

Kansas' Williams: no shame in tears

ATLANTA (AP) — Roy Williams ended his 14th season at Kansas just like the first 13 — in tears.

There was no shame for Williams, though, either in losing or showing his emotions.

"Guys make fun of me this time of year because I'm crying," Williams said after Kansas' second-half comeback fell short in a 97-88 loss to Maryland in the NCAA semifinals.

But Williams said it was "dadgum right" of him to cry, not because he still doesn't have a national championship, but "because these kids mean something to me." The team finished 33-4, including 16-0 in the Big 12 regular season, and was ranked No. 1 for four weeks.

"Yeah, it hurts," he said. "I hurt for the players. I don't hurt one iota for Roy Williams."

As the seconds ticked away in Kansas' season Saturday night, senior guard Jeff Boschee realized it was the last time he would wear a Jayhawks uniform.

"Your season may be over, but you should be proud of what you did," he said. "You really don't realize how fast it goes until it is over."

Williams' regard for this Kansas team has been summed up in one word: "trust."

When junior forward Nick Collison suggested shortening practices, Williams trusted that Collison — a coach's son — knew what he was talking about, and cut back the workouts.

"I wouldn't have done that two years ago," Williams said earlier in March, "but this is a mature team, and I trust this team."

Williams also trusted Aaron Miles

enough to make him Kansas' starting point guard as a freshman. Before long, Miles was playing like he were a senior.

He had 12 points and 10 assists against Maryland, and his aggressive defense late in the second half helped Kansas cut a 20-point deficit to four points before Maryland finally pulled away.

"I told my guys to believe that we could come back," Williams said. "I don't think anyone believed it more than Aaron Miles."

But then again, Kansas made a habit of impressing Williams this year, despite its season-opening defeat to Ball State and a lackluster loss to UCLA in the middle of its conference season.

"This bunch was a heck of a basketball team, and they took old Roy for a really good ride," he said. "I'd have liked to have gone a couple more days, but they took me for a great ride."

The Jayhawks could go on another ride next season.

Boschee, the Big 12's all-time leading 3-point shooter, is gone. So are backup forward Jeff Carey and a handful of bit players: guards Lewis Harrison and Brett Ballard, and forwards Todd Kappelmann and Chris Zerbe.

But guard Kirk Hinrich (14.8 ppg) will rejoin Collison (15.8 ppg, 8.3 rebounds a game) and Miles in the starting lineup.

Two other freshmen — swingman Keith Langford and forward Wayne Simien — were key players this season. Each averaged about 8 points and played well in the tournament.

After his performance against Maryland, All-American Drew Gooden hinted he might return to school.

Running in the sun



Jose Dominguez, 21, and Marcela Dominguez, 19, took advantage of warm weather Thursday and got in a little running time at the Goodland High School track. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Cowgirls can't win in big city

By Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News

After winning their opening double-header against Syracuse, the junior varsity Cowgirls couldn't keep up their winning ways and dropped two games to the Garden City Buffaloes on Thursday, 14-1 and 9-2.

Coach Terry Daise said the girls battled well against the Class 6A team in the second contest, and the game was closer than the score. The Cowgirls got nine hits compared to Garden City's 10.

"They were never completely put off it," Daise said. "They fought all the way."

Lauren Gray pitched the first game, allowing 11 earned runs on 14 hits. She struck out six batters and walked one in four innings before the game was stopped under the mercy rule. At the plate, she hit a triple and a single and drove in her team's only run.

Deanna Livengood and Megan Sheldon each on got on base once in two tries, Livengood with a double and Sheldon with a walk.

In the second game, Aubrea Winter took the mound, allowing nine earned runs on 10 hits. She struck out three and walked six. She drew a walk in one of her two appearances at the plate.

Lauren Gray got three hits in three at bats, and Joyce Armstrong got two. Courtney Shields, Yvette Acosta, Jessica Vignery and Livengood each had a base hit, and Vignery got a walk as well. The teams' two runs were driven in by Livengood and Winter.

Cardinals move on without McGwire

By R.B. Fallstrom
AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS — The career home run leader board, a fixture on the center field scoreboard at Busch Stadium during the Mark McGwire era, is gone along with Big Mac himself as the St. Louis Cardinals prepare to open the season against the Colorado Rockies.

The board, which got instant updates whenever McGwire connected during his 4 1/2 seasons with the team, has been replaced by a Budweiser ad and a sign beneath that reads "Welcome to Opening Day 2002, Baseball's Best Fans."

Before the co-NL Central champi-

ons began a workout and simulated game Sunday featuring starters Darryl Kile and Andy Benes, who'll start the third and fifth games of the season, manager Tony La Russa said he hadn't noticed the change.

But Albert Pujols, the NL rookie of the year last season after hitting a league-record 130 RBIs, noticed the home run leaders were missing.

"How about that?" Pujols said. "Why is that?"

The Cardinals have a more than capable replacement at first base in Tino Martinez, but La Russa apparently has not yet let go. He bristled a bit at a mention the team was turning the page,

grouping McGwire with the team's Hall of Famers.

"I don't like that term," La Russa said. "We haven't turned the page on Red (Schoendienst) and Stan (Musial) and Ozzie (Smith) and Bob (Gibson). They're part of what we are every day and Mark's here like they are."

Matt Morris, a 22-game winner two seasons after undergoing reconstructive elbow surgery, opposes Mike Hampton, an expensive disappointment in his first year with the Rockies, in the opener Monday afternoon. Hampton was 14-13 with a 5.41 ERA last year.

"That's in the past," Hampton said.

Navy SEALs open season

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — With Navy SEAL members parachuting in to deliver the ball used for the ceremonial first pitch and President Bush delivering a videotaped message, the Anaheim Angels and Cleveland Indians got an early jump on the season — albeit 13 minutes late.

correction

In the Thursday, March 28, edition of *The Goodland Daily News* it was incorrectly reported that Bryce Abbey was a four-time high school wrestling champion. Abbey actually was only a champion his senior year. He placed in the state tournament all four years.

The Goodland Daily News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story.

Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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