

Royals manager's job at risk

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Tony Muser admitted Monday his days as manager of the Kansas City Royals may be growing short.

"It's common sense," he said. The Royals were on a four-game losing streak heading into their game Monday night against Detroit. After starting Muser's fifth full season 4-4, they lost seven of eight as his overall record before Monday night's game fell to 314-427.

He said he had been talking about the situation with owner David Glass and general manager Allard Baird and would probably meet with Baird again before Monday night's game.

"He wants to win. Mr. Glass wants to win. I want to win," Muser said. "And when you don't win, they make changes and that's a fact in this game. It's a fact. So I'm not afraid of it."

Muser came under fire last year when the Royals lost 97 games for the second time in three seasons. Baird said then that changes could be made if the team got off to a slow start. He said Monday that nothing had changed.

"We come out every day trying to win," Baird said. "That is the demand from ownership on down."

Muser said he was trying to deal with the difficult situation "with integrity." "You don't blame. You don't become selfish," he said. "What has happened has happened. To get into this situation, we know the only way out of it is to play better baseball and win some games."

"But I'm going to handle it with professionalism. I'm not going to panic so the players won't see me panic. They all understand."

He was hired off the Chicago Cubs' staff to replace the fired Bob Boone during the All-Star break in the 1997 season.

Muser's best season was 72-89 in 1998.

"I'm not ashamed of anything that's happened to create this situation," he said.

"We've wanted to win. We've worked hard here. We've improved a lot of people but we've got to win baseball games. And I understand that. I'm not going to look for anybody else to blame. I'm in this situation and it's reality. You deal with it as a professional and you go out and be a professional."

Throughout his tenure, the Royals have had among the lowest payrolls in baseball, especially struggling with poor pitching.

"I think you understand when you're born into this world, life is not fair. My mother taught me that at an early age," he said.

Horses to stay out of pastures

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—University of Kentucky researchers have advised horse farmers to keep pregnant mares out of pastures until midday Tuesday because of cooler overnight temperatures.

Scientists still do not know what caused more than 500 foals to die and thousands of early term pregnancies to be terminated on central Kentucky horse farms last year, costing the state's billion-dollar horse industry nearly \$350 million.

They believe, however, that stark changes in the weather during this exact time frame may have played a role in the development of a mysterious illness.

Up and over



Eighth grader Jared Robinson tried his hand at the pole vault at a junior high track meet Thursday in Oakley. He was able to vault the bar at 7 feet to snare fourth place. Grant Junior High will compete in Goodland at 2 p.m. Thursday at the high school track. Photo by Sheila Smith/The Goodland Daily News

Softball team loses in Ulysses

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

The Cowgirls softball team played two tough games against the Ulysses Tigers on Monday, losing the first 10-4 and the second 9-8 in extra innings.

Hitting was sporadic in the first game, Coach Terry Daise said, and some mistakes in the late innings really hurt the team.

Goodland fell behind to the Class 3A team in the second contest and rallied to take the game to extra innings. The Cowgirls couldn't get a run in the eighth and let the Tigers slip one by for

the game. "We made a good comeback in the second game," Daise said, "but it wasn't quite enough."

The Cowgirls have lost their last six games, and now hold a record of 7-7.

Britany Pettibone took the mound for the first game, allowing three hits and five earned runs. She struck out eight and walked eight. At the plate, she helped herself with a double.

Jessica Osborn hit two singles in three tries. Stephanie Fairbanks, Alissa Schields and Tammy Weeter all got to first on hits, and StevieLee Raymer

drew a walk. Schields threw the second game, allowing 11 hits and four earned runs. She struck out two and walked only one. She knocked out a double and two singles, crossing the plate three times.

Adrienne Garcia batted three singles and drew a walk, scoring one run. Jessica Osborn knocked three base hits, and Pettibone hit two and scored once. Weeter, Raymer and Shanae Calkins all hit singles, Raymer scoring a run. Fairbanks also scored.

The Cowgirls next play Holcomb at 3 p.m. Thursday at home.

Win may have extended manager's career

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Paul Byrd might have extended Tony Muser's managerial career one more day.

Before Byrd went out and shut down Detroit 6-0 Monday night, the beleaguered Muser said the game would be very important to him. Afterward, he declined to be drawn into a discussion about the pressure mounting on the losingest manager in team history.

"Tomorrow we'll crank it up and go out there as a team again," he said. "And if we get beat and somebody is singled out, somebody is singled out."

Third baseman Joe Randa acknowledged the players were glad to take some heat off Muser, whose team

ended a four-game losing skid. "We're out there and we're giving him everything we've got," said Randa, who had one of three doubles in a four-run first inning.

"I know he doesn't expect us to play for him. But we know what he's going through every day. There's more and more pressure on him. We win some games and maybe we can take some pressure off him. It does cross our minds, yeah."

Byrd (4-0) gave up just six hits in Kansas City's first complete-game shutout in more than a year.

"It looked like he's throwing the ball better than he was in the National League," Detroit manager Luis Pujols

Former Colorado player signs with Broncos

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Former University of Colorado linebacker Jashon Sykes will return to Colorado and play football again.

Sykes signed as an undrafted free agent with the Denver Broncos over the weekend, opting not to use an extra year of college eligibility he was granted by the NCAA.

"I feel real good about it," said Sykes, who believes he has first-round

talent and knows a neck injury he sustained last fall hurt his chances in the NFL draft. "I know their situation at linebacker and I feel like they can use me."

Linebacker Bill Romanowski left the Broncos for the Raiders during the offseason, making Ian Gold the starting strongside linebacker and in need of a backup.

"That's where I come in," Sykes

said of the former Philadelphia Phillies All-Star. "He shut down our hitting and we've been hitting pretty good lately."

Byrd, who has all but two of the Royals' wins, is the first Kansas City pitcher to win his first four decisions since Bret Saberhagen started 6-0 in 1987 and the first with a complete-game shutout since Jeff Suppan blanked the Tigers 3-0 on Sept. 27, 2000.

In 28 1-3 innings, he has not walked a batter and is tied with Chicago's Mark Buehrle for the league lead in wins.

Carlos Beltran and Carlos Febles each homered off Mark Redman (0-3) as the Royals beat the only team in the majors with fewer victories

said. "I can play special teams or contribute in some way."

"I think this is a good spot for him," said Jeff Sperbeck, Sykes' agent.

Kings win one; Avs two games up

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There's no time for the Los Angeles Kings to celebrate or the Colorado Avalanche to be frustrated.

The Kings beat the defending Stanley Cup champions 3-1 Monday night to trail 2-1, with the teams resuming their best-of-seven series Tuesday night in Game 4.

"I'm sure they feel confident right now because they played a good game, and we have to get back to what we were doing right," said Colorado's Peter Forsberg, who was limited to one shot in 20 minutes.

The Kings' improved defense frustrated Forsberg, who had a goal and four assists in Colorado's first two victories.

He spent the game's fight-filled final 15 seconds in the penalty box for roughing.

"As soon as you get the puck, you go one step and they just catch you and you can't do anything about it," Forsberg said. "I thought it was a great workout though—a lot of grabbing, a lot of skating with guys on your back all the time."

"Hopefully (Tuesday), I'll feel better and get a step on one of those guys and maybe get a goal."

In other playoff games Monday, Ottawa beat Philadelphia 3-0 to take a 2-1 series lead, and San Jose grabbed the advantage over Phoenix by winning 4-1 in Game 3.

Also Tuesday, it's Boston at Montreal, Carolina at New Jersey, Toronto at the New York Islanders, St. Louis at Chicago and Detroit at Vancouver.

The only series off Tuesday are Philadelphia-Ottawa and San Jose-Phoenix.

Joe Sakic, who had three goals and an assist in Colorado's victories, had only one shot in 22 minutes.

"It's a good thing we get back at it right away and we don't have a whole day to think about it," he said of playing back-to-back games. "We have to be the desperate team."

Ziggy Palffy scored twice, Jason Allison had one goal and two assists and Adam Deadmarsh added an assist for the Kings, who are undefeated in their last 12 games at Staples Center in Denver.

"There was a lot at stake," Kings coach Andy Murray said. "There were a lot of people talking about a sweep. We came out energized."

The Kings, who have three goals in each game against Colorado, have seven goals and nine assists from their No. 1 line so far.

"That line was the best line out there on both teams and that's why they won," Colorado coach Bob Hartley

said. "Scoring in both periods gave them lots of life and got the crowd going. They were the better team."

Los Angeles goaltender Felix Potvin made 30 saves as the Kings were outshot 31-18. They never had a power play in the game.

"He played great for us, but we don't want to put him in that situation where he's got to stop 30 a night," Deadmarsh said. "That's a tough job for a goalie."

Colorado's Patrick Roy made 15 saves, but gave up three goals for the third consecutive game. He was pulled for an extra attacker with 1 1/2 minutes left.

"We should come out desperate in every game of the playoffs," Colorado's Adam Foote said. "But it seemed like we came out kind of playing a little hesitant."

The Kings had no such problem. They scored their first two goals less than a minute into the first and second periods, sending fans caught in concession lines scurrying back to watch replays.

"We stepped up hard," Palffy said. "We always talk about it. We need a goal in the first five minutes."

Palffy gave the Kings a 1-0 lead 19 seconds into the game when he took a pass from Allison and beat Roy stick-side on their first shot.

The Avalanche didn't get their first shot until six minutes in, but Brad Larsen scored his first NHL playoff goal on their second shot at 6:01 of the first.

Allison gave the Kings a 2-1 lead 43 seconds into the second period. Roy kicked away a shot by Palffy before Allison skated in and scored.

Allison returned the favor on Palffy's second goal as the Kings led 3-1. He sent a pass to Palffy, who scored through Roy's legs at 8:29 of the second. Deadmarsh notched his third assist of the series.

Senators 3, Flyers 0

At Ottawa, Radek Bonk scored a power-play goal 2:04 into the third period and Patrick Lalime got his second straight shutout.

The Senators, who have allowed one goal all series—none in regulation—returned home to take a 2-1 series lead.

Bonk fired a shot from the slot past goalie Roman Cechmanek for the first postseason goal of his career.

Marian Hossa scored into an empty net with 54.3 seconds left. At 19:50, Daniel Alfredsson scored Ottawa's second empty netter.

Lalime made 26 saves in his second career playoff win and shutout. He has allowed one goal on 83 shots in the series.

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Brewster All-Star Booster Club

Tuesday, April 23 - HS Track at St. Francis, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 24 - WKLL Scholarship Contest at Weskan High School, 10 a.m.; WKLL Meeting at Weskan High School, 10:30 a.m.

Friday, April 26 - JH Track at Quinter, 10:30 a.m.; HS Track at Quinter, 3 p.m.

Friday, May 3 - HS Track at Hays (Ransom Meet), 3 p.m.

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