

Cincinnati Reds Press Clippings September 28, 2015

THIS DAY IN REDS HISTORY

1869 - The Red Stockings play a cricket match against an all-California squad. Is arranged as a novelty attraction, seeing how the Red Stockings easily demolish local nines in baseball. The Red Stockings still win, 118-79.

MLB.COM

Sampson, Reds unable to contain Mets

By Anthony DiComo and Mark Sheldon / MLB.com

CINCINNATI -- Hours later, the clubhouse carpet remained damp. The room smelled of beer. Players rolled in late, grins on their faces. And then they returned to the business at hand.

Among the oddities in the Mets' post-clinch lineup Sunday were seven bench players, including out-of-position veterans Kelly Johnson at shortstop and Anthony Recker at first base. For the postseason-bound Mets, it hardly mattered. Their replacement team steamrolled Cincinnati, 8-1, sending the Reds to their eighth straight loss and capping a perfect 7-0 record against them this season.

The win also allowed the Mets to increase their lead over the Dodgers in the race for home-field advantage in the National League Division Series to 1 1/2 games.

"They're feeling it. There is blood in the water right now," Reds manager Bryan Price said of the Mets, who are a combined 28-2 against the NL's three last-place teams. "They've already got their playoff spot. They're facing a team that's scuffling, one that's having a hard time having a chance getting a lead. Even with more of their bench players in the game, they're just riding their high and we're stuck in a low."

Mets starting pitcher Jacob deGrom sailed through six innings of one-run ball while striking out nine. His outing came in stark contrast to that of Reds starter Keyvius Sampson, who gave up five runs -- three earned -- and could not escape the third inning.

With David Wright, Daniel Murphy and company watching from the dugout bench, a few steps from where they celebrated on Saturday, Dilson Herrera did the most damage with a two-run homer and a 3-for-4 day. Kevin Plawewski also homered, Michael Conforto added an RBI double and even deGrom had his fun, singling home two runs to chase Sampson from the game.

"A lot of those guys want to be on that postseason roster," Mets manager Terry Collins said. "I think some of those guys in there today said, 'I'm going to show that I belong.'"

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

deGrominant once again: After allowing a leadoff double to Skip Schumaker, deGrom retired 14 consecutive Reds into the fifth. He wound up allowing one run over six innings, striking out nine batters to reach 198 on the season. With an eye toward reaching 200 strikeouts for the first time in his career, deGrom will make one final postseason tuneup start next weekend against the Nationals. He thrived in this one after the Mets skipped his last start.

"I don't know necessarily if it was a good thing or not," deGrom said, "but I felt good out there today."

Reds rotation not helping bullpen: By going only 2 2/3 innings and allowing five runs and nine hits, Sampson provided a short start on the heels of John Lamb's two-inning struggle Saturday. In the four-game series vs. New York, Reds starters allowed 20 runs over only 16 innings. During the eight-game losing streak, the rotation has a 6.63 ERA with 27 earned runs over 36 2/3 innings.

"If you're going to have your success, if you're going to shut down streaks of losing multiple games in a row, it always begins with a quality start. It's been a challenge," Price said. "This current run through the rotation has been a real struggle to have the opportunity to jump out and take a lead and to add on."

Dilson does work: Still a significant part of the Mets' future, Herrera took advantage of some rare playing time to go 3-for-4 with a two-run homer, a double, a walk and two runs scored. He will not make the postseason roster, but could be with the Mets next Opening Day.

"He's going to be a good player -- we all know that," Collins said. "The games he's played up here, he's played very well."

Tough day in left field: In the top of the third with the bases loaded and two outs, deGrom lifted a soft line drive to left field. Ivan De Jesus had a bead on it but let it fall in front of him for a two-run single that made it a 5-0 game. In the fifth, deGrom hit a liner to left field that De Jesus dropped for a run-scoring error.

QUOTABLE

"It's just one of those days. When I did have a good pitch, it got flared over someone's head. I wish I could have gotten deeper in the game for sure. The bullpen has been getting taxed pretty heavily this year. All of us starters want to get six, seven innings if we could."

-- Sampson, after the shortest start of his brief big league career. He is 0-5 over his last eight starts.

SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

The Mets set a modern-day National League record by scoring three-plus runs in their 31st consecutive road game. No other NL team has done that since 1900.

Joey Votto hit an RBI single in the sixth inning that scored Schumaker to break up the shutout. For Votto, it extended his career-high streak of reaching base safely to 44 consecutive games. That put him one away from Matt Holliday's MLB season-high 45-game streak to start 2015. The Reds' franchise record is 48 games, set by Pete Rose in 1978.

ROOKIE HAZING

Heading to their last road city of the regular season, the Mets had a little fun with their rookies, making them wear superhero-themed "Underoos" after the game. The rookies then paraded out of Great American Ball Park, into public view, while the team tweeted out multimedia evidence of the ordeal. Making matters worse for Conforto, Plawecki and company? The Mets had a late flight to Philadelphia due to travel restrictions related to the Pope's visit there, giving veterans even more time to poke fun at their rookies.

WHAT'S NEXT

Mets: An off-day awaits the Mets on Monday, followed by a three-game series in Philadelphia beginning Tuesday. The Mets will spend the week looking to send their arch-rivals to their first 100-loss season since 1961. Bartolo Colon will kick things off opposite David Buchanan in a 7:05 p.m. ET game.

Reds: To make up a July 8 rainout, the Reds will head to Washington on Monday for a 3:05 p.m. ET game vs. the Nationals on what was originally an off-day. Brandon Finnegan will make his third big league start. Finnegan did not fare well his last time out against the Cardinals on Wednesday, allowing six runs on seven hits, including three homers, over five innings while striking out seven.

Reds decide to shut down rookie Iglesias

Reliever Marshall also won't appear in a game before end of season

By Mark Sheldon / MLB.com / mark.sheldon@mlb.com / [@m_sheldon](https://twitter.com/m_sheldon)

CINCINNATI -- After giving thought to letting him pitch again before the season ends, the Reds decided to shut down Raisel Iglesias for the remainder of 2015. Iglesias made his final start on Sept. 13 vs. the Cardinals, but he was taken out of the rotation after that because of right shoulder fatigue.

Lefty reliever Sean Marshall, who hasn't pitched at all this season because of shoulder issues, was also shut down.

That fatigue, combined with a decreased range of motion in Iglesias' shoulder, prompted the decision to be made on Saturday.

"There are some things we wanted him to accomplish before we would allow him to pitch again. There's just not going to be enough time," Reds manager Bryan Price said on Sunday morning.

Considering that he barely pitched at all in 2014 as he sorted out visa issues in Haiti following his defection from Cuba, Iglesias had a nice rookie year in the Majors. The 25-year-old finished 3-7 with a 4.15 ERA in 18 games, including 16 starts. In 95 1/3 innings, he allowed 81 hits and 28 walks with 104 strikeouts and a 1.14 WHIP.

Iglesias ran a streak of seven straight quality starts from Aug. 1-Sept. 2 over which he had a 2.31 ERA. During that stretch, he also became the first Reds pitcher in modern history to record at least 10 strikeouts in three consecutive starts.

"It doesn't make any sense for him to pitch the rest of the year, but he'll really focus on Spring Training," Price said.

For Marshall, it's a hard-luck outcome after he worked diligently to come back from two shoulder surgeries. In 2014, he had an operation to repair a torn labrum, and on May 20, he had a second less-invasive procedure to remove scar tissue.

Marshall had been throwing for the past couple of months, and there was hope he could appear in a game before the season ended.

"He's having a little recurring tenderness in his shoulder," Price said. "He tried to work his way through it. He's actually had some very productive bullpens. He's probably thrown over a dozen bullpens now. But he hasn't been able to get over the hump where he can go an extended period of time without some discomfort."

Marshall led the Majors with 231 appearances from 2010-12, but the shoulder problems have limited him to 31 games pitched since 2013. He made \$6.5 million in '15 and will be a free agent this winter.

Worth noting

- The Reds claimed outfielder Tyler Holt off waivers on Sunday and moved utility player Kristopher Negron to the 60-day disabled list. Holt, 26, was 2-for-20 (.100) in nine big league games this season for the Indians, who designated him for assignment last week. He hit .302 with no home runs, 28 RBIs and 25 stolen bases in 101 games with Triple-A Columbus.

Reds, Nats set for makeup game in Washington

By Mark Sheldon / MLB.com / mark.sheldon@mlb.com / [@m_sheldon](https://twitter.com/m_sheldon)

Both the Reds and Nationals have to forgo their final off-day of the season on Monday to play a makeup game at Nationals Park. The game, rescheduled from a July 8 rainout, will be a chance for two of the Major Leagues' best hitters to be on display in Joey Votto and Bryce Harper. Brandon Finnegan and Max Scherzer will be on the hill.

Harper is putting the finishing touches on an MVP season as he leads the National League in batting, homer runs, on-base percentage, slugging percentage and OPS. Votto is threatening to pass Harper in OBP and is the Majors' leading hitter in the second half with the highest OBP, and he's the overall league leader in walks.

Votto has also reached safely in a career-high 44 games, which is four shy of tying Pete Rose for the franchise record, and one away from Matt Holliday, who started this season reaching safely in 45 games -- the longest streak this season in the Majors.

Things to know about this game

- Cincinnati is 5-0 vs. Washington this season and will be looking to complete the season series sweep. Much has changed for both clubs since they last met in Washington in July. In the last game, Reds ace Johnny Cueto defeated Max Scherzer, 5-0, with a two-hit shutout and 11 strikeouts. The Nationals had a 3 1/2-game lead in the NL East at the time.

- The Reds will start rookie Finnegan, who was part of the July 26 trade that sent Cueto to the Royals. Finnegan was roughed up for six earned runs and seven hits -- including three homers -- for a 10-2 loss to the Cardinals on Wednesday in what was his second big league start.

- In the game against Cueto, Scherzer gave up five earned runs and seven hits over 4 2/3 innings.

CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

Reds' losing skid at 8 after sweep by Mets

By John Fay / Cincinnati Enquirer / jfay@enquirer.com / [@johnfayman](https://twitter.com/johnfayman)

Another rookie start, another blowout.

Keyvius Sampson went 2 2/3 innings in the Reds' 8-1 loss to the New York Mets on Sunday before a crowd of 24,621 at Great American Ball Park. The Mets completed the four-game sweep in Cincinnati after sweeping the Reds in three games in June at Citi Field.

Sampson allowed five runs (three earned) on nine hits. He walked none and struck out two. Sampson's start came the day after John Lamb allowed five runs in two innings in Saturday's loss.

The loss was the eighth in a row for the Reds. The skid started with offensive ineptitude. The Reds scored six runs total in the first three losses.

But the last five losses have been a result of woeful starting pitching. The starters have gone a total of 21 innings in the five games and allowed 22 runs.

"If you're going to have your success," Reds manager Bryan Price said, "if you're going to shut down losing streaks of multiple games in a row, it always starts with a quality start.

"It's been a challenge. We had a couple pretty good starts in St. Louis. This current run through the rotation has been a real struggle to have the opportunity to take a lead and add on."

The Reds were outscored 36-12 in the series.

Sunday's consolation prizes:

— Reds pitchers struck out 11, meaning free LaRosa's pizza for all in attendance.

— Joey Votto singled home a run in the sixth to extend his career-high on-base streak to 44 games. He is one short of the MLB-high this year. Matt Holliday went 45 games to start the year. The Reds' club record is 48 games by Pete Rose in 1978.

Votto walked in the eighth. He's reached base at least twice 35 times during the streak.

Sampson gave up one in the first. He gave up a two-run homer to Dilson Herrera in the second.

Sampson was done after giving up three in the third.

"He threw more strikes," Price said. "They got some elevation mistakes. That's what they do. When he did get ahead, he was leaving that breaking ball up a little bit."

Sam LeCure took over and gave up two unearned runs in the fifth. Michael Lorenzen gave up a home run to Kevin Plawewski in the sixth.

After Skip Schumaker led off the first with a double, reigning Rookie of the Year Jacob deGrom retired 14 in a row.

The Reds only had two hits entering the sixth. They strung together three in the inning to avoid a shutout.

The Mets played eight bench players, but it didn't matter.

"They're feeling it right now," Price said. "There's blood in the water. They've already got their playoff spot. They're facing a team that scuffling. Even with their bench players in the game, they're riding their high. We're stuck in a low. It's been a long difficult season."

More rain on Reds' parade: Make-up trip to Washington

By John Fay / Cincinnati Enquirer / jfay@enquirer.com / [@johnfayman](https://twitter.com/johnfayman)

Mother Nature gets her final gut punch on the Reds' season Monday when the club travels to Washington on a what would have been an off day in the middle of the final homestand to play a meaningless makeup game with the Washington Nationals.

Actually manager Bryan Price described it as something even more painful than a gut shot.

"From a weather standpoint, it already exacerbated what had been a difficult, challenging season," Price said. "To play 17 days to end the season is rubbing your face in it. There's no way around it."

When the game was rained out on July 8 — despite the fact it didn't rain after it was called — it looked like the game would mean something for the Nats at least.

That is no longer the case. The Nationals were eliminated, ironically enough, by the Reds' loss to the New York Mets on Saturday.

"We still have to go there and play the game hard and play the game to win," Price said. "We can't just go there and roll it out like it's an off-day game, a spring training game because it's not."

The Reds will not take all 34 players on the roster to Washington.

"We have some end-of-the-season physicals, some follow-up stuff we can take care of (Monday)," Price said. "(Josh Smith) is pitching Tuesday, so there's no reason to bring him up and back. Plus, some of the DL guys we're bringing with us, they'll just stay here. Hamilton's having surgery on Tuesday, so he wouldn't go.

"There's probably five or six pitchers, a couple of position players who are inactive that aren't going."

But if healthy, even starting pitchers are traveling.

"Everybody who is capable of playing will be going," Price said. "I don't want to leave guys back because it's convenient for them. Like (Anthony) DeSclafani's going, (Brandon) Finnegan. If they're on the team and there's not a reason to stay back, they'll be going with us."

MARSHALL DONE: Left-hander Sean Marshall, who has spent the year rehabbing from a shoulder injury, will not pitch in a game this year. Marshall had made very good progress recently. Getting in a game was the goal.

"We shut him (down)," Price said. "He's just having some recurring tenderness in his shoulder. He tried to work his way through it. He's actually had some very productive bullpens. He's probably thrown over a dozen bullpens. But he hasn't been able to get over the hump, where he could go an extended period of time without some discomfort."

Marshall has been given a break from throwing.

The hope is he can resume throwing over the last weekend of the season when the Reds are in Pittsburgh.

"Just because we want to finish this off and give him an opportunity to go into the offseason with a chance to try to get things right," Price said.

IGLESIAS DONE TOO: The Reds have also decided to shut down rookie right-hander Raisel Iglesias. Iglesias was dealing with some shoulder fatigue.

"There are some things we want to accomplish before we would allow him to pitch again," Price said. "There's just not enough time."

Iglesias has some limits to his range of motion.

"It's not anything that's uncommon with pitchers," Price said. "It's an area of focus. He's lost a bit of that range of motion. Considering he already had the shoulder fatigue, it doesn't make any sense for him to pitch the rest of the year. We'll focus on spring training."

Iglesias, the 25-year-old Cuban, threw 124 1/3 innings between the Reds and Triple-A Louisville. He was pitching for the first time since 2013.

Iglesias went 3-7 with a 4.15 ERA. But he got on quite a roll late. He made seven straight quality starts from Aug. 1 to Sept. 2. That streak included three straight 10-or-more-strikeout games.

MESORACO QUESTION: Price says the Reds will know a lot more about Devin Mesoraco's ability to resume catching after the first of the year.

"The only thing I'm waiting for is to see him action," Price said. "He's made a commitment to come to Cincinnati after the holidays to work with Mike Stefanski.

"We'll have a pretty good idea once he re-initiates his catching work."

Mesoraco had surgery June 29 to correct an impingement of his left hip.

"It's such a demanding position with that type of hip movement," Price said. "... Our medical is very confident this will not hinder Devin moving forward. It's always nice to see him with gear on doing his thing."

Reds claim outfielder Tyler Holt off waivers

By John Fay / Cincinnati Enquirer / jfay@enquirer.com / [@johnfayman](https://twitter.com/johnfayman)

The Reds claimed outfielder Tyler Holt off waivers from the Cleveland Indians. They placed infielder/outfielder Kristopher Negron on the 60-day disabled list to open a 40-man spot.

Holt, a 26-year-old right-handed hitter, spent most of the year at Triple-A Columbus. He hit .302/.386/.370 with no home runs, 28 RBI and 25 steals there.

He was 2-for-20 with the Indians this year. He hit .268 in 73 at-bats for Cleveland last year.

Holt was a 10th-round pick by the Indians in the 2010 draft. He's from Marion, Ind. He played collegiately at Florida State.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reds lose 8th in row, Mets finish season sweep with 8-1 win

By Gary Schatz / The Associated Press

Cincinnati — The Cincinnati Reds once again were no match for the newly crowned NL East champion New York Mets. Starter Keyvius Sampson lasted just 2 2-3 innings, a pair of errors led to four unearned runs and the Reds fell to Jacob deGrom and a makeshift lineup 8-1 Sunday for their eighth straight loss.

Despite giving all of their regulars the day off, the Mets completed the first season sweep by either team since New York started play in 1962, going 7-0 against Cincinnati. They outscored the Reds 36-12 in these four games at Great American Ball Park and extended their franchise-record road winning streak to 11.

"Sampson made some elevation mistakes but they're feeling it right now. There was blood in the water," manager Bryan Price said. "Even though they started all bench players, they are riding a high and they're playing a team that's struggling and not playing very well."

Sampson (2-6) dropped his fifth straight start, allowing five runs — three earned — and nine hits in 2 2-3 innings.

"My fastball isn't there," Sampson said. "This is the first time I've pitched into September. I threw some good pitches with my curve, but when I did the ball seemed to find a hole."

DeGrom (14-8) gave up one run and five hits, striking out nine without a walk in six innings. He also got two hits and drove in two runs.

Dilson Herrera and Kevin Plawecki hit rare home runs as the Mets enjoyed their first full day as division champions. At 89-67, New York is trying to stay ahead of the Los Angeles Dodgers (87-67) for homefield advantage in their likely Division Series matchup. Herrera's two-run homer in the second was his third of the season and first in 38 at bats since June 14. Plawecki's solo shot in the sixth was his third of the season and first in 164 at bats since May 16.

DeGrom retired 14 straight batters between Skip Schumaker's first inning, leadoff double, which glanced off the glove of left fielder Michael Conforto, and Eugenio Suarez's two-out single in the fifth.

Consecutive singles by Schumaker, Ivan De Jesus Jr. and Joey Votto broke up deGrom's shutout bid in the sixth. Votto has reached base at least once in 44 consecutive games.

New York scored a pair of unearned runs in the fifth when De Jesus dropped deGrom's routine fly ball to left field.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Mets: After making 29 starts this season, RHP Jonathon Niese will work out of the bullpen. "There was a need out there at the end of the season," said Niese, who volunteered to make the move. "I just want to help the team."

Reds: INF/OF Kristopher Negron, who sustained a season-ending shoulder injury this month, was transferred to the 60-day DL when Cincinnati claimed OF Tyler Holt off waivers from Cleveland.

UP NEXT

Mets: After getting Monday off, the reshuffled Mets' rotation has RHP Bartolo Colon (14-12) starting the first game of a three-game series in Philadelphia on Tuesday. Colon is 2-1 with a 2.60 ERA in four September starts.

Reds: Cincinnati travels to Washington for the makeup of a game postponed on July 8 by the possibility of a storm that never developed. LHP Brandon Finnegan (1-1) will make his third career big league start.

ROAD RUNNERS

The Mets enjoyed their 31st consecutive road game with at least three runs on Sunday, the longest streak in the National League since 1900, the team reported in citing the Elias Sports Bureau. They went into the game tied with the 1912 New York Giants.

Reds-Nationals Preview **By The Associated Press**

The frustration seemed to boil over for the Washington Nationals this weekend when their MVP frontrunner and closer came to blows in the dugout.

Max Scherzer's recent struggles played a small part in the club's elimination from playoff contention, and the high-priced right-hander will make one of his final starts this season in Monday's home finale against the Cincinnati Reds.

The feud between Bryce Harper and Jonathan Papelbon blew up in Sunday's 12-5 loss to Philadelphia after Papelbon jawed at the outfielder following a flyout in the eighth. Things became physical when the pitcher lunged at Harper and pushed him against the bench.

Harper was pulled from the game - something the outfielder said was scheduled - but Papelbon surprisingly went back out for the ninth. He was then charged with five runs - two earned - while getting credit for the Nationals' fifth loss in six games.

"He apologized," said Harper, who is slated to have the day off Monday. "It's like brothers fighting. That's what happens. Hopefully, we'll move forward and I'll do what I can for the next six days to have some fun and play the game."

Harper, the NL leader in batting average and home runs, appeared to call out Papelbon earlier this week for plunking Baltimore's Manny Machado in a 4-3 loss Wednesday.

"I mean Manny freaking hit a homer," Harper said at the time. "Walked it off and somebody drilled him. I mean, it's pretty tired. It's one of those situations where it happens and, I don't know, I'll probably get drilled tomorrow."

It might have seemed unimaginable that their season would end this way after the Nationals won the Scherzer sweepstakes in January. A seven-year, \$210 million deal for the 2013 AL Cy Young Award winner made them a popular pick to take the NL pennant and at least their third NL East title in four years.

Those two playoff appearances each ended in the division series and Scherzer was expected to help get them over the hump. Instead, the Nationals (79-76) are in line to finish far behind the New York Mets in the division.

Scherzer (12-12, 2.98 ERA) has gone 1-4 with a 4.85 ERA in his last nine starts and took the loss Wednesday against the Orioles, yielding four runs over 6 2-3 innings.

"When you have the type of talent that we have in this clubhouse and we aren't able to succeed," Scherzer told MLB's official website, "everybody needs to reflect on what they need to do better to be able to do what they need to do for 2016."

Scherzer is scheduled to make two more starts beginning with this makeup game against the Reds (63-92) stemming from a July 8 rainout. He took a 5-0 loss July 7 in his only start versus Cincinnati this season, allowing five runs in 4 2-3 innings, but will face a team that's mired in one of its longest losing streaks of 2015.

An 8-1 defeat to the Mets on Sunday was the Reds' eighth in a row, one shy of matching a season worst. Cincinnati will try to end it by finishing 6-0 against Washington.

Brandon Finnegan (1-1, 4.97) will try to lead the Reds to their first season sweep in the series in his third career start. The left-hander, acquired from Kansas City on July 26, took a 5-3 win at Milwaukee in his first outing Sept. 18 but was tagged for six runs in five innings of a 10-2 loss in St. Louis on Wednesday.

Joey Votto has reached base in 44 straight games, the Reds' longest streak since Pete Rose's team-record 48 in a row in 1978 and one shy of matching MLB's longest this season.

"He's been terrific," manager Bryan Price said. "It's a huge bounce back year after missing 100 games last year, and that's been great to see."

Votto, hitting .370 with a 1.211 OPS during his streak, has batted .414 during a seven-game hit streak against Washington.

TRANSACTIONS

Date	Transaction
09/27/15	Cincinnati Reds claimed Tyler Holt off waivers from Cleveland Indians.
	Cincinnati Reds transferred 2B Kristopher Negron from the 15-day disabled list to the 60-day disabled list.
	Recovering from September 2015 left shoulder surgery