

# Rockies blank Padres

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Pedro Astacio’s best game of the year bailed out the staggering Colorado Rockies. It probably boosted his trade value, too. Astacio was brilliant Thursday, matching his career best with a three-hitter for his first shutout in more than four years as the Rockies beat the San Diego Padres 4-0.

All-Stars Todd Helton and Larry Walker homered for the Rockies, who snapped a five-game losing streak, won for just the third time in 16 games, avoided a three-game sweep and dropped the Padres back into last place in the NL West.

All that seemed secondary as Astacio’s performance unfolded. The Rockies have had talks about moving Astacio for another starter plus a quality position player. Astacio (6-9) can be inconsistent, but he had little

trouble in winning for the first time in five decisions.

He hadn’t won since June 3, when he three-hit San Francisco at Coors Field, and he hadn’t won on the road since April 22 at Arizona. Astacio also beat the Padres in San Diego on April 17.

Astacio said he likes pitching for the Rockies, but knows he has no control over whether he stays or goes.

Astacio allowed just four baserunners from the fifth inning on in pitching his first shutout since May 1, 1997, at Philadelphia, when he was with Los Angeles. He has 10 shutouts and 26 complete games in his career.

Astacio opened with three perfect innings before Damian Jackson doubled leading off the fourth. The Padres had runners on second and third and two outs, but Mike Darr grounded out. Astacio retired the side in both the

sixth and seventh.

Catcher Adam Melhuse said Astacio established his fastball and got first-pitch strikes.

San Diego’s Mark Kotsay hit an infield single leading off the ninth, and Phil Nevin reached on shortstop Neifi Perez’s one-out error, but Astacio got Darr to ground into a game-ending double play.

Helton and Walker remained tied for the team lead with their 26th homers.

Helton, scheduled to make his first All-Star start Tuesday night at Safeco Field in Seattle, hit a two-run shot to left with two outs in the first off Adam Eaton (8-5). Juan Pierre was aboard on a leadoff single.

Walker hit a one-out shot to left-center in the third. Todd Walker made it 4-0 in the sixth with a single that scored Jeff Cirillo.

# Tigers complete sweep of Royals

DETROIT (AP)—Steve Sparks allowed five hits in eight innings, and Damion Easley hit a two-run triple as the Detroit Tigers beat Kansas City 7-1 Thursday night for a three-game sweep of the Royals.

Robert Fick homered for the Tigers, who had lost eight straight before the Royals arrived.

The Royals have lost four straight after a six-game winning streak that included a three-game sweep of the Tigers last week in Kansas City. The

Royals hadn’t been swept in a three-game series at Detroit since Sept. 4-6, 1989.

Sparks (6-3) retired his first 11 batters until Rey Sanchez doubled in the fourth. The knuckleballer had a 6-0 lead before Mike Sweeney’s run-scoring single in the sixth.

Kris Wilson (2-1), making his fourth career start, gave up six runs on 11 hits in 4 1-3 innings.

Bobby Higginson’s two-out single and a pair of walks loaded the bases in

the first for Shane Halter, who hit a broken-bat chopper to the right side that scored a run when Royals second baseman Donnie Sadler got to the ball but couldn’t make a throw.

Easley hit his two-run triple in the second and scored on Higginson’s grounder to make it 4-0.

The Royals, limited to one hit through five innings, broke through in the sixth when Sadler singled, Rey Sanchez walked and Sweeney hit his RBI single.

# baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	50	33	.602	—
Boston	50	34	.595	1/2
Toronto	40	45	.471	11
Baltimore	39	45	.464	11 1/2
Tampa Bay	25	60	.294	26
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	52	32	.619	—
Cleveland	47	35	.573	4
Chicago	39	43	.476	12
Detroit	35	46	.432	15 1/2
Kansas City	34	50	.405	18
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	61	23	.726	—
Oakland	41	43	.488	20
Anaheim	39	45	.464	22
Texas	34	50	.405	27
Thursday's Games				
Anaheim 5, Oakland 2				
Detroit 7, Kansas City 1				
Toronto 7, Tampa Bay 4				
Boston 5, Cleveland 4				
N.Y. Yankees 6, Baltimore 3				
Minnesota 12, Chicago White Sox 2				
Texas 14, Seattle 2				
Friday's Games				
Atlanta (Burkett 6-6) at Boston (Arrojo 2-2), 5:05 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Tavarez 6-5) at Detroit (Holt 6-7), 5:05 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets (Leiter 4-7) at N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 8-4), 5:05 p.m.				
St. Louis (Morris 10-4) at Cleveland (Nagy 2-3), 5:05 p.m.				

5:05 p.m.	Philadelphia (Daal 9-2) at Baltimore (Roberts 6-7), 5:05 p.m.
	Houston (Miller 10-3) at Kansas City (Reicher 7-6), 6:05 p.m.
	Anaheim (Ortiz 6-6) at Colorado (Hampton 9-4), 7:05 p.m.
	Oakland (Mulder 8-6) at Arizona (Anderson 2-3), 8:05 p.m.
	Seattle (Garcia 9-1) at Los Angeles (Brown 7-3), 8:10 p.m.
Saturday's Games	
	N.Y. Mets (Appier 5-8) at N.Y. Yankees (Mussina 9-7), 11:15 a.m.
	St. Louis (Benes 6-6) at Cleveland (Sabathia 7-3), 11:15 a.m.
	Seattle (Abbott 7-2) at Los Angeles (Adams 4-2), 2:05 p.m.
	Atlanta (Burkett 6-6) at Boston (Nomo 7-4), 3:05 p.m.
	Chicago Cubs (Lieber 10-4) at Detroit (Blair 0-3), 3:05 p.m.
	Philadelphia (Figueroa 1-0) at Baltimore (Johnson 7-5), 5:05 p.m.
	Anaheim (Washburn 6-4) at Colorado (Neagle 6-2), 6:05 p.m.
	Houston (Redding 1-0) at Kansas City (Byrne 1-2), 6:05 p.m.
	Oakland (Hudson 8-5) at Arizona (Schilling 12-3), 8:05 p.m.
Sunday's Games	
	Atlanta at Boston, 11:05 a.m.
	Montreal at Toronto, 11:05 a.m.
	Chicago Cubs at Detroit, 11:05 a.m.
	St. Louis at Cleveland, 11:05 a.m.
	Florida at Tampa Bay, 11:15 a.m.
	Philadelphia at Baltimore, 11:35 a.m.
	Cincinnati at Minnesota, 12:05 p.m.

Houston at Kansas City, 12:05 p.m.				
Anaheim at Colorado, 1:05 p.m.				
Seattle at Los Angeles, 2:10 p.m.				
Oakland at Arizona, 2:35 p.m.				
Texas at San Diego, 3 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees, 6:05 p.m.				
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	48	36	.571	—
Atlanta	47	37	.559	1
Florida	42	43	.494	6 1/2
New York	37	49	.430	12
Montreal	36	49	.424	12 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	49	34	.590	—
Houston	45	38	.542	4
St. Louis	42	41	.506	7
Milwaukee	40	43	.482	9
Cincinnati	33	51	.393	16 1/2
Pittsburgh	32	51	.386	17
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	51	33	.607	—
Los Angeles	47	38	.553	4 1/2
San Francisco	45	40	.529	6 1/2
Colorado	39	45	.464	12
San Diego	39	46	.459	12 1/2
Thursday's Games				
Cincinnati 7, Pittsburgh 1				
Montreal 9, Florida 6				
St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 2				
Colorado 4, San Diego 0				
Chicago Cubs 13, N.Y. Mets 4				
Atlanta 9, Philadelphia 5				
Houston 5, Arizona 1				
San Francisco 3, Los Angeles 2				

## sports briefs

### Swim team led by individual efforts

The Goodland swim team swam at Holyoke, Colo., on June 23 and Wray, Colo., on June 30. As a team, Goodland placed eight at Holyoke and sixth at Wray.

Dani Bedore swept her races at Wray and won two of her three events at Holyoke.

Daniel Blake won all three of his races at Wray.

The team’s next meet is Saturday in Colby.

**Team Results from Wray**  
Wray 250, Colby 248 1/2, Burlington 224 1/2, Holyoke 171, Oberlin 141, Goodland 106, St. Francis 91, Limon 88, Oakley 7, Flagler 6.

**8 and under boys**  
Riley Oharah: 50 yard freestyle, second, 1:00.95; 25 yard freestyle, fourth, 27.03; 25 yard backstroke, fifth, 41.63.

**9-10 Boys**  
Erick Roeder: 25 yard backstroke, sixth, 25.64; 25 yard butterfly, fourth, 25.79; 100 yard individual medley, sixth, 2:10.44.

**11-12 girls**  
Dani Bedore: 50 yard backstroke, first, 32.20; 50 yard butterfly, first, 1:24.27.

**11-12 boys**  
Nathan Linin: 50 yard butterfly, third, 50.78; 50 yard breaststroke, third, 52.59, 100 yard individual medley, fourth, 2:02.50.

Garret Smith: 100 yard freestyle, fourth, 1:34.45; 50 yard freestyle, fourth, 42.57; 50 yard butterfly, fifth, 1:01.07.

**13-14 boys**  
Daniel Blake  
200 yard freestyle, first, 2:29.12; 100 yard freestyle, first, 1:04.53; 100 yard breaststroke, first, 1:25.75.

**15-18 boys**  
Daron Roeder: 100 yard backstroke, first, 1:15.12; 100 yard butterfly, second, 1:17.50; 200 yard individual medley, second, 2:53.26.

**Jordan Bedore**  
100 yard freestyle, third, 1:03.91; 50 yard freestyle, second, 26.79; 100 yard breaststroke, third, 1:24.78.

**9-10 mixed**  
100 yard freestyle relay: Erik Roeder, Chelsey Horney, Hannah Blake, Darrick Ihrig, fourth, 1:32.57.

100 yard medley relay: Horney, Erik Roeder, Hannah Blake, Julica Bonsall, fourth, 1:42.91.

**11-12 mixed**  
200 yard freestyle relay: Dani Bedore, Nathan Linin, Halli Stone, Garrett Smith, second, 2:37.34.

200 yard medley relay: Dani Bedore, Halli Stone, Nathan Linin, Garrett Smith, second, 3:15.24.

**Team Results from Holyoke**  
Holyoke, 283, Burlington, 226, Wray 212, Colby 180, Oberlin 103, St. Francis 81, Limon 66, Goodland 61, Flagler, 21.

**9-10 Boys**  
Erick Roeder: 25 yard breaststroke, fourth, 23.72.

**11-12 girls**  
Dani Bedore: 100 yard freestyle, second, 1:13.37; 50 yard freestyle, first, 31.50; 50 yard butterfly, first, 37.16.

**11-12 boys**  
Nathan Linin: 100 yard freestyle, sixth, 1:43.40; 50 yard butterfly, first, 31.50; 50 yard butterfly, first, 37.16.

**13-14 boys**  
Daniel Blake: 100 yard freestyle, first, 1:06.35; 100 yard backstroke, fourth, 1:28.59; 100 yard breaststroke, second, 1:27.90.

**15-18 boys**  
Daron Roeder: 100 yard backstroke, first, 1:16.44; 100 yard butterfly, second, 1:14.85; 200 yard individual medley, second, 2:52.69.

**11-12 mixed**  
200 yard freestyle relay: Bedore, Amber Webster, Jessica Lu, Linin, second, 2:41.63.

# Yankee flavor is sour for Mariner faithful

George Steinbrenner’s plans for world domination continues....

Tell me how it can be that the team with the third best record in the American League can have seven, count them, seven all-stars for Tuesday’s All-Star game in Seattle.

The New York Yankees have the seven players in the game despite having only a half game lead over the injury-ravaged Boston Red Sox in the AL East. Manager Joe Torre said that he wasn’t going to apologize for selecting almost a third of his team to the game. Hey Joe, how about you apologize to Seattle, which only has six players in the big game, despite having a record 12 games better than the Yankees?

All I can hope for now is that commissioner Bud Selig forces the Yanks roster to relocate to Tahiti and replaces them with a combination of Royals and Rockies players. That would pretty much guarantee that they wouldn’t win their fourth straight World Series.

Speaking of the Rockies ... never mind, I don’t want to even touch that underachieving team. Last year the Rocks had a great bullpen and horrible starting pitching but finished a game above .500 for the first time in years. So the team went out and signed Mike Hampton and Denny Nagel to give them good starting pitching, but now the bullpen is horrible. Maybe someday this team will figure out how to win consistently, but until then I’ll continue to count the days until Kansas State kicks off.

I’ve decided to make it official. I’m declaring for next season’s NBA draft this year. Granted, there aren’t a lot of teams in the league that need an 5’-11” point guard who can’t shoot, but you can’t ignore what I can bring to the table.

I’ve never played a lick of college ball, I’m not legally able to drink, and there are serious questions about my game, all of which seems to be a requirement in today’s draft.

It’s all about potential and I have plenty of that—at least that’s what my parents have been telling me my entire life. With a good off-season, I should

## lester bolen

- more or lester

be able to at least sneak into the first round.

The Sacramento Kings have a big-time free agent with the ability to score, rebound, play defense and be a team leader. The team that acquires his services can count on an extremely consistent player who also has the is one of the top defensive stoppers in the league.

This free agent King would have to be Chris Webber, right? Wrong, it’s the Kings other free agent, Doug Christie. Christie, acquired from the Toronto Raptors before last season, transformed the Kings from a flashy, high-powered offensive force with no defense, to a flashy, high powered offensive force that was one of the league’s best defensive teams.

If not for the Lakers dominating run through the post season, the team could have easily played for, and possibly won, the NBA championship. Webber is important to the Kings future but maybe not any more important than Christie. If the team signs both players and Mike Bibby continues his steady play at the point guard position the Kings could make a serious run at...second place behind the Lakers.

And finally...early More or Lester NFL reports puts the Ravens back in the Super Bowl against the Rams. Unlike last year, when the Giants were completely overwhelmed by the Ravens defense, the Rams will be able to score just enough points to win. Final score Rams 24, Ravens 17.

**Questions? Comments? Complaints? Send email to moreor-lester@fan.com.**

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