

Strong pitching sends Royals past Cardinals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Chad Durbin was happy with his performance — it was the crowd that upset him.

“There sure was a lot of red out there,” Durbin said of the several thousand Cardinals fans among the 27,914 that saw the Kansas City Royals beat St. Louis 7-4 Tuesday night in a spirited interleague matchup between Missouri’s two major league teams.

“Maybe next time we can get some (Royals) blue out there.”

Nevertheless Durbin, a last-minute starter when Jeff Suppan came down with a sore back, made sure the Cardinals fans went home disappointed.

In 8 1-3 innings, he allowed just five hits and struck out five. J.D. Drew singled leading off the ninth, then Albert Pujols, returning to the

city where he went to high school and college, followed with his 20th home run, preventing Durbin from pitching the Royals’ first complete game since last September.

Jason Grimsley finished, giving up a solo homer to Edgar Renteria.

“He seemed to be mixing his pitches well,” St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said of Durbin.

“Fastball to each side of the plate and changeups for strikes,” Durbin said. “I threw the curveball later in the game. It was nice.”

Superstitiously, Durbin (4-5), who had lost three straight decisions, always takes in a movie before each start.

“I go to escape from reality, to get away from thinking about anything,” he said. “Always by myself.”

But when he got to the park and was told he would start in place of Suppan, there was no time to run to the theater.

It didn’t seem to matter.

“I told Jeff thanks for letting me have the start,” said Durbin.

He said he felt the way he had in earlier outings against Anaheim and Oakland, when he was dominant.

“I repeated that feel out there tonight,” he said. “As much as you can keep that feeling, that’s how you’re going to get better and more consistent.”

So will he no longer be a game day movie-goer?

“No way,” he said. “I’ve got to have those movies.”

Pujols, who was 3-for-4, has homered in four

straight games and is within one of the Cardinals rookie record.

“I was swinging hard just like my other at-bats,” he said. “This one just happened to go out. You always want to win but it’s great to play like this at home.”

St. Louis starter Darryl Kile (7-6) gave up seven runs on nine hits and three walks in six-plus innings.

He lost for the fourth time in five decisions and his third straight for the first time since joining the Cardinals following the 1999 season. In his last five starts, St. Louis has scored eight runs.

Rey Sanchez, after committing just his second error of the year, had three hits as the Royals won for just the third time in 10 games. The Cardinals have lost 10 of 14.

“I pitched poorly and made a lot of bad pitches,” said Kile.

Carlos Beltran and Carlos Febles each had two RBIs for the Royals.

Notes: Ray Jablonski set the St. Louis rookie record of five straight games with a homer in 1953. ... The Royals have signed 21 of 50 draft picks and plan to begin negotiations with RHP Colt Griffin, their No. 1 pick, this week. ... Sanchez’s other error came on April 28 in Boston on a throw to second. ... 3B Joe Randa made a fine over-the-shoulder catch of Ray Lankford’s pop foul into shallow left in the seventh. ... The Cardinals are just 1-6 on their current road trip to Chicago, Colorado and Kansas City. ... In 13 interleague games between the two 1985 World Series teams, the Royals are 7-6.



Slice of Life golf tournament will feature ex-NFL players

By Lester Bolen

The Goodland Daily News

The 12th annual “Slice of Life” golf benefit will be held next weekend at Goodland’s Sugar Hills Country Club.

The tournament, Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24, is a benefit and fund-raiser for the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation. It will feature special guests including former Denver Broncos players Greg Boyd, Dave Studdard, Larry Brunson and Rich Upchurch, a kick-returner who holds four NFL records and was selected by the media as one of the top 300 football players of all time.

Also expected are former Kansas City Chiefs players such as Walter White, Tony Reed, Tony Adams, Jeff Criswell and Erick Hicks, a defensive

end who last year became only the fourth member in team history to record 14 or more sacks in one season.

Also on the course will be cheerleaders from the Broncos and the Chiefs.

The proceeds from the Slice of Life benefit the Goodland Regional Medical Center. The tournament has raised nearly \$140,000 for hospital needs.

This year’s earnings will be used to help the hospital purchase a new infant warmer for use in the hospital’s three birthing suites. The cost is expected to be around \$8,000.

On Friday, June 23, their will be a benefit auction at the Sugar Hills clubhouse with autographed sports and television memorabilia, recreational trips, football and baseball tickets and an all-expense-paid trip to an NFL

training camp.

Tickets for the auction can be purchased at the hospital lobby, Mr. Jim’s His Shop, and at Sugar Hills for \$20. That includes hors d’oeuvres and a drink ticket.

Kent Glasscock, speaker of the Kansas House, and Rep. Jim Morrison plan to attend.

The competition, with 46 three-person teams, will play at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, June 24, with a shotgun start. Prizes will be awarded by the medical foundation, Eklund’s Insurance and Dan Brenner Ford-Mercury, for a hole in one on four specified holes. These include \$10,000 to split with the foundation, a Ford automobile, a three-day and two-night vacation, a color television, and golf clubs.

Rockies hang tough with baseball’s best team

DENVER (AP) — Mike Cameron hit a solo home run off Juan Acevedo in the ninth — Seattle’s sixth homer of the game — to lift the Mariners to a 10-9 win over the Colorado Rockies on Tuesday night.

Bret Boone homered twice and Dan Wilson hit a homer and drive in three runs for the Mariners (49-13), who are off to the second-best start in baseball history. Seattle trails only the 1912 New York Giants (51-11) through the first 62 games.

Todd Helton had a two-run homer and drove in three runs for Colorado, giving him a major league-leading 71 RBIs.

With one out in the ninth, Cameron hit a 432-foot homer to left center off Acevedo (0-1) — the ninth homer overall in the game.

Brian Fuentes (1-0) pitched 1 2-3 innings to get the win, and Kazuhiro Sasaki pitched the ninth for his major league-leading 25th save.

Shoddy relief pitching by Seattle spoiled Aaron Sele’s bid for an AL-best ninth win against no losses. He went 5 1-3 innings, allowing six hits and four runs, three of them earned. After issuing back-to-back walks with one out in the sixth, Sele departed with a 7-4 lead. The Mariners went up 7-4 with a four-run sixth, keyed by Wilson’s two-run double and Stan Javier’s two-run homer.

Brian Bohanon walked the first two batters and gave way to reliever Kane Davis, who gave up Wilson’s double to the gap in left-center. With two outs, Javier homered to center.

They added two more runs in the seventh on Boone’s second homer and

Carlos Guillen’s sacrifice fly to take a 9-4 lead.

But the Rockies rallied for five runs in their half. Neifi Perez led off with a homer off Arthur Rhodes. Larry Walker walked, stole second and scored on Helton’s single. The other runs scored on Ron Gant’s RBI single off Jose Paniagua, an error by Boone at second base, and Terry Shumpert’s pinch-hit sacrifice fly.

Javier climbed the wall in left field to rob Helton of a homer in the eighth.

With two outs in the first, Edgar Martinez and Boone hit consecutive solo homers, their 10th and 15th, respectively.

Colorado countered in its half on Helton’s 22nd homer, which followed a single by Juan Pierre.

Wilson put the Mariners ahead with a 423-foot solo homer in the second.

The Rockies went up 4-3 with a two-run fourth. Gant hit a 422-foot solo

homer to center. Brent Mayne followed with a walk, went to third on Sele’s errant pickoff throw and scored on Bohanon’s sharp single to right.

Bohanon went five-plus innings, allowing seven hits and five runs.

Notes: Colorado has won two of three games in each of its previous four series at Coors Field.

Bohanon was coming off two strong

sports briefs

Nuggets draft pick goes to the Celtics

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Celtics exercised their option to take Denver’s pick, giving them three-first round choices in the NBA draft on June 27.

Boston has the 10th pick, the 11th from Denver and the 21st from Phoenix. The deadline for deciding whether to take the Nuggets’ pick was Tuesday.

If Boston had passed on the Nuggets’ choice, it could have taken the Nuggets’ first-round choice next year.

The Celtics acquired the pick in August 1999, trading Danny Fortson, Eric Washington and Eric Williams for Ron Mercer, Popeye Jones and Dwayne Schintzius.

Mercer was traded that year to the Orlando Magic and signed with the Chicago Bulls as a free agent last season.

Boston picked up Phoenix’s choice in a four-team trade last August.

starts since returning from the disabled list (inflamed elbow). ... The homers by Martinez and Boone marked the third time this season that the Mariners had gone back-to-back.

DH Martinez got his first start in the field this season, opening the game at first base.

Perez extended his hitting streak to 10 games.

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The Jaycees Building will be open 6 - 8 pm, Friday June 15th for viewing of the sale items.

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