slipped to 2-5 in seven starts since he strung together eight consecutive wins. He allowed six hits and four runs — three earned — with three walks and five strikeouts in six innings. The Reds have won two of their last three against the Mets after losing 14 straight dating back to September 2014.

Shut out for the fifth time Wednesday night after piling up 14 runs Tuesday, the Reds grabbed a 2-1 lead in the second when Eugenio Suarez led off with a single and Gennett followed with his 23rd homer, a long belt into the deep right-center field seats.
The homer was redemption for Gennett, who struck out with the bases loaded and two outs to finish Wednesday’s 2-0 loss.

The Mets tied it, 2-2, in the third when Jose Reyes scored from third on Brandon Nimmo’s line drive single that glanced off the lower body of Stephenson to Votto at first. Stephenson threw a couple of test pitches and stayed in the game.

“Robert was really good,” Price said. “He took that line drive off his hip, but at no point in time did that become a concern. That can be a fallback for some guys coming out of the game.”

Price and Stephenson credited the pitcher’s recent surge to increased reliance on his slider.

“He threw a lot of splitters and sliders over the last three innings,” Price said. “He had a heavy concentration of off-speed pitches. He’s got a myriad collection of pitches he can throw over the plate.”

Billy Hamilton manufactured a go-ahead run in the third. He led off with a single to center, stole his 55th base and, with one out, sped to third on Votto’s grounder to shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera. The startled Cabrera’s throw to third glanced off Hamilton’s body and rolled far enough away for him to score.

Reds notes: Familiar faces due back as rosters expand
By Mark Schmetzer - Contributing Writer
Posted: 4:38 p.m. Thursday, August 31, 2017

CINCINNATI — Don’t expect a tidal wave of roster moves by the Reds when active rosters can be expanded from 25 players to as many as 40 on Friday.

Triple-A Louisville is scheduled to wrap up its season on Labor Day, and while the Reds may start importing players before then, the bulk of the moves probably won’t come until the Bats are done.

“We’ll have a couple of moves (on Friday),” manager Bryan Price said Thursday morning before the Reds met the Mets in the finale of their three-game series and Cincinnati’s nine-game home stand. “The bulk of the guys are in (Louisville’s) rotation, and we’ll let them make their final appearances before we bring them up here. We’ll need a couple to fill in for (Luis) Castillo and (Tyler) Mahle when they’re done.

The likely candidates to be added are familiar faces. Pitchers such as right-handers Jackson Stephens and Rookie Davis and left-handers Amir Garrett and Cody Reed all have made starts for the Reds this season. Garrett ranks sixth in the Reds stats with 12 starts, while Davis made five. Stephens and Reed each have one major league start on this season’s resume.

Cincinnati’s rotation already includes hurlers who previously started multiple games for the Bats. Right-handers Tyler Mahle and Sal Romano each made 10 starts for Louisville before being promoted to the Reds. Right-hander Asher Wojciechowski has made five starts for the Bats and eight for the Reds.

Some of the new-ish faces will get time when Castillo and Mahle reach their season innings limits and are shut down for the rest of the year.

Right-handers Barrett Astin, Luke Farrell and Ariel Hernandez also are pitchers who’ve spent time this season with the Reds and candidates to return. All pitched exclusively in relief during their major league stints.

Warm seat: Catcher Chad Wallach’s Great American Ball Park cubicle barely had time to gather dust before he was again hanging clothes in it.

Wallach was recalled from Louisville on Thursday when catcher Tucker Barnhart was placed on the three-day paternity list. Barnhart’s wife, Sierra, was due to deliver the couple’s first child at any time.

The promotion was the second for Wallach in less than a week, both to replace catchers who were on paternity leave. Last Friday, he took Stuart Turner’s spot when Turner left to be on hand in Louisiana for the delivery by his wife, Danielle, of their first child.

First-hand: Price makes his off-season home in Scottsdale, Ariz., which makes it convenient for him to personally keep tabs on some of the Reds’ top prospects.

Six Cincinnati prospects already are due to play for the Scottsdale Scorpions of the Arizona Fall League and the pitching staff has room for an additional Reds prospect.
“What’s good about the way they’ve got it set up is the bulk of one team’s players all are on the same team,” Price said. “That means you can go watch a game and see three pitchers and two positions players, all in one game.”

Pittsburgh bound: The Reds left after Thursday’s game for Pittsburgh and a three-game series against the Pirates. Castillo (2-7, 3.26 earned-run average) is Cincinnati’s scheduled starter for Friday’s 7:05 p.m. series opener against Pittsburgh right-hander Gerrit Cole (11-8, 3.99) in a rematch of their starts last Saturday that turned into a classic pitcher’s duel. Castillo allowed three hits and one run — a Cole home run — with nine strikeouts in seven innings.

Cole was even better. Besides his home run, he turned in seven shutout innings during which he allowed five hits and struck out six without a walk. The Pirates prevailed, 1-0, leaving Cole with his first career win against the Reds in seven decisions over 10 starts.

Opposing batters are hitting .208 against Castillo this season.

Saturday’s 7:05 p.m. game features another rematch. Tyler Mahle (0-1, 5.40) makes his second career start against Pittsburgh right-hander Jameson Taillon (7-5, 4.75). Those two squared off last Sunday with the Pirates pulling out a 5-2 win.

Right-hander Sal Romano (4-5, 4.91) is Cincinnati’s scheduled starter in Sunday’s 1:35 p.m. series and road trip finale. He is due to be opposed by right-hander Trevor Williams (5-7, 4.37).

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**Joey Votto homers, gives bat, jersey to 6-year-old cancer patient**

Associated Press
10:18 PM ET

CINCINNATI -- A young cancer patient got quite a souvenir when Reds star Joey Votto hit a home run. A couple of them, in fact.

After Votto rounded the bases in the seventh inning during a 7-2 win over the Mets on Thursday, he waved to 6-year-old Walter Herbert, who was sitting in the front row near the Cincinnati dugout and wearing a blue shirt that said: "BE KIND."

Votto high-fived the boy, then gave him a bat and a red No. 19 jersey while the game went on.

"We did not expect that," Walter's mom, Emily, said in an interview with The Associated Press after the game. "We thought he'd say hi when he recognized him. We were very surprised he went all out."

Votto declined to talk about his gesture after the game. Told that the family was thrilled, Votto said, "Well, that's what's important."

The big-hitting first baseman met the boy a week earlier when he was at Great American Ball Park, courtesy of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Walter had a question for Votto in that first encounter on the field.

"He said, 'Do you have any bubblegum?" Emily Herbert said. "Votto said, 'Buddy, I got you."

Votto took the boy into the Reds' clubhouse and got him some gum and a bat. They also posed for a photo.

The family got tickets for Thursday's game from The Dragonfly Foundation, which helps young cancer patients. Fans sitting nearby took photos of Votto's generosity and posted them on social media.

**Gennett drives in 3, Reds beat Mets 7-2 to take series**

Associated Press
4:29 PM ET

CINCINNATI -- The Reds ended New York's domination in Cincinnati with an emphatic win and a feel-good moment -- Joey Votto giving a bat and a jersey to a young cancer patient. The Mets then headed for flood-ravaged Houston and a day off to help out.

Scooter Gennett drove in three runs with a homer and a double off Jacob deGrom in a 7-2 victory Thursday that gave Cincinnati two of three in the series. Heading in, New York had won 14 straight games against Cincinnati, including eight in a row at Great American Ball Park.

The Reds finished August with a 15-14 mark, their first winning month since July of last year.

"That may seem like a small thing to most people, but it means a lot to us," manager Bryan Price said.
Votto hit a solo shot in the seventh. After rounding the bases, Votto gave a bat and jersey to a 6-year-old boy he met at the ballpark last week through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Walter Herbert sat next to the dugout and wore a blue shirt that said: "BE KIND."

"We did not expect that," Walter's mom, Emily, said in an interview. "We thought he'd say hi when he recognized him. We were very surprised he went all out."

Votto declined to talk about his gesture after the game. Told that the family was thrilled, Votto said, "Well, that's what's important."

The Mets will help bring baseball back to Houston this weekend, playing a doubleheader on Saturday against the Astros. They'll have Friday off, providing a chance to help recovery efforts for those affected by Hurricane Harvey.

"One of the things we talked about yesterday as a team: It's not a publicity stunt," manager Terry Collins said. "We don't want any cameras. We just want to go and help out. The stuff that these guys are going to do and that I'm going to do is pretty much an individual thing. We'll just see what we can do when we get there."

Players are curious about what awaits.

"I've been through hurricanes before but nothing that severe, so I don't know what to expect," deGrom said.

Gennett hit a two-run homer in the second inning and doubled home a run in the fifth off deGrom (14-8), who was trying to become a 15-game winner for the first time in his career. Shortstop Jose Reyes' throwing error let in another run.

Robert Stephenson (3-4) won his third straight start by allowing two runs and five hits in six innings, including Brandon Nimmo's RBI infield single off the pitcher's hip. Stephenson was coming off an 11-strikeout, 9-5 win over the Pirates on Friday. He fanned seven Mets and walked three.

DeGrom's 14 wins match his career high from 2015. His five strikeouts on Thursday gave him a career-high 206, one more than in 2015.

KINDRED SPIRITS

The Mets are 19-28 since the All-Star break. The Reds are 18-28.

NO O

New York leads the NL with 193 homers but failed to hit one during the series. The Mets scored a total of eight runs in the three games.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Mets: David Wright is getting re-examined by doctors in New York before he decides what to do next. Wright had neck surgery last year and hasn't fully recovered. His shoulder bothered him on a rehab assignment over the weekend, leading him to put the comeback on hold.

Reds: C Tucker Barnhart went on the 3-day paternity list. C Chad Wallach was called up from Triple-A Louisville.

UP NEXT

Mets: After the day off, they'll play a doubleheader against the Astros. Matt Harvey (4-3) starts the opener, making his comeback from a shoulder injury that has sidelined him since mid-June. Seth Lugo (5-3) starts the second game.

Reds: Cincinnati opens a series in Pittsburgh, with Luis Castillo (2-7) facing Gerrit Cole (11-8). Cole got his first career victory over the Reds last Saturday, hitting his third career homer off Castillo and going seven innings for a 1-0 victory at Great American Ball Park.

09/01/17

Cleveland Indians placed RHP Dylan Baker on the 60-day disabled list.
Philadelphia Phillies sent OF Aaron Altherr on a rehab assignment to Lehigh Valley IronPigs.
Cleveland Indians activated RF Abraham Almonte from the 10-day disabled list.
Cleveland Indians activated RF Lonnie Chisenhall from the 10-day disabled list.
Cleveland Indians activated RHP Dan Otero from the paternity list.
Cleveland Indians activated RHP Josh Tomlin from the 10-day disabled list.
Philadelphia Phillies sent OF Odubel Herrera on a rehab assignment to Lehigh Valley IronPigs.
Cleveland Indians recalled Kyle Crockett from Columbus Clippers.
Cleveland Indians recalled LHP Shawn Morimando from Columbus Clippers.
Cleveland Indians recalled Adam Plutko from Columbus Clippers.
Cleveland Indians selected the contract of Greg Allen from Columbus Clippers.
Cleveland Indians recalled Francisco Mejia from Columbus Clippers.

Philadelphia Phillies claimed RHP Juan Nicasio off waivers from Pittsburgh Pirates.
Atlanta Braves traded 2B Brandon Phillips and cash to Los Angeles Angels for C Tony Sanchez.
Los Angeles Angels transferred RHP Andrew Bailey from the 10-day disabled list to the 60-day disabled list. Right shoulder strain.
Los Angeles Angels transferred RHP Alex Meyer from the 10-day disabled list to the 60-day disabled list. Right shoulder inflammation.
Los Angeles Angels selected the contract of RHP Fernando Salas from Salt Lake Bees.
Chicago White Sox traded RHP Miguel Gonzalez to Texas Rangers for 3B Ti'Quan Forbes.
Texas Rangers designated RHP Anthony Bass for assignment.
San Diego Padres sent LHP Dillon Overton outright to El Paso Chihuahuas.
Cleveland Indians optioned RHP Shawn Armstrong to Columbus Clippers.
Philadelphia Phillies placed RHP Jerad Eickhoff on the 10-day disabled list. Nerve irritation in right hand.
Philadelphia Phillies sent OF Aaron Altherr on a rehab assignment to Reading Fightin Phils.
Atlanta Braves optioned RHP Jason Hursh to Gwinnett Braves.
Detroit Tigers sent RHP Anibal Sanchez on a rehab assignment to West Michigan Whitecaps.
Detroit Tigers traded LF Justin Upton and cash to Los Angeles Angels for RHP Grayson Long and Future Considerations.
Houston Astros designated RHP Dayan Diaz for assignment.
Houston Astros claimed LF Cameron Maybin off waivers from Los Angeles Angels.
Houston Astros sent SS Carlos Correa on a rehab assignment to Corpus Christi Hooks.
Seattle Mariners traded CF Leonys Martin and cash to Chicago Cubs for Player To Be Named Later and cash.
Philadelphia Phillies designated 1B Brock Stassi for assignment.
Philadelphia Phillies sent CF Odubel Herrera on a rehab assignment to Reading Fightin Phils.
St. Louis Cardinals designated LHP Kevin Siegrist for assignment.
St. Louis Cardinals recalled RHP John Gant from Memphis Redbirds.
Houston Astros sent 3B Colin Moran on a rehab assignment to Quad Cities River Bandits.
New York Yankees recalled RHP Giovanny Gallegos from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders.
Milwaukee Brewers sent C Jett Bandy on a rehab assignment to Wisconsin Timber Rattlers.
Cleveland Indians traded C Erik Kratz to New York Yankees for cash.
Houston Astros placed C Evan Gattis on the 10-day disabled list. Right wrist soreness.
Houston Astros recalled C Juan Centeno from Fresno Grizzlies.
Atlanta Braves sent 3B Adonis Garcia on a rehab assignment to GCL Braves.
Cincinnati Reds placed C Tucker Barnhart on the paternity list.
Cincinnati Reds recalled Chad Wallach from Louisville Bats.
New York Yankees optioned LHP Caleb Smith to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders.
New York Yankees optioned LHP Jordan Montgomery to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders.
Detroit Tigers traded RHP Justin Verlander, cash and Player To Be Named Later to Houston Astros for CF Daz Cameron, RHP Franklin Perez and C Jake Rogers.