

# Colorado wins second Stanley Cup

DENVER (AP) — After consecutive Stanley Cup finals dominated by very long games — remember Brett Hull’s skate in the crease two years ago? — they finally played a finals without any overtime.

Except, of course, by those in the NHL drama department who thought all this up:

— Ray Bourque, a pretender to the throne since the late 1970s, finally wins the Stanley Cup he has spent nearly a lifetime chasing — and, even more dramatically, he does it in only the third finals Game 7 since 1972.

By then, his fans in Colorado and Boston were anxious — and he was, too — to see whether his 22-season career would wind down with his greatest victory or his most agonizing defeat.

“I couldn’t breathe the last 30 seconds, and it wasn’t because I was tired,” Bourque said of the Colorado Avalanche’s 3-1 victory over the defending champion New Jersey Devils on Saturday night. “I was trying to hold back the tears, the emotion.”

He couldn’t, of course, especially

after the only 40-year-old to score a goal in the finals took the cup on the victory lap of a lifetime. Maybe Bourque hasn’t been the ambassador for the game that Wayne Gretzky was, or the most charismatic of stars, but on this night, Everybody Loved Raymond.

— Alex Tanguay, so young at 21 he wasn’t even born when Bourque made his NHL debut in October 1979, scores the first two goals of the game in which Bourque finally gets his cup.

As it turns out, Bourque wasn’t the only player on the ice who hadn’t handled the Stanley Cup before.

“I’d never seen, never touched it before,” Tanguay said.

And his impressions of it?

“That thing is really heavy,” he said.

— Devils coach Larry Robinson, one of hockey’s greatest defensemen and a man who had never lost in eight Stanley Cup finals as a player or coach, finally goes down to defeat. And he isn’t beaten by, for example, Scotty Bowman, but by a former paper mill worker and windshield installer who never played pro hockey and didn’t

begin coaching until age 27.

Sure, Ray Bourque, this was your cup, but it also was Avalanche coach Bob Hartley’s, too. Asked how many of the 10,000 residents in his hometown of Hawkesbury, Ontario, would be watching Game 7, Hartley said: “Maybe only the newborns will not watch.”

— Give each of hockey’s two best teams a chance to win the most cherished trophy in pro sports, then see which can do it.

Colorado seemed ready to make a short series of it by winning 5-0 in Game 1, only to have New Jersey rebound for a dull but effective 2-1 victory in Game 2. Then, with Colorado nearly ready to take a 3-1 series lead, star goalie Patrick Roy wanders out of the net, gives up the tying goal and New Jersey goes on not just to win that game, but the next to lead the series 3-2.

Then, before a noisy, pumped-up home crowd eager to celebrate New Jersey’s second consecutive cup, the Devils forget to show up for Game 6, lose 4-0 and go on to be outscored 7-1

in the final two games against the NHL’s regular-season champions.

The Devils were the second team in as many seasons to fail to defend the cup — they won it from Dallas a year ago — but the first since the 1971 Chicago Blackhawks to squander a 3-2 series lead.

“It’s heartbreaking,” Devils defenseman Ken Daneyko said. “We gave it away. We just lost it.

And, Roy, the antihero of Game 4? He bounced back to win a record third Conn Smythe trophy as the playoffs MVP.

— Robinson, who should have known better, makes a rather tasteless comment about what he thinks of Denver’s prematurely announced plans for a victory parade Monday. Robinson, of course, is very aware that similar plans already have been made back in New Jersey.

Robinson attempts to use the parade as a motivator for his team. However, the remarks drift back to the Avalanche, who, while perhaps not all that riled up by them, take note and go on to score the first three goals in Game

7.

— A once-great player leaves hockey without getting his name on the Stanley Cup — and, no, it’s not Bourque. Devils backup goaltender John Vanbiesbrouck, who retired after Game 7, never got his name on the cup in 19 seasons.

Even if the Devils had won, Vanbiesbrouck might not have had his name inscribed. Because goalie Martin Brodeur started a record 97 games, and Vanbiesbrouck didn’t play in the finals, his name wouldn’t have been on the cup.

Now, the Avalanche and Devils have only a couple of months to get ready for the new season that opens with training camp in early September.

The Avalanche are uncertain if Bourque will retire or if they can re-sign captain Joe Sakic and Roy. The Devils probably will re-sign restricted free agent forward Petr Sykora, but could lose unrestricted free agent Alexander Mogilny.

“Right now, Sept. 1 doesn’t seem that far away,” Colorado’s Dave Reid said.

## sports briefs

### Lakers hold off comeback attempt

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Kobe Bryant scored 32 points, half of them in the second quarter when he gave the Lakers the lead for good, and Los Angeles got 12 fourth-quarter points from Robert Horry to hold off the Philadelphia 76ers 96-91.

In yet another thrilling game in this compelling and entertaining series, the Lakers overcame Shaquille O’Neal fouling out with 2:21 left and took a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven NBA Finals.

Bryant, O’Neal and Horry accounted for 77 of the Lakers’ 96 points, with Horry scoring their final seven.

Allen Iverson had 35 points for Philadelphia, including 21 in the fourth quarter, while Dikembe Mutombo added 23 points and 12 rebounds.

### No repeat of riots in Avs celebration

DENVER (AP) — Residents woke up Sunday to the city’s fourth national sports championship in five years, but there was no repeat of the riots that had marred previous celebrations.

Thousands of hockey fans spilled into downtown streets near the Pepsi Center on Saturday night after the Colorado Avalanche beat the New Jersey Devils 3-1 to win the Stanley Cup.

Sixty-three people were arrested and 50 were taken to detoxification centers. Most face charges of vandalism and disturbing the peace.

The crowd was estimated at about 5,000, compared with 10,000 who took to the streets in Denver’s worst sports riot in 1998 when the Broncos won their first Super Bowl. Revelers had looted, damaged dozens of buildings and overturned cars.

# Royals lose big to Arizona

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Arizona team that scored 11 runs in Game 1 of the series against Kansas City showed up for the third game, not the Diamondbacks who scored twice in Game 2.

With Luis Gonzalez and Erubiel Durazo each hitting three-run homers, the Diamondbacks romped to a 12-5 victory Sunday, giving them two of three in the first interleague series between the clubs.

The Diamondbacks, who had a 12-1 lead in the fourth, reclaimed their four-game lead over Los Angeles atop the NL West standings.

“These were good wins for us,” said Gonzalez, who was 8-for-13 with four home runs and seven RBIs in the three games.

The Diamondbacks tied a team record with an eight-run inning in the fourth.

The night before, Blake Stein shut out the Diamondbacks for seven innings in one of the best performances by a Royals pitcher all season.

Kansas City pitchers were glad to see the last of Gonzalez. The Arizona outfielder has five straight multihit games, and his 26 home runs trail only Barry Bonds, who has 32.

Dan Reichert (5-6) gave up six runs, six hits and five walks in three-plus innings.

Mac Suzuki was worse, allowing six runs and four hits in one-third of an inning.

Robert Ellis (5-2) won despite allowing five runs and eight hits in five

innings.

Kansas City led on Beltran’s first-inning homer, but Craig Counsell hit a tying single in the third and Durazo hit a three-run homer in the third.

Singles by Chad Moeller and Counsell chased Reichert leading off the fourth, and Suzuki loaded the bases with a walk. Grace followed with a two-run single, Gonzalez homered for a 9-1 lead, Steve Finley hit a two-run double and Counsell added an RBI single.

Mike Sweeney hit an RBI grounder in the fourth, and the Royals added three runs in the fifth on RBI singles by Beltran and Andy Chavez and Sweeney’s run-scoring double. Sweeney leads the major leagues with 30 doubles.

## One seat is empty at World Series

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — There was an empty seat at Rosenblatt Stadium on Sunday.

Roy Sells, a longtime season ticket holder from Oklahoma, wasn’t around to see Nebraska take on Tulane in the second round of the College World Series. He had returned home to see his wife’s killer die.

The Oklahoma Sooner fan, who comes to Omaha annually to watch the college baseball championships, returned to Oklahoma City to watch the federal execution of convicted terrorist bomber Timothy McVeigh, the Omaha World-Herald reported Sunday.

McVeigh died today at 6 a.m. at a federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind.

Sells’ wife, Nebraskanative Leora

Lee Sells, and 167 others were killed by McVeigh in April 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City — the nation’s deadliest terrorist attack.

Her husband was at a restaurant 15 miles from downtown Oklahoma City when he felt the ground shake. He asked a waitress whether they were experiencing an earthquake. Soon, a local news station reported an explosion downtown.

“I got up and walked in the office and looked at the TV,” Sells told the World-Herald. “That’s the moment I knew that the Murrah Building had been bombed.

“I was hoping she wasn’t in her office, because her office was gone.”

It took searchers another 10 days to find Lee Sells’ body.

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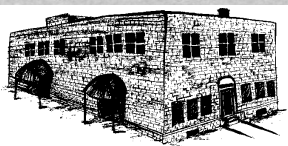
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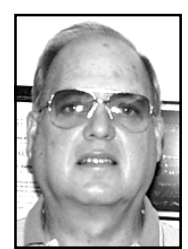


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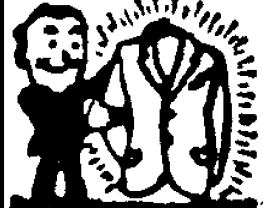
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