



## LOCAL

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August 28, 2023

By Anne Rogers/MLB.com

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## MLB TRANSACTIONS

August 29, 2023 • STATS

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#### LATEST NEWS

Aug. 28: 1B Nick Pratto (left groin strain) ramps back up to baseball activity, close to rehab assignment

The minor setback Pratto experienced in his recovery from a groin strain and left hip impingement turned out to be just that -- minor.

He's been on the IL since July 27, but was returned from his rehab assignment this past Friday to be reevaluated. The first baseman felt

better Monday and will have a full day of baseball activity on Monday, per manager Matt Quatraro. The Royals expect Pratto to go on another rehab assignment by the end of this week.

#### INJURY UPDATES

7-day, 10-day and 15-day IL

1B Nick Pratto (left groin strain)

Expected return: Early-to-mid September

Pratto felt a pull in his groin while stretching out for a throw at first base while the Royals were in Cleveland in late July, and he was placed on the IL retroactive to July 27. The first baseman is also dealing with left hip impingement syndrome. Pratto began a rehab assignment on Aug. 17, but was returned on Aug. 25 because of a minor setback. The Royals expect Pratto to go back on a rehab assignment by the end of the week of Aug. 28. (Last updated: Aug. 28)

LHP Daniel Lynch IV (left shoulder strain)

Expected return: Late September

Lynch experienced left arm fatigue in his final two starts before hitting the IL on July 19 with a left shoulder strain, then had a setback on July 25 that required a cortisone shot to help inflammation. A month later, the 26-year-old is back to throwing and will toss his second bullpen session on Aug. 29 at Kauffman Stadium. If that goes well, he'll progress to live BP, followed by a rehab assignment. (Last updated: Aug. 28)

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## Singer (arm fatigue) likely to miss start

August 28, 2023

By Anne Rogers/MLB.com

<https://www.mlb.com/royals/news/brady-singer-will-have-start-skipped-due-to-arm-fatigue>

The Royals are planning on skipping Brady Singer's next turn in the rotation as the starter deals with arm fatigue.

Singer has seen a slight velocity drop in some of his recent starts and has experienced fatigue, which led to having imaging done on his arm Sunday. But everything came back clear, according to the Royals' medical staff before Monday's 5-0 loss to the Pirates at Kauffman Stadium. Kansas City has now lost four consecutive games and 11 of its past 13. On Monday, the Royals were shut out for the 14th time this season as Pirates starter Johan Oviedo threw a two-hitter.

Officials believe the fatigue is a result of it being late in the year and the 27-year-old nearing a career high in innings -- he's thrown 143 1/3 innings after his start Friday, just 10 shy of his career high of 153 1/3, set last year.

"[The scans] all came back very positive, so a little bit of a collective sigh of relief," general manager J.J. Picollo said Monday at Kauffman Stadium. "The plan right now is, we're going to skip this start, he won't go on the [injured list], and hopefully we can line him up on the backend of the rotation next time around. We're breathing a little bit easier on that MRI."

Originally, Singer was only going to be pushed back a few days from his start that lined up Wednesday against the Pirates, but with Thursday's off-day, the Royals thought it would be best to rest him through a full turn of the rotation before starting. If all goes as planned, Singer will line up for Aug. 5 against the White Sox.

Singer has been worked hard in his past few starts, needing 91 pitches in 3 2/3 innings against the Cubs on Aug. 19 and 87 pitches in four innings against the Mariners this past Friday. His fastball velocity registered 1.1 mph below what he has averaged all year, although some of those are actually changeups that Singer is now throwing with a grip similar to his sinker. In his previous six starts, he had a 2.85 ERA across 41 innings and pitched into the seventh inning in four of those starts.

Speaking to MLB.com on Monday, Singer said he feels good beyond the fatigue and does not expect to miss more than one start. If all goes as planned, Singer will line up Sept. 4 or 5 against the White Sox.

"It's obviously not what you want to see," Singer said of the velocity decrease. "But you're getting later in the year, you may start to see that. That was one of the factors. Just fatigue, mainly. Just that feeling at the end of August. ... We thought this was smart to skip one and get back to it the next time."

The Royals were thinking about backing off some of Singer's pitch counts anyway as the year came to a close; manager Matt Quatraro and the coaching staff are cognizant of the schedule and watching how taxing each inning is for Singer, who is 8-10 with a 5.15 ERA this year.

"I think that's something in-game that Q's going to have to decide is how taxing are those innings," Picollo said. "If it's a heavy workload through four or five, that's not the game you want to run him up to 105 pitches. But we're aware of where we are in the standings, and we're going to do what's right for Brady. We're not going to put him in situations that could adversely affect his career."

"I think there is something to be said to push through this as well because when you're in playoff races and you're playing in October. They're all beat up in October. This will be a good experience for him to go through, and the medical staff is obviously on board."

Given the Royals are now 51 games under .500, setting their young pitchers and hitters up for success in 2024 is the priority over these last 29 games. If that means making sure Singer is healthy heading into the offseason, the Royals will do just that.

Kansas City is struggling toward the end of a season that is on pace to set a franchise record for losses. Monday's game lacked energy, with starter Zack Greinke allowing two runs in 4 2/3 innings and the offense unable to challenge Oviedo.

No Royals batter reached second base. No one was surprised when Oviedo came out for the ninth inning after 97 pitches and finished his outing with a career high 112.

"We didn't threaten him at all," manager Matt Quatraro said. "It was an easy, relatively speaking, nine innings."

"We just kind of came out flat today as a team," outfielder MJ Melendez added. "I think we could have hit him. I guess props to him for going all nine. But it was a battle with ourselves today, and we didn't really play how we wanted to."

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## **Royals' Bobby Witt Jr. has a special message written on the inside of his helmet**

August 28, 2023

By Pete Grathoff/KC Star

<https://www.kansascity.com/sports/spt-columns-blogs/for-petes-sake/article278508249.html>

Royals shortstop Bobby Witt Jr.'s name is all over the batting leaderboard.

Witt is second among all American League players in total bases, sixth in offensive wins above replacement, eighth in slugging percentage and tied for first in triples.

And no one in Major League Baseball has more total bases than Witt since the All-Star break. He has 103 and Dodgers star Mookie Betts is second (94).

Before Witt steps to the plate, he grabs his batting helmet and reads a message written inside it. They're words he wrote as a reminder to himself:

See the ball

Stay loose

Be on time

"I'm always just kind of like trying to get in a good state of mind and everything," Witt said, "so it's just kind of a way to hit reset."

That simple message isn't why Witt has had a tremendous season. But it does help him focus before each plate appearance.

Although the Royals season has been one to forget, Witt has turned heads around the game. Last week, a quartet of MLB Network analysts debated which player is the best under the age of 23.

Bill Ripken made a case for Witt.

"Let me throw some biscuits out at at you," Ripken said. "Last year, Bobby Witt was the only player in the game with 20 homers, 30 stolen bases, 80 RBIs, 80 runs scored.

"This year, he's on pace for 30 (homers), 30 (stolen bases), hundo (100 RBIs), 90 runs scored. The last dude to do that, or the only guy to do that in the last 10 years, is (Cleveland's) José Ramírez when you're throwing those numbers into the mix. He's doing stuff quietly that I don't think people realize how good he actually is."

Mark DeRosa added: "He impacts every facet of the game."

Being compared to Ramírez shows just how good Witt has been this season.

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## **Three troubling statistics as KC Royals are blanked by Pirates to start home stand**

August 28, 2023

By Jaylon Thompson/KC Star

<https://www.kansascity.com/sports/mlb/kansas-city-royals/article278710579.html>

The Kansas City Royals returned home to Kauffman Stadium on Monday night. After a long nine-game road trip, the players arrived but the offense was left in baggage claim.

The Royals were silenced in a 5-0 loss to the Pittsburgh Pirates. KC recorded two hits — both singles — against Pirates starter Johan Oviedo. He tossed a complete game and picked up his eighth victory.

"Overall, we didn't do anything," Royals manager Matt Quatraro said. "We didn't threaten him at all. It was, relatively speaking, an easy nine innings."

Oviedo relied primarily on his four-seam fastball and slider to navigate the Royals' lineup. He generated 15 called strikes and 11 whiffs in the game. He issued two walks and struck out five batters.

Royals duo MJ Melendez and Drew Waters had the lone hits. Meanwhile, Pirates third baseman Ke'Bryan Hayes doubled their production.

Hayes finished 4 for 4 with an RBI double. The Pirates recorded 12 hits despite going 3 for 12 with runners in scoring position.

"We just came out flat today as a team," Melendez said. "I think we could've hit (against Oviedo). Props to him for going all nine. I think it was a battle with ourselves today. We just didn't play how we wanted to."

Pittsburgh added three insurance runs in the late innings. Designated hitter Andrew McCutchen hit an RBI single in the seventh while first baseman Alfonso Rivas added an RBI double an inning later.

The Royals dropped to 41-92.

Missed any Royals coverage?

Injury update: Royals plan to skip Brady Singer's next start due to arm fatigue

Hidden gem: Bobby Witt Jr. has special message written under helmet

Here are more notables from Monday's game:

#### ZACK GREINKE GOES 4 2/3 INNINGS IN START

Royals veteran Zack Greinke made his 23rd start on Monday. He returned to his familiar role after appearing in relief against the Oakland Athletics.

Greinke allowed six hits and two runs in his start. He also registered two strikeouts and two walks. In the fourth inning, Greinke was awarded a strikeout as Rivas was called out due to an automatic strike.

"It wasn't a very sharp game pretty much," Greinke said. "(The) stuff wasn't that good. Just the game wasn't that good all the way around."

Three troubling statistics told the story of his day:

The Royals have scored just 37 runs in Greinke's appearances (119.1 innings) this season.

They have supported Greinke with one or fewer runs in 14 of his 23 starts.

Monday's effort: two hits, two walks and no Royals player reaching scoring position.

"We just didn't put too many good swings on (Oviedo)," Quatraro said.

Greinke fell to 1-13 this season.

What's next: The Royals continue their three-game series against the Pirates. Cole Ragans, who owns a 2.08 ERA with the Royals, will draw the start.

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## Royals string together two hits against Pirates' Oviedo in 5-0 shutout loss

August 28, 2023

Associated Press

<https://www.ballysports.com/kansas-city/news/royals-string-together-two-hits-against-pirates-oviedo-in-5-0-shutout-loss>

Johan Oviedo pitched a two-hitter for his first complete game in 53 major league starts, Ke'Bryan Hayes had four hits and Zack Greinke lost his ninth consecutive decision in the Pittsburgh Pirates' 5-0 win and the Kansas City Royals on Monday night.

Oviedo (8-13) struck out five and walked two while throwing a career-high 112 pitches.

"He was on point the entire game," Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton said. "When he got behind he was able to execute.."

It was just the 28th complete game in the major leagues this season and the first complete game in 150 professional starts for the 26-year-old right-hander dating to 2016. Oviedo had never before gotten an out in the eighth inning, must less pitch the ninth.

"I was trying not to think about anything," Oviedo said. "I was very excited. I tried to just check my mind and make good pitches."

Catcher Endy Rodríguez lobbied Shelton and pitching coach Oscar Martin to allow Oviedo to finish.

“Going into the ninth, I didn’t plan on pitching him, because he was at 97,” Shelton said of the pitch count. “I figured that was good. Endy Rodríguez made a pretty strong push. He kept saying, ‘Let’s go, he’s fine.’ ... I figured: young catcher feeling it. We were hit by a hitter, but it was good for Endy and good for Ovi.”

Pittsburgh won at Kansas City for the first time since Aug. 20, 2015.

Kansas City (41-92) didn’t advance a runner past first base. The Royals were blanked for the 14th time this season and held to two hits or fewer for the eighth time.

“We didn’t put too many good swings on him,” Kansas City manager Matt Quatraro said.

Greinke (1-13) gave up two runs and six hits in 4 2/3 innings, dropping to 0-9 in 17 starts since beating Baltimore on May 3. The 39-year-old right-hander is tied with Oviedo, Kyle Freeland and Rich Hill for second in the majors in losses, trailing only teammate Jordan Lyles at 15. Greinke had only one 1-2-3 inning.

“He was a little bit off with his command,” Quatraro said. “It’s amazing how he can compete and get out of trouble. There’s a reason he’s been doing this for as long as he has.”

Hayes singled in the first, hit an RBI double in the third for a 2-0 lead, singled in the fifth to chase Greinke and singled in the seventh against Taylor Hearn. Hayes is hitting .438 (21 for 48) since Aug. 9 with four doubles, four home runs and eight RBIs.

“I’ve been putting good at-bats together and hitting the ball hard,” Hayes said. “We were able to find some holes. It feels good whenever you can find a hole.”

Alfonso Rivas hit a run-scoring double-play grounder in the second first after Rodríguez’s leadoff single and walks to Jack Suwinski and Liover Peguero.

Andrew McCutchen and Joshua Palacios had RBI singles in the seventh off Hearn. and Rivas doubled in a run in the eighth against Jackson Kowar.

#### TRAINER’S ROOM

Royals: RHP Brady Singer is going to miss his next turn Wednesday. Manager Matt Quatraro said Singer has shown signs of arm fatigue but there is nothing physically wrong.

#### UP NEXT

Kansas City LHP Cole Ragans (5-4, 3.66 ERA) starts Tuesday night.

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## MINORS

### Werner Named Carolina League Player of the Week

Third baseman earns award after explosive week in Zebulon

August 28, 2023

By John Kocsis Jr./Columbia Fireflies

<https://www.milb.com/columbia/news/082823-werner-named-carolina-league-player-of-the-week>

The Columbia Fireflies, in conjunction with the Carolina League and Major League Baseball, have announced that Trevor Werner has been named the Carolina League Player of the Week for the week of August 21-27.

Werner’s numbers last week were gaudy to say the least. The third baseman went 11-23 (.478) with two doubles, five homers and 11 RBI. Werner slashed .478/.542/1.217 and had an OPS of 1.773 in six games in Zebulon. He paced the circuit in hits, homers, total bases and RBI during the week.

If that weren’t enough, Werner is also riding the Columbia Fireflies’ longest hitting streak of the 2023 season, an 11-game streak that is the second-longest active streak in the Carolina League right now. Since August 15, Werner is hitting .395 with five homers and 18 RBI. He has also walked seven times, to bring his on-base percentage to .490.

The Texas native is the third Fireflies player to win the award this season, joining David Hollie, who won the award April 24-30 and Austin Charles, who won the award June 26-July 2.

The Fireflies will come home for one last homestand at Segra Park in 2023 as they face the Delmarva Shorebirds August 29-September 3. We’ll host Retro Video Game Night, a Budweiser Thirsty Thursday and will wrap up the season with a Sunday Funday. Tickets are available at [FirefliesTickets.com](https://FirefliesTickets.com).

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# NATIONAL

## Free agent rankings: Top 10 for this offseason ... plus a wild card

August 29, 2023

By Mark Feinsand/MLB.com

<https://www.mlb.com/news/mlb-free-agent-rankings-2023-2024>

Pennant races are heating up as we race toward September, but it will be November before we know it, at which time the baseball world will turn its attention toward the 2024 season.

One thing we know about the upcoming free-agent season is that the headlines will be dominated by one player, but there are plenty of talented players who will be shopping their services on the open market.

Let's take a look at the 10 impending free agents who will have the biggest impact on the Hot Stove season.

### 1) Shohei Ohtani, RHP/DH

Even with a torn UCL that might require a second Tommy John surgery, Ohtani is easily the top free agent on this year's market. It remains to be seen if/when Ohtani will return to the mound, but his offensive profile alone -- which compares favorably to Aaron Judge, who signed for nine years and \$360 million last year when he was a year older than Ohtani will be -- should land him a deal in the 10-year, \$400 million range. The contract is likely to top \$500 million, with many expecting him to pitch again no later than 2025, though the guaranteed dollars are sure to take a hit from what they would have been without the injury.

Potential fits: Angels, Dodgers, Giants, Mariners

### 2) Cody Bellinger, CF/1B

Following his disappointing 2021 and '22 seasons, the '19 National League MVP was forced to settle for a one-year, \$17.5 million "pillow contract" with the Cubs this year, giving him an opportunity to reestablish his value before hitting the market again this winter. Bellinger has made the most of his time in Chicago, posting a .321/.368/.546 slash line with 20 home runs and a 4.0 fWAR through 99 games. Bellinger, who turned 28 last month, should be set up for a sizeable multiyear deal in his second go-around in free agency.

Potential fits: Cubs, Giants, Yankees

### 3) Matt Chapman, 3B

Only four years ago, Chapman was seen as one of the game's rising stars, earning his first All-Star selection, his second Gold Glove and his second top-seven AL MVP finish. His offensive production dipped in 2021 and '22, though he remained a solid power hitter (27 home runs in each season) while continuing to play a stellar third base, earning his third Gold Glove in '21. Chapman's home run total is down this year (15 in 125 games), but his .338 on-base percentage is his highest since '19, and he leads the AL with 36 doubles. Chapman is on pace to finish with an fWAR of more than 4.0 in 2023, a mark he has reached in each of his previous four full seasons since '18. The third-base free-agent market is thin this winter, putting Chapman in position to cash in with a nice deal.

Potential fits: Blue Jays, Mets, Yankees

### 4) Blake Snell, LHP

On May 19, Snell was 1-6 with a 5.40 ERA after nine starts, leading many to project that the 30-year-old was costing himself a ton of money in free agency. Since then, all he's been is the best pitcher in baseball, going 9-3 with a 1.48 ERA over his past 17 starts. Snell, the 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner, might add a second Cy Young to his résumé this season, which would make the left-hander only the seventh pitcher to earn that honor in both leagues. He's primed to cash in as the best starting pitcher (Non-Ohtani Division) on this year's free-agent market.

Potential fits: Cardinals, Dodgers, Padres

### 5) Josh Hader, LHP

There are other proven closers on the market this winter, including David Robertson and Craig Kimbrel, but those two former All-Stars are on the wrong side of 35 and won't be viewed as long-term options for a club seeking to stabilize the ninth inning. Hader, on the other hand, turns 30 in April and is arguably the best reliever in the game right now. The lefty has allowed four earned runs in 47 appearances this season (0.81 ERA), ranking in the 99th or 100th percentile in strikeout percentage, chase rate, xBA, xSLG and hard-hit percentage. Edwin Díaz landed a record-setting five-year, \$102 million deal last winter, a figure Hader might approach -- or eclipse -- as the best reliever available.

Potential fits: Angels, Phillies, Rangers

#### 6) Julio Urías, LHP

Urías emerged as one of the best young pitchers in the game between 2019-22, posting a 44-13 record with a 2.63 ERA in 111 games (81 starts), but a lackluster start to his season looked like it would hurt his free-agent prospects. A mid-May hamstring injury landed the lefty on the injured list for six weeks, but he's looked like his old self since returning on July 1. Urías has had a pair of clunkers over his past nine starts, but the other seven were stellar, reminding us how good he can be. At age 27, Urías should command a hefty contract as one of the best starters on the market.

Potential fits: D-backs, Dodgers, Padres

#### 7) Aaron Nola, RHP

Nola was one of the most consistent and durable starters in the Majors from 2017-20, posting a 3.23 ERA in 106 starts for the Phillies. He finished fourth in the NL Cy Young race in '22, but his performances in '21 and '23 have raised questions about what his 30s could look like. Nola's strikeout percentage is lower this season than it has been since 2016, though his walk percentage remains quite strong. The 30-year-old has never relied on velocity, using a 92-93 mph fastball effectively thanks to his strong command. If there's one area to watch it's his ground-ball rate, which is at a career-low 40.4% this season.

Potential fits: Cardinals, Cubs, Phillies

#### 8) Eduardo Rodriguez, LHP

Rodriguez's inclusion on this list, of course, is based on the expectation that he will opt out of the final three years and \$49 million of his contract with the Tigers. Given his performance this season, the 30-year-old southpaw should have little trouble eclipsing those numbers with a new contract. Rodriguez was having a superb season in the first half before a finger injury put him on the shelf for about five weeks, and while he hasn't pitched at the same level as he did in April and May, he has allowed two or fewer runs in five of his nine starts since his return. Given the need for quality starting pitching around the league, Rodriguez should have plenty of suitors.

Potential fits: Orioles, Reds, Tigers

#### 9) Lucas Giolito, RHP

Giolito was one of the top targets at the Trade Deadline, and while his move to Anaheim has been rough -- he's 1-4 with a 6.67 ERA in five starts with the Angels -- the right-hander still figures to draw plenty of interest in free agency. Nobody will confuse Giolito with a bona fide ace, but the 29-year-old has been a proven innings-eater capable of filling a club's No. 2 or 3 spot in the rotation, and he will likely be paid accordingly.

Potential fits: Cardinals, Dodgers, Red Sox

#### 10) Jordan Montgomery, LHP

Montgomery has quietly been one of the most consistent starters in the Majors since 2021, posting a 3.50 ERA in 88 starts for the Yankees, Cardinals and Rangers. Texas' acquisition of Max Scherzer garnered most of the headlines at the Trade Deadline, but Montgomery has excelled with the Rangers, going 2-1 with a 2.30 ERA in his first five starts since the trade. The left-hander turns 31 in December, but his velocity has improved in each of the past two seasons, as he's averaging 93.3 mph with his sinker this year. Also of note: Montgomery can't be given a qualifying offer after the season, so unlike Snell, Urías and Nola, he won't have any draft-pick compensation attached to him.

Potential fits: Cardinals, Rangers, Yankees

#### Bonus: Yoshinobu Yamamoto, RHP

Yamamoto is expected to be posted by the Orix Buffaloes this offseason, adding another intriguing arm to the free-agent market. The 25-year-old has won both Pacific League MVP honors and the Sawamura Award (Japan's version of the Cy Young) in each of the past two years, and scouts believe he can immediately jump into the No. 1 or 2 spot in a big league rotation the way Masahiro Tanaka did with the Yankees nearly a decade ago. If/when he is posted, Yamamoto will likely jump into the Top 5 -- possibly the Top 3 -- of these rankings.

Potential fits: Dodgers, Mets, Red Sox

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## Braves' Acuna confronted by two fans in seventh inning of win

August 28, 2023

ESPN

[https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/\\_/id/38280783/braves-acuna-confronted-two-fans-seventh-inning-win](https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/38280783/braves-acuna-confronted-two-fans-seventh-inning-win)

Atlanta Braves outfielder Ronald Acuna Jr. was confronted by two fans in right field during Monday's game at Coors Field, an encounter



that left the star player knocked to the ground.

In the seventh inning against the Colorado Rockies, an individual ran onto the field to take a selfie with Acuna, putting his arm around the player before security personnel dashed over.

While security worked to pry the individual off Acuna, another individual ran onto the field and rushed toward Acuna, appearing to make contact with him and knocking him to the ground.

Acuna sat on the grass as security dealt with the individuals. He got up on his own power. Atlanta had just scored four runs to take a 9-4 lead before the incident happened.

Acuna did not appear to be injured because of the incident, smiling afterward and flashing a thumbs-up sign.

"I was a little scared at first," Acuna said through an interpreter. "I think the fans were out there and asking for pictures. I really couldn't say anything because at that point, security was already there and we were already kind of tangled up, but security was able to get there and everything's OK. We're all OK, and I hope they're OK."

Atlanta manager Brian Snitker was disappointed with the fans' choice.

"You don't want to see that happen, I know that," he said. "You don't know what they will do when they get out there. It's a scary situation."

Colorado manager Bud Black concurred. "That's disappointing, for me, that it happens, especially in our ballpark, in our town," he said. "That bothers me. It bothers me in general when I see it elsewhere, in all sports."

When asked further about the incident in his postgame news conference, Snitker said he didn't see it live because he was in the bathroom. When pressed if he'd seen something like that before, he added, "Yeah, a bunch."

Kevin Pillar started in left field for the Braves on Monday, and was right near the incident when it occurred.

"I don't think they had any ill intentions. I think that was pretty evident early on," Pillar said of the two fans. "We have these rules and regulations, we're supposed to feel safe on the field. And thankfully, they weren't there to do any harm."

Acuna is one of the favorites for the National League MVP award this season. He entered Monday batting .330 with 28 home runs and 74 RBIs and had a standout game in the win.

Out of Atlanta's leadoff spot, he hit his 29th home run of the season and finished 4-for-5 with five RBIs and a walk in his club's 14-4 victory.

"Special player. He is a gifted young man, baseball player," Snitker said. "Anything he is going to do in this game is not going to surprise me. I just think he is that talented."

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## **Astros' Jose Altuve caps cycle with 2-run homer over Green Monster**

August 28, 2023

ESPN

[https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/\\_/id/38280542/astros-jose-altuve-caps-cycle-2-run-homer-green-monster](https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/38280542/astros-jose-altuve-caps-cycle-2-run-homer-green-monster)

Jose Altuve hit a two-run home run over the Green Monster in the eighth inning of Monday night's 13-5 win against the Boston Red Sox to become just the ninth Houston Astros player to hit for the cycle.

Altuve is the first Houston player to do it since Brandon Barnes against the Seattle Mariners on July 19, 2013. Hitting second for the Astros that day was Altuve, then 23.

Now 33, a former MVP and a three-time batting champ, Altuve on Monday struck out swinging to lead off the game, then followed it up with a double in the third inning, a single in the fifth and a triple in the sixth.

He said that walking to the plate in the eighth, he was well aware of his personal scoreboard.

"It's kind of like in your mind, but you don't want to change your whole approach," he said. "I was just thinking about getting a pitch and trying to drive it."

Astros manager Dusty Baker said it's as well as he has seen Altuve swing the bat since he returned in May from a 43-game absence due to a broken thumb.

Altuve went 4-for-6 with four RBIs, his third four-hit game of the season and 37th of his career. It was just the third time in nine games that he had multiple hits.

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# MLB TRANSACTIONS

August 29, 2023 • STATS

Name	From Team	To Team	Date	Transaction
Wilyer Abreu	Boston	-	8/28/2023	Placed on Paternity Leave List
Ozzie Albies	Atlanta	Atlanta	8/28/2023	Removed From 10-Day IL (Strained left hamstring)
Kyle Barraclough	Worcester	Boston	8/28/2023	Called Up from Minors
J.B. Bukauskas	Nashville	Milwaukee	8/28/2023	Called Up from Minors
Matt Chapman	Toronto	-	8/28/2023	Placed on 10-Day IL (Right middle finger sprain)
Ernie Clement	Buffalo	Toronto	8/28/2023	Called Up from Minors
Yu Darvish	San Diego	-	8/28/2023	Placed on 15-Day IL (Right elbow inflammation)
Isan Diaz	Detroit	-	8/28/2023	Refused Minor League Assignment - Free Agent
Carl Edwards Jr.	Washington	-	8/28/2023	Transferred to 60-Day IL (Right shoulder inflammation)
Stuart Fairchild	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	8/28/2023	Removed from 7-Day IL (Concussion)
Stuart Fairchild	Louisville	Cincinnati	8/28/2023	Recalled From Minors Rehab
Kody Funderburk	St. Paul	Minnesota	8/28/2023	Purchased From Minors
Vaughn Grissom	Atlanta	Gwinnett	8/28/2023	Sent to Minors
David Hamilton	Worcester	Boston	8/28/2023	Called Up from Minors
Jonathan Hernandez	Texas	Round Rock	8/28/2023	Sent to Minors
Adrian Houser	Milwaukee	-	8/28/2023	Placed on 15-Day IL (Right elbow effusion)
Matt McLain	Cincinnati	-	8/28/2023	Placed on 10-Day IL (Strained right oblique)
Francisco Mejia	Tampa Bay	Durham	8/28/2023	Outrighted to Minors
Drew Millas	Rochester	Washington	8/28/2023	Purchased From Minors
Chris Murphy	Boston	Worcester	8/28/2023	Sent to Minors
James Naile	St. Louis	Memphis	8/28/2023	Sent to Minors
Tommy Nance	Miami	Jacksonville	8/28/2023	Sent to Minors
Josh Naylor	Cleveland	Akron	8/28/2023	Sent to Minors for Rehabilitation
Daniel Norris	Columbus	Cleveland	8/28/2023	Purchased From Minors
Bailey Ober	Minnesota	St. Paul	8/28/2023	Sent to Minors
Oliver Ortega	Minnesota	-	8/28/2023	Transferred to 60-Day IL (Left lumbar strain)
Glenn Otto	Round Rock	Texas	8/28/2023	Called Up from Minors
Daniel Palka	-	NY Mets	8/28/2023	Signed to a Minor League Contract
Ceddanne Rafaela	Worcester	Boston	8/28/2023	Called Up from Minors
Pablo Reyes	Boston	-	8/28/2023	Placed on 10-Day IL (Left elbow pain)
Jared Shuster	Atlanta	Gwinnett	8/28/2023	Sent to Minors
George Soriano	-	Miami	8/28/2023	Reinstated from Paternity Leave List
Gavin Stone	LA Dodgers	Oklahoma City	8/28/2023	Sent to Minors
Noah Syndergaard	Cleveland	-	8/28/2023	Designated for Assignment
Drew VerHagen Emergency List	-	St. Louis	8/28/2023	Reinstated from Bereavement/Family Medical
Darius Vines	Gwinnett	Atlanta	8/28/2023	Called Up from Minors
Matt Waldron	El Paso	San Diego	8/28/2023	Called Up from Minors