



Homer fuels Royals' win

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)—The best news Monday for the Kansas City Royals was not a 10-4 rout of the Detroit Tigers or Jermaine Dye's mammoth home run, estimated conservatively at 465 feet, but the health of pitcher Mac Suzuki.

One day after throwing two perfect innings against the Philadelphia Phillies, Suzuki pronounced his arm fit.

The Royals were concerned how Suzuki's arm would feel the day after his spring training debut in which he threw 28 pitches.

"There no soreness just tightness like always," Suzuki said Monday.

Suzuki had arthroscopic shoulder surgery last October. He pitched in pain last September, when he went 0-3 with a 6.59 earned run average in five starts.

"I was happy with my performance

and the way my shoulder is feeling," Suzuki said. "I still had a little control problems, but I've always had control problems."

The Royals were pleasantly surprised with his velocity, 91 to 93 miles per hour, for his first time out after surgery.

"My velocity is coming along good," Suzuki said. "Still I'm not 100 percent."

Cubs slide by Rockies, 11-10

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Ricky Gutierrez went 3-for-4 with four RBIs as the Chicago Cubs beat the Colorado Rockies 11-10 Monday.

Bobby Chouinard, the Rockies reliever who spent 65 days in jail during the offseason, was pounded for five runs — four earned — and four hits in

11-3 innings.

Chouinard, who pleaded guilty to brandishing a loaded handgun during an argument with his wife on Christmas Day 1999, is serving a one-year sentence during four offseasons and is scheduled to return to jail in November.

Jeff Cirillo, who went 2-for-3, drove in two runs in the third for the Rockies.

Cubs starter Jason Bere allowed five runs and eight hits in four innings, and Tom Gordon gave up two runs and three hits in one inning.

Colorado's Ron Villone gave up four runs and six hits in four innings.

Nuggets defeat Warriors

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Nick Van Exel scored seven of his 17 points in the final 3:46 as the Denver Nuggets beat the Golden State Warriors 84-79 Monday night, snapping a nine-game road losing streak.

"It didn't feel that good to be back in the lineup because I didn't play that good," said Van Exel, who missed the previous two games with sore knees.

"But we won, so I'm happy about that. Just missing games and not being out there was probably more of a distraction than anything else."

Antonio McDyess also returned to the lineup after a three-game absence, and said he struggled as well. He scored 12 points on 5-of-19 shooting, but grabbed a game-high 17 rebounds.

"It was rough being back tonight," McDyess said. "If you asked me could I do it again, I would say I don't know. It really bothered me, but I fought through it. My rhythm wasn't there. My shot felt good, but it wasn't going in."

Raef LaFrentz added 16 points and a season-high 16 rebounds as Denver won in Oakland for the second time this season. Robert Pack scored 15 points.

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press				NATIONAL LEAGUE			
AMERICAN LEAGUE				W	L	Pct	
Baltimore	8	3	.727	San Diego	9	3	.750
Texas	7	3	.700	Florida	8	3	.727
Minnesota	8	5	.615	Cincinnati	9	4	.692
Toronto	7	5	.583	Arizona	8	4	.667
Chicago	6	5	.545	New York	6	5	.545
Cleveland	5	5	.500	Pittsburgh	7	6	.538
Anaheim	6	7	.462	Los Angeles	6	6	.500
Oakland	6	7	.462	St. Louis	6	6	.500
Kansas City	5	6	.455	Colorado	5	6	.455
Tampa Bay	5	6	.455	Chicago	6	8	.429
Seattle	6	8	.429	Milwaukee	6	8	.429
New York	5	7	.417	Montreal	5	7	.417
Detroit	4	7	.364	San Francisco	5	7	.417
Boston	2	10	.167	Atlanta	4	6	.400
				Philadelphia	4	7	.364
				Houston	2	6	.250

NOTE: Split-squad games count in the standings; games against non-major league teams do not.

Monday's Games

Montreal 7, Boston 0
Atlanta 19, Cleveland 5
Texas 5, Pittsburgh 3
Kansas City 10, Detroit 4
Minnesota 8, N.Y. Yankees 7
Philadelphia 5, Toronto 4
Tampa Bay 7, Cincinnati 0
St. Louis (ss) 7, Houston 3
St. Louis (ss) 5, Los Angeles (ss) 0
Arizona 7, Oakland 4
Chicago Cubs 11, Colorado 10
Anaheim (ss) 6, Milwaukee 1
San Diego 6, San Francisco 3
Anaheim (ss) 5, Seattle (ss) 4
Chicago White Sox 3, Seattle (ss) 0

Baltimore 11, Florida 4
N.Y. Mets 3, Los Angeles (ss) 1

Today's Games

Cincinnati vs. Toronto at Dunedin Fla., 11:05 a.m.
Atlanta vs. Los Angeles at Vero Beach Fla., 11:05 a.m.
Florida vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale Fla., 11:05 a.m.
N.Y. Yankees vs. Kansas City at Haines City Fla., 11:05 a.m.
Tampa Bay vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater Fla., 11:05 a.m.
Minnesota (ss) vs. Boston (ss) at Fort Myers Fla., 11:05 a.m.
Colorado vs. Oakland at Phoenix, 1:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa Ariz., 1:05 p.m.
Detroit vs. Cleveland at Winter Haven Fla., 5:05 p.m.

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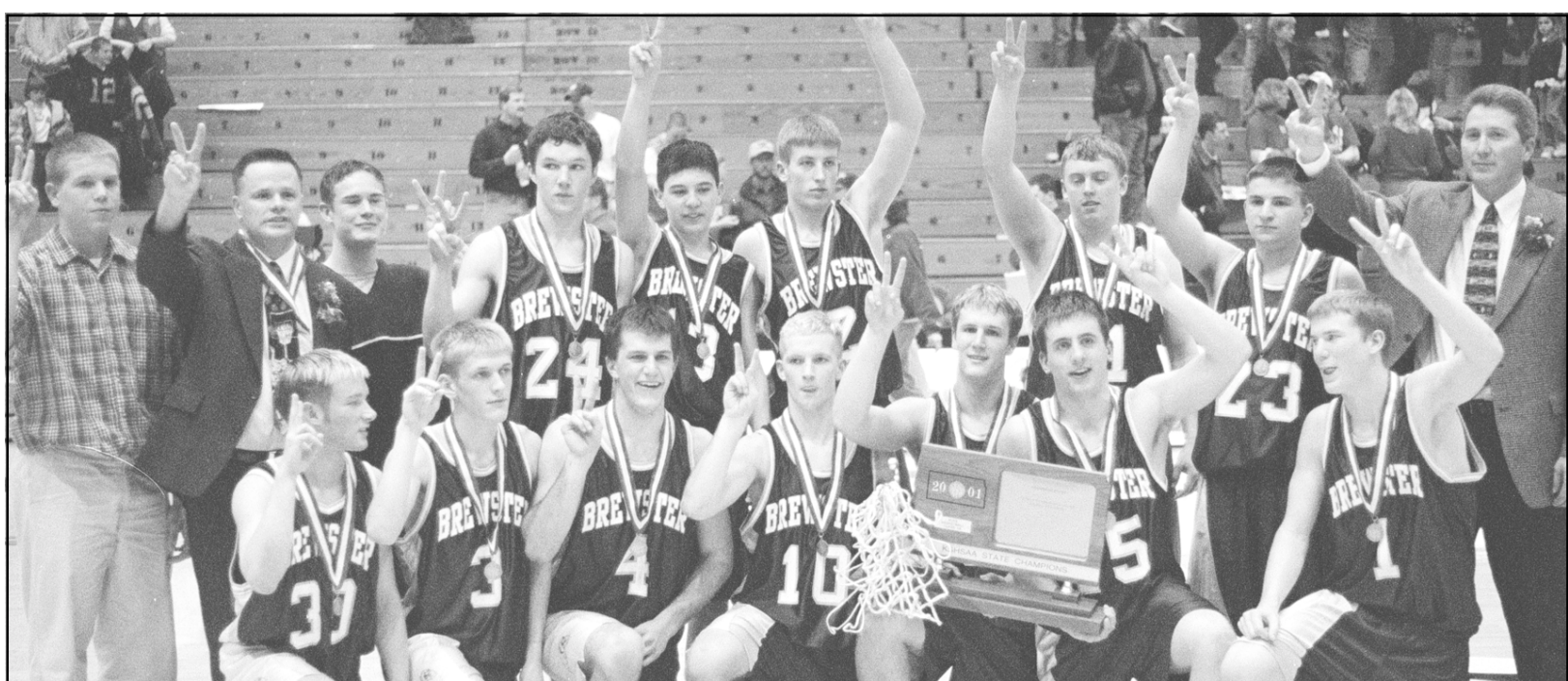
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Bulldog champs -- The 2001 1A state repeat champion Bulldogs are (from left): front -- Travis Dixon, Bobby Tubbs, Justin Jamison, Brett Arnberger, Jay Reid, Clint Horinek, P.J. Crumbaker; back -- manager Jarrett Carpenter, head coach Larry O'Connor, manager Andrej Kraus, John Luckert, Jacob Falcon, J.R. Baird, Rob Garner, Tyson Dixon, assistant coach Jon McKee.

Tues., Mar. 13 - 5 p.m. Lions Club Supper, 6:30 p.m. Lions Club BB Tourney; **Wed., Mar. 14** - 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 WKLL All-League Selection @ Oakley; **Wed., Mar. 14-Sunday, Mar. 18** - **SPRING BREAK, NO SCHOOL**; **Fri., Mar. 16** - 10 a.m. WKLL Speech & Drama @ Weskan, 1:01 p.m. WKLL Mtg. @ Weskan KIAA; **Sat., Mar. 17** - KIAA Convention, March Madness @ Salina, St. Patrick's Day; **Sun., Mar. 18** - KIAA Convention.

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