

Pitcher gets tenth win against the Royals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — As baseball celebrates the Baltimore Orioles' No. 8 — Cal Ripken — one of the soon-to-be-retired star's teammates was impatiently waiting for No. 10. He finally got it.

Jason Johnson reached double digits in wins for the first time in the majors Monday night in the Orioles' 9-6 victory over the Kansas City Royals.

"That's the place I wanted to get to. Now everything after that is icing on the cake," said Johnson (10-6). "Now I can just go out and have fun, and hopefully win some more games."

Johnson had no-decisions in his last

two starts — both Orioles wins — and hasn't lost since July 15.

The Orioles, who broke a four-game losing streak, could use all the fun Johnson can give them. They're 8-25 since July 1 — 2-24 when he hasn't pitched.

Johnson's success this year — his 3.18 ERA is the third-best in the American League — follows his 1-10 record in 2000.

"It's been a complete turnaround," Orioles manager Mike Hargrove said. "He's been more aggressive in the strike zone, and he's learning to trust his stuff."

Johnson gave up two unearned runs in Kansas City's three-run third inning, but a five-run fifth — capped by Ripken's two-run double — put Baltimore ahead for good.

Johnson gave up four runs — two earned — and nine hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Kansas City fans, who gave Ripken a standing ovation just for showing up, even applauded his go-ahead double — but the crucial hits came from his teammates, Hargrove said.

First, there was the two-run, two-out single by David Segui that kept the fifth-inning rally alive.

"It got us going and broke the ice for

everybody," Hargrove said. "All of a sudden, the balls we were hitting started falling in."

The other key offensive moment, he said, was Baltimore's two-run eighth — on Brook Fordyce's double and Jerry Hairston's sacrifice fly — as the Orioles pulled away from a 6-4 lead.

"When we answered back and scored those two runs, I felt like that was the game," Hargrove said.

Melvin Mora and Mike Kinkade had three hits apiece, and Jeff Conine homered for Baltimore.

Conine followed Segui's two-run hit with an RBI single to knock out rookie

Chris George (0-3). Ripken's double, which extended his hitting streak to 15 games, came off reliever Blake Stein.

The Royals took a 3-0 lead in the third on Carlos Beltran's RBI double, a sacrifice fly by Raul Ibanez and Joe Randa's RBI triple. The last two runs were unearned after Orioles shortstop Brian Roberts misplayed Mike Sweeney's one-out grounder for an error.

Baltimore padded its lead to 6-3 on Mora's RBI single off Stein in the sixth, but Kansas City closed to 6-4 on Carlos Febles' RBI single in the bottom of the inning.

Conine homered in the ninth.

The Royals scored twice in the ninth off Buddy Groom. Beltran tripled and scored on Sweeney's second double of the game. Randa also had an RBI single.

Notes: Baltimore OF Jay Gibbons, the leading home run hitter among AL rookies, will miss the rest of the season with a broken bone in his right wrist. Gibbons was injured swinging at a pitch in the sixth inning of Saturday's 2-1 loss at Toronto. He was hitting .236 with 15 homers and 36 RBIs in 73 games. Sweeney has a league-leading 41 doubles.

Rockies trade pitcher

DENVER (AP) — The Colorado Rockies on Monday traded right-handed pitcher Juan Acevedo to the Florida Marlins for minor league infielder Josue Espada.

Acevedo was 0-2 with an ERA of 5.63 in 32 innings. Colorado had reacquired him April 4 from Milwaukee in a six-player trade.

Acevedo, 31, has a career ERA of 4.53. He appeared in a career-high 62 games last year.

Espada, 25, hit .295 in 78 games with Triple-A Calgary of the Pacific Coast League. He has 29 RBIs, two home runs, two triples and 20 doubles. He has a career .285 average in 389 minor league games.

Espada will report to Triple-A Colorado Springs.

The Rockies activated right-hander Kane Davis, who had been on the disabled list since July 8 with right elbow inflammation, to take Acevedo's roster spot.

The Acevedo-Espada deal was the 28th trade completed by Rockies general Manager Dan O'Dowd in less than two years. On July 31, the Rockies traded right-hander Pedro Astacio and cash to the Houston Astros for right-hander Scott Elarton and a player to be named later.

The week before, the Rockies sent shortstop Neifi Perez to Kansas City in a three-team deal. Infielder Jose Ortiz, outfielder Mario Encarnacion and left-hander Todd Belitz went from Oakland to Colorado and outfielder Jermaine Dye went to the Athletics.



Coach worried about lost practices

RIVER FALLS, Wis. (AP) — Kansas City Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil didn't get the chance to watch his team practice against the Minnesota Vikings as planned Monday. Now he's worried about what his players may have missed.

The Chiefs were scheduled to travel to Mankato, Minn. for a pair of practices against the Vikings, but the practices were canceled to allow Vikings players and staff to travel to Korey

Stringer's funeral in his hometown of Warren, Ohio.

Stringer died last Wednesday of complications from heat stroke after collapsing at practice on Tuesday. The Chiefs, meanwhile, went back to work under the same extreme conditions that felled Stringer, and Vermeil said he hopes the missed workouts with the Vikings don't hinder the teams progress.

"Hopefully we start compensating

for some of what we missed," Vermeil said. "We will never be able to catch up with what we're missing, the live contact work against an opponent, that's very valuable at this time and we lost that opportunity."

"It was warm and we had one guy cramp up and we didn't want to take any chances," Vermeil said about the shortened practice. "You can drain them to the point that you don't get a good return tomorrow."

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	67	45	.598	—
Boston	64	47	.577	2 1/2
Toronto	53	59	.473	14
Baltimore	46	67	.407	21 1/2
Tampa Bay	37	75	.330	30
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	63	48	.568	—
Cleveland	62	49	.559	1
Chicago	55	55	.500	7 1/2
Detroit	46	64	.418	16 1/2
Kansas City	44	68	.393	19 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	81	31	.723	—
Oakland	62	50	.554	19
Anaheim	58	54	.518	23
Texas	49	63	.438	32

Monday's Games				
Oakland 6, Detroit 3				
Anaheim 3, N.Y. Yankees 1				
Chicago White Sox 5, Tampa Bay 2				
Boston 10, Texas 7				
Seattle 8, Cleveland 6				
Baltimore 9, Kansas City 6				
Today's Games				
N.Y. Yankees (Mussina 11-9) at Tampa Bay (Sturtze 6-9), 5:15 p.m.				
Cleveland (Sabathia 10-4) at Minnesota (Reed 1-0), 6:05 p.m.				
Baltimore (Maduro 0-3) at Kansas City (Suppan 5-9), 6:05 p.m.				
Detroit (Pettyjohn 0-4) at Texas (Myette 1-1), 6:35 p.m.				
Toronto (Halladay 1-1) at Seattle (Pineiro 2-0), 8:05 p.m.				
Boston (Saberhagen 1-1) at Oakland (Mulder 13-6), 8:05 p.m.				
Chicago White Sox (K. Wells 6-7) at Anaheim (Rapp 4-9) or Schoeneweis 8-8), 8:05 p.m.				
Wednesday's Games				
Cleveland (Colon 10-8) at Minnesota (Lohse 3-4), 5:05 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 12-6) at Tampa Bay (Bierbrodt 0-1), 5:15 p.m.				
Baltimore (Mercedes 5-13) at Kansas City (Durbin 7-9), 6:05 p.m.				
Detroit (Cornejo 0-0) at Texas (Davis 5-8), 6:35 p.m.				
Toronto (Carpenter 7-9) at Seattle (Moyer 12-5), 8:05 p.m.				

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	63	48	.568	—
Philadelphia	60	51	.540	3
Florida	56	55	.504	7
New York	51	61	.455	12 1/2
Montreal	47	65	.420	16 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	63	47	.573	—
Houston	62	49	.559	1 1/2
St. Louis	56	54	.509	7
Milwaukee	47	62	.431	15 1/2
Cincinnati	46	64	.418	17
Pittsburgh	43	67	.391	20
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	63	49	.562	—
Arizona	62	49	.559	1/2
San Francisco	62	50	.554	1
San Diego	54	57	.486	8 1/2
Colorado	46	65	.414	16 1/2

Monday's Games				
No games scheduled				
Today's Games				
St. Louis (Kile 11-7) at Montreal (Vazquez 10-10), 5:05 p.m.				
Arizona (Lopez 0-2) at Florida (Clement 6-7), 5:05 p.m.				
Los Angeles (Adams 7-4) at Pittsburgh (McKnight 1-1), 5:05 p.m.				
San Francisco (Schmidt 7-6) at Cincinnati (Davis 5-1), 5:05 p.m.				
San Diego (Jones 7-13) at Philadelphia (Duckworth 0-0), 5:05 p.m.				
Milwaukee (Haynes 7-13) at N.Y. Mets (Chen 4-5), 5:10 p.m.				
Houston (Micki 2-0) at Atlanta (Maddux 14-6), 5:35 p.m.				
Colorado (Neagle 6-6) at Chicago Cubs (Tapani 8-8), 6:05 p.m.				


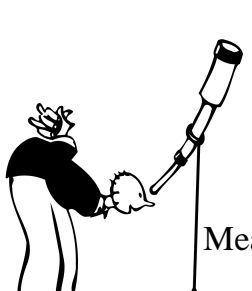
Wednesday's Games				
Colorado (Thomson 0-4) at Chicago Cubs (Bere 7-5), 12:20 p.m.				
Houston (Astacio 6-13) at Atlanta (Glavine 11-5), 5:05 p.m.				
Arizona (Johnson 14-5) at Florida (Sanchez 2-0), 5:05 p.m.				
St. Louis (Smith 3-1) at Montreal (Armas Jr. 8-11), 5:05 p.m.				
San Diego (Herndon 0-0) at Philadelphia (Coggin 2-1), 5:05 p.m.				
Los Angeles (Prokopec 6-6) at Pittsburgh (J. Anderson 6-11), 5:05 p.m.				
San Francisco (Rueter 11-7) at Cincinnati (Dessens 8-8), 5:05 p.m.				
Milwaukee (Levrault 5-6) at N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 5-10), 5:10 p.m.				
Thursday's Games				
Milwaukee at N.Y. Mets, 10:10 a.m.				
Arizona at Florida, 11:05 a.m.				
San Diego at Philadelphia, 11:05 a.m.				
Colorado at Chicago Cubs, 12:20 p.m.				
St. Louis at Montreal, 5:05 p.m.				
Los Angeles at Pittsburgh, 5:05 p.m.				
San Francisco at Cincinnati, 5:05 p.m.				
Houston at Atlanta, 5:35 p.m.				

Reminder

All high school students who will be participating in fall sports MUST have a current Pre-Participation Physical Exam on file before being allowed to practice or participate. Please contact your medical services provider NOW to schedule your physical. Fall practices begin Aug. 13.

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Broncos' players miss practice

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — After getting a rare day off, the Denver Broncos returned to the practice field for two-a-days Monday without running back Terrell Davis and fullback Howard Griffith.

Davis was held out of practice because of tightness in his right hamstring and swelling in his right knee. Griffith is bothered by a pinched nerve in his neck, which has caused numbness and weakness in his right arm.

Of the two players, coach Mike Shanahan said he was most concerned about Griffith.

An MRI exam was negative, and Griffith received an injection on Friday.

"He got the shot, which has really worked well with a lot of people," Shanahan said. "But Howard didn't report any improvement. So that's obviously a concern, and it's a setback. We'll just have to wait and see."

Griffith said his neck "still feels the same."

"We just have to keep trying to do what we can to get it better," he said. "I'll keep getting treatment. I'm not really sure what direction I need to go at this point. All I can do is go by the advice of my doctors and rest."

Last year, Griffith watched as his close friend and teammate, Anthony Lynn, was forced to retire because of recurring "stingers."

Davis, meanwhile, tried to downplay his most recent physical problems. After playing in a total of only nine games the past two seasons because of injuries, Davis strained his hamstring a month ago during off-season workouts.

He aggravated the injury on the first day of training camp, but has tried to play through it.

Last Saturday, he went down during the morning practice with what appeared to be a knee injury. The Broncos called the injury a recurrence of the hamstring problem. Davis had reconstructive surgery on his right knee in 1999. He missed most of the 2000 season with a stress reaction in his left leg.

"His hamstring is still a little bit tight," Shanahan said after the Monday morning workout, "and he's got a little bit of swelling in the knee, which isn't uncommon for two-a-days. He's sore, that's why we kept him out. I think he's just a little bit worn down."

"There's always concern, but we don't think it's serious."

Shanahan said trainer Steve Antonopoulos didn't believe Davis' knee problem was unexpected "considering what he's been going through and as much pressure as has been put on the knee over the last 10 days. And the hamstring is typical, especially when you're trying to push it."

The 28-year-old Davis likely will get several days off to heal.

Shanahan said he didn't know when Davis might return to practice or if he would play in Saturday night's opening preseason game in Dallas.

An MRI exam revealed degenerative changes in Davis' right knee, but the Broncos' medical staff insists that's not abnormal for a player who tore his anterior cruciate ligament.

"It's not as big a deal as people are making it out to be," Davis said. "I don't think it's anything major. What I'm going through is normal for a lot of players. It's camp, man. You're going to get beat up in camp and you're not going to be able to practice some days."

Davis, who was the NFL's MVP in 1998 when he rushed for 2,008 yards, said his knee was "a little sore right now."



"I think coming back and practicing twice a day and going through the physical workouts that we've been going through, sometimes that's to be expected," he said. "Talk to anybody who's had any type of knee surgery, and they'll tell you you're going to have moments like this."

Davis said he wasn't worried about the reports of degeneration.

"Doctors use that term," he said. "They say it sometimes can form arthritis. But there's nothing really to be concerned about at this point in time."

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