

Royals win over Red Sox

BOSTON (AP) — Johnny Damon could see that he was the only batter having much success against Tim Wakefield. So he tried whatever else he could to help the Kansas City Royals score.

He stole second base — and third — after he singled in the third inning. Then he was thrown out at home trying to tag up a fly ball to shallow right field that was fielded by the third baseman.

“We weren’t doing anything against Wakefield,” Damon said Sunday after leading the Royals over the Boston Red Sox 3-1. “So we had to take some chances.”

Dan Reichert (5-6) allowed one run and seven hits in eight innings, striking out five and walking three — the

fourth consecutive start in which he allowed three earned runs or fewer.

“He’s gradually gotten better,” Royals manager Tony Muser said. “I’m hoping he’s starting to develop the confidence that he can pitch at this level.”

Ricky Bottalico got two outs for his 11th save in 17 chances.

Damon went 3-for-4 as the Royals won the final game of the three-game series. The subject of trade rumors in the first half, he is the league’s top hitter since the All-Star break, batting .477 (51-for-107) to raise his average from .267 to .319.

“I didn’t have the right baseball frame of mind,” Damon said. “It does wear on you a little.”

On Sunday, Damon wore down the Red Sox, singling to lead off the game

and scoring Kansas City’s first run. The unearned run was the only one Wakefield (6-6) allowed on three hits in seven innings before running into trouble in the eighth.

“He didn’t really battle. I thought he cruised,” catcher Scott Hatteberg said. “He struggled in the bullpen. Then he got out there, and he pitched great.”

Carlos Febles led off with a single and then stole second. Damon moved him to third on an infield single before Hippolito Pichardo came on to pitch.

Rey Sanchez grounded into a fielder’s choice that erased Damon but scored Febles to make it 2-1. Mike Sweeney singled, and Jermaine Dye singled to score Sanchez before Joe Randa hit into an inning-ending, double play.

Rockies lose to Phillies’ ten-run lead

DENVER (AP) — Bruce Chen was traded from the first-place Atlanta Braves to the last-place Philadelphia Phillies last month. And that’s just fine with him.

Chen (6-1) allowed five runs and 10 hits in 6 1-3 innings as the Phillies took a 10-run lead Sunday, then hung on to beat the Colorado Rockies 10-9.

“The Braves gave me my first opportunity and I am grateful to them,” said Chen, who came to the Phillies along with Jimmy Osting on July 12 for Andy Ashby. “I’ve been given a good opportunity here.”

The 23-year-old left-hander is 2-1 in five starts since the trade.

“We were in a situation where we had to move Ashby and we got something good in return,” Philadelphia manager Terry Francona said. “Bruce is a

good, young starter and will be a part of our core group here.”

Mike Lieberthal and Travis Lee provided the offense for the Phillies. Lee went 3-for-5 with four RBIs, and Lieberthal had three runs scored and two RBIs.

Lee, acquired from Arizona on July 26 in the Curt Schilling trade, had his first three-hit game for the Phillies, who stopped a five-game losing streak. Pat Burrell had two hits and two RBIs.

“Here I get to play every day,” Lee said. “I get to face both right- and left-handers instead of platooning. I know that it would be good for me in the long run, and I’m feeling comfortable here.”

Pinch-hitter Terry Shumpert had a three-run homer as the Rockies lost for the 23rd time in 31 games.

Todd Helton went 2-for-5 with three

RBIs, raising his NL-leading batting average to .380. After his two-run single with two outs in the ninth off Vicente Padilla, Jeff Cirillo hit an RBI single. With runners at first and second, Padilla retired pinch-hitter Butch Huskey on a hard grounder to third.

“You just know, that with this ballpark and their lineup, you can’t give up outs,” Francona said. “It is not a fluke when this happens, because it happens here all the time.”

Pedro Astacio (9-8) lasted only four batters into the fifth inning, allowing six runs and seven hits.

“Pedro had it going early and lost it,” Colorado manager Buddy Bell said. “He started getting up high in the strike zone and when he nearly hit Scott Rolen in the head, it was time to go get him.”

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press				Hentgen 10-8), 6:10 p.m.				Tuesday’s Games			
National League				N.Y. Mets (Leiter 12-4) at Houston (Powell 0-0), 6:05 p.m.				Seattle (Pineiro 0-0 and Garcia 3-2) at Chicago White Sox (Garland 2-3 and TBA), 2:05 p.m.			
East Division				Pittsburgh (Silva 7-5) at Colorado (Rose 0-0), 7:05 p.m.				Baltimore (Rapp 6-8) at Detroit (Moehler 7-7), 5:05 p.m.			
Atlanta	68	43	.613 —	Montreal (Downs 4-3) at Arizona (Anderson 9-4), 8:05 p.m.				Texas (Rogers 10-9) at Cleveland (Bere 2-0), 5:05 p.m.			
New York	63	46	.578 4	Chicago Cubs (Norton 0-0) at Los Angeles (Dreifort 8-7), 8:10 p.m.				Oakland (Zito 1-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Clemens 9-6), 5:05 p.m.			
Florida	56	55	.505 12	Milwaukee (Wright 6-4) at San Francisco (Ortiz 6-10), 8:15 p.m.				Minnesota (Radke 8-11) at Tampa Bay (Lopez 8-8), 5:15 p.m.			
Montreal	49	58	.458 17					Toronto (F.Castillo 8-5) at Kansas City (Suzuki 5-6), 6:05 p.m.			
Philadelphia	47	62	.431 20					Boston (P.Martinez 13-3) at Anaheim (Hill 5-7), 8:05 p.m.			
Central Division											
St. Louis	60	50	.545 —								
Cincinnati	54	56	.491 6								
Chicago	51	59	.463 9								
Pittsburgh	47	63	.427 13								
Milwaukee	47	64	.423 13 1/2								
Houston	42	69	.378 18 1/2								
West Division											
San Francisco	61	48	.560 —								
Arizona	61	50	.550 1								
Los Angeles	58	52	.527 3 1/2								
Colorado	53	56	.486 8								
San Diego	52	59	.468 10								
Saturday’s Games											
St. Louis 5, Atlanta 0											
Chicago Cubs 6, San Diego 3											
Pittsburgh 7, San Francisco 2											
Colorado 7, Philadelphia 6											
Florida 10, Cincinnati 5, 11 innings											
Montreal 10, Houston 9, 10 innings											
N.Y. Mets 6, Arizona 2											
Milwaukee 4, Los Angeles 2, 10 innings											
Sunday’s Games											
Florida 9, Cincinnati 6											
Houston 8, Montreal 1											
Philadelphia 10, Colorado 9											
San Francisco 7, Pittsburgh 1											
Arizona 9, N.Y. Mets 5											
San Diego 8, Chicago Cubs 6											
Atlanta 6, St. Louis 4											
Milwaukee 9, Los Angeles 6											
Monday’s Games											
San Diego (Clement 10-10) at Philadelphia (Person 5-3), 5:35 p.m.											
Atlanta (Maddux 12-6) at Cincinnati (Parris 5-14), 5:35 p.m.											
Florida (Cornelius 3-5) at St. Louis (Ankiel 7-7), 6:10 p.m.											
N.Y. Mets (Hampton 11-7) at Houston (Miller 1-3), 6:05 p.m.											
Pittsburgh (Anderson 4-5) at Colorado (Yoshii 4-12), 7:05 p.m.											
Montreal (Moore 1-0) at Arizona (Schilling 8-6), 8:05 p.m.											
Chicago Cubs (Quevedo 0-3) at Los Angeles (Herges 8-0), 8:10 p.m.											
Milwaukee (Snyder 3-5) at San Francisco (L.Hernandez 10-8), 8:15 p.m.											
Tuesday’s Games											
San Diego (Tollberg 2-1) at Philadelphia (Daal 2-12), 5:35 p.m.											
Atlanta (Ashby 7-8) at Cincinnati (Dessens 5-1), 5:35 p.m.											
Florida (Sanchez 6-8) at St. Louis											

Chiefs lose first preseason game

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Tennessee Titans showed off new receiver Carl Pickens, and the AFC champions ended a preseason losing skid to the Kansas City Chiefs with a 14-10 exhibition victory Saturday night.

Pickens practiced with the Titans for the first time only five days ago after signing a five-year, \$20 million contract.

But he picked up enough that he played with the starters for the first two series and caught two passes, including a 2-yarder from Steve McNair that tied the game at 7.

Rodney Thomas’ 1-yard touchdown in the second quarter turned out to be the game-winner as the Titans beat the Chiefs in an exhibition for the first time since the AFL-NFL merger. The former Houston Oilers hadn’t won since 1963, losing eight consecutive exhibitions to the Chiefs.

Elvis Grbac was nearly perfect for Kansas City and left with the game tied. He was 8-for-9 passing for 63 yards, including a 16-yard TD toss to



Tony Gonzalez on the opening drive with Tennessee getting little pressure on him.

Warren Moon did not play at all for Kansas City as coach Gunther Cunningham tried to protect his 43-year-old backup quarterback from a banged-up offensive line.

That left Todd Collins, the Chiefs’ No. 3 quarterback the past two seasons, to play the second quarter and most of the third as he tries to challenge Moon for the backup role.

He was spotty despite completing 10-of-19 for 76 yards. His best completion came on a 22-yarder to

Kevin Lockett, but that was helped as Titans cornerback George McCullough looked inside and the receiver ran past him for the catch.

It was a messy game in the exhibition opener for both teams. The Chiefs had eight of their 11 penalties in the first half, and the Titans had seven for 55 yards.

Ted White nearly rallied the Chiefs’ backups in the final minute. He hit Scott Cloman on what would have been a 30-yard TD, but Cloman only got his left toes down and the Chiefs turned the ball over on downs two plays later.

The highlight for the Titans was what they hope is a glimpse of the upcoming season.

Pickens, who dropped his first pass, finally connected with McNair on an 8-yarder in the second series. McNair later found Pickens in the left corner on a fade for the TD.

The receiver whose bitter eight-year relationship with the Cincinnati Bengals finally ended with his release last month kept the ball as a souvenir.

Top twenty five college teams announced

By The Associated Press					6. Michigan					10-2					23. Southern Miss.				
The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press preseason college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, 1999 records, total points based on 25 points for a first place vote through one point for a 25th place vote and ranking in the 1999 final poll:					7. Texas (2)					9-5					24. Colorado				
					8. Kansas St.					11-1					25. Michigan St.				
					9. Florida					9-4					Others receiving votes: Texas A&M				
					10. Georgia					8-4					139, UCLA 115, East Carolina 75,				
					11. Virginia Tech					11-1					Oregon 63, Auburn 36, Colorado St.				
					12. Tennessee					9-3					35, Mississippi St. 34, Utah 33, Notre				
					13. Washington					7-5					Dame 32, Virginia 26.				
					14. Purdue					7-5					As well as Marshall 23, Arkansas 22,				
					15. Southern Cal					6-6					Georgia Tech 10, LSU 10, Syracuse 9,				
					16. Ohio St.					6-6					BYU 7, Minnesota 5, Boston College				
17. Clemson					6-6					3, Kentucky 3, Texas Tech 3, Toledo 3,									
18. Mississippi					8-4					Stanford 2, Arizona St. 1, Oregon S									
19. Oklahoma					7-5					1.									
20. TCU					8-4														
21. Illinois					8-4														
22. Penn St.					10-3														
Record					Pts					Pvs									
1. Nebraska (36)					12-1					1,732					3				
2. Florida St. (29)					12-0					1,720					1				
3. Alabama (3)					10-3					1,570					8				
4. Wisconsin (1)					10-2					1,408					4				
5. Miami					9-4					1,392					15				