



**doug
stephens**

• talking sports

Two big happenings planned this weekend

This weekend should be an interesting one for sports in our town.

It starts Friday with a free youth rally called the R.I.O.T. Doug Loman, a pastor and former ball player with the Milwaukee Brewers, will be in town with a Christian rock band.

The event starts at 7 p.m., and the organizers are expecting a big crowd — they rented Max Jones Fieldhouse for the occasion.

Goodland teen-agers, all members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, got together to plan the day, which includes give-aways of signed balls and bats, including a baseball signed by Bob Feller.

I want that ball. When Mary Ellen Coumerilh and Amy Anderson stopped by the office to tell be about the rally, they brought the ball and a bat signed by Goose Gossage and Dave Dravecky.

I'd settle for getting that bat, but I might sell out my own mother to get my hands on that ball. Just think, I could own a ball signed by Hall-of-Famer Bob Feller. Wow. I think I might have drooled a little bit when it came in the office. I just hope Amy and Mary Ellen didn't see it.

The shindig will have a Christian theme, I'm sure, but even non-religious types should stop by for the affair. I mean, how often do we get former major leaguers in Goodland?

The group has been busy promoting their show. They've put posters up all over town, ran a booth at the fair, and talked to me at least twice. That's hard work for anybody.

After the rally on Friday, folks have just enough time to mow their lawns and relax on Saturday (for anyone who isn't at the Sunflower Festival at Chambers Park) before the big golf tournament on Sunday, sponsored by our local radio station.

There will be 12 11-man teams from all over the area facing off at Sugar Hills, and everyone is invited to come out and watch for free. (Just try to stay off the greens. The management looks unfavorably at that. Don't ask; just trust me.)

The Colby team is the four-time defending champion. I think it's about time to break that streak.

This time of year is busy for the golf course. There have been a bunch of tournaments out there, including the Shriners' tournament last weekend, and there will be two in September that I know about.

The Alcohol Drug Abuse Council will hold their "Drive for Sobriety" on Sept. 14, with the entry fees going to support the nonprofit group.

The Goodland Activities Center will have a night tournament on Sept. 21, featuring a chili feed and glow sticks and glow-in-the-dark balls. This one looks like a blast. I'll be there with a camera. I don't know how well my pictures of it will turn out, but it should be fun trying.

High school sports practices will be starting soon, and school starts Monday, Aug. 26, which means all of us at the newspaper will be working on the fall sports section coming out the 29th.

With all the high school and junior high sports about to start, the sports page will be hopping again pretty soon. I'm looking forward to it.

Tiger fans would settle for an American Slam

CHASKA, Minn. (AP) — Tiger Woods can't win the Grand Slam this year, and fans in Minnesota couldn't care less that the PGA Championship starts Thursday at Hazeltine National Golf Club.

Since Tiger can't win a Grand Slam, fans might settle for is something else only Woods can accomplish this year: The American Slam.

No one has ever won all three American majors in the same year.

Ben Hogan won the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open in 1953; Woods won the U.S. Open, British Open and PGA Championship in 2000.



Clemens credited with win

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Roger Clemens was grateful for Steve Karsay.

Clemens got the victory in the New York Yankees' 10-5 win over the Kansas City Royals on Tuesday night after Karsay cleaned up his mess.

Clemens (10-3) loaded the bases with no outs in the sixth inning and a 6-4 lead. He was relieved by Karsay, who conceded a run on a force play before getting out of the inning with two more groundouts.

"It was an unbelievable job by Karsay," Clemens said. "He came in at the breaking point in the game and did a tremendous job getting out of that. As a starter, you never want to put a guy in that position."

Clemens allowed five runs, 10 hits, four walks and struck out three to run his record to 7-0 in his last eight starts against Kansas City, dating back five years to 1997.

"I'm disappointed I didn't go deeper," Clemens said. "I really felt I had good stuff. They made me work for it each inning. Fortunately for me and the guys tonight, we kept pouring it on offensively."

"During the year, you have games with your best stuff and you don't get the win. Then, you have nights like tonight where you have to battle and you're rewarded for it."

Karsay, who allowed only one hit in two innings, said he takes great pride in not letting inherited runners score.

"You want to get out of the inning with the lead," he said. "I take a lot of pride in that stat. That's my main objective when I come into the game."

Every Yankees starter had a hit except Jason

Giambi, who walked three times.

Bernie Williams homered, doubled and drove in four runs. Robin Ventura homered to highlight a four-run seventh inning when the Yankees broke away for their 11th win in their last 12 games against the Royals.

"We couldn't hold a lead," New York manager Joe Torre said. "We had a four-run lead, then three and two. They kept chipping away. Karsay was terrific. Rocket was struggling that inning. To have Steve come in and hold them was a big outing for him and obviously for us, because it stopped the bleeding."

Jeff Suppan (8-12) gave up six runs on eight hits and five walks in 5 2-3 innings.

Mike Sweeney hit a double in his first at-bat in nearly a month, and went 2-for-5 for the Royals. He was activated from the disabled list Tuesday after missing 30 games with a back and hip strain.

"It felt good to be in the locker room with the guys and to be in a big-league uniform," Sweeney said. "Unfortunately it didn't work out the way I wanted. They had us on the ropes and capitalized, and we didn't."

"When we have them on the ropes, we have to take advantage."

Williams hit his 16th homer of the season, a two-run shot in the first inning. He passed Don Mattingly for seventh place on the Yankees' career home run list with 223.

"It makes me feel great, the fact that I stuck around for this long," Williams said. "He was a great teacher for all of us who have been around for so long."

Players association wants investigation

MANKATO, Minn. (AP) — The NFL Players Association claims the Minnesota Vikings and Kansas City Chiefs may have engaged in collusion in their negotiations with unsigned first-round draft picks Bryant McKinnie and Ryan Sims.

The union filed a request for an investigation on Monday with the NFL Management Council, ESPN.com first reported Tuesday.

The union claims the teams may have had knowledge of the signing bonus offered to a player picked after Sims and McKinnie — which is not permitted — and subsequently offered the two players a lower amount.

"If two clubs take the same position (on offers to their players), then one player can't say, 'Look, No. 7 signed for this or that amount, so I should get a few bucks more,'" Richard Berthelsen, an attorney for the players group, told The Associated Press.

Sims and McKinnie were picked with the sixth and seventh picks, respectively.

The No. 8 pick who the union said was offered the larger signing bonus was safety Roy Williams, picked up by the Dallas Cowboys.

Future uncertain for Terrell Davis

By John Marshall

The Associated Press
GREELEY, Colo. — Terrell Davis' latest setback could force him to face a difficult decision: Should he continue trying to play on his hobbled knees or retire at 29 after just seven years in the league?

Davis had hoped he wouldn't have to contemplate retirement for several more years, but the recent swelling in his left knee has him at least preparing for life after football.

"I'm taking everything in stride, and whatever way the wind blows I'm fine with it," Davis said. "I've reflected on a lot of things I've done and things I'm going to do, and it's not everything in life. I mean, it was fun while it lasted and if it was meant to be the end, then hey, it was meant to be the end."

"Believe me, I'd like to play, but my mind doesn't play football, my body does. And if it's not cooperating, then I have to find something else to be an All-American or Pro Bowler at."

The decision may not be entirely his. Davis is one of the most popular Broncos players, both with fans and those within the organization, and helped lead the team to two Super Bowl titles in the 1990s.

The Broncos rewarded Davis by sticking with him through each of his comebacks, but the time may come when the patience wears thin and the team looks to younger players who are healthy.

The Broncos already have a proven runner in Olandis Gary, who rushed for over 1,100 yards as a rookie two years ago, and rookie Clinton Portis appears

to be a star in the making.

"At some point in time, Terrell has to look at himself and ask, 'Does it continue?'" tight end Shannon Sharpe said. "At some point, you have to realize that, 'I've had a great career. Maybe it's time to focus my energy on something else.' That's a hard decision because it's something you've basically been doing all of your life, and suddenly you aren't doing it anymore."

Not that anyone on the team wants that to happen.

"I truly wish him well. You get tired of seeing that happen to a guy, a guy with a good attitude who has always been a good friend," said fullback Mike Anderson, Davis' replacement at tailback in 2000. "You hope the best for him. Knowing T.D., if he can get back out here, he's definitely going to be back out. There's no need to count him out."

One way for Davis to continue playing without doing as much damage to his knee would be for him to finish his career as a situational player. It would be a hard adjustment for a player who was once the team's featured back, but Davis said he could accept the role if it means prolonging his career.

"Could I be a backup, a 5-10 carry (per game) back?" Davis said. "It's humbling, but, yes, I could probably do it. No doubt about it. As long as I can contribute in some fashion, then I'll be content with that, especially knowing my situation."

Davis went from being one of the most productive running backs in league history his first four years to a player who can barely stay on the field.

Broncos take night off

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — The Denver Broncos ran a little long in their afternoon practice Tuesday, but the players came off singing and joking around.

Are they getting loopy after three weeks of training camp? No. They were excited about having a night off.

"They are spirited because they don't have to meet this evening — they don't have to spend any time around

us," coach Mike Shanahan said.

Most nights during Broncos training camp are spent in meetings, but on Tuesday the team got a break for a night of bowling at a nearby alley.

For the last seven years, the team has held a golf and fishing derby one day during camp. The drought in Colorado this year has nearly dried up the ponds they used, so the team opted to hold its first "Broncos Bowl-A-Rama."



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