

# Unlikely player beats Avalanche

## Scores first playoff goal since 1992

By John Marshall

*The Associated Press*  
DENVER — That's right, Fredrik Olausson.

Olausson, who played in Switzerland last year and didn't even watch the NHL playoffs, led the Detroit Red Wings past the Colorado Avalanche in Game 3 on Wednesday night.

He scored his first playoff goal in 10 years at 12:44 of overtime, sending the Red Wings to a 2-1 victory and a 2-1 lead in the Western Conference finals.

"Last year I was in a hospital bed. I was in Switzerland with a ruptured spleen," Olausson said. "Playing hockey was the farthest thing from my mind. I was grateful to come to Detroit and play, and here I am scoring an overtime goal. I'm very fortunate."

Olausson's goal was his first in the playoffs since April 18, 1992, when he scored against Vancouver as a member of the Winnipeg Jets.

Game 4 is Saturday in Denver. The Eastern Conference finals resume Thursday night, with Carolina at Toronto. The Hurricanes lead the best-of-seven series 2-1.

Olausson beat goalie Patrick Roy from just inside the blue line on a shot that appeared to hit Colorado defenseman Martin Skoula in the leg.

"Colorado is playing great defense. They don't give you much room," Olausson said. "Sometimes opportunities present themselves."

Actually, Colorado's defense was far from great in Game 3. The Avalanche allowed 42 shots — nine fewer than the first two games combined — and made it to overtime only because of Roy.

Roy made several spectacular saves in regulation and stopped seven shots in overtime, but he shook his head and slumped to the ice after Olausson scored.

Normally forthcoming about his performance, Roy was reduced to mostly one- and two-word replies af-

ter the game.

When asked if he was screened on the winning goal or if he saw the puck, Roy said no. When asked the last time he made 40 saves and lost, he said: "I can't remember."

The Avalanche played physical seven-game series against Los Angeles and San Jose, but coach Bob Hartley brushed aside the theory that weariness was a factor.

"This is the worst excuse in the book," Hartley said. "I don't even want to hear until the end of the playoffs the word fatigue. This is for losers."

"We didn't want the puck. They wanted the game and, for some reason I can't explain, we were not there."

Detroit goalie Dominik Hasek stopped 20 shots and had an assist on Olausson's goal. Roy was equally effective, but faced 21 more shots than Hasek.

"Patrick was outstanding, of course, and particularly in overtime," Detroit coach Scott Bowman said. "But before that, there wasn't much room for both teams. It's just one of those games where neither team deserves to lose."

Colorado's Rob Blake opened the scoring with 4:06 left in the first, redirecting a shot from Joe Sakic on a power play. It was his sixth of the playoffs, but first since Game 4 against San Jose in the conference quarterfinals.

Luc Robitaille tied it 5:20 into the third after Colorado's Greg de Vries swatted a rebound off his skate. It was Robitaille's third goal of the playoffs.

Olausson is the latest unexpected player to step forward for Detroit in the series.

The Red Wings relied on their marquee players to get past Vancouver and St. Louis in the first two rounds, but others have led the way against the defending Stanley Cup champions.

Darren McCarty had just five goals during the regular season, but scored three straight in the third period of Game 1, a 5-3 Detroit victory.

*Here comes the heat!*



Courtney Quast, a third grader, threw the ball to home Wednesday at Centennial Park. Quast plays for First National in a city/county recreation baseball league. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

# Rockies win game at home

DENVER (AP) — With a runner on second and no outs in the seventh inning of a tie game, Kent Mercker desperately needed a strikeout.

The batter, Ryan Klesko was familiar with his former Atlanta teammate's repertoire — or so he thought.

Mercker, who developed a sidearm delivery in spring training, fanned Klesko on a sidearm changeup, leaving Klesko astonished and helping the Colorado Rockies beat the San Diego Padres 5-3 Wednesday night.

Mercker (1-0) held the Padres scoreless in the seventh and eighth innings for his first win since Aug. 22, 2000. He suffered a cerebral hemorrhage on the mound while pitching for Anaheim on May 11 of that year, but recovered to pitch later that season. Mercker was out of baseball last season.

Jose Jimenez pitched a perfect ninth for his 11th save in as many opportunities as the Rockies went to 16-8 under manager Clint Hurdle.

Brent Butler and pinch-hitter Jose Ortiz had RBI hits in the eighth off reliever Jeremy Fikac to break a 3-3 tie.

Todd Zeile opened the eighth off Fikac (3-3) with a grounder that skipped past third baseman Sean Burroughs for a two-base error.

Mark Little entered as a pinch-runner, and Butler ripped a slider down the left-field line for an RBI double and Butler then scored on Ortiz's single to left.

The win evens out the records of the two teams, who now share the bottom of the standings in the National League west.

# Denver coach staying at job

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Denver women's basketball coach Pam Tanner, the latest candidate for the vacant Minnesota job, said Wednesday she had withdrawn from consideration.

"After serious soul searching, I have decided to remain in my current position," Tanner said in a prepared statement. "I appreciate the opportunity presented by the University of Minnesota, but I have come to the conclusion that Denver is my home."

The Golden Gophers have been trying for more than seven weeks to replace coach Brenda Oldfield, who accepted the head coaching job at Maryland.

Oldfield led the Gophers to a 22-8 record and an NCAA tournament appearance last season.

# hockey playoffs

By The Associated Press  
**NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
Daily Playoff Glance

**Conference finals:**

**Thursday**  
Toronto 2, Carolina 1

**Saturday**  
Detroit 5, Colorado 3

**Sunday**  
Carolina 2, Toronto 1, OT

**Monday**  
Colorado 4, Detroit 3, OT

**Tuesday**  
Carolina 2, Toronto 1, OT, Carolina leads 2-1

**Wednesday**

Detroit 2, Colorado 1, OT, Detroit leads 2-1

**Today**  
Carolina at Toronto, 5 p.m.

**Saturday, May 25**  
Detroit at Colorado, 1 p.m.  
Toronto at Carolina, 5 p.m.

**Monday, May 27**  
Colorado at Detroit, 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 28**  
Carolina at Toronto, 5 p.m., if necessary

**Wednesday, May 29**  
Detroit at Colorado, 6 p.m., if necessary

**Thursday, May 30**  
Toronto at Carolina, 5 p.m., if necessary

**Friday, May 31**  
Colorado at Detroit, 5 p.m., if necessary

# Homer breaks Cardinal's slump

ST. LOUIS (AP) — J.D. Drew made up his mind before the game — take some good cuts in batting practice and see what happens.

Sidelined for two games because of a 1-for-17 slump, Drew led off the ninth inning with a home run Wednesday night as St. Louis beat the Houston Astros 3-2. The Cardinals have won 11 of their last 13 games.

"I made some adjustments and tried to get my mind-set back to not being

so negative," Drew said. "You have a tendency to make an out here and there and start thinking back about the 16 outs you made in a row."

"I tried to have a good round of batting practice and take it to the game."

Drew struck out as a pinch-hitter in the seventh against Roy Oswalt, but didn't let it bother him when he stayed in the game as the right fielder.

In the ninth, he hit a 3-2 pitch from Ricky Stone (2-2) over the right-field

wall, a 438-foot drive for his seventh homer of the year.

"He's a great hitter," Stone said. "It doesn't matter what kind of slump he's in, he can always hurt you. Hopefully, I didn't get him out of that slump and get him hot."

The Cardinals are 8-1 at home with one game to go, the series finale Thursday.

"It was a night you just had to battle, battle, battle," Fernando Vina said.

# State allows cattle to graze on conservation land

GRAZING, from Page 1

cow-calf operation, the sight of his pickup set off a chorus of bawling cows and calves.

"See, they're bawling, thinking I'm going to feed them," he said.

He's stocking his pastures at about half the normal rate. In one pasture, he now has 22 head where he would normally have 45.

"The cows are pushing the fence to

try to get something in the ditches," he said. "It's almost an everyday chore to drive around and make sure you don't have anything out."

Beef prices have fallen to the point where farmers and investors alike are losing \$60 to \$100 a head for everything coming out of the feedlot.

"We're just surviving," McKenna said.

McKenna doesn't see much hope in the release of Conservation Reserve

Program acres for either haying or grazing. He said the grass that had to be planted for CRP ground is not palatable for cattle.

"I wouldn't hay it," he said. The last time he did that, he ended up burning everything he cut.

Cattle, he said, would lay down in a snow bank before they would lay on the rough CRP grass.

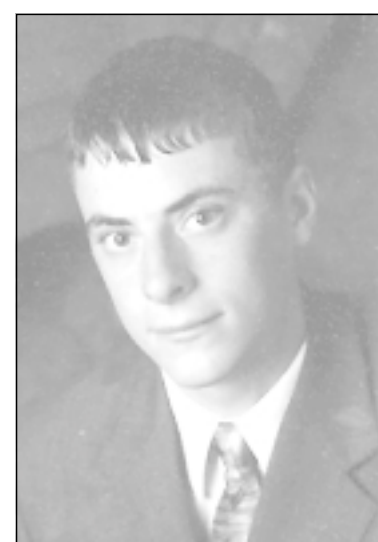
Hill City Livestock Commission owner Dennis Bretz told The Daily

News that in an average year he sells between 50 and 100 head of butcher cows a week, and he is now selling two to three times that number. He has also sold twice as many cow-calf pairs as in years past.

The dry weather is causing health problems for cattle. Already this year, McKenna has lost 20 out of the 540 calves he bought to dust pneumonia.

Last year he bought 560 and lost two.

# student of the week



**Name:** David Mathew Russell

**Parents:** Curtis and Kathy Russell

**Grade:** Senior

**Age:** 18

**We've nominated this student because:** David is always prepared for class participation; he always has his assignments completed thoughtfully and on time; and he is a positive contributor to class.

**Student Comment:** I will always remember the supportive teachers and staff which helped

make these years special, and all of my friends that made them extra fun.

**Activities involved in at school:** I'm involved in Student Council, National Honor Society, G-Club, Peer Counseling, Football and Wrestling, CYO, Boy Scouts.

**My choice of movies, books, and games:** I like most comedy & action movies, my favorite movie is "Braveheart." I enjoy listening to almost any kind of music. I also enjoy reading nonfiction books, and playing almost any game.

**After I leave Goodland High School I intend to ...:** attend Kansas State University, and major in Mechanical Engineering while being active in Air Force ROTC.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ...:** continuing a career in the Air Force as an officer, along with being married and starting a family.

**Favorite Quote:** Forget the past, dream for the future, and live for today." - Unknown

# Cherokee Extreme Sports, Inc.

We have access to any brand of marker, accessories, supplies, and we have a large supply of PMI Premium paint in stock. We also have rental equipment available in limited supply.

## GRAND OPENING

Saturday, May 25 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

*Bring this ad to our grand opening day, and receive 5% off all purchases.*

Directions to Playing Field  
Go 1 mile west of Goodland on 8th Street to Road 18. Proceed 1/4 mile north. Phone: 785-899-6200

**OLE GURN'S**  
**BOOT & SHOE REPAIR**  
Too better serve the community of Goodland, starting May 4th and every Saturday thereafter, Ole Gurn's Shoe & Boot Repair will be at Short and Sons Parking Lot. Junction of Hwy 24 & 27.  
**9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ??? See ya.**

**Thorson Floor Covering**  
(785) 899-3933 • Goodland