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## MEDIA CLIPS – July 8th, 2018

### **Clutch Cuevas powers Rox to 5<sup>th</sup> straight win**

*Rookie hits tiebreaking HR in 7<sup>th</sup>; Rockies' stellar pitching continues*

**Thomas Harding | MLB.com | July 7, 2018**

SEATTLE -- Rockies rookie Noel Cuevas tried in vain to trick the Mariners with a squeeze bunt in the seventh inning on Saturday. On the next pitch, he treated the Rockies to a three-run homer and, ultimately, their fifth straight win in Colorado's 5-1 victory at Safeco Field.

"I wasn't happy at that moment that I missed it [the bunt] -- we were trying to get that run in," said Cuevas, whose homer broke a 1-1 tie. "But after that, it was short memory. I missed it. So what? Next pitch, I can't remember that I just missed the bunt. I need to be ready for that pitch. That was it."

It was just the second Major League homer for Cuevas, who had two of the Rockies' seven hits in seven innings against Mariners standout lefty James Paxton (8-3). Interestingly, five of the hits off Paxton (who struck out nine, including a career-high four for Charlie Blackmon and two against Nolan Arenado) and seven total hits came from the bottom three hitters in the order.

The performance is symbolic of the type of full-roster contributions that are surfacing as the Rockies, who have won eight of nine, show that they are not intending to be bystanders in a tight National League West race. The Rockies needed the help from lesser-known guys, considering that the top three hitters in the order -- DJ LeMahieu, Blackmon and Arenado -- went a combined 0-for-14 with seven strikeouts.

"It's a team sport; definitely today was the example," Cuevas said. "The top of the order didn't have the day that it wanted. We were able to get out with a 'W,' because the bottom of the order did their job."

Cuevas, whose homer gave him a career-best three RBIs, has been a solid pinch-hitter and spot starter since being called up from Triple-A Albuquerque on April 22, with several of his contributions coming in clutch moments. His homer on May

14 gave the Rockies a lead in an eventual 6-4 victory at San Diego, and he tripled off the bench May 25 for a lead in 5-4 victory over the Reds at Coors.

"You want your bench players, your younger players, to contribute -- and they want to contribute in a big way," Rockies manager Bud Black said. "We talk about the young guys contributing to a win. Today was a big swing for us with Cuevas." Saturday also included two hits and a walk from No. 7 hitter Pat Valaika, who has been sent down to Albuquerque twice this season. Valaika, however, has had a home run, a key hit off the Giants' Madison Bumgarner and Saturday's contribution -- all in wins since his latest call-up on June 23.

Valaika started at shortstop, as Trevor Story's games-played streak ended at 139 because of a sore right foot.

The No. 8 hitter has been one of the more consistent contributors this season. Veteran Gerardo Parra, who is hitting .303, filled that role Saturday, finishing with two hits and a sacrifice fly in the ninth. Since a four-hit game on May 11, Parra -- who bats up and down the order but often is lower in the lower part -- has hit .340 (51-for-150).

"All those guys, from pitch one, they were ready to hit," Black said.

Rockies starter Kyle Freeland's streak of innings-heavy excellence ended when he lasted just five on Saturday, but his only mistake was to Jean Segura, who homered in the fifth. Freeland, who had worked at least seven innings in three of his previous four games, gave up five hits and walked four. But he finished with four strikeouts and never gave up the big hit despite facing runners in scoring position in four of his innings.

"A little bit of maturity, I guess, not to let anything snowball on me or let them scratch across a couple of runs," Freeland said.

Scott Oberg (2-0) fanned two in a clean sixth, and primary setup man Adam Ottavino struck out three and pitched around two hits while being extended to two innings. Ottavino had not pitched since last Sunday.

### **SOUND SMART**

Carlos Gonzalez went 2-for-4 with a double, but his RBI single off Paxton in the fourth was significant. It was his first RBI against a lefty hitter since June 16, and he is 6-for-27 against lefties since June 7. Gonzalez was scheduled to have Saturday off, but the chain reaction from Story missing the game forced Gonzalez into the lineup as designated hitter.

### **YOU GOTTA SEE THIS**

Valaika was a shortstop at UCLA and for much of his time in the Minors before gravitating toward utility work. But Valaika, forced in at short, ended the game by making a diving stop on Chris Herrmann's hard grounder and throwing to first to seal the win. It kept Wade Davis' ninth inning scoreless.

"Pat had a good game -- how about that last play of the game?" Black said. "That was a great play. A couple hits, a walk that preceded Cuevas' home run."

## **HE SAID IT**

"I think [Ottavino] is All-Star worthy. I think Trevor Story is All-Star worthy. I think Kyle Freeland should be considered heavily, as well. I think Wade Davis should be considered. I think Charlie [Blackmon] should be in the mix. Specifically to 'Otto,' you look at what he's done for us from Day 1. He had a little stint on the disabled list, and we saw the result of that." -- *Black, who will be a coach on National League All-Star manager Dave Roberts' staff, stumping for his players*

## **UP NEXT**

Rockies righty Antonio Senzatela (3-1, 4.44 ERA) will face the Mariners and lefty Wade LeBlanc (4-0, 3.19) at Safeco Field on Sunday at 2:10 p.m. MT. Senzatela began the year in the Rockies' bullpen, but returned to the Majors on Tuesday and held the Giants scoreless on three hits, with four strikeouts and no walks, over seven innings in the Rockies' 8-1 victory.

## **Foot bruise ends Story's games-played streak**

*After HBP on Friday, SS scratched to end run at 139, but hopes to return for finale*

**Thomas Harding | MLB.com | July 7, 2018**

SEATTLE -- Every day when Rockies shortstop Trevor Story wakes up, he expects to play. But Saturday a bone bruise on his right foot led to his games-played streak ending at 139 games.

The Rockies absorbed Story's absence and won for the eighth time in nine games. Pat Valaika, Story's replacement, had two hits and a walk in a 5-1 victory over the Mariners.

Story, an All-Star candidate (.282, 16 HR, 60 RBIs -- fourth in National League heading into Saturday), was hit on the foot by a pitch from Mariners left-hander Roenis Elias in the seventh inning of the Rockies' 7-1 victory Friday night. Story finished that game and even beat out an infield single in the ninth. He was in Saturday's original lineup before being scratched a little less than 90 minutes before first pitch.

Before Saturday, Story had played all but one of the Rockies' 781 defensive innings at short.

"Last night, I finished the game -- ran really hard -- and I felt fine," Story said. "It got a little sore last night, and I woke up this morning and it was a little swollen. It felt pretty sore.

"We were trying to see if I could play as late as we could hold off. I couldn't really run too hard today, so we played it smart."

Story said he hopes to play Sunday, when the Rockies go for a three-game sweep. If not, he'll have extra time to rest, since the Rockies are off Monday.

"My goal is to play tomorrow," he said. "We've done a lot of treatment today and it's feeling better, but it's a bone bruise so it's pain tolerance and stuff like that. I was able to hit today. Hopefully, I'll be able to run tomorrow."

The last time the Rockies' defense took the field without Story was June 2, when Daniel Castro (now at Triple-A Albuquerque) played the ninth inning of a 12-4 loss to the Dodgers. The last time Story sat out a game was last Aug. 5, against the Phillies.

Story has been running consistently fourth at shortstop in the National League voting, according to Camping World MLB All-Star Ballot updates.

A compromised foot would be limiting for Story, who ranks eighth in the Majors on the Statcast™ Sprint Speed Leaderboard, with an average top sprint speed (on all-out speed) of 29.7 feet per second. "Elite" sprint speed is considered 30 feet per second.

Story was elite twice in Friday night's game against the Mariners. In the third, he reached 30.5 feet per second to beat out a potential double-play relay. In the ninth -- two innings after he was hit -- he reached 31 feet per second while beating out a ground ball.

## **Dunn back to DL; Vasto, Patterson recalled**

*After HBP on Friday, SS scratched to end run at 139, but hopes to return for finale*

**Thomas Harding | MLB.com | July 7, 2018**

SEATTLE -- Rockies lefty Mike Dunn hopes the next week begins to offer answers to roving pain that has been limiting his availability and effectiveness this season.

Dunn on Saturday was placed on the 10-day disabled list with inflammation in his left A/C joint in the shoulder. He had made just two appearances after returning from a rhomboid (upper back) strain.

Pain has been prevalent in his back and shoulder this season, so Dunn will undergo an MRI when the team returns to Denver. The medical and athletic training teams are expected to spend the next week searching for answers.

Dunn, who signed a three-year, \$19 million contract before last season (and spent part of last year on the DL with a back issue) is 0-0 with a 9.00 ERA in 25 outings this year.

"Off the charts," Dunn said when asked about his frustration level. "I want to pitch. I want to help these guys out. It's like every time something flares up, we get it under control and then it's something else. We need to get it figured out. We need to get it fixed so when I do come back, it's done. I can just go. My mind can be free and I can throw with no pain."

The Rockies recalled lefty Jerry Vasto, who gave up three runs in two-thirds of an inning in his only Major League appearance, from Triple-A Albuquerque. Additionally, left-handed-hitting first baseman-outfielder Jordan Patterson was recalled from Albuquerque for his first Major League appearance since 2016, while catcher Tom Murphy is on paternity leave. Patterson was hitting .265 with 19 homers and 52 RBIs at Triple-A.

Dunn, 33, said the shoulder and back issues have prevented him from his normal health maintenance program this season. At one point he had nine straight scoreless appearances, but his statistics have taken a severe hit since the injuries. He has made just two appearances since coming off the DL. One was a scoreless two-thirds of an inning, but in the other he gave up a run on two hits and a walk, and managed just one out.

Dunn couldn't complete a bullpen session before Friday's game.

Rockies manager Bud Black commended Dunn for battling through pain, but after that last outing -- in Tuesday's 8-1 victory over the Giants -- he knew it was time.

"Not only do you talk to them but you've got to watch them perform, watch their pregame stuff, and we noticed something's just not right," Black said. "It's time to take a step back. With a lot of players, it's hard for them to pull the plug and say, 'I'm not right.'"

Several relievers are battling issues:

- Righty Bryan Shaw, who signed for three years and \$27 million, missed his 12th game Saturday with a right calf strain, which likely has contributed to his 7.57 ERA and eight home runs allowed. In his first injury rehab appearance for Albuquerque on Friday, Shaw gave up a home run, a double, a walk and threw a wild pitch in one inning.
- Righty Carlos Estevez, who hasn't pitched in the Majors this season, entered Saturday having thrown five times at Albuquerque on a rehab assignment for a right elbow injury. Black said Estevez, who has been scored upon in three of his five games since his return, "needs more time." Estevez has not pitched on consecutive days.
- Lefty Zac Rosscup, who hasn't thrown in the Majors this season because of a left middle finger blister, has a 1.23 ERA in nine appearances at Albuquerque and is "doing fine -- his blister is to the point now that it's a non-issue."

### **Bettis throwing**

Righty Chad Bettis, on the disabled list since a blister problem flared last Sunday, played catch Saturday -- for the second straight day -- with a bandage on his finger. He would not be allowed to wear the bandage in games, but he is throwing to keep his arm in shape. The hope is he can be available on July 13, which is the first time the Rockies would need a fifth member of the rotation.

**Kiszla: Have Nolan Arenado and Rockies forced general manager Jeff Bridich to be a buyer at trade deadline?**  
*Give Bridich credit for establishing playoff expectations in the Colorado clubhouse*

**Mark Kiszla | The Denver Post | July 7, 2018**

Jeff Bridich bet big on the Rockies being a playoff team in 2018. He can't fold now. Colorado has to be a buyer at the trade deadline.

On the night of July 3, after a victory against San Francisco, Nolan Arenado sat at his locker, asking DJ LeMahieu if he wanted to go out and watch the fireworks show. It was two grown men acting like 10-year-old boys in all the best ways. But this wonderful sense of brotherhood never lasts forever in major-league baseball, because business eventually intrudes on the fun.

The time for the Rockies to win is now. And the time is growing short.

Although Colorado has been a mediocre team, on balance, for nearly 90 games this season, the National League West is there for the taking, because every division rival seems flawed in a significant way.

So while Arizona eyes adding Baltimore infielder Manny Machado and the Los Angeles Dodgers look to beef up their bullpen, does Bridich have any choice except to add talent as the July 31 nonwaiver trade deadline approaches?

Not really, unless Bridich wants to start tearing these Rockies apart. If Colorado isn't in the race to win it, then it makes no sense to hold onto LeMahieu, expected to be gone as a free agent at season's end. Give up now and Bridich might as well also listen to offers on Arenado, who has dropped hints for months that his top priority as a free agent in late 2019 will be finding a team that plays consistently in October.

Since being elevated to general manager late in 2014, Bridich has produced solid results, based on this franchise's modest history of success. The Rockies improved their win-loss record in two consecutive seasons and qualified for the playoffs last year.

But, as a steward of ownership's money, Bridich has been shaky, at best. His free-agent acquisitions have included big flops (Kyle Kendrick and Bryan Shaw) and a head-scratching \$70 million gamble (Ian Desmond), while his best pick-ups have had fleeting success in a Colorado uniform (Greg Holland and Mark Reynolds).

Prior to this season, Bridich committed more than \$100 million to put together what he hoped would be a rockin' celebrity band in the bullpen, then doubled down by giving Charlie Blackmon a six-year deal for more than another \$100 million.

All that money, it's fair to argue, was to show Arenado the Rockies are serious about being playoff contenders each and every year.



When a June swoon threatened to wreck any Colorado hope of being a contender down the stretch, credit shortstop Trevor Story and pitcher Kyle Freeland for refusing to let the Rockies fold. If I had a vote, I would put them both on the NL all-star team alongside Arenado.

The Rockies, however, have too many weaknesses for a deadline trade to remedy. Colorado could use a catcher with pop in his bat, a steady veteran hand in the starting rotation or a better bridge between Adam Ottavino and Wade Davis to close games.

Not long after Wilson Ramos appears in the All-Star Game, Tampa Bay will almost certainly trade a 30-year-old catcher guaranteed to hit .300 at Coors Field. If it's a veteran starting pitcher, manager Bud Black knows the book on San Diego's Tyson Ross, while Toronto would gladly let you rent Marco Estrada, a proven postseason performer. It seems everyone in the playoff race needs a reliever; might Oakland be tempted to auction off Blake Treinen?

Give Bridich credit for establishing playoff expectations in the Colorado clubhouse.

Now Bridich needs to find a way to add talent to that clubhouse.

## **Charlie Blackmon still searching for groove amid challenges that come with being the reigning National League batting champion**

*Opposing pitchers have made it their mission to limit damage by the 32-year-old who drove in over 100 runs last season*

**Kyle Newman | The Denver Post | July 7, 2018**

Charlie Blackmon turned in an historic 2017 campaign. He won the National League batting title with a .331 average, flashed dynamic power and set the all-time, major-league record for RBIs by a leadoff hitter.

For his efforts, the bearded center fielder was awarded with a six-year, \$108-million contract that kept him in Colorado for the long haul. But he's also been faced with a renewed challenge in the box as opposing pitchers have clearly made it their mission to limit damage by the 32-year-old.

And with that challenge has come a much slower offensive pace for Blackmon, hitting .280 overall. Heading into the weekend series at Seattle, his skid had intensified lately with a .216 average and just two homers and five RBIs since June 20.

"This guy's the National League batting champ, he started the all-star game, hit 37 home runs, knocked in over 100 runs from the leadoff position — he's going to be pitched tough the next year, for sure," manager Bud Black said. "I think Charlie has, at times, come out of his game a little bit."

But while the statistical output hasn't matched 2017, the 2018 version of Blackmon remains the same in terms of in his regimented approach to training and mental preparation.

"He hasn't changed because of the contract," Nolan Arenado said. "Here, he's the same guy working hard, trying to find a way every day. What he did last year was ridiculous — he was setting records like crazy, and I wouldn't put it past Charlie that he can do it again. But it's not an easy thing to accomplish."

Blackmon, like Arenado, is experiencing that difficulty firsthand as pitchers attempt to work around him. The lefty is swinging at slightly more pitches outside the strike zone this year (31.4 percent) than last, and understands improved plate discipline — and talking his walks when they come in the two-spot, where he's hit the majority of this season — is critical to turning in a second half similar to last summer.

"I always want to do better than the year before, and I still want to do that," Blackmon said. "That's where I've been for the past few years."

He said his "swing feels great" despite the lower numbers, and his performance through July so far (.444 average in six games with two homers) might indicate a turnaround is imminent.

“I’m been mostly trying to simplify things — less movement is always better with the hands, I don’t need to be having a super leg kick, and I don’t need to be trying to swing hard,” Blackmon said. “It’s just basically about seeing the ball really good.”

Still, a deeper dive into the splits underscores his struggles. In 2017, Blackmon hit .286 when behind in the count, .385 when ahead in the count and .383 with runners in scoring position. Those 2018 numbers are down considerably at .263/.308/.346.

But even those comparisons aren’t causing alarm for Blackmon — “I don’t immediately resort to changing my swing when things don’t go well,” he said — as he continues to work with Rockies hitting coaches Duane Espy and Jeff Salazar to return to a consistent groove.

“A lot of times, you’ve got to keep fighting through it, and that’s what’s going on with him right now,” Black said. “Charlie’s a guy who continues to work on subtleties that you can’t pick up from the stands with his step-up and his approach.” And, for the former washed-out southpaw who re-invented himself as a heady hitter first in junior college and then at Georgia Tech, Blackmon’s greatest advantage is likely his own feel for the game.

“Charlie himself is maybe his best coach,” Black said.

Meanwhile, Blackmon’s main focus remains on continuing Colorado’s recent momentum and quest for a first divisional title.

“The big thing I’m doing is focusing on winning the game,” Blackmon said. “What that means is being in tune with that your teammates are doing, situational at-bats — basically just setting the goal on winning the game, not worrying about bad at-bats you had earlier or other personal stuff.”

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### **Differing versions of Chuck**

*Comparing Blackmon’s 2017 vs. 2018 numbers, through July 4*

Average: .312/.275

HRs: 18/15

RBIs: 59/38

OBP: .366/.350

OPS: .941/.815

**Noel Cuevas hammers clutch three-run home run to lead Rockies to victory against Mariners**  
*Colorado added a bonus run in the ninth on a double by Carlos Gonzalez and a sacrifice fly by Parra*

**Patrick Saunders | The Denver Post | July 7, 2018**

SEATTLE — Another game, another hero for the rolling Rockies.

Saturday afternoon, it was Noel Cuevas' turn to leap tall buildings in a single bound and hit a homer off an opposing ace. The rookie outfielder, the No. 9 hitter in the order, smashed a three-run homer to left field in the seventh inning off Mariners strikeout artist James Paxton, leading Colorado to a 5-1 victory at Safeco Field. The rally began with Pat Valaika drawing a walk and Gerardo Parra advancing him to third with a single.

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Cuevas' initial assignment was to put down a squeeze bunt. He failed to do that but instead came away with a signature moment.

"We tried to make something happen, with a little safety squeeze," said Cuevas, who hit the second home run of his young career. "After I fouled it off, we took off (the sign), and in my mind I was like, 'I'm going to get a hit off this guy.' He left the cutter-slider right there for me, and I was able to put a good swing on it."

Manager Bud Black was happy for Cuevas and is thrilled to see the whole team contributing.

"Today was a big blow by Noel, for sure," Black said. "You want your bench players to contribute, and they want to contribute in a big way. Today was a big swing for us, (from) Cuevas."

The Rockies (46-43) have won five straight games, eight of their last nine and 12 of their last 17, putting them smack in the middle of contention in the National League West. Colorado moved within three games of division-leading Arizona, with the Diamondbacks playing a late game against San Diego.

Solid pitching has been Colorado's constant key. Over the last 15 games, the Rockies have posted a 2.79 ERA, with the starters boasting a 2.55 ERA with 10 quality starts.

Kyle Freeland wasn't as sharp as he had been most of the season, as evidenced by his four walks and the 98 pitches he needed to maneuver through five innings. Nonetheless, he kept the Rockies in the game, leaving with the score tied 1-1 and handling traffic like a veteran after a Red Rocks concert. The Mariners put men on base in every inning except the second, but Freeland found ways to dodge major trouble. The Denver native lowered his impressive ERA to 3.18, allowing five hits and striking out four.

"This was the definition of grind," Freeland said. "I didn't have my full arsenal today. My fastball was not all over the place, but it was not where I wanted it to be."

Even though he wasn't particularly sharp, Freeland hung tough, a sign of his growth as a pitcher.

“It shows a little bit of maturity, I guess, to not allow anything to snowball on me or let them scratch a couple of runs across,” he said. “It’s really about bearing down and really focusing on making pitches that really count, and getting weak contact or swings and misses to get out of an inning.”

Relievers Scott Oberg, Adam Ottavino (two innings, three strikeouts) and Wade Davis combined to blank the Mariners over the final four innings.

Ottavino, who’s likely to hear his name called for the All-Star Game on Sunday, has worked two innings three times this season, allowing a combined four hits and no runs, with no walks and eight strikeouts over those six innings. Ottavino has struck out three batters in a game eight times this season.

Colorado added a bonus run in the ninth on a double by Carlos Gonzalez and a sacrifice fly by Parra.

Until Cuevas’ home run, Paxton had tied the Rockies in knots, and ended up striking out nine, including four whiffs by Charlie Blackmon. Colorado managed to scratch out a run in the fourth on a single and stolen base by Ian Desmond, followed by an RBI single by Gonzalez.

## **Saunders: Fans take swings at idea of designated hitter in National League**

*Colorado added a bonus run in the ninth on a double by Carlos Gonzalez and a sacrifice fly by Parra*

**Patrick Saunders | The Denver Post | July 7, 2018**

SEATTLE — There are three things you don't talk about in polite company: politics, religion and bringing the designated hitter to the National League.

I discovered the latter after penning my last Sunday column. I wrote that I was waffling on my long-held beliefs and was beginning to think that maybe the DH in the NL wasn't such a bad idea after all.

Whoa! You'd have thought I'd slandered Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, Pope Francis and golden retrievers in one fell swoop.irate emails filled my inbox and I got fried on Twitter. In a poll in The Denver Post, nearly 66 percent voted against the NL adding the DH.

I must say, your passion was impressive. Now I'm rethinking my rethinking.

Here, in the interest of equal time, is a sampling of fans' views on the topic.

*"The NL is a HARDER league. Sorry but neither aging, mostly overweight sluggers, nor lumber specialists impress this National League fan. Sure AL fans, you love 'em, but they'd have to play the WHOLE game in the NL. ... Any pinhead can get all blissed out recalling another flyball home run to the short porch at Yankee Stadium. So why must this pampering of baseball pitchers continue to escalate? The almighty dollar." — Tom Cowhick*

*"I grew up watching the American League. When I moved to Colorado in my early 60's, I was a little leery about adjusting to watching National League baseball, but I have found it much more interesting. It's exciting to see a good-hitting pitcher, and it's fun to see what strategies the managers come up with in "the late inning chess game." I've been watching the Rockies for 16 years now, and I say, 'NO DH!' — Patricia Geraghty*

*"I am generally dismayed by what I see as another attempt to dumb down or speed up the game, simply to appease an audience that is less and less interested in the real game of baseball. The problem, which MLB refuses to publicly acknowledge, is not that the game is too long or too slow or or too boring; it's that the real fans ... simply can't afford it anymore." — Arlen Hershberger*

*“Hitting a baseball is one of the hardest things to do, but for what these guys are being paid, they shouldn’t embarrass themselves or step up as automatic outs. Nor should the American League DH’s need an owner’s manual for using a mitt when they have to play defense in a National League park.” — **Stu Mark***

*“The DH idea was wrong when it was instituted in the AL back in the 70s, and if baseball really wanted to do something with the DH, it should abolish it completely. The whole premise of baseball, is to throw ball, catch ball and hit ball. Anyone wearing the uniform should be expected to perform in all three areas. No, most major-league pitchers are never going to possess the hitting skills of a position player, but I want them at the plate to try and help themselves win a baseball game.” — **Danny Gum***

*“Many of the arguments in favor (of the DH) are exactly the same why I’m against. I like the managerial chess match, and dislike anything that removes strategy and thought from the game. I’m tired of empty AB’s in the nine hole, but I’m completely sick of all-or-nothing swings up and down the lineup where there is no urgency to move a runner over or drive in one in scoring position.” — **Andrew Macdonald***

## **Rockies' Trevor Story scratched with bruised foot; Mike Dunn goes on DL with shoulder injury**

**Patrick Saunders | The Denver Post | July 7, 2018**

SEATTLE — The Rockies' iron man is not indestructible after all.

Shortstop Trevor Story, who had played in 139 consecutive games, was a late scratch from the starting lineup for Saturday's game against Seattle. Story suffered a bruised right foot after getting hit by a pitch from Roenis Elias in the seventh inning in Colorado's 7-1 victory over the Mariners Friday night.

While Story's relatively minor setback is not a long-term concern, Mike Dunn's injured left shoulder is big blow to the bullpen. Dunn's injury, officially being called acromioclavicular (AC) joint inflammation, landed him on the 10-day disabled list and he's expected to be out for quite some time.

"This is not going to be something where he's going to be activated on day one (off the DL)," manager Bud Black said.

"When we get back to Denver, he'll meet with our orthopedic doctors, he'll go through a litany of tests and scans, and we'll just see what we have."

Dunn, who signed a three-year, \$19 million contract before the 2017 season, had a cortisone shot but it did not alleviate the pain in his shoulder. He attempted to throw a bullpen session before Friday night's game and couldn't get through it. He's scheduled to undergo an MRI on Monday.

Dunn described the pain as "off the charts."

"I want to pitch. I want to help these guys out," he said. "It's like every time something flares up, we get it under control and then it's something else. We need to get it figured out. We need to get it fixed so when I do come back, it's done. We're just going to shut it down and wait until we get some answers."

This is Dunn's second stint on the DL this season. He was sidelined on June 8 with a left rhomboid strain in his upper back.

In other moves, the club placed catcher Tom Murphy on the paternity list. Murphy returned to Denver on Friday to be with his wife, Lindsay, who's expecting the birth of their child. Colorado filled its active roster by recalling utility infielder/outfielder Jordan Patterson and left-handed reliever Jerry Vasto from Triple-A Albuquerque.

Story, batting .282 with 16 home runs and 60 RBIs, has played in 781 of 782 innings at shortstop for Colorado this season. Daniel Castro played one inning on June 2 vs. the Dodgers. The last time Story missed a game was Aug. 5 vs. Philadelphia. Utility man Pat Valaika replaced Story at shortstop for Saturday's game.

### **Looking ahead**



**Rockies RHP Antonio Senzatela** (3-1, 4.44 ERA) at **Mariners LHP Wade LeBlanc**(3-0, 3.38), 2:10 p.m. Sunday, ATTRM; 850 AM

Senzatela looked like he was ready for prime time in his first big-league start of the season, giving up just three hits over seven scoreless innings in a win over San Francisco. The right-hander effectively mixed in his slider and a curve with his fastball. Senzatela faced the Mariners last season at Safeco Field in a 5-0 Rockies loss. He pitched five innings, allowing four runs on five hits with two walks and seven strikeouts. The Mariners are 9-3 in LeBlanc's 12 starts, and he's coming off a strong performance in a win over the Angels, allowing one run on three hits in seven innings. The 33-year-old lefty is 2-3 with a 6.53 ERA in nine career appearances (seven starts) vs. Colorado. Carlos Gonzalez has had some success vs. LeBlanc, batting 5-for-16 (.310) with two home runs and two doubles.

**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 Marquez (7-8, 4.92), 6:40 p.m., ATTRM

**Thursday:** Diamondbacks RHP Zack Godley (10-6, 4.85) at Rockies RHP Kyle Freeland (8-6, 3.18), 1:10 p.m., ATTRM

## The rarity of a triples-hitting catcher strikes twice for the Rockies even as Tony Wolters trips over himself

Nick Groke | The Athletic | July 7, 2018

SEATTLE — The third catcher on the Rockies' roster twice sprinted 270 feet to third base Friday night, but he could not make the short walk to his locker before the ribbing.

"Here comes Tony Triples," Chad Bettis heckled at him after a late-night, post-game dinner. "Triple-T, there he is."

Tony Wolters, with his triple to center field in the second inning and another to right in the sixth, became the first catcher in the Rockies' 26-year history to hit two triples in a game. Only one other catcher, Cubs would-be All-Star Willson Contreras, has hit two triples in a game this season.

In the Rockies' 7-1 blowout victory over the Mariners at Safeco Field, behind another stellar start from a Colorado pitcher (this time German Márquez), Wolters propelled them with his feet, despite himself.

"On the first one, I was tripping over myself," Wolters said. "I don't even remember the last time I was on the bases. I really felt it. I needed the oxygen machine ASAP."

Triples remain a constant rarity across baseball, unaffected by trends or power surges. Among all hits across the game this season, 13.6 percent resulted in home runs, on pace to top 2017's record number of homers. The total is up nearly 2 percent from 15 years ago.

But only 2.1 percent of hits have been triples this year. And 15 years ago, the number was basically the same, at about 2.1 percent.

In a notorious 2003 *Sports Illustrated* article headlined "12 Reasons Why The Triple Is The Most Exciting 12 Seconds In Sports," Roy Blount pointed out that "in slugging percentage a triple counts 25 percent less than a home run, although it is 560 percent rarer."

They're even more scarce from catchers. Tim McCarver's National League-leading 13 triples for the Cardinals in 1966 set the gold standard among catchers. Wolters has five triples in his three-year career. But in Friday's game alone, he matched his season high.

"On the second triple, I warmed up, I got to second, and I'm like, 'OK, I'm gonna run hard now,'" Wolters said. "I got a good angle, I hit second, I'm like, 'I'm not tripping right here. Just get there.'"

Colorado shortstop Trevor Story hit two triples in a game at Coors Field in 2016 against the Giants. He was the last to do it for the club. Cory Sullivan hit two in 2006 at San Diego; that was the most recent time a Rockies hitter hit two on the road.

Wolters had not even singled since June 6, a full month of sparse playing time behind slugger Tom Murphy and veteran Chris Iannetta, who has taken on a regular pinch-hitting role. Wolters, whose batting average had dropped to .140 before Friday, was a late replacement only after Murphy left Seattle suddenly on paternity leave when his wife went into labor in Denver.

“Tony was aggressive right out of the box. He ran hard from the first step,” Colorado manager Bud Black said. “That’s what it takes to get a triple. You can’t assume a double; you have to think triple.”

Black continues to list Wolters as a third catcher among bench players on his roster because the 26-year-old converted second baseman is one of the better-rated defenders in the NL, the league-leader in Defensive Runs Saved and a premier pitch-framer.

His defense twice came into play in punching out Seattle speedster Dee Gordon. Márquez quick-pitched in the first inning as Gordon broke for second, but Wolters threw him out trying to steal. In the sixth, with Gordon on third, Márquez shorted a curveball that bounced toward the Mariners’ dugout. But he chased the wild pitch, slid on his knees and threw out Gordon trying to break for home with Márquez covering.

“Marky threw that pitch freaking 12 feet,” Wolters said. “It hit off my stomach. And I saw (Gordon) coming. Marky is such an athlete; he took two steps and was already at home plate. He made a sweet tag.”

Márquez shut down a red-hot Mariners lineup for just one run over six innings, on five hits. Denard Span’s solo homer off him was the only ding on Márquez. His slider, Black said, played well through the marine layer and dodged the Mariners’ bat paths.

In back-to-back at-bats with two runners on in the fourth, Márquez twice used a slider to strike out Nelson Cruz (22 homers) and Kyle Seager (16) to kill the inning.

Charlie Blackmon homered in the first for Colorado and Carlos González and Raimel Tapia each doubled. But as the Rockies won for the seventh time in their past eight games, they found an unlikely motor in a triples-hitting catcher.

“Those swings felt really good,” Wolters said. “I want to build off that.”

## **Cuevas is clutch, Freeland is nails, Rockies win fifth straight**

**Drew Creasman | BSN Denver | July 7, 2018**

Noel Cuevas earned his spot on an MLB roster through hard work, perseverance, and his ability to hit left-handed pitching. Making his debut just a few short months ago, he has proven to be a valuable piece off the bench and in favorable matchups for the occasional start.

He got the start on Saturday afternoon against the Seattle Mariners, coming into the game with one major league home run and five RBI. But his three-run home run off of one of the best pitchers in the game was the difference in an eventual 5-1 win for his club. It was unquestionably the biggest moment so far in his young career.

The Rockies have now won five in a row and eight of their last nine baseball games.

For the third straight time, Kyle Freeland was matched up against an ace lefty, this time James Paxton, and while the box score will suggest he wasn't quite as good as his last few outings, he battled a very tough lineup in a game where he knew runs would be at a premium, and never lost his focus over his five-inning grind.

It looked like the Rockies missed their best chance in the game in the third, getting a rare bases-loaded, nobody out scenario against Paxton. Pat Valaika started it with a single to right, Gerardo Parra followed with one to left and Cuevas made it three straight when his attempt at a sac bunt ended up being in the perfect spot for a base hit.

With DJ LeMahieu, Charlie Blackmon, and Nolan Arenado coming up, the odds were in Colorado's favor that at least one run would be scored. But Paxton hasn't gotten to where he is this season by giving in during these types of situations. He got LeMahieu to fly out to not-deep-enough center and struck out Blackmon and Arenado back-to-back to stamp out the rally.

In fact, the Rockies top three hitters went 0-for-14 with seven strikeouts in the game. Not even a walk among them. It was the bottom of the order that did the heavy lifting in this one.

Ian Desmond finally fired the first salvo in the fourth after singling to lead off the inning and swiping second after Chris Iannetta struck out. It was his ninth stolen base of the season and was a huge one a few moments later when Carlos Gonzalez singled up the middle, scoring the all-important first run of the game against Paxton.

In the bottom half of the fourth, Freeland found himself in a jam after a leadoff walk to Kyle Seager and a one-out single to Guillermo Heredia put runners at first and third. But Freeland focused and unleashed some of his best pitches of the day to strike out John Andreoli and get David Freitas to pop out to second base, keeping the 1-0 lead intact.

He wasn't so fortunate in the fifth when Jean Segura took advantage of one of the few mistakes Freeland made in the game, smashing a center-cut fastball well over the wall in left to tie the game at one.

Freeland followed that by walking Mitch Haniger but bounced back to get Nelson Cruz on a flyout. Seager made things tense for a moment with a single to right but Freeland stranded the go-ahead run at second, getting Ryon Healy to pop up to shallow right in his final battle of the day.

With the southpaw at 98 pitches after five innings, Scott Oberg was called upon to pitch the sixth and did so splendidly, striking out a pair without allowing a baserunner.

The Rockies big breakthrough came in the seventh when a Valaika walk and Parra single set the stage for Cuevas' big moment. And suddenly, in a game that had been so tight all afternoon, Colorado took a 4-1 lead.

Adam Ottavino worked the seventh and surrendered a single but also struck out the side. He stayed on for the eighth and began things with another strikeout then gave up a single to Seager but erased him on an inning-ending double play.

The Rockies added an insurance run on a CarGo double, Valaika single, and Parra sac fly in the ninth.

That meant Wade Davis entered without the save situation.

Colorado improved to 46-43 and moved ahead of the Giants for third place in the NL West, just three games back of the first-place Diamondbacks.

#### **FINAL STATS:**

*Kyle Freeland: 5 IP, 5 H, 1 ER, 4 BB, 4 K*

*Scott Oberg: 1 IP, 0 H, 0 ER, 0 BB, 2 K*

*Adam Ottavino: 2 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 0 BB, 4 K*

*Noel Cuevas: 3-for-4, 1 R, 3 RBI, HR (2)*

*Carlos Gonzalez: 2-for-4, 1 R, 1 RBI*

*Pat Valaika: 2-for-3, 1 R*

*Gerardo Parra: 2-for-3, 1 R, 1 RBI*

*Ian Desmond: 1-for-4, 1 R, SB (9)*

#### **WHAT'S NEXT:**

The Rockies aim to make it six straight and record their second consecutive series sweep on Sunday afternoon. Antonio Senzatela faces off against the reinvigorated Wade LeBlanc. First pitch at 2:10 Mountain Time.

## **BSN Exclusive: Teammates make All-Star case for rangiest shortstop in baseball**

**Drew Creasman | BSN Denver | July 7, 2018**

DENVER – Colorado Rockies shortstop Trevor Story may be on the verge of some great news. Or, maybe not.

We will all find out together Sunday when the 2018 National League All-Stars are announced.

There is no question in the minds of teammates he belongs in the game in a season in which he is slashing .279/.343/.523 with 16 home runs, 10 stolen bases, and 60 RBI, all while playing Gold Glove-caliber defense at one of the game's most demanding positions.

According to BSN's own DPR metric (measuring offense only), Story has been just one point below the production levels of Charlie Blackmon and Bryce Harper.

He has been an invaluable asset in the field, at the plate, on the basepaths and in the clubhouse.

Everyone from Carlos Gonzalez to Ian Desmond to infield brethren Nolan Arenado and DJ LeMahieu has made it clear that this should equate to an appearance at the Midsummer Classic.

"That's huge," Story says when I tell him about the endorsements from his teammates. "To think and say that about me is humbling. We put a lot of hard work into this, a lot more than a lot of people think. We'll see. It would be cool."

He also admits, like most young men who ever laced up a pair of cleats or broke in a brand new glove, that this would be a dream come true.

"Yeah, no doubt," he said. "It's a goal of mine. Like you said, that's why you want to play or you want to be one of the best and that's why we work so hard."

It should come as a surprise to no one that Arenado sees this all as the inevitable conclusion to the hard work by the man who stands right next to him on the diamond.

"Story has taken huge steps the last few years," he said. "I think a big thing is his work, his preparation for the game, going in and doing BP; he really works on a lot of those plays that he's getting in the game so I think that's why it's paying off. I think it's becoming instincts now so that when the game starts, he's very fluid with it now. He doesn't seem like he's overthinking anything."

Diving stops and ridiculous spins and 450-foot bombs were stunning in his rookie season. Now, they are more routine.

Like his left-side mate, the spectacular has become *de rigeur* for Story. And in the game of baseball, that's how you become a superstar; not by proving yourself over the course of a grueling 162-game season... but by proving yourself over the course of a 162-game season year-after-year-after-year-after-year.

“I think he’s had an All-Star year,” Arenado continues. “He’s driving the ball out of the ballpark, he’s driving runs in, he’s playing great defense, I mean, I don’t know what else you want, those are the things you’ve gotta do, ya know? There’s some shortstops having some great years. Brandon Crawford is having a really good year, but at the same time, I think [Story] is very deserving of that other opportunity because I haven’t seen too many other shortstops doing what he’s doing.”

But perhaps the highest praise came from second baseman DJ LeMahieu who knows a thing or two about excellent defense and had some spicy words for Story’s glove.

“Defensively, top of the league,” he said. “He and Brandon Crawford are very similar. I think Trevor has a little bit more range. But Crawford is amazing too. I think they’re head and shoulders above everyone in the National League. And then, obviously, the way Trevor’s swinging it this year... he’s having a great year. A tough out, he drives in runs. He’s taking bases. And we talked about the defense.”

Yes, we did. And you directly compared him to the best defensive shortstop of the last decade. And put them on nearly even ground. Let he who would take umbrage with such a claims build their own case, for I am disinclined to disagree.

LeMahieu says that, despite momentary setbacks, the continuing development of Story comes as obvious news to those who were watching him every day.

“He never really got into a rhythm last year,” he said. “I don’t think anyone in this locker room ever doubted his ability or how good he could be. But he’s even better than he was his rookie year and continues to get better.”

By objective measure, Trevor Story has a great case to be a 2018 NL All-Star but it will be no great crime if he just misses out.

But surely the larger point is that last one LeMahieu made; he keeps getting better.

Which makes one wonder. ... what if this is still just the beginning?

## **Colorado Rockies: Will July be their turnaround month?**

*Let's face the fact that June wasn't a good month. They finished out the month with a 10-16 record. However, they took two of three against the Dodgers and, now, after a sweep of the San Francisco Giants, the momentum seems to be apparent as we head into July*

**Olivia Greene | RoxPile | July 7, 2018**

The Colorado Rockies are starting to run short on time when it comes the contenders and pretenders bracket. The club is currently 45-43, which puts them 3.5 games back from the 1st place Dodgers in 3rd place and 5th in the Wild Card standings and 4.5 games back. It could be said that the Rockies have a better chance winning their division at this moment in time than the Wild Card. It wouldn't be impossible since they were in 1st at one point this season. In fact, it was only a month ago (June 6) when they were in first place last.

It all appears to be coming together for the Colorado Rockies as they seem to be on point now when it comes to playing games. The rotation has been nothing less than stellar while the bullpen hasn't been as bad lately (3.60 ERA in July).

However, it's really the rotation that's been on point since getting it's mojo back after sending down Jon Gray.

We're now seeing shutouts and guys going so deep into games that at the point that they need the pen it's only a set up man and Wade Davis to shut the door. This is starting to become the clutch pitching rotation that we all remember from last year that were primed and ready for a postseason run. In July, the starter's have an ERA of 1.45 with a .142/.195/.217 opponent slash line in four starts. Plus, in the team's last two games of June, Tyler Anderson and German Marquez allowed a combined one run in 16 innings.

The offense has been great. Colorado Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado has been hitting quite a few home runs for the club. Over the last 8 games, he has hit 4 home runs with one of those being in the Giants sweep. Trevor Story has really been showing up as in just his last 7 games, he has gone 14-for-30 with 2 RBI. This has most likely given him his recent boost in the All-Star ballot, but at this moment, it is unknown where he would rank in the top five. However, as of the last update, he was nearly 1.5 million votes behind Giants shortstop Brandon Crawford for the lead.

DJ LeMahieu has been hitting very well he's 11-for-34 in his last eight games along with a home run and 8 RBI. After a down month of June (2 HR, 9 RBI, .261/.309/.374), Charlie Blackmon is heating up a bit as he is 8-for-18 in the month of July with 2 home runs (which matches his total for June) and 4 RBI.

The real success story has been first baseman Ian Desmond. It's safe to finally say that he's having a bounceback year. His 2018 stats are better than many had hoped this season. Desmond currently has 65 hits, 17 home runs, and 48 RBI. He's really showing his worth and becoming a serious offensive threat for the team. In his last 24 games, in fact, he is hitting .282/.371/.541 with six homers and 15 RBI Hopefully, Ian Desmond will be able to keep up with the stride he's got going while the Colorado Rockies face serious contenders in the month of July.



The few roster moves that front office has made over the past few weeks have truly made the difference for the Colorado Rockies. Yes, it's early to say that the Colorado Rockies are going to be contenders after the All-Star break. However, time is running out for them to actually gain enough momentum to either gain a division or Wild Card spot.

## **Colorado Rockies: Who might be playing in the All-Star Game?**

*Disclaimer: I despise the All-Star game. The fan voting portion of this event has become a popularity contest instead of a knowledgeable selection of deserving players. This has led to players such as Bryce Harper and his .211 batting average most likely getting a starting nod over players such as Christian Yelich, Derek Dietrich, Lorenzo Cain, or Corey Dickerson, who have all had a better all-around first half of the season. So when it is all said and done, I will probably watch Nolan Arenado of the Colorado Rockies get his at-bat and then move on to something else more worth watching.*

**Aaron Hurt | RoxPile | July 7, 2018**

That said, the Rockies have five viable candidates to make the 34-man National League roster. Unfortunately, considering that the Rockies are sitting in the middle of the pack in the NL, I have a strong suspicion that only two of the five players will make their way to Washington, D.C., on July 17.

Here is a rundown on the five Rockies who might be playing in the Mid-Summer Classic:

**Nolan Arenado:** He will be announced as a starter on Sunday when the official word comes out. He is arguably the best all-around player in the NL and, since there is no debating he will be in the game, I will move on.

**Charlie Blackmon:** Chuck Nazty is currently in fourth place in the latest outfield voting release. He is currently trailing Bryce Harper by a large margin ... and that is probably a good thing. Blackmon has had a down season to his standards and hasn't been his usual self since tweaking his leg in mid-April. Even though he has shown signs of breaking out (including the last two games), maybe missing out on the All-Star Game and having a four-day break could be useful for him.

**Trevor Story:** Story is absolutely deserving of his first career All-Star bid. He is currently leading all NL shortstops in home runs and RBI and is fourth in batting average. Perennial All-Star Brandon Crawford will get the starting spot and deservedly so. The worry for Story is that there is a hometown favorite who is also having a solid year who may get chosen ahead of him. The Nationals' Trea Turner is in the top three in all major categories for NL shortstops and, unless manager Dave Roberts decides to go with three players at short or he gets the final vote, Story might get left out.

**Adam Ottavino:** Otto should be the second lock on the roster. His 1.88 ERA, 0.91 WHIP, and 14.09 K/9 in 38.1 innings should make him a shoe-in for the game. Unfortunately, there are a couple things that may keep him out. He did have a three-week stint on the DL and he has struggled as of late, giving up five earned runs in his last four appearances.

**Kyle Freeland:** Freeland might be the most under the radar player most deserving of an All-Star bid. Freeland is 8-6 with a 3.25 ERA, which is 10th amongst NL starting pitchers. Those numbers don't do Freeland justice. Since May, Freeland is

7-2 in his last 11 starts with an incredible 2.78 ERA. The second-year Coloradoan has solidified himself as the Rockies' best starting pitcher but there are many established/known names who are having just as good of a season as Freeland who may keep him out of the game.

Along with Arenado, the Rockies will probably get one other player on the NL All-Star roster. I am guessing that it will be Ottavino but if they are going to get an more than two, they do have a secret weapon. Bud Black is on Dave Roberts' coaching staff for the game. We will find out Sunday night.

## Rockies Make Their Marquez on Mariners and Safeco

Tracy Ringolsby | Inside The Seams | July 7, 2018

Talk about a feel-good moment.

How about nine innings of good feelings for the Rockies.

In the midst of a two-week stretch that figures to determine whether the Rockies are buyers, sellers or none of the above at the trading deadline of July 31, the Rockies opened up a stretch of 12 games against the Mariners and D-Backs with a 7-1 victory against the Mariners at Safeco Field on Friday night.

It was their seventh win in eight games, and a team that has gone from eight games out in the NL West nine days ago to 3 1/2 out after Friday's victory.

Big deal?

Well, it certainly was for Rockies right-hander German Marquez. Not only did he work six innings, giving up just one run to improve his road record to 5-3 with a 2.61 ERA, but he earned the victory in a start against his childhood icon, Felix Hernandez of the Mariners.

With a slider that is a new addition to his pitching assortment, Marquez gave up a lead-off home run to Denard Span in the sixth inning, and nothing else, before turning the game over to a bullpen in which Jake McGee, Scott Oberg and Scott Rusin worked a shutout inning apiece.

"I looked up to (King Felix) growing up," said Marquez. "To be able to face him is a dream come true. I was excited, but it was still about hitting the target and executing pitches."

With a smile, he added, "Felix is a great Person. I think he'll be happy for me and continue to give me advice."

With 19 victories, Marquez is tied for 39th in big-league victories among Venezuelan-born pitchers. No. 1 on the list? Hernandez with 168 wins, 12 more than Freddy Garcia, who also pitched at one point in his career for the Mariners.

### VICTORS OF VENEZUELA

Name	Wins	Losses	Pct.	ERA	IP
Felix Hernandez	168	121	0.581	3.28	2607.2
Freddy Garcia	156	108	0.591	4.15	2264
Johan Santana	139	78	0.641	3.2	2025.2
Carlos Zambrano	132	91	0.592	3.66	1959

Name	Wins	Losses	Pct.	ERA	IP
Wilson Alvarez	102	92	0.526	3.96	1747.2
Kelvim Escobar	101	91	0.526	4.15	1507
Anibal Sanchez	93	96	0.492	4.05	1645.2
Carlos Carrasco	71	57	0.555	3.83	999
Carlos Silva	70	70	0.5	4.68	1241.2
Omar Daal	68	78	0.466	4.55	1198.2

Tony Wolters was a late addition to the lineup at catcher. Tom Murphy, who was scheduled to start, flew back to Denver to be with his wife for the birth of their child. Murphy was placed on paternity leave and is expected to rejoin the Rockies when they open a three-game series against the Diamondbacks at Coors Field.

Wolters was enjoying the moment. He did an excellent job handling the pitching staff, and he had a big game offensively, something that had become a growing concern. Wolters went into the game not only with a .140 batting average, but having gone hitless in 22 at-bats, covering a calendar month.

In the second inning, however, Wolters' tripled, driving in one run and eventually scoring himself in giving the Rockies a 3-0 lead, his first hit since an RBI single in the top of the sixth at Cincinnati on June 6. And he added another triple, becoming the first Rockies player to have two triples in a game since Cory Sullivan at San Diego on April 9, 2006.

It was the 23rd time in franchise history that a player had two triples in a game. And Wolters is the 16th player to have tripled twice in a game at least once. Dexter Fowler and Larry Walker are the franchise leaders with three games each in which they had two triples.

### THREE'S COMPANY

2 Triples in a Game	
Player	Times
Dexter Fowler	3
Larry Walker	3
Carlos Gonzalez	2

<b>2 Triples in a Game</b>	
Todd Helton	2
Neifi Perez	2
Brent Butler	1
Vinny Castilla	1
Tyler Colvin	1
Corey Dickerson	1
Charlie Hayes	1
Juan Pierre	1
Terry Shumpert	1
Seth Smith	1
Trevor Story	1
Cory Sullivan	1
Tony Wolters	1

Charlie Blackmon, meanwhile, was putting together his sixth three-hit game -- 26th multi-hit game -- of the season. He hit his 16th home run, the 12th on the road. That's the second-most road home runs on the team -- one behind Ian Desmond -- and tied for the sixth-most in Major League Baseball. Mike Trout of the Angels has an MLB-best 15 road home runs. Ozzie Albies of the Braves is the NL leader with 14.

### **ROAD WARRIORS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>		<b>HR</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>HR</b>
3/31/2018	@Ari	W 2-1	2	Mike Trout	LAA	15
3/30/2018	@Ari	L 9-8	1	Ozzie Albies	Atl	14
4/2/2018	@SD	W 7-4	1	Mookie Betts	Bos	14
4/14/2018	@Was	L 6-2	1	Ian Desmond	Col	13

Date	Opponent		HR	Player	Team	HR
4/15/2018	@Was	W 6-5	1	Paul Goldschmidt	Ari	13
4/16/2018	@Pit	W 6-2	1	Charlie Blackmon	Col	12
4/28/2018	@Mia	L 4-1	1	Matt Davidson	CWS	12
5/1/2018	@ChC	W 3-1	1	Evan Gattis	Hou	12
5/4/2018	@NYM	W 8-7	1	Yadier Molina	StL	12
5/18/2018	@SF	W 6-1	1	Jose Ramirez	Cle	12
7/6/2018	@Sea	W 7-1	1	Kyle Seager	Sea	12

Blackmon's home run was only the 10th -- by 10 different players -- hit by the Rockies in 15 games they have played at Safeco Field.

Player	Season	AB	HR
Benny Agbayani	2002	6	1
Nolan Arenado	2017	26	1
Charlie Blackmon	2018	21	1
Dustin Garneau	2015	8	1
Jeffrey Hammonds	2000	8	1
Brad Hawpe	2006	11	1
Brent Mayne	2000	7	1
Mark Reynolds	2017	7	1
Yorvit Torrealba	2006	5	1
Larry Walker	2002	10	1

The Rockies are 8-7 all-time at Safeco Field, and they have won seven of the last 10 games. They, however, have never won back





## Sunday Stats Watch: Rockies Regain Stature of Road Warrior

Tracy Ringolsby | Inside The Seams | July 7, 2018

The Rockies go into Sunday's game in Seattle with a chance of becoming the first visiting team to sweep a series at Safeco Field this season. By taking the first two games of the series, they already are only the third team to win a series at Safeco. They join the Astros, who took three of four April 16-19, and the Angels, who took two of three May 4-6. But then the Rockies have found a comfort zone on the road. They lead NL teams in wins on the road and are tied with the D-Backs and Brewers for the best road winning percentage in the NL at .571. The Rockies have played seven more road games than both the D-Backs and Brewers.

### ROAD WARRIORS

Team	W	L	Pct	Sv	SvOP	ERA	
Rockies	28	21	0.571	20	28	3.91	
D-Backs	24	18	0.571	12	16	3.43	
Brewers	24	18	0.571	11	17	3.52	
Dodgers	22	17	0.564	12	24	3.9	
Braves	27	21	0.563	15	18	3.87	
Cardinals	23	20	0.535	13	20	3.79	
Nationals	23	20	0.535	16	20	3.64	
Cubs	23	21	0.523	9	15	3.39	
Phillies	19	21	0.475	8	14	4.28	
Mets	20	23	0.465	13	22	4.68	
Pirates	19	25	0.432	11	18	4.93	
Reds	18	24	0.429	13	16	4.67	
Padres	19	28	0.404	14	19	4.14	
Giants	19	29	0.396	11	19	4.34	

Team	W	L	Pct	Sv	SvOP	ERA
Marlins	17	29	0.37	10	13	6.3

Source: Stats, Inc.

With a five-game winning streak -- and wins in eight of their last nine games -- the Rockies are three games above .500 (46-43) for the first time since they were 32-29 on June 6. At 46-43 the Rockies have the sixth best record in franchise history after 89 games, and it is only of only nine seasons in which they have even had a winning record 89 games into the season.

Season	W	L	Pct.	RS	RA	Rdiff	Final	Finish	Postseason
2017	51	38	0.573	447	414	33	87-75	3	Wildcard
1995	49	40	0.551	474	463	11	77-67	2	Wildcard
2010	49	40	0.551	432	388	44	83-79	3	
2009	48	41	0.539	452	406	46	92-70	2	Wildcard
2003	46	43	0.517	488	472	16	74-88	4	
2018	46	43	0.517	418	443	-25	46-43	3	
1996	45	44	0.506	545	553	-8	83-79	3	
2000	45	44	0.506	543	517	26	82-80	4	
2007	45	44	0.506	438	444	-6	90-73	2	NL Pennant
2006	44	45	0.494	419	411	8	76-86	4	

## **Colorado Rockies 5, Seattle Mariners 1: Noel Cuevas comes through**

*One of the least likely Rockies came through with the big blow against James Paxton*

**Jordan Freemyer | Purple Row | July 7, 2018**

The Colorado Rockies won their fifth game and third series in a row with a 5-1 victory over the Seattle Mariners Saturday at Safeco Field. The Rockies have now won eight of their last nine games overall.

Noel Cuevas played the hero for the Rockies, with a three-run home run in the seventh inning against Mariners starter James Paxton, breaking a 1-1 tie. It was just the second home run of Cuevas' career.

The long ball from Cuevas meant that another strong pitching performance from the Rockies was not in vain. Kyle Freeland allowed just a solo home run to Jean Segura in five innings of work and Scott Oberg, Adam Ottavino and Wade Davis combined to pitch four scoreless innings of relief to close out the victory.

Kyle Freeland stays hot

While he didn't have his best outing of the season by any means, Rockies starter Kyle Freeland kept the Mariners offense at bay for five innings, allowing just one run on five hits with four walks and four strikeouts. He was pulled after five innings having thrown 98 pitches, 56 for strikes. He lowered his ERA to 3.18 on the season with one start left before the All-Star Break.

With the top of the Rockies lineup struggling against Seattle starter James Paxton, it was up to the bottom of the order to come through, which Cuevas did in the seventh. A walk and a single put runners on the corners with one out in a 1-1 game and, after failing at a bunt attempt, Cuevas took Paxton deep for his second home run of the season, giving the Rockies a 4-1 lead they would not relinquish.

The Rockies will look for their sixth straight win and a sweep of the Mariners tomorrow afternoon. Antonio Senzatela will make his second start of the season against Seattle's Wade LeBlanc. First pitch is scheduled for 2:10 p.m. Mountain time.

## **Cuevas' 3-run HR lifts Rockies to 5-1 win against Mariners**

**Daimon Eklund | Associated Press | July 7, 2018**

The biggest hit of Noel Cuevas' young major league career was supposed to be a sacrifice bunt.

The Colorado Rockies and Seattle Mariners were tied at 1 in the seventh inning Saturday, and the Rockies had two men on and one out when Cuevas came to the plate as the No. 9 hitter. He got the sign for a safety squeeze, but fouled off his first bunt attempt.

Instead, Cuevas hit the next pitch over the left-field fence for a three-run homer, giving the Rockies the lead in what would be a 5-1 win.

"I wasn't happy at that moment that I missed it. We were trying to get that run in," Cuevas said. "Next pitch, I can't remember I just missed a bunt. I need to make sure I'm ready for that pitch and that was it."

It was the second career home run for Cuevas, who was called up to the Rockies on April 22, and his first since May 14. The three RBI set a career high, and he tied his best mark with three hits in the game. He also had another sacrifice attempt turn into an infield hit to load the bases in the third inning.

Cuevas wasn't the only one at the bottom of Colorado's order to have a big day. The Rockies' No. 6-9 hitters combined to go 9 for 14 with five RBIs.

"All those guys, every one of their at-bats from pitch one, they were ready to hit," Colorado manager Bud Black said.

"That's what I saw, all of them."

The Rockies won their fifth straight despite facing Seattle's best starter, James Paxton (8-3). Although Paxton was again overpowering at times, striking out nine, he lost for the second time in three starts. He allowed four runs and seven hits in seven innings — marking the third time in four starts Paxton allowed at least that many runs and hits.

"I felt really good today. I had good stuff, I felt like I threw the ball well," he said. "It was really good other than that one pitch."

The Rockies took a 1-0 lead in the fourth on a run-scoring single by Gonzalez. Segura's seventh homer tied the score in the fifth.

Reliever Scott Oberg (2-0) earned the win by throwing a perfect sixth inning, striking out two.

Colorado starter Kyle Freeland left after five innings, allowing one run and five hits. It was Freeland's shortest outing since going four innings on April 18 — he had pitched into the sixth inning or later in his previous 13 starts.

**ROSTER MOVES**

Rockies: Colorado recalled INF/OF Jordan Patterson and LHP Jerry Vasto from Triple-A Albuquerque, and C Tom Murphy — who returned to Denver on Friday to be with his wife, Lindsay, for the birth of their second child — was placed on the paternity list.

Mariners: Seattle recalled OF John Andreoli from Triple-A Tacoma and optioned RHP Nick Rumbelow to Tacoma. Andreoli started in left field Saturday and struck out twice before being replaced by Ben Gamel in the sixth.

#### TRAINERS ROOM

Rockies: LHP Mike Dunn was placed on the 10-day disabled list retroactive to July 4 with AC joint inflammation. Colorado manager Bud Black said it was unclear how long Dunn might be out. ... SS Trevor Story was scratched from the starting lineup with a bruised right foot.

Mariners: Mitch Haniger was back in the starting lineup at right field after missing two games with a bruised right knee. ... 2B Dee Gordon was out of the starting lineup after hurting his hip on a play at the plate on Friday, but manager Scott Servais said it was just a day off and the injury wasn't serious. Gordon entered the game as a pinch hitter in the ninth and popped out to left field.

#### CANO TALKS

Before the game, Mariners second baseman Robinson Cano talked with the media about his 80-game suspension for violating baseball's drug agreement, saying it was the most difficult thing he's dealt with in his life outside of the death of his grandfather. Cano is eligible to return on August 14, but is ineligible for postseason play and Gordon has excelled defensively at second base in Cano's absence.

"I'm focused on bringing a title to Seattle so I would do whatever it takes to help this team to win," Cano said. "At the same time I understand I'm not going to be able to play in the playoffs so you got to give a chance to Dee to go out and play because when we get to the playoffs he's going to have to come back and play second base."

#### UP NEXT

Rockies: RHP Antonio Senzatela (3-1, 4.44 ERA) is making his second start after starting the year in the Colorado bullpen. In his first start on Tuesday against the Giants, Senzatela pitched seven scoreless innings.

Mariners: LHP Wade LeBlanc (4-0, 3.19) will make his 13th start of the season. He allowed one run on three hits in seven innings his last time out against the Angels.