



MEDIA CLIPS –May 12, 2018

Early barrage falls short as Rox can't close Crew

Thomas Harding / MLB.com | May 11, 2018

DENVER -- The bats showed up the way Rockies fans usually expect Friday night, but they happened to do so on a night that old-fashioned craziness returned to Coors Field.

The Rockies saw a six-run fourth-inning lead disappear on a rare blown save charged to **Wade Davis**. **Travis Shaw's** two-out single in the 10th gave the Brewers an 11-10 victory. It was the third straight loss for the Rockies, who had not blown a lead of more than two runs all season.

The nine runs the Rockies scored through the fourth inning matched their total in the previous four games combined. However, all that was washed away when the Brewers' **Manny Pina** launched a two-run homer off Davis in top of the ninth.

"It was a game we should've won, and just a bad pitch that cost us the game, ultimately," Davis said.

Davis went last season with the Cubs with just one blown save in 33 chances, but that was against the Brewers on Sept. 23 in his final regular-season save opportunity. Pina's fourth homer of the season came after **Hernan Perez's** two-out single that kept the inning alive.

Then Shaw, who homered in the third inning off struggling Rockies starter **Chad Bettis** (five innings, 10 hits, seven runs), delivered the third hit off **Jake McGee** in the 10th, with two outs as the Brewers had their biggest comeback this season.

"I mean, what a game, right?" Shaw said. "Four hours and 20 minutes. We're down 9-3. It's a testament to the bullpen once again ... and offensively, we just chipped away. ... Especially in a park like this -- 9-3 is not like 9-3 somewhere else."

Jeremy Jeffress (3-0) pitched around a walk in the ninth and **Josh Hader** fanned two in the 10th for his sixth save.

"This one got away from us, for sure," Rockies manager Bud Black said. "It happens over 162 games. It hurts a little bit when it happens, but what I've noticed about this group is it bounces back. We'll be fine."

The Rockies' **Trevor Story** drove in four runs -- on a sacrifice fly on a 10-pitch at-bat in the three-run third and a three-run triple during a five-run fourth that saw the Rockies take a 9-3 lead.

"That's kind of what we're used to, seeing a lot of runs here," Story said. "That's a tough game to lose right there. They just took the momentum and ran with it."

Also, the Rockies' **Gerardo Parra** went 4-for-5 with an RBI, **Charlie Blackmon** tripled and doubled during a three-hit night, and **Chris Iannetta** and **Carlos Gonzalez** each had solo shots for their fourth homers of the season. It was an offensive performance that has been mostly missing, as the Rockies' 21-18 record has been built mainly by starting pitching.

"Too bad they [the Brewers] scored a bunch of runs at the same time," Gonzalez said. "But as a group, you try to take the positive out of it."

Bettis entered with a 2.05 ERA, but the Brewers were aggressive with anything in the strike zone and he ended the night at 3.12.

"Command was off, a lot of mis-executed pitches, so I've got a lot of work to do for the next start," Bettis said.

Still, he walked off the mound with a 9-6 lead. The bullpen, a key reason the Rockies had lost just one of 18 previous games when leading after six innings, and none of the 17 with a lead after seven, didn't hold it.

Lefty reliever **Chris Rusin**, who has struggled since his return from an intercostal injury (four runs in four innings), gave up a run and saw an inherited runner score after replacing Bettis in the sixth.

Bryan Shaw gave up a **Jesus Aguilar** leadoff double in the seventh, but escaped -- mainly because of two standout defensive plays from Story at short. **Adam Ottavino** escaped the eighth despite two walks. But Davis couldn't prevent extra innings.

MOMENT THAT MATTERED

Story the defensive story: Aguilar's double off Shaw to open the seventh -- after Blackmon crashed into the wall but couldn't make the catch -- forced Story to keep the Brewers from scoring. After throwing out Aguilar at third on Perez's grounder, Story went to one knee for Pina's smash, then spun for a fancy flip to **DJ LeMahieu** to start the inning-ending double play.

SOUND SMART

It was the Rockies' largest blown lead since Aug. 31, 2016, when they led, 8-2, in the seventh but lost to the Dodgers, 10-8.

YOU GOTTA SEE THIS

Story found himself in the middle of a slick first-inning double play, which helped an already-teetering Bettis.

Two singles and a **Ryan Braun** sacrifice fly had the Rockies down, 1-0, when Shaw sent a screamer toward the mound. The ball bounced off Bettis' glove to Story, who made an NBA-style double-clutch to throw to first to end the inning.

HE SAID IT

"We had a great game today but didn't pull out the win, so we've got to just be ready for tomorrow." -- *Parra, after his season-high four hits*

UP NEXT

Lefty **Kyle Freeland** (2-4, 3.95 ERA) has taken some forward strides this season. He has worked at least seven innings in his last three starts and brings a 2.08 home ERA into his start Saturday night against the Brewers and righty **Chase Anderson** (3-3, 3.97).

Arenado, Blackmon have faith teammates will hit

Thomas Harding / MLB.com | May 11, 2018

DENVER -- A formula for stopping the Rockies' offense has emerged: pitch around **Charlie Blackmon** and **Nolan Arenado** and take advantage of the rest of the lineup. Their response? Patience at the plate and trust in their teammates.

Through April 25, Blackmon was hitting .300 with a 1.023 OPS that was buoyed by a .638 slugging percentage, and Arenado was at .342, with .589 slugging and a 1.026 OPS.

In the 12 games since (which leads into Friday night against the Brewers), they've crushed the mistake pitches -- to the tune of three homers for Blackmon, and four homers and three doubles for Arenado. But in those dozen games, the combination of high walks (10 for Blackmon, eight for Arenado) and suppressed averages (.227 for Blackmon, .273 for Arenado) shows that they're either seeing a high number of quality pitches or are just being avoided.

"It's a little bit of an adjustment -- 3-1 last night, I didn't get a fastball right down the middle, like I assumed to get," Blackmon said. "But you have to stay within yourself, let the walks happen and they'll throw a good pitch to hit instead of getting yourself out by swinging at pitches you shouldn't be swinging at."

What's happened behind them -- and sometimes leadoff man **DJ LeMahieu**, who has gone 3-for-8 in his first two games back from a hamstring injury -- has justified the strategy.

In the last 12 games, **Gerardo Parra** has hit .314 and **David Dahl** .294. Beyond them have been some low averages: **Carlos Gonzalez** .188, **Trevor Story** .182, **Ian Desmond** .171, **Chris Iannetta** .167, **Daniel Castro** .143, **Pat Valaika** .118 and **Tony Wolters** .111.

Gonzalez, Iannetta, Valaika, Wolters and **Noel Cuevas** have gone a combined 0-for-23 with runners in scoring position in the past 12 games.

Only a standout stretch of pitching made the Rockies 7-5 over a period during which they averaged 3.08 runs per game. Blackmon with eight runs and Arenado with seven combined for 40.5 percent of the runs over that stretch, but that also accounts for when they drove themselves in seven times.

The temptation would be for Blackmon and Arenado, power hitters and run producers, to chase pitches just to not get innings turned over to teammates who aren't hitting. To resist that urge takes trust that the rest will experience a turnaround.

"I would say this is different than in years past, but it's part of the game. Hopefully our lineup gets going throughout the whole thing where they start having to throw pitches over the plate, all at the same time," Arenado said. "I won't lie. I usually don't walk this much. I'm OK with it because I'm getting on base, but we have to take advantage of those walks.

"I can't give in, can't be over-aggressive. I have to stay within myself and sometimes you have to give pitchers credit. But, I think our lineup is capable of doing some special things. We haven't seen it yet and I don't know when it's going to come. We've just got to find a way."

Manager Bud Black and his staff have been meeting with players about individual and overall plans, so that the trust level Blackmon and Arenado are placing in their teammates is rewarded in runs for the offense.

"There's going to come a time when if pitchers do pitch around certain hitters consistently, and they keep getting baserunners on base, they're going to get burned by it," Black said. "We've got to get to a point where the guys who are hitting behind those fellows who are walking get that big hit."

The Morning After: Rockies' Chad Bettis picked a bad night for an off night

Nolan Arenado extends on-base streak to 21 game

Patrick Saunders / Denver Post | May 11, 2018

Chad Bettis' fastball command was not the only thing off Friday night. So was his timing.

On a night when the Rockies' bats finally came alive up and down the order, Bettis pitched a clunker in an 11-10, 10-inning loss to the Brewers. The seven earned runs he allowed in five-plus innings tied for the most earned runs given up by a Rockies starter this season. Also, Bettis' seven earned runs were his most since giving up seven on June 26, 2016 vs. Arizona.

"It's awesome that our guys came out and put up nine runs early," Bettis said. "We had that 9-3 lead (after four innings) and I was hoping I could keep it there. I can't let that lead slip away like that. There in the sixth, I have to do a better job of damage control."

Five takeaways from Friday's game:

No. 1: Carlos Gonzalez might be heating up. The right fielder hits his fourth home run of the season, a solo shot to left in the sixth inning. It was Gonzalez's first home run since April 13 at Washington. He has also recorded back-to-back multihit games for the first time this season.

No. 2: Nolan Arenado has now reached base in 21 consecutive games, and he's hitting .308 (24-for-78) with 14 walks over the streak. Arenado's RBI single in the third inning snapped the Rockies' 0-for-15 streak with runners in scoring position.

No. 3: Milwaukee third baseman Travis Shaw is punishing the Rockies. He entered the series in a 5-for-50 slump, but he's is 6-for-11 in the first two games of the series and drove in three runs Friday night, including the go-ahead RBI in the 10th inning.

No. 4: Gerardo Parra is making it tough for David Dahl to get back in the lineup. Parra started in left field and recorded a season-high four hits, going 4-for-5 with an RBI and also made a terrific diving catch in the ninth inning.

No. 5: Friday marked the first time Colorado lost a game when leading after eight or nine innings. Closer Wade Davis blew just his second save in 16 chances this season.

Quotable: "Offensively, tonight, we performed a lot better. Too bad that they scored a bunch of runs, too. As a group, we try to take the positive out of it, but it's still a loss and you feel bad." — *Gonzalez, after the Rockies produced a season-high 16 hits.*

Rockies blow six run lead in extra-inning loss to Brewers

Colorado's major run producer was shortstop Trevor Story

Patrick Saunders / Denver Post | May 11, 2018

The Rockies broke out the lumber Friday night at chilly, misty Coors Field. But so did Milwaukee.

The two teams combined for 33 hits and 21 runs, but in the end, the Brewers were the last team standing, winners of the 10-inning, 11-10 shootout.

Make no mistake about it, this was crushing for Colorado, which lost its third straight game, and fell to 6-10 at home. The Rockies led 9-3 after four innings, but saw their pitching collapse as they suffered their largest blown lead since Aug. 31, 2016 vs. the Dodgers. In that game, Colorado led 8-2 after seven innings but lost 10-8.

"This was a tough game to lose, for sure. The Brewers just kind of took the momentum and ran with it," said Rockies shortstop Trevor Story, who shined on the diamond and at the plate, driving in four runs.

"This one got away from us, for sure," lamented Colorado manager Bud Black after the Brewers recorded their eighth last at-bat win of the season, the most in the National League. "It happens over 162 games. It hurts when it happens, but what I have noticed about this group is that it bounces back. We'll be fine. It's tough though. It's a tough loss."

Boxscore

The end came when Travis Shaw drove in Lorenzo Cain with a game-winning single off left-handed reliever Jake McGee. McGee, who now owns a disappointing 5.52 ERA, gave up three hits in the 10th. Shaw wrecked the Rockies, batting 3-for-6 with three RBIs.

Rockies closer Wade Davis seemed ready — finally — put the pinball game to rest in the ninth and secure the Rockies' victory. Except that he couldn't.

Davis gave up a two-out single to Perez, and then turned and watched Manny Pina's two-run homer creep into the seats above the right-field scoreboard. In a flash, the game was tied 10-10 and Davis had blown just his second save in 16 chances.

“I was trying to go down and away to (Pina), but I left it up and he put a good swing on it,” Davis said. “I knew it was a bad pitch.”

The Rockies have been longing for a game in which all of their hitters produced, and they finally got it, pounding out a season-high 16 hits. All told, 10 different players had a least one hit for the Rockies, including starting pitcher Chad Bettis and seventh-inning pinch-hitter Noel Cuevas. Delivering results with runners in scoring position also has been an issue for the Rockies, but they were a decent 4-for-12 Friday night.

Colorado’s major run producer was Story. His first RBI came on a sacrifice fly on an impressive 10-pitch at-bat in the third, then he drove in three more runs with a bases-loaded triple in a four-run fourth.

“Those are the kinds of at-bats we have been talking about and working on,” Story said.

The game’s most critical run — or so it seemed at the time — came off the bat of Carlos Gonzalez, who powered a solo homer into the left-field seats in the sixth, boosting Colorado’s lead to 10-8 after the Brewers had scored four runs in the top of the frame. It was Gonzalez’s fourth homer of the season, but it was of little consolation.

“That two-run homer in the ninth hurt us, but you can’t be pointing fingers at anybody,” Gonzalez said. “Bad games are going to happen, but nobody is going to feel sorry for us. We understand that we are a better team than this, so we have to keep doing what we are cable of doing.”

Bettis, Colorado’s captain of command, simply didn’t have it Friday night. The Brewers bashed him for seven runs on 10 hits — both season highs for the right-hander — across five innings (plus three batters in the sixth). Brewers right-hander Brandon Woodruff fared even worse, getting the hook after three innings after allowing seven runs on nine hits.

“I think with Chad, right from the get-go, you could tell that the fastball command was just a little shy,” Black said.

Bettis yielded single runs in the first, second, third and fifth innings, but it looked as if he would keep the game from spinning into a Coors Field special. In the second inning, for example, he faced six batters but managed the traffic well. He got an assist from first baseman Ian Desmond, who fielded a bunt and cut down the lead runner at third base.

But in the sixth, Perez singled, Pina doubled Perez home and Orlando Arcia singled in Pina. That was it for Bettis, and lefty reliever Chris Rusin failed in his role of damage control. By the time Milwaukee's at-bat ended, Colorado's lead had been whittled to 9-8.

"My pitch command was off and I had a lot of miss-executed pitches, so I have a lot of work to do," said Bettis, who saw his ERA rise from 2.05 to 3.12. "It's awesome that our guys came out and put up nine runs early. We had that 9-3 lead and I was hoping I could keep it there. I can't let that slip away like that. There in the sixth (inning), I have to do a better job of damage control."

Kickin' it with Kiz: In this age of snark, is it cool to boo Ian Desmond, or any player, in his home ballpark?
Is it cool to boo a player in his home stadium? Here is a sampling of the responses.

Mark Kiszla / Denver Post | May 11, 2018

Rockies first baseman Ian Desmond is not hitting his weight. He deserves every boo he gets at Coors Field. If you paid for a ticket, then boo, boo, boo.

Eric, Lone Tree

Kiz: Although Coors might be the friendliest ballpark on earth, we live in the age of snark. So I asked the nice folks in my Twitter village: Is it cool to boo a player in his home stadium? Here is a sampling of the responses.

I don't like booing players, definitely not one of "my" players in his or her home stadium. Those are kind of lousy fans if they're doing that.

Margaret, sportsmanship first

Kiz: If I spend 40 bucks on a bad steak, I send it back. That's easy to do with grace, without standing up in the restaurant to boo the chef. A ballpark, however, is a little more raucous establishment than a steak house. A customer that pays 40 bucks for a ticket has every right to boo a slumping player paid \$22 million to hit. Now, don't yell mean things about his mother, because that's not cool. But if Desmond doesn't want to hear fans cheer for a homer and boo after a strikeout, he might be better suited for a job as a forest ranger, where the only sound is sweet chirping from the birds.

Sports are a spectacle. Cheering and conversely, booing, are all part of the show. If you think a fan's opinion in the form of boos makes any difference to today's major-league players, you're nuts.

Darrell, New York

Kiz: The Bronx cheer wasn't invented at Yankee Stadium. But it was perfected there. And it hasn't stopped the Yankees from winning the World Series 27 times.

I'm definitely a homer, but booing is really one of the few ways for fans to express displeasure. But I rarely participate, because it doesn't make me feel good.

Jeff, Castle Rock

Kiz: If the guilt of booing outweighs its cathartic power, then maybe a better option is drowning your sorrow in a beer, with a plate of nachos on the side. Works for me.

We should boo the people that keep letting Desmond embarrass himself every at-bat. Just bench Desmond, and hope he somehow finds his swing again.

Ricardo, from the Dominican Republic

Kiz: Hey, Rockies general manager Jeff Bridich. I think this boo is for you. Don't worry. I will order a round of boos for me. And today's parting shot gives the old Bronx cheer to a knucklehead columnist for questioning the worth of Desmond's bat.

You think Desmond's bat is not worth 22 cents? Have you ever played baseball at a high level? Do you even know what it takes to get to the majors and stay there? Desmond's work ethic, fielding ability and willingness to do whatever it takes to ensure a victory is worth his salary alone. He is not a diva, and will play a position because he was asked, plain and simple ... \$70 million simple. Your column is not worth 22 cents, Mr. Kiszla.

Julie, unafraid to boo

Brewers 11, Rockies 10: Offense finally shows up, pitching gives it all back

This one hurt

Ryan Schoppe / Purple Row | May 11, 2018

The **Colorado Rockies** finally showed what it can be capable of by scoring nine runs in the first four innings of the game. Unfortunately, that wasn't enough as the **Brewers** came back from a 9-3 deficit to win the game 11-10 in extra innings. There was plenty of blame to go around in this game as almost every pitcher struggled, though a few did keep any runs from scoring, and the offense couldn't keep the pressure up.

Regression wins out

Chad Bettis has had a phenomenal start to the season despite the peripherals not always matching the dominance. Unfortunately for him, regression caught up in a hurry in one game. Bettis gave up 10 hits and three walks in five innings of work which resulted in seven earned runs. Now that he's got that out of the way, hopefully he can have another great stretch.

Thankfully for the Rockies and Bettis, the Rockies offense had their own regression tonight, and theirs was in the positive direction. The Rockies offense has struggled to score runs even in games where their base runner totals should have resulted in guys crossing home plate. The Rockies took care of that in the third and fourth innings as they scored three and five runs respectively. They sent eight batters to the plate in the third and 10 more in the fourth as they chased **Brandon Woodruff** from the game.

However, they couldn't break their trend of late-game offensive woes as they couldn't score again after the sixth inning while the Brewers clawed their way back into the game and eventually took the lead in the 10th inning.

#Coors

As we've seen repeatedly, good pitching can overcome the tendency of Coors Field to inflate hits and runs. However, when the pitching isn't sharp, Coors Field can result in wild games like tonight. Both starting pitchers allowed seven earned runs and neither bullpen was particularly sharp as they allowed the run totals to continue to inflate throughout the game.

The Rockies and Brewers combined for 21 runs, 33 hits and 43 baserunners. As is the usual standard, Coors played a bigger factor in it's massive outfield resulting in hits dropping in than in an unusually high number of home runs. Unfortunately, Coors tendency to let deep fly balls to right carry out of the park reared it's ugly head at the worst possible time when **Manny Pina**'s home run barely carried over the fence to tie the game in the ninth inning with two outs against **Wade Davis**.

Double Double Play

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. I'll let these two videos write a book on why **Trevor Story** has become one of the best defensive shortstops in baseball.

Colorado Rockies: 3 potential trade targets at first base

Kevin Henry / Rox Pile | May 11, 2018

It's no secret the Colorado Rockies have struggled at times this season with their offense. It's also no secret where the Rockies need to improve in order to get back to the postseason.

Colorado's **lack of production at the first base** and corner outfield spot were concerns in spring training and continue to be concerns as we head into the middle of May. Question marks in both positions have yet to be answered ... and the answers that have been put on the field have yet to make any kind of significant impact.

So what do the Rockies do? At first glance, one would think they might look to the farm system for help. However, there seems to be either a lack of trust in the players who might be possibilities for a call-up or the options who are there are no better than the ones the Rockies currently field.

Ryan McMahon and **Raimel Tapia** were thought to be young players who could make an impact this season for the Rockies at first base and in the outfield, respectively. However, Tapia has yet to see any time in Denver this season while McMahon's lack of playing time and ability to get into a rhythm at the plate was partially the reason he was sent back to Triple-A.

Without solid options that seem to have the trust of manager **Bud Black** and/or Rockies management, the organization is going to have to look outside to find an impact bat. Yes, we're talking trades here.

So what could that mean? Let's take a look at some potential targets and the reality of it actually happening for the Rockies. In this article, we'll focus on first base. We will discuss one that we brought up in December, one that has been on the burner for a while and one that is a little out of the box.

***Matt Adams**, Washington Nationals*

Adams is having a strong start to the 2018 campaign and the Washington Nationals are enjoying the benefits of signing him to a one-year, \$4 million deal in the offseason. The 29-year-old has a .284/.394/.670 slash with a 1.065 OPS heading into Saturday's games. Expected to split time with **Ryan Zimmerman**, Adams has played more than expected because of injuries ... and has proven that \$4 million investment to be a good one with 10 homers and 25 RBI to his credit.

I talked about him being an offseason target for the Rockies **in this article back in December** ... and it seems like the price tag would have been right. Could the Rockies be in line to bring him on board at the trade deadline?

He's been a key to Washington's success in the early season ... but past trades could indicate that Adams could be had for a decent price perhaps. When he was traded from the St. Louis Cardinals to the Atlanta Braves in 2017, it was for a corner infielder (**Juan Ypez**) at the Class A level. If the Rockies could offer lower level prospects in exchange for someone who could impact the organization immediately, it would be worth it for the Rockies to (once again I suggest) check on the availability of Adams.

Reality check: The Nationals have struck gold with Adams and it would be tough to now send him over to a possible competitor they'll see in the playoffs.

Jose Abreu, Chicago White Sox

This has generated a lot of discussion among Rockies fans for quite some time. The price tag (\$13 million this season) is higher for Abreu ... and the White Sox could well want more in terms of prospects for the established 31-year-old slugger.

The resume is certainly there for Abreu. He has belted at least 25 home runs and driven in at least 100 runs in each of the past four seasons. He has hit seven this season while putting together a .280/.351/.492 (heading into Saturday's games) this season.

Again, it seems like a good fit for the Rockies. The price isn't outrageous and the White Sox are in rebuild mode. He could provide some pop and bring some offense to a part of the Colorado lineup where it is desperately needed.

But would the Rockies be willing to give up prospects to get him? That's the biggest question when it comes to Abreu (or any slugger who is out there). Well ... maybe except for the next possibility.

Reality check: For the right price, Abreu could be in Denver. However, the Rockies didn't pull the trigger in the offseason despite rumors linking the two. The White Sox will entertain reasonable offers ... but will Colorado provide one?

Neil Walker, New York Yankees

If you are wondering if there's a first baseman who is struggling as much as **Ian Desmond** out there, look no further than the Bronx and Neil Walker.

Wait a minute, you say. I'm talking about the Rockies entertaining the thought of bringing someone in who is struggling perhaps as much as the player we're talking about him replacing? Yes ... but hear me out here.

In his first American League season and having a one-year, \$4 million contract, Walker is hitting just .200/.289/.250 in 29 games. Yes, those are absolutely atrocious numbers. However, let's look before his days in the pinstripes. In nine seasons prior with the Mets, Pirates and Brewers, he put together a .272/.341/.437 slash. That includes 38 games with Milwaukee last season when **the Mets traded him to help the Brewers** try to catch the Rockies for the second Wild Card spot. In those 38 games, he hit .267/.409/.433.

Walker has succeeded in the National League before and was seen as a solid trade piece as recently as last season. The Yankees aren't enamored with him and have **Greg Bird** coming back very soon to take over at first base. Send a player to be named later for Walker and bring him to Coors Field to see if he can rediscover his National League mojo with the Rockies.

He's played just 41 games at first base in his career, with the majority of those coming over the last two seasons. But a lack of experience at first base hasn't stopped the Rockies lately, right? He has played primarily second base since breaking into the league in 2009 so there's the versatility the Rockies love as well.

Colorado Rockies: It's time to move on from some of the veterans

Olivia Greene / Rox Pile | May 11, 2018

The Colorado Rockies are a good team. Yes, I understand that they aren't playing very well at this moment in time, but there are still more games to be played. However, they cannot continue down this path of destruction and here's the first thing they have to do. The Colorado Rockies have got to stop being stuck in the past.

Now, there are a plethora of topics that can be thrown around with the above statement I've made. However, it has been one main topic I have not pressed about. In order for the Colorado Rockies to get where they want to go, they have got to drop the past. They can start with not thinking about what happened last season.

The Rockies had a great turn around season last year, but that was a lost cause after the Arizona Diamondbacks decimated that last chance. That doesn't matter anymore, that record doesn't matter anymore, and that team certainly doesn't matter anymore.

This is a new year for the Colorado Rockies. It's time for them to hop back on the saddle and not let 2017 be held over their heads. Jeff Bridich and the rest of the front office saw needs during the offseason and checked things off that list. This is what's gotten them to having one the better bullpens in baseball along with a somewhat solid hitting core. However, some moves didn't help them.

Let's just be straight up about this, the Colorado Rockies are carrying dead weight. This dead weight is essentially that of **Ian Desmond**, **Carlos Gonzalez**, and **Gerardo Parra**. Of course, people are going to get angry over the fact that I'm not being "loyal," or however they'll spin it, but it's true. These men are hurting the team. I mean we all know the reason CarGo was resigned is to keep prized possession **Nolan Arenado** happy. The Rockies haven't found a way to drop Ian Desmond and that large \$70 million/5 year deal that they thought was a good idea. Then with Parra, he's just not in his prime anymore.

Just look at there stats it's not something to be proud of. CarGo is posting a slashline of .236/.264/.393, he's only hit 3 home runs, and 12 RBI. This is a guy that bats the majority of his time 4th in the lineup, but his WAR is -0.3 according to Baseball Reference.

Moving onto Gerardo Parra, his slashline is .275/.331/.358 with only four homers and 13 RBI so far this season while posting a WAR of 0.0. Lastly, we have Ian Desmond who's got a slashline of .180/.225/.376. He does, however, have a surprising 6 home runs and 17 RBI, but he has a -1.0 WAR. This doesn't paint a pretty picture.

It time the Colorado Rockies face the music with these men. They aren't helping them win games and having these men in the lineup may hurt them later on. There are other guys that are deserving of starting jobs. When the Rockies have great young guys like **David Dahl** and **Raimel Tapia** ready to be put to work in the outfield, it's surprising they wouldn't pull the trigger. I hate to admit it, but **Ryan McMahon** does deserve his chance at that starting first baseman job and may never actually get it because of the \$70 million dollar man that's doing nothing.

My point being that with guys like CarGo, Parra, and Desmond being out there doesn't do the Colorado Rockies any good. It also doesn't do any good for those young guys that deserve and have earned the right to have a starting job. Of course, CarGo and Parra are fan favorites that make people happy and excited to go to the games. As for Ian Desmond, well he's already getting booed for his poor performance of late. Nevertheless, that doesn't mean you keep those guys in just because of reasons like that.

The Colorado Rockies have what it takes to be a winning team. However, at the rate they're going, they'll be sucked into the oblivion of teams that can't contend this year. The only way for that to not happen is to address the problem that they currently have. If the Rockies continue, then not only will they proceed with even more poor offense, but these young players will never get the playing time they deserve. The change has to come now, not later.

Colorado Rockies morning after: Well, that game was...interesting

Noah Yingling / Rox Pile | May 11, 2018

The Colorado Rockies bats finally woke up...but not enough for a win.

The Colorado Rockies lost their third straight game and their second straight to the Milwaukee Brewers late Friday night as they lost to the Brewers by a score of 11-10 in 10 innings.

Even though the Rockies had plenty of offense (as shown by the 10 runs), the Rockies still had plenty of issues.

In reality, the offense wasn't good

By just looking at the score, the Rockies offense did well. 10 runs and had 16 hits. Pretty good, right? Wrong. Most of that came in the first four innings. The Rockies led by a score of 9-3 after four innings and 9-4 after five.

After the fourth inning, the Rockies were able to muster one run (on a **Carlos Gonzalez** home run in the 6th) and only four hits (plus one walk) in the following six innings. The only inning with multiple hits was the sixth, in which Carlos Gonzalez had his homer and **Gerardo Parra** had a two-out single. He, however, was stranded when the next batter, **Ian Desmond**, struck out.

For comparison between the innings, let's look at their stats.

1st through 4th inning: 12-for-23 (.522 batting average), including eight singles, a double, two triples, a sac fly, a home run, two walks, and 8 RBI

5th inning on: 4-for-21 (.190 batting average), including two singles, a double, a homer run, two walks, and one RBI

Overall, 16-for-41 isn't bad (.364 batting average) but considering the stark contrast, it doesn't tell the whole story. Plus, the Rockies stranded 19 runners. The Brewers stranded 21 runners but it didn't matter, because they won the game. Of the top eight hitters in the batting order, **Charlie Blackmon** was the only batter who did not strand a runner. The other seven stranded at least two runners.

There is a silver lining to it, though, as they did cut out on their strikeouts a bit, as they only struck out seven times (and two came in the 10th inning). They are averaging about 10 per nine innings.

Additionally, each of the nine Rockies in the starting lineup got at least one hit (including **Chad Bettis**). Charlie Blackmon went 3-for-6 with a double, a triple, two runs scored, and an RBI. Gerardo Parra went 4-for-5 with a run, a RBI, and a stolen base. **Trevor Story** went 1-for-4 with a three run triple, a sac fly, a walk, and he also had a decent amount of good plays defensively.

Another start falls flat

The Rockies had nine straight quality starts entering Wednesday, **which set a new franchise record**.

However, **Tyler Anderson** had a bad start on Wednesday to break the string. On Friday, **German Marquez** was rocked and Saturday, the Rockies got their third consecutive non-quality start, as Chad Bettis only went five innings, allowing ten hits, seven runs (all earned), and walked three.

In the three games, the Rockies starters ERA was 9.82. Obviously, that's not setting your team up to win, especially when the offense is as bad as the Rockies offense has been (entering Friday, they averaged slightly less than 3.9 runs per game and averaged 2.2 runs in the Rockies previous five games).

The bullpen fell flat too

Entering the series, the Rockies bullpen ERA was north of 5, which is a far cry from what the Rockies had hoped. They were excellent in 4 1/3 innings of work on Thursday as they only allowed two walks but they weren't good on Friday. In five innings of work, they allowed seven hits, four runs (all earned), and walked two batters.

Chris Rusin didn't look particularly good in his inning of work as he allowed a hit, a run (that was earned), and also walked a batter. But honestly, he hasn't looked good at all this season. He has made 11 appearances and has allowed at least a run in seven of them. His season ERA is nearly at 6 now as it is at 5.94. He has also walked at least one batter in eight of his 11 appearances.

Wade Davis had an off night as well. He got the first two outs in the ninth with relative ease as he only needed seven pitches. However, he gave up a single to **Hernan Perez** and a homer to **Manny Pina** to tie the game up at 10 a piece. Both the cutter that Perez got his single on and the fastball that Pina for his homer on weren't in terrible locations (down the middle but right at the knees and middle away on the fastball) but Perez and Pina were able to connect.

Jake McGee gave up three hits and the final run in the Rockies coffin in the tenth inning. The eventual game winning single by **Travis Shaw** was also not badly located as it was a slider off the plate away at the knees but Shaw was able to serve it to center field.

The Rockies will send **Kyle Freeland** to the mound against **Chase Anderson** as the Rockies hope to get back on track at 6:10 PM at Coors Field. Also, in the game, on Rockies television, Jenny Cavnar will be filling in again for regular play-by-play broadcaster Drew Goodman on AT&T Sports Net Rocky Mountain, so that is something to look forward to on your Saturday evening.

Rockies bats wake up, pitching falters in old-fashioned Coors Field shootout

Rich Allen / BSN Denver | May 11, 2018

DENVER – It wasn't just rain drops falling from the sky at Coors Field on Friday night. More baseballs might have found the outfield grass than the light drizzle that accompanied the second half of the 11-10 slugfest.

As both teams posted season highs in hits, the Colorado Rockies tried to get back in the win column in game two of the four game set with the Milwaukee Brewers. Jumping out to a 9-3 lead, a win didn't seem like a tall order behind the starting pitcher who has been the team's ace to this point in the season, Chad Bettis. But an implosion in the sixth and a two run home run by Manny Pina to tie the game with two outs in the ninth later, and the narrative of the game was completely changed. Travis Shaw drove in three runs for the Brewers, including the dagger in the 10th inning.

It was undoubtedly Bettis's worst start of his 2018 campaign thus far, getting tagged for seven runs on 10 hits and three walks. He had not allowed more than four runs and six hits in his previous seven starts.

Things got off to a rough start for Bettis, surrendering back-to-back singles to start the game. However, after a sacrifice fly to drive in a run, he escaped the jam without further damage on a line out double play that deflected off his glove to Story, who picked off Christian Yelich trying to return to first.

Bettis allowed the first two runners to reach in the second inning as well, putting runners on the corners on an unsuccessful double play when Ian Desmond hesitated on a throw to second. After the game's second run scored on an Orlando Arcia base hit, Desmond earned some redemption with an athletic throw to third on a bunt by Brandon Woodruff to get a force out.

Desmond would come up big in his first at-bat as well, taking a Woodruff fastball back up the middle, just to the left of second base in the second inning. With the Brewers defense shifted for Desmond to push the ball to right field, a liner that would normally be a single turned into a double that scored Gerardo Parra all the way from first base, getting Colorado on the board.

A big response to a Travis Shaw home run in the third gave the Rockies their first lead of the series. The top of the lineup—DJ LeMahieu, Charlie Blackmon, Arenado and Carlos Gonzalez—recorded four consecutive hits and five in six at-

bats. Even Story, who flew out deep to center to drive in Arenado and the go-ahead run, had a strong, 10-pitch plate appearance resulting in the sac fly.

The long inning appeared to help Bettis as well, who threw his only 1-2-3 inning of the game in the fourth, along with his first strikeout and a ground ball double play.

Bettis got an even longer rest in the fourth—albeit he spent some time on the basepaths—as the bats stayed hot. Iannetta padded the lead with a home run to deep left-center, his fourth on the season, to start the inning. He got the chance for an encore before putting the catcher gear back on as well, with the Rockies batting around to the tune of five runs, including a bases-clearing triple by Story that made sure Colorado did not squander the opportunity.

The Brewers would not go down without a fight, however, putting up a four-spot of their own in the sixth and chasing Bettis from the game. Chris Rusin's early season struggles continued, as he allowed his inherited runner to score, and then one of his own on a hit and a walk allowed.

The next inning, the lead, now 10-8, seemed to be in bigger jeopardy after Bryan Shaw allowed a leadoff double to Jesus Aguilar. However, the danger was quelled when Story caught Aguilar trying to take third on a grounder, and then made a nice stab to start an inning-ending 6-4-3 double play on the next batter to set the Brewers down in order.

Wade Davis, whose only blown save of 2017 came against the Brewers, got a quick two outs, with the help of a diving catch by Parra on Aguilar. But, with two outs, Pina took him to the opposite field to knot the score at 10-10.

The Rockies went quietly in the ninth, sending the game to extra innings. In the top of the 10th, Jake McGee allowed a trio of singles, the final of which to Shaw to give Milwaukee their first lead in seven innings and roughly three hours.

Josh Hader, the only pitcher in baseball with a higher K/9 than Adam Ottavino, sealed the deal in the bottom of the frame, dealing the Rockies a devastating loss.

Five of the Rockies runs came with two outs.

The Rockies fall to 21-18 and 6-10 at Coors Field.

FINAL STATS

Chad Bettis: 5+ IP, 10 H, 7 R (7 ER), 3 K, 3 BB

Chris Rusin: 1 IP, H, R (ER), K, BB

Bryan Shaw: 1 IP, H

Adam Ottavino: 1 IP, K, 2 BB

Wade Davis: IP, 2 H, 2 R (2 ER), HR

Jake McGee: IP, 3 H, R, K

Trevor Story: 1-for-4, 4 RBI, R

Gerardo Parra: 4-for-4, RBI, R

Charlie Blackmon: 3-for-6, RBI, 2 R

Carlos Gonzalez: 2-for-5, HR (4)

Ian Desmond: 1-for-4, 2B, RBI, BB

WHAT'S NEXT

The Rockies and Brewers match up again tomorrow for game three of four in the series as Kyle Freeland duels Chase Anderson. First pitch is 6:10 p.m.

Rockies smack season high 16 hits, collapse late as Brewers win 11-10 in extra innings

Ronnie Kohrt / Mile High Sports | May 11, 2018

Trevor Story's four RBI and the Colorado Rockies offensive season-high 16 hits wasn't enough as the Milwaukee Brewers come back to beat the Rockies in extra innings 11-10 on Friday.

Colorado starter Chad Bettis was shaky early, allowing a single run in each of the first three frames of the game — but never let things get out of control. In the third inning, after Travis Shaw jumped on a 3-0 pitch — a ball launched to right field for a solo home run, Bettis got out of the inning and soon got help from his offense.

Colorado broke out against Brewers starter Brandon Woodruff when Charlie Blackmon launched his first triple of the year in the bottom of the third, a jolt to right field that scored D.J LeMahieu and apart of a three run inning overall. After a review confirmed Blackmon safe on the slide at third, Nolan Arenado tied the game at three with an RBI-single that just got under the shortstop Orlando Arcia's glove.

But the Rockies were not done. Colorado put their third run of the frame up on a sacrifice fly from Trevor Story. A ten pitch plate appearance that involved Story needing to foul off multiple pitches, before finally drilling a pitch deep enough to center to score Arenado for the Rockies first lead of the game at 4-3. The patience of Story was pivotal and the run driven in was his team-leading 25th in 2018, but more was to come.

In the top half of the fourth inning, after Bettis struck-out Manny Pina looking on four pitches to start the inning, Bettis walked Arcia before the Rockies defense turned their 39th double play of the year. In the bottom of the fourth inning, the Rockies offense came to life.

Chris Iannetta led off the inning with a solo shot to the left-center bleachers to make it 5-3 Colorado. Bettis's bat would follow with a single through the gap on the right-side of the infield. His seventh career hit. LeMahieu followed and walked, before Blackmon hit a sharp liner to right to load the bases.

Arenado lined out sharply to left and initially Bettis tagged up to head home to complete the sacrifice fly, however Bettis stopped about ten feet into his trot home thinking the Ryan Braun's throw from left field was coming home. What initially looked like a wasted opportunity — it wouldn't matter two batters later.

Story hit a three run triple to left field that rolled all the way to the Coors Field wall. It would extend the Rockies lead to 8-3. Gerardo Parra singled in Story to make it 9-3 as Colorado scored five runs in the inning and batted around the line up.

While Colorado's offense jumped on the Brewers, Milwaukee was far from giving up on this ballgame. The visitors scored four runs in the sixth and it quickly became a slug-it-out game at Coors. Bettis was lifted and finished pitching 5.0 innings, allowing ten hits, seven runs (all earned,) three walks, striking out three batters and allowing the one home run on 85 pitches — 53 being for strikes.

After a solo home run from Carlos Gonzalez, hit opposite field for his No. 4 of the year in the bottom of the sixth, Colorado reached double-digit runs in a game for only the second time this year, leading 10-8 as the later innings began to settle in.

Adam Ottavino walked Arcia to start the eighth inning and the Brewers threatened with men on second and third, however Ottavino got Jonathan Villar to ground out to end the inning and end the potential tying threat.

Wade Davis was summoned in the ninth inning and after allowing a 2-out single, Pina drove a 2-out, two-run shot to right field to tie the game. A back-breaking blow considering the Rockies led by six runs at one point in the game. It was the second blown save for Davis in 2018.

With the game tied at 10, the Rockies went to the bottom of the ninth and got a two-out walk from David Dahl, before LeMahieu grounded out to send it to extra-innings.

In the top half of the tenth inning, Jake McGee took the mound for the Rockies. Lorenzo Cain hit a one-out single, then Tyler Saladino pinch hitting, singled off McGee to put the go-ahead run at second.

With McGee in a pressure situation, the lefty would get the Brewers down to their final strike of the inning, before Shaw singled home Cain on a liner to right. The Brewers would take their first lead of the game in the tenth inning and while McGee did get the final out without allowing anymore damage. Milwaukee would lead 11-10 going to the bottom of the tenth.

Blackmon led off the tenth inning with a fly-out to center field, Arenado and Gonzalez struck out to seal the game for Milwaukee. Brewers closer Josh Hader shut the door on the Rockies in the tenth inning for his sixth save of the year.

Notes:

- Colorado scored double-digits for the second time in a game this year, with the first coming on May 2nd in an 11-2 win against the Chicago Cubs.
- The Rockies hit a season-high 16 hits.
- Gerardo Parra drove in an RBI on the way to his four hit night.
- Charlie Blackmon finished 3-6, a home run shy of a cycle.
- Time of game: 4:20

What's Next:

The Rockies continue their four game set against the Brewers Saturday when Kyle Freeland (2-4) takes the mound opposite of the Brewers expected starter Chase Anderson (3-3) first pitch 6:10pm MST.

Pina hits tying HR in 9th, Brewers beat Rockies 11-10 in 10

Associated Press / ESPN.com | May 11, 2018

DENVER -- Manny Pina got everything he wanted out of his last-ditch swing.

Pina hit a tying two-run homer with two outs in the ninth and Travis Shaw delivered a two-out RBI single in the 10th, lifting the Milwaukee Brewers to an 11-10 victory over the Colorado Rockies on Friday night.

Trailing 10-8 and down to their last out, the Brewers rallied to tie it off closer Wade Davis, who blew a save for only the second time in 16 chances this season. Hernan Perez singled with two outs and Pina followed by driving Davis' 1-1 offering into the right field bleachers above the scoreboard.

"When I hit it, I said, `Yeah, the ball has to go," Pina said. "I hit it well. Especially with this park, this park, the ball flies."

Davis, whose 14 saves lead the majors, said his location was bad on the pitch Pina knocked out of the park.

"I was trying to go down and away," Davis said. "I left it up and out over the plate. He put a pretty good swing on it.

Unfortunately, I didn't get the job done. It was a game we should have won, and it was a bad pitch."

Lorenzo Cain hit a one-out single in the 10th off Jake McGee (0-2), and pinch-hitter Tyler Saladino singled one out later. Shaw, who homered and had another RBI single earlier, then drove a solid single to center to score the decisive run and complete a comeback from six runs down.

"Offensively, we did a job, did a beautiful job tonight," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "But you come back from a big deficit like that, there's a lot of guys that did something right to put yourself back in position."

Jeremy Jeffress (3-0) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win and Josh Hader got three outs for his sixth save.

Chris Iannetta and Carlos Gonzalez homered for the Rockies. Gerardo Parra added four hits and Charlie Blackmon had three, including a triple and double.

"That two-run homer in the ninth inning obviously hurt, but you can't point fingers at anybody," Gonzalez said. "Bad games, they're going to happen."

The Rockies batted around in the fourth, sending 10 men to the plate, with Iannetta leading off the inning with his fourth homer of the season. After the next two batters reached, Jacob Barnes relieved Brandon Woodruff, who was recalled from Triple-A Colorado Springs before the game to make the start.

The bases were loaded with two outs when Trevor Story tripled to the wall in left-center and he scored when Parra followed with a single, his third hit of the game.

The Brewers pulled within a run with a four-run sixth but Colorado went back up 10-8 in the bottom of the sixth when Gonzalez homered off reliever Taylor Williams.

Woodruff went three innings and allowed seven runs on nine hits. Colorado starter Chad Bettis allowed a season-high seven runs in five-plus innings.

Trailing 3-1, the Rockies moved in front 4-3 with a three-run third ignited by Blackmon's one-out RBI triple. Nolan Arenado followed with a run-scoring single and Story added a sacrifice fly.

Swinging away on a 3-0 pitch, Shaw connected for his eighth homer of the season in the top of the third. Milwaukee also scored runs in each of the first two innings on Ryan Braun's sacrifice fly and Orlando Arcia's RBI single.

Ian Desmond's RBI double in the second produced the Rockies' first run.

TOUGH CALLS

The Brewers fell to 1-6 when making challenges this season. They lost their latest challenge when replay review did not provide sufficient visual evidence to overturn a safe call on Blackmon sliding into third for a triple.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Brewers: OF Brett Phillips was optioned to Colorado Springs to clear the roster spot for Woodruff, who was recalled before the game to bolster the team's injury-depleted rotation. RHP Zach Davies (right shoulder) and LHP Wade Miley (right oblique) remain on the disabled list.

UP NEXT

Brewers: RHP Chase Anderson (3-3, 3.97 ERA) will be making his ninth start of the season. The team has gone 5-3 in his eight previous starts.

Rockies: LHP Tyler Anderson (2-4, 3.95 ERA) had a season-high tying eight strikeouts in earning his second win of the campaign last time out.

Counsell A Brewer But There Is Room for Rockies in His Heart

Tracy Ringolsby / Inside the Seams | May 11, 2018

Brewers manager Craig Counsell bleeds Brewers' blue.

He grew up hanging around County Stadium. His father, John, was the director of the Brewers Speakers Bureau and Community Relations when Counsell was growing up.

Counsell, however, has to admit, a piece of his heart belongs to the Rockies.

Over the years, he has spent a lot more time in the visiting clubhouse at Coors Field than the home clubhouse, but the ballpark will always have a special memory. His time in the big leagues with the Rockies was limited, but in September of 1995, the first year of Coors Field, he made his big-league debut. He appeared in three games that year, and then, in July of 1997, he was back with the Rockies for one day, serving as a pinch-runner on July 27.

The next day he was dealt to the Marlins and embarked on a career that saw him play a key role in two World Series championships before eventually retiring at the age of 40 at the end of the 2011 season to initially become a special assistant. And on May 4, 2015, he became the manager of the franchise, earning NL Manager of the Year honors last year.

It all started with the Rockies, who made him one of the franchise originals, an 11th-round draft pick out of Notre Dame in that first draft in which the Rockies participated in 1992. He was the starting shortstop for the 1992 Bend Rockies, hitting second, in the first game played by an affiliate of the Rockies organization.

And in the eighth inning of that game, with Bend trailing 4-1 and one out, it was Counsell who reached base, three batters ahead of Will Scalzitti hitting a grand slam that landed on the roof of the Albertson's behind the left field fence. The Rockies added another run for a 6-4 win which was televised back to Denver, and had a media overflow seated in the stands of the 3,000-seat Bend ballpark.

The team won the Northwest League South Division that year before losing back-to-back games to Bellingham in the NWL Championship Series.

“If you were part of the Bend group, you got a lot of attention,” Counsell recalled. “We were the first players to put on the (Rockies) uniform, which is the complete opposite of what happens normally when you go to (a short-season minor league). “

Attention like that first game ever?

“It was a huge deal,” he said. “It really made you feel a part of the organization, proud to be a Rockie. You were part of that first group and it ended up a lot of players from the draft played in the big leagues.”

Ten players played in the big leagues, including Counsell, who played more games in the big leagues (1,624) than any of the others.

THE CLASS OF `92: BIG-LEAGUE GRADUATES

Rnd	OvPck	Name	Pos	G	AB	HR	BA	G	W	L	ERA	SV	Drafted Out of
1	27	John Burke	RHP	28	21	0	0.19	28	4	6	6.75	0	University of Florida
2	65	Mark Thompson	RHP	93	104	1	0.154	94	18	24	5.74	0	University of Kentucky
3	95	Roger Bailey	RHP	92	97	1	0.206	92	18	19	4.9	1	Florida State University
7	207	Jason Bates	SS	319	677	12	0.239						University of Arizona
10	291	Garvin Alston	RHP	6	1	0	0	6	1	0	9	0	Florida International University
11	319	Craig Counsell	SS	1624	4741	42	0.255						University of Notre Dame
14	403	Juan Acevedo	RHP	258	65	0	0.092	367	28	40	4.33	53	Parkland College
17	487	Angel Echevarria	OF	328	543	21	0.28						Rutgers
25	711	Quinton McCracken	2B	999	2462	21	0.274						Duke University
28	795	Mark Strittmatter	C	4	4	0	0						VCU

“If a team gets 10 players from a draft, it is thrilled,” he said. “Maybe, the fact we were made to feel so much a part of the organization from the beginning, our path was a little easier. It did make you feel you established some loyalty right away because of how big a deal it was.”

Of the 10 players, Counsell may have had the longest career, but he played fewer games with the Rockies than any of the other nine. He appeared in just four games, including that pinch-running appearance the day before he was dealt to the Marlins.

COUNSELL BIG-LEAGUE TENURE

16 Yrs	1624	5488	4741	647	1208	218	40	42	390	103	49	589	663	0.255
	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA
ARI 6 yrs	664	2639	2299	343	611	106	16	24	193	68	35	276	294	0.266
MIL 6 yrs	711	2063	1768	217	426	77	17	13	130	30	13	229	281	0.241
FLA 3 yrs	195	662	565	67	143	29	7	5	58	4	1	74	74	0.253
COL 2 yrs	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
LAD 1 yr	50	122	108	20	28	6	0	0	9	1	0	9	14	0.259

The irony is original general manager Bob Gebhard explained trading Counsell for right-handed reliever Mark Hutton with the claim Counsell had always been a shortstop and wouldn't play second base.

The Marlins must not have known that. They immediately inserted him at second base in the final days of July 1997, and he was a key factor in the Rockies expansion cousins from Florida winning a world championship that year.

He scored the game-winning run against Cleveland in the 11th inning of Game 7 on Edgar Renteria's single. History also notes that with the Diamondbacks in 2008 it was Counsell, who was hit by a pitch from Yankee closer Mariano Rivera in the ninth inning to load the bases ahead of Luis Gonzalez's walk-off single, making Counsell the only player on base for the last two World Series ending walk-off games.

He wound up a full-fledged utility infielder in the big leagues, and played more games at second base (574 games, 468 starts) than shortstop (478 games, 393 starts) or third base (385 games, 275 starts).

But it all started with the Rockies in Bend, Ore., and then there were the springs in Tucson, particularly 1993, the first in Rockies history. The franchise did not have a deep supply of players.

"On the minor league side there around 60 players at spring training, is all," said Counsell. "There was a Triple-A team, but no Double-A team."

Counsell and others from that 1992 draft were brought over to the big-league camp to fill out exhibition game rosters.

That meant they got big-league meal money for a day.

It also meant memories.

“I played in a game against the Brewers, and I got to play against Robin Yount,” said Counsell, thinking back to his youth, and hanging out at County Stadium watching the emergence of Yount from prospect to MVP. “It was at the old (Brewers) complex)in Chandler.”

It was a road trip.

“Yeah, and the other thing I remember is there was beer on the bus after the game,” he said. “I mean, cold beer on the bus. Like, that was the big leagues. When else was I going to play against Robin Yount and have cold beer on the bus after the game?”

It was one of the perks of being a part of the start of an expansion franchise that Counsell will never forget.

Friday 4x4: Rockies Rotation Has Gone Flat at Coors

Tracy Ringolsby / Inside the Seams | May 11, 2018

The season is young. The Rockies have played only 15 games at Coors Field. But that home-field advantage has been missing in action. The Rockies are 6-9 at Coors Field this season.

The focus has been on the struggles of the Rockies offense, which can't be ignored. But other than Kyle Freeland, the rotation has stumbled at home this year. Freeland is the only one early in the season on pace to have a lower ERA at home than a year ago.

And German Marquez, who already equaled his Coors Field loss total of last year of three, has been particularly flat at home.

"I don't think it has anything to do with pitching here," he said after Thursday's game. "It is just inconsistency."

Manager Bud Black agreed.

"He looked uncomfortable the whole start," said Black. "He was without fastball command. He's a fastball pitcher with secondary pitches that come into play."

What a Difference a Year Makes

Player	Team	W	L	Pct	GS	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	ERA
Jon Gray	2017	5	1	0.833	8	46	43	17	16	4	13	41	3.13
	2018	2	2	0.5	4	23	25	14	13	3	6	26	5.09
Chad Bettis	2017	1	1	0.5	5	31.1	30	12	12	5	4	19	3.45
	2018	0	0	-	2	10.2	9	5	5	1	4	8	4.22
Kyle Freeland	2017	6	8	0.429	16	87	89	41	36	7	35	66	3.72
	2018	1	1	0.5	2	13	10	3	3	2	4	13	2.08
Tyler Anderson	2017	3	3	0.5	7	41.1	40	19	19	4	13	40	4.14
	2018	1	1	0.5	3	17	19	8	8	3	5	17	4.24
German Marquez	2017	6	3	0.667	13	80.1	81	41	41	15	20	76	4.59
	2018	0	3	0	4	15.2	28	18	18	3	10	14	10.34
The Quintet	2017	21	16	0.568	49	286	283	130	124	35	85	202	3.9
	2018	4	7	0.364	15	79.1	91	48	47	12	29	78	5.33

Player	Team	W	L	Pct	GS	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	ERA
Per 9 Innings	2017						8.9	4.1	3.9	1.1	2.67	6.35	
	2018						10.3	5.4	5.3	1.4	3.29	8.85	
Increase 2017-18							1.1	1.3	1.4	0.3	0.66	2.5	1.43

It has been a struggle for Ian Desmond, who prides himself on his professionalism and ability to be a positive factor on a team. The Rockies offense has been in a funk this year, and he has become the favorite target for those who need to repeat the same whine every week. But it's not like Desmond is on an island. He is hitting .176 with runners in scoring position. The concerning factor is seven other position players who have spent time on the Rockies this year have an even lower average with runners in scoring position.

Worn Out Clutch

Player	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	AVG
David Dahl	7	-	4	0	1	0	4	2	1	0.571
Nolan Arenado	28	-	9	3	0	2	13	7	8	0.321
Charlie Blackmon	16	-	5	1	0	1	9	4	3	0.313
Trevor Story	30	-	9	4	1	2	16	8	13	0.3
Tony Wolters	7	-	2	0	0	0	5	2	0	0.286
DJ LeMahieu	20	-	5	1	0	0	6	2	1	0.25
Carlos Gonzalez	22	-	5	1	1	0	8	1	6	0.227
Ian Desmond	34	-	6	3	0	0	8	1	11	0.176
Daniel Castro	6	-	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0.167
Ryan McMahon	6	-	1	0	0	0	3	4	2	0.167
Chris Iannetta	21	-	3	0	0	1	7	4	6	0.143
Gerardo Parra	15	-	2	0	0	0	4	2	2	0.133
Pat Valaika	15	-	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	0.067
Noel Cuevas	4	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mike Tauchman	7	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
	248		53	13	3	6	87	37	61	0.214

Marquez allowed 12 hits in 4 2/3 innings of Thursday's loss. It's the second time he has allowed 12 hits in fewer than five innings, but the first time at Coors Field. He also allowed 12 hits in 4 1/3 innings at San Francisco on Sept. 27, 2006.

He became the 13th Rockies pitcher to allow 12 or more hits and work less than five innings in a Coors Field game. Jeff Francis is at the top of the list, the only Rockies pitcher to allow 13 hits in fewer than five innings at Coors Field.

Plenty of Hit, Not Enough Miss

Player	Date	Opp	W	L	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO
Jeff Francis	8/11/2005	Pit	0	1	3.1	13	9	8	0	1	1
Jose Acevedo	8/9/2005	Pit	0	1	3.1	12	9	9	1	1	2
Pedro Astacio	7/22/2001	LA	0	1	3.2	12	8	8	3	2	2
Willie Blair	7/5/1993	ChC	0	1	4.1	12	6	5	2	0	1
Mark Brownson	7/27/1998	Pit	0	0	4.1	12	7	7	2	1	1
Taylor Buchholz	5/13/2007	SF	0	1	4.2	12	8	8	1	1	7
Kevin Jarvis	5/1/2000	Mon	0	0	4	12	7	7	4	2	2
Jair Jurrjens	7/4/2014	LAD	0	1	4.2	12	8	8	2	1	3
German Marquez	5/10/2018	Mil	0	1	4.2	12	5	5	1	3	3
Armando Reynoso	8/27/1995	StL	0	1	4.2	12	7	7	1	2	4
Glendon Rusch	5/13/2009	Hou	0	0	2.2	12	6	6	0	0	2
Chris Rusin	8/22/2015	NYM	0	1	2	12	11	11	1	2	3

At the plate the Rockies are on pace for by far their worst season ever offensively at Coors Field. They go into Friday's game hitting .245, which is 29 points lower than the lowest average for a full season set in 2011. This is a team that has hit .300 or better in 14 of the previous 23 seasons at Coors Field. The .398 slugging percentage is 49 points lower than 2011, the lowest in franchise history.

The Offensive Offense of 2018

Year	AB	AVG	OBP	SLG
1996	2909	0.343	0.408	0.579
2000	2887	0.334	0.401	0.538
2001	2866	0.331	0.387	0.554
1999	2938	0.325	0.383	0.549
1998	2862	0.325	0.382	0.519
2014	2868	0.322	0.372	0.529
1997	2841	0.321	0.386	0.523
1995	2515	0.316	0.383	0.556
2002	2773	0.313	0.376	0.496
2012	2827	0.306	0.367	0.5

2016	2823	0.304	0.369	0.516
2004	2792	0.303	0.375	0.506
2015	2819	0.302	0.352	0.489
2005	2824	0.3	0.366	0.46
2010	2775	0.298	0.368	0.498
2017	2735	0.298	0.364	0.498
2007	2836	0.298	0.372	0.48
2003	2749	0.294	0.372	0.503
2006	2752	0.294	0.366	0.459
2013	2836	0.293	0.347	0.462
2009	2675	0.287	0.367	0.483
2008	2742	0.278	0.35	0.454
2011	2756	0.274	0.349	0.447
2018	485	0.245	0.325	0.398