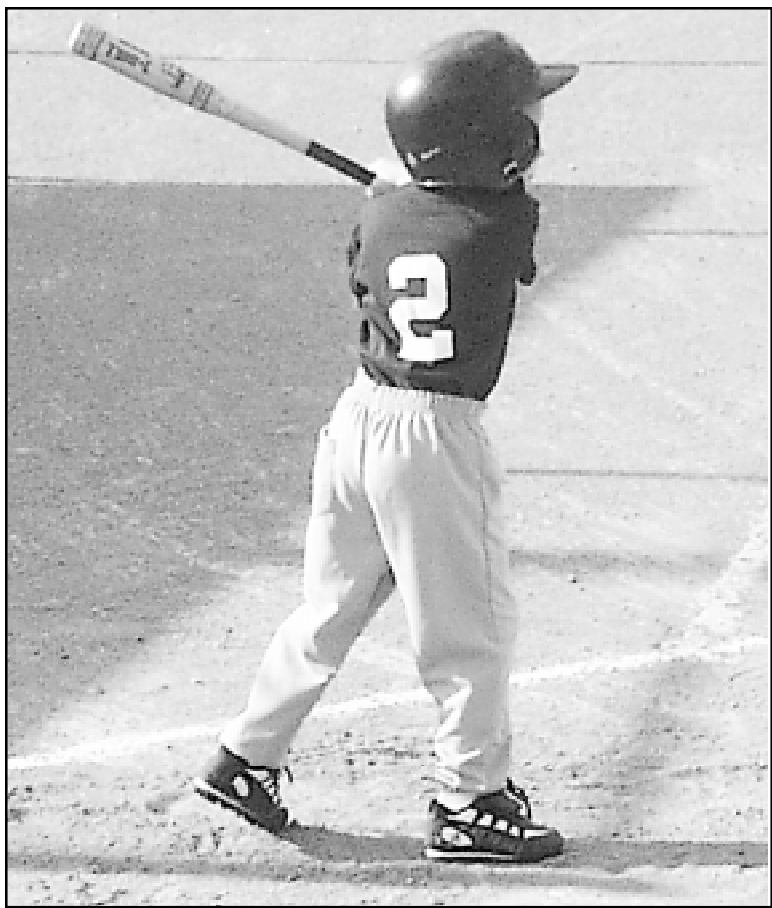


## Swinging for the bleachers



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Chase Harlow took a big swing for the rookie boys' Yankees at the Colby Recreation Fields. The Yankees play the Dodgers Tuesday night at 8 p.m. on field 4.

# Denver manages three period win

DENVER (AP) — After consecutive Stanley Cup finals dominated by very long games — remember Brett Hull's skate in the crease two years ago? — they finally played a finals without any overtime.

Except, of course, by those in the NHL drama department who thought all this up:

— Ray Bourque, a pretender to the throne since the late 1970s, finally wins the Stanley Cup he has spent nearly a lifetime chasing — and, even more dramatically, he does it in only the third finals Game 7 since 1972.

By then, his fans in Colorado and Boston were anxious — and he was, too — to see whether his 22-season career would wind down with his greatest victory or his most agonizing defeat.

"I couldn't breathe the last 30 seconds, and it wasn't because I was tired," Bourque said of the Colorado Avalanche's 3-1 victory over the defending champion New Jersey Devils on Saturday night. "I was trying to hold back the tears, the emotion."

He couldn't, of course, especially after the only 40-year-old to score a goal in the finals took the cup on the victory lap of a lifetime. Maybe Bourque hasn't been the ambassador for the game that Wayne Gretzky was, or the most charismatic of stars, but on this night, Everybody Loved Raymond.

— Alex Tanguay, so young at 21 he wasn't even born when Bourque made his NHL debut in October 1979, scores the first two goals of the game in which Bourque finally gets his cup.

As it turns out, Bourque wasn't the

only player on the ice who hadn't handled the Stanley Cup before.

"I'd never seen, never touched it before," Tanguay said. And his impressions of it?

"That thing is really heavy," he said.

— Devils coach Larry Robinson, one of hockey's greatest defensemen and a man who had never lost in eight Stanley Cup finals as a player or coach, finally goes down to defeat. And he isn't beaten by, for example, Scotty Bowman, but by a former paper mill worker and windshield installer who never played pro hockey and didn't begin coaching until age 27.

Sure, Ray Bourque, this was your cup, but it also was Avalanche coach Bob Hartley's, too. Asked how many of the 10,000 residents in his hometown of Hawkesbury, Ontario, would be watching Game 7, Hartley said:

"Maybe only the newborns will not watch."

— Give each of hockey's two best teams a chance to win the most cherished trophy in pro sports, then see which can do it.

Colorado seemed ready to make a short series of it by winning 5-0 in Game 1, only to have New Jersey rebound for a dull but effective 2-1 victory in Game 2. Then, with Colorado nearly ready to take a 3-1 series lead, star goalie Patrick Roy wanders out of the net, gives up the tying goal and New

Jersey goes on not just to win that game, but the next to lead the series 3-2.

Then, before a noisy, pumped-up home crowd eager to celebrate New Jersey's second consecutive cup, the Devils forget to show up for Game 6, lose 4-0 and go on to be outscored 7-1 in the final two games against the NHL's regular-season champions.

The Devils were the second team in as many seasons to fail to defend the cup — they won it from Dallas a year ago — but the first since the 1971 Chicago Blackhawks to squander a 3-2 series lead.

"It's heartbreaking," Devils defenseman Ken Daneyko said. "We gave it away. We just lost it."

And, Roy, the antihero of Game 4? He bounced back to win a record third Conn Smythe trophy as the playoffs MVP.

— Robinson, who should have known better, makes a rather tasteless comment about what he thinks of Denver's prematurely announced plans for a victory parade Monday. Robinson, of course, is very aware that similar plans already have been made back in New Jersey.

Robinson attempts to use the parade

as a motivator for his team. However, the remarks drift back to the Avalanche, who, while perhaps not all that riled up by them, take note and go on to score the first three goals in Game 7.

— A once-great player leaves hockey without getting his name on the Stanley Cup — and, no, it's not Bourque. Devils backup goaltender John Vanbiesbrouck, who retired after Game 7, never got his name on the cup in 19 seasons.

Even if the Devils had won, Vanbiesbrouck might not have had his name inscribed. Because goalie Martin Brodeur started a record 97 games, and Vanbiesbrouck didn't play in the finals, his name wouldn't have been on the cup.

"Unfortunately some guys don't get their name on it, and I'm one of those guys," he said.

Now, the Avalanche and Devils have only a couple of months to get ready for the new season that opens with training camp in early September.

The Avalanche are uncertain if Bourque will retire or if they can re-sign captain Joe Sakic and Roy. The Devils probably will re-sign restricted free agent forward Petr Sykora, but could lose unrestricted free agent Alexander Mogilny.

"Right now, Sept. 1 doesn't seem that far away," Colorado's Dave Reid said.

## Parade goes on, as planned

DENVER (AP) — The Stanley Cup victory parade that brought snickers from the New Jersey Devils is scheduled to roll through downtown today during the noon hour.

The Colorado Avalanche players, coaches and their families will ride fire trucks along a 15-block route to celebrate their victory in the final game of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Word of the parade slipped out even before Game 7 began Saturday night, prompting Devils defenseman Ken Daneyko to warn, "Nobody's won nothing yet."

"There's still a hockey game to be played, and we're pretty excited about the opportunity to put a little bit of disruption in the parade plans

the city has already made," he said.

The Avalanche won the game 3-1 and the parade plans went up on the city and the team's Web sites Sunday.

A high school band, a drum and bugle corps, youth hockey players and a Marine color guard will accompany the Avalanche.

The parade will end with a rally in a park between the state Capitol and the city and county building.

The Avs will bring along the Stanley Cup, the Presidents' Trophy for best record in the regular season, the Clarence Campbell Bowl for winning the NHL Western Conference and the Conn Smythe Trophy for most valuable player in the playoffs, presented to goalie Patrick Roy.

## Denver quiet after win

DENVER (AP) — Residents woke up Sunday to the city's fourth national sports championship in five years, but there was no repeat of the riots that had marred previous celebrations.

Thousands of hockey fans spilled into downtown streets near the Pepsi Center on Saturday night after the Colorado Avalanche beat the New Jersey Devils 3-1 to win the Stanley Cup.

Sixty-three people were arrested and 50 were taken to detoxification centers. Most face charges of vandalism and disturbing the peace.

The crowd was estimated at about 5,000, compared with 10,000 who took to the streets in Denver's worst sports riot in 1998 when the Broncos won their first Super Bowl.

Revelers had looted, damaged doz-

ens of buildings and overturned cars. Riots also followed the Broncos' 1999 Super Bowl victory and the Avalanche's 1996 Stanley Cup win.

"The public is kind of getting tired of the criminal activity associated with sports events or sports riots, so some people just didn't come downtown," Police Chief Gerry Whitman said Sunday.

Nearly 700 police officers on foot and horseback were deployed Saturday night.

Officers in riot gear sprayed tear gas as some people set small bonfires and lit firecrackers.

Dozens of people surrounded cars trying to drive by and rocked them from side to side before allowing them to continue.

## Area Schedule

### Tuesday, June 12

Colby recreation baseball and softball at the recreation fields

Rookie boys baseball

Mariners vs. Cardinals on field 4 at 6 p.m.

Yankees vs. Dodgers on field 4 at 8 p.m.

Junior boys baseball

Dodgers vs. Braves on field 2 at 6:15 p.m.

Orioles vs. Indians on field 2 at 8 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 13

Colby recreation baseball and softball at the rec fields.

T-ball

Devil Rays vs. Mariners on field 3 at 7 p.m.

Orioles vs. Mets on field 3 at 8 p.m.

Bambino boys baseball

Orioles vs. Cubs on field 2 at 6 p.m.

Cardinals vs. Rockies on field 2 at 8 p.m.

Rookie girls softball

Giants vs. Pirates on field 4 at 6 p.m.

Mets vs. Devil Rays on field 4 at 8 p.m.

## Racing Update

BROOKLYN, Mich. (AP) — Jeff Gordon survived two restarts and a tense battle with Ricky Rudd over the final two laps to give Hendrick Motorsports its 100th victory.

It was another dominating performance for Gordon, who led 143 of 200 laps in the Kmart 400 to win his second race in a row. He led all but 19 off 400 laps a week earlier while taking the MBNA Platinum 400 in Dover, Del.

Shawna Robinson, the first woman in a Winston Cup race in 12 years, in a Ford Taurus splashed with pink paint, finished 34th.

MONTREAL (AP) — Ralf Schumacher outdrove older brother Michael, pulling away to an easy victory in Formula One's Canadian Grand Prix.

The German siblings started on the front row, and polesitter Michael led from the start on the 2.747-mile Circuit Gilles Villeneuve. Ralf never let him get too far away, though, stalking the leader until he made his pit stop on the

## Area Briefs

• Colby High School volleyball camp is scheduled for June 27-28 at the high school gym for girls entering grades 9-12. Contact Lesley Wagoner at 462-7959.

• The 20th running of the Lake Atwood County Challenge Race, hosted by the Atwood Rotary Club, will be held July 4 at 7:30 a.m. Each age-division winner scores points for their county. There are no awards and no entry fees, participants compete for honors for the county.

• Kansas State University is hosting a father and son basketball camp on June 15-16. Open for boys K-8. Call 785-532-6531.

46th of 69 laps.

As Michael, the defending series champion and race winner, drove his Ferrari into the pits, Ralf's Williams BMW took the lead. He stayed out front the rest of the way, building a big-enough edge to retain the lead when he stopped on lap 51.

He emerged from the pits in front of his brother, a three-time F1 champion, and steadily pulled away to win by 20.2 seconds. It was his second victory this season and the second of his career.

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