

# Sports



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|-----------------|---|
| Wash. Nationals | 4 |
| Cincinnati Reds | 1 |
| Dayton Dragons  | 6 |
| South Bend      | 0 |

**Hall well-suited for new OSU offense C2**

Sunday  
April 15,  
2012



CINCINNATI REDS

## Reds' struggles continue at plate

Cincy gets just 2 hits as Jackson hurls complete game to lead Nats, 4-1.

By John Fay  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

WASHINGTON — The Reds have been making every pitcher they face lately look like Hall of Famer Tom Seaver. On Saturday, they faced someone who was actually throwing like him.

The results were predictable. The Reds fell to the Washington Nationals and Edwin Jackson 4-1 Saturday before a crowd of 35,489 at Nationals Park. The Reds have dropped the first three games of the series, scoring a

total of four runs.

Jackson only allowed two hits. He walked one and struck out nine. He only needed 92 pitches to throw a complete game. Still, Reds manager Dusty Baker didn't blame his hitters' approach.

"If you were patient, it was Strike 1," Baker said. "If you were aggressive, a lot of times it was a breaking ball. He was on. When a guy's on, you can come up with all the excuses."

Baker was curious if Jackson was that good or the Reds hitters were that bad. He put the question to home plate umpire Tim Welke.

"He said, 'Hey, he's that good,'" Baker said. "He was sharp. Everything looked like a fastball. It

### Today's game

**Who:** Reds (Leake 0-1) at Nationals (Detwiler 1-0)

**When:** 1:35 p.m.

**Radio:** WING-AM (1410); WLW-AM (700)

**TV:** FS Ohio

would be a breaking ball in the dirt ... The worst thing you can face is a relaxed pitcher. When you're not scoring runs, they relax. That's what he did."

The Reds are down to a .191 average as a team. Their on-base percentage is .255. They haven't hit a home run six games.

Homer Bailey went six innings

and allowed three runs on seven hits. He walked four and struck out three.

"The walks really hurt us," Bailey said. "They took some really good pitches. They're hot right now. They're on a roll."

The Reds wrap up the series today with a 1:35 p.m. game.

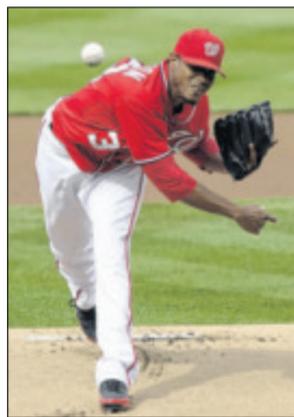
"We've got to get out of here with one, then have a nice off day and go on to St. Louis," Baker said.

### Also inside

»Phillips likely to be back in Reds' lineup today. C4

»'Future Ace' Chapman has to get in starting rotation first. C3

»Ask Hal: Stubbs already piling up strikeouts. C3



Nationals pitcher Edwin Jackson held the Reds to two hits and a walk Saturday in a 4-1 complete-game win. ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO



Tom Archdeacon

## A 'go big or go home' grandma

As they were making their seven-day trek up Mount Kilimanjaro last month, Sue Bowling looked over at her friend Debbie Trimbach — the 54-year-old Butler Twp. grandmother of nine — and couldn't help but flash back to that day a few years ago when the two of them were sitting together under a shade tree during a break on a big bike trip around Ohio.

"It was right when the movie 'The Bucket List' came out and Deb asked me what was on my bucket list," remembered Bowling, herself a 56-year-old grandmother from Fort Mitchell, Ky. "I said, 'Climbing Kilimanjaro.' I told her I'd been thinking about it for probably 10 years, but my husband didn't want to do it and I couldn't find anybody else willing to try it.

"And without even taking a minute to think about it, she says, 'Well, I'll go.'

"Then in the next breath, she goes, 'Where is it?' She didn't have a clue where it was or what it was. And when I told her it was in Tanzania — that it was the highest peak in Africa — she didn't hesitate a second."

And because Trimbach had had the backbone to follow through on such an off-the-cuff embrace, there the two of them were — part of a nine-person climbing party that also included Debbie's husband, Greg, who runs 2-J Supply on Valley Street — making the ascent up the 19,341-foot mountain.

"Here she was on Kilimanjaro," Bowling said. "She had never climbed before. Never hiked with a pack. Never used a pole. So I look over and say, 'Deb, what were you thinking?'"

Archdeacon continued on C6



Debbie Trimbach's drive to do new things led her to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

### In-depth coverage Prep Baseball



Troy senior slugger Nathan Helke uses a BBCOR bat, which stands for Bat-Ball Coefficient of Restitution. The metal bat now responds more closely to top-end wood bats. STAFF PHOTO BY JIM WITMER

## Modified bat changing game for prep baseball

New version leads to more strategy at plate, lower-scoring games.

By Marc Pendleton  
Staff Writer

Like a lot of teams, Vandalia Butler High School baseball players routinely swung from their heels during batting practice. The Aviators wanted to go deep and bash home runs.

No more. "There definitely is not the same pop on the bat," said longtime Butler head coach Trent Dues. "I can

tell in batting practice. We used to have guys launching (balls) out and that doesn't happen anymore."

There's a good reason for that, and not because Butler graduated its heavy hitters.

Following the NCAA's lead last year, high school players throughout the country have been mandated by the National Federation of State High School Associations to use a modified version of the popular metal bat this season.

Essentially, the metal bat now responds more closely to top-end wood bats.

That has quickly changed the game, most coaches agree, in a

good way.

Home run derby is out, as is that familiar "ping" of a batted ball. Bunting, hitting behind runners, single-digit games and a wood-like "thud" are in.

"It definitely is going to change high school baseball," said Dues, who took the Aviators to a five-game trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C., last week. "Your good hitters are still going to hit. It just takes away some of the jam-shot hits over the infield. It's still aluminum. It still jumps off the bat better than wood, but it's not the same as the old aluminum."

Bats continued on C8

REDS FUTURE

## Farm system remains strong

Even after trading some top prospects, Reds 16th in talent rankings.

By Jay Morrison  
Staff Writer

CINCINNATI — With the recent signings of Joey Votto and Brandon Phillips, the Cincinnati Reds have locked up their top players at every position but one for at least the next few years.

That might be seen as a huge roadblock for the players in the minor league system, but for the people in the organization's scouting and player development part, it's no reason to lift the pedal.

"The long-term signings give us more flexibility, but in a small market like ours, the minor leagues are always going to be more important to us than other franchises," said Jeff Graupe, the organization's assistant director of player development.

The Reds traded top prospects Yonder Alonso, Yasmani Grandal and Brad Boxberger with Edinson Volquez to the Padres for pitcher Mat Latos in December.

A week later they dealt two more prospects home-grown starting pitcher Travis Wood to the Cubs for reliever Sean Marshall.

Despite those recent losses, the Reds still are 16th on Baseball America's minor league organization talent rankings.

"We would've been in the top five or six if we hadn't made all of those moves," said Bob Miller, Reds vice president and assistant general manager. "The status of our minor league system is tremendous. And even if it wasn't great, we'd have three or four years to rebuild it because when you look at every position except for third base, everybody that's out there we control for at least the next three or four years."

"(Center fielder) Drew Stubbs we've got for this year and three more, (Jay) Bruce for four or five, (Chris) Heisey for four more, (Zack) Cozart for six, (Devlin) Mesoraco for six and now Brandon (six) and Votto (10)," Miller added.

All of those players except Phillips worked their way up through the Reds minor league system.

Prospects continued on C3

### NASCAR Sprint Cup

## Biffle holds off Johnson for win in Texas



Jimmie Johnson pits during Saturday night's race at Texas Motor Speedway. Johnson finished second behind Greg Biffle. AP PHOTO

Greg Biffle and Jimmie Johnson battled it out to the end Saturday night at Texas Motor Speedway, with Biffle holding off the five-time NASCAR Sprint Cup champion at the end by a slim margin to claim his first win in the series since claiming the checkered flag in October 2010 at Kansas, a span of 49 races.

» Complete coverage. DaytonDailyNews.com/go/nascar



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