

# Royals lose to Blue Jays 5-3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — What once seemed like a prudent and logical decision might one day haunt the Kansas City Royals.

They could have signed Mike Sweeney, one of the AL's brightest young stars, to a multiyear deal last winter and assured that he would stay in Kansas City for many seasons.

But the former backup catcher had looked clumsy and heavy-footed after switching to first base on an emergency basis, and then-general manager Herk Robinson had second thoughts about committing the team past one year.

"Herk's explanation was, 'We don't believe in you over at first base,'" Sweeney said. "I told him, 'It's not if, it's when I show you guys I'm a first baseman. You're going to regret this.'"

"Herk told me, 'Mike, I hope you do regret it. I hope you do prove you can play first base at the big league level.'"

Sweeney didn't get his multiyear deal. But Robinson got his wish. After

Sweeney got three hits in a 5-3 victory over Toronto on Wednesday night, including a three-run homer, he was most proud of several outstanding defensive plays.

"What was exciting was not only did I do well with the bat, I did well with the glove," Sweeney said.

"Now I'm starting to feel more confident and I'm starting to get recognized for my defense as well as my offense."

In the sixth, Sweeney made a nifty pickup of Carlos Delgado's grounder and threw to second for a forceout. Then he timed his leap perfectly to snare Brad Fullmer's line drive and stepped on first for a double play.

"Sweeney snagged up some really hard-hit balls," Royals manager Tony Muser said.

Sweeney, who has 39 singles and three homers in his last 42 hits, connected off Steve Trachsel in the third for a three-run homer and a 4-2 lead as

the Blue Jays lost their eighth road game in nine starts.

A batter earlier, Toronto shortstop Alex Gonzalez failed to touch second and threw wildly to first on a potential double-play grounder.

Trachsel (6-11) went five innings, giving up five runs on eight hits, and remained winless in eight starts. His last victory was with Tampa Bay on June 27 when he beat Toronto. He is 0-1 in two starts with the Blue Jays.

Jeff Suppan (6-6), 4-0 in his last six starts, got the victory. He went eight-plus innings, allowing 11 hits, three runs and no walks, striking out eight.

Dave Martinez had an RBI single in the first for Toronto, which got another run in the third on Shannon Stewart's 15th home run.

Johnny Damon singled leading off Kansas City's fourth, and Rey Sanchez grounded to second baseman Mickey Morandini. But Damon was safe at second.

# Rockies slide by the Pirates 4-3

DENVER (AP) — The advance report from the Colorado Rockies scouts on Juan Pierre said that magical things happen when the rookie center fielder gets into a game.

Three days after being called up from Triple-A Colorado Springs, manager Buddy Bell has a better understanding of the report.

"He is a very intense player and he plays with a lot of energy and he plays with a lot of passion," Bell said.

Pierre, 2-for-5 in his debut on Tues-

day, was 2-for-4 with a stolen base on Wednesday. He also was involved in the key moment as the Rockies scored two runs on right fielder Alex Ramirez's error with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, giving them a 4-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

"I don't know if what I do is magic," said Pierre, who hit the fly ball that Ramirez was unable to catch.

"I do what I can to help my team win, whatever it takes to win."

Todd Walker drew a one-out walk

from Mike Williams (2-3), who blew his fourth save in 20 opportunities. After Walker stole second, Ben ick reached on shortstop Mike Benjamin's error, putting runners on first and second. One out later, Pierre hit a routine fly to right that deflected off Ramirez's glove and rolled all the way to the wall, allowing the tying and winning runs to score.

"I knew I hit it good, but right from off the bat I thought it was going to be right at him," Pierre said.

# Chiefs' draft choice agrees to contract

RIVER FALLS, Wis. (AP) — First-round draft choice Sylvester Morris arrived in Kansas City's training camp Wednesday afternoon just in time to get a few practices under his belt before the Chiefs play the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday.

"I knew this day was going to come, and I couldn't wait," Morris said. "I'm thrilled to be a Chief and to actually

finally get out here and get in my uniform and play with my teammates, get hit a couple of times, and make some catches."

Head coach Gunther Cunningham said he was pleased that Morris, Jackson State's all-time leading receiver, was finally in camp and he planned to put the rookie right to work.

Morris will get five practices before

the Chiefs break camp and return to Kansas City on Saturday.

Cunningham said Morris will see some action against the 49ers.

Morris ended a 20-day holdout by agreeing to a seven-year contract. Terms of the contract were not released but are reported to be about \$9 million for the first five years, including a signing bonus.

# baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press				
<b>National League</b>				
<b>East Division</b>				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	69	45	.605	—
New York	65	47	.580	3
Florida	58	56	.509	11
Montreal	51	59	.464	16
Philadelphia	49	63	.438	19
<b>Central Division</b>				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	61	52	.540	—
Cincinnati	56	57	.496	5
Chicago	53	60	.469	8
Pittsburgh	48	65	.425	13
Milwaukee	47	67	.412	14 1/2
Houston	43	71	.377	18 1/2
<b>West Division</b>				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	64	48	.571	—
Arizona	62	52	.544	3
Los Angeles	59	54	.522	5 1/2
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>.491</b>	<b>9</b>
San Diego	53	61	.465	12
<b>Tuesday's Games</b>				
Philadelphia 10, San Diego 4				
Atlanta 5, Cincinnati 4				
Florida 7, St. Louis 0				
Houston 9, N.Y. Mets 3				
<b>Colorado 6, Pittsburgh 1</b>				
Montreal 9, Arizona 3				
Los Angeles 7, Chicago Cubs 5				
San Francisco 1, Milwaukee 0				
<b>Wednesday's Games</b>				
Florida 5, St. Louis 3				
<b>Colorado 4, Pittsburgh 3</b>				
San Francisco 9, Milwaukee 3				
Cincinnati 10, Atlanta 6				
Philadelphia 3, San Diego 2				
N.Y. Mets 12, Houston 5				
Montreal 4, Arizona 3				
Chicago Cubs 5, Los Angeles 4, 10 in-				
<b>Thursday's Games</b>				
<b>Colorado (Astacio 9-8) at St. Louis</b>				

<b>(Stephenson 12-7), 1:10 p.m.</b>				
N.Y. Mets (B.J. Jones 6-5) at Houston (McKnight 0-0), 2:05 p.m.				
San Diego (Williams 6-4) at Philadelphia (Wolf 9-5), 5:35 p.m.				
Only games scheduled				
<b>Friday's Games</b>				
Cincinnati (Bell 5-6) at Chicago Cubs (Tapani 8-8), 1:20 p.m.				
<b>Colorado (Bohanon 5-8) at Montreal (Hermanson 8-9), 5:05 p.m.</b>				
San Diego (Eaton 3-2) at Florida (Burnett 1-2), 5:05 p.m.				
Arizona (Reynoso 8-7) at Pittsburgh (Serafini 1-0), 5:05 p.m.				
San Francisco (Gardner 7-5) at N.Y. Mets (Rusch 7-9), 5:10 p.m.				
Houston (Elarton 12-4) at Philadelphia (Chen 6-1), 5:35 p.m.				
Los Angeles (Park 11-8) at Atlanta (Millwood 7-8), 7:40 p.m.				
St. Louis (Kile 13-7) at Milwaukee (D'Amico 7-4), 6:05 p.m.				
<b>American League</b>				
<b>East Division</b>				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	61	48	.560	—
Boston	57	53	.518	4 1/2
Toronto	59	57	.509	5 1/2
Baltimore	50	62	.446	12 1/2
Tampa Bay	49	63	.438	13 1/2
<b>Central Division</b>				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	68	45	.602	—
Cleveland	59	52	.532	8
Detroit	52	60	.464	15 1/2
<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>.460</b>	<b>16</b>
Minnesota	52	64	.448	17 1/2
<b>West Division</b>				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	67	47	.588	—
Oakland	61	51	.545	5
Anaheim	59	56	.513	8 1/2
Texas	53	59	.473	12 1/2
<b>Tuesday's Games</b>				
Seattle 12, Chicago White Sox 4, 1st game				
Seattle 7, Chicago White Sox 5, 2nd game				
Detroit 4, Baltimore 1				
Texas 11, Cleveland 2				
N.Y. Yankees 4, Oakland 3				
Tampa Bay 5, Minnesota 0				
<b>Toronto 6, Kansas City 1</b>				
Anaheim 2, Boston 1				
<b>Wednesday's Games</b>				
Baltimore 5, Detroit 2				
Cleveland 6, Texas 4				
N.Y. Yankees 12, Oakland 1				
Tampa Bay 5, Minnesota 4, 10 innings				
<b>Kansas City 5, Toronto 3</b>				
Chicago White Sox 19, Seattle 3				
Boston 4, Anaheim 2				
<b>Thursday's Games</b>				
Oakland (Mulder 6-7) at N.Y. Yankees (Cone 1-10), 10:05 a.m.				
Minnesota (Mays 6-13) at Tampa Bay (Sturtze 2-2), 10:15 a.m.				
Baltimore (Ponson 6-7) at Detroit (Sparks 1-2), 11:05 a.m.				
<b>Toronto (Wells 17-4) at Kansas City (Meadows 1-0), 12:05 p.m.</b>				
Seattle (Sele 12-6) at Chicago White Sox (Parque 9-4), 12:05 p.m.				
Only games scheduled				
<b>Friday's Games</b>				
<b>Baltimore (Mussina 7-11) at Kansas City (Reichert 5-6), 6:05 p.m.</b>				
Toronto (Escobar 7-12) at Minnesota (Romero 1-1), 6:05 p.m.				
Chicago White Sox (Baldwin 13-4) at Tampa Bay (Rupe 4-4), 6:15 p.m.				
Boston (Arrojo 0-1) at Texas (Davis 4-3), 6:35 p.m.				
Cleveland (Finley 9-8) at Seattle (Abbott 7-4), 8:05 p.m.				
Detroit (Nomo 4-10) at Oakland (Heredia 13-7), 8:05 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Hernandez 8-8) at Anaheim (Schoeneweis 5-6), 8:05 p.m.				

## Taking the fall



A rider at the Bull Blast 2000 event on Wednesday night at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair experienced an unexpected dismount from a bull. The announcer said he took a horn in the face, and after help from ambulance workers, was able to walk out of the arena.

Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

# Bronco player wants NFL to be kind

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — Denver Broncos wide receiver Rod Smith is hopeful the NFL will impose only mild sanctions, if any, in his domestic violence case.

Smith pleaded guilty to verbal harassment June 23 as part of a plea bargain in a domestic violence case stemming from a reported assault Jan. 19 involving Jami Mourglia, the mother of his two children.

He was sentenced to two years' probation and ordered to attend counseling sessions.

Under the NFL's new personal-conduct policy, Smith could be fined, suspended or both. Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said he does not anticipate a suspension.

Neither does Smith, who returned to the practice field on Wednesday.

A ruling is expected in about a week.

Smith, coming off his third straight 1,000-yard season, requested a face-

to-face meeting with NFL executive vice president Jeff Pash.

"I wanted them to see my face," he explained Wednesday. "You go on the phone, nobody knows if you're laughing, joking or whatever. I take the actions against me — they questioned by character, my credibility — seriously. And I wanted them to know that."

"There was a lot of information that they didn't even have. They had only some information based on the initial police report and stuff that's out in newspapers and on the Internet which, of course, is going to be slanted one way or the other."

"They had nowhere close to the full story. I'm just glad they got a chance to hear everything I had to say," he said.

Asked to assess Tuesday's two-hour meeting, Smith said, "I think it went great. I think a rational group of people, just looking at the information, will say, if anything, 'Fine him 100 bucks.'"

Smith said he would be surprised if there is either a significant fine or a suspension.

"I would be very disappointed because I think it wouldn't be consistent with some of the stuff that's already been done," he said. "I agree with the policy to a certain extent, but it's real flexible. You can take two situations and have two exact opposite consequences, and I don't think that's fair."

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