

Reds pound Rockies 15-6

DENVER (AP) — Ken Griffey Jr. doesn't need a young, unproven pitcher sticking up for him. He has his own method of retaliation.

Griffey hit his second homer of the game three innings after being drilled in the back Thursday night as Cincinnati beat the Colorado Rockies 15-6 in a game that featured five Reds home runs.

Reds starter Elmer Dessens (2-0) triggered a heated exchange of words in the eighth when he hit Colorado star Larry Walker. Griffey appreciated the gesture, but said he would rather pay the Rockies back with his bat.

"If I get a chance to face that pitcher, I'd rather try to decapitate him," Griffey said, speaking in general terms. "You don't like things coming at you, so they don't like things coming at them."

Griffey's 30 homers tied him with Mark McGwire for the major league lead, and he also scored four times to help Cincinnati hand Colorado its eighth straight loss. The Rockies fell to 28-10 at Coors Field.

"We're playing real bad right now," Walker said. "Maybe (the beanball war) was the kick-start we need. If that's the case, that's great what happened tonight."

Behind homers from Griffey, Barry Larkin and Sean Casey, the Reds built a 10-0 lead against Rockies starter Pedro Astacio (7-6), who hit Griffey in the back in the fifth inning.

Dessens threw a pitch behind Helton in the seventh and then hit Walker in the eighth. Walker, playing with a sore right elbow, walked toward the mound as players emerged from both dugouts and the outfield bullpens.

No punches were thrown, but Rockies manager Buddy Bell was ejected while arguing with umpire Dana DeMuth, and Walker blatantly tried to run over second baseman Pokey Reese on an infield single by Jeff Cirillo.

"If I didn't have a bummed-up elbow, I probably would have went out to the mound," Walker said. "I've always said that guys are cowards that actually walk halfway there and point

their bat, but don't go out. My answer back was going into second hard."

Rockies reliever Jose Jimenez was ejected for grazing Eddie Taubensee in the ninth.

Neither Bell nor Reds manager Jack McKeon wanted to comment on the controversy, but Cincinnati shortstop Barry Larkin came to Walker's defense.

"He had no business hitting Walker," Larkin said. "There was no explanation for it. We just needed to play the game. Hitting Walker was uncalled for."

Staked to a big lead, Dessens gave up six runs and nine hits. He didn't allow a runner past first base until Helton doubled with one out in the fifth.

"We're having trouble throwing the first punch," Bell said. "We're really getting behind early. Hopefully, we can change that. We are very capable of playing very well. I expect for us to do that very shortly."

Through interpreter Dennys Reyes, Dessens denied hitting Walker intentionally and said he was surprised at the reaction.

Royals lose to Brewers at home

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Jeremy Burnitz and Marquis Grissom hit first-inning home runs and Jamey Wright won his fourth straight road decision as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Kansas City Royals 5-2 Thursday night.

Wright (5-2) gave up one run and eight hits in seven innings, walking four and striking out three while leading the Brewers to their fourth win in five games. He benefited from three double plays and was handed a 4-0 lead before his first pitch.

Milwaukee's first four batters all scored against Blake Stein (0-2), who was making his second start after breaking a bone in his right forearm during spring training.

All-Star Bob Wickman pitched the ninth for his 14th save in 18 chances. Ron Belliard singled leading off and

Grissom homered into the Brewers' bullpen. Geoff Jenkins walked and Burnitz followed with his 18th homer.

Grissom's sacrifice fly made it 5-0 in the second. Jeff Reboulet's RBI single in the seventh stopped an 0-for-19 skid. Mark Quinn homered in the eighth off David Weathers.

Stein, after giving up five runs and six hits and two walks in the first two innings, allowed just one hit and two walks in the next four. In all he gave up five runs and seven hits in six innings, striking out seven and walking three.

Milwaukee turned double plays in the second, third and fourth, raising the Brewers NL-leading total to 106. In the second, the Royals had runners at first and third with no out when Dave McCarty lined hard toward right field. But first baseman Tyler Houston made

a lunging catch and then stepped on the bag for the easy double play.

Kansas City loaded the bases with two out in the fifth but Wright got Mike Sweeney to hit a weak grounder back to the mound.

Notes: Wright has pitched at least seven innings in six of his last eight starts.

The Royals' major league-leading total of home runs allowed climbed to 148.

Thursday was the 33rd wedding anniversary of Royals manager Tony Muser.

The Brewers are 5-5 against AL Central teams this year and 10-5 when Burnitz homers. Burnitz has reached safely in 35 of his last 40 games.

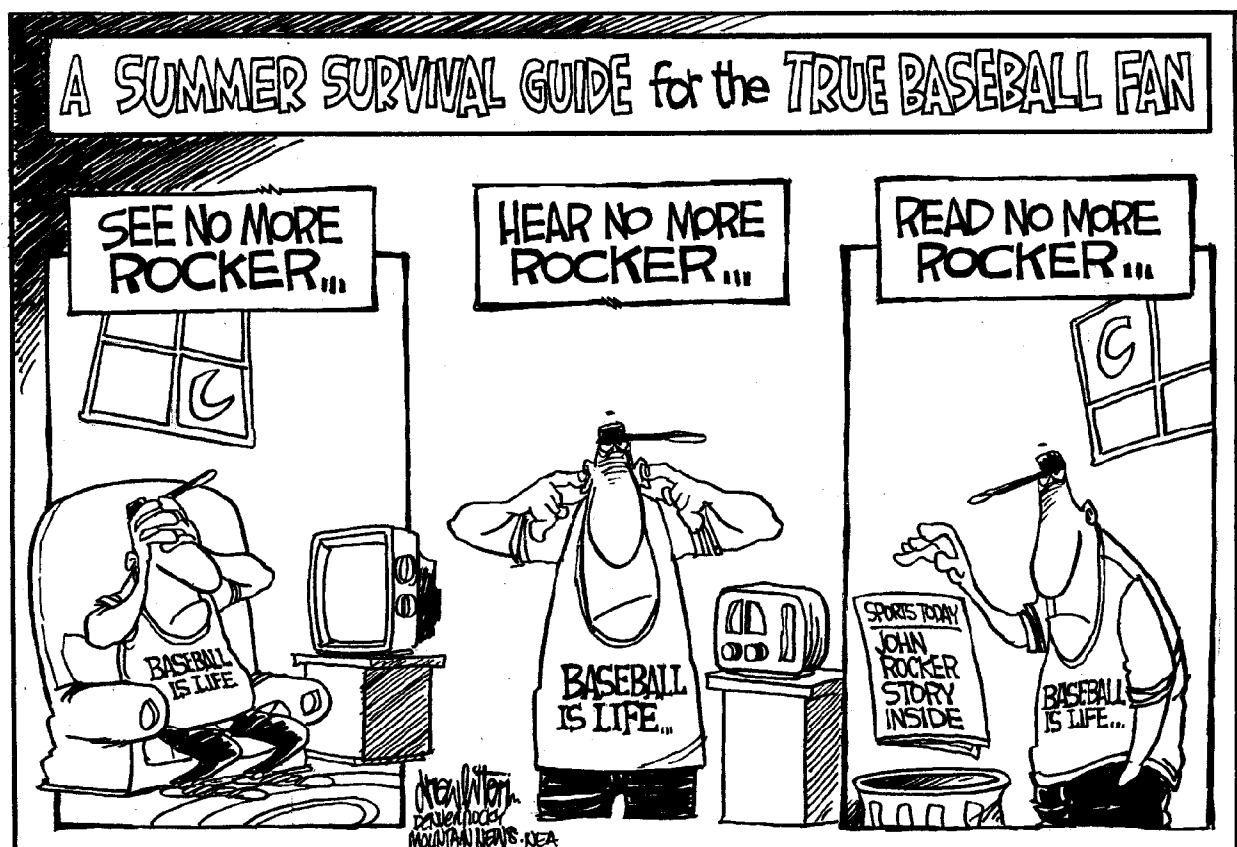
In an 18-game stretch in which the Royals play 15 at home, they are 4-9 thus far.

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press

National League Glance					
East Division					
	W	L	Pct.	GB	
Atlanta	53	36	.596	—	
New York	48	39	.552	4	
Florida	46	43	.517	7	
Montreal	42	43	.494	9	
Philadelphia	40	47	.460	12	
Central Division					
	W	L	Pct.	GB	
St. Louis	52	36	.591	—	
Cincinnati	44	44	.500	8	
Pittsburgh	38	49	.437	13 1/2	
Milwaukee	38	51	.427	14 1/2	
Chicago	35	52	.402	16 1/2	
Houston	30	58	.341	22	
West Division					
	W	L	Pct.	GB	
Arizona	51	38	.573	—	
San Francisco	47	39	.547	2 1/2	
Colorado	45	41	.523	4 1/2	
Los Angeles	45	42	.517	5	
San Diego	39	49	.443	11 1/2	
Wednesday's Games					
No games scheduled					
Thursday's Games					
San Diego 2, Seattle 1, 10 innings					
Detroit 8, Houston 2					
Philadelphia 8, Toronto 5					
Cleveland 4, Pittsburgh 3, 10 innings					
Boston 4, N.Y. Mets 3					
Tampa Bay 6, Montreal 4					
Atlanta 6, Baltimore 3					
Florida 11, N.Y. Yankees 9					
Milwaukee 5, Kansas City 2					
Minnesota 5, Chicago Cubs 1					
St. Louis 13, Chicago White Sox 5					
Cincinnati 15, Colorado 6					
Texas 6, Arizona 4					
San Francisco 4, Oakland 2					
Los Angeles 4, Anaheim 3, 10 innings					
Friday's Games					
Florida (Dempster 9-5) 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 (Ashby 4-7) at Baltimore (Ponson 5-4), 5:35 p.m.					
Milwaukee (D'Amico 4-4) at Kansas City (Suzuki 4-3), 6:05 p.m.					
Chicago Cubs (Lieber 8-5) at Minnesota (Milton 8-4), 6:05 p.m.					
St. Louis (Stephenson 9-5) at Chicago White Sox (Eldred 10-2), 6:05 p.m.					
Cincinnati (Harnisch 1-5) at Colorado (Arrojo 5-6), 7:05 p.m.					
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 (Gardner 5-4), 8:35 p.m.					
Saturday's Games					
Houston (Lima 1-13) at Detroit (Blair 5-2), 11:05 a.m.					
Pittsburgh (Silva 5-2) at Cleveland (Brower 2-2), 11:05 a.m.					
N.Y. Mets (Hampton 9-5) at Boston (R. Martinez 6-5), 11:15 a.m.					
Cincinnati (Williamson 2-6) at Colorado (Jarvis 2-4), 1:05 p.m.					
Philadelphia (Chen 4-0) at Toronto (Wells 15-2), 2:05 p.m.					
Atlanta (Glavine 9-5) at Baltimore (Erickson 4-6), 2:05 p.m.					
Texas (Loaiza 5-5) at Arizona (Johnson 14-2), 2:05 p.m.					
Anaheim (Etherton 3-1) at Los Angeles (Park 9-6), 2:05 p.m.					
Oakland (Heredia 9-7) at San Francisco (Rueter 6-4), 2:05 p.m.					
Montreal (Hermanson 6-7) at Tampa Bay (Trachsel 6-8), 2:15 p.m.					
Florida (Smith 0-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 9-5), 2:35 p.m.					
Chicago Cubs (Tapani 5-7) at Minnesota (Mays 4-10), 5:05 p.m.					
St. Louis (Kile 11-5) at Chicago White Sox (Eldred 10-2), 5:05 p.m.					
Milwaukee (Haynes 9-7) at Kansas City (Witasick 2-7), 6:05 p.m.					
Seattle (Sele 11-3) at San Diego (Williams 3-2), 8:05 p.m.					
Sunday's Games					
Cincinnati at Detroit, 11:05 a.m.					



McGwire still feeling knee pain

CHICAGO (AP) — Mark McGwire missed the All-Star game with a sore right knee and now it's landed him on the disabled list for the first time since

1996.

The St. Louis Cardinals placed their home run star on the 15-day DL Thursday, a move retroactive to July 7, be-

cause of patella tendinitis, a condition that has bothered him since spring training and worsened over the last seven weeks.

"It's just gotten to the point where it's unbearable," McGwire said Thursday. "The last two or three or four home runs, I've limped around the bases. We're improving, but it's still there."

McGwire, leading the majors with 30 homers, missed the last three games before the All-Star break and then skipped the game in Atlanta so he could undergo therapy.

Goodland relay fights cancer

Goodland walkers and runners prepare to be prepared. The American Cancer Society is bringing the Relay for Life to Goodland.

Teams from all walks of life will gather at the Goodland High School track for a 12 hour relay against cancer from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. August 25 and 26.

The relay allows participants from patients, medical staff, corporations, civic organizations, churches and community members to join together in the fight against cancer.

Relay for life opens with a cancer survivors lap. Survivors can walk, run or wheel around the track which will

set the stage for the importance of each participant's contribution.

A luminary service will be held after dark to honor cancer survivors and to remember those who have lost the battle against cancer. Those luminaries line the track and are left burning throughout the night to remind participants of the importance of their contributions. Anyone desiring to purchase a luminary may do so by contacting Bonnie Hawks at 899-3238. Each candle is \$10.

Information about how to form a team or become involved in the Relay for Life is available from Michelle Shoff at 899-5047.

local league

Men's Standings					
1. Budweiser	11-1				
2. Coors Light	9-3				
3. Lonny's Quality Auto Body	8-4				
4. LOL Magnums	7-5				
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					
July 11					
LOL Magnums	9	Century F/Collingwood	3		

Lonny's Quality Auto Body	14	LOL Magnums	4
Lonny's Quality Auto Body	21	Budweiser	11
Mueller Grain Co.	5	Tap-N-It	8
Coors Light	13	McB's Motors	2
Coors Light	18	B&K Pumping	4
July 13			
McB's Motors	24	B&K Pumping	17
Tap-N-It	12	Century F/Collingwood	G. 24
Tap-N-It	22	B&K Pumping	14
Lonny's Quality Auto Body	7	Budweiser	17
Budweiser	14	Coors Light	1
McB's Motors	25	Mueller Grain Co.	14

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