



CINCINNATI REDS

National League Central



10857
FRANCHISE WINS

82-80
2023 SEASON

3rd
DIVISION

#5
FARM SYSTEM RANK

Cincinnati, OH - Great American Ballpark (43,500)
Manager: David Bell (333-375, 6th Season)

Can Young Reds Reach Postseason Play?

Before the commencement of the 2023 season, Reds fans were bracing themselves for what appeared to be another long rebuilding year similar to the 100-loss campaign of 2022. Instead, a collection of young rookies sparked a revival in the Queen City and turned the Reds into one of the most exciting teams in all of MLB. The team faltered in August and September and missed out on a postseason appearance despite holding an NL Central lead or Wild Card position at various times throughout the season. However, the 2023 squad brought much needed hope for the future and revitalized a baseball-crazed city.

Batting

No team benefitted more from the rule changes in Major League Baseball more than the Reds. Cincinnati went from 25th in stolen bases in 2022 with just 58 to an MLB-best 190 in 2023. With speed across the entire lineup, the Reds were willing to play small ball and create havoc on the base paths. And no player caused more havoc than **Elly De La Cruz**. He stole three bases (including home) in just two pitches against Milwaukee and in addition to his blinding speed, he boasts absurd arm strength at third or shortstop. He still has room to grow in his plate approach, especially against off speed pitches, but when he gets a hold of a mistake, the ball goes a *long* way. He is part of a crowded but talented infield that includes a budding star in shortstop **Matt McClain**. **Jonathan India** hasn't been able to replicate his magical Rookie of the Year season of 2021 but still provides quality offense at the second base position and is in many ways the heartbeat of the team. The Reds picked up **Jeimer Candelario** in the offseason and he'll have the opportunity to be the everyday third baseman but could be used at other positions, too. **Christian Encarnacion-Strand** will take first, a position that has long been occupied by Joey Votto, whose beloved Reds tenure has come to an end. **Spencer Steer**, **TJ Friedl**, **Will Benson**, and **Jake Fraley** make up the outfield and all pose a long ball threat. **Tyler Stephenson** saw his offense dip quite a bit in 2023 but he was excellent in both 2021 and 2022 when healthy and he can also play first base in a pinch.

Pitching

Pitching is what ultimately kept the Reds out of the postseason last year. It didn't help that both **Hunter Greene** and **Nick Lodolo**, the two arms at the top of the rotation, both missed extended time and it's also a challenge to pitch in the very-batter-friendly Great American Ballpark. However, the bullpen has been a consistent problem over the last few seasons (although it's worth noting a bullpen ERA improvement of 4.72 in 2022 to 4.11 in 2023). The front office added a couple of bullpen arms in Cincinnati native **Brent Suter** and **Nick Martinez**. Martinez appeared in 63 games with the Padres last season in what was his best statistical season. **Tejay Antone** has been excellent out of the pen, but he's been injury-prone and has pitched just 74.2 innings over the last three seasons with an ERA of just 2.14 and a K/9 of 11.3. **Sam Moll** was dominant for Cincinnati after being acquired from Oakland at the deadline. Closer **Alexis Díaz** was an All Star last season and converted 37 of 40 save opportunities. **Lucas Sims**, **Buck Farmer**, and **Ian Gibaut** were regulars out of the bullpen in 2023 and could be again in 2024.

The silver lining of the injuries in the rotation is an opportunity opened for players like **Andrew Abbott**. He burst on the scene as a rookie and didn't give up his first Major League run until his fourth start. He took an ERA of 2.35 into August and had an up and down last two months of the season, finishing with an ERA of 3.87 and a 8-6 record. However, he proved that he is a very capable starter and should be that much more effective if he can limit the long ball (16 allowed in 109.1 IP). Hunter Greene is a flamethrower who, when healthy, throws harder than any other starter in the game. **Graham Ashcraft** had a miserable stretch of starts in May and June where he allowed 7 or more runs in four of six starts but was far more effective in July and August. If he picks up where he left off in 2023, the Reds will benefit tremendously. The biggest free agency splash by Cincinnati in terms of dollars spent was starter **Frankie Montas**. A shoulder injury caused him to miss essentially all of 2023 with the Yankees. However, he made every start in 2021 (and finished sixth in Cy Young voting with Oakland) and made 27 more in 2022. The Reds are banking on Montas returning to his "Athletics" form and not the 6.35 ERA pitcher he was when he with the Yankees.

The Bottom Line

No, the Reds didn't make the postseason last year, but what they did do was inject life into a franchise that was stuck in a seemingly-endless rebuild. While there are ongoing concerns about ownership's willingness to spend money, the future is now and it is bright. The young Reds will once again utilize their tremendous speed and will flirt with 200 stolen bases and could certainly reach 5 runs per game in 2024. Expect David Bell to utilize several different lineups given the depth of quality bats in the infield. The success or failure of the season likely hinges on the pitching staff. The rotation and bullpen are deeper than last year but it's imperative that the staff stays healthy. Chasing the Cubs and Brewers will be tough, but the Reds owned first place in the division for nearly a month in 2023 and this team should be improved, in theory.

2024 Projection: 84-78, 2nd in NL Central

Elly De La Cruz

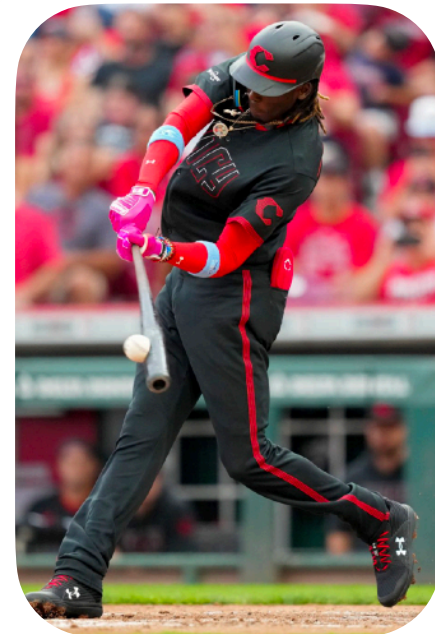



Photo via SBNation



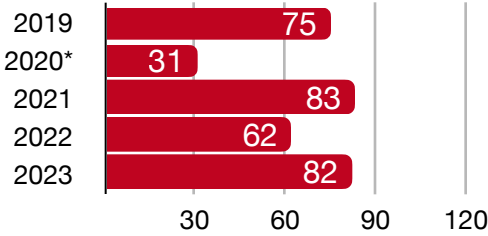
2023 MLB Ranks
 RPG - 4.83 (9th)
 HITS - 1371 (15th)
 HR - 198 (14th)
 ERA - 4.83 (25th)
 SO - 1381 (18th)
 FD% - .984% (19th)

Hunter Greene



Photo via USA Today

REDS 5-YEAR WIN TREND



190 < Number to Know

The number of stolen bases by the Reds in 2023, the most in Major League Baseball and the most by a Cincinnati team since 1997.

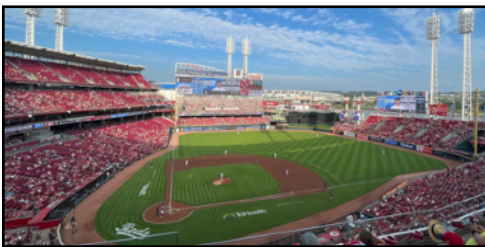


Photo via Ballparks of Baseball

PROSPECT TO WATCH

NOELVI MARTE - SS

If Marté was feeling the pressure of living up to the hype like other Reds rookies did in 2023, he certainly didn't show it. He made his Major League debut in August and despite making only 123 plate appearances, he racked up 36 hits and will open the 2024 season with a 16-game hit streak and a 22-game on-base streak! At just 22, Marté set to be a key piece of the Reds' young core. The only thing preventing him from seeing the field more in 2024 is his defense (5 errors in just 68 chances at third base) and a congested infield. However, he'll have every chance to become the everyday third baseman this season and his raw power is hard to ignore.

Note: Marté was suspended 80 games by MLB for violating the performance enhancing drug policy.

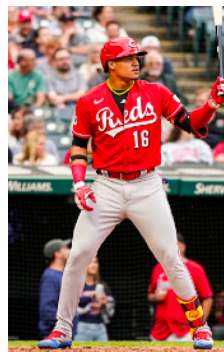


Photo via Cincinnati Reds

Projected Lineup			'23 AVG
29	TJ Friedl	CF	.279
9	Matt McLain	2B	.290
7	Spencer Steer	LF	.271
3	Jeimer Candelario	3B	.251
33	C. Encarnacion-Strand	1B	.270
6	Jonathan India	DH	.244
44	Elly De La Cruz	SS	.235
30	Will Benson	RF	.275
37	Tyler Stephenson	C	.243

Projected Rotation			'23 ERA
47	Frankie Montas	SP	-
21	Hunter Greene	SP	4.82
41	Andrew Abbott	SP	3.87
51	Graham Ashcraft	SP	4.76
40	Nick Lodolo	SP	6.29
43	Alexis Díaz	CL	3.07

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Matt McLain - SS/2B



2023 Statistics

GP AVG OPS HR RBI
89 .290 .864 16 50

De La Cruz understandably received most of the national media attention for his play as a rookie, but Matt McLain was the most valuable Red in 2023. He quickly asserted himself as one of the best offense shortstops in the game and displayed a remarkable blend of power and speed. Notably, 43 of his 106 hits went for extra bases and both his line drive and hard hit rates were well above league average. He is a capable defender and was very solid at shortstop although he may be the everyday second baseman in 2024. You're looking at a potential perennial All Star.

2024 Schedule

March/April 2024														
									WSH 4:10		WSH 4:10	30		
WSH 1:40	PHI 6:40	1	PHI 6:40	2	PHI 1:05	3				NYM 6:40	5	NYM 4:10	6	
NYM 1:40	7	MIL 6:40	8	MIL 6:40	9	MIL 6:40	10	MIL 1:10	11		CWS 7:40	12	CWS 2:10	13
CWS 2:10	14	SEA 9:42	15	SEA 8:40	16	SEA 4:10	17			LAA 6:40	19	LAA 6:40	20	
LAA 1:40	21	PHI 6:40	22	PHI 6:40	23	PHI 6:40	24	PHI 1:10	25	TEX 8:05	26	TEX 4:05	27	
TEX 2:35	28	SD 9:40	29	SD 9:40	30									

May 2024													
BAL 4:10	5												
SF 4:05	12	ARI 9:40	13	ARI 8:40	14	ARI 3:40	15	LAD 10:10	16	LAD 10:10	17	LAD 9:10	18
LAD 4:10	19			SD 21	SD 22	SD 1:10	23	LAD 7:10	24	LAD 7:15	25		
LAD 1:40	26	STL 4:10	27	STL 6:40	28	STL 1:10	29			CHC 2:20	31		

June 2024													
CHC 2:20	2	COL 8:40	3	COL 8:40	4	COL 3:10	5	CHC 7:10	6	CHC 7:10	7	CHC 4:10	8
CHC 1:40	9			CLE 7:10	11	CLE 7:10	12			MIL 14	MIL 15		
MIL 2:10	16	PIT 6:40	17	PIT 6:40	18	PIT 12:35	19			BOS 7:10	21	BOS 4:10	22
BOS 1:40	23	PIT 7:10	24	PIT 7:10	25	PIT 1:10	26	STL 7:45	27	STL 8:15	28	STL 2:15	29
STL 2:15	30												

July 2024													
DET 1:40	7	COL 7:10	8	COL 7:10	9	COL 7:10	10	COL 1:10	11	MIA 7:10	12	MIA 4:10	13
MIA 1:40	14												
WSH 1:35	21	ATL 7:20	22	ATL 7:20	23	ATL 12:20	24						
TB 1:40	28	CHC 7:10	29	CHC 7:10	30	CHC 7:10	31						

August 2024													
SF 1:40	4	MIA 6:40	5	MIA 6:40	6	MIA 6:40	7	MIA 6:10	8	MIL 8:10	9	MIL 7:10	10
MIL 2:10	11	STL 6:40	12	STL 6:40	13	STL 6:40	14			KC 6:40	16	KC 6:40	17
KC 1:40	18	TOR 7:07	19	TOR 7:07	20	TOR 7:07	21	PIT 6:40	22	PIT 6:40	23	PIT 6:40	24
PIT 1:35	25			OAK 6:40	27	OAK 6:40	28	OAK 5:10	29	MIL 6:40	30	MIL 7:15	31

September 2024													
MIL 12:10	1	HOU 4:10	2			HOU 6:40	4	HOU 1:10	5	NYM 7:10	6	NYM 4:10	7
NYM 1:40	8			STL 7:45	10	STL 7:45	11	STL 1:15	12	MIN 8:10	13	MIN 7:10	14
MIN 2:10	15			ATL 6:40	17	ATL 6:40	18	ATL 1:10	19	PIT 6:40	20	PIT 6:40	21
PIT 1:10	22			CLE 6:40	24	CLE 6:40	25			CHC 2:20	27	CHC 2:20	28
CHC 3:20	29												

HOME AWAY