

Up, up... and away!



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Kyle Molstad put the wood to it during the East-West Division Kansas Junior Golf League championships Monday at the Colby Country Club. Eighty-four kids from age 8 to 17 from all over the state competed in the day-long tournament.

It's all over for Beuerlein

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Not even a bitter split with the team he adored could taint Steve Beuerlein's love for the Carolina Panthers.

Beuerlein signed with the Panthers on Wednesday and then immediately retired, ending his 17-year career where he holds every passing record in team history.

"This in my mind was the way it was meant to be," he said. "I couldn't think of a better way to bring this 17-year run to an end. My heart has always been here with this organization and when I sat back and decided I wanted to step down, there was no doubt I wanted to do it as a Carolina Panther."

Beuerlein, 39, was with the Panthers from 1996 to 2000, and went to the Pro Bowl in 1999 after passing for 4,436 yards and 36 touchdowns.

Despite his popularity on and off the field, he was never the No. 1 choice for coach George Seifert.

Seifert had inherited Beuerlein, who had been signed by Dom Ca-

pers and given the starting job five games into the 1998 season when Kerry Collins quit the team.

Seifert was always looking for a more mobile quarterback, and Beuerlein's job was never safe though he started 44 consecutive games.

In an extremely unpopular move — even within the organization — Seifert released Beuerlein before the 2001 season. He planned on making Jeff Lewis the starter and Heisman Trophy winner Chris Weinke his backup.

But the move was a disaster: Lewis was cut before the season began and Weinke was forced to start as a rookie and Carolina went 1-15. Seifert was fired at the end of the season, Weinke is now the No. 3 quarterback in Carolina and Lewis is out of the league.

Denver quickly signed Beuerlein after his release from Carolina and made him its backup quarterback. He spent three seasons there and, although they were injury-prone — he missed all of 2001 and went on

injured reserve in October of last season — the Broncos would have welcomed him back for an 18th season.

"He's the best. He's a pro's pro," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said. "He's got all of the records at Carolina, so he's going to retire a Panther. I think that's a great idea."

Although Denver released him in May, it was only to give him time to decide if he wanted to play another year or retire.

Rockies roll, 5-4

DENVER (AP) — Putting together another late-inning rally should do nothing but help Colorado's confidence.

Doing it against baseball's best bullpen certainly will.

Aaron Miles hit a tiebreaking single off Guillermo Mota in the eighth inning and Jeromy Burnitz homered in his sixth straight home game to tie a team record, leading the Colorado Rockies to a 5-4 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday night.

"It's good because we know we can do it and it's good because they know we can do it," Rockies manager Clint Hurdle said.

With the score tied at 4, Burnitz started off the winning rally against Mota (8-4) with a two-out double off the wall in left-center. Charles Johnson followed by fouling off three pitches to draw a walk, then pinch-hitter Mark Sweeney walked to load the bases. Miles knocked in the go-ahead run five pitches later, punching a single between third base and short.

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