

# So long, St. Louis

## Cardinals feel 'empty' after loss

By R.B. Fallstrom  
The Associated Press  
ST. LOUIS (AP)—This wasn't how the St. Louis Cardinals' storybook season was supposed to end.

Wearing patches on both sleeves to honor a fallen teammate and broadcaster, the Cardinals looked like destiny's darlings after persevering through the tragedies to win the NL Central and then sweeping the world champion Arizona Diamondbacks in the first round of the playoffs.

Darryl Kile's 5-year-old son Kannon, wearing a tiny uniform and sitting in the dugout, was the unofficial good luck charm. The Cardinals appeared to be a can't-lose team. They just had too much to play for.

Plus, the worst appeared to be over. They'd already gotten past Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling.

"After we beat Arizona, I thought we had a little favor of that sort," reliever Steve Kline said.

It all collapsed in the National League championship series, leaving the team with an empty feeling heading into the off-season. The intangibles didn't help nearly enough as the San Francisco Giants knocked them out of the postseason in five games.

"No matter how bad we want to keep playing, it doesn't matter," catcher Mike Matheny said. "We fell short. Getting past the first round, that's good, but that wasn't our goal."

The Cardinals batted .278 with runners in scoring position during the regular season but failed in the clutch time and time again during the NLCS, going 3-for-39. Without any timely hitting, they lost a pair of one-run decisions in Games 4 and 5.

A few more hits from Albert Pujols, Jim Edmonds, Edgar Renteria and Tino Martinez, benched for the finale after going 2-for-25 in the postseason, and they're still playing. There were a lot of stunned looks in the clubhouse after the 2-1 loss in Game 5 Monday night.

"I'm kind of blank," Edmonds said. "This is a good group and a special team and a special city. The people rallied behind us and we tried to do our best, but we just came up short."

Manager Tony La Russa took no solace in the team's stirring finish to the regular season, or their impressive first round. What he saw in the NLCS was a team that underperformed.

"They just outplayed us," La Russa

said. "However you look at it, the postseason is a failure. We failed."

If it wasn't one thing, it was another. In Game 1, Matt Morris collapsed. In Game 2, the offense was stymied by Jason Schmidt. In Game 4, the bullpen coughed up two big hits. In Game 5, they wasted a dominant start from Morris by going 0-for-8 with runners in scoring position.

Some Cardinals believed things might have been different had Scott Rolen been available for the NLCS. Rolen sprained his left shoulder in Game 2 of the Division Series and the team perhaps optimistically included him on the roster for the second round, but he never progressed beyond indoor workouts.

Rolen, acquired near the trade deadline from the Phillies, had been viewed as the final piece in the championship puzzle. He tied his career highs with 31 homers and 110 RBIs and played Gold Glove caliber defense.

"He fit in so beautifully," said Fred Hanser, one of the team's owners. "When you have two RBI guys it's one thing and when you have three it's another, but when you have five that's strong medicine. They just couldn't get him back."

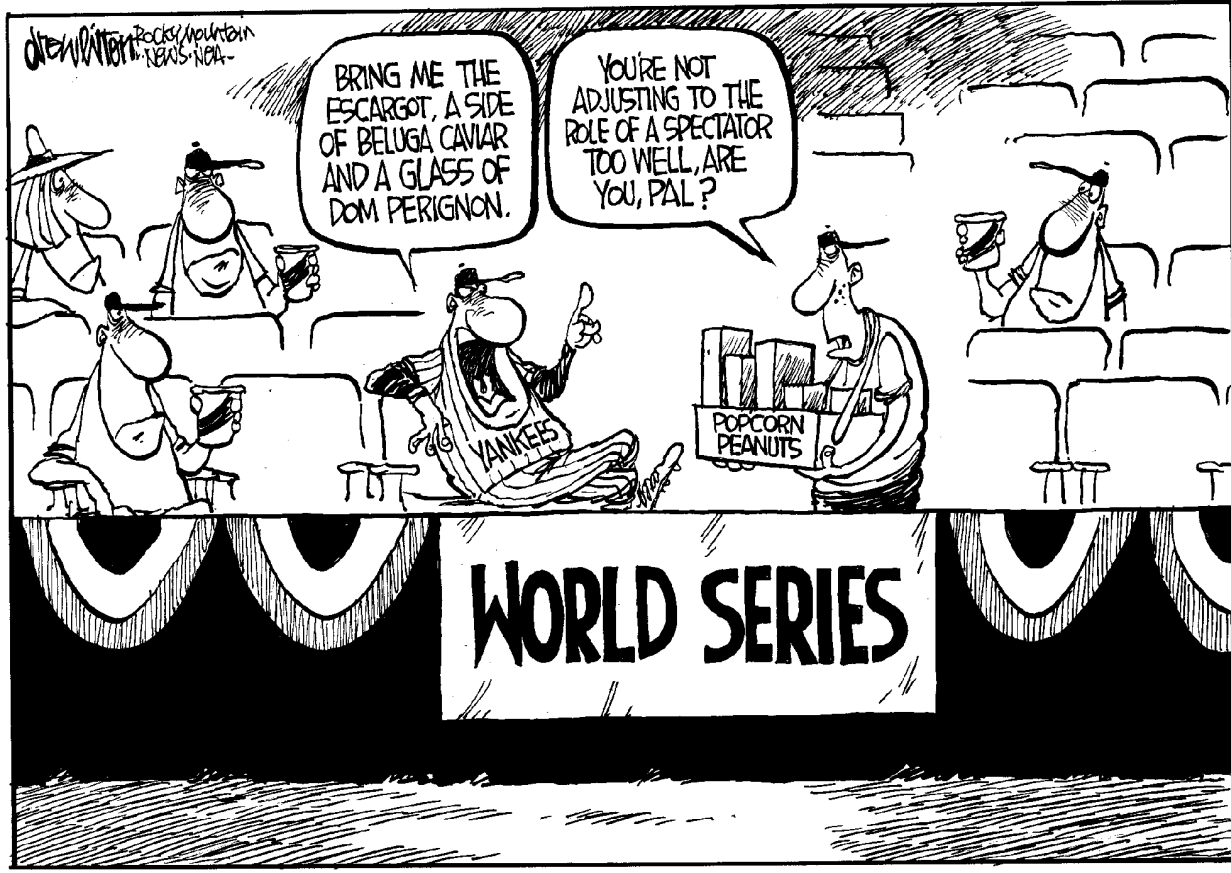
Rolen's replacement, Miguel Cairo, was 9-for-17 in the postseason and had the game-winning hit in Game 2 of the Division Series.

"That's just an excuse," he said. "When they outplayed you in every category, how much is Scott going to change that?"

La Russa also had his share of struggles. He left reliever Rick White in for 2 1-3 innings, long enough to give up a two-run game-tying double to J.T. Snow and game-winning two-run home run to Benito Santiago, in Game 4. Playing with a short bench, he appeared unwilling to use his extra weapons. He put 12 pitchers on the roster, but was afraid to use Jeff Fassero and rookie Mike Crudale.

Much of the regular season was a trial by fire. Injuries and the sudden, shocking death of Kile forced La Russa and pitching coach Dave Duncan to use 14 starting pitchers.

The midseason comeback of Andy Benes, who nearly retired in April and became perhaps the team's most consistent starter down the stretch, and the emergence of 28-year-old rookie Jason Simontacchi, an 11-game winner, solidified the situation.



# Rockies hire players as coaches

DENVER (AP) — The Colorado Rockies hired former major leaguers Sandy Alomar Sr., Jamie Quirk and Dave Collins as coaches Tuesday and rehired Rick Mathews as bullpen coach.

Alomar, named third-base coach, played infield for 15 years and was a coach in the Chicago Cubs organization for the past 12 years. He is the father of New York Mets second-baseman Robbie Alomar and Rockies catcher Sandy Alomar Jr.

Quirk, named bench coach, was a catcher, infielder and outfielder for 18 seasons and played on three World Series teams. He has been a coach for the Texas Rangers and Kansas City Royals.

# Tailback balances family, football

DODGE CITY (AP) — It might happen at a practice, in a game, during a class or even as he makes his way around campus, but every so often Dodge City tailback Gerard Jackson will get a distant look in his eyes.

And no, he's not dreaming of breaking away for an 80-yard touchdown, scoring five touchdowns or gaining 200 yards in a game.

He's thinking about his wife Lavina and his daughters Aviyana, who is 2, and Shaniya, born Sept. 23. They live in Palm Bay, Fla. And while it might be easy for him to be distracted, he has focused on football when it counted. A year ago he was the National Junior

College Athletic Association's No. 1 rusher. He now ranks No. 3 in the country and No. 1 in the Jayhawk College Conference with 1,069 yards.

Jackson has played a major role in Dodge City's success, averaging 146.5 yards a game, more than half of the team's total average.

The Conquistadors, 4-3, will end the season with their best overall record since they went 6-5-1 in 1992.

But those numbers probably aren't going to put food on his family's table.

"I have to be more of a provider when I get out of school," said Jackson. "Playing football might be a way for me to do that, but if it's not then I have

to learn a skill to provide for my family."

Dodge City Coach John Rossetti said being married has made Jackson a more mature player.

"He's less likely to mess up on or off the field and getting his degree is far more important to him than it once was. It has definitely helped his focus," Rossetti said.

A 5-10, 235-pound native of Melbourne, Fla., Jackson's runs are a mix of elusiveness with power.

"He likes to go between the tackles, but no matter where he goes we in the offensive line know if we go out and get our job done Gerard will do his part,"

said offensive guard Aaron Mills. "He just puts his head down and goes over people. You can't do much wrong when he's out there."

"I like to grind it out when I get the ball," said Jackson. "I don't have many moves because I'm more about power than anything."

Rossetti says Jackson's stock continues to rise because of quality off-season workouts.

"He came in at 255 pounds as a freshman and not in good shape," said Rossetti. "Now he's at 235, quicker and more athletic. He's a good lead blocker when he has to be, but he knows his assignment no matter what it is."

# Despite ticket, Cornhusker will start

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska quarterback Jammal Lord will start Saturday at Oklahoma State despite being charged Tuesday with disturbing the peace.

Coach Frank Solich said Tuesday that Lord would be disciplined, but the misdemeanor ticket did not warrant any sort of suspension.

"I know that Jammal was issued one ticket. There was cooperation from that point on to my knowledge," Solich said. "The system that we have in place and probably most systems around the country would not kick a young man out of playing or a starting role."

Nebraska volleyball and basketball player Greichaly Cepero, who was at

Lord's apartment when police were called to it around 3 a.m. Sunday, was cited with disturbing the peace and failure to obey a police order. Police said Cepero, who had asked officers to take her home, later grabbed at officers' arms and pushed one officer away.

City prosecutor John McQuinn said charges were filed against both athletes

Tuesday. Cepero was also charged with failing to obey a police order. The charges are misdemeanors with maximum fines of \$500 and up to six months in jail.

Volleyball coach John Cook announced Tuesday that Cepero would not play Wednesday night when the Cornhuskers play at Oklahoma.

# Wizards score last six points to beat Nuggets

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Jerry Stackhouse scored 29 points and the Washington Wizards scored the last six points of the game for an 87-82 victory over the Denver Nuggets in an NBA exhibition game Tuesday night.

Forward Kwame Brown added 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Wizards (3-0). Michael Jordan has yet to play

for Washington in the preseason as he rests his right knee.

James Posey led the Nuggets (1-2) with 20 points.

Denver took an 82-81 lead on Vincent Yarbrough's 3-pointer with 1:52 to play but didn't score again.

The Nuggets turned the ball over on each of their last three possessions, and

the Wizards took the lead for good on two free throws by Stackhouse with 55 seconds remaining.

Tyrone Lue and Etan Thomas each added 11 points each for Washington, which shot accurately 50.8 percent from the field.

Juwan Howard and Kenny Satterfield each scored 11 points for

Denver and Chris Andersen added 10 as the Nuggets shot 42.9 percent.

Brown and Brendan Haywood each blocked three shots for the Wizards, who also played without crowd-favorite veterans Charles Oakley and Byron Russell.

The Nuggets rested their starters in the fourth quarter.

# Gubernatorial candidates face off on educational issues

TOPEKA (AP) — Republican gubernatorial candidate Tim Shallenburger says he's receptive to large spending increases for public schools.

Shallenburger said Tuesday that he would set a goal of having the state spend an additional \$400 million a year if legislators thought it necessary for a suitable education to each child. He said the state might need several years

to achieve such an increase.

Both Shallenburger and Democrat Kathleen Sebelius were to face more budget questions Wednesday. They planned to discuss higher education funding with members of the state Board of Regents and university and community college presidents.

The Republican nominee has said he won't cut spending on elementary, jun-

ior high and high schools, despite the state's financial problems and his promise not to increase taxes. He didn't offer specifics about where he would get the extra money.

He has been critical of Sebelius for endorsing a consultant study that suggested the state needs to spend another \$390 million a year on schools.

He also has questioned the need to

hire outside consultants for a study, as legislators did and suggested the state needs to conduct its own review.

He did say said the study was valuable.

Shallenburger spoke to about 100 superintendents and local school board members during a seminar sponsored by the Kansas Association of School Boards.

# Broncos' strong safety suspended for one game

DENVER (AP) — Broncos strong safety Kenoy Kennedy was suspended by the NFL for one game without pay Tuesday for his helmet-to-helmet hit on Miami receiver Chris Chambers.

He will miss Denver's game next Sunday at Kansas City, but will not be fined.

Chambers got a concussion when he went up high for a pass from Jay Fiedler and was hit in the face by Kennedy in the second quarter of Miami's 24-22 victory Sunday night.

Chambers' head twisted after the hit, and he lay on the field for about five minutes before being helped off

the field. Kennedy was flagged for a personal foul and tried to apologize to Chambers as he walked off the field, but he was pushed back by Miami's Randy McMichael.

Kennedy has already been fined twice this season and received a warning from the league last week. He received a \$7,500 fine for a hit on St. Louis' Isaac Bruce on opening day, then was fined \$10,000 last week for a shot on San Diego's Fred McCrary.

The league warned Kennedy that future hits similar to the one on McCrary could lead to a suspension.

**What you can't see can hurt you**

You can't see a gas leak. But we do add a harmless odor to make sure you can smell one. Be alert. If you smell gas, don't use the phone, turn on the lights or open a window. Leave the premises immediately, go to a neighbor's house and call Aquila at 800-303-0357. Natural gas service has an excellent safety record, but it is possible to have a leak by accident or misuse. Don't take chances. To learn more about natural gas safety, call Aquila at 800-303-0752 and ask for our free brochure.

**Aquila**

Copyright ©2002 - Aquila, Inc. All Rights Reserved. 7/02

# Spooktacular Savings

## Moonlight Madness & Halloween Specials

Come on in and subscribe to The Goodland Daily News from now through Oct. 31, 2002, and get a 6-month subscription for just \$38<sup>00</sup> or a full year subscription for just \$72<sup>00</sup>

(This special offer limited to subscriptions by carrier or mail in the northwest Kansas / Burlington, Colo. trade area.)

**The Goodland Daily News**  
1205 S. Main • Goodland, Kan., 67735  
785-899-2338