

Loving the summer game



Ian Scherling (front) went after a ball as he and his brother, Ren, played tennis Wednesday evening on a court at Gulick Park. The boys weren't keeping score, just practicing to improve their skills. Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Royals looking at repeat of last year's record losses

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Halfway through the 2000 season, the Kansas City Royals are starting to look like a clone of the 1999 team that lost a franchise-record 97 games.

In mid-May, just like last year, the Royals were a handful of games above .500, raising hopes that the proverbial corner had finally been turned.

But just like last year, Tony Muser's crew has gone into freefall. They'll enter the second half of the season against Milwaukee Thursday night a season-worst seven games below break-even at 39-46, 15 games behind Chicago in the AL Central.

This is an improvement of a year ago when the Royals went into the All-Star Break 35-52.

But the pitching staff is starting to remind people of the dreary 1999 team. Plagued by injuries to starters Jose Rosado and Blake Stein as well as the early-season ineffectiveness of newcomer Ricky Bottalico, they've made good on just 15 of 35 save opportunities.

Their team ERA of 4.94 is the worst in the league.

They've hit fewer home runs (73) and given up more (146) than any other team in the majors.

At this pace, they'll surrender 278 homers by year's end. They'll not just break the major league record of 241

set by the woeful 1996 Detroit Tigers. They'll obliterate it.

Another downer has been the continuing slump of centerfielder Carlos Beltran. The 1999 AL rookie-of-the-year has not been the same player, on the field or at the plate.

Beltran goes into the second half on the disabled list while opposing pitchers use breaking balls and off-speed stuff to tie him in knots.

Second baseman Carlos Febles, the other half of the vaunted "Dos Carlos" rookie tandem of 1999, was playing well until he went down with an injury that sidelined him for much of the first half.

"The wheels wobbled a little bit those last two weeks before the All-Star Break," said Muser. "But the wheels didn't fall off."

There are also bright spots. Bottalico shows signs of becoming the bullpen force the Royals thought he could be. He has given up just two runs in his last 18 1-3 innings. Mac Suzuki seems to be getting better and better and could wind up as the staff ace.

Rey Sanchez, although his offense has dipped, continues to be the finest defensive shortstop the Royals ever had.

He drew a questionable error at Houston in the final game of the first half and ended his string of errorless

games at 60. That's a team record for shortstops, and even more impressive considering his many spectacular plays.

The most visible bright spots for the Royals were standing on the field in Atlanta for the All-Star Game.

Right fielder Jermaine Dye and first baseman Mike Sweeney have followed their breakthrough 1999 seasons with continued excellence.

Dye will go into the second half hitting .319 with 21 home runs. Sweeney has turned himself into a competent first baseman after a quick conversion from catcher and is hitting .360 with 76 RBIs, a pace that would break the team record for runs driven in.

Johnny Damon, though not as consistent as the Royals would like, has proven himself one of the better lead-off hitters in the league.

Third baseman Joe Randa continues to provide quality work at third.

Just like the 1999 Royals, the hitting and defense are light years ahead of the pitching.

"Offensively, we're about where we thought we would be," said Allard Baird, who was elevated last month to general manager.

"Baserunning-wise, I think we've improved of late. Our defense has played a lot better of late."

So much for the good news.

"Pitching-wise, there are some young guys who haven't developed as quickly as we would like," Baird said in obvious understatement.

If only the Royals can keep their young hitters together and on track, pitching help could be on the way from the minor leagues.

Two young prospects are particularly promising, Jeff Austin and Chris George. They were featured at the "Futures Game" prior to the All-Star Game in Atlanta and in a combined 1 1-3 innings, gave up no hits or runs.

But as much as they need their strong young arms, the Royals are determined not to rush them.

"Right now, I do not anticipate seeing Jeff Austin this year, or Chris George," said Baird.

"But that's not to say we will not see them opening day next year."

**local league**

**Midget Tournament**  
GoodlandNet LLC over Miller Construction 5 to 2. GoodlandNet LLC the midget champions.

**Topside Tournament**  
Mueller Grain 12  
Hennick Lumber 14  
Hennick Lumber 6  
VFW Post 1133 7  
Kiwamis 12  
Mueller Grain 4: championship

**Co-Ed Standings**  
1. Hitchcock Inc. 9-1  
2. Sweet Vanilla Pancakes 8-2  
3. Western State Bank 6-4  
4. Frontier Equity 6-4

**Men's Slo-Pitch**  
1. Budweiser 9-1  
2. Coor's Light 9-2  
3. Lonny's Quality Auto Body 8-3  
4. LOL Magnums 7-5

**Men's Slo-Pitch**  
Western State Bank 12, Sweet Vanilla Pancakes 13  
Northwind Surveys 27, Alex's R./D&M Cleaning 4  
Konorado Coop 12, Storm Troopers 15  
The Survivors 4, Hitchcock Inc. 19  
Hitchcock Inc. 12, Western State Bank 7  
Dan Brenner Ford-Mercury 10, Frontier Equity 9

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	52	36	.591	—
New York	48	38	.558	3
Florida	45	43	.511	7
Montreal	42	42	.500	8
Philadelphia	39	47	.453	12
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	51	36	.586	—
Cincinnati	43	44	.494	8
Pittsburgh	38	48	.442	12 1/2
Milwaukee	37	51	.420	14 1/2
Chicago	35	51	.407	15 1/2
Houston	30	57	.345	21
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Arizona	51	37	.580	—
San Francisco	46	39	.541	3 1/2
Colorado	45	40	.529	4 1/2
Los Angeles	44	42	.512	6
San Diego	38	49	.437	12 1/2

**Tuesday's Game**  
**American League 6, National League 3**

**Wednesday's Games**  
No games scheduled

**Thursday's Games**  
Seattle (Garcia 2-1) at San Diego (Tollberg 2-0), 3:05 p.m.  
Houston (Reynolds 6-5) at Detroit (Moehler 5-5), 5:05 p.m.  
Pittsburgh (Ritchie 5-5) at Cleveland (Finley 7-6), 5:05 p.m.  
Philadelphia (Schilling 4-5) at Toronto (Carpenter 7-7), 5:05 p.m.  
Florida (Penny 4-7) at N.Y. Yankees (Hernandez 8-6), 5:05 p.m.  
N.Y. Mets (Bobby J. Jones 3-4) at Boston (P.Martinez 9-3), 5:05 p.m.  
Montreal (Vazquez 7-4) at Tampa Bay (Rekar 3-4), 5:15 p.m.  
Atlanta (Maddux 10-3) at Baltimore

(Mussina 6-7), 5:35 p.m.
<b>Milwaukee (Wright 4-2) at Kansas City (Stein 0-1), 6:05 p.m.</b>
Chicago Cubs (Valdes 1-2) at Minnesota (Radke 5-10), 6:05 p.m.
St. Louis (An.Benes 9-3) at Chicago White Sox (Sirotko 8-6), 6:05 p.m.
<b>Cincinnati (Harnisch 1-5) at Colorado (Astacio 7-5), 7:05 p.m.</b>
Texas (Helling 10-7) at Arizona (Anderson 8-3), 8:05 p.m.
Anaheim (Hill 5-5) at Los Angeles (Dreifort 4-7), 8:10 p.m.
Oakland (Mulder 5-4) at San Francisco (Nathan 5-2), 8:15 p.m.

<b>Friday's Games</b>
Florida (Smith 0-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Clemens 6-6), 5:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Rusch 6-7) at Boston (Schourek 2-8), 5:05 p.m.
Houston (Holt 3-10) at Detroit (Nomo 3-7), 5:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Benson 8-6) at Cleveland (Brower 2-2), 5:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Wolf 8-5) at Toronto (Castillo 5-5), 5:05 p.m.
Montreal (Armas 4-6) at Tampa Bay (Lopez 5-6), 5:15 p.m.
Atlanta (Burkett 6-4) at Baltimore (Ponson 5-4), 5:35 p.m.
<b>Milwaukee (D'Amico 4-4) at Kansas City (Suzuki 4-3), 6:05 p.m.</b>
Chicago Cubs (Lieber 8-5) at Minnesota (Milton 8-4), 6:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Stephenson 9-5) at Chicago White Sox (Parque 8-2), 6:05 p.m.
<b>Cincinnati (Harnisch 1-5) at Colorado (Arrojo 5-6), 7:05 p.m.</b>
Texas (Rogers 9-6) at Arizona (Reynoso 5-6), 8:05 p.m.
Seattle (Moyer 7-3) at San Diego (Meadows 7-6), 8:05 p.m.
Anaheim (Bottenfield 5-7) at Los Angeles (Brown 8-2), 8:10 p.m.
Oakland (Appier 8-5) at San Francisco (Ortiz 4-8), 8:35 p.m.

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	45	38	.542	—
Toronto	48	41	.539	—
Boston	43	41	.512	2 1/2
Baltimore	38	48	.442	8 1/2
Tampa Bay	34	51	.400	12
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	55	32	.632	—
Cleveland	44	42	.512	10 1/2
<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>.459</b>	<b>15</b>
Detroit	38	46	.452	15 1/2
Minnesota	38	52	.422	18 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	51	35	.593	—
Oakland	48	38	.558	3
Anaheim	47	41	.534	5
Texas	42	43	.494	8 1/2

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Track club scores at Region 8 meet

Two members of the Goodland Track Club competed in the Region 8 meet in Kansas City on July 1 and 2.

The meet included teams from Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

Michelle Smith was the Region 8 champion in the sub bantam (9 years) girls shot put with a toss of 18 feet. This

is the second year in a row that Michelle has qualified for nationals in the shot put.

Lance Tedford finished 7th in the youth boys triple jump, with 34 feet 9 inches.

Lisha Tedford finished 8th in midget (12 years) girls shot put with a toss of 26 feet 11 inches.

World's fastest man set on edge by trials

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Maurice Greene fidgeted on the podium, bopping his head in time with an imaginary tune. His fists gripped a microphone so tightly he seemed to be clutching a relay baton.

"I'm getting very edgy. I'm getting very anxious," Greene said, punctuating his words with facial expressions that revealed his intensity.

Most of his teammates on the HSI squad wore white T-shirts — Greene wore black.

He dismissed questions about some recent losses — including a 10.54 clocking in a 100 in Glasgow, Scotland, that he called "the worst race I ran in my life" — as mere training exercises.

Two days before the start of the U.S. Olympic Trials, the world's fastest man already was running on overdrive.

The world record-holder and two-time world champion in the 100 meters was ready for the biggest test of his life.

Four years ago, a hamstring injury bothered his training for the trials and he failed to make the U.S. team.

Now, he's favored to win Olympic gold in the 100 and expected to duel with Michael Johnson in the 200.

And he said that, even though the top three runners in each event will go to Sydney, he intends to win both sprints in Sacramento.

"The most important thing here is to make the team, but I always want to win," he said., rejecting the idea he'd hold something back in Sacramento so he can peak in Australia. "I think you have to give 100 percent to make the Olympics."

Greene, whose record is 9.79 seconds in the 100, has no intention of setting modest goals for himself.

"My career means nothing if I don't get the Olympic gold medal (in the 100)," he said.

When asked about his relationship with Johnson, Greene took a deep breath.

"I'm going to stay calm with this question," he said. "He's another athlete. I'm going to compete against him."

**correction**

Colleen Koehler also played in the Regional championship for the Diamond Dusters. She was 4 for 5 in the final game. Her name was accidentally omitted.

☆☆☆☆

The Goodland Daily News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record, and appreciate your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

**Sunflower Contest**

**RULES**

- Write down as many words (at least 3 letters) that you can think of using the word "Celebration"
- Do not use proper names
- Bring your completed list to The Goodland Daily News office at 1205 Main

by 12:00 p.m. by Saturday, August 5th

Winners will be announced in the Monday, August 7th edition

1. _____	26. _____
2. _____	27. _____
3. _____	28. _____
4. _____	29. _____
5. _____	30. _____
6. _____	31. _____
7. _____	32. _____
8. _____	33. _____
9. _____	34. _____
10. _____	35. _____
11. _____	36. _____
12. _____	37. _____
13. _____	38. _____
14. _____	39. _____
15. _____	40. _____
16. _____	41. _____
17. _____	42. _____
18. _____	43. _____
19. _____	44. _____
20. _____	45. _____
21. _____	46. _____
22. _____	47. _____
23. _____	48. _____
24. _____	49. _____
25. _____	50. _____

(If you have more than 50, please attach an additional sheet)

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