

Rookie Cardinal's base hit opens up contest

By John Mossman

The Associated Press
DENVER — The St. Louis Cardinals are spreading around those game-winning hits.

Rookie outfielder So Taguchi was the latest to deliver, snapping a tie with a single during an 11-4 victory over the Colorado Rockies on Tuesday night.

"Our newest hero," manager Tony La Russa said.

In the Cardinals' last 11 victories, 10 different players have had game-winning RBIs.

Taguchi's RBI single came during a seven-run eighth inning that featured a grand slam by Tino Martinez.

After Taguchi's hit, La Russa said he and pitching coach Dave Duncan were wondering how the Cardinals were going to get six outs with a one-run

lead.

"Then we got six more runs," La Russa said.

Albert Pujols added a two-run single and Martinez followed with his 10th career grand slam.

Coupled with Houston's 5-4 loss to Milwaukee, the Cardinals reduced their magic number for clinching the NL Central to five. St. Louis leads the Astros by 7 1/2 games.

"It's down to five," Martinez said. "It's not over yet. We've still got work to do, but it's nice to drop two spots. We want to get this thing done as soon as we can."

In the seventh, the Cardinals noticed on the Coors Field scoreboard that Houston had lost.

"Our game was tied," Martinez said, "and we wanted this game pretty bad.



Fortunately, we were able to put some runs together in the next inning."

Jeff Fassero (8-6) was the beneficiary of the Cardinals' big inning, getting three outs in the seventh to earn the win.

"That's a very good ballclub," Rockies manager Clint Hurdle said.

"And we didn't see (J.D.) Drew or (Fernando) Vina. There's a reason they're in first place."

Edgar Renteria led off the eighth with a single against Kent Mercker (3-1). Mike Matheny popped up a bunt that Mercker caught, but the pitcher threw wildly to first trying to double up the runner.

Renteria, on second as a result of the error, scored on Taguchi's single to center. Taguchi, recalled from Double-A New Haven on Sept. 7, was caught in a rundown between first and second, however.

Miguel Cairo and Eli Marrero followed with singles and Jim Edmonds walked to load the bases. Pujols then singled and, after a walk to Scott Rolen,

Martinez hit his 19th homer off Sean Lowe.

Martinez now has hit at least one grand slam in eight consecutive seasons. San Francisco's Willie McCovey holds the major league record with nine.

St. Louis' Chuck Finley pitched six strong innings and departed with a 4-2 lead, but the bullpen couldn't hold it.

The 39-year-old left-hander departed after giving up three straight singles to start the seventh, including Juan Uribe's RBI hit.

Fassero relieved Finley, and pinch-hitter Terry Shumpert sacrificed the runners to second and third. Jason Romano grounded to third, but Rolen's throw to the plate was in the dirt. The error allowed a run to score, and Gabe Kapler followed with an RBI single to

make it 4-4.

Fassero worked out of the jam as Todd Helton lined to first, and Martinez stepped on the base to double up Kapler.

Colorado starter Aaron Cook went four innings, allowing six hits and four runs.

Notes: @ Cardinals OF J.D. Drew was available to pinch-hit after being in Vail, Colo., earlier Tuesday to see knee specialist Dr. Richard Steadman.

Drew has been troubled by tendinitis in his left knee. ... With 2B Fernando Vina in California attending to personal business, the Cards started Eduardo Perez in right field and Miguel Cairo at second. ... The Rockies were leaning toward starting Victor Santos or Randy Flores on Friday in place of Mike Hampton, who has a strained ligament in his right foot.

Cowboy runner wins invitational

The Cowboys finished second at the Oakley Invitational cross country meet Tuesday, and Speedy Aguilar was the top runner winning with a time of 17:56.

Colby won the meet with 47 points and the Cowboys were second with 62 points. The difference was that Colby has more finishers in the top 10 than the Cowboys.

Aaron Gittinger was the second finisher for the Cowboys and was third with a time of 18:05. Craig Mason finished 17th at 19:17. Daniel Blake was 19th with 19:24. Timothy Kafka finished 22nd at 19:38. Brandon Zelfer was 31st at 20:57. Josef Felver was 36th at 21:50.

The Cowgirls finished third at Oakley, and Kalie Smith was the top finisher with a time of 14:26. She finished 7th overall. The individual champion was Jessica Stephens of Colby

with a time of 13:01.

Colby won the meet with 30 points. Oakley was second with 64 points and the Cowgirls were a close third with 66 points. Wheatland was fourth with 70 points.

Quinter, Hoxie, Ellis and Brewster did not have a team score.

Deanna Livengood was the second fastest Cowgirl finishing behind Smith by one second, 14:27 for 8th place. Tiffany Thomas finished 15th at 15:05. Wendy Keith was 17th at 16:19. Charlie Short was 19th at 16:19. Chelsea Ontiveroz was 22nd at 16:49. Amanda Bonsall was 26th at 23:38.

In the junior varsity meet James Clearley finished 5th at 21:17. Zach Breininger finished 10th at 21:38. Charles Lammers was 31st at 33:47.

The Goodland cross country teams will travel to McCook Thursday for a meet beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Mustang volleyball team owner of perfect record

The eighth grade volleyball "A" team has a perfect 3-0 record after playing three home meets this season.

The Grant Junior High team beat Colby 15-3 and 16-14 Thursday, Sept. 5 at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The leading scorers were Whitney Archer with 9, and Dani Bedore with 8.

The "B" team lost to Colby 8-15 and 11-15. Their leading scores were Hannah Burkett with 5 and Sandy Johnson and Brooke Whitmore with three.

Against Hoxie on Thursday, the Lady Mustangs beat Hoxie 15-1, 10-15 and 15-3. The top scorers were Kaylee Billinger with 15 and Whitney Archer with four.

The "B" team lost to Hoxie 15-13, 8-15 and 16-18. Candice Meissinger

led scoring with 10 and Nicole Davis had seven.

On Saturday the Grant girls split into three teams against Wray, Colo., all of them winning their matches. The "A" team beat Wray 15-9 and 15-3, with Archer leading the scoring with 10 and Bedore with five.

The "B" team beat Wray 15-3 and 15-9.

The top scorers were Nicolette Clancy with eight and Tiffany Bennett with seven.

The "C" team won 12-15, 15-5 and 15-12. Bennet had 10 points, and David, Tanae Garrett and Brooke Whitmore had seven.

The team will send split squads to Atwood and Sharon Springs on Thursday. Game time will be 3:30 p.m.



Shannon Johnson, a junior varsity tennis player, filled in for Megan McCall at a home tournament on Tuesday. She finished sixth in the meet.
Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Cowgirls' players get third

The Goodland high school tennis team held its only home tournament of the season Tuesday at Steever and Gulick parks, finishing third in No. 1 doubles and No. 2 singles while competing without their top player.

The doubles team of Jennifer Mentzer and Leslie Knitig beat Garden City 8-2 and lost to Ulysses 8-3 in the pool, then came out on top of Scott City 8-3 in medal play for a bronze.

The No. 2 singles player, Shannon Showalter lost to a Garden City player 8-6 and beat Colby 8-1. In the final round, she beat a Scott City player 8-4 for third.

Coach Wallace Hansen said Megan McCall was sick and couldn't play. McCall and Mentzer won a gold medal in doubles play at the teams last tournament in Norton. Shannon Johnson stepped up from the junior varsity team to fill the missing spot Tuesday.

Goodland ended up sixth out of six teams with 13 points.

Tribune won the tournament, earning 24 points, Ulysses came in second with 20 points, Garden City and Scott City tied for third with 18 and Colby finished fifth with 17.

Johnson finished sixth in No. 1 singles.

She dropped her first match to Garden City 8-0, then her second to Ulysses 8-1. In the final round, she played Tribune and lost 8-0.

The No. 2 doubles team of Trista Lalicker and Michelle Kibel ended up fifth. They lost to Garden City 8-5, then to Colby 8-3 in pool play.

In the medal round the beat Scott City 8-1.

On Thursday, the junior varsity team will play at 2 p.m. in Hays for an eight-team meet and on Saturday, Sept. 28, the varsity players will go to Garden City for a 12-team invitational.

Man arrested on Texas warrant

A Goodland man was arrested Monday morning on a warrant out of Texas for failure to pay child support.

Patrick Martin Walters, 46, was brought in by the Goodland police at the request of the Randall County Sheriff's Department in Armarillo, Texas.

Walters, who works at Corrections Corporation of America, a prison in Burlington, is charged with criminal nonsupport. He bonded out of the Sherman County Bastille on \$5,000, an amount recommended by the district attorney of the 181st District Court in Texas.

If Walters had not been able to make bond, he would have been extradited to Texas. Instead, he will have to make a court appearance in Armarillo.

Goodland motorist leaves accident scenes

A Goodland driver left the scene of two accidents about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday night.

Police accident records say a 1978 Chevy Pickup owned by Paul J. Weber was headed north on Caldwell at 11:30 p.m. and ran into a 1991 Oldsmobile driven by Kimberly Crocker at the 6th Street intersection.

The pickup left the scene.

Minutes later, the same pickup ran into a 1993 Buick driven by Dustin Knox at the corner of Broadway and

15th Street. Again, the pickup drove away.

Separate police records say Crocker was the victim of reckless driving, and failure to give information after an accident about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday.

In the same incident, the report said the investigating police officer is the victim of obstruction, and that the offending driver had an open alcoholic container in the vehicle.

Charges against the driver are pending.

bowling results

Wednesday Night Men's Scratch Classic
Sept. 11
ProLine over Basgall Construction 14-6
Sigco split Fitzgibbon's 10-10
Witzel & Rhea over Team No. 10 18-2
Weber Kennels over L&M Steel 12-8
Bowladium Lanes over Sunflower Satellite 18-2
High individual game: Phil Helzer-247
High individual series: Jerry Amthor-799
High team game: ProLine-561
High team series: ProLine-2,139

Standings after third week, first round:
Bowladium Lanes, 51, 9; Sigco 40, 20; Witzel & Rhea 38, 22; ProLine 36, 24; Basgall Construction 34, 26; L&M Steel 32, 28; Fitzgibbon's 30 1/2, 29 1/2; Weber Kennels 24, 36; Sunflower Satellite 9 1/2, 50 1/2, Team No. Ten 5, 55

Sept. 12
Blind Team over Three Men & a Lady 4-0
SunAmerica over Ho-Jos 4-0
Lucky Horseshoes over Weis Oil 3-1
The Grannies & the Gramps over Not Again 3-1
High women's game: Shelly Thompson-184
High women's series: Diana Nichold-478
High men's game: George Phillips-227
High men's series: Dave Hovis-558
High team game: The Grannies & the Gramps-825
High team series: SunAmerica-2,404

Monday Afternoon Ladies League
Sept. 16
Medical Arts Pharmacy over KLOE 4-0

Shelter Insurance over Bowladium Lanes 3-1
Clawson's split Lonny's Quality Auto Body 3-1
Callahan's over Team No. Ten 3-1
Mann's over McClung's Appliance 4-0
Individual high game: Joyce Sanderson-224
Individual high series: Marilyn Sneathen-513
Team high game: Medical Arts Pharmacy-653
Team high series: Medical Arts Pharmacy-1,777

Standings: Clawson's, Lonny's Quality Auto Body and Mann's Jewelry tied at 5-3.

Blue Crush (PG-13)
Starts Friday 7:00 & 9:00
Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood (PG-13)



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