



Avs lose to tie cup series

DENVER (AP) — Petr Sykora felt great that his first goal in these Stanley Cup finals tied the series for the New Jersey Devils. He didn't need personal satisfaction to make it better.

Sykora, who plays on the Devils' A-Line with Jason Arnott and Patrik Elias, had been struggling. The pressure had been mounting since he and Elias hadn't scored in the first three games — including two losses — against the Colorado Avalanche.

After Elias broke through in the second period of Saturday's Game 4, Sykora scored the clincher with 2:37 left in the 3-2 victory.

"The only sense of relief was to win the hockey game," Sykora said Sunday. "I think we put ourselves back in this series."

Sykora had 35 goals and 46 assists in the regular season, and then added eight goals and 10 assists in the first three rounds of the playoffs.

His scoring drought started after he registered a goal and an assist in Game 4 of the conference finals against Pittsburgh and lasted four games.

"I don't have pressure scoring," he said the day before Game 5 against Colorado. "I wasn't thinking about it and I'm not going to do it now."

Elias also went four games since his last goal.

"It's always nice to see your goal scorers score because then it could just be breaking the ice and that could get them going," captain Scott Stevens said. "Sometimes when they get their first one they get confidence and feel

good about themselves. Hopefully, that's the case with Patrik and Petr."

nhl action

By The Associated Press

STANLEY CUP FINALS	
(Best-of-7)	
Saturday, May 26	
Colorado 5, New Jersey 0	Tuesday
New Jersey 2, Colorado 1	Thursday
Colorado 3, New Jersey 1	Saturday
New Jersey 3, Colorado 2, series tied 2-2	Today
New Jersey at Colorado, 6 p.m.	Thursday
Colorado at New Jersey, 6 p.m.	Saturday
New Jersey at Colorado, 6 p.m., if necessary	

Cornhuskers head to world series

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Jeff Leise's single in the 10th inning drove in the go-ahead run as Nebraska rallied to beat Rice 9-6 Saturday, sweeping an NCAA super regional and putting the Cornhuskers in the College World Series for the first time.

Nebraska, which had to rally in its final at bat last weekend to beat Rutgers in the regionals, improved to 5-0 in the NCAA tournament and will be one of eight teams playing at Rosenblatt Stadium next weekend.

The College World Series has been played in Omaha since 1950, but the Cornhuskers have never been able to make the 50-mile trip.

Nebraska (50-14) clinched the berth when Austin Davis' pop-up landed in the glove of shortstop Will Bolt, who jumped and threw the ball in the air as he was swarmed by teammates.

After shaking hands with the Owls, the Huskers took a victory lap around the field at Buck Beltzer Stadium, where the record crowd of 5,484 chanted "Go Big Red!" and "Omaha!"

A.J. Porfiriio had two home runs and Kenny Baugh pitched 8 1/3 solid innings for the Owls (47-20), who were going for their third College World Series appearance.

Adam Stern had three RBIs for the Huskers (50-14), including a two-run

single in the ninth that tied it at 5-all.

Thom Ott (5-2) blew a save opportunity in the ninth, then hit a batter and allowed a hit in the 10th, but got three consecutive pop-ups to end it.

Philip Barzilla (0-2) got Rice out of a jam in the ninth, but couldn't hold off the Huskers in the 10th.

The Cornhuskers had trailed since the first inning until finally getting to Baugh in the ninth.

Jeff Blevins drew a one-out walk, Will Bolt followed him with an infield single and Leise loaded the bases with a flare that was just out of reach for second baseman Matt Fox.

Stern hit a single to left that scored pinch-runner Drew Anderson and Bolt. Philip Tribe relieved Baugh and gave up a single to center by John Cole, driving in Leise and giving Nebraska its first lead.

After Porfiriio's leadoff homer in the ninth, Nebraska came right back in the 10th when Philip Barzilla hit Jed Morris with a pitch to start the inning. Brandon Eymann moved pinch runner Willie Jones to second with a bunt and when first baseman Jesse Roman's throw went into center, Jones went to third and Eymann to second.

Will Bolt was walked intentionally to load the bases, and Leise came through with a single to right and Ne-

braska led 7-6. The Cornhuskers added two more runs as the Owls committed another error.

Baugh struggled with his control and walked seven, but he also held Nebraska to three hits coming into the ninth and finished with 12 strikeouts.

Baugh, who was rested in the opener Friday after throwing 14 innings in two regional appearances last week, opened the game by striking out the first three batters he faced, then walked the first three in the second inning. Nebraska only got one run out of it as Baugh added three more strikeouts.

The Huskers didn't have a hit until Cole's one-out double in the third. Cole went to third on a wild pitch and scored on Dan Johnson's single, which cut Rice's lead to 5-2.

The Owls, who only had three hits in the series opener, had four in the first two innings, including Porfiriio's two-run homer to right in the first.

Rice added a run in the second when Jesse Roman, who led off the second with a single, scored on a wild pitch.

Rice added two more runs in the third on a fielder's choice and Billy Jacobson's double to left.

Nebraska cut the lead to 5-3 in the seventh when Blevins singled, stole second, took third on a fielder's choice and scored on a passed ball.

Woods dominates

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Tiger Woods continued his almost methodical dominance of golf, finishing with a final round 6-under-par 66 to win his third Memorial Tournament in a row.

Woods' final tuneup before the U.S. Open at Southern Hills was all but over by the time the leaders headed for the back nine, making the final holes a playground for Woods.

nba action

By The Associated Press

Conference Finals	
(Best-of-7)	
Sunday, May 27	
L.A. Lakers 111, San Antonio 82, L.A. Lakers win series 4-0	
Sunday	
Philadelphia 108, Milwaukee 91, Philadelphia wins series 4-3	
Finals	
(Best-of-7)	
Wednesday	
Philadelphia at Los Angeles Lakers, 7 p.m.	
Friday	
Philadelphia at Los Angeles Lakers, 7 p.m.	
Sunday	
Los Angeles Lakers at Philadelphia, 5:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, June 13	

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Pitcher's change paid off

DENVER (AP) — A small adjustment paid big dividends for Pedro Astacio.

After watching hours of videotape from his recent struggling starts, the Colorado Rockies right-hander discovered his tempo was too quick.

Slowing things down on Sunday, Astacio carried a no-hitter into the seventh inning, finished with a three-hitter and beat the San Francisco Giants 11-2.

"The last couple of games I was moving too quick," Astacio said. "That makes the ball flatten over the middle of the plate. A lot of times you find a little thing that is a big thing in the game."

Rockies pitching coach Marcel Lachemann said that by slowing his tempo, Astacio gave himself "a chance to command the ball. He pitched well on both sides of the plate."

Astacio, 0-3 with a 7.54 ERA in his previous four starts, finally prevailed in his fifth attempt at career win No. 100.

Astacio (5-5) lost both his no-hitter and shutout in the seventh, when Jeff Kent led off with a sharp single past shortstop Neifi Perez. Felipe Crespo also singled, and Armando Rios hit a two-run double off the wall in right-center field.

Astacio, who had six 1-2-3 innings,

walked two and struck out seven to post his 25th career complete game.

"I didn't think about the no-hitter," Astacio said. "My only thought on the mound was to get the next guy out. When you think about a no-hitter, then you start thinking you have to get everybody out. I didn't want to pressure myself. I just tried to make each pitch and hold down the score."

Todd Helton went 4-for-4 with a homer and three RBIs, and Larry Walker also homered and drove in three runs for Colorado.

Every Rockies starter had at least one hit as the club matched a season high with 19 hits.

San Francisco's Barry Bonds, who leads the majors with 29 homers, went 0-for-3 before being lifted for a pinch-runner in the seventh.

The Giants lost for the 13th time in their last 18 games and fell two games below .500 (27-29) for the first time since last June 12.

"One day it's pitching, one day it's hitting and one day it's defense," Giants manager Dusty Baker said. "We can't get everything together for an extended period of time. You have to be able to fight through these stretches."

"The Rockies hit the ball great today, and Astacio pitched as good as I've ever seen him. He really knows how to pitch here. He was masterful."

The Rockies scored nine runs off Giants starter Mark Gardner (1-4) in building an 11-0 lead through five innings.

After scoring twice in the second, the Rockies scored four runs with none out in the third, including Walker's two-run homer, his 19th, and Helton's solo shot, his 18th.

Colorado added four runs with two outs in the fourth. After singles by Astacio and Perez, Walker had a run-scoring double, chasing Gardner. Helton hit a two-run single off Chad Zerbe, and Jeff Cirillo added an RBI triple.

Astacio drove in a run in the fifth with another single.

Giants shortstop Rich Aurilia, the NL's leading hitter (.362), did not start for the second straight game because of a strained right hip flexor. He pinch-hit in the sixth, lining out to second.

Notes: Astacio tied his Rockies' record for most hitless innings to start a game. It was the third time a Rockies' pitcher has thrown six hitless innings, and Astacio has done it each time.

Colorado's Juan Pierre was caught stealing in the first, ending his stolen-base streak at 12, four shy of Terry Shumpert's club record.

Colorado wrapped up a 13-game stretch against the Giants and Los Angeles Dodgers with a 7-6 record.

Royals lose to Angels, 7-2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Tim Salmon hit two of Anaheim's four home runs as the Anaheim Angels beat the Kansas City Royals 7-2 Sunday to complete a three-game sweep.

Troy Glaus and Garret Anderson also homered for the Angels, who matched their season high in homers. It was Anaheim's first sweep of Kansas City in a series of three or more games since June 1996, and first at home since June 1992.

Ramon Ortiz (4-4) won for the first time since April 28. He allowed two runs — one earned — and six hits in 7 2-3 innings.

Ortiz was removed with a 7-1 lead after giving up a two-out single by Rey Sanchez — which extended his career-best hitting streak to 21 games — and his only walk of the game.

Mike Holtz got Jermaine Dye to

ground to third, but Glaus' high throw to second baseman Adam Kennedy allowed Sanchez to score the Royals' second run.

Rookie David Eckstein led off third inning for Anaheim with a double off Mac Suzuki (2-4), took third on a bunt single past the mound by Darin Erstad, and scored on Glaus' sacrifice fly to give Anaheim a 2-1 lead.

Salmon then hit his seventh homer and Anderson followed with his sixth, on an 0-2 pitch, to make it 5-1. Salmon hit his eighth homer in the seventh against Cory Bailey for his 17th career multihomer game.

Anderson, whose RBI single drove in the winning run in Saturday night's 3-2 victory, opened the scoring with an RBI single in the first.

A.J. Hinch tied it in the third with a leadoff homer off the left-field pole.

Glaus led off the fifth against Jose Santiago with his 16th of the campaign and third of the homestand. Suzuki allowed five runs and six hits over 2 2-3 innings.

Notes: Anaheim also hit four homers on April 5 in 10-3 victory at Texas.

The Royals (20-36) have the worst record after 56 games in the franchise's 33-year history.

Erstad has a 14-game hitting streak, one shy of his career high, and is batting .368 over his last 25 games.

Dee Brown singled his first two times up, after going hitless in his first 18 career at-bats against Anaheim.

The Angels have hit back-to-back homers four times this season.

Salmon has homered in consecutive games for the first time this season. Four of his eight homers have come on this homestand.

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	22	.593	—
New York	30	24	.556	2
Baltimore	26	29	.473	6 1/2
Toronto	26	30	.464	7
Tampa Bay	15	41	.268	18
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	36	18	.667	—
Cleveland	35	18	.660	1/2
Chicago	23	30	.434	12 1/2
Detroit	22	31	.415	13 1/2
Kansas City	20	36	.357	17
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	43	12	.782	—
Anaheim	27	28	.491	16
Oakland	27	28	.491	16
Texas	20	35	.364	23
Saturday's Games				
N.Y. Yankees 9, Cleveland 4				
Boston 2, Toronto 1				
Baltimore 7, Oakland 0				
Chicago White Sox 5, Detroit 3				
Texas 3, Minnesota 2, 10 innings				
Seattle 7, Tampa Bay 4				
Anaheim 3, Kansas City 2				
Sunday's Games				
Boston 5, Toronto 4				
Cleveland 4, N.Y. Yankees 3				
Chicago White Sox 9, Detroit 6, 10 innings				
Minnesota 6, Texas 3				
Anaheim 7, Kansas City 2				
Oakland 5, Baltimore 1				
Seattle 8, Tampa Bay 4				
Today's Games				
Boston (Martinez 7-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Mendoza 3-1), 5:05 p.m.				
Cleveland (Burba 7-2) at Minnesota (Mays 7-3),				

6:05 p.m.
Texas (Mahomes 3-4) at Seattle (Halama 4-4),
8:05 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Detroit (Holt 4-4) at Boston (Nomo 5-3), 5:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Johnson 4-3) at N.Y. Yankees
(Mussina 5-5), 5:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Wright 1-0) at Minnesota (Romero 1-
1), 8:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Wells 1-2) at Kansas City
(Reichert 5-4), 6:05 p.m.
Texas (Davis 2-5) at Seattle (Sele 8-0), 8:05 p.m.
Oakland (Mulder 7-2) at Anaheim (Rapp 1-5), 8:05
p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	35	20	.636	—
Atlanta	29	26	.527	6
Florida	26	29	.473	9
New York	24	33	.421	12
Montreal	23	34	.404	13

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	33	21	.611	—
St. Louis	31	24	.564	2 1/2
Milwaukee	29	26	.527	4 1/2
Houston	28	26	.519	5
Cincinnati	21	34	.382	12 1/2
Pittsburgh	17	37	.315	16

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	34	22	.607	—
Los Angeles	31	25	.554	3
Colorado	28	28	.500	6

San Diego	27	29	.482	7
San Francisco	27	29	.482	7
Saturday's Games				
St. Louis 8, Cincinnati 5				
Houston 2, Los Angeles 1				
Colorado 7, San Francisco 5				
N.Y. Mets 7, Florida 1				
Chicago Cubs 10, Milwaukee 4				
Montreal 12, Philadelphia 5				
Arizona 2, San Diego 1				
Atlanta at Pittsburgh, ppd., rain				
Sunday's Games				
Atlanta 11, Pittsburgh 7, 1st game				
Atlanta 8, Pittsburgh 3, 2nd game				
Montreal 10, Philadelphia 3				
Milwaukee 4, Chicago Cubs 2				
Los Angeles 9, Houston 8, 10 innings				
Colorado 11, San Francisco 2				
Florida 1, N.Y. Mets 0				
Arizona 8, San Diego 4				
St. Louis 4, Cincinnati 3				
Today's Games				
Cincinnati (Fernandez 5-4) at St. Louis (An.Benes 3-4), 6:10 p.m.				
Los Angeles (Park 6-4) at Arizona (Reynoso 1-4), 8:05 p.m.				
Tuesday's Games				
N.Y. Mets (Reed 5-2) at Philadelphia (Person 4-4), 5:05 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (Schmidt 1-2) at Florida (Penny 4-0), 5:05 p.m.				
St. Louis (Hermanson 5-3) at Chicago Cubs (Lieber 5-3), 6:05 p.m.				
Houston (Miller 7-2) at Colorado (Hampton 7-2), 7:05 p.m.				



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