

Dusters suffer losses

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Diamond Dusters girls' 14-and-under fast-pitch softball team traveled to area tournaments and played at home in June and July, finishing a heart-breaking season with a 3-12 record.

The Dusters played their first game on June 2 in Norton, where they lost to Hays.

The team fared better in two home games against Wray on June 6 in which they won 15-3 and 34-9. They defeated Colby on June 16 at a tournament in Hill City.

They finished fifth in the regional tournament July 7 and 8 in Hill City, beating Norton 6-5 in their first game but losing to Plainville 11-1, Colby 12-0 and the Hays Strikers II 24-5.

The team lost their final home game

July 11 to Colby 17-11 in a match that ended early due to rain.

The team started late with their fund-raisers, Coach Terry Jones said, and didn't have as many practices as their opponents. The girls started the season with a lot of key injuries, he said, and just ran out of time.

"The girls didn't have a great season," Jones said, "but they played as hard as they could."

Canseco homers for kids

CHICAGO (AP) — The four young cancer patients stood near the on-deck circle during batting practice, meeting Chicago White Sox players and collecting autographs.

But the best gift of all came from Jose Canseco.

After telling the youngsters — all under age 16 — that he hoped he could hit a home run for them, Canseco homered in his first two at-bats Wednesday night as Chicago beat the Kansas City Royals 7-6.

"That's pretty impressive," teammate Ray Durham said, his eyes widening in amazement when told of Canseco's chat with the kids.

"If I said that and went out there, I think I'd be 0-for-4, 0-for-5. To say you'll hit a home run for someone and go out and do it, it had to have meant a lot. I'm pretty sure Jose's got fans for life."

But that wasn't what it was about. Canseco wasn't trying to be Babe Ruth, who — if legend is correct — once hit a home run to fulfill a promise to a sick child.

It was Cancer Survivors Night at Comiskey Park, and Canseco wanted to brighten the kids' day.

He didn't make any promises, even telling the two girls and two boys to watch batting practice just in case, because he was sure to put one over the fence then.

"I said, 'Hopefully, I can hit a couple

home runs for you guys,'" Canseco said.

He didn't waste any time making good on his word. With two on and two outs in the first inning, he lofted an 0-2 pitch just over the left-field wall for a three-run homer that tied it at 3.

And Canseco wasn't done. He hit a two-run homer in the third inning, giving the White Sox a 5-3 lead.

"The couple of home runs were for them," Canseco said. "Whether it was coincidental, whether it was luck or not, who knows? But like I said, I'm glad and happy for them it actually happened."

Canseco's homers gave him 454 in his career, moving him past Carl Yastrzemski (452) for 22nd on the all-time list. The five RBIs gave Canseco 1,378, passing Johnny Bench for 57th on the career chart.

The crowd of 15,620 gave Canseco standing ovations when he came to the plate in the fifth and seventh innings. He struck out both times, but fans applauded again as he walked back to the dugout.

"My swing feels pretty good, I'm healthy. When I'm making good contact, the ball's going out," said Canseco, who has eight homers since joining the White Sox on June 21.

The Royals rallied with two outs in the eighth, cutting the lead to 7-6 on Carlos Beltran's solo homer. Mike

Sweeney and Raul Ibanez followed with walks, but Keith Foulke got the last four outs for his 25th save — and ninth in a row.

Sweeney, batting .500 against the White Sox this season, drove in two runs, and Joe Randa, Dee Brown and Gregg Zaun added RBIs for the Royals.

Chris George, making his second major league start, lasted only three innings. George (0-2) gave up five runs — all on Canseco's homers — and six hits.

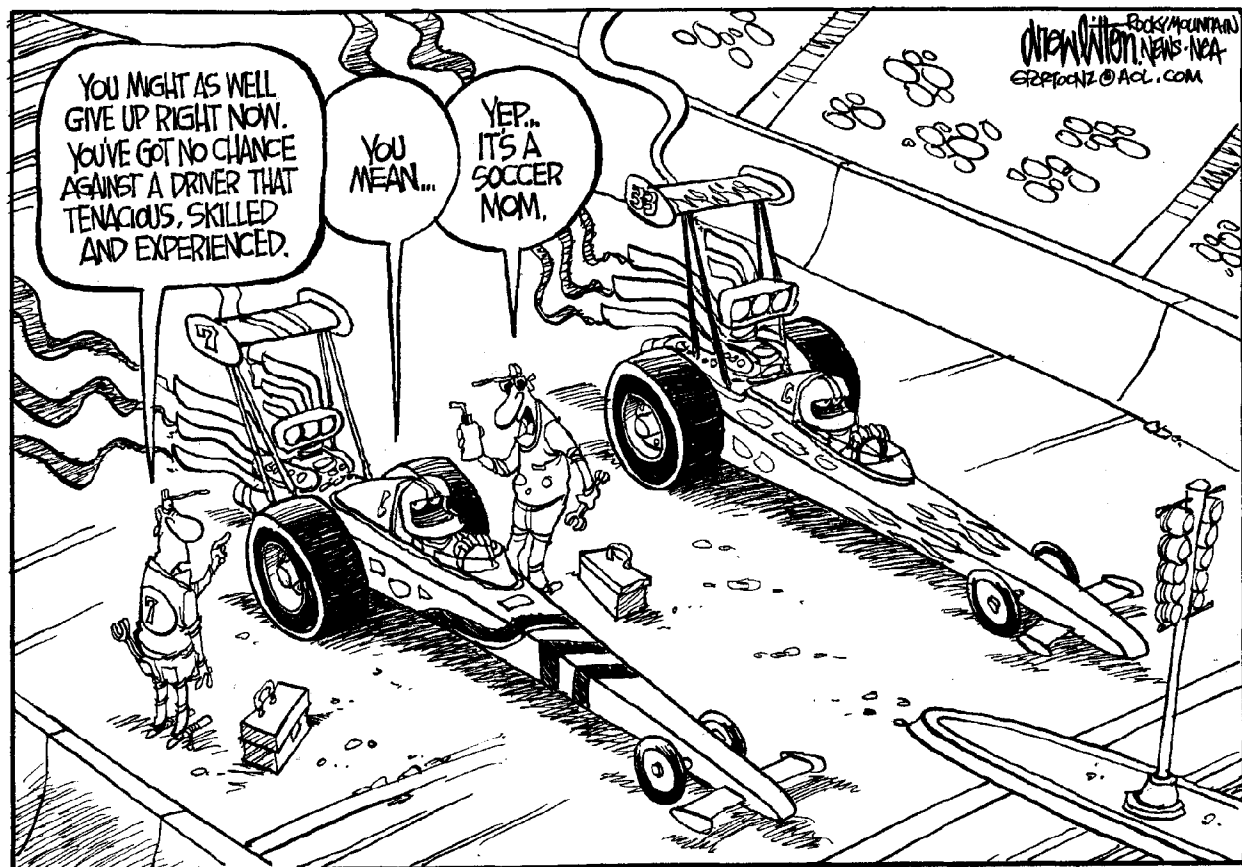
"I used to collect Canseco baseball cards in high school. I tried to put that out of my head," George said.

Royce Clayton also homered for the White Sox, and Dan Wright (1-0) gave up four runs and seven hits in five innings in his first major league start.

"I have to thank the Chicago White Sox for giving me the opportunity," said Canseco, who spent 41 games with the Newark Bears of the independent Atlantic League after being cut by Anaheim in spring training.

"I'm trying to make the most of it right now by trying to help the team as much as possible."

Notes: Canseco has two multihomer games this season and 36 in his career. Durham left with a strained hamstring in the fourth inning and is day to day. Royals 2B Carlos Febles, recalled from Triple-A Omaha before the game, went 3-for-5.



Chiefs worry about heat

RIVER FALLS, Wis. (AP) — The heat-related death of Kory Stringer was especially shocking to the Kansas City Chiefs, who have been trapped in the same sultry weather pattern.

Training in western Wisconsin, the Chiefs are just 83 miles from the Minnesota Vikings' camp in Mankato, Minn. Several Chiefs were treated for dehydration Tuesday, including wide receiver Derrick Mayes.

"That could have happened to any one of us yesterday, it was so hot," said defensive end Eric Hicks.

Said quarterback Trent Green, "I'm going to call my wife and kids and tell them how much I love them."

The Chiefs moved their training camp here 11 years ago to escape the stifling heat and humidity of the Kansas City area.

They cannot remember River Falls being this hot; the heat index Tuesday afternoon was over 100.

"Everybody wants to be tough because that's what the job calls for," Hicks said. "People will have to be smart when it's hot."

Defensive end Duane Clemons, who played with Stringer on the Vikings, said he sat down and wept when he

heard the news Wednesday morning.

"I've got so many memories and they're all just running like a freight train through my mind. I wonder why it's all over," Clemons said.

"It was hard for me to come in this morning and walk into a locker room and not sit there and remember how many times I walked into that Viking locker room and saw my man. How many times we hugged and celebrated after a game, and sat around. Living life and growing together."

Clemons, who will represent the Chiefs at the funeral, was angry that Stringer was allowed to practice on Tuesday after suffering heat distress on Monday.

"I'm not a doctor so I don't know if it could have been avoided," he said. "But when I hear about what happened the day before and what had happened earlier yesterday, there's a part of me that feels it could have been avoided."

"This tragedy has to bring some attention to what we go out there and do. This is real life. These guys aren't machines. You can't replace them like parts. They're human beings you can't ever replace."

Just six days before Stringer's death,

University of Florida freshman Eraste Autin died after collapsing of heat stroke.

Figures from the University of North Carolina indicate that 18 college or high school players have died of heat-related causes since 1995.

"Everybody better start thinking about it," said Clemons. "It's real. I think we've all got to start thinking about this and make sure there's a new standard set so nothing like this ever happens again."

Green said players "draw a fine line" between being tough and being cautious.

"From what I understand, Kory was working through it and trying to tough it out," said Green. "You've got to commend him for that. But when something like this happens it's definitely a wake-up call around the league. It's something that will have to be studied and talked about not only from the NFL but from football across the country."

The Chiefs addressed Stringer's death at the start of their Wednesday morning meeting.

Heavy overnight rains drenched the practice fields and caused the Chiefs to cancel their morning workout.

Rockies lose to Phillies at home

DENVER (AP) — Randy Wolf pitched four-hit ball and the Philadelphia Phillies ended a four-game losing streak, beating the Colorado Rockies 8-1 Wednesday night in a game stopped in the seventh inning because of rain.

The start at Coors Field was delayed one hour, 23 minutes by rain. The game was called two pitches into the seventh after a wait of one hour, 35 minutes.

Wolf (6-10) won for the first time since May 23. He had been 0-6 in nine starts and banished to the bullpen since that last victory.

Wolf struck out four and walked one.

He was credited with his second career complete game.

Doug Glanville, who had been on a 5-for-47 slump, had three hits, including a homer. He drove in two runs and scored three times.

Todd Pratt hit a three-run homer and Pat Burrell also connected for the Phillies.

The Phillies tagged Denny Neagle (6-6) for eight runs and 10 hits in 4 1-3 innings. Neagle, 0-4 in his last six starts, walked six and struck out five to remain winless since June 24.

Colorado lost for the 30th time in its last 39 games.

Burrell gave Philadelphia a 1-0 lead in the first inning with an RBI single.

Glanville's 12th homer, a two-run shot, made it 3-0 in the second.

Alex Ochoa singled and Terry Shumpert doubled with one out in the bottom half, but the Rockies managed only a run on Brent Butler's groundout.

Philadelphia manufactured a run in the fourth inning to lead 4-1. Glanville doubled off the wall, stole third and scored when catcher Ben Petrick's throw sailed into left field.

The Phillies chased Neagle with a four-run fifth. Burrell led off with his 13th home run and Pratt later homered.

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press

| American League | | | | |
|------------------|----|-----|------|--------|
| East Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | |
| New York | 65 | 42 | .608 | — |
| Boston | 60 | 46 | .566 | 4 1/2 |
| Toronto | 50 | 58 | .463 | 15 1/2 |
| Baltimore | 45 | 63 | .417 | 20 1/2 |
| Tampa Bay | 35 | 72 | .327 | 30 |
| Central Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Cleveland | 61 | 45 | .576 | — |
| Minnesota | 60 | 47 | .561 | 1 1/2 |
| Chicago | 52 | 53 | .495 | 8 1/2 |
| Detroit | 46 | 59 | .438 | 14 1/2 |
| Kansas City | 42 | 65 | .393 | 19 1/2 |
| West Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Seattle | 77 | 30 | .720 | — |
| Oakland | 57 | 50 | .533 | 20 |
| Anaheim | 55 | 52 | .514 | 22 |
| Texas | 48 | 59 | .449 | 29 |

| Florida | 54 | 52 | .509 | 5 1/2 |
|------------------|----|-----|------|--------|
| New York | 50 | 58 | .463 | 10 1/2 |
| Montreal | 46 | 62 | .426 | 14 1/2 |
| Central Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Chicago | 62 | 44 | .585 | — |
| Houston | 58 | 49 | .542 | 4 1/2 |
| St. Louis | 54 | 51 | .514 | 7 1/2 |
| Milwaukee | 45 | 60 | .429 | 16 1/2 |
| Cincinnati | 43 | 63 | .406 | 19 |
| Pittsburgh | 41 | 65 | .387 | 21 |
| West Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Los Angeles | 61 | 47 | .565 | — |
| Arizona | 60 | 47 | .561 | 1/2 |
| San Francisco | 59 | 49 | .546 | 2 |
| San Diego | 52 | 55 | .486 | 8 1/2 |
| Colorado | 45 | 62 | .421 | 15 1/2 |

Philadelphia 8, Colorado 1, 6 innings, rain

Today's Games
Philadelphia (Coggin 1-1) at Colorado (Thomson 0-3), 1:05 p.m.
 N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 5-10) at Houston (Astacio 6-13), 6:05 p.m.
 Atlanta (Glavine 10-5) at St. Louis (Smith 3-0), 6:10 p.m.
 Cincinnati (Dessens 6-8) at Los Angeles (Prokopec 6-5), 8:10 p.m.

Friday's Games
 Florida (Penny 7-5) at St. Louis (Morris 12-7), 3:40 p.m., 1st game
 Atlanta (Burkett 8-8) at Milwaukee (Wright 8-7), 6:05 p.m.
 Montreal (Armas Jr. 8-10) at Houston (Reynolds 9-10), 6:05 p.m.
 Florida (Sanchez 2-0) at St. Louis (Benes 6-6), DH, 2nd game

Pittsburgh (J. Anderson 6-10) at Colorado (Hampton 10-8), 7:05 p.m.
 N.Y. Mets (Leiter 6-8) at Arizona (Johnson 13-5), 8:05 p.m.
 Cincinnati (Brower 5-7) at San Diego (Jarvis 8-8), 8:05 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
 St. Louis 4, Atlanta 0
 N.Y. Mets 8, Houston 2, 10 innings
 Florida 5, Milwaukee 4, 10 innings
 Montreal 8, Arizona 5
 San Diego 4, Chicago Cubs 3
 Cincinnati 10, Los Angeles 5
 San Francisco 3, Pittsburgh 1

Wednesday's Games
 Anaheim 4, Boston 2
 Toronto 3, Minnesota 1
 Seattle 7, Detroit 1
 N.Y. Yankees 9, Texas 7
 Cleveland 6, Oakland 5
 Baltimore 6, Tampa Bay 5
Chicago White Sox 7, Kansas City 6
Today's Games
 Anaheim (Rapp 3-9) at Boston (Saberhagen 1-0), 5:05 p.m.
 Seattle (Pineiro 1-0) at Detroit (Pettyjohn 0-3), 5:05 p.m.
 Oakland (Mulder 12-6) at Cleveland (Sabathia 10-3), 5:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Suppan 4-9) at Chicago White Sox (K. Wells 6-6), 6:05 p.m.
Friday's Games
 Texas (Helling 8-8) at Boston (Wakefield 6-6), 5:05 p.m.
 Baltimore (Mercedes 5-12) at Toronto (Escobar 2-5), 5:05 p.m.
 Oakland (Hudson 12-6) at Detroit (Weaver 10-9), 5:05 p.m.
 Seattle (Moyer 11-5) at Cleveland (Colon 10-7), 5:05 p.m.
 Anaheim (Washburn 9-4) at N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 11-6), 5:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Durbin 7-9) at Minnesota (Radke 10-8), 6:05 p.m.
 Tampa Bay (Bierbrodt 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 8-6), 6:05 p.m.

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