



MEDIA CLIPS – July 9th, 2018

Arenado, Story, Blackmon named All-Stars
By Thomas Harding MLB.com @harding_at_mlb
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SEATTLE -- Rockies third baseman **Nolan Arenado** can mark the All-Star Game on his calendar, now that he's headed to his fourth in a row. Still, he wasn't taking for granted being voted a National League starter for the second straight year.

"Starting an All-Star Game two years in a row is an amazing feeling," Arenado said Sunday, when the All-Stars were announced. "I'm a little bit in shock. It doesn't get old, so I'm just very thankful that they appreciate the way I play my game. I just can't thank them enough."

Arenado will be joined by two teammates, voted as reserves by NL players, managers and coaches: outfielder **Charlie Blackmon**, making his third appearance (he was a fan-voted starter last year), and shortstop **Trevor Story**, going for the first time.

"Those three fellows are all deserving," said Rockies manager Bud Black, who will be a coach for the National League.

"Nolan is at a place in his career where he is recognized perennially as an All-Star-type player. He's talked about in our circles, those of us in uniform, general managers, people in the game, as one of the premier players in the game, and the fans recognize that as well.

"With Trevor, this is a year where he's broken through. He's recognized by players, coaches, managers, executives as one of the best shortstops in the game. Charlie, the last couple years, he's been coming on as an outfielder, as a player, that he's talked about as a really solid big league player. ... A guy that's talked about amongst us, and when that happens it really signifies the arrival of a player."

Arenado is tied for the NL lead with 22 home runs and has a team-leading 63 RBIs to go with a .305 batting average. Arenado finished with 3,261,425 votes from fans using the Camping World 2018 All-Star Game Ballot to easily outdistance the Cubs' **Kris Bryant**, who drew 2,198,966 votes. Arenado had the third-most votes of any NL player, behind two Braves -- first baseman **Freddie Freeman** (4,039,219) and outfielder **Nick Markakis** (3,556,469).

"[One of] those goals going into the season is to make an All-Star team, and obviously there's going to be a time when I'm not going to be able to make it," Arenado said. "This year, I'm happy I was able to make it again.

"There are a lot of great players in this game, a lot of good third basemen."

Blackmon is hitting .276 -- well below last year, when he finished at .331 -- but has 17 homers and 40 RBIs mostly from the No. 2 spot in the lineup. Blackmon recently has been emerging from a lengthy June slump, but those in the game recognize what he means to the Rockies. He finished sixth in fan voting.

"That makes me feel better about being there, in the sense that your peers respect the effort that you're putting out there on the field," Blackmon said. "It's a great way to represent your team.

"I didn't necessarily do what I did last year to this point. To still get voted in by your peers means that they appreciate what you're doing."

Story, hitting .284 with 17 homers and 62 RBIs, plus gaining notice for his defense, was a Final Vote candidate as a rookie in 2016. He finished fourth in fan voting at shortstop this year.

"Ever since I was a little kid, you kind of dream about that -- playing in the All-Star Game," Story said. "To be voted in by the players and the managers means a lot to me. It's hard to explain. I don't even know if it's set in yet."

Right-handed setup reliever **Adam Ottavino** was left off the team despite his 1.79 ERA -- with 63 strikeouts in 40 1/3 innings -- in 37 appearances. Ottavino is yielding a 0.92 WHIP.

"I'm not surprised, because I'm on the Rockies and I kind of gave up some runs last week," Ottavino said. "You've gotta be pretty much perfect. Pitchers don't get any credit playing for the Rockies."

Another Rockies candidate who didn't make the squad was starting pitcher **Kyle Freeland** (8-6, 3.18 ERA).

Fans can cast votes for the final player on each league's roster -- on computers, tablets and smartphones -- exclusively online as part of the **2018 Camping World MLB Final Vote**, as well as via the MLB At Bat and MLB Ballpark mobile apps, until Wednesday at 2 p.m. MT (4 p.m. ET).

Then on Tuesday, July 17, while watching the 2018 All-Star Game presented by Mastercard live on FOX, fans can submit their choices for the Ted Williams Most Valuable Player Award presented by Chevrolet with the 2018 All-Star Game [MLB.com MVP Vote](#).

The 89th Midsummer Classic, at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., will be televised nationally by FOX Sports; in Canada by Rogers Sportsnet and RDS; and worldwide by partners in more than 180 countries. FOX Deportes will provide Spanish-language coverage in the United States, while ESPN Radio and ESPN Radio Deportes will provide exclusive national radio coverage of the All-Star Game. MLB Network, MLB.com and SiriusXM also will provide comprehensive All-Star Week coverage.

For more information about MLB All-Star Week and to purchase tickets, visit [AllStarGame.com](#) and follow @MLB and @AllStarGame on social media.

Five-game win streak ends despite trio of HRs

Blackmon, CarGo, Story each homer as Rockies drop series finale

By Thomas Harding MLB.com @harding_at_mlb

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SEATTLE -- Home runs are loud, but games are often lost in the silence of walks. Instead of celebrating a sweep of the Mariners, ill-timed free passes from right-hander **Antonio Senzatela** meant the Rockies would leave Safeco Field silently after a 6-4 loss on Sunday afternoon.

Charlie Blackmon and **Carlos Gonzalez** launched solo home runs, and **Trevor Story** added a two-run homer -- one that gave the Rockies a 4-3 lead in the top of the sixth. All the homers came off Mariners starter **Wade LeBlanc** (5-0).

However, Senzatela, who walked two and hit one during the Mariners' three-run first, gave up a leadoff walk in the sixth and eventually surrendered **Ryon Healy's** three-run shot that put the Mariners back on top.

"I wasn't trying to walk anybody; it just happened," Senzatela said. "I paid the price for it today."

The loss ended the Rockies' five-game win streak, which had helped them get back into National League West race. The Rockies begin a stretch of six of their next nine games against the first-place D-backs on Tuesday at Coors Field.

"We played well," Rockies manager Bud Black said. "All series, our guys played hard. LeBlanc sort of handcuffed us a little bit, but we got a couple of big swings, fought back from a couple of deficits today and took the lead.

"We've been playing well for a couple of weeks, so we've got to continue."

In his second start this season, after pitching seven scoreless innings while beating the Giants at home on Tuesday, Senzatela (3-2) faced just one baserunner between the second and fifth. **Denard Span** tripled to open the fourth, but didn't score, because Senzatela forced a grounder from Healy, an infield pop from **Guillermo Heredia** and a lineout to center by **David Freitas**.

"I was rushing a little bit with my delivery," Senzatela said of the first inning. "I can't pinpoint anything else.

"I just put in my mind to throw quality pitches down in the zone and make some outs for the team. After the first inning, I did."

It turned out Healy, however, was Senzatela's biggest problem.

With one out and the bases loaded in the first -- on **Dee Gordon's** single, a **Mitch Haniger** hit by pitch and a walk to **Nelson Cruz** -- **Kyle Seager** delivered a sacrifice fly. But Senzatela walked Span, then served up Healy's two-run double.

Cruz drew the leadoff walk in the sixth and Seager singled. With one out, Healy powered a 2-1 slider for the go-ahead homer.

Blackmon's 17th homer of the season, in the first inning off LeBlanc, gave the Rockies the lead before Senzatela's struggles in the bottom of the first. Gonzalez added his eighth homer in the fifth to cut the difference to 3-2. Story's 17th homer of the season, off LeBlanc, followed **Nolan Arenado's** two-out single.

SOUND SMART

Sunday is not a fun day for the Rockies. The loss to the M's dropped them to 3-11, and they've lost their last six Sunday contests.

YOU GOTTA SEE THIS

Had the Rockies won, Story's opposite-way homer to right field would not have been the only reason.

After Span's triple, Healy hit a hard one-hopper to Story, who was playing slightly in. The ball bounced off the tip of Story's glove, then hung high in the air. Story made a two-handed catch, then spun to deliver a strike to **Ian Desmond** at first base to retire Healy. It was a key play in a scoreless inning.**UP NEXT**

Lefty **Tyler Anderson** (6-3, 3.90 ERA) has thrown two straight scoreless, eight-inning outings. He'll face the D-backs and lefty **Patrick Corbin** (6-3, 3.05) in the opener of a three-game set at Coors Field on Tuesday at 6:40 p.m. MT.

Sweepless in Seattle: Rockies' 5-game winning streak ends with loss to Mariners
By PATRICK SAUNDERS | psaunders@denverpost.com | The Denver Post
PUBLISHED: July 8, 2018 at 4:46 pm | UPDATED: July 8, 2018 at 7:52 pm

SEATTLE — Sweeps and streaks die on Sunday afternoons for the 2018 Rockies.

They arrived at Safeco Field riding a five-game winning streak and savoring a chance to sweep the Mariners. But those plans were trashed due to an off day by starting pitcher Antonio Senzatela and the hot bat of Seattle first baseman Ryon Healy.

Final score: Mariners 6, Rockies 4. Sweepless in Seattle, as Colorado lost for the sixth consecutive time on Sundays and fell to 3-11 on that day for the season.

The Mariners, second in the American League West behind the Houston Astros, earned their 25th comeback win of the season and improved to 38-14 (.713) in games decided by one or two runs, the best such winning percentage in the majors.

"We played well all series," Rockies manager Bud Black said. "We fought back from a couple of deficits today and took the lead. Overall, we played well, and we've played well for a couple of weeks now. So we've got to continue that."

Colorado hit three home runs — a solo shot by Charlie Blackmon in the first, a solo blast by Carlos Gonzalez to lead off the fifth and a two-run bomb by Trevor Story in the sixth to give the Rockies a short-lived 4-3 lead — but that wasn't enough. All told, the Rockies had just five hits.

Seattle slew the Rockies when Healy crushed a three-run homer off Senzatela's hanging slider in the bottom of the sixth. Healy finished the game with five RBIs.

Senzatela's rough start ended an impressive streak by Colorado starters. They had allowed two or fewer runs over their past eight starts, tying a franchise record. The starters were 6-0 with a 1.21 ERA over that span.

"I was rushing a little bit with my delivery," Senzatela said. "That's really what it was. I can't pinpoint anything else."

Senzatela's afternoon got off to a rocky start, and it ended the same way. In the Mariners' three-run first inning, they sent eight men to the plate as Senzatela walked two and plunked Mitch Haniger. Kyle Seager's sacrifice fly scored Dee Gordon, and Healy's two-run double drove in Haniger and Nelson Cruz.

Senzatela walked three batters in his six innings, an indication he was not sharp.

“You want to minimize the walks, and I wasn’t planning to walk anybody, it just happened,” he said. “But I paid the price for it today.”

Senzatela settled down after that and blanked Seattle for the next four innings, giving up just one hit — a leadoff triple to Denard Span in the fourth. But the sixth inning doomed Senzatela. Cruz drew a leadoff walk, Seager followed with a single and then Healy launched his 18th home run of the season.

“Antonio was out of sorts, and it looked like his delivery was off, early,” Black said. “He was cutting off some pitches and sort of yanking some fastballs away from righties and into lefties. He just didn’t make that transition from the mound to the bullpen in the first inning. Then he reeled it in for the next four innings and was outstanding until the sixth inning.”

Story, selected to his first All-Star Game on Sunday, is batting .343 since June 1 and recorded his 28th multihit game of the season.

Looking ahead

Monday: Off day

Tuesday: Diamondbacks LHP Patrick Corbin (6-3, 3.05 ERA) at Rockies LHP Tyler Anderson (6-3, 3.90), 6:40 p.m., ATTRM

Wednesday: Diamondbacks RHP Shelby Miller (0-3, 9.00) at Rockies RHP German Márquez (7-8, 4.92), 6:40 p.m., ATTRM

Thursday: Diamondbacks RHP Zack Godley (10-6, 4.85) at Rockies LHP Kyle Freeland (8-6, 3.18), no TV

Rockies Nolan Arenado, Trevor Story, Charlie Blackmon make all-star team; Adam Ottavino snubbed
By PATRICK SAUNDERS | psaunders@denverpost.com | The Denver Post
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SEATTLE — Rosters for the 89th All-Star Game were announced Sunday, stirring a wide range of emotions in the Rockies' clubhouse.

Shortstop Trevor Story, a first-time selection, was jubilant. Third baseman Nolan Arenado, now a four-time all-star, was proud, and eager to hobnob with baseball's best players when they gather July 17 at Nationals Stadium in Washington.

Center fielder Charlie Blackmon, selected for the third time, was pleased that he was recognized by his peers.

So what was the reaction of right-hander Adam Ottavino, who was snubbed from the Midsummer Classic, despite his 1.79 ERA and a 0.917 WHIP, and despite the fact that he plies his trade at hitter-friendly Coors Field?

"I'm not surprised," Ottavino said. "It's because I'm on the Rockies. ... Pitchers don't get any credit playing for the Rockies."

Arenado, a five-time Gold Glove winner, whose 22 home runs are tied with Milwaukee's Jesus Aguilar for most in the National League, was an obvious selection. The fans voted the Colorado slugger in as a starter for the second consecutive year. Arenado received 3,261,425 votes, third in the NL behind Atlanta first baseman Freddie Freeman (4,039,219) and Atlanta outfielder Nick Markakis (3,556,469).

"Thank God I've stayed healthy enough to be here, and I really appreciate the fans," Arenado said. "I work extremely hard, and to start an All-Star Game two years in a row is an amazing feeling. I'm a little bit of shock. It sure doesn't get old."

For Story, a baseball fanatic since he was 5 years old, being named an all-star was a dream realized.

"It's been one of my goals, ever since I was a little kid," said Story, who's batting .284 with 17 home runs, 23 doubles and 62 RBIs. He hit a two-run homer in Colorado's 6-4 loss to the Mariners on Sunday. "To be voted in by the players and the managers means a lot of me. It's hard to explain, really. I don't know if it's set in yet. It's really exciting."

Blackmon, last season's NL batting champion, is not putting up the astronomical numbers he did last year, when he hit .331, swatted 37 home runs and drove in a major league-record 103 runs from the leadoff position. But his reputation

among his fellow players carries a lot of weight. After hitting a solo home run Sunday, Blackmon has 17 homers and is batting .276.

"I felt like there was a chance this year, but I didn't really put any thought into (the vote)," he said. "I just kind of focused on what the Rockies have going on. I think (getting voted in by the players) makes me feel better about being there, in the sense that your peers respect the effort you are putting out there on the field."

Manager Bud Black, of course, heaped praise on Colorado's three all-stars. Black, however, was surprised that Ottavino as not selected. Black did note, however, that Ottavino could still get into the game because of injuries to other players.

"One of the first things I did today was I brought 'Otto' into the office and I told him that — as of now — he's not on the team," Black said. "I thought he was all-star worthy and I thought the way he pitched this first half of the season was of all-star caliber. I'm still thinking this is going to happen for him by the end of the week."

Ottavino said he's not counting on going to Washington but acknowledged that he has had a good year — so far.

"I'm happy, overall, with how I've performed and I've kept my my mind in a good spot," he said. "I've had a good year, but I can do more. I've got to do more. It's not done yet. It's not in the books."

Healy has 5 RBIs, Mariners beat Rockies 6-4

Associated Press

SEATTLE -- Ryon Healy came to the plate in the first inning mired in an 0-for-13 slump. The Seattle Mariners had the bases loaded and two outs, and Healy broke through in a big way.

Healy doubled to drive in two runs, and followed it up with an even bigger three-run homer in the seventh to tie his career high with five RBI and lead the Mariners to a 6-4 win against the Colorado Rockies on Sunday.

"It was a big situation there in the first, bases loaded with two outs. It felt great," Healy said. "It felt like a monkey was lifted off my back, just helping the team there."

Healy's homer was his 18th of the season and helped the Mariners bounce back after dropping the first two games of the series.

Wade LeBlanc (5-0) picked up the win despite giving up four runs and allowing three homers to the Rockies in six innings. The three homers allowed were the most by LeBlanc in an appearance this season.

Charlie Blackmon, Carlos Gonzalez and Trevor Story hit the homers for the Rockies, who snapped a five-game winning streak.

"All three cases were good hitters," LeBlanc said. "A couple mistakes, and the one to Story I thought was a good pitch."

Edwin Diaz struck out all three batters he faced in the ninth for his major league-leading 35th save.

Colorado starter Antonio Senzatela (3-2) allowed all six runs and five hits, walking three with two strikeouts.

"I just wanted to be able to give the team a chance to win. I just needed to settle down. In the sixth, I had one bad pitch and it cost us."

Senzatela was making his second start of the season after opening the year in the bullpen and a stint in Triple-A Albuquerque. He pitched seven scoreless innings in his previous outing on July 3.

Blackmon gave the Rockies a 1-0 lead in the top of the first with his 17th home run. The Mariners answered in the bottom of the inning, loading the bases for Kyle Seager's sacrifice fly and again for Healy's double.

Gonzalez led off the fifth inning with his eighth homer for Colorado, and Story gave the Rockies a 4-3 lead in the top of the sixth with a two-run shot, his 17th.

In the bottom of the inning, Nelson Cruz walked and Kyle Seager singled. One out later, Healey homered to left field.

STARTING STRONG

The six runs allowed by Senzaltela also ended a streak of eight games where Rockies starters allowed two runs or fewer, which tied a team record.

STRONGER FINISH

The Mariners bullpen was perfect Sunday. James Pazos got three groundouts in the seventh, then Alex Colome struck out the side in the eighth before Diaz did the same in the ninth. It was the second straight save for Diaz where he struck out the side.

TRAINERS ROOM

Rockies: SS Story was back in the starting lineup, one day after snapping his consecutive games played streak at 139 due to a bruised right foot.

Mariners: Dee Gordon started at second base after missing a game with a sore hip. ... Manager Scott Servais said C Mike Zunino, who went on the DL Thursday with a left ankle bone bruise, has an "outside chance" at returning to the team after the All Star break.

UP NEXT

Rockies: LHP Tyler Anderson (6-3, 3.90 ERA) starts Tuesday at Arizona. Anderson is 4-0 in 11 road starts this season, and has thrown eight scoreless innings in his last two starts.

Mariners: RHP Mike Leake (8-5, 4.11) takes the mound in Los Angeles against the Angels on Tuesday as the Mariners start a six-game road trip. Leake earned a loss against the Angels in his last start, giving up four runs in four innings.

Rays' Blake Snell squeezed out by rules, AL depth in starting pitchers

David Schoenfield ESPN Senior Writer

It's always fun to go over the All-Star rosters because it's always fun to argue about the snubs and the surprises, then complain about the "every team gets an All-Star" rule -- even if a team is on pace to lose 100-plus games.

Picking the American League team was an impossible task because of the depth in candidates at starting pitcher, the depth at shortstop and the presence of several teams that lacked strong All-Star candidates. So let's start there.

Biggest AL snub: Blake Snell is one of the biggest snubs in recent years that I can remember. Snell leads the AL with a 2.09 ERA, is 12-4 on a mediocre Tampa Bay team, has 132 strikeouts in 116 innings and has held opponents to a .183 average. It's a breakout season for the young lefty, so how did he get left off?

Remember the rules: The players vote for the first five starting pitchers and first three relievers. I mentioned the loaded group of AL starters. The players went with Luis Severino, Justin Verlander, Gerrit Cole, Chris Sale and Corey Kluber. It's hard to argue against anyone in that group. Maybe Snell has an edge over Cole, but Cole started out on fire, and that no doubt helped him in the voting.

The players also fill in one backup at each position, including DH, so MLB is limited to five open spots on the AL team (not including the "Final Vote" choice). The trouble is, at this point, the Rangers, A's, Twins, Tigers and Blue Jays still didn't have a player on the roster. The league office actually caught one break here: Verlander is scheduled to pitch the Sunday before the All-Star Game, so he'd be inactive for the game, thus providing a sixth spot.

Of our five teams still missing a player, the one "must have" guy was A's closer Blake Treinen, who is 5-1 with a 0.81 ERA and 22 saves in 24 chances. They went with Shin-Soo Choo to represent the Rangers, which was a solid choice, given his .294/.402/.509 line, plus it's kind of cool that he's making his first All-Star team after a good career. That left only one position player spot to fill, but that was kept for the Final Vote -- you can't mix position players with pitchers there -- so you had to go with pitchers from the Twins, Tigers and Blue Jays, and the choices were Jose Berrios, Joe Jimenez and J.A. Happ.

That left just one more spot. MLB went with Trevor Bauer over Snell. Maybe the league didn't want to deal with Bauer's tweets if he'd been left off. Both are obviously more deserving than Berrios or Happ (who began Sunday tied for 32nd in the AL in ERA). Anyway, Bauer does lead the majors in FanGraphs WAR (though Snell leads in Baseball-Reference WAR), so it was hard to leave him off, and I'm OK going with the veteran over the breakout guy.

The potential positive: We will probably see another pitcher or two withdraw or pitch on Sunday, so maybe Snell will still find a way on the team.

Biggest AL surprise: Jimenez had a 12.32 ERA last year in 19 innings but has a solid 2.85 mark this year, with 46 strikeouts in 41 innings. He's OK. He isn't the closer. There are other relievers having better seasons. But somebody had to represent the Tigers. The other way you could have done it was pick Nick Castellanos and bump Choo, then go with a Rangers pitcher, but nobody on that staff stands out.

Somebody has to play first base: The fans voted in Jose Abreu as the best in a terrible group, although he isn't really having a good season (.259/.315/.448). Mitch Moreland is the backup, and at least he has good numbers. The past four AL starters at first base have been Abreu, Justin Smoak, Eric Hosmer and Albert Pujols. This position is not exactly at a historical peak. Matt Olson leads AL first basemen with 2.4 WAR, but the only others above 1.0 are Moreland (1.7), Smoak (1.7) and Yuli Gurriel (1.6). Ugh.

Only two shortstops: The requirement that the AL choose a backup DH hinders the flexibility of picking better all-around players. So no Andrelton Simmons, no Jean Segura (both are in the Final Vote, however) and no Carlos Correa. Those three rank seventh, 15th and 17th among AL position players in Baseball-Reference WAR.

Final Vote choice: Along with Simmons and Segura, you have Andrew Benintendi, Eddie Rosario and Giancarlo Stanton. The players voted in Michael Brantley (0.7 Baseball-Reference WAR) over Rosario (4.0) or Benintendi (2.6). I'd probably go with Simmons as the most deserving but Stanton as the guy I'd love to see pinch hitting late in a tie game.

Some thoughts on the National League ...

Biggest snub: The NL roster was much less complicated, and not having two DHs provides two more "free" selections. Really, the only difficult question was: Whom do you pick from the Pirates?

By WAR, the biggest position player snubs are Trea Turner (3.5), Brandon Belt (2.9), Matt Carpenter (2.9) and Max Muncy (2.8). All four are in the Final Vote, and the players chosen ahead of them were J.T. Realmuto (3.6 and the only Marlins rep), Paul Goldschmidt (3.0) and Scooter Gennett (2.9), all deserving choices.

On the pitching side, Kyle Freeland (4.1), Ross Stripling (2.9) and Tyler Anderson (2.8) are the top guys left off. Freeland and Anderson are underrated because of Coors Field. The MLB picks at pitcher were Patrick Corbin, Miles Mikolas, Kenley Jansen and Felipe Vazquez. Mikolas and Vazquez are the only players from their teams, and Corbin has been terrific with a 3.05 ERA and 140 K's in 112 innings. I guess you could have gone with Stripling over Jansen, and I

always prefer the starter, but given Jansen's long run as one of the game's best closers, you can't argue too much with his selection.

So the biggest snub? I guess I'd go with Freeland. A 3.18 ERA in Coors Field is a pretty remarkable achievement.

Biggest surprise: Let's just say I didn't expect Matt Kemp to (A) even make the Dodgers (B) be hitting .317 with 15 home runs and 57 RBIs (C) make the All-Star team or (D) get voted in as a starter. You can't predict baseball.

Aside from that, Mikolas has been a tremendous story for the Cardinals, coming back to the majors after three seasons in Japan and going 9-3 with a 2.63 ERA. Getting him for two years and \$15.5 million was certainly the smart signing of the offseason.

Final Vote choice: Turner, Belt, Carpenter, Muncy and Jesus Aguilar are a strong group of candidates. My heart says Muncy given his remarkable fairy-tale season-from-nowhere. It would be nice to see Turner make it in front of the home fans. Using the same Stanton criteria, Muncy is the guy I'd love to see coming up late with the game on the line (well, unless Aroldis Chapman is pitching, in which case Aguilar might be the guy you want up there).

Adam Ottavino's All-Star slight underscores a Rockies pitching perception
By Nick Groke Jul 9, 2018

SEATTLE — A cup of ice cream in hand, Adam Ottavino gave a blasé shrug toward the ceiling Sunday at his locker. He had seen this before, known it to be true. Rockies pitchers exist in a secondhand universe.

The right-handed reliever gave up one run on five hits — over five weeks to start this season. His traditional numbers (a 1.79 ERA over 40 1/3 innings) and advanced (2.27 xFIP) are both among the best in baseball among qualifying relief pitchers.

And he is not a National League All-Star. The league on Sunday informed the Rockies that three of their players were voted to the NL roster for the July 17 All-Star Game in Washington. Third baseman Nolan Arenado, center fielder Charlie Blackmon and shortstop Trevor Story made the team.

Colorado manager Bud Black had to inform Ottavino, in a one-on-one meeting in his office, that he was not among them.

"I'm not surprised," Ottavino said. "It's because I'm on the Rockies. And I kind of gave up some runs last week and you have to pretty much be perfect. So, that's it."

But pitching half his games at hitter-friendly Coors Field should allow Ottavino some grace, no? Hitters get dinged for taking advantage of the expansive outfield in Colorado. Shouldn't pitchers receive a corresponding amount of respect?

"You said it," Ottavino said. "Pitchers don't get any credit playing for the Rockies."

The NL All-Star roster of relief pitchers:

LHP Sean Doolittle, Nationals

LHP Josh Hader, Brewers

LHP Brad Hand, Padres

RHP Kenley Jansen, Dodgers

LHP Felipe Vazquez, Pirates

Doolittle, Hader and Hand were voted in by players and managers. Jansen and Vazquez were named by the MLB central office. Ottavino ate consolation ice cream.

Here are the numbers for the NL All-Star relievers through Saturday with Ottavino included, ranked by ERA — and they are not park-adjusted:

Pitcher	ERA	xFIP	WHIP
LHP Josh Hader, MIL	1.21	1.79	0.74
LHP Sean Doolittle, WAS	1.45	2.74	0.54
RHP Adam Ottavino, COL	1.79	2.24	0.92
RHP Kenley Jansen, LAD	2.34	3.45	0.94
LHP Brad Hand, SDP	3.05	2.81	1.09
LHP Felipe Vazquez, PIT	3.47	3.06	1.35

Hand, for the record, was the only Padres player named to the NL roster, and MLB requires every team be represented in the game. And it is certainly possible Ottavino will be added to the NL team this week as a replacement, but “I’m not counting on it,” he said.

Ottavino’s remaking of himself after a sideways season a year ago has been severe. His 5.06 ERA last season sprouted from a loss of command, highlighted by a June 25 outing in Los Angeles when he threw four wild pitches in an inning and gave up six runs. To compensate, he became too predictable.

Eventually, Ottavino was left off the Rockies’ postseason roster. He “had his heart broken,” Ottavino said.

This year, he has been nearly dominant, with 63 strikeouts to just 16 walks. He has allowed basically one baserunner per inning.

“I’ve kept my mind in a good spot,” Ottavino said. “But I’m not trying to get too far ahead, honestly. I don’t think I’ve really accomplished anything yet. I could do more. I have to do more.”

When Black received word that Ottavino was not an All-Star, the first thing he did was call the 32-year-old pitcher into his office. He told Ottavino that managers and coaches look first at statistics, much as players do, when they fill out a clubhouse ballot. They look at strikeouts per inning pitched, hits per inning, where a guy is pitching in a game, the types of games, the makeup of a player. Everything.

“I thought that he was All-Star worthy,” Black said. “The way he pitched in this first half was All-Star caliber. I’m not sure how the voting went, but I’m sure it was razor-thin.”

The last Rockies pitcher to make an All-Star roster was Ubaldo Jimenez in 2010. And Colorado's pitchers have been invited to just five All-Star games in 26 seasons.

Rockies second-year lefty Kyle Freeland, too, ranked well among pitchers in both leagues, with the eighth-best pitcher WAR, according to Baseball Reference. Eight other pitchers in the top 10 for bWAR were named All-Stars, including two pitchers trailing Freeland. But perhaps his missing out can be dismissed as a the game telling a young pitcher he needs to prove it over time. Ottavino has lasted, with an above-average park-adjusted ERA-plus in six of his eight seasons.

Ottavino on Saturday pitched two innings of relief, with three strikeouts and no runs allowed. With right-hander Bryan Shaw in Triple-A to work out his kinks, it left the Rockies without a seventh-inning setup man. In turn, they have pushed Ottavino into longer outings.

His three-year, \$10.4 million contract (including \$7 million this year) will end after this season, when Ottavino reaches free agency for the first time. He will be among the most chased relievers on the open market. He may not have an All-Star selection on his résumé, but Ottavino is trying to add a postseason to his checklist this season.

"It's not done. It's not in the books. There's plenty of time left," he said. "There is so much baseball to play. I'm not really thinking about what has happened. I'm thinking about what we need to do still and win the division. That's where my head is at."

Sweepless in Seattle: Rockies lose sixth-straight Sunday game
By Drew Creasman - Posted on July 8, 2018 | BSN Denver

The Colorado Rockies were on the verge of a second-straight sweep, this one on the road against the Seattle Mariners, when the starting rotation experienced the first stumble in a while. Antonio Senzatela almost salvaged his outing but a big home run from Ryon Healy ultimately swung the game. And Colorado's Sunday woes continued with their sixth consecutive loss on the day.

It was the first time in the last nine games that a Rockies starter has given up more than two runs.

The Rockies took an early lead on Charlie Blackmon's second first-inning home run of the series, a solo shot over the wall in center. This came one day after he went 0-for-4 with four strikeouts.

Senzatela was not sharp in the first. He gave up a single to Dee Gordon to open things then gave up a long out to Jean Segura before plunking Mitch Haniger and walking Nelson Cruz. Kyle Seager put a charge into one that had danger written all over it but Carlos Gonzalez was able to track it down in right to force Seattle to settle for the game-tying sac fly.

The Rockies starter continued to struggle with his command in another walk, this one to Denard Span, to load the bases. All the traffic came back to bite the youngster when Ryon Healy lined a double to left, putting the Mariners on top 3-1.

But Senza settled after that, getting clean innings in the second and third and stranding a leadoff triple in the fourth with some heady pitching.

Colorado pulled to within one in the fifth on Carlos Gonzalez' eighth homer of the year.

They took the lead in the sixth with a lightning-quick two-out rally. On back-to-back pitches, Nolan Arenado singled to center and Trevor Story smashed his 17th home run of the season on a line drive over the wall in right-center field. Suddenly, it was a 4-3 Rockies advantage.

That didn't last long.

The Mariners responded by taking advantage of another bout with wildness from Senzatela who opened the frame by walking Cruz again. Seager followed with a single up the middle and after a Denard Span fly out, Ryon Healy cracked a deep drive to left, a three-run blast, his 18th home run of the season, putting Seattle ahead 6-4.

The Rockies offense could not strike back against the Seattle bullpen.

Mariners relievers Alex Colome and Edwin Diaz struck out the last six Rockies' hitters in the game, putting an emphatic stamp on the salvaging game in the series for Seattle.

WHAT'S NEXT:

After a day off, the Rockies return home to face off in another divisional battle with the Arizona Diamondbacks. Lefties Tyler Anderson and Patrick Corbin battle in the first game on Tuesday night. First pitch at 6:40 Mountain Time.

Colorado Rockies morning after: Adam Ottavino is mad ... and he should be

by Kevin Henry - 1 hour ago | RoxPile

SEATTLE — Adam Ottavino is one of the most dominant pitchers in Major League Baseball today. The Colorado Rockies reliever also has a memory that keeps him laser-focused on what is to come, not what has been. Well, most of the time.

Perhaps that's why Ottavino was so blunt on Sunday after learning he had not made the National League All-Star squad, despite having a 1.79 ERA, 0.92 WHIP and 63 strikeouts in 40.1 innings this season. If you were upset after hearing Ottavino wouldn't be heading to Washington as a member of the National League squad, trust me, the man they call Otto was even more bent about it.

Standing in front of his locker and finishing up a dish of ice cream, Ottavino said he has been happy with the way he has season has gone so far. But then, just as quickly, he referenced a stretch of two September games in 2012 against the San Francisco Giants and San Diego Padres.

That's right. 2012.

Meaningless games during a 64-98 season, you say? Hardly. Ottavino remembers them well. He remembers he gave up 10 combined runs in those two games.

He also remembers that he wasn't a part of last season's Wild Card roster in Arizona. He remembers **the four wild pitches he threw** in a game in Los Angeles in June. He remembers giving up three runs to the Diamondbacks in two-thirds of an inning on September 1.

Lessons from the past. Yes, you could say the man is driven to do better. No matter how great the current is, there is always a moment from the past that is pushing him to do better and be better.

"It's not done. It's not in the books. Plenty of time," Ottavino told Rox Pile and other media members. "I've given up 10 runs in two games in September before and that hurt real bad. Last season, I didn't recover enough to get on the playoff team. There's so much baseball to play so I'm not really thinking about what has happened. I'm thinking about what we need to do still to win the division. That's where my head is at."

But what about now? What about this season and how glorious it's been for Ottavino in a relief role? Why didn't he earn the Midsummer Classic honor?

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“Because I’m on the Rockies. I kind of gave up some runs last week so you gotta be pretty much perfect. That’s it,” Ottavino shrugged. “Pitchers don’t get any credit playing for the Rockies.”

Ouch. And he’s exactly right. Pitchers who do well at Coors Field never get the credit they deserve while hitters who do well at Coors Field are good simply because they play at altitude. If, as national reasoning goes, all hitters hit well because of the “Coors” effect, shouldn’t pitchers who excel at a mile high get some kind of kudos?

Colorado manager **Bud Black** knew the news would be tough to hear. However, he does believe something will happen over the next week that will give Ottavino the honor he has earned this season.

“One of the first things I did today was I brought Otto into the office and I told him that — as of now — he’s not on the team,” Black said. “I thought he was All-Star worthy and I thought the way he pitched this first half of the season was of All-Star caliber. I’m still thinking this is going to happen for him by the end of the week.”

Will that be enough for Ottavino, knowing he wasn’t originally selected to the team? Don’t expect him to do any cartwheels. He knows that, however good he has been, he has to be almost flawless for the Rockies to get back to a second consecutive Rocktober. And, even if he is, no one outside of the Mountain time zone may give him any credit.

“I’m happy overall with the way I’ve performed,” Ottavino said. “I’ve kept my mind in a good spot. I had my heart broken at the end of a couple of years so I’m not trying to get too far ahead, honestly. I don’t think I’ve really accomplished anything yet. I’m having a good year but I can do more. I gotta do more.”

The man is deserving of an All-Star spot ... and he’s driven to make sure everyone sees that the rest of the season.

Charlie Blackmon has started July on an absolute tear
By Rich Kurtzman - July 8, 2018 | Mile High Sports

Charlie Blackmon is rockin', and the Rockies are rollin' in July.

Even after their loss Sunday to the Seattle Mariners, the Rockies beat that strong American League team in the weekend series and are now 5-2 in the month of July.

Colorado has gotten hot at just the right time, putting everything together at once; pitching, fielding and hitting have all be solid as of late.

And speaking of hitting, Blackmon is straight-up raking in the first week of July.

Through seven games this month, Blackmon is hitting .333, with six runs, 5 RBI and three home runs. And those phenomenal numbers even include his career-high four-strikeout game on Saturday.

While the center fielder has hit decently so far this season (.284 average, 17 HR, 40 RBI), he struggled through the months of May and June. In fact, his .261 batting average in June was his lowest in a month since May, 2015. (He did hit .250 in April, 2016 but only played in 10 games that month).

Blackmon's officially broken out of that slump, hitting a solo home run in Sunday's game, his 17th of the season. It was also his 128th of his career, tying him with Matt Holliday for ninth all-time by a Rockies player.

And now, he'll be going to the 2018 All-Star Game as well, which was announced Sunday evening. Blackmon received the second-most votes by an outfielder in the NL, only to Bryce Harper of the hometown Nationals. And Blackmon's play — even on a down year — speaks for itself.

Blackmon was also an All-Star in 2014 and 2017, making this the third All-Star Game appearance for Chuck Nasty.

You can watch Blackmon, Nolan Arenado and Bud Black take on the AL on July 17, with the first pitch slated for 6 p.m. MT.