

Veteran puts Colorado ahead in Stanley Cup

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Ray Bourque told his teammates he would score the winning goal in Game 3 of the Stanley Cup finals. Then, he made that prediction come true.

With the game tied 1-1 after two periods, the question of who would put Colorado on top was asked in the Avalanche locker room. The 40-year-old Bourque said he would be the one and he needed only 31 seconds of the third period to be right, even though it was just a stab in the dark.

"You make the call and hope you get lucky," Bourque said after the Avalanche beat the New Jersey Devils 3-1 Thursday night. "What have you got to lose?"

There was nothing for the Avalanche to lose once Bourque became the oldest player to score a goal in the finals.



The biggest win of his career came in a building where the Colorado franchise hadn't won since 1993 when the team was located in Quebec.

Now the Avalanche have a 2-1 series lead, and Bourque is only two wins away from the Stanley Cup title that's eluded him for the first 22 seasons of his career.

"I know we're two games away and we're one step closer but we've got a lot of work left," he said.

"We've got to go out and go after them like we did tonight. If we do that, I think we're giving ourselves a chance."

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Colby Jaycees

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The Denver Broncos signed free agent quarterback Steve Beuerlein to a multiyear contract Wednesday as a backup to Brian Griese.

The terms weren't disclosed by the team and Tom Condon, Beuerlein's agent, was unavailable Wednesday.

The 36-year-old Beuerlein has played 14 seasons in the NFL. He started all 16 games for the Carolina Panthers last season, completing 324 of 533 passes for 3,730 yards, 19 touchdowns and 18 interceptions.

He rushed for 106 yards on 44 carries and scored once. In 1992, Beuerlein was the backup to Troy Aikman as Dallas won the Super Bowl.

He has 44 consecutive starts, the third-longest active streak among NFL quarterbacks, behind Green Bay's Brett Favre (141) and Indianapolis' Peyton Manning (48).

Beuerlein's 4,436 yards in 1999 earned him his first career passing title, edging out Kurt Warner of St. Louis.

Lori Haberer showed off a 2000 Pontiac Grand Prix the Jaycees will be giving away at the Thomas County Fair Races on Aug. 4. The car will be on display this weekend at the Thomas County Speedway races Sunday night. See other information on page 3.

PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Day-by-day McGwire in line-up

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Mark McGwire was in the St. Louis Cardinals' lineup Wednesday, a night after striking out as a pinch-hitter.

McGwire was activated Monday from the disabled list and homered later in the day in his first start since April 15.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, quoting trainer Barry Weinberg, reported Wednesday that McGwire would be playing every other day for the first 10 days.

Before Wednesday's game, manager Tony La Russa said that wasn't necessarily so.

"I saw in the paper where his schedule is laid out," La Russa said. "I think that's a big mistake because I don't think that's the way we're going to do it."

"As long as people understand that's written in pencil," La Russa said.

McGwire batted second for the first time in his career on Monday and was again in the No. 2 slot Wednesday, giving him the potential for more at-bats. La Russa wasn't sure how long it would continue for McGwire, who was 4-for-25 (.160) going into the game.

"He looked good the other day, but that's one game," La Russa said.

Denver inks second QB

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Eagle track showed a lot of class at state meet

The state track meet in Wichita was a lot of fun. It was hectic, but it was fun. Not only did I get to see friends and family, I got to see some very good athletes, including a couple of new school records.

My sister in Inman went into the hospital on Saturday, and I had to preach in Great Bend Sunday morning, so the schedule was a little crowded. I also got a pretty good sunburn on Saturday, but the weather wasn't as hot as Wichita can be in late May.

I also learned that I can't run across the infield at Cessna Stadium as fast as either of our 4x100 teams can run around the track!

By the way, my sister is out of the hospital and doing much better now, so things worked out all the way around. The intensity and focus of some of the athletes was tremendous. Kids gave all they had and some broke down and cried after finishing second.

That's a part of sports and athletics, learning about winning and losing. And learning to do both gracefully. Competitive outlets should be outlets for excellence, both physically and mentally.

An athlete with a winner's attitude will do everything within the rules to win. But, they will not cheat, nor will they gloat when they win or make excuses when they lose.



Jay Kelley

Weekend Warrior

The winners attitude is more than simply following the rules of a particular game. It is following a set of ethics that include dignity, honesty and integrity toward opponents and teammates.

The life lessons taught by sports may be the reason the apostle Paul often described the Christian life as a race.

Sometimes we forget, athletics aren't really the important thing. Everyone gets older and slower. Those

professional (and some amateur) athletes who define themselves by their sport have difficulty adjusting to that reality.

Those who understand the lessons,

however, usually adjust very well.

As I watched our kids, I think they are learning those lessons. They were competitive and sportsmanlike at the same time.

Overall, it wasn't a good day simply because our kids did well, but because they did it with a lot of class.

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