

Homer Handcuffs Giants As Reds Pitcher Tosses No-Hitter

Bailey Strikes Out Nine In Recording Second Career No-No

CINCINNATI (AP) — Another hard-throwin' Texan has developed a knack for no-hitters.

Homer Bailey threw his second in 10 months and the first in the majors this season, pitching the Cincinnati Reds to a 3-0 victory over the San Francisco Giants on Tuesday night.

Bailey became the third Reds pitcher with more than one no-hitter, joining Jim Maloney and Johnny Vander Meer — still the only big leaguer to toss two in a row. Bailey beat the Pirates 1-0 in Pittsburgh last Sept. 28 and got another 17 starts later.

"Every dog has its day twice, I

guess," Bailey said. "It felt good to do it in front of the Cincinnati fans."

The last pitcher to throw one no-hitter and then another before anyone else in the majors accomplished the feat was Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan, according to STATS. Baseball's career strikeout king did it for the California Angels on Sept. 28, 1974, against Minnesota, and June 1, 1975, vs. Baltimore.

Now, the Ryan Express has a worthy passenger.

"Obviously being from Texas and what a legend he is," said Bailey, who wears No. 34 in tribute to his boy-

hood idol. "To do it once is extra special. To do it twice — I don't really have the words for it right now."

Try Ryan-esque.

"He comes from the state of Texas that has produced a lot of no-hitters," said Reds manager Dusty Baker, who made the final out in one of Ryan's record seven no-hitters.

Bailey (5-6) dominated the defending World Series champs, who are going through quite a slump. It was so neat that there weren't many close calls.

He walked Gregor Blanco leading off the seventh, the only Giants batter

to reach base. First baseman Joey Votto alertly threw out Blanco as he tried to advance from second to third on a soft one-hopper that otherwise could have become an infield single for Buster Posey.

"Joey had a great heads-up play. I was almost a little late getting to the bag," Bailey said.

With 27,509 fans on their feet chanting "Homer! Homer!" Bailey finished it off in the ninth. He jumped to glove Brandon Crawford's high comebacker, struck out Tony Abreu and retired Blanco on a grounder to third baseman Todd Frazier.

Justin Verlander, Mark Buehrle and Roy Halladay are the only other

active pitchers with a pair of no-hitters. Halladay, of course, threw one of his in the postseason against the Reds in 2010.

"Going into the eighth and ninth I just said, 'Why the hell not?' Here we go again," Bailey said.

When Votto caught the throw for the final out, Bailey raised both arms in triumph, reminiscent of that grand moment in Pittsburgh last September, then hugged catcher Ryan Hanigan. This time, Baker got to celebrate too — he was in a hospital in Chicago being treated for a mini-stroke last September.

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Pitching Separating Crofton From Rest Of SCL Field

Bluejays Have Won 11 Straight League Games

BY JEREMY HOECK
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CROFTON, Neb. — Other teams across the amateur baseball galaxy may have two or three people who can pitch. The Crofton Bluejays, instead, have a full pitching staff.

Four legitimate starters, a stable of relievers and a back-of-the-bullpen stopper.

Together, those pieces have Crofton at the top of the South Central League. The Bluejays (14-4 overall) have won 11 consecutive league games and have not lost to an SCL opponent since the season opener — they have, however, gone 3-3 in non-league action.

"Sometimes it gets boring, to tell you the truth, standing out there in the outfield and you don't get a ball hit to you all game," outfielder Kyle Mueller said. "We're pretty fortunate that we can rotate. Everyone's arm stays fresh."

The first-place Bluejays boast a pitching staff that includes Scot Donner, Trevor Arens, Matt Tramp, Aaron Losing and Alex Mueller. Seth Erdmann, a key arm last summer, is close to returning to the mound after recovering from a torn ACL. Rand Thygeson serves as the primary closer.

"It's just about playing good defense, making the plays and backing up your pitcher," said manager Carl Schieffer, who also serves as the full-time catcher.

Crofton's pitchers have, in turn, done the heavy lifting.

They lead the league in fewest runs allowed per game (1.50), two better than Wynot (3.92). Crofton has also surrendered 24 fewer runs in total than Yankton — with two more games played (before Tuesday night's action).

Crofton has allowed three runs in an SCL game only three times, twice to Freeman. The Bluejays have recorded five shutouts, while Yankton has three and Irene and Avon both boast one shutout this season.

"Our guys throw strikes, get ahead of batters and



Crofton pitcher Scott Donner fires the ball home during the Bluejays' home matchup with Wynot in South Central League amateur baseball action during the 2012 season. Donner leads a strong Crofton pitching staff, which has the Bluejays leading the SCL again this season. Crofton, 14-4, has won 11 straight in league play.

P&D FILE PHOTO

SCL: Krier, Tappers Clip Freeman 5-1

FREEMAN — Yankton pitcher Trey Krier took a shutout into the ninth inning, scattering five hits in a 5-1 Tappers victory over Freeman in South Central League amateur baseball action on Tuesday.

Jared Miller went 3-4 with a home run and a double for Yankton. Dave Schmidt doubled and singled, scoring three times. Nik Davis also had two hits. Josh Cleveland doubled, and Tate Bruckner and Korey Bromley added hits in the win.

Brett Scherschligt doubled twice to lead Freeman. Mitch Wollman had a hit and a run scored. Jake Weier and Geofrey Pfeiffer added hits.

Krier struck out eight in the win. Lee Scherschligt took the loss, striking out four.

Yankton hosts Lesterville and Freeman hosts Wynot on Thursday.

YANKTON.....100 002 020 — 5 10 0
FREEMAN.....000 000 001 — 1 5 0
Trey Krier and Korey Bromley; Lee Scherschligt and Alan Scherschligt



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Jared Miller, center, is congratulated by his Yankton Tappers teammate after a 2-run home run in Tuesday night's South Central League amateur game in Freeman. Miller finished with three hits, helping lead the Tappers to a 5-1 victory.

Spitfire Sweep Past Lightning



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton Spitfire pitcher Katie Koletzky fires the ball home during the opening game of the squad's girls' softball doubleheader with the Yankton Lightning on Tuesday at Yankton's Riverside Field. The older Spitfire won the opener 6-0 before claiming the nightcap 9-1.

The Yankton Spitfire swept the Lightning in a cross-town softball matchup Tuesday night at Riverside Field, winning by scores of 6-0 and 9-1.

In the first game, Katie Koletzky struck out three in the shutout. She also added an RBI groundout and a single.

Lizzy Bye and Abby Schulte each drove in two runs for the Spitfire, while Taylor Ruby was 3-3. Jessica Wirth singled, as well.

For the Lightning, Kalyn Peterka and Brynn Albers doubled, while Bailey Kortan, Jenny Feilmeier and Heather Hauer all singled. Jaclyn Arens took the pitching loss, with five strikeouts.

In game two, Bye was the winning pitcher for the Spitfire with 10 strikeouts. Brooke Loecker doubled twice and drove in two runs, while Wirth singled twice with two RBI. Koletzky and Elly Miiller also drove in a run. Schulte and Paige Thieman both singled.

For the Lightning, Kortan singled. Madison Dangler struck out three in three innings of work in the pitching circle, while Arens pitched the last three frames.

The Spitfire will compete in the Ringneck Tournament this weekend in Sioux Falls. They will play the West Fargo Impact on Friday at 9:30 p.m.

Twins' Willingham Goes On Disabled List

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Twins placed slugger Josh Willingham on the 15-day disabled list with a torn meniscus and bone bruise in his left knee on Tuesday, and they hope he won't need any more time than that to get the troublesome injury healed.

Willingham has been bothered by the sore knee for some time, and the last straw came when he felt increasing discomfort during pregame warmups on Monday night. He had an MRI on Tuesday that revealed the tear, but GM Terry Ryan said he didn't think Willingham would need to have surgery during the season.

"I think he will be all right in two weeks," Ryan said. "He could play on it, but unfortunately he tweaked it the other day. I think the two weeks will probably be ample time for him to be able to come back and perform."

Willingham has struggled this season coming off of a career year in 2012. He is hitting .224 with 10 homers and 37 RBIs, and the Twins think some time to rest may be just what he needs to regain the power-hitting form he had last season when he hit 35 homers and drove in 110 runs.

Willingham first tweaked his knee while sliding on a stolen base attempt, and he's been bothered by it for much of the last few weeks. He tried to take a shot to relieve the pain, but that was ineffective.

With Gibbs' Return, Creighton Star Likely Walk-On

BY ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The NCAA awarded Creighton's Grant Gibbs a sixth season of eligibility on Tuesday — a decision that could end up costing coach Greg McDermott tens of thousands of dollars.

That's because McDermott's son — two-time first-team All-American Doug McDermott — probably will have to play his final season as a walk-on to free up a scholarship for Gibbs.

Greg McDermott said Doug will become a walk-on if all 13 scholarship players show up for the first day of classes Aug. 21. The coach, whose salary is not disclosed by the private school, is entering his fourth season at Creighton. As a university employee, he would qualify for a tuition discount for his children if he were at the school for five years.

Full price for tuition, room and board is \$44,000, according to Creighton's website.

"I have the flexibility to do that," Greg McDermott said of making his son a walk-on, "and obviously to bring Grant back is certainly worth that."

The return of Gibbs strengthens the Bluejays for their first season in the Big East. The 6-foot-5 guard led the Missouri Valley Conference in assists each of the last two seasons. Creighton is 57-14 and reached the NCAA tournament twice with Gibbs in the lineup.

Doug McDermott had been projected to be a late first- or early second-round pick in the NBA draft before he announced in April that he would return to Creighton for his senior year. He's now playing for Team USA in the World University Games and will be a leading contender for preseason Big East player of the year.

Gibbs, a close friend of Doug McDermott, joked that it will be entertaining to see his buddy live the life of a walk-on next season.

"He's going to be carrying bags and doing all that kind of stuff," a smiling Gibbs said. "He'll have to handle that. That'll be a different situation for him. I think he'll probably be the best walk-on in America. We'll see."

Doug McDermott sent a congratulatory text to Gibbs from Turkey on Tuesday morning. The gist of the message: "We're getting the band back together," Gibbs said.

Gibbs averaged 8.5 points, 5.8 assists and 4.1 rebounds last season and joined Syracuse's Michael Carter-Williams as the nation's only players with at least 300 points, 200 assists and 145 rebounds.

Gibbs said he's excited to play in the Big East, which will be his third conference. He was in the West Coast Conference when he was at Gonzaga. He's been working out with teammates while waiting for the NCAA's decision on his petition.

Greg McDermott said Creighton argued that Gibbs merited an extra year because of a knee injury at Gonzaga that carried over to Creighton.

He hurt his knee after Christmas of his second year at Gonzaga and was bothered by it the rest of the season. He had surgery in Spokane, Wash., before he decided to transfer. He didn't recover adequately and required major surgery the month before he was to begin the year he was required to sit out at Creighton. He wasn't able to practice during his transfer year.

"The NCAA just felt that whether he was at Gonzaga

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