

American Legion Baseball July Schedule

July 1	July 2	July 3	July 6	July 7
Hays Tournament	Hays Tournament	Hays Tournament	DH at McCook 6 & 8 p.m.	DH at Norton 6 & 8 p.m.
July 10	July 12	July 17-23	July 27-30	August 4-7
DH at Burlington 3 & 5 p.m.	DH at Goodland 6 & 8 p.m.	Zone Tournament	State Tournament at Ottawa	Regional Tournament at Virqua, WI

*No home games in July/August.

Pitcher fans career-high game

By Pat Graham

AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — Colorado Rockies manager Jim Tracy explored his team to pick up their play in a closed-door meeting before the game.

The message quickly sank in. Juan Nicasio had a career-high nine strikeouts in six innings and Chris Iannetta hit a three-run homer, helping the Rockies end a three-game skid with a 6-3 win over the San Diego Padres on Tuesday night.

The usually mild-mannered Tracy didn't need to read the Rockies the riot act to get their attention. All he had to do was turn serious.

That was more than enough. "First big-league butt chewing," Colorado's Charlie Blackmon said, smiling. "We definitely responded well. But as far as I'm concerned, it's not one win and now we can relax. It's one win and now we have to keep the pedal down and keep it going."

And that was the general theme of Tracy's lecture, his second such conversation this season.

The Rockies have traditionally been a slow-starting squad. But after a fast start this season, spending 39 days in first place, the Rockies have hit a slump and trail San Francisco by six games.

Tracy doesn't want to see his team fall too far behind, where they have to make a frenzied late-season run to climb back into the postseason picture.

"What's very, very important for us to understand is where we're at is not where we want to be," Tracy said. "But we're not at death's door by any stretch of the imagination."

Sure, it's just one game, but the Rockies responded to the stern talk as they turned in a solid performance.

"That's the way I like to see us play — just like that," Tracy said.

Nicasio (2-1) had a rocky start, giving up a leadoff homer to Chris Denorfia, but soon settled into a groove. He gave up six hits and walked just one in his fourth start since being called up from Double-A Tulsa.

The hard-throwing righty struck out the side in the first and had at least one in every inning before being pulled with his pitch count at 108. He had nine career strikeouts entering the game.

"Feeling more confident with every start," Nicasio said as teammate Ubaldo Jimenez served as his translator. "You don't want to be too comfortable out there. In the big leagues, you never want to be too comfortable."

Wade LeBlanc (0-2) was re-

called from Triple-A Tucson before the game to help out a banged-up rotation. He allowed three runs and seven hits in 4 2-3 innings.

"Frustrating. Wasn't a good start by any means," he said. "Any time I can't get through five innings, I look at it as kind of a letdown."

Iannetta broke open a 3-2 game in the sixth by hitting a hanging slider from reliever Pat Neshek into the seats in left. It was his ninth homer of the season.

Reliever Matt Lindstrom took over for Nicasio in the seventh and worked himself into a one-out jam by loading the bases.

After Lindstrom got Ryan Lud-

wick to pop out, lefty Rex Brothers was brought in to face left-handed hitting rookie phenom Anthony Rizzo, who struck out on a breaking ball.

Huston Street struck out Rizzo to end the game in the ninth in a nonsave situation.

LeBlanc was cruising along until the fourth when he walked Chris Nelson to start the inning and then allowed four straight hits, including RBI singles by Todd Helton, Ty Wigginton and Blackmon.

The lefty limited the damage from there, fanning Nicasio with two on to keep it a 3-2 game.



EMILY GRIFFIN/AYSO Soccer
Konnor Griffin dribbled the ball down the field in the first game of the AYSO Mid-America soccer tournament June 4 in North Platte, Neb.


Youth soccer team takes second place

The Gators, a group of Colby soccer players in the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), whose ages range from 8 to 10 years old, competed in the AYSO Mid-America soccer tournament in North Platte, Neb., on June 4 and 5.

Coached by Greg Griffin and Dustin Vrbas, the team dominated their three matches on June 4 to advance to the finals

on June 5. They were able to keep their opponent, the North Platte Bears, to just a two-goal advantage and took second place in the tournament.

The Gator team includes: Blaise Vrbas, Kaitlyn Nelson, Tucker Branum, Konnor Griffin, Kinley Ziegelmeier, Cade Lanning, Bryson Metcalf, Zoey Hillis, Mason Wright and Aaron Platt.



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