

A RARE DAY OFF -

I am enjoying a rare day off today. We got back in last night from Milwaukee. The team really played well this past weekend after the Cardinals beat us up a little. The Cards just seem to match up so well against our team. Sometimes, there are just teams like that. The new park in Milwaukee, Miller Park, is really beautiful. It seems that baseball has really gotten a shot in the arm there. It is a good baseball town (much like Chicago and St. Louis) with some great fans.

It is good to be home. I'm looking forward to playing in front of the fans at Turner again this week. The old friendly confines of Turner Field will be a sight for sore eyes. Sometimes being on the road is so tough on everyone. We miss our families, our own beds, and our own park. The road can be really tough with the travelling. Needless to say, I am happy to be waking up in my house this morning.

Only 50 more games to go. The season has really flown by this year. Probably because the Phillies have made it so competitive for us. It makes coming to the park a real adventure every night. We are constantly wondering what the Phils and Marlins are doing, so it gives us a sense of urgency. I really like this team. We kept our composure through a tough April, and the team showed that we are veterans by hanging in there and getting back into the playoff race. The additions of Rey and Ken have been great for our team. They just give us some veteran leadership in the field. Wes and DeRo have done such an outstanding job at 1B and SS, and getting Ken and Rey will only strengthen our team and deepen our bench. Defensively, we are playing really well. I think Rey only had 4 errors all of last year, so that obviously will benefit us. DeRo's bat has been outstanding, and we will undoubtedly need that going down the stretch. Wes' bat carried us the other night with those two bombs he hit. Like I said, I really like the composure and make-up of our team right now. Things are going well.

I had a good weekend offensively. I think I went 6 for 12, with mostly singles. I go through that phase every year where my power numbers trail off because I am not getting great pitches, but I am seeing the ball pretty well. I have confidence in those guys around me to drive in runs (I have been scoring a ton of runs lately), so I take what the teams give me and drive the ball the other way, hit the ball up the middle, take the walk, etc. Once those teams realize that they can't pitch around me (because of the other guys' production), I will start getting some better pitches to hit. Baseball is just so cyclical with scouting reports and advance scouting on teams. Hopefully, I will continue to hit the ball well and produce for my team any way that I can.

That's about it for now. I'll check back in as we get down the stretch. It was good to watch Dave, Kirby and the other guys get into the Hall. I remember watching those guys when I was growing up. They are just great players and a real tribute to the game. Everyone take care.

- Chipper Jones