

Former Bronco to hold camp here

Rare Breed Inc., a company which says its goal is to help strengthen and promote youth and amateur sports, will hold a football camp in Goodland from Tuesday to Saturday, featuring one of Denver's all-time football stars.

The firm says the camp will help develop offensive and defensive strategy and also teach participants the importance of teamwork and academics, said former Denver Bronco and NFL great Rick Upchurch, who founded the firm and is leading the camp.

Wade Manning and Greg Boyd, both former Broncos, will also be at the camp.

"We've been doing this program for five years, with a lot of camps in Colorado and have had very good results," Upchurch said. "We do a lot of mentoring and teach them how to be good leaders. An athlete is under intense focus and it's important that they know how to carry themselves. We are basically in a fish bowl and everyone is watching you."

Upchurch said that he and his wife Donna started the Rare Breed after he had been the football coach at Tabor College in Hillsboro.

"I enjoyed coaching at Tabor," he said, "but realized that they are so many kids that never get the opportunity to succeed in life. I talked with my wife and we realized that this was just the right thing to do."

During Upchurch's five years with the Broncos, he became one of the best punt returners of all time. Upchurch set five team records and is in the top 10 of five other punt returning categories.

"This camp gives younger kids an opportunity to rub shoulders with some former professional football players," he said. "We've had a great response with our camps in Goodland. There has been a lot of kids from St. Francis and Sharon Springs that come up to the camps."

The five-day camp will cost \$175 for day campers and requires a \$75 non-refundable deposit.

Finished...



Halli Stone of Goodland finished the freestyle race at the Oberlin swim meet on Saturday at Oberlin. Stone was one of many Goodland kids participating in the meet.

Photo by Cynthia Haynes/The Oberlin Herald

sports briefs

88-race losing streak stopped with win

LONG POND, Pa. (AP) — Ricky Rudd went to the lead with 24 laps remaining and hung on to break an 88-race losing streak dating to 1998 by winning the Pocono 500.

It was Rudd's first victory in nearly 1 1/2 seasons since he sold his own team and began driving for Robert Yates Racing.

Jeff Gordon, who passed Rudd on the last lap a week earlier in Brooklyn, Mich., finished second.

Third was Rudd's teammate, Dale Jarrett, followed by Sterling Marlin and Mark Martin.

Point Given trainer suspended 60 days

ARCADIA, Calif. (AP) — Bob Baffert, who trained Point Given to victories in the Preakness and Belmont stakes, was suspended for 60 days because of a positive morphine test on one of his horses.

The suspension runs June 25 to Aug. 24.

The Baffert-trained Nautical Look tested positive for morphine after winning a race at Hollywood Park in May 2000.

Miami wins second title in three years

OMAHA (AP) — After winning their second College World Series in three years, the Miami Hurricanes couldn't help but talk about the lowest point of their season.

"Going back to when we were swept by Cal State-Fullerton at home, I'm sure people were wondering what was going on at Miami, including myself," coach Jim Morris said after the Hurricanes beat Stanford 12-1 to win the national title on Saturday.

Miami lost to Cal State-Fullerton on April 1, completing a three-game sweep that left the Hurricanes 25-9 and wondering just how good they were.

"After that weekend against Fullerton, we were kind of down," said first baseman Kevin Brown, who hit three home runs and had 10 RBIs in four College World Series games. "But we came together and Coach had a meeting and kind of told us what we needed to do to get back to Omaha."

Morris said his team needed to take a cue from its conqueror — focus on fundamentals and play as a team.

"I think it was a wakeup call for us," Morris said. "I didn't think we played that badly, but Fullerton played the game the way it was supposed to be played. I told our guys, 'That club will be in Omaha. If you want to be in Omaha, you need to play like that.'"

Morris was right. Cal State-Fullerton ended up making it to the College World Series, and Miami took his message to heart. Center fielder Charlton Jimerson, the series' Most Outstanding Player, also called a meeting of his teammates and the Hurricanes (53-12) went 28-3 the rest of the way.

"We talked about some things we needed to talk about," Brown said. "We got a lot of those issues taken care of and it worked out."

Royals' winning streak stopped at five games

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Richie Sexson and Henry Blanco homered and Ronnie Belliard had a two-run double as the Milwaukee Brewers overcame the record-setting pitching of Blake Stein to beat the Kansas City Royals 5-2 Sunday.

Stein (3-5) lost despite setting a club record with eight consecutive strikeouts, starting with Sexson to end the first inning. Stein then struck out the side in both the second and third before fanning Mark Loretta to start the fourth.

The streak ended when Geoff Jenkins lined out to second.

Sexson followed with the first Milwaukee hit — a 425-foot home run — to tie it at 1.

Stein pitched 5 2-3 innings and struck out a career-high 11, three short of Mark Gubicza's club record against Minnesota on Aug. 27, 1988. Stein, whose previous strikeout high was 10 on June 8, 1998, had that many after four innings.

The Brewers snapped Kansas City's winning streak at a season-high five games.

Stein was knocked out of the game

in the sixth when Devon White doubled with two out to score Loretta, who singled with one out and moved to second on Sexson's two-out single.

Doug Henry relieved Stein and gave up a two-run double to Belliard for a 4-1 Milwaukee lead.

Jamey Wright (5-5) allowed solo homers to Joe Randa, leading off the second inning, and A.J. Hinch in the seventh that cut Milwaukee's lead to 4-2. He was pulled following Luis Alicea's one-out double in the seventh.

Curtis Leskanic pitched the ninth for his seventh save in 11 chances.

Blanco hit his first home run of the season to make it 5-2 in the seventh off Henry.

Notes: The Brewers have lost six of eight home games, but are 20-14 at Miller Park. ... RHP Brandon Kolb, recalled Saturday from Triple-A Indianapolis, was 1-3 with a 3.38 ERA in 21 relief appearances. ... Stein became the 13th Kansas City pitcher to strike out 10 or more in a game. ... The Brewers are 12-1 in day games at home.

Rockies sweep at Cincinnati

CINCINNATI (AP) — Laying weary heads on hotel pillows shortly before sunrise, the Colorado Rockies had good reason to dread the weekend ahead.

They were already drained when they arrived in Cincinnati early Friday for three games in a ballpark where they'd never had much success.

Two days later, the Rockies were really dragging — and whooping and hugging, too. A 4-3 victory over the Reds on Sunday completed a three-game sweep in Cincinnati, the first in franchise history.

"We had a lot of energy these last three days," manager Buddy Bell said. "We were able to overcome some things."

Their reputation, for one.

The Rockies made a modest break with their legacy of losing away from Coors Field. They piled up six homers and 20 runs against a Reds team that was revved up by the return of three regulars: Ken Griffey Jr., Barry Larkin and Aaron Boone.

Colorado has won six of its last nine road games, moving four games above .500 for the first time since April 25. The Rockies still have a losing road record — 15-16 — but no longer feel like losers when they leave home.

"This is a totally different team than in the past," said Brian Bohanon (4-4),

who allowed three hits in six innings. "We've shown we can win on the road. Now we've got to do it consistently."

Of course, every visiting team leaves Cinergy Field feeling the same way. The Reds have the majors' worst home record at 7-24, losing 19 of their last 21 games at their reconfigured field.

When the Rockies were waking on Friday, the Reds were daydreaming about the good times ahead with their stars back in the lineup. For the first time in weeks, a sense of optimism washed through the clubhouse.

Three losses swept it right away. Instead of a turnaround, the Reds took another tumble. They extended their losing streak to a season-high six games and dropped a season-high 16 1/2 games out of first in the NL Central.

They can't stop the losing and the booing.

"Bad luck, bad plays, bad karma. There's a lot of negativity in this city surrounding this ballclub right now," Larkin said. "I think it affects the players. There's just a lot of negative stuff. Maybe that's why we play better on the road."

"I know that frustration is rampant in this clubhouse right now. I can't remember the last time I heard any music in here. I'm not sure if this jukebox even works any more."

Griffey went 4-for-12 in the series with three fly balls to the warning track, a sign that his swing is nearly back. It wasn't nearly enough.

"Everything that's happening to us is a function of not hitting," manager Bob Boone said. "We almost have to play mistake-free. Our pitchers don't have the latitude to just throw the ball over the plate."

Elmer Dessens (5-4) gave up a solo homer to Todd Helton and a three-run homer to Larry Walker.

The Rockies let Cincinnati back in the game by dropping two fly balls and walking Griffey with the bases loaded to force in a run, but they had just enough energy left to finish off a flat-tired team.

"We're tired. I know I'm tired," said Walker, who drove in seven runs in the last two games. "Guys were pushed to the limit this series, and we played quite well."

Notes: Bohanon, disabled by a sore elbow from May 8-25, is 3-0 with a 3.47 ERA in five appearances since his return. ... Neifi Perez singled in his last at-bat, extending his hitting streak to 15 games, matching his career high. ... It was the 11th road series sweep in Rockies history. ... The last 12 runs off Dessens have come on homers. ... The Rockies' infield shift took two hits away from Griffey during the series.

Poor putting on 18th extends play another day at Tulsa

TULSA (AP) — Two feet away from claiming the U.S. Open, Retief Goosen buckled under the stifling pressure and missed a short par putt on the 18th green that tied him with Mark Brooks and set up a playoff today.

Goosen, trying to go wire-to-wire Sunday for his first major championship, needed only two putts from 12 feet away. Instead, he rapped the first one 2 feet past the hole, and the par putt coming back missed badly to the right.

Brooks earlier three-putted the 18th from 40 feet to make bogey and seemingly blow his chance to win the U.S. Open.

"I don't know what happened on the second putt," Goosen said. "It's golf, you know. Tomorrow is another day."

There should have never been a tomorrow in this case. Instead, the U.S. Open will be decided by an 18-hole playoff, the first in seven years.

It wasn't quite as wild as Jean Van de Velde taking triple bogey to squander the British Open at Carnoustie in 1999, but it was no less shocking.

Lost in the drama was Tiger Woods, who was long gone and his incredible streak of four straight majors ended.

He shot a 69 and finished in a tie for 12th. Asked if it was the most disappointing he had been after a major in a

long time, Woods said, "Considering I won the last four, yes."

Goosen's three-putt — he had to make a 3-footer for that — gave him a 71 and left him and Brooks at 276. Brooks closed with a 70.

It will be the first 18-hole playoff in the U.S. Open since 1994, when Ernie Els defeated Loren Roberts and Colin Montgomerie at Oakmont.

Save some sympathy for Stewart Cink.

He was tied for the lead with Goosen at 5 under when they came to the 18th, where no major champion at Southern Hills has ever made a par or better.

Cink figured his hopes for an Open victory were doomed when he missed the green long, chipped to 15 feet and the par putt just slid by the edge of the cup on the left.

He could have marked, but it's a professional courtesy to let the likely champion — Goosen looked like a lock — have the final putt.

Cink proceeded to push the 18-inch

bogey putt. A few minutes later, that cost him a spot on the playoff.

Brooks, who won the '96 PGA Championship in a sudden-death playoff, and Goosen will return to Southern Hills on Monday for one final round of stroke play.

If nothing else, it proved that Woods doesn't have to win a major to produce such memorable moments.

Goosen will have a chance to redeem his gaffe, or join a long list of golfers whose championships slipped away because of missed short putts — Scott Hoch in the 1989 Masters and Doug Sanders in the 1970 British Open are the most famous.

Rocco Mediate, in a four-way tie going into the back nine, bogeyed three of the next five holes and finished with a 72, good for fourth place at 278. No else broke par.

Ten players were separated by 10 shots when the final round started under hot, sunny skies at Southern Hills. By the time the leaders reached the

back nine, it was a three-man race — just not the three anyone expected.

Woods failed to provide many theatrics other than reaching the 642-yard fifth hole — the longest in U.S. Open history — in two shots. He finished at 283, ending his streak of 40 consecutive stroke-play tournaments under par.

For the sixth time in his career, Phil Mickelson was within two strokes of the lead going into the final round of a major. So much for experience. He was hanging around until hitting his ninth tee shot toward the first fairway, then three-putting from 4 feet on No. 13.

"I'm not going to beat myself up over this," Mickelson said after a 75. Sergio Garcia was poised to become the youngest U.S. Open champion since Bobby Jones in 1923. Instead, the 21-year-old Spaniard went 12 holes before making a birdie and knocked himself out of the hunt by missing a 3-foot bogey putt on No. 9.

David Duval had an outside chance

until making bogey on the first hole and going downhill from there.

He played the weekend in 5 over, giving him his fourth straight top-10 in a U.S. Open, but nowhere closer to his first major.

With those three wasting their chances and Woods already on his way home, the massive gallery sought out the only guys who seemed capable of handling Southern Hills.

And what a finish they provided.

Brooks surged into the lead with two birdies on the back nine, two big breaks out of the trees and hardly any mistakes until the end.

He finally surrendered on the 18th, knocking his 40-foot birdie putt 8 feet by the hole, and hanging the next one on the right side of the lip.

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