

One more from State



Oakley High School's Brett Robben cleared 6'6" in the high jump at the Class 3A state track meet in Wichita. Robben took the silver medal in the high jump, then went on to win the gold in the 110 meter hurdles as thousands of spectators looked on..

Royals take interleague game from Cardinals

By STEVE BRISENDINE
Associated Press Writer
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Miguel Asencio's answer needed no translator.

Kansas City Royals closer Roberto Hernandez spent several minutes translating for his former bullpen mate after Sunday's 3-2 win over the St. Louis Cardinals. But when asked if he ever planned to go back to the bullpen, Asencio paused.

He made a face as if he smelled something bad.

"Naaaah," he said, shaking his head for emphasis.

He needn't worry for now. Rel-gated to relief duty under former manager Tony Muser, Asencio — despite his no-decision Sunday — has a secure place in new manager Tony Pena's rotation plans.

"I don't know his history from before I got here," said Pena, hired from Houston's staff on May 15 to replace Muser. "All I know is, he's a starter for me."

Asencio went seven innings, his longest outing of the season, giving up two runs on five hits. He walked five and struck out one. In his five starts, he's 1-0 with a 2.61 ERA.

"When he was in the bullpen, he couldn't use all of his pitches," Hernandez said. "When you're a reliever, you have to come right in and throw strikes. He's the kind of pitcher who can work around somebody, and maybe give up a walk, because he's confident he can get a ground ball and get out of a jam."

Asencio also threw two wild pitches on Sunday, the second of which led to Albert Pujols' run for a 2-all tie in the fourth. Catcher Brent Mayne was able

to retrieve the ball and dive back to the plate, but Pujols was called safe after leaping over Mayne and then coming back to touch home.

That score stood until the bottom of the ninth inning, when Raul Ibanez's leadoff homer gave the Royals — and Hernandez (1-0), who pitched a perfect eighth — the win.

Ibanez's second homer of the year, off Mike Timlin (1-3), helped the Royals avoid their first series sweep by St. Louis. It also snapped the Cardinals' six-game interleague winning streak.

"We were able to come out and stop the bleeding today," said Ibanez, whose team was outscored 23-9 in the first two games of the series. "It always feels good to get a win, but it really felt good today."

Cardinals starter Jason Simontacchi was trying to become the first St. Louis rookie since Rene Arocha in 1993 to win his first five decisions. He was replaced by Dave Veres to start the Royals sixth. Simontacchi allowed two runs and two hits, with two walks and one strikeout.

Simontacchi said he has been bothered for several weeks by what he called a "hot spot" that threatens to turn into a blister on his right index finger.

"I wanted to stay in — when things are really going your way, you don't want to stop — but in the long run, I think this was the smartest choice," Simontacchi said.

Carlos Febles, making his first appearance of the series after sitting out the first two games with a sore back, was 2-for-3 with a double.

He hit a two-run single in the bottom of the second, but Placido Polanco's RBI single in the third cut Kansas City's lead to 2-1.

War Emblem stumbles out of gate; longshot wins Belmont

NEW YORK (AP) — Trainer Ken McPeck's spring of misfortune blossomed into the biggest win of his career in the Belmont Stakes, as his first victory in a Triple Crown race came with 70-1 shot Sarava.

He was as stunned at the outcome as the record crowd of 103,222 that

packed Belmont Park, hoping to see War Emblem become racing's 12th Triple Crown winner and first in 24 years.

But the speedy black colt who won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness stumbled to his knees and nearly fell coming out of the starting gate.

Huskers clinch Series berth

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Justin Seely was 4-for-5 with a grand slam as Nebraska clinched its second straight berth in the College World Series with an 11-6 win over Richmond on Sunday.

Shane Komine pitched three innings of relief to earn his second win in the best-of-three super regional.

Jeff Leise, Jed Morris and Jeff Blevins each drove in two runs for the Cornhuskers (47-19). Nebraska, which had just four hits in a loss Saturday, finished with 12 Sunday in the series clincher.

Matt Craig and Bryan Pritz each hit

two-run homers for Richmond (53-13), which was one win away from its first College World Series.

The Spiders' hopes ended in the bottom of the ninth when David Reaver grounded out to short.

Richmond had rallied from a 5-2 deficit to tie it on Pritz's homer in the seventh, but gave up five runs in the eighth and never recovered.

Joe Simokaitis opened the eighth for Nebraska by drawing a walk. Leise followed with a single and Daniel Bruce loaded the bases when he reached on a bunt.

Lakers too tough for Nets, take 3-0 series lead

By CHRIS SHERIDAN
AP Basketball Writer
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — A third straight title is a near-certainty for the Los Angeles Lakers. The only question is not whether, but when.

Just when it looked as if Jason Kidd might make the NBA Finals competitive, the league's latest dynasty moved within one victory of winning it all. And this time, it wasn't just Shaquille O'Neal doing the damage.

Kobe Bryant had his first brilliant offensive game of the series, Robert Horry hit another clutch 3-pointer to put Los Angeles ahead for good, and O'Neal scored 35 points Sunday night as the Lakers beat the New Jersey Nets 106-103 in Game 3.

With a win Wednesday night in Game 4, the Lakers will become the first team in franchise history to sweep the NBA Finals — no small accomplishment for a team with 13 titles.

"It feels great whenever you have a chance to make history. As a team we've been through so much, and

hopefully we can add to our list of accomplishments," Bryant said.

This was the closest and most entertaining game of the Finals, and in the end the Lakers showed the stuff champions are made of.

When it came time for clutch baskets, big blocked shots and key free throws, the two-time defending champs had enough of each to take a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

No team has ever recovered from such a deficit to win an NBA playoff series, and don't expect to see it from the Nets — even though they managed to play a competitive game for the first time in the series.

"I don't think there is a team that can do that," Bryant said. "We're a confident team and we're playing really well together."

The Nets played well together, too. Even that wasn't good enough.

Kidd was outstanding, leading the Nets on a 19-5 run that gave them their biggest lead to that point in the series — 86-80 early in the fourth.

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