

Rockies revert to form

DENVER (AP)—After a masterful pitching performance by Mike Hampton two days earlier, the Colorado Rockies reverted to form in their home ballpark.

Denny Neagle, in his Rockies debut, pitched five solid innings, leaving with a 12-3 lead. St. Louis closed the deficit to three runs, but the Rockies hung on for a 13-9 victory Wednesday night.

"That was a typical Coors Field game," Rockies first baseman Todd Helton said. "It got sort of nerve-wracking at the end, but we scored enough to win."

Helton hit a three-run homer and

Larry Walker a two-run shot for the Rockies, who defeated St. Louis 8-0 in the season opener on Monday thanks to Hampton's five-hitter for 8 1-3 innings.

Neagle wasn't able to duplicate Hampton's effort. But with ample run support, he didn't need to.

Neagle (1-0), who allowed seven hits and struck out seven, settled down after a rough first two innings.

"Unlike other ballparks, you can give up three, four or five runs early in Coors Field, and the game's are not over," Neagle said. "You have to understand that. You can't hang your

head.

"I was a little anxious and a little out of whack mechanically the first two innings, but I settled down and was able to hit all my spots after that."

Rockies manager Buddy Bell said Neagle "pitched very well. When a team jumps out 2-0 and we come back 3-2 and they tie it 3-3, that's when he really got things going. When we really needed it the most, he pitched the best."

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Colorado trades players

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Mark Leiter is on the move again.

Acquired by Colorado last week in a trade with the New York Mets, Leiter was part of a six-player trade between the Rockies and Milwaukee Brewers on Wednesday.

Leiter, a right-handed setup man who missed last season following a right shoulder operation, was sent to Milwaukee along with pitcher Mike DeJean and infielder Elvis Pena.

In exchange, the Rockies got pitchers Juan Acevedo and Kane Davis and minor league infielder Jose Flores.

"DeJean and Acevedo are probably the main guys in the trade, not to disregard the other guys," Brewers manager Davey Lopes said. "It's a matter of a change of scenery might be the best thing for both of them."

"You've got two pitchers with high ceiling but haven't done what you expected them to do," Lopes said.

Dan O'Dowd, who has made 19 trades involving 66 players since being named the Rockies' general manager 18 months ago, called Acevedo the key to the deal.

"Acevedo is going to help us," said O'Dowd, who spent most of the spring after Jerry Dipoto's retirement searching for a solid reliever to pitch the

eighth inning so the Rockies could get to closer Jose Jimenez.

"We were looking to improve the back end of our bullpen," O'Dowd said. "And in Juan Acevedo, I think we acquired one of the better setup men in the National League last year. He has a power arm. Right-handers hit .222 against him, but he's not a matchup guy. He can get right- or left-handed guys out."

Milwaukee reliever Valerio de los Santos was placed on the disabled list with a tear in the left ulnar collateral ligament Tuesday and probably won't pitch again this year.

"It's something we've had to do because we lost a pitcher for the season, but we've been talking about it for the past 10 days or so," Lopes said.

Acevedo, 30, returns to Colorado, where he made his major league debut in 1995. He was 3-7 with a 3.81 ERA in 62 relief appearances for the Brewers last year.

Leiter, 37, last played a full season in 1998 in Philadelphia, where he went 7-5 with a 3.55 ERA and 23 saves. He's also pitched for the Yankees, Tigers, Angels, Giants, Expos and Mariners in his career. In 315 career games, Leiter is 63-72 with a 4.60 ERA and 26 saves.

DeJean was 4-4 with a 4.89 ERA in

54 relief appearances with the Rockies last season. In his four-year major league career, he is 14-9 with a 4.95 ERA with four saves and 224 appearances, all with the Rockies.

Pena, who batted .333 with one RBI in 10 games for the Rockies last season, was assigned to Triple-A Indianapolis of the International League.

Davis split the 2000 season between five clubs in the Brewers and Cleveland Indians organizations. In eight major league games, he is 0-3 with a 12.60 ERA.

O'Dowd said the Rockies will use Davis, who has been almost exclusively a starter throughout his career, in the bullpen.

Flores was signed by the Brewers as a six-year free agent in January and had been assigned to Indianapolis. He now heads to Triple-A Colorado Springs.

To make room for DeJean, the Brewers designated pitcher Mike Buddie for assignment.

Acevedo and Davis were added to Colorado's 25-man active roster.

In a separate transaction, the Rockies claimed off waivers from the Philadelphia Phillies left-hander Jimmy Osting. He joins the Rockies' 40-man roster and has been assigned to Double-A Carolina.

Player hopes to sign with Chiefs

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — It seems he's stood and talked like this before—eight years ago, to be exact.

Now, a little older and a little wiser, Steve Beuerlein was in town again Wednesday, hoping once again for a

chance to become the starting quarterback for the Kansas City Chiefs.

The last time around, the Chiefs ended up passing on signing Beuerlein as a free agent, deciding instead to trade for Joe Montana.

baseball scoreboard

By Associated Press

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	3	0	1.000	—
Montreal	2	0	1.000	1/2
Atlanta	2	1	.667	1
New York	1	1	.500	1 1/2
Florida	0	3	.000	3
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	2	0	1.000	—
Pittsburgh	1	1	.500	1
Cincinnati	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Chicago	0	2	.000	2
St. Louis	0	2	.000	2
Milwaukee	0	3	.000	2 1/2
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Arizona	2	0	1.000	—
Colorado	2	0	1.000	—
San Francisco	2	0	1.000	—
Los Angeles	1	2	.333	1 1/2
San Diego	0	2	.000	2

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	2	0	1.000	—
Toronto	2	1	.667	1/2
Baltimore	1	1	.500	1
Boston	1	1	.500	1
Tampa Bay	1	1	.500	1
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	1	0	1.000	—
Chicago	1	1	.500	1/2
Cleveland	1	1	.500	1/2
Detroit	0	1	.000	1
Kansas City	0	2	.000	1 1/2
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Seattle	2	1	.667	—
Texas	2	1	.667	—
Oakland	1	2	.333	1
Anaheim	0	2	.000	1 1/2

Tuesday's Games

Houston 11, Milwaukee 3
 N.Y. Mets 6, Atlanta 4, 10 innings
 Cincinnati 3, Pittsburgh 2
 Philadelphia 4, Florida 3
 Arizona 3, Los Angeles 2

Wednesday's Games

Montreal 3, Chicago Cubs 2
 Philadelphia 7, Florida 3
 Atlanta 3, N.Y. Mets 2
 Pittsburgh 6, Cincinnati 5, 10 innings
 Houston 8, Milwaukee 6, 12 innings
Colorado 13, St. Louis 9
 Arizona 7, Los Angeles 2
 San Francisco 8, San Diego 7

Today's Games

Pittsburgh (Anderson 5-11) at Cincinnati (Dessens 11-5), 10:35 a.m.
 Montreal (Armas Jr. 7-9) at Chicago Cubs (Tapani 8-12), 12:20 p.m.
St. Louis (Morris 3-3) at Colorado (Astacio 12-9), 1:05 p.m.
 N.Y. Mets (Reed 11-5) at Atlanta (Perez 0-0), 5:35 p.m.
 Milwaukee (Sheets 0-0) at Houston (Miller 6-6), 6:05 p.m.
 Arizona (Anderson 11-7) at Los Angeles (Ashby 12-13), 8:10 p.m.
 San Diego (Jones 11-6) at San Francisco (Ortiz 14-12), 8:15 p.m.

Friday's Games

Chicago Cubs (Tavarez 0-0) at Philadelphia (Wolf 0-0), 11:05 a.m.
 N.Y. Mets (Rusch 0-0) at Montreal (Thurman 0-0), 5:05 p.m.
 Atlanta (Maddux 0-0) at Florida (Grilli 1-0), 5:05 p.m.
 Cincinnati (Bell 0-0) at Milwaukee (D'Amico 0-0), 6:05 p.m.
 Pittsburgh (Oliveras 0-0) at Houston (Dotel 0-0), 6:05 p.m.

San Diego (Eaton 0-0) at Colorado (Bohanon 0-0), 7:05 p.m.
 St. Louis (Hermanson 0-0) at Arizona (Reynoso 0-0), 8:05 p.m.
 San Francisco (Estes 0-0) at Los Angeles (Prokopec 0-0), 8:10 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Tuesday's Games

Minnesota 3, Detroit 2
 Texas 3, Anaheim 2
 Tampa Bay 8, Toronto 1
 Oakland 5, Seattle 1

Wednesday's Games

Seattle 10, Oakland 2
 Cleveland 8, Chicago White Sox 4
 Boston 3, Baltimore 0
N.Y. Yankees 8, Kansas City 2
 Toronto 11, Tampa Bay 8
 Texas 7, Anaheim 3

Today's Games

Toronto (Carpenter 10-12) at Tampa Bay (Rekar 7-10), 10:15 a.m.
 Minnesota (Milton 13-10) at Detroit (Moehler 12-9), 11:05 a.m.
Kansas City (Reichert 8-10) at N.Y. Yankees (Mussina 11-15), 11:05 a.m.
 Boston (Castillo 10-5) at Baltimore (Johnson 1-10), 5:05 p.m.
 Anaheim (Ortiz 8-6) at Texas (Glynn 5-7), 6:05 p.m.

Friday's Games

Tampa Bay (Rupe 0-0) at Boston (Ohka 0-0), 11:05 a.m.
Minnesota (Mays 0-0) at Kansas City (Meadows 0-0), 12:05 p.m.
 Detroit (Mlicki 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (Parque 0-0), 2:05 p.m.
 Toronto (Loaiza 1-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Parker 0-0), 5:05 p.m.
 Baltimore (Mercedes 0-0) at Cleveland (Burba 0-0), 5:05 p.m.
 Seattle (Moyer 0-0) at Texas (Helling 0-1), 6:05 p.m.
 Anaheim (Wise 0-0) at Oakland (Mulder 0-0), 8:05 p.m.

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