

A time for testing



Adam Ford, Jared Hall and Josh Mills performed taekwondo moves Friday night at the Goodland Activities Center while being tested by Wayne Luckert and another instructor, Tony Collett. Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Cardinal hits defeat Rockies, 3-1

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Mark McGwire ended an 0-for-12 season-opening slump with an opposite-field home run, helping the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Colorado Rockies 3-1 Wednesday night.

Matt Morris won his first game as a starter since September 1998, allowing one run and six hits in seven innings.

St. Louis has won five straight since going 0-3 during a season-opening series at Colorado. The Rockies have lost five in a row since outscoring St. Louis 32-11 at Coors Field.

Pedro Astacio (1-1) retired 11 batters in a row before McGwire lined a 1-2 pitch over the right-field wall for his 555th career homer, putting the Cardinals ahead 3-1. He needs eight homers to catch Reggie Jackson for sixth place on the career list.

McGwire, who homered for the first time since Sept. 15, lined out to left and struck out his first two at-bats. He missed four games with soreness in his surgically repaired right knee before returning to the lineup Monday for the home opener.

Ray Lankford hit his fourth homer in the second inning and Fernando Vina had an RBI triple in the third. Lankford, batting .450 (9-for-20), had just three homers last April.

Morris (1-1) was out of the rotation for two years after elbow surgery in 1999, spending last year in the bullpen. He lasted only three innings in his first start, allowing 10 runs and 11 hits in an 11-2 loss at Colorado.

The only damage in his rematch with the Rockies and Astacio was an RBI single by Jeff Cirillo in the third. Morris struck out five and retired 11 of his last 12 hitters.

Astacio had his second straight strong outing against the Cardinals, allowing three runs and five hits in six innings with six strikeouts and no walks.

Steve Kline, working for the fifth

straight game, allowed a hit in the eighth. Dave Veres struck out the final two batters for his first save.

Notes: Jim Edmonds was a late scratch due to tightness in his right groin. He returned to lineup Monday after missing four starts with a sore left big toe sustained when he kicked his bat in frustration. 20-year-old Juan Uribe, the Rockies' starting shortstop while Neifi Perez recovers from a thumb injury, got his first career hit with a single to start the third. He's the youngest player in franchise history. Albert Pujols' two-run homer Monday was the first by a Cardinals rookie in a home opener since Wally Moon in 1954. Todd Walker is in a 1-for-14 slump after a 9-for-15 start. Todd Helton, who won the NL batting title last year with a major league-leading .372 average, is batting .200 (6-for-30). He's 0-for-7 the first two games of the series Ron Gant went 3-for-4 with two doubles.

Avalanche defenseman will seek Stanley Cup in opener

DENVER (AP)—Colorado Avalanche defenseman Ray Bourque may have to wait another few days to continue his 22-year Stanley Cup quest.

Bourque, who strained his back in

day night, the Avalanche still have a strong defensive duo in Adam Foote and Rob Blake. Because of injuries this season, Foote, Blake and Bourque played less than three minutes together.

"It'll be fine," said Blake, traded by the Los Angeles Kings on Feb. 21. "When Ray gets back, we'll be all set."

Hartley had not decided on defensive tandems in Bourque's absence. Colorado's other key defenseman are Greg de Vries, John Klemm and Martin Skoula, who have combined to play 132 playoff games.

Bourque, selected to 19 straight All-Star games, has appeared in 193 play-off games.

baseball scoreboard

|  |   |     |      |       |
|--|---|-----|------|-------|
| By The Associated Press  |   |     |      |       |
| <b>NATIONAL LEAGUE</b>   |   |     |      |       |
| <b>East Division</b>   |   |     |      |       |
| W  | L | Pct | GB   |       |
| Philadelphia   | 6 | 2   | .750 | —     |
| Montreal   | 6 | 3   | .667 | 1/2   |
| Atlanta  | 4 | 5   | .444 | 2 1/2 |
| New York   | 3 | 5   | .375 | 3     |
| Florida  | 2 | 6   | .250 | 4     |
| <b>Central Division</b>  |   |     |      |       |
| W  | L | Pct | GB   |       |
| Houston  | 6 | 2   | .750 | —     |
| St. Louis  | 5 | 3   | .625 | 1     |
| Chicago  | 5 | 4   | .556 | 1 1/2 |
| Pittsburgh   | 4 | 4   | .500 | 2     |
| Cincinnati   | 3 | 6   | .333 | 3 1/2 |
| Milwaukee  | 3 | 6   | .333 | 3 1/2 |
| <b>West Division</b>   |   |     |      |       |
| W  | L | Pct | GB   |       |
| San Francisco  | 6 | 2   | .750 | —     |
| Los Angeles  | 5 | 4   | .556 | 1 1/2 |
| Arizona  | 3 | 5   | .375 | 3     |
| Colorado   | 3 | 5   | .375 | 3     |
| San Diego  | 3 | 5   | .375 | 3     |
| <b>Tuesday's Games</b>   |   |     |      |       |
| San Francisco 11, San Diego 6  |   |     |      |       |
| Chicago Cubs 4, Montreal 2   |   |     |      |       |
| Philadelphia 7, Florida 6  |   |     |      |       |
| Houston 3, Milwaukee 0   |   |     |      |       |
| Arizona 2, Los Angeles 0   |   |     |      |       |
| <b>Wednesday's Games</b>   |   |     |      |       |
| Florida at Philadelphia, ppd., rain                                    |   |     |      |       |
| Atlanta 2, N.Y. Mets 0   |   |     |      |       |
| Chicago Cubs 4, Montreal 2   |   |     |      |       |
| Pittsburgh 6, Cincinnati 5   |   |     |      |       |
| Houston 7, Milwaukee 1   |   |     |      |       |
| <b>St. Louis 3, Colorado 1</b>   |   |     |      |       |
| Los Angeles 11, Arizona 5  |   |     |      |       |
| San Francisco 2, San Diego 1   |   |     |      |       |
| <b>Today's Games</b>   |   |     |      |       |
| <b>Colorado (Hampton 1-0) at St. Louis (Hermanson 1-0), 11:10 a.m.</b> |   |     |      |       |
| Houston (Dotel 1-0) at Milwaukee (D'Amico 0-0), 12:05 p.m.             |   |     |      |       |
| San Francisco (Hernandez 1-1) at San Diego (Eaton 1-0), 3:05 p.m.      |   |     |      |       |
| Cincinnati (Harnisch 0-1) at Pittsburgh (Olivares 0-1), 5:05 p.m.      |   |     |      |       |
| Atlanta (Burkett 0-1) at N.Y. Mets (Rusch 0-0), 5:10 p.m.              |   |     |      |       |
| Los Angeles (Ashby 1-0) at Arizona (Reynoso 0-1), 7:35 p.m.            |   |     |      |       |
| <b>Friday's Games</b>  |   |     |      |       |
| Pittsburgh (Arroyo 1-0) at Chicago Cubs (Bere 1-0), 1:20 p.m.          |   |     |      |       |
| Florida (Dempster 0-0) at Montreal (Vazquez 1-0), 5:05 p.m.            |   |     |      |       |
| Cincinnati (Fernandez 1-1) at N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 0-1), 5:10 p.m.      |   |     |      |       |
| Philadelphia (Wolf 0-1) at Atlanta (Glavine 0-1), 5:35 p.m.            |   |     |      |       |
| San Francisco (Rueter 1-0) at Milwaukee (Wright 1-1), 6:05 p.m.        |   |     |      |       |
| Houston (Bottenfield 0-1) at St. Louis (Kile 1-1), 6:10 p.m.           |   |     |      |       |
| <b>Arizona (Johnson 1-1) at Colorado (Bohanon</b>                      |   |     |      |       |

|  |          |          |             |              |
|--|----------|----------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>1-1), 7:05 p.m.</b>   |          |          |             |              |
| Los Angeles (Park 2-0) at San Diego (Williams 1-1), 8:05 p.m.        |          |          |             |              |
| <b>AMERICAN LEAGUE</b>   |          |          |             |              |
| <b>East Division</b>   |          |          |             |              |
| W  | L        | Pct      | GB          |              |
| New York   | 7        | 2        | .778        | —            |
| Toronto  | 7        | 3        | .700        | 1/2          |
| Boston   | 5        | 3        | .625        | 1 1/2        |
| Baltimore  | 4        | 4        | .500        | 2 1/2        |
| Tampa Bay  | 2        | 7        | .222        | 5            |
| <b>Central Division</b>  |          |          |             |              |
| W  | L        | Pct      | GB          |              |
| Minnesota  | 6        | 2        | .750        | —            |
| Chicago  | 4        | 4        | .500        | 2            |
| Cleveland  | 3        | 5        | .375        | 3            |
| Detroit  | 3        | 5        | .375        | 3            |
| <b>Kansas City</b>   | <b>2</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>.222</b> | <b>4 1/2</b> |
| <b>West Division</b>   |          |          |             |              |
| W  | L        | Pct      | GB          |              |
| Seattle  | 6        | 2        | .750        | —            |
| Anaheim  | 4        | 4        | .500        | 2            |
| Texas  | 4        | 5        | .444        | 2 1/2        |
| Oakland  | 2        | 6        | .250        | 4            |
| <b>Tuesday's Games</b>   |          |          |             |              |
| Boston 10, Baltimore 1   |          |          |             |              |
| Toronto 3, Tampa Bay 2, 10 innings                                   |          |          |             |              |
| Minnesota 8, Detroit 2   |          |          |             |              |
| <b>N.Y. Yankees 9, Kansas City 5</b>                                 |          |          |             |              |
| Chicago White Sox 8, Cleveland 7                                     |          |          |             |              |
| Texas 7, Anaheim 5   |          |          |             |              |
| Seattle 5, Oakland 1   |          |          |             |              |
| <b>Wednesday's Games</b>   |          |          |             |              |
| <b>N.Y. Yankees 8, Kansas City 5</b>                                 |          |          |             |              |
| Chicago White Sox 7, Cleveland 6                                     |          |          |             |              |
| Baltimore 5, Boston 4  |          |          |             |              |
| Tampa Bay 4, Toronto 3   |          |          |             |              |
| Minnesota 12, Detroit 1  |          |          |             |              |
| Seattle 3, Oakland 0   |          |          |             |              |
| Anaheim 7, Texas 2   |          |          |             |              |
| <b>Today's Games</b>   |          |          |             |              |
| Seattle (Moyer 0-0) at Oakland (Hudson 1-0), 1:35 p.m.               |          |          |             |              |
| Baltimore (Mercedes 0-1) at Boston (Ohka 0-0), 4:05 p.m.             |          |          |             |              |
| Cleveland (Colon 0-1) at Detroit (Holt 1-0), 5:05 p.m.               |          |          |             |              |
| <b>Kansas City (Suppan 1-1) at Toronto (Michalak 1-0), 5:05 p.m.</b> |          |          |             |              |
| Texas (Helling 0-1) at Anaheim (Wise 1-0), 8:05 p.m.                 |          |          |             |              |
| <b>Friday's Games</b>  |          |          |             |              |
| <b>Kansas City (Suzuki 1-0) at Toronto (Parris 0-2), 2:05 p.m.</b>   |          |          |             |              |
| N.Y. Yankees (Hernandez 0-1) at Boston (Crawford 0-0), 4:05 p.m.     |          |          |             |              |
| Tampa Bay (Lopez 1-1) at Baltimore (Hentgen 0-0), 5:05 p.m.          |          |          |             |              |
| Cleveland (Sabathia 1-0) at Detroit (Weaver 1-1), 7:05 p.m.          |          |          |             |              |
| Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 0-1) at Minnesota (Redman 0-1), 6:05 p.m. |          |          |             |              |
| Texas (Davis 0-1) at Oakland (Lidle 0-0), 8:05 p.m.                  |          |          |             |              |
| Seattle (Tomko 0-0) at Anaheim (Schoeneweis 1-1), 8:05 p.m.          |          |          |             |              |

Broncos sign Griese

DENVER (AP) — Brian Griese, who emerged last season as one of the NFL's best young quarterbacks, agreed Wednesday to a new six-year contract with the Denver Broncos worth \$39 million to \$40 million.

Griese threw for 2,688 yards with 19 touchdowns and four interceptions in 10 games last season and led the NFL with a quarterback rating of 102.9. He missed six of Denver's final seven games, including their playoff loss in Baltimore with a separated right shoulder and had reconstructive surgery on Jan. 10.

The deal includes a \$12.5 million signing bonus.

"It was extremely important to get it

done quickly and quietly," said Ralph Cindrich, Griese's agent. "A quarterback is a leader on the team who stands in the shoes of a coach. If there's a problem with a contract, there's a tendency to lose your teammates."

Griese was a restricted free agent, meaning the Broncos could have matched any offer for him. But contract talks heated up after the Kansas City Chiefs expressed interest in Griese.

Griese, drafted in the third round by the Broncos in 1998, took over as Denver's starter in 1999 following the retirement of John Elway.

After losing four straight games to start the season, he was in and out of the lineup as the Broncos finished 6-10

and missed the playoffs after two straight Super Bowl victories under Elway.

With a season of experience, Griese matured last year on the field, leading the Broncos to 27-24 victory in a Monday night game with Oakland despite playing the second half with the separated shoulder.

But he ran into trouble off the field. He was ticketed for drunken driving on Oct. 28 after a police officer stopped him for speeding on Interstate 25. Griese pleaded guilty last month to driving with ability impaired and received 12 months probation.

Griese hopes to be able to start throwing in the next few weeks.

Yankees dominate Royals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — If the New York Yankees have the Kansas City Royals completely psyched out, Joe Randa is too proud to admit it.

"Psyched out is one thing. Playing a good team is another," the Royals third baseman said. "You can't take away from their ability."

Indeed, you can't.

Alfonso Soriano and Paul O'Neill had three RBIs apiece as the Yankees won 8-5 Wednesday and swept a season series of more than three games in a non-abbreviated season for just the second time.

The other time was 1998 when the Yankees were 10-0 against Kansas City, a team they're 28-7 against since 1997.

"I'm sure they're glad we're leaving," said Todd Williams (1-0), who pitched 2 2-3 innings of relief for the win. "But those guys are still tough. They came out of spring playing great and we were just the opposite."

The Yankees, with a payroll of \$109.8 million, outscored the Royals' \$35.6 million lineup 46-19 in the six games. New York hit .327.

"For sure, it's not a level playing field," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

Added Randa: "You're facing four guys who have a chance to be No. 1 starters on almost any team. There's a reason those guys make the money

they do. They've been doing it year in and year out, most of them for about 10 years now. We're scratching hard to find ourselves, and we're close."

Making the New York domination even more disheartening for Kansas City, the Yankees didn't even have their best team on the field. While sweeping three games in New York, they were without All-Star shortstop Derek Jeter, who was injured.

All-Star outfielder Bernie Williams missed all three games in Kansas City to be with his ailing father in Puerto Rico.

Yankees catcher Jorge Posada, leading the league with 14 RBIs after hitting home runs in three straight games, went out of Tuesday night's game in the third inning with a stiff back and did not play at all on Wednesday.

Still, the Yankees roll on.

Torre admitted such disparity is not good for fans.

"The thing that bothers me is the loyalty factor of fans. When you see kids come through the farm system and you're not sure if you can pay them when they're really ready to provide dividends, that's the sad part because the fans get the short end."

With a home run in their next game Friday in Boston, the Yankees will tie the AL record they set in 1999 of hitting homers in their first 10 games.

The Royals, in contrast, have allowed a home run in every game.

Kansas City stranded 15 runners in the game, two short of its team record, and is off to a 2-7 start, the worst in eight years.

Mark Quinn, who has hit safely in eight straight games, hit a solo homer in the fifth to draw the Royals to 5-4. Carlos Beltran hit a solo homer in the first inning.

Notes: Torre heard from Williams for the first time since he left on Monday. He said Williams might rejoin the team in Boston this weekend. Scott Brosius has hit safely in nine straight games for the sixth time in his career. The major league record for home runs starting a season is 13 games by the 1954 Chicago Cubs. ... Quinn has hit safely in every game but the season opener.

Internet tonight  
899-2338

Athletes of the Week are:

Wendy's Athletes of the Week are Goodland High School softball player, Shanae Calkins, and golfer, Mickey Steiner. In a game with Colby, Calkins scored three runs and had two triples and and a double. Steiner, the top Cowboy golfer at Goodland's Sugar Hills, was third with a round of 78.

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