

Rockies lose in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Davey Johnson said the pressure was on.

As it turned out, the Los Angeles Dodgers manager didn't need to worry.

Gary Sheffield and Shawn Green homered, and pinch-hitter Jim Leyritz added a two-run single Thursday night as the Dodgers welcomed Johnson back by beating the Colorado Rockies 6-3.

Johnson had missed the previous four games because of an irregular heart rhythm that caused him to be hospitalized for 3 1/2 days. The Dodgers went 3-1 in Johnson's absence, with bench coach Jim Tracy running the team.

"It didn't feel like a three-run win, it was a lot closer than that," he said.

It was until Leyritz singled with two outs and the bases loaded in the eighth off Gabe White, the fourth Colorado pitcher of the inning, to give the Dodgers their final two runs.

"The pressure was on, no doubt about that," Johnson said. "Tracy put

the pressure on me. It was a lot better than being in the hospital, I'll tell you that. I don't like hospitals."

Johnson has been told he needs to live a healthier life. Among other things, he's been told to give up chewing tobacco.

"I had a few pieces of bubble game, sunflower seeds," he said. "I didn't miss it."

Sheffield, who hit his major league-leading 33rd homer off Masato Yoshii in the first inning to give the Dodgers a 1-0 lead, said Johnson's return was emotional for him.

"To see him again just lit up my face," Sheffield said. "I gave him a hug in the training room. He's more important to this club than most people think."

Green hit his 14th homer with two aboard in the sixth to give the Dodgers a 4-3 lead and, as it turned out, enough offense to hand the Rockies their 13th loss in 15 games.

"It really felt good," said Green,

who added a double and is finally starting to come out of a lengthy slump. "The last few games, I've been feeling a lot better. It's nice to see the results."

When asked what Johnson said after he hit his homer, Green replied: "I think he said 'Welcome back.' I said, 'You, too.'"

Leyritz, 6-of-17 with six RBIs since joining the Dodgers on June 20, grounded a single between third and short to provide some insurance and give his manager a chance to breathe easier.

"That was a nice little seeing-eye hit," Leyritz said. "It was nice to get the win for Davey."

Chan Ho Park (10-7) overcame wildness to earn the victory, his first since June 18. Park allowed four hits and three runs in six innings while walking five, hitting a batter and striking out six.

Terry Adams then pitched two scoreless innings, and Mike Fetters blanked the Rockies in the ninth for

Royals take the Indians 10-6



CLEVELAND (AP) — Manny Ramirez hit two homers. Roberto Alomar underwent an MRI, and another pitcher was sent back to Triple-A Buffalo.

In other words, business as usual for the 2000 Cleveland Indians.

Falling further out of the playoff picture with each loss, the Indians dropped a 10-6 decision Thursday night to the Kansas City Royals, who got four hits from Johnny Damon and 7 1-3 strong innings from Jeff Suppan to sweep the two-game set.

The Indians now go on the road for 11 games, and it will be interesting to see how many of them come back after the July 31 trading deadline.

Ramirez could be on the block if general manager John Hart feels the club is too short on cash to sign the All-Star right fielder, or too short on pitching to make a reasonable run at the AL wild-card spot.

"Every day it seems like we bring a pitcher up and send another out," Indians manager Charlie Manuel said after Cleveland set a franchise record by using its 27th pitcher this season. "We've got to get somebody to help."

The Indians returned rookie Jim Brower (2-3) to Buffalo after he failed to get out of the third inning against the Royals.

"I have to get back to giving my team seven, eight and nine innings," Brower said. "I know I can do that."

victory, just his second since May 24.

The Royals got five singles — two of them off broken bats — to score five runs in the third against Brower. Kansas City had 17 hits — 15 singles.

"We were killing them softly with singles," Damon said.

Ramirez, perhaps playing his final home game, homered twice and drove in three runs. Ricky Ledee had a two-run homer in the ninth for Cleveland.

Ramirez is eligible to become a free agent after this season, but could be gone long before that if Cleveland decides to deal him. There might have been a few Indians packing their travel bags for good as the Indians left on a 14-day road trip that ends Aug. 3.

Ramirez has a pair of two-homer games this week, and since returning from the disabled list is 12-for-29 (.414) with five homers and 12 RBIs.

"Manny has been Manny," Manuel said. "He's given a lift to the lineup."

Cleveland played without Alomar, their All-Star second baseman who is expected to miss 3-5 days with a sore left ankle. Alomar will stay behind in Cleveland for rehab before rejoining the team.

Ramirez's second homer, his 18th, was a two-run shot in the sixth that pulled the Indians to 8-4. Travis Fryman followed with a double, and with none out it looked like the Indians would finally get to Suppan.

But the right-hander struck out the next three and then pitched a perfect seventh. He was replaced after walking Ramirez with one out in the eighth.

"That's been a goal of mine in the second half, to be more aggressive," Suppan said.

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press					les (Perez 4-4), 8:10 p.m.				
National League Glance					Saturday's Games				
East Division					N.Y. Mets (Reed 4-2) at Atlanta (Maddux 12-3), 11:15 a.m.				
Atlanta	58	38	.604	—	Arizona (Guzman 2-0) at Cincinnati (Luebbers 0-1), 11:15 a.m.				
New York	52	42	.553	5	St. Louis (Hentgen 9-6) at Houston (Miller 0-2), 11:15 a.m.				
Florida	48	47	.505	9 1/2	Milwaukee (Bere 6-7) at Chicago Cubs (Downs 4-3), 2:05 p.m.				
Montreal	44	48	.478	12	San Francisco (Hernandez 8-7) at Los Angeles (Gagne 1-5), 2:05 p.m.				
Philadelphia	43	51	.457	14	Montreal (Johnson 4-4) at Florida (Cornelius 3-3), 5:05 p.m.				
Central Division					Philadelphia (Person 5-2) at Pittsburgh (Arroyo 0-3), 5:05 p.m.				
	W	L	Pct.	GB	San Diego (Clement 9-8) at Colorado (Jarvis 2-4), 6:05 p.m.				
St. Louis	54	41	.568	—	Sunday's Games				
Cincinnati	48	47	.505	6	Arizona at Cincinnati, 11:15 a.m.				
Chicago	40	54	.426	13 1/2	Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 11:35 a.m.				
Pittsburgh	40	54	.426	13 1/2	Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs, 12:20 p.m.				
Milwaukee	40	56	.417	14 1/2	St. Louis at Houston, 1:05 p.m.				
Houston	33	62	.347	21	San Diego at Colorado, 1:05 p.m.				
West Division					Montreal at Florida, 2:05 p.m.				
	W	L	Pct.	GB	N.Y. Mets at Atlanta, 6:05 p.m.				
Arizona	55	41	.573	—	San Francisco at Los Angeles, 6:10 p.m.				
San Francisco	52	41	.559	1 1/2					
Los Angeles	49	45	.521	5					
Colorado	47	46	.505	6 1/2					
San Diego	42	53	.442	12 1/2					
Wednesday's Games									
N.Y. Mets 5, Montreal 3									
Atlanta at Florida, ppd., rain									
Chicago Cubs 5, Philadelphia 4									
Milwaukee 6, Pittsburgh 0									
Cincinnati 4, Houston 0									
Arizona 4, St. Louis 3									
Los Angeles 9, Colorado 1									
San Diego 4, San Francisco 3, 10 innings									
Thursday's Games									
Montreal 4, N.Y. Mets 1									
Pittsburgh 9, Milwaukee 2									
Philadelphia 3, Chicago Cubs 2									
Atlanta 5, Florida 3, 1st Game									
Florida 6, Atlanta 1, 2nd Game									
Arizona 3, St. Louis 2									
San Francisco 7, San Diego 3									
Houston 6, Cincinnati 2									
Los Angeles 6, Colorado 3									
Friday's Games									
Milwaukee (Snyder 3-4) at Chicago Cubs (Wood 4-6), 1:20 p.m.									
Philadelphia (Byrd 2-7) at Pittsburgh (Anderson 2-5), 5:05 p.m.									
Montreal (Thurman 1-1) at Florida (C. Smith 0-2), 5:05 p.m.									
Arizona (Morgan 4-2) at Cincinnati (Parris 5-12), 5:35 p.m.									
N.Y. Mets (Leiter 10-3) at Atlanta (Mulholland 9-9), 5:40 p.m.									
St. Louis (Ankiel 6-5) at Houston (Elarton 9-3), 6:05 p.m.									
San Diego (Eaton 1-1) at Colorado (Bohannon 4-6), 7:05 p.m.									
San Francisco (Estes 9-3) at Los Angeles (Perez 4-4), 8:10 p.m.									
American League Glance									
East Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB					
New York	49	41	.544	—					
Toronto	52	45	.536	1/2					
Boston	49	43	.533	1					
Baltimore	41	53	.436	10					
Tampa Bay	37	56	.398	13 1/2					
Central Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB					
Chicago	60	35	.632	—					
Cleveland	49	45	.521	10 1/2					
Detroit	43	49	.467	15 1/2					
Kansas City	43	50	.462	16					
Minnesota	42	56	.429	19 1/2					
West Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB					
Seattle	55	39	.585	—					
Oakland	51	43	.543	4					
Anaheim	52	44	.542	4					
Texas	45	48	.484	9 1/2					
Wednesday's Games									
Kansas City 10, Cleveland 5									
Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 2									
New York 9, Detroit 1									
Boston at Baltimore, ppd., rain									
Chicago White Sox 3, Minnesota 2									
Seattle 6, Oakland 3									
Texas 3, Anaheim 2									
Thursday's Games									
Detroit 5, N.Y. Yankees 3									
Minnesota 5, Chicago White Sox 1									
Boston 11, Baltimore 7, 1st game									