

daily news

sports

Hill wins second straight race

Taking a break...



Goodland's Aaron Gittinger talked to first base coach Sid Unruh after hitting a line drive off of the Benkelman pitcher's shin. Keith Vazquez took advantage of the injury time-out to rest on second. The Goodland American Legion team won 16-0 behind a stellar pitching performance by Landon West. Photo by Lester Bolen/The Goodland Daily News

Royals, Chiefs seek upgrades

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Lamar Hunt's Kansas City Chiefs are one of the most profitable franchises in the most successful sports league in the country. He says he'd be willing to write a personal check for as much as \$30 million to help renovate Arrowhead Stadium.

David Glass' Kansas City Royals are money-draining, small-market losers at a time when baseball's entire economic structure is under review.

Very understandably, Glass is playing his cards close to the vest in the continuing debate over how, when and where to upgrade this town's two major sports venues.

Should expensive improvements be made to Kauffman and Arrowhead stadiums? Should the city concentrate on building a new baseball stadium downtown and trying to revitalize that moribund district? If a new baseball stadium goes up, would Hunt and the Chiefs demand a bigger slice of the pie for themselves?

"I wouldn't rule out anything," Glass told The Associated Press Tuesday from his office in Bentonville, Ark. Estimates go as high as \$150 million each for the improvements the Chiefs and Royals want. Both teams seek, among other things, to install luxury boxes, widen concourses and add bathrooms.

Additional women's restrooms are particularly needed at Arrowhead.

Jack Steadman, chairman of the Chiefs, said the team might be willing to put as much as \$30 million into the project. The rest would come from state taxpayers and a bi-state tax that would be shared by people on both the Kansas and Missouri sides of the metropolitan area.

Voters will decide the bistate tax issue in November of 2002. Traditionally, Kansans and Missourians have had trouble agreeing on such things.

The Royals have commissioned a study of the feasibility of a downtown stadium.

sports briefs

City may name road for Helton

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The University of Tennessee has streets named after its football coach, two former quarterbacks, a women's basketball player and her coach. How about a baseball player?

Mayor Victor Ashe proposes naming part of the street that runs behind Lindsey Nelson Stadium after Todd Helton, last year's Major League Player of the Year.

The Colorado Rockies first baseman is a Knoxville native and was a star baseball player and backup quarterback at Tennessee.

"Beginning next season, when a player hits a homer over left field, ... it will land on Todd Helton Drive," Ashe said Tuesday.

Todd Helton Drive would begin after the intersection of streets named after former player Chamique Holdsclaw and coach Pat Summitt.

The Metropolitan Planning Commission will consider the measure this month, and then the City Council will look at it in August.

Part of the same road is named after coach Phillip Fulmer. Other campus streets honor quarterbacks Peyton Manning and Tee Martin.

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By Lester Bolen
The Goodland Daily News

Ron Hill of Sharon Springs needed a little luck the last time he raced at Sherman County Speedway, using a well-timed caution flag to take the lead and win the stock car prize. This week, he decided to take his fate into his own hands.

After falling back to third place during the race on June 16 and quickly falling farther behind the leader, Hill pulled even with the front runners and then, on a thrilling last lap, passed them all to take the flag.

Saturday, Hill dominated the stock car division, winning his heat, and for the second time in a row won both the cash dash and the main event.

In the modified division, Dwayne Decant of Lamar just missed winning his second consecutive main event. He lost a close race to Doug Holzmeister of Colby. Holzmeister also won the cash dash.

In the bomber division, Jeremy Blackwell of Quinter upset Michael Shannon of Atwood after Shannon had won both his heat and the cash dash.

Shannon finished fourth in the main event.

Jarrod Smades of Goodland won his heat in the bomber division and finished second overall.

The next races at Sherman County Speedway will be at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 21, and 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18, for the Bill Gray Memorial.

Bomber Heat No. 1

1. 11, Shannon, Atwood
2. 25, Jeremy Blackwell, Quinter
3. 13, Lynny Cloyd, Sharon Springs
4. 44A, Doug Bauer, Lamar
5. 57, Andrew Kuntz, Quinter
6. 13X, Keith Stegman, Lamar
7. 99, Scott Waterman, Colby

Heat No. 2

1. 43J, Smades, Goodland
2. 33, Wayne Williams, Wiley
3. 8, Angel Munoz, Lamar
4. 5, Shawn Damon, Joes
5. S5, Allen Snethen, Colby
6. 111, Mike Giesenhausen, Colby

Cash Dash: 11, Shannon

Main

1. 25, Blackwell
2. 43J, Smades

3. 33, Williams
4. 11, Shannon
5. 57, Kuntz
6. S5, Snethen
7. 5, Damon
8. 31, West
9. 13, Cloyd
10. 13X, Stegman
11. 99, Waterman
12. 8, Munoz
13. 44A, Bauer
14. 111, Giesenagen

Stock Hbeat #1

1. 41, Hill, Sharon Springs
2. 55, Wheat Lippelmann, Colby
3. 11B, Justin Russell, Imperial

Heat No. 2

1. 71+, Delbert Russell, Imperial
2. 8FR, Ryan Wark, Colby
3. 86, Justin Beakley, Lamar
4. 17R, Casey Rhea, Sharon Springs

Cash Dash: 41, Hill

Main

1. 41, Hill
2. 55, Lippelman
3. 8FR, Wark
4. 71+, Delbert Russell

5. 17R, Rhea
6. 86, Beakley
7. 11B, Justin Russell

Modified Heat No. 1

1. 34H, Doug Holzmeister, Colby
2. 37, Jeff Tubbs, Colby
3. 23X, Jeff Hartwell, Colby
4. 21, John Icke, Colby
5. 76, Mike Shaw, Brighton
6. 101, Jim Beaman, Littleton
7. 383, Milo Lippelman, Oberlin

Heat No. 2

1. 2D, Dwayne Dechant, Lamar
2. 3, Brad Coen, Wiley
3. 21 Darren Deloach, Lamar
4. 9 Monty Nordyke, Holly
5. 3G, Gary Dechant, North Glenn
6. 49C, Michael Daut, Watkins

Cash Dash: 34H, Holzmeister

Main

1. 34H, Holzmeister
2. 2D, Dwayne Dechant
3. 37, Tubbs
4. 3, Coen
5. 3G, Gary Dechant
6. 9, Nordyke
7. 76, Shaw

Ripken hits homer, wins game for AL

SEATTLE (AP) — On the night when all of baseball gathered to honor him, Cal Ripken delivered his own All-Star sendoff.

Ripken upstaged Ichiro Suzuki, Barry Bonds and every other big name in the ballpark, hitting a home run and winning the MVP award in his final All-Star appearance to lead the American League over the Nationals 4-1 Tuesday night.

What began as a trip down memory lane — Ripken started at shortstop, at Alex Rodriguez's suggestion — wound up with him taking a glorious trip around the bases.

"It's just been a great deal of fun my whole career. The All-Star games, I've been able to go to a whole lot of them, but this is by far the most special," Ripken said.

His homereasily was the most thrilling moment in a game that saw Roger Clemens finally face Mike Piazza. There was no drama there, though someone was later hit by the shattered barrel of a bat — NL honorary manager Tommy Lasorda.

Derek Jeter and Magglio Ordonez connected for consecutive home runs as the AL won its fifth in a row.

Suzuki, the most popular player in Seattle these days, singled and stole a base as the AL cut its deficit to 40-31.

But, it was Ripken's night.

At 40, Ripken supplanted Stan

Musial as the oldest player to homer in an All-Star game. Ripken also became the first AL player to twice win the All-Star MVP trophy, his other coming in 1991 when he also homered.

After stepping out of the batter's box and waving his helmet to acknowledge a standing ovation, Ripken hit Chan Ho Park's first pitch of the third inning over the left-field fence.

"I swung and made good contact and the ball went out of the ballpark and I felt like I was flying around the bases," Ripken said.

Tony Gwynn, who will retire with Ripken after this season, applauded from the opposing dugout and NL pitcher Curt Schilling, replaced as the starter earlier in the day by Randy Johnson, caught the moment on his camcorder.

Ever the reluctant hero, Ripken had to be coaxed out of the dugout by the sellout crowd of 47,364 at Safeco Field.

Even a freight train running on the tracks beyond the center-field wall seemed to sound a tribute to baseball's old blue eyes — a two-horn blast right after the Baltimore third baseman homered.

Later, the game was stopped as every All-Star player joined commissioner Bud Selig in a six-minute ceremony before the sixth inning to say goodbye to Ripken and Gwynn. The ceremony came near third base —

Ripken's No. 8 was on the bag.

"It's been a great run," Ripken told the fans.

Two years ago, in baseball's last All-Star lovefest, Ripken and Gwynn supported Ted Williams when he threw the first ball at Fenway Park.

A fitting farewell, for sure, for Ripken.

Many credit him for saving baseball after a strike wiped out the 1994 World Series, highlighted by him going on to break Lou Gehrig's consecutive games record.

His brown hair now turned gray, Ripken played in his 18th All-Star game and spent the final innings watching with his son.

Ripken's first All-Star game came in 1983, when Johnny Bench and Carl Yastrzemski played for the last time.

Gwynn, added as an honorary member, did not get to hit.

The eight-time NL batting champion from San Diego said he was more than content to follow the festivities from the dugout.

Freddy Garcia, one of a record eight Seattle players who appeared in the game, was the winning pitcher and teammate Kazuhiro Sasaki completed the three-hitter and got the save.

Park, playing in his first all-star game took the loss.

Ivan Rodriguez singled home an unearned run in the AL fifth off Mike Hampton.

Jeter, part of the new breed of shortstops who have carried on Ripken's lineage, and Ordonez homered off Jon Lieber in the sixth.

Ryan Klesko hit a sacrifice fly in the sixth for the NL's run.

Notes: At 38, Clemens was the oldest pitcher to start for the AL since Early Wynn, who was 39 in 1959.

In an NL lineup change announced prior to the game, Luis Gonzalez moved to center field and Sammy Sosa shifted to right.

Gonzalez beat Sosa in the annual home run derby the night before by a score of 6-2.

Next year's All-Star game will be at Miller Park in Milwaukee, followed by Comerica Park in Chicago (2003) and Enron Field in Houston (2004).

There were a record four rookies at this year's game — Suzuki, Albert Pujols, Ben Sheets and Jimmy Rollins.

Johnson's fourth All-Star start was one short of the record shared by Lefty Gomez, Robin Roberts and Don Drysdale.

The NL won the All-Star game in Seattle, 7-6 in 1979 at the Kingdome. Lee Mazzilli hit a pinch-homer in the eighth inning and drew a bases-loaded walk in the ninth. Mazzilli, now a Yankees' coach, was in the AL dugout for this game.

Willie Mays, Gary Carter and Steve Garvey each won two All-Star MVP awards.

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