

Royal's 'new' catcher leads team to win

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — When the Kansas City Royals traded for veteran catcher Brent Mayne, they said it was as much for his experience behind the plate as for his offensive potential. Mayne, acquired from Colorado on Sunday for right-hander Mac Suzuki and minor-league catcher Sal Fasano, delivered both in his first appearance with his old team.

He went 3-for-4 and matched a career high with four RBIs and also helped starter Dan Reichert work through two rough spots in the Royals' 12-5 win over the Detroit Tigers on Tuesday night.

"I think Danny sometimes gets a couple of outs and relaxes a little bit and loses a little bit of focus," Royals manager Tony Muser said. "I thought

for the first time, Brent handled him great."

Mayne, who was the Royals' first-round draft pick in 1989 and caught for the Royals from 1990-95, was as much a stranger to his old ballpark as to his new teammates.

"It's not deja vu at all. Everything's different," he said. "There's air conditioning in the dugout, the clubhouse is different, I don't know anybody, the seats are different, we've got grass now, the fences look a lot shorter. It's just a different place to me."

Raul Ibanez and Carlos Beltran drove in three runs each, Jermaine Dye scored three runs and Joe Randa doubled twice for the Royals.

"I'll take that every time," said Reichert (7-6), who gave up five runs

— all in two-out situations — on five hits with two walks and four strikeouts. "I've never lost with 12 runs behind me."

Mayne hit an RBI single in the Royals' four-run second inning, and chased Tigers starter Willie Blair (0-2) with a three-run, two-out double for a 7-2 lead in the third.

"They put the ball in play and found holes on Blair," Tigers manager Phil Garner said. "Some of his pitches were decent pitches."

Shane Halter and Bobby Higginson each had two RBIs for the Tigers. Halter's two-run homer in the second inning was the 106th homer — most in the American League — given up by the Royals this season.

The Royals led 7-5 when they broke

it open with five runs — two with help from Detroit — in the seventh off relievers Dave Borkowski and Matt Anderson.

Ibanez hit a two-run double off Anderson with the bases loaded, and Beltran followed with an RBI single. Tigers catcher Rob Fick was off the bag for the throw home on Donnie Sadler's bases-loaded grounder to first, allowing Ibanez to score, and Beltran scored on Anderson's second wild pitch of the inning.

Kansas City opened with five straight hits: a double by Randa, a single by Dye, Ibanez's RBI single, a two-run double by Beltran and Mayne's run-scoring single.

Blair gave up seven hits in 2-2-3 innings, walking two and striking out

one. "You have to be a closer every inning," Reichert said. "You get those first two outs, you've got to go on and get that third out and close out the inning."

Notes: Detroit 1B Tony Clark stole a hit from Mayne to open the sixth inning, diving to his right to snag a sinking line drive into the gap. ... The Royals called up right-hander Jeff Austin, their first-round pick and the fourth pick overall in 1998, from Triple-A Omaha on Tuesday. Austin, 2-7 with a 7.76 ERA in 19 games at Omaha, pitched a perfect ninth. To make room on the roster, Kansas City optioned C Hector Ortiz to Omaha. ... Jermaine Dye stole his seventh base, matching his previous career total.

sports briefs

Former KU star awaits draft day call

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — After four up tempo seasons at Kansas, about all Kenny Gregory can do now is wait and wait some more.

"I'm basically waiting to see what happens," Gregory said Tuesday at his mother's home prior to the NBA draft on Wednesday night. "There's no use worrying about something you don't have any control over."

Gregory is considered an in-between height at 6-foot-5, caught in the no man's land between point guard and shooting guard in a league where 6-11 men sometimes bring the ball upcourt.

Some mock drafts have Gregory going in the second round. Other projections don't have his name being mentioned in the two rounds.

Gregory said he wasn't losing any sleep over possibly going through the free-agent route.

Gregory averaged 11.4 points a game in 136 games with the Jayhawks. The former Ohio Associated Press Mr. Basketball at Columbus' Independence High School was selected honorable mention All American as a senior.

NHL great retires from Avalanche

DENVER (AP) — After 22 seasons in the NHL, Ray Bourque announced his retirement 17 days after hoisting the Stanley Cup with tears streaming down his face.

Bourque, 40, the highest-scoring defenseman in NHL history, was a five-time winner of the Norris Trophy as the league's best defenseman and played in a record 19 consecutive All-Star games.

He played for 21 seasons in Boston, but requested a trade to a contender in March 2000 in hopes of winning the Stanley Cup. He finally got it when the Colorado Avalanche beat the New Jersey Devils in Game 7 on June 9.

Although Bourque's stint in Colorado lasted just 15 months, his No. 77 jersey will be retired and will hang from the rafters of Pepsi Center.

Bourque's jersey is the first to be retired in the six-year history of the Avalanche and the fifth in the history of the franchise, which originated as the Quebec Nordiques.

On Tuesday night, Bruins president Harry Sinden said that the team will also retire Bourque's number next season.



Wimbledon still has star power

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — How long will it take Venus Williams to get over her embarrassing first-round loss a month ago in the French Open?

"I don't think I'll ever get over it," said Williams, the defending Wimbledon champion, after beating Japan's Shinobu Asagoe 6-2, 6-3 in Tuesday's first round at the All England Club. It was Asagoe's ninth straight first-round loss this season. Austrian Barbara Schett.

Much like her season so far, Williams was on and off against Asagoe.

She started well on Centre Court, where she defeated Lindsay Davenport in the final a year ago, but was forced to rally from 1-3 in the second set by winning five straight games.

She hit several strings of winners, but then just as quickly dumped routine shots into the net.

Though she has won two WTA tournaments this season, Williams stumbled in the two Grand Slams.

She had the loss at Roland Garros and a 6-1, 6-1 battering by Martina Hingis in the semifinals of the Australian Open — the worst loss of her ca-

reer. She denies buckling under the weight of expectations as she defends her first of two Grand Slam titles. But the pressure must be there.

Williams might not be playing the greatest tennis of her career, but that was the same story a year ago, when she missed the first four months of the season with a wrist injury.

She then won Wimbledon and five more consecutive titles — including the U.S. Open and Olympic gold in singles and doubles — and 35 straight matches.

Goodland graduate overcomes ankle injury

Jessica Hays, a 2000 Goodland High School graduate, overcame strained ligaments and tendons in her left ankle to finish 28 out of 51 competitors in goat tying at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo.

In goat tying, the goat is tied to a rope at one end of an arena. The contestant's time begins when she crosses the starting line at the other end of the arena at a full run.

The contestant gets to the goat, dismounts running, catches the goat and ties any three legs. The time stops when the rider throws their hand in the air, but the goat must stay tied for five seconds.

Hays recorded her best time in the third round after removing a soft cast for competition.

Her leg was originally thought to be broken.

Hays will be a sophomore at Northwestern Oklahoma State in Alva. She was just one of four freshman from Northwestern who qualified for the finals.

"When you get to the finals, you realize what our student-athletes have accomplished," said Northwestern coach Tim Kold.

"There is a lot of pressure there — cameras in your face, seeing yourself on the big screen, all of the hoopla with opening ceremonies against the best of the best. It takes a toll on the kids."

"We had four true freshman qualify ... and that in itself speaks volumes about our program and where it is heading."

"It's a pretty big deal to make it as a freshman," Hays said. "I'm excited to get the opportunity."

The event was held June 11-16.



Hays

Broncos player trial continues

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. (AP) — A doctor knew he was providing diet pills for Denver Broncos linebacker Bill Romanowski when he wrote prescriptions for other people, Romanowski's lawyer told jurors.

Romanowski, 35, is accused of obtaining the appetite suppressant phentermine from prescriptions written for his wife, Julie during the 1998 season.

Defense lawyer Harvey Steinberg argued that Dr. Randall Snook knew the pills were for Romanowski and was trying to shield the athlete from attention.

Julie Romanowski is charged with eight counts of illegally obtaining diet pills. Her trial is Aug. 14.

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