

Forum features Sherman County, state candidates

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He apologized for making anyone angry, but said that he did it to get a response and hear what the people had to say.

House said that if elected he would work on the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Division of Water

Resources, and the Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Next was the candidates for the Senate from the 40th district, Republicans Stan Clark of Oakley and Steve Mangan of Tribune.

Mangan opened by saying that in touring the counties in this district over the past few months, he has seen the

local concern, and has met a lot of wonderful people.

Clark, the present senator, opened by discussing his experience, saying that he has served longer than two-thirds of the current senators, and he has been involved in many processes over the years.

The candidates were asked the same

question about education as the House candidates.

There is no other topic brought up more often, said Mangan, continuing to say that everyone is concerned with education.

He is concerned with the lack of options, said Mangan, he is in favor of giving kids here the same opportunity

as other children.

Clark said that the key to the problem was low enrollment. He said that a low-enrollment funding option is crucial to keeping the schools at their best level.

The next question was whether or not the candidates were in favor of a constitutional amendment of a quarter-cent sales tax increase to support natural resources.

Clark responded that he would be leery of any additional sales taxes.

Mangan said that he hadn't given it a lot of thought, and that would be something he would have to go to the

people on.

The next question dealt with corporation consolidation in America and in agriculture.

Corporate America seems to be leaning towards mergers, and agriculture is not immune, said Mangan. Agriculture needs to see where it fits.

"We are losing our freedom," said Clark, as mergers of big corporations are eliminating small businesses.

In closing Clark thanked the district for the opportunity to serve.

Mangan closed by saying that he thinks it is time for a fresh new kind of representation.

NCAA expands tournament field to 65

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The field for the NCAA men's basketball tournament will expand by one next season with an "opening-round" game the Tuesday before the first round begins.

The NCAA, which confirmed the 65-team field Tuesday, said the winner of the game between two of the lower-ranked conferences will move into the brackets as a No. 16 seed.

The tournament field is expanding because 31 conferences will receive automatic bids next year, two more than last season. The committee always selects at least 34 at-large teams.

The additional automatic bids will go to the year-old Mountain West Conference and the Western Athletic Conference, which didn't have one last season after eight members left to form the Mountain West.

The Division I Men's Basketball Committee is recommending the opening-round game be played on Tuesday, March 13, at the University of Dayton Arena, which is a host site for first- and second-round games. Then again, that team might have to play somewhere else.

"They could play at Dayton," NCAA

spokesman Bill Hancock said. "They will be seeded into line No. 16 and if, on selection Sunday, the committee believes that the No. 1 seed should be assigned to Dayton to play No. 16, then that team could stay in Dayton."

The NCAA's Division I Championships/Competition Cabinet will decide Aug. 3 whether to adopt the recommendation.

The 65-team field will be a first, but it won't be the first time the NCAA has given more than 64 teams a shot at the championship. In 1991, 33 conference champions received automatic bids

and six of the teams competed in three play-in games. Those three winners joined 61 other teams in the tournament field.

Craig Thompson, the Mountain West commissioner, chaired the basketball committee.

"We want to do everything we can to ensure that the student-athletes who compete in the opening-round game get the full flavor of participation in this great championship. The University of Dayton has a strong history of drawing tremendous crowds to NCAA ...competition," Thompson said.

Royals oust Cubs, avoiding three-game sweep

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Johnny Damon had a career-high five hits — including four doubles — as the Kansas City Royals defeated the Chicago Cubs 12-4 on Tuesday night, avoiding a three-game sweep.

Damon tied the major league record for doubles in a game. Toronto's Shannon Stewart also had four doubles on Tuesday.

Damon's third double was part of a five-run fifth that blew open a one-run game. The previous team record of three doubles in a game was accomplished by 23 times, the last time by Carlos Beltran in a game at Seattle on May 14, 1999.

Mike Sweeney and Jermaine Dye

opened the inning with back-to-back homers. It was the fifth time this season that the Royals hit successive shots.

With one out, Mark Quinn walked and moved to third on Todd Dunwoody's double. Quinn scored and Dunwoody advanced to third on a wild pitch. Jorge Fabregas lined to short and Carlos Febles rammed a single back up the middle to score Dunwoody. Damon then doubled, scoring Febles from first.

The Royals led 4-1 after two innings before the Cubs cut it to 4-3 with single runs in the third and fifth before Sweeney and Dye launched their drives to nearly the same spot in left

center to open a comfortable lead for Blake Stein (1-2).

Stein, who was placed on the DL during spring training after fracturing the ulna bone on his throwing arm, recorded his first victory since being activated July 5. Stein pitched 7 1-3 innings, giving up eight hits, four runs and striking out five.

Damon led off the game against Ismael Valdes (1-3) with a double down the left field line. He moved to third on Rey Sanchez' roller to second, then scored on Sweeney's sacrifice fly. After Dye singled to right, Joe Randa sent an 0-1 pitch 404 feet into the fountains in left center for a two-run homer, his 11th of the season.

Sammy Sosa led off the top of the second with a home run to right. It was his 28th of the season and the third of the series.

The Cubs, more specifically Jeff Huson, registered single runs in the third and the fifth. He reached on a walk and scored on Mark Grace's single in the third, then, after reaching on a one-out single in the fifth, Huson scored on a sacrifice fly by Grace.

In the seventh, following Damon's fourth two-bagger, Sanchez became the ninth Royals starter to collect a hit.

Sosa drove in Jose Nieves in the eighth with a RBI single. The Royals answered with Dunwoody driving in Randa in the bottom of the inning.

Rockies rebound to rout the Oakland Athletics 18-3

DENVER (AP) — Butch Huskey and Todd Walker, recent arrivals in the Colorado Rockies clubhouse, were hoping to make an immediate contribution.

Both did, as Huskey had three hits and three RBIs and Walker two hits and three RBIs, helping the Rockies rout the Oakland Athletics 18-3 on Tuesday.

"That was fun," said Huskey, who along with Walker was acquired in a trade with the Twins on Sunday. "It was good to be able to get a couple of hits and help the team out. I love to play the game so much. Things just didn't work out for me in Minnesota, but coming over here with a new start and a new team, I feel I can offer a lot."

Walker, who entered the game as a pinch-hitter in the seventh, had a single and three-run home run. The homer came off A's shortstop Frank Menechino, who took the mound in the eighth after right-hander T.J. Mathews developed a blister on the middle finger of his pitching hand.

Walker wasn't apologizing for taking advantage of the matchup.

"I don't care if it was off a position player," he said. "I'm keeping the ball."

Jeffrey Hammonds, who missed Monday's doubleheader because of root-canal surgery, had a solo homer among his five RBIs.

Does this mean everybody is going to want the procedure now?

"I wouldn't recommend that," Hammonds said. "It hurt. I was down for a while. I watched yesterday's games from the couch."

The Rockies, posting their second straight victory after snapping an 11-game losing streak in the second game of a day-night doubleheader Monday, pounded out 21 hits.

It was the second-largest victory margin in team history, trailing only a 19-2 win over Arizona on June 18.

Pedro Astacio (8-6) pitched seven strong innings, allowing three runs on eight hits and six walks, and striking out eight — including five in succession to tie the club record.

Hammonds hit his 15th homer, a solo shot off Scott Service, leading off the sixth inning.

The Rockies took an early 4-1 lead off A's rookie Mark Mulder, then made it 10-2 with a six-run fourth. That big inning was highlighted by Hammonds' two-run single and a two-run double by Huskey.

"Petey (Astacio) gave us exactly what we needed," Rockies manager Buddy Bell said. "We got some big hits, a few coming from our new guys, which makes it nice. It makes them feel comfortable when they feel like they can contribute."

"It's a weird game, man. I can't explain it. You go through a stretch like we did and then all of a sudden have a game like we did last night (a 10-9 vic-

tory). I'm sure last night's game had a lot to do with how we played today. These last two games were really, really, really important to us."

A's manager Art Howe said Mulder "gave us what he had today. It wasn't enough. He will continue to get the ball."

Howe, his bullpen exhausted from 11-10 and 10-9 games on Monday, brought in Menechino as a last-gap measure in the eighth, but the Rockies scored six runs in the inning.

"I could have had Doug Jones come in and finish the game, but I need some fresh arms for the next series," Howe

said. "It's a big series (with Seattle). Frank had been bragging to me about his pitching, and I found out today."

Did he have any other options?

"Me. So I opted for Frank," Howe said.

Jason Giambi's solo homer, his 23rd, gave the A's their only lead in the first. Colorado countered with two runs in its half, then scored two more in the third, thanks to shortstop Miguel Tejada's throwing error.

Mulder (5-6) departed after the fourth, when six straight Colorado batters reached base and all of them scored.

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