

# Avs just happy to score

MONTREAL (AP) — The struggling Colorado Avalanche were just happy to register their first point in nine days.

Brian Willsie scored with 13:51 remaining in the third period to lift the Avalanche to a 1-1 tie with the Montreal Canadiens on Tuesday night.

"I'm not disappointed at all," goalie Patrick Roy said. "Obviously, I would have been happy to win this game, but for us it was important to find a way to stop that losing streak."

Willsie redirected Rob Blake's slap shot from the right point past goalie Jose Theodore 6:09 into the third as Colorado, which had lost three straight, recorded its first point in four games. The Stanley Cup-champion Avalanche have struggled to a 7-8-1 start.

"We'll take the tie, but we would have liked to pull this out," Willsie said.

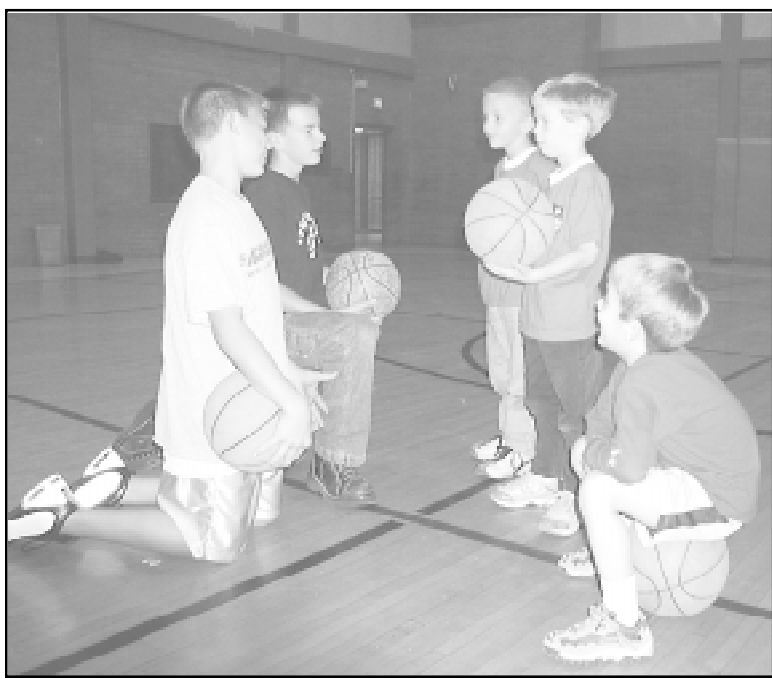
Yanic Perreault scored in the second for Montreal, as Roy again failed in his fifth straight bid to become the first goalie to record at least 200 wins with two NHL teams. Roy won 289 regular-season games with the Canadiens from 1985-95.

Montreal, which had lost four straight, remained winless in its last five and is 1-7-1 since earning nine of 10 points to open the season.

"I thought we played a bit like we did in the early of the season, and that's the kind of hockey we need to play the rest of the season if we want to be successful," Perreault said.



## Passing down skills



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby Tiger Scouts learned some basic skills about basketball on Tuesday as part of their requirements to learn the rules of a game or sport. Jordan Sharp and Sean Mengel (left) offered their expertise on the subject of basketball with Quade Woofter (foreground), Alex Juenemann and Troy Quenzer listening intently.

# Chiefs coach blames self

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — When he took over as Kansas City's head coach, Dick Vermeil asked Chiefs fans to be patient.

Even he expected a better record at the midpoint of his first season, though.

"I thought we would be better than a 2-6 football team right now," Vermeil said Tuesday, during his weekly news conference. "If I had done a better job of coaching, I think we would have."

Vermeil didn't say which of Kansas City's losses could be attributed to coaching failures, or even what mistakes he might have made.

"I can't pinpoint all the reasons why," he said. "If I could, I'd give them to you, but they're not all explainable sometimes."

Several players — most prominently new quarterback Trent Green, whose acquisition from the St. Louis Rams cost the Chiefs their first-round draft pick — haven't lived up to Vermeil's expectations, either.

Through eight games, Green's 1,945 passing yards lead the AFC and place him second in the NFL — but his interceptions outnumber his touchdown passes 13-8.

"Trent has not been where I thought he would be," Vermeil said, "but I know he's capable of getting back to that. It's our responsibility as coaches to help him get back to that level. He's showed flashes of doing some things that will get him back up there."

Kansas City has been hit hard by injuries to such key players as wide receivers Derrick Alexander and Sylvester Morris, offensive tackle Victor Riley and defensive tackle John Browning.

But Vermeil refused to blame injuries for the 2-6 start.

"Every team has injuries," he said. "Every year you build your roster based on, 'If this guy goes down, we have this guy available to fill his spot.'"

We've built some depth in the secondary, we have some depth in the line-backer position — but we've lost our depth in the defensive line positions."

The midseason report card isn't all bad, though.

The Chiefs still have a Pro Bowl tight end in Tony Gonzalez, and running back Priest Holmes is second in



the NFL with 771 yards rushing and is poised to become Kansas City's first 1,000-yard rusher since Christian Okoye set a club record with 1,480 yards in 1989.

"We thought he would come in here and be a good starting back," Vermeil said. "He's the number two rusher in the league, which I think puts him in a category of better than good. He's playing beyond our expectations."

The best news, Vermeil said, is that the Chiefs still have the second half of the season in which to get better — and that their four-game losing streak is

finally over after Sunday's 25-20 win over San Diego.

"We did the most important thing," he said. "To start a winning streak, you have to win a game, and we got that done."

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# Baseball owners vote to eliminate two teams

ROSEMONT, Ill. (AP) — Two cities will not have baseball teams next season, if owners get their way, and players will not be locked out when the labor agreement expires Wednesday.

The owners made those decisions during a 3 1/2-hour meeting.

They would not specify which cities would be cut. The vote was 28-2, with the Minnesota Twins and Montreal Expos opposing contraction.

Montreal, Minnesota and the Florida Marlins recently have been mentioned as the likeliest candidates, while Oakland and Tampa Bay were discussed earlier this year.

Baseball's decision reverses nearly a half-century of expansion during which the major leagues grew from 16 teams in 1960 to 30 since 1998, when Arizona and Tampa Bay were added.

The amount of money that would be paid to the eliminated teams was not discussed during the meeting.

This would be the first contraction by major league baseball since the National League shrank from 12 teams to eight following the 1899 season.

Immediately after baseball owners voted to eliminate two franchises, the

Minnesota Twins' landlord obtained a restraining order blocking any changes in the team's situation until Thursday.

The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission filed a lawsuit in Hennepin County District Court to compel the Twins to honor their lease to play in the Metrodome next season. District Judge Diana Eagan then issued a restraining order.

## PHEASANT HUNTERS DINNER

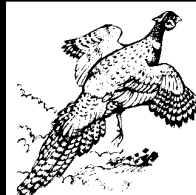


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**SATURDAY EVENING • 7:00-10:00 p.m.**

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**SUNDAY MORNING • 4:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.**

Biscuits & Gravy - \$5.00 (all you can eat)

## Area Schedule

Thursday, Nov. 8

Colby Community College wrestling hosts an inter-squad Blue & White Dual at the Colby Community Building at 7:30 p.m.

## Colby Kids Wrestling Sign-up

November, 8th • 7:00 p.m.

Ramada Inn

Bring a copy of birth certificate, last year's singlets and any shoes or head gear you have for sale.



For more information call 462-7500 or 462-8649

Northwest Kansas Dairy Heifer Replacement

• SEMINAR •

Tuesday, November 13 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

City Limits Convention Center

Comfort Inn - Colby, Kansas

Registration: \$25.00 (includes lunch)

This seminar will focus on the exciting business opportunity of raising dairy heifer replacements in Northwest Kansas. It is a must for anyone considering a dairy heifer raising enterprise. Key topics being discussed by leading dairy experts include:

- An analysis of the region's role in U.S. milk production, focusing on Kansas and surrounding states. It will include the rationale of why Western Kansas will be a major growth area for milk production in the next decade.
- Information will be shared on why the dairy industry has a high demand for quality dairy heifers and why this demand will continue over the next several years. Key factors will be presented on why Northwest Kansas in an ideal area with distinct competitive advantages for dairy heifer growing operations.
- Heifer growth stages (birth to 24 months) as well as management requirements will be discussed. This discussion will also focus on the key goals for heifer growth and what are the critical factors for success in growing a dairy heifer.
- Dairy heifer nutrition, feeding and animal health practices, facility requirements, etc., will be presented. Also included will be discussions on dairy heifer growing rations that utilize local feedstuffs, which is one of the advantages Northwest Kansas offers.
- Information will be shared by a large dairy producer (4,000+ dairy cows), who utilizes contract growers, on the requirements for a successful "contract" dairy heifer grower. This valuable presentation will define the requirements that are necessary for the success of both the dairy producer and the contract grower.
- An in-depth presentation will be done on the economics and costs associated with a "start from scratch" dairy heifer raising enterprise. This presentation will utilize "Economic Evaluation of a Dairy Heifer Raising Business" software, to discuss the critical financial sensitivities that are associated with this business enterprise and the potential profitability that can be achieved through a dairy heifer growing enterprise. Participation by meeting attendees on changing the various assumptions used in the economic model will be included in this portion of the meeting.

FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL:

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