

Chicago has gone missing as several Cubs hitters hit a slump at the worst possible time



Anthony Rizzo keeps his cool after striking out.

Those postseason batting averages are of Chicago Cubs players Anthony Rizzo, Addison Russell, Jason Heyward, Dexter Fowler, and Ben Zobrist, who are a combined 12-for-109 in the playoffs, a .110 batting average from five of the eight starting position players in the lineup. As the Cubs try to win their first pennant in 71 years, the team is being weighed down by a collective slump - one that has put a lot of pressure on the club's pitchers to keep the opposing team's offense at bay.

Sorry Chicago fans, but there's no denying it, the Cubs' offense is as lost as can be right now. Sunday's loss to the Dodgers was Chicago's first time being shutout (where you don't score a run) since August 28th. Other signs of trouble include about a fourth of Chicago's run have come from their pitchers; players typically not known for their swinging ability. As a team, the Cubs are striking out more than they did during the regular season where they were considered to be one of the most patient teams in baseball. The movement of players in the lineup, shows that John Madden is trying to make adjustments that may jump start the offense. The Cubs need to build some momentum offensively.



The Dodgers main pitcher, Kershaw, acknowledging a great play during Game 2.

During the regular season, the Cubs had the best record in baseball, and they got there by playing as a team; both on defense and offense. They can do this but the pressure is on the players to get the offense going. No decision from Joe Madden is going to change this slump. It's on the offense to find a way to get back into a rhythm.



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Monday October 17th, 2016

The numbers just aren't what you would expect to see from the Cubs' steamroller offense. Several key players are batting below .200.



Addison Russell wishing for a longer hit.



Heyward may be moved more.

Granted, the postseason features the best teams with the best pitchers, and the Cubs have a drawn a difficult matchup. Among the six starters they've faced you have: Kershaw, the best pitcher in baseball; Bumgarner, one of the best postseason pitchers ever; and Johnny Cueto, who is coming off a Cy Young-worthy season. It's somewhat unfair to ask any team to go up against pitchers of that caliber and then be disappointed when the offense struggles.



Dexter Fowler leading off.