

# Rockies win five in a row

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mike Hampton was somehow able to focus enough on pitching when good friend Darryl Kile’s death was still on his mind.

An emotionally charged Hampton won for the first time in four starts and hit his second home run of the season as the Colorado Rockies beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-1 Monday night for their fifth straight victory.

Pitching for the first time since the death of his former Houston teammate, Hampton wore Kile’s No. 57 on his cap and his heart on his sleeve.

“I was trying to think about pitching as much as I could. Of course, I held D.K. in my thoughts and prayers and in my heart, and I always will,” Hampton said.

“Tonight I tried to get back to business and get back to playing a game that I love and he loved.”

Hampton said he will go to St. Louis on Wednesday to attend a memorial service for Kile.

“Before every game I pitch, I say a prayer. And tonight I said a prayer for his family, for Flynn and the kids for them to be strong and to get through this somehow. It’s going to take awhile.”

Hampton allowed one run and five hits over six innings and was aided by three double plays. The two-time All-Star won for just the second time in nine road decisions and lowered his ERA from 7.07 to 6.70.

“I’ve been really working on my focus and concentration my last few starts and taking one pitch at a time,” said Hampton, who weathered rumors about possible being demoted to the bullpen.

“Now I’m ready to get on a roll and move forward.”

Manager Clint Hurdle pulled Hampton after six innings and just 74 pitches.

“I wanted to make sure there was nothing that was even a crack in the door for something negative to happen,” Hampton said. “Obviously, I’m sure he felt a tremendous desire to take the ball out there and do well tonight.”

## Taking a swing at it



Travis Williams, a second grader, hit a single for Applebee’s Golf Carts on Monday at Centennial Park.  
Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

# Junior high ballplayers change rules every game

By Doug Stephens  
The Goodland Daily News

The junior high slow-pitch softball league isn’t a place for serious ball players. There are no coaches. Only one umpire watches the action. The teams, and even the rules, change every game.

A few weeks ago, the kids ran the bases backwards. On Monday night, it was boys versus girls.

Hey, if they were serious , they’d be on a hardball team.

The boys fielded 13 players at a time, the girls 14. The boys bunched their fielders up close to the hitter; during several innings there was an extra fielder to the left and the right of the pitcher.

The girls positioned themselves a little more strategically. They lined up along the baseline, and put six in the outfield, opposed to only four outfielders for the boys.

The teams may not be too organized, but it suits the kids. Coaches are sometimes hard to come by. Families go on vacation during the summer, and in this

league, players don’t have to worry about their teams suffering without them. There are no set teams.

Players show up on game day and get separated into whatever team they will play on that day, then they wait to hear that night’s rules from Jason Hickson, city/county recreation director.

On Monday, there were no special rules during the first game. That changed, though, when the boys creamed the girls. In the second game, the girls were allowed four outs per inning, but it didn’t look like they needed them.

The boys jockeyed for position near second base or somewhere in the infield, fought over pop flies, and joked around so much they missed several slow grounders.

The umpire had to stop the game at one point because an infielder had placed a mountain of dirt on second base.

The girls communicated better, worked together, and retired the boys’ batters with precision. A boy who did get to third base taunted Whitney Ar-

cher, the girls’ pitcher, hopping around the base, daring her to throw him out. She did, and he was tagged out at home.

Not that the girls were angels on the field. One girl rounded second, then crouched down like she was going to crawl to third. The boys didn’t rise to the bait.

Batters from both teams went after almost every kind of pitch. They jumped up and swung at pitches over their heads, and some swings would have looked better on a golf course.

The kids joked with each other, missed simple pop flies because they were trying to show off, and occasionally, made a spectacular play.

In one of the last plays of the game, Archer reached out and stopped a ground ball with her bare hand. She calmly threw the batter out at first, then once the play was over, jumped around the mound and tried to shake off the sting in her hand.

“They just go out there and have fun,” one of the parents said. “It gives them something to do during the summer, and it’s better than watching T.V.”

## city recreation results

<b>Boys' rookie</b> <b>June 10</b> KKCI over VFW 6-5 Basgall Construction over Elks Lodge 19-8 Elks Lodge over Applebee's Golf Carts 9-8 <b>June 17</b> KKCI over Elks Lodge 14-6 Basgall Construction over Applebee's golf carts 14-13 VFW over Basgall Construction 14-13 <b>Boys' minor</b> <b>June 11</b> The Framing Place over Dairy Queen 5-1	Sigco Sun over Brenner Ford 1-0 <b>June 13</b> Dairy Queen over Brenner Ford 7-2 Sigco Sun over The Framing Place 7-4 <b>June 18</b> Sigco Sun over Dairy Queen 4-2 The Framing Place over Brenner Ford 4-1 <b>Boys' major</b> <b>June 10</b> Unruh Family Chiropractic over Marshall's Team 11-9	Henrick Lumber over Schilling Limousin 11-9 <b>June 12</b> Unruh Family Chiropractic over Miller Construction 5-2 Marshall's Team over Schilling Limousin 10-2 <b>June 13</b> Bankwest over KC's Videos 20-4 Gambino's Pizza over Kiwanis 17-8 Golden Chiropractic Clinic over Short & Son 18-10 <b>June 17</b> Kiwanis over Marshall's Team 9-6	Miller Construction over Henrick Lumber 13-4 Unruh Family Chiropractic over Schilling Limousin 9-6 <b>Girls' rookie</b> <b>June 11</b> First National Bank over Goodland Yost Farm Supply 11-0 Witzel & Rhea over KWGB 8-3 Finley Motors over KWGB 7-6 <b>June 18</b> Goodland Yost Farm Supply over KWGB 6-4	Witzel & Rhea over Finley Motors 15-7 Witzel & Rhea over First National Bank 8-5 <b>Girls' major</b> <b>June 10</b> Bankwest over Golden Chiropractic Clinic 19-8 KC's Videos over Kiwanis 19-7 Gambino's Pizza over Short & Son 19-12 <b>June 17</b> Golden Chiropractic Clinic over Kiwanis 9-8 Short & Son over Bankwest 6-5 KC's Videos over Gambino's Pizza 11-8
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## No big surprises at Wimbledon first round, except for nice weather

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Back home on Centre Court at the All England Club, Pete Sampras served just like Pete Sampras.

And, rather out of character, so did Andre Agassi.

Both won straight-set openers at Wimbledon, as did Serena Williams, Jennifer Capriati and every other top player in action Monday. Indeed, the

day’s only significant surprise was the beautiful weather: temperatures in the 70s with nary a rain cloud.

Casting aside the better part of two years’ worth of poor play and a rib strain that put his participation in doubt, seven-time champion Sampras swatted 27 aces and 40 other winners in defeating Martin Lee of Britain 6-3, 7-6 (1), 6-3.

Sampras hasn’t won a title since Wimbledon in 2000, a drought of 29 tournaments, and entered with a 16-13 match record this year, including a French Open first-round loss.

Once again, though, grass gave his game a lift.

“You step out on Centre Court, it’s like Mecca out there,” said Sampras, who at No. 6 has his lowest seeding

here in 11 years. “The U.S. Open, French Open — those are great events, but Centre Court at Wimbledon, there’s something very special whenever you step out there.

“I feel like I kind of came back home today.”

Others winning comfortably included No. 2-seeded Marat Safin, No. 5 Yevgeny Kafelnikov, and No. 7

Jelena Dokic.

U.S. players went 13-5, with No. 11 Andy Roddick and No. 29 James Blake advancing when opponents quit, citing illness, while trailing.

Adding to the predictability was Anna Kournikova’s fourth straight first-round exit from a tourney.

She battled but lost 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 to 21st-seeded Tatiana Panova.

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