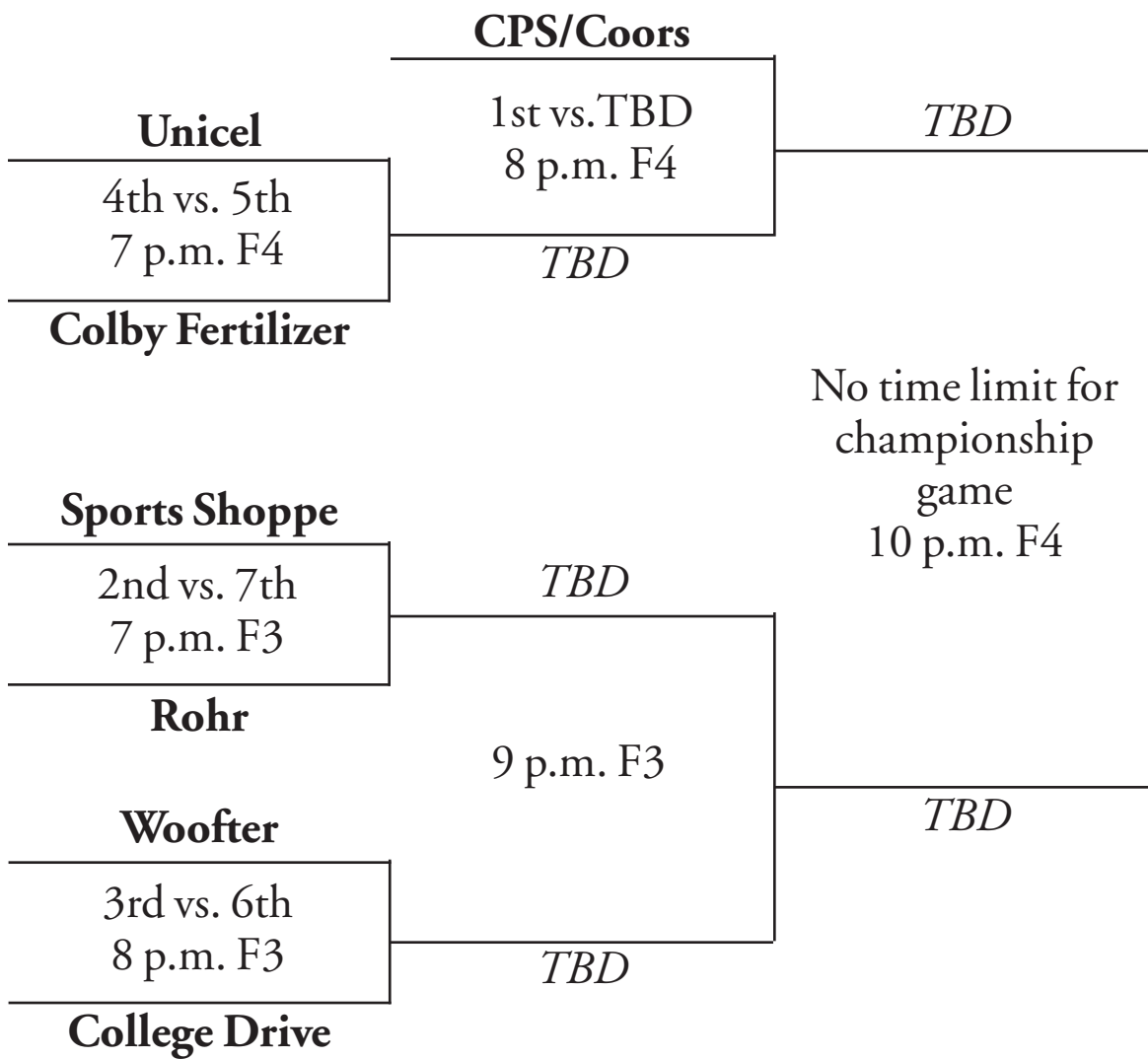


Summer league holds tourney, derby

Men's Softball League Tournament Thursday



Champion



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press
A player waited for a good pitch June 2 in a men's softball league game at the Colby Recreation Fields. The league has played games every Thursday night since May 26.

Home Run Derby
Thursday, 6:15 p.m. on F4
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Provide your own pitcher.

Rockies win at home, stomp Braves 12-3

By Arnie Stapleton
AP Sports Writer

DENVER — Ubaldo Jimenez sauntered off the mound and doffed his cap to the appreciative Coors Field crowd giving him an enthusiastic standing ovation.

Was this goodbye?

If so, the powerful right-hander gave Colorado general manager Dan O'Dowd and the Rockies faithful a taste of what they'd be missing if he's indeed traded this month.

"It felt really good. It's been a long time since I got one of those," Jimenez said. "And especially hearing so many things. I don't know if that's going to be my last one here. So, it felt really good."

Jimenez brushed aside Atlanta's powerful bats along with all that trade talk, and Troy Tulowitzki and Carlos Gonzalez homered as the Rockies routed the Braves 12-3 Tuesday night.

Jimenez (6-8) won for the fifth

time in his last six decisions, allowing two runs and seven hits over 6 2/3 innings. The only blemishes were the two homers he served up to Dan Uggla. Jimenez struck out nine and walked two before soaking in the cheers from fans hoping he stays in purple pin-stripes for countless more nights like this one.

Jimenez hopes so, too. "This is the team that I've always been on. I love this team," he said.

Would he tell that to O'Dowd? "I think he already knows," Jimenez said. "But like I said before, they are going to do anything that is good for the team."

With so many holes on his roster, O'Dowd has said he'll listen to all offers but will have to be overwhelmed to part with his ace, who is signed for the next three years at just under \$18 million.

After dealing with the speculation swirling around him and questions from concerned fans

cluttering up his Facebook page for the last week, Jimenez was able to clear from his mind for a few hours the unthinkable notion that he could be dealt just a year after starting the All-Star game.

Jimenez isn't scheduled to start at home again until after the July 31 trade deadline, which he's praying comes and goes without him having to pack his bags.

Jimenez has rebounded from a slow start caused in part by nagging thumb and hip injuries, but the Rockies have underperformed all season, never reaching the heights they expected behind the Big Three O's — Ubaldo, Tulo and CarGo.

This night was the exception for Jimenez and the scuffling sluggers.

Tulowitzki and Gonzalez staked Jimenez to an early cushion with home runs off rookie righty Brandon Beachy (3-2), who couldn't find the necessary sink on his pitches to succeed at Coors Field.

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