

Yankees slide by the Royals 3-2 after three-hour delay

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Clemens spent as much time pacing as he did pitching.

On the eve of his birthday, Clemens was supposed to pitch against Kansas City at 7:05 p.m. EDT. Even though it wasn't raining, the Yankees saw the forecast for showers and delayed the start of the game, not wanting to waste Clemens before a delay.

So in a game that started 3 hours, 33 minutes late, Clemens turned 38 as the Yankees beat the Royals 3-2 in a game that ended at 1:55 a.m. EDT Friday.

"What a way to finish," said Luis Polonia, who scored the winning run after going 1-for-3 with two walks in

his first game with the Yankees since 1995.

Clemens, unbeaten in eight starts since June 9, struck out nine, but wasted Tino Martinez's solo homer when he allowed four straight hits in the sixth, including RBI singles by Joe Randa and Dave McCarty.

"Going out there at 10, 10:15, I felt a little sharper," Clemens said. "I don't know if there's anything to it."

During the long delay, players sought ways to fill the time.

"I just kept in constant motion, going back and forth to the weight room," Clemens said. "Once they told us we were starting, I got locked in pretty

quick."

The field was wet, but after six rainouts already, the Yankees didn't want another makeup game.

"We're lucky no one got hurt," New York manager Joe Torre said. "It's always nerve-racking playing in these conditions."

In the only other AL games, Toronto beat Texas 3-1 to stop a six-game losing streak, and Cleveland defeated Tampa Bay 5-1.

At Yankee Stadium, New York trailed 2-1 after seven innings, going 0-for-7 with runners in scoring position.

But Scott Brosius walked with two

outs in the eighth against Jerry Spradlin (4-4) — the seventh Yankees walk — and came around when second baseman Carlos Febles dropped a popup to short right by pinch-hitter Glenallen Hill.

Febles, shifted over to second base, had a long run to get to Hill's pop, and the ball bounced onto the wet grass as Brosius circled the bases and easily beat Febles' throw.

"I just missed it," said Febles, who tried for the play in front of right fielder Jermaine Dye.

"That's the breaks of the game," Royals manager Tony Muser said. "It was difficult conditions and he did the

best he could."

Polonia, who signed with the Yankees earlier in the day, walked leading off the ninth, took second on Derek Jeter's hard comebacker off Spradlin and scored on Paul O'Neill's soft, opposite-field single to left, just the sixth hit for New York.

"The only way to make it good is to win," O'Neill said. "We got a gift tonight."

Mariano Rivera (5-3) pitched a hitless ninth for the win, getting into a discussion with plate umpire John Hirschbeck, who called close pitches balls on 2-2 and 3-2 to Febles.

"I've never seen him that animated,"

Torre said. "He obviously thought it was a strike. The umpire obviously didn't. I didn't want it to go on too long because we needed another inning out of him."

Just a few thousand fans of the announced crowd of 33,829 were still in attendance when the game ended. Muser agreed with the decision to wait out the rain.

"You don't want to burn a starter," he said. "The forecast was for rain for another hour-and-a-half."

Mac Suzuki, who has won just twice in his last 11 starts, became the second straight Royals starter to walk six, allowing five hits in seven innings.

Broncos prepare for first preseason game

Defensive tackle left behind

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — Trevor Pryce's reunion with his teammates will be brief.

The All-Pro defensive tackle was expected to report to training camp Friday, and then will practice alone while the Denver Broncos travel to Arizona for Saturday's preseason game against the Cardinals.

"He will get a good workout and be getting back in football shape," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said. "He will have three days to get some conditioning (in Greeley)."

Pryce missed the first two weeks of camp while protesting a contract that will pay him \$762,000 this season.

He rejected a seven-year, \$31.5

million deal, and the Broncos have not amended their offer.

Under the NFL's collective bargaining agreement, players with three or fewer seasons of service are required to report to camp 30 days before the team's first regular-season game.

Failure to meet the reporting deadline — in this case, Saturday — would have forced Pryce to wait an extra year for free agency.

Davis gets pregame jitters

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — He has led a choir of Muppets on Sesame Street, scampered into the NFL record book and rubbed elbows with Tiger Woods.

Even so, running back Terrell Davis expects to have some big-time jitters when the Denver Broncos play their first preseason game Saturday at Arizona.

"If I don't have butterflies, something is wrong," Davis said Thursday. "Bird-sized."

When Davis takes the field, it will mark a major milestone in his recovery from major knee surgery. Davis tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee while making a tackle after an interception Oct. 3.

"He'll get into about 10 plays and maybe a few more," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said. "We'll give him a chance to carry the ball a little bit. He's excited to get out there and take a couple of shots."

Two seasons ago, Davis became the fourth running back in NFL history to rush for 2,000 yards in a season. He now faces the mental and physical challenge of regaining that MVP form.

The Broncos have been cautious with their three-time All-Pro, limiting his practice time during training camp.

Team owner Pat Bowlen even said he would prefer to see Davis sit out Saturday's game.

Second bout of cancer strikes former Yankee

NEW YORK (AP) — Darryl Strawberry, the former New York Yankees slugger operated on for colon cancer in 1998, has a new cancerous tumor in his abdomen, the New York Daily News quoted his agent as saying Thursday night.

Agent Eric Grossman told the newspaper that Strawberry, who recently left a drug rehab center in Florida, will return to New York for cancer surgery and treatment.

A tumor that developed out of a lymph node was found in Strawberry's abdomen, agent Eric Grossman said.

"His cancer's back," Grossman said. "It's been confirmed."

The tumor is near the section of co-

lon that was operated on by surgeons at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in October 1998.

The operation was after the outfielder was diagnosed with the cancer that sidelined him just before the Yankees' World Series title run.

Strawberry could not be reached for comment Thursday.

He underwent tests Monday and Tuesday at Palms of Pasadena Hospital in Tampa, Fla., hospital spokesman Tony Ojeda told the Daily News.

"He came in very quietly and he left very quietly," Ojeda said.

In the 1998 operation, doctors removed a 2 1/2-inch tumor from Strawberry's large intestine.

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	66	42	.611	—
New York	61	45	.575	4
Florida	53	55	.491	13
Montreal	48	56	.462	16
Philadelphia	46	60	.434	19
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	59	48	.551	—
Cincinnati	54	53	.505	5
Chicago	50	57	.467	9
Pittsburgh	46	61	.430	13
Milwaukee	45	63	.417	14 1/2
Houston	40	68	.370	19 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	59	47	.557	—
Arizona	60	48	.556	—
Los Angeles	57	50	.533	2 1/2
Colorado	51	55	.481	8
San Diego	50	58	.463	10

Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Mets 2, Cincinnati 1

Los Angeles 11, Pittsburgh 5

Chicago Cubs 3, Colorado 2

Milwaukee 6, San Francisco 4

St. Louis 10, Montreal 7

Florida 5, Houston 4

Arizona 2, Atlanta 0

San Diego 5, Philadelphia 2

Thursday's Games

Florida 4, Houston 3

San Diego 6, Chicago Cubs 5

Arizona 8, Atlanta 4

San Francisco 10, Pittsburgh 2

Only games scheduled

Friday's Games

Florida (Dempster 9-8) at Cincinnati (Harnisch 3-5), 5:35 p.m.

Montreal (Vazquez 8-5) at Houston (Holt 4-12), 6:05 p.m.

Atlanta (Glavine 13-5) at St. Louis (An.Benes 10-5), 6:10 p.m.

Philadelphia (Bottenfield 0-0) at Colorado (Tavarez 6-2), 7:05 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Reed 5-2) at Arizona (Johnson 15-3), 8:05 p.m.

Chicago Cubs (Lieber 10-5) at San Diego (Witasick 0-0), 8:05 p.m.

Milwaukee (Rigdon 0-1) at Los Angeles (Brown 10-4), 8:10 p.m.

Pittsburgh (Benson 8-8) at San Fran-

cisco (Rueter 7-7), 8:35 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Atlanta (Burkett 8-4) at St. Louis (Shenston 11-7), 11:15 a.m.

Philadelphia (Wolf 9-5) at Colorado (Bohanon 5-8), 2:05 p.m.

Pittsburgh (O'Connell 0-0) at San Francisco (Gardner 7-4), 2:05 p.m.

Florida (Burnett 1-2) at Cincinnati (R.Bell 5-6), 5:05 p.m.

Montreal (Hermanson 8-9) at Houston (Lima 4-13), 6:05 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (B.J. Jones 5-5) at Arizona (Guzman 3-1), 8:05 p.m.

Chicago Cubs (Tapani 7-8) at San Diego (W.Williams 6-3), 8:05 p.m.

Milwaukee (D'Amico 7-4) at Los Angeles (Park 11-8), 8:10 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Florida at Cincinnati, 11:15 a.m.

Atlanta at St. Louis, 12:10 p.m.

Montreal at Houston, 1:05 p.m.

Philadelphia at Colorado, 1:05 p.m.

Pittsburgh at San Francisco, 2:05 p.m.

N.Y. Mets at Arizona, 2:35 p.m.

Chicago Cubs at San Diego, 3 p.m.

Milwaukee at Los Angeles, 6:10 p.m.

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	58	45	.563	—
Boston	55	49	.529	3 1/2
Toronto	56	54	.509	5 1/2
Baltimore	47	59	.443	12 1/2
Tampa Bay	45	61	.425	14 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	65	42	.607	—
Cleveland	54	51	.514	10
Detroit	50	56	.472	14 1/2
Kansas City	48	59	.449	17
Minnesota	49	61	.445	17 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	62	45	.579	—
Oakland	60	47	.561	2
Anaheim	57	52	.523	6
Texas	51	55	.481	10 1/2

Wednesday's Games

Kansas City 4, N.Y. Yankees 1

Oakland 5, Toronto 4

Minnesota 10, Baltimore 6

Detroit 5, Anaheim 3

Cleveland 5, Tampa Bay 3

Texas 7, Chicago White Sox 2

Boston 5, Seattle 2

Thursday's Games

Toronto 3, Texas 1

Cleveland 5, Tampa Bay 1

N.Y. Yankees 3, Kansas City 2

Only games scheduled

Friday's Games

Minnesota (Milton 10-6) at Detroit (Nomo 4-10), 5:05 p.m.

Anaheim (Etherton 5-1) at Cleveland (Woodard 0-1), 5:05 p.m.

Texas (Perisho 2-3) at Toronto (Trachsel 6-10), 5:05 p.m.

Seattle (Moyer 11-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 11-6), 5:05 p.m.

Kansas City (Suppan 5-6) at Boston (Fassero 7-5), 5:05 p.m.

Baltimore (Mercedes 6-4) at Tampa Bay (Harper 0-0), 5:15 p.m.

Oakland (Appler 9-8) at Chicago White Sox (Sirotko 9-8), 6:05 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Kansas City (Durbin 2-5) at Boston (Arrojo 0-1), 11:15 a.m.

Anaheim (Schoeneweis 5-5) at Cleveland (Finley 9-8), 2:05 p.m.

Texas (Oliver 2-6) at Toronto (Escobar 7-11), 2:05 p.m.

Baltimore (Parrish 1-1) at Tampa Bay (Sturtze 2-2), 2:15 p.m.

Seattle (Sele 12-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Cone 1-10), 2:35 p.m.

Minnesota (Mays 6-12) at Detroit (Blair 8-2), 3:05 p.m.

Oakland (Heredia 13-7) at Chicago White Sox (PArque 9-4), 5:05 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Anaheim at Cleveland, 11:05 a.m.

Texas at Toronto, 11:05 a.m.

Seattle at N.Y. Yankees, 11:05 a.m.

Kansas City at Boston, 11:05 a.m.

Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 11:15 a.m.

Oakland at Chicago White Sox, 12:05 p.m.

Minnesota at Detroit, 12:05 p.m.

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