

Colorado needs road win to stay alive in cup

DENVER (AP) — Ray Bourque's black cap hung from its hook, momentarily abandoned by its owner.

Instead, Bourque wore a suit and a somber look. Make no mistake, "Mission 16W" is in jeopardy.

Bourque's career-long pursuit of the Stanley Cup is in danger of being discarded along the New Jersey Turnpike after the defending champion Devils beat the Colorado Avalanche 4-1 in Game 5 of the finals Monday night.

The victory gave the Devils a 3-2 series lead heading back to the Meadowlands for Game 6 on Thursday.

New Jersey's arena is located off Exit 16W, a sign that could prove haunting for Bourque if Colorado loses its third straight game.

Mission 16W — the number of playoff victories needed to win the title — has been Bourque's mantra for the past eight weeks.

"In my case, every game is a new life for us, and you try to make the adjustments," Bourque said. "We're down 3-2, but it's a long way from being over. We have every intention of bringing it back to Denver for Game 7. There's no time to be frustrated. ... I've got plenty of juice left, believe me."

Bourque, a 40-year-old defenseman in his 22nd season, gave Colorado life in the first period Monday night with a play that threatened to deflate the Devils.

With the Avalanche trailing 1-0, he blocked a centering pass to thwart a 3-on-1 rush, and teammate Alex Tanguay tied the game on the ensuing 2-on-1 chance.

The play was reminiscent of Game 2 of the Western Conference semifinals when Bourque batted a puck out of midair before it crossed the goal line, setting up the go-ahead score seconds later.

That was against the Los Angeles Kings. These are the New Jersey Devils. Big difference.

Instead of wilting after the shift in momentum, the Devils played even better as they took advantage of several defensive gambles by Colorado.

Alexander Mogilny's wrist shot during a 3-on-2 break gave New Jersey a 2-1 lead with 1:13 left in the first period. It was his first goal in 15 games and came as the Devils looked for-

fensive support without injured center Jason Arnott.

"That was definitely the turning point," Devils forward John Madden said. "We felt that if we could get through the first period either tied or up a goal, we would be in good shape."

Sergei Brylin, another Devils player in a scoring slump, scored on a power play 4:39 into the second. The 3-1 New Jersey lead marked the first time in 21 playoff games that the Avalanche faced a two-goal deficit.

The three goals were plenty for Devils goalie Martin Brodeur, who made remarkable saves against Dave Reid, Dan Hinote, Eric Messier and Rob Blake. He finished with 22 saves and moved one step closer to his third Stanley Cup.

"These opportunities don't come every day," Brodeur said. "We have two cracks at it. I don't think we want to get ourselves into the situation of coming back here, pushing a Game 7 coin that could be tossed and anybody could win."

Besides momentum, New Jersey has the odds in its favor. The winner of Game 5 in a 2-2 series has gone on to win the Cup 13 of 16 times.

Colorado, however, is a defiant group. The NHL's top team during the regular season, the Ays remained confident they will force a seventh game in Denver next Saturday. They are 6-3 on the road in the playoffs.

"I think we've proven in the past we can do this," coach Bob Hartley said. "We're going to be flying to New Jersey on a mission. It's a big loss, a very disappointing loss, but there's no sense looking back. We know what we have to do in Jersey."

To force Game 7, the Avalanche will need a strong performance from goalie Patrick Roy, who gave up four goals for the second time in 16 games, and fewer mistakes in the neutral zone.

In an attempt to put more pressure on Brodeur, Colorado's defenseman gambled often, leading to 11 odd-man rushes for the Devils. New Jersey converted three times, setting themselves up for third title in seven seasons.

"The last one is always the hardest one to get," coach Larry Robinson said. "We can't be doing crazy things, because they're an explosive team."



It never ends



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Cody Smith and Ben Kramer were busy dragging ball-fields again today. Assistant recreation director Ryan Sturdey said the fields were in pretty good shape for the opening of recreation league kids baseball and softball Monday night, in spite of rains. Games tonight will start at 6 p.m.

Colby Striders taking 11 to state meet in Hays

Eleven Colby Striders track club members qualified for state at a Holcomb qualifying meet on Sunday.

The participants had to finish sixth or better to qualify for the state meet at Hays on June 15-16.

Lissa Mazanc was first in the long jump at 13'2", first in the 800 at 2:48.40 and second in the discus at 67'9"

Joshua Baden was first in the 3K run at 11:54.75, the 1,500 meter run at 5:48.37 and third in the 800 at 2:44.11.

Ashlee Hudson was second in the 1,500 meter run at 6:08.60, fourth in the high jump at 3'8" and fifth in the 800 at 3:07.41.

Amber Wagoner was second in three events, the high jump at 4' even, the 100 meter dash at 15.10 and the 200 meter dash at 33.31 seconds.

Ryan McCoy was ninth in the 100 meter dash at 16.64 seconds and 10th in the shot put at 21' even.

Tracer Hudson was fourth in three

events, the shot put at 23'3 1/2", the 800 meter hurdles at 17.38 and the 100 meter dash at 15.69 seconds.

Scott McCoy was fifth in both his events, the high jump at 4' and the 100 meter dash at 15.7.

Kelsea Geschwenter was third in the long jump, 8' 10 3/4" and the 100 meter dash at 17.35. She was fourth in the 200 meter dash at 37.29.

Kalen Rasmussen was fourth in the 400 meter at 1:17.13 and fifth in the 100 meter at 15.39.

Ethan Stickle was seventh in the long jump at 10' 11" and the high jump at 3' 6".

Dexter Pfeifer was eighth in the 100 at 16.06 and 10th in the 200 at 33.45.

The 4x100 team was second at 1:06.87. They were Brandon Rasmussen, Kalen Rasmussen, Pfeifer and Stickle.

Call in your sports news to the Colby Free Press at 462-3963 or email colbysports@nwkansas.com. Jay Kelley is sports coordinator.

Rice released, looking at Oakland

LOS ALTOS, Calif. (AP) — Jerry Rice, who set every significant NFL receiving record during 16 years with the San Francisco 49ers, was released by the team.

He soon will sign with the Oakland Raiders, 49ers vice president Bill Walsh said at Rice's charity golf tournament.

But before teeing off at Los Altos Hills Country Club, Rice said he was still deciding between the Raiders and

the Seattle Seahawks.

The 38-year-old Rice, who has a record 1,281 receptions and 187 touchdowns, had spent his entire career with the 49ers, but was cut because of the team's salary cap problems.

Although he lists his team triumphs — three Super Bowl titles and 14 winning seasons — as his greatest achievements, Rice has had an unparalleled career with the 49ers.

Also among his NFL records are his

176 touchdowns on pass receptions; 12 seasons with more than 1,000 yards receiving; 1,848 yards receiving in a single season; and 22 touchdown receptions in a single season.

The 12-time Pro Bowl selection was the NFL Offensive Player of the Year in 1987 and 1993 and the Super Bowl MVP in 1989.

He has 19,247 yards receiving, including at least one catch in his last 225 games, another record.

Brawl puts Cardinal out for a game

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Bobby Bonilla of the St. Louis Cardinals was suspended for one game and fined an undisclosed amount Monday for his actions when benches cleared in a May 28 game against the Milwaukee Brewers.

Bonilla, strumming a guitar in the clubhouse before Monday night's game against the Cincinnati Reds, said he was not appealing the suspension and would sit out the game.

He had not been in the starting lineup.

"What are you going to do?" he said. Frank Robinson, vice president of on-field operations for major league baseball, made the announcement.

Bonilla, Cardinals manager Tony La Russa and Jeromy Burnitz of the Brew-

ers were ejected. The benches emptied after Matt Morris hit Geoff Jenkins in the shoulder one pitch after Jenkins' bid for an upper-deck home run hooked foul.

Burnitz, who was on deck, walked toward the Cardinals dugout and began yelling in that direction.

After the dugouts cleared, Bonilla hit Burnitz with a right-hand slap.

Area Briefs

The Colby Jaycees are hosting youth mud volleyball on Saturday at noon. Cost if \$5 if preregistered, \$7 on Saturday. Call Lori at 462-6557 or 462-9011 or Doug at 462-3627 for details

Antelope hunting applications will be available at the Thomas County Clerk's office until Friday. Call 462-4500 for information. Kansas State University is hosting

a father and son basketball camp on June 15-16. Open to boys grades K-8. Call 785-532-6531 for information.

Kansas State University will be holding their second annual Summer Camp Basketball Camp in Manhattan. The two sessions will be June 17-20 and July 29-Aug. 1. The camps are open for boys 8-18. Call 785-532-6531.

Baseball At-A-Glance

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Barry Bonds hit his 30th home run, reaching the mark faster than anyone in major league history.

Bonds connected in the fourth inning for a solo shot in the San Francisco Giants' 3-1 win over San Diego.

Bonds hit No. 30 in 57 games. Babe

Ruth reached 30 homers in 63 games in 1928.

PHOENIX (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers placed ace pitcher Kevin Brown on the 15-day disabled list with an irritated nerve in his neck. Manager Jim Tracy said Brown would miss

three or four starts.

Brown, 36, goes on the DL for the seventh time in his 15-year major league career.

He has a 6-3 record and is second only to the Atlanta Braves' Greg Maddux in the National League with a 2.60 ERA.

The Business Directory

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK OF COLBY Investment Center Michelle L. Foote Financial Advisor

JOHN'S WELDING & MACHINE SHOP Fabrications & repairs of all sorts. At your residence. AC/DC Welding Wire Welding HAVE WELDER...WILL TRAVEL! JOHN CARPENTER

EAT HEARTY..... STEAK FRY Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. Your choice of Potato and Salad COLBY VFW MEMBERS & GUESTS WELCOME!

New System Professional Window Cleaning Commercial • Residential 520 S. Mission Ridge • Colby, KS 67701

ULTRA LITE STYLE FAMILY OF LENSES Larry Washburn, O.D. Doctor of Optometry 505 Franklin Colby, KS

ROUND TRIP TRAVEL 140 W. 4th Colby, KS 67702 1-888-690-7077 462-6999 • Fax: 462-3824

GERSTNER-CEROSOVSKY INSURANCE AGENCY "Customer Service is Our Policy" CINDY L. CEROSOVSKY Cersovsky Insurance Inc. 370 N. Franklin • PO Box 310 • Colby, KS 67701

20/20 vision isn't the only reason to see your eye doctor Drs. Morrison & Wahlmeier James F. Morrison, OD, FFAO Jeffrey B. Morrison, OD Mark F. Wahlmeier, OD

GOT SOMETHING TO SELL QUICKLY? TRY THE FREE PRESS CLASSIFIEDS!!! THE RATES ARE REASONABLE, THE RESULTS ARE SATISFYING. IF YOU HAVEN'T TRIED THE CLASSIFIEDS -- NOW IS THE TIME!!

nwkansas.com Get connected to the Internet with us! We have local technical support. Get connected today! Call 462-3963

A+ CLEANERS • Carpet • Furniture • Vehicles JOHNENE CHENEY NEW NUMBER 785-399-2999