

Kansas back on track against Stanford in second round game; on to Sweet Sixteen

By DOUG TUCKER

AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Even with a bad ankle, Kirk Hinrich was a force for top-seeded Kansas.

Hinrich, playing with a brace on the left ankle he sprained two days earlier, scored 15 points as the Jayhawks routed Stanford 86-63 in a second-round Midwest Regional game Saturday night.

Kansas (31-3) used a 15-0 run to open the game against the eighth-seeded Cardinal, and then closed the first half on a 10-0 run, capped by Hinrich's jumper, to head into the locker room with a 48-26 halftime lead.

After losing to Oklahoma in the Big 12 tournament final last Sunday and struggling to beat 16th-seeded Holy Cross on Thursday, the Jayhawks appeared to regain the rhythm and flow of the three-guard offense that made them the nation's highest-scoring team

with more than 91 points a game.

Their lead over Stanford (20-10), rose to 31 points twice in the waning minutes, the last with 5:09 left when Drew Gooden hit from inside for an 82-51 lead.

Jeff Boschee had 19 points and Nick Collison, who had five points and six turnovers in the ragged 70-59 victory over Holy Cross, rebounded with 17 points and 13 rebounds for the Jayhawks, who will make their second straight trip to the round of 16.

Hinrich, whose status was in doubt until game time, came off the bench with 13:05 left in the first half, bringing a roar from several thousand Kansas fans who feared he might be through for the year.

Less than three minutes later, after Stanford's Curtis Borchardt shot an air ball, Hinrich pulled up and hit a jumper to make it 23-9.

After Josh Childress hit for Stanford, Hinrich drilled a 3-pointer at the 10:06

mark. Then, with 7:56 left in the half, he hit another long 3 to put the Jayhawks up 31-15.

The 6-foot-3 Hinrich, the Jayhawks' best defender also spent much of the game guarding Casey Jacobsen, Stanford's 6-6 swingman who had 24 points.

Three minutes into the second half, Gooden stole the ball at midcourt and drove for a big dunk to give Kansas a 58-32 lead. With 13:40 left, Boschee stole a pass and threw the ball to Hinrich streaking down court, who fed Gooden for a layup. The Jayhawks took a 65-37 lead moments later when Hinrich hit another long 3. He was 3-of-4 from 3-point range.

Borchardt had 13 points and 11 rebounds, his 17th double-double for Stanford, which never mounted even a mild threat after Kansas hit six of its first eight shots and forced the Pac-10 runners-up into five turnovers in the opening minutes.

Sports from around the region

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Nashville Predators traded their best goal scorer and then scored four goals against the best defensive team in the league.

It still wasn't enough.

Martin Skoula scored two power-play goals and added an assist to lead the Colorado Avalanche to a 5-4 victory over Nashville on Sunday.

"We were more patient and our puck possession was very good," Colorado coach Bob Hartley said of his team's power play. "We had great setups. We had good shots and good screens. Both units deserve a lot of credit."

The Avalanche are 8-1-1 in their last 10 games on the road and 9-2-1 in their last 12 games overall.

The Predators lost their fourth in a row and their fifth straight at home.

Nashville played for the first time without Cliff Ronning, the team's leading scorer, who was traded Saturday to the Los Angeles Kings.

"I can't fault our effort," Nashville coach Barry Trotz said. "The guys are working hard right now, but it is not going our way."

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Larry Walker hit a home run and Gary Bennett and Juan Uribe each had three hits as a split-squad of the Colorado Rockies defeated the San Francisco Giants 10-8 Sunday.

Reggie Sanders had two hits and drove in three runs for the Giants, who had their four-game winning streak snapped. Damon Minor hit his fifth home run, and David Bell also homered.

Mike James pitched the fourth to pick up the win. Jason Christensen, making his first appearance since March 1, took the loss.

Chris Holt made his first start of the spring after four relief appearances. He went three innings, allowing five runs, six hits and two walks.

Giants starter Joe Nathan allowed three runs and seven hits in four innings with two walks and a strikeout.

Uribe, who has a team-high 20 hits, was 3-for-5, with a single, double and triple.

The Rockies scored three runs in the fifth to take the lead for good. Benny Agbayani walked and scored when Mike Bell tripled. Bennett and John Barnes each followed with RBI doubles.

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Shortstop Tim Olson committed four of Arizona's 10 errors but had an RBI single in the ninth to lift the Diamondbacks to a 10-9 victory over the Colorado Rockies in a split-squad game Sunday.

Colorado starter Mike Hampton and

Arizona's Randy Johnson both struggled. Each gave up five runs and eight hits over four innings. But only two of runs against Johnson were earned.

Olson made two of his errors in the fifth, including a bad throw that allowed Ryan Owens and Ben Petrick to score and gave Colorado an 8-6 lead.

Third baseman Chris Donnels made two errors, and second baseman Junior Spivey, catcher Chad Moeller, third baseman Robbie Hammock and right fielder Doug Devore also committed errors.

It was Hampton's third straight rough outing. He gave up two homers, walked five and struck out three. In his past 9 1-3 innings, Hampton has allowed 14 runs and walked 13 batters.

Johnson had limited opponents to just three hits over 11 shutout innings in his previous three starts.

MANHATTAN (AP) — Laurie

Koehn scored 29 points and Nicole Ohlde had 19 as Kansas State beat Arkansas 82-68 Sunday night for the Wildcats' first round of 16 appearance in 20 years.

The lead changed 17 times before Koehn capped off an 8-1 Wildcats run with a three-point play. That gave the Wildcats (26-7) their biggest lead at 65-57 with 8:47 left.

The sixth-seeded Lady Razorbacks (20-12) cut it to three with three minutes left. But Kansas State scored eight straight points to seal the victory.

Kendra Wecker scored 12, and Kristin Rethman and Megan Mahoney each had 10. Ohlde and Mahoney both had 11 rebounds.

Shameka Christon scored 19 points, India Lewis had 15, and Andrea Wright had 14 points for Arkansas.

The Wildcats will play in Milwaukee on Saturday against either Old Dominion and Purdue.

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Up and over



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

A member of the Colby Community College Trojan track team attempts to clear the bar in the pole-vault competition Saturday at Dennen Field. The Trojans competed against members of the Fort Hays State track team. Results of the meet were unavailable at press time.

Sports auction in Hays to benefit area agency

On March 24th, everyone is invited to join Mohammed Ali, Joe Montana, George Brett, Tony Gonzalez and Nolan Ryan at the Smoky Hill Country Club in Hays.

Well, the celebrities won't actually be there, but items autographed by them will for sale at the Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas Sports and Celebrity Auction.

Over 150 items signed by various sports stars and celebrities will be up for bid. All proceeds will go to the DSNWK Consumer Medical Fund, which pays for items not covered by Medicaid.

The auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Smoky Hill Country Club, with an hors d'oeuvres buffet and silent auction. An oral auction will follow.

Kiwanis Club ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!



Saturday, March 23 • Fike Park

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| Ages 0-3 | Ages 4-6 | Ages 7-9 |
| 10 a.m. sharp | 10:10 a.m. | 10:20 a.m. |

In case of bad weather, listen to KQLS for information.

Thank you to all donors, buyers and participants at this year's annual Colby Community College Endowment Association Party Auction on Saturday.

And, thank you, especially to Farm and Ranch Realty for conducting the Auction.

Because of everyone's generosity and help, the Auction was a great success.

-The CCC Endowment Association Board

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