

SPORTS

Stapleton signs with Trojans

Courtesy of MIKE SALBATO
Special to The Chronicle-News

Hannah Stapleton recently committed to the Trinidad State volleyball team for the 2009 season. The 5'7 outside/right side hitter comes to TSJC from Liberty High School in Colorado Springs. Hannah transferred from Evangelical Christian Academy to Liberty for her senior year. At ECA she was a two year varsity letter winner. She also received a varsity letter her senior year at Liberty. While at Liberty she was hon-

ored with the Academic Team Champion Certificate of Achievement Award. In addition to volleyball, Stapleton was also a letterman in soccer, basketball, and swimming where she served as the team captain.

"I am pleased that Hannah will be joining our squad," commented Coach Ellen Johnson. "She brings a lot of energy and passion to the court. She is has the best attitude about life and is a hard worker. I definitely expect her to make an impact on Trojan Volleyball. I expect great things out of Hannah."



Cecely Rodriguez

TSJC signs outfielder from Texas

By MIKE SALBATO
Special to The Chronicle

Trinidad State Junior College softball coach Steve Swazo is proud to announce the signing of Cecely Rodriguez of Randall High School in Amarillo, Texas to his 2009-10 softball team.

Rodriguez, a pitcher and outfielder, helped lead her team to the regional semifinals. They were also district champions. During her four years at Randall High School she was a first-team selection all four years as an outfielder and also as a utility player. This past season she had a .351 batting aver-

age and 32 RBI's along with a slugging percentage of .614. Cecely also had an 8-1 pitching record for Randall High School.

"Cecely is a player that can not only swing the bat well but she has a strong arm from the outfield," TSJC Coach Steve Swazo said. "We are excited to get another quality player from Texas and also the Canyon Heat organization. Cecely will fit right in and compete for a starting position in the outfield while here at Trinidad State Junior College."

Cecely is the daughter of Henry and Patricia Rodriguez of Amarillo, Texas.



AP Photo/David Zalubowski

Colorado Rockies starting pitcher Jason Hammel turns to make a pickoff throw against the Seattle Mariners in the fifth inning of a baseball game in Denver on Sunday, June 14, 2009.

Rockies beat Mariners 7-1 for 11th straight win

DENVER (AP) - Nothing can slow down the streaking Colorado Rockies - not even tornadoes.

Garrett Atkins and Todd Helton had three hits each and the Colorado Rockies beat the Seattle Mariners 7-1 on Sunday, matching the franchise record with their 11th straight win.

Colorado's starters have won 10 times during the streak.

Jason Hammel said he felt strong, but a 55-minute rain delay in the top of the sixth, which also included a tornado warning for the Denver area, kept him from pitching deeper into the game.

"I saw at least seven for sure," Hammel said. "I've never had to deal with tornadoes. I've never found the other team being Mother Nature."

Brad Hawpe doubled twice and Clint Barmes had two hits for Colorado, which has swept three straight series and is 13-4 under interim manager Jim Tracy.

"Every day we walk out on the field we expect to win," Helton said. "In the big leagues you're facing good teams and sometimes it doesn't happen and that's why you don't get too down when things go bad because you can always turn them around."

The Rockies won 11 straight from Sept. 16-27, 2007, when they surged to the NL wild card. They won 14 of their last 15 that season, including a one-game playoff against San Diego to win the wild card.



AP Photo/David Zalubowski

Field guards drag the tarp over the infield of Coors Field as a tornado warning forced the halt of play with one out in the sixth inning of a baseball game between the Seattle Mariners and the Colorado Rockies in Denver on Sunday, June 14, 2009.

Colorado then won seven straight playoff games, sweeping Philadelphia in the NL Divisional playoff and Arizona in the NLCS before being swept by Boston in the World Series.

Sunday, they finished off a sweep of a team that was playing well. The Mariners had won four straight series and 9 of 13 games overall entering the weekend series.

"We came in here on a roll," first baseman Russell Branyan said. "They got the best of us."

The Rockies tied the Red Sox for the longest win streak in the majors this year. The Red Sox won 11 in a row from April 15-27.

The streak began after losing three in a row at Houston.

Colorado salvaged the final game of that series before sweeping four games in St. Louis and three more in Milwaukee.

"We played great baseball in the first two games in St. Louis, and you could see an easiness to the group by game three in St. Louis," Tracy said. "Then when we got to Milwaukee I saw belief."

Hammel (4-3) gave up one run on five hits in 5 1-3 innings. He struck out six and didn't walk a batter to earn his fourth straight win.

Seattle starter Jason Vargas (2-2) gave up seven runs and 12 hits, walked two and struck out four in 4 2-3 innings.

"I thought I had things going

when I struck out the side in the third," Vargas said. "I just got off track in the fifth and they really opened up the game."

Ichiro Suzuki had two hits for Seattle.

Ahead 2-1 after four, the Rockies blew it open in the fifth. Helton and Atkins started the inning with singles and Hawpe doubled to left to drive in Helton. One out later, Troy Tulowitzki was intentionally walked and Chris Iannetta drove a double to the wall in left-center to clear the bases.

After Hammel grounded out, rookie Dexter Fowler doubled home Iannetta to make it 7-1.

"A huge three-run double by Iannetta, a big double by Brad Hawpe," Tracy said.

The Mariners took a 1-0 lead on Jose Lopez's sacrifice fly in the first inning. Tulowitzki tied it with a sacrifice fly in the second, and the Rockies took a 2-1 lead in the third when Helton singled to drive in Barmes.

NOTES: Rockies RHP Taylor Buchholz will have Tommy John surgery on his right elbow next Wednesday or Thursday, Tracy said. Buchholz sprained the ligament while warming up in the bullpen before his first spring training appearance on Feb. 26 against the Chicago White Sox and has been on the disabled list all season. ... Mariners C Kenji Johjima (broken big toe on his left foot) will join the team in San Diego on Monday.

City of Trinidad Youth League Baseball Schedules

Schedules for Monday, June 15 - Thursday, June 18

T-Ball Schedule
Please have the kids at the field 15 minutes prior to game time

Monday June 15

Central Park
5:15 pm Field by the playground
Yankees vs. A's
6:20 pm Field by the playground
A's Gas (Cubs) vs. Rockies

Wednesday June 17

Central Park
5:15 pm Field by the playground
Yankees vs. Full Draw (Cardinals)
6:20 pm
A's Gas (Cubs) vs. A's

Ages 10 - 12 Division Schedule

Wednesday June 17

Southside Park
5:15 pm Field C
A-1 Automatics vs. Trinidad Therapy and Sports Medicine
7:15 pm Field C
Full Draw vs. BJ's Diesel

Coach Pitch

Tuesday June 16

Central Park
5:15 pm Field by the lake
A's vs. D&W Concrete (Rockies)
6:20 pm Field by the lake
Cardinals vs. Yankees

Thursday June 18

Central Park
5:15 pm Field by the lake
A's vs. Yankees
6:20 pm Field by the lake
D&W Concrete (Rockies) vs. Cubs

Machine Pitch

Tuesday June 16

Southside Park
5:15 pm Field D
N V Design (Dodgers) vs. Lock Tight Insulation (Yankees)
7:00 pm Field D
Skateland (A's) vs. First National Bank (Rockies)

Thursday June 18

Southside Park
5:15 pm Field D
First National Bank (Rockies) vs. Comcast (Orioles)
7:00 pm Field D
Wal-Mart (Diamondbacks) vs. Lock Tight Insulation (Yankees)

Broncos conclude first mini-camp

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) - It's all over, and just beginning.

The Denver Broncos on Sunday completed their final on-field work before the start of training camp the final week of July. Three mini-camps and 11 days of passing camp have provided new coach Josh McDaniels and his staff clues about the composition, abilities and aptitude of his roster.

But without contact, it's tough to gauge where a revamped squad that includes 42 new players since last season's 8-8 finish under since-departed Mike Shanahan completely stands.

"It'll be an interesting training camp for us because we've got a lot of good football players at the same positions and those guys understand their roles as far as

battling for spots and the playing time they're going to try to earn," McDaniels said after Sunday's practice at the team's Dove Valley headquarters.

"But there's a lot of battles that we couldn't really figure out this spring because we didn't have pads on."

Among the most hotly contested positions should be along the defensive front, outside linebacker and running back.

Rookie first-round pick Knowshon Moreno spent the final mini-camp running behind veterans LaMont Jordan and Correll Buckhalter. But given McDaniels' repeated stance that Moreno has three-down ability, he could work his way to the top of the depth chart this summer.

"As long as we keep making

each other better, we'll be all right," Moreno said.

At outside linebacker, several converted defensive ends are getting their first taste of playing in stand-up fashion in Denver's new 3-4 alignment.

Tim Crowder and Robert Ayers, the Broncos' second No. 1 pick in April, spent most of this camp with the first unit. Elvis Dumervil and Darrell Reid also have been in the mix with the first group, especially on passing downs.

"A lot of them were foreign to the position but not quite anymore. They were in March," McDaniels said. "I think you'll see a tremendous amount of improvement from the beginning of August to our first game of the season in September and

throughout the year because they are playing a different style."

The new alignment has allowed a Denver defense once based on the speed of its linebackers to get bigger on the edge, regardless of who plays. Ayers, Crowder, Dumervil and Reid average 263 pounds.

"That'll always give you an advantage when a team lines up and wants to just maul you off the ball," McDaniels said.

The defensive line group remains a huge question mark. The first group features career backup Ronald Fields at the nose tackle flanked by unknown Ryan McBean and Kenny Peterson, one of the only holdovers from a Denver defense that ranked 25th or worse in eight major categories and allowed 448 points in 2008.

Only second-year pro Marcus Thomas, backing up Fields, has a

track record as a starter among the second-team defensive line. Backup ends J'Vonne Parker and Nic Clemons have combined to play in 20 pro games with zero starts.

"There are a lot of different faces over there. It's a different scheme. But we're competing," receiver Eddie Royal said about playing Denver's revamped defense over the last several weeks. "There's been some good fights."

Denver still has about two weeks remaining in its off-season strength and conditioning program before breaking for about a month. The schedule is a departure from the schedule instituted for many years by Mike Shanahan, whom McDaniels replaced in January. Denver frequently was the last to hold a mini-camp in early July.

But McDaniels indicated that, for now, he's seen what he's need-

ed to over the last several months.

"I think the players and coaches have worked extremely hard to get where we're at. We still have a long ways to go, but we know a heck of a lot more about the players we're working with," McDaniels noted. "And they know more about the system and the way we were going to try and use them."

NOTES: Wide receiver Brandon Marshall continued his holdout for a third straight day. He's seeking a new contract. Marsh all met with team owner Pat Bowlen on Friday but the situation seemingly remains at an impasse, since the club doesn't appear anxious to renegotiate with the oft-troubled Marshall at this current time ... Rod Smith, Denver's all-time leader in several receiving categories, stopped by practice and chatted with Royal for several minutes about preparation. ... Wiegmann is seeking a new contract coming off a Pro Bowl season but was in attendance throughout the off-season program. He quietly met with McDaniels in February to let his feelings be known and has since let his agent, Joe Linta, handle negotiations on his behalf.