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## MEDIA CLIPS – Sept. 12, 2018

### **Story makes SS history with 40th 2B, 100th RBI**

*Rockies shortstop continues to make case for NL MVP Award*

**Owen Perkins | MLB.com | Sept. 11, 2018**

DENVER -- **Trevor Story** wasted no time adding his name to the pages of baseball history on Tuesday night in the **Rockies' 6-3 loss** to the D-backs at Coors Field, knocking a game-tying double down the left-field line in the first inning.

The hit gave the National League MVP Award candidate 100 RBIs and 40 doubles to go with his 32 home runs, making him the first NL shortstop in history to drive in 100 runs while hitting 30 homers and collecting 40 doubles.

Story is also the first Major League shortstop with at least 30 homers and 40 doubles while stealing at least 25 bases, though the Indians' **Francisco Lindor** would join him with two more stolen bases. Sixteen players have hit those benchmarks in the history of the game, including the likes of Chipper Jones (1999), Barry Bonds ('98), Willie Mays ('59) and two Rockies: outfielders Larry Walker in '97 and Ellis Burks in '96, but no other shortstop.

"It means a lot," Story said. "I wish I could have enjoyed it a little more with a win. But it means a lot. I had a bad year last year. To come back and play the way I want to is big for me."

Story hit .239 in '17 with 24 homers and 82 RBIs, a dip of 33 points in his average and three home runs fewer than his monster rookie year. This season, he's hitting .293.

Only two shortstops since 1920 have reached 30 homers, 100 RBIs and 20 stolen bases, putting Story in exclusive company with Alex Rodriguez, who accomplished the feat twice, in '98 and '99.

"It's kind of hard to put into words right now," Story said. "It's all about the team. I feel like the pennant race is something special for sure, for me."

Story is 9-for-32 (.281) with six homers, 13 RBIs and three stolen bases through the first eight days of this homestand as the first-place Rockies vie for their first NL West title in franchise history. He's made himself a legitimate part of the NL MVP conversation -- along with teammate **Nolan Arenado**.

"It's been awesome. It's been great to watch," manager Bud Black said. "I think the most important thing for Trev on a nightly basis is helping the team win. Whether it's on the field with his glove, with his bat, a big swing, he's doing it, and I think he's doing it with the sole intent of helping the Rockies win. That's what's cool."

## Rox fall to D-backs as NL West race gets tighter

Owen Perkins | MLB.com | Sept. 11, 2018

DENVER -- The Rockies faced the D-backs in a tense September game Tuesday, but it felt like October. The Rockies managed three runs against Arizona ace **Zack Greinke**, but missed opportunities in the late innings kept Colorado from adding to its 42 comeback wins as a 6-3 loss evened the series.

With the second-place Dodgers losing their second straight game to the Reds, the Rockies maintained their 1 1/2-game lead in the National League West, but third-place Arizona pulled within 2 1/2 games in the division race that gets tighter by the day as Colorado eyes its first division title in the franchise's 26-year history.

Arizona jumped on Rockies right-hander **Antonio Senzatela** right out of the gate, with **David Peralta** going deep to center with a two-run shot -- his 27th homer of the season -- to put Colorado into a familiar first-inning hole.

"Antonio was solid," manager Bud Black said. "They nicked him for two runs in the first inning. It looked like he missed on a fastball to Peralta for the homer. ... Then he put up some zeros, looked to be in control."

The Rockies bounced back quickly in the bottom of the frame, with **Charlie Blackmon** and **Nolan Arenado** lacing a pair of doubles off Greinke to score one run and bring hot-hitting **Trevor Story** to the plate with two outs.

Story knocked a run-scoring double down the left-field line, plating Arenado and tying the game at 2. It was Story's 100th RBI of the season and his 40th double to go with his 32 homers, making him the first National League shortstop in history with at least 100 RBIs, 30 homers and 40 doubles.

"It means a lot," Story said. "I wish I could have enjoyed it a little more with a win. But it means a lot. I had a bad year last year. To come back and play the way I want to is big for me."

Senzatela's line was shy of a quality start, but four runs on seven hits and a pair of walks over six innings was enough to keep the game close. The 23-year-old righty has had a solid second half, but the rotation's dropoff after **Kyle Freeland**, **German Marquez** and **Jon Gray** has been a factor in preventing the Rockies from creating some distance between themselves and the two teams breathing down their neck.

"He pitched well, two runs into his last inning and then two outs and two strikes on **Paul Goldschmidt**," Black said, referencing the sixth inning, when the D-backs added two runs in a two-out rally. "Goldy got a double with two outs, and then the chopper -- bad break, that's baseball -- and a pitch down and in looked to be a ball to Marte and he sort of golfed it down the right-field line [for a two-run single]. But he pitched well. He kept us in the game. He held his own with Greinke. Hard fought both sides."

Greinke's ability to quiet an offense that scored 13 runs the night before by changing speeds and keeping them off balance highlighted the inconsistent output from a potent Rockies lineup. The Rockies managed just five hits through six innings, then were shut out over the final three innings despite four hits and two walks.

"We haven't been clicking on all cylinders like we feel we can," Story said. "Obviously, it's a hard game, and it's not always going to be like that. I think it's all about how you play when you're not playing your best. Hopefully, we get some wins that way, too."

## **MOMENTS THAT MATTERED**

**Rockies can't cash in:** Trailing, 4-3, the Rockies had a chance to take their first lead in the seventh. Pinch-hitter **Matt Holliday** got the rally going and knocked Greinke from the game with a two-out double off the right-field fence -- just inches from clearing the wall for a game-tying homer.

**Andrew Chafin** took over for Greinke and walked pinch-hitter **Chris Iannetta** and Blackmon to load the bases, but D-backs manager Torey Lovullo went to **Brad Ziegler**, who retired **DJ LeMahieu** on an inning-ending grounder to second.

## **HE SAID IT**

"We had a lot of chances. Tonight we didn't get the big hit. Obviously we're trying to get the big hit, trying to knock runs in, but they made some pitches when they needed to. Seems as though the outs they got on those situations were good quality pitches. They executed some pitches down in the strike zone or on the corners, on the edges, which makes it tough to get base hits. At times, you have to give the opposition pitching a little credit." -- *Black*

## **MITEL REPLAY OF THE DAY**

A call overturned by the replay official prolonged a rally that ultimately added a pair of insurance runs to the D-backs tally. With the typically lights-out **Adam Ottavino** on the mound in the eighth, **A.J. Pollock** was called out at first on a grounder

to short. The D-backs challenged, and the call was overturned, putting runners on first and third with one out. Pollock stole second and then scored on **Ketel Marte's** two-run single.

"A weird play by me on the field, one I wish I'd been a little quicker with and maybe that inning goes a little different," Story said. "I try to play with my instincts. I thought about throwing to third and I just didn't get it to first quick enough."

#### **UP NEXT**

Gray gets the nod for Game 3 of the four-game set with the D-backs, facing left-hander **Patrick Corbin** at 6:40 p.m. MT on Wednesday at Coors Field. Gray has been hot and cold lately, and he struggled with command Friday against the Dodgers. He allowed two runs on four hits in four innings and left with the game tied because five walks had his pitch count up to 85.

## Rox have no shortage of OFs for final push

Owen Perkins | MLB.com | Sept. 11, 2018

DENVER -- At times, the Rockies' September roster feels like an embarrassment of riches. And while the core infielders are not battling for playing time and the rotation has used a franchise-low seven pitchers this season, the outfield is another story.

While seven is an unusually low number for starting pitchers used in a season, it's a high number for outfielders on an active roster. Nine have started for the Rockies this season, and eight of them are on the roster now, including first baseman **Ian Desmond** -- all valid choices.

"It's a good problem to have, if you have good players," manager Bud Black said Tuesday. "On a nightly basis, what we do as coaches is we try to figure out the best group on that night. There's a lot of factors that go into that. It's challenging, but it's a good challenge. It's much better that way than the other way -- 'Who are we going to play?' You don't want that."

For Tuesday's second game in a four-game set with the D-backs at Coors Field, the Rockies started **David Dahl** (.268, 10 HR, and 28 RBIs) in left field, **Charlie Blackmon** (.286, 26 HR, 62 RBIs) in center and **Carlos Gonzalez** (.281, 15 HR, 59 RBIs) in right.

Dahl has had to fight his way into the lineup, and his 2-for-5 night with his first career grand slam helped him stay in the cleanup spot for a second straight game.

Blackmon is a staple in center, and though he's struggled at times this season, he's surging in September, hitting three homers against the Dodgers over the weekend and going 3-for-3 in the opener against the D-backs while making standout plays in the field.

Gonzalez sat for two days, but his success against starter **Zack Greinke** earned him a return to right field on Tuesday. He had a blistering July, hitting .345 (29-84) with six homers and 18 RBIs, and though he's cooled off a little, his steady presence and undiminished Gold Glove prowess in the field has helped put the Rockies in contention for their first National League West crown.

And on the bench, the Rockies have **Noel Cuevas**, who is hitting .296 (8-for-27) as a pinch-hitter; **Matt Holliday** (.355, 11-for-31 with two homers since his return) earning starts against left-handers and serving as a power bat off the bench;

Gold Glove winner **Gerardo Parra** (.275, 5, 49), who has played more games in the outfield this season than anyone save Blackmon; and **Raimel Tapia** (4-for-19), who stole 21 bags and hit .302 with 11 homers in 434 Triple-A at-bats.

"At this time of the year, everybody knows what's at stake, and everybody knows what their part in all this is," Black said. "Unselfishness and team goals come to the forefront for the playoffs, even though some of the decisions for us as a coaching staff and me as a manager are maybe not appreciated by the player. But in most cases, those guys get it."

### **Postseason passport punch**

After beating Ogden, 6-5, on Sunday to take the best-of-three Divisional Series playoffs, the Pioneer League Grand Junction Rockies opened the best-of-three Pioneer League finals on Tuesday night at home against Great Falls.

The team got a boost this summer when Holliday began his comeback journey to the Major Leagues with a brief stint in Grand Junction. Holliday played in a game on Aug. 1, and went 1-for-3 with a double and a walk as the designated hitter, qualifying him for a share of Grand Junction's postseason winnings.

**Kiszla: Dress for MVP success. Trevor Story has Brady-like tendencies and jersey of Pats QB in his wardrobe.**  
*What Story has done this year? Nobody would believe is true without video evidence.*

**Mark Kiszla | Denver Post | Sept. 11, 2018**

Trevor Story might be the most valuable player in the National League, but nobody's perfect. True Story: A Tom Brady jersey hangs in his locker. Doesn't wearing Brady's No. 12 count as sports blasphemy in two states, both in his native Texas and his adopted Colorado home?

"I'm not wearing it yet," Story said. "So I can't get in trouble yet."

Football jerseys were distributed Tuesday throughout the Colorado clubhouse, because a professional baseball team constantly searches for any way to bring smiles on the long road ahead, especially amid a tension-filled playoff race. So Matt Holliday will pack John Elway's No. 7 for an upcoming trip to the West Coast. Nolan Arenado is paying tribute to another SoCal kid by donning the New York Jets jersey of Sam Darnold. Chad Bettis? He's got Jerome Bettis. Of course.

So what's up with Story, who grew up deep in heart of Cowboys Country, loving Tony Romo and Dez Bryant, turning in his big, blue star and becoming just another Patriots chowderhead?

"I have all the Cowboys jerseys," Story explained, "so I wanted to get a Tom Brady one; (he's) my favorite quarterback."

Story has Brady-like tendencies. Hidden behind the mug of a movie star is a voracious appetite for doing real big things in real big moments.

It has taken baseball way too long to figure out nobody's writing a better Story this season is Colorado's shortstop, but what did you expect? The typical voter for most valuable player has more mustard stains on his shirts than brains in his head.

Between bites of a brat, voters can debate the merits of St. Louis first baseman Matt Carpenter versus Chicago infielder Javy Baez or Milwaukee outfielder Christian Yelich, balancing WAR versus OPS in the equation. I prefer KISS. Keep it simple, stupid.

If Story leads Colorado to its first division title in 2018, as the franchise celebrates its 25th anniversary, isn't that the pretty much the definition of most valuable? He's carrying the Rockies to a place they've never gone.

“You’ve heard the term, buy-in, right?” Colorado manager Bud Black said.

I never would have bought the idea that someone other than Arenado could lead the Rockies to the playoffs. Story, however, is the rare athlete who went from stellar to truly elite by swallowing his ego. A natural-born puncher discovered he didn’t need to win every fight by knockout. He learned to shorten his hitting stroke, cut down on strikeouts and pick his spots to swing from the heels.

What Story has done this year? Nobody would believe is true without video evidence.

He hit a 459-foot home run off San Francisco pitcher Andrew Suarez while falling down. He is only the second shortstop in major-league history to produce 30 home runs, 100 runs batted in and 20 steals in a single season. The other? Alex Rodriguez. Against Diamondbacks starter Zack Greinke, one of the better pitchers of this generation, Story has 13 hits, five homers and 13 RBIs, including a run-scoring double in the first inning.

But here’s the other thing about baseball: It can humble any man in a hurry.

With the Rockies down by only a run to Arizona in the eighth inning, looking for their 43rd comeback victory of the season, Story fielded what appeared to be a routine grounder, carefully looked back a runner on second base and fired a split-second late to get A.J. Pollock hustling down the line. It was a mental error that ignited trouble, as the Diamondbacks scored twice in the frame.

Colorado lost 6-3.

The Rockies cling to first place in the NL West. Eighteen games remain on the schedule, so close to the first division title in club history.

It’s winning time. Story time.

## **Diamondbacks own decisive moments en route to 6-3 win over Rockies at Coors Field**

*Despite the defeat, the Rockies maintain their 1 ½ game advantage on the Dodgers in the National League West*

**Kyle Newman | Denver Post | Sept. 11, 2018**

In a game defined by decisive moments, Arizona owned the most of them Tuesday night at Coors Field in a 6-3 victory against the Rockies that very well could have gone the home team's way.

First it was a veteran at-bat by Paul Goldschmidt that sparked a key Diamondbacks rally. Then it was a bases-loaded, two-out groundout by the normally clutch DJ LeMahieu to snuff a Colorado comeback.

By the time Adam Ottavino delivered an erratic, two-run-allowed appearance in the eighth inning, virtually no momentum-shifting plays had gone Colorado's way as the Rockies squandered a chance to build its lead in the NL West with the Los Angeles Dodgers' loss at Cincinnati.

"We had a lot of chances," manager Bud Black said. "Tonight we didn't get the big hit... They made some pitches when they needed to, and it seems as though the outs they got in those situations were good quality pitches down in the strike zone or on the edges."

Despite stranding seven in the loss, the Rockies maintain their 1½ game advantage on the Dodgers, while the Diamondbacks pulled to within 2½ games.

Arizona's victory began by underscoring Colorado's continued first-inning failures — a frame in which they possess a major league-worst 7.75 ERA — as David Peralta tagged a two-run homer off Antonio Senzatela.

But Colorado answered in the bottom of the frame, using RBI doubles by Trevor Story and Nolan Arenado to even the game at 2-2.

With Story's hit, the 25-year-old became the first MLB shortstop to reach 40 doubles, 30 homers and 25 steals in a season — the latest feat in a season full of them as Story has made a late push in the National League MVP conversation. The double also put Story in elite company with Alex Rodriguez as the lone shortstops to hit 30 home runs, have 100 RBIs and steal 20 bases.

"It means a lot," Story said of the milestone. "I wish I could enjoy it a little bit more with a win, but I had a bad year last year, and to come back and play the way I want to is big for me."

Following the opening fireworks, both Senzatela and Arizona starter Zach Greinke settled in for the middle part of the game.

“I kept the ball down, and when they hit it, they hit it into the ground,” Senzatela said. “My changeup was my best secondary pitch, and I got really good (action) on the curveball and slider today.”

But the Diamondbacks threw the next punch.

With Goldschmidt facing an 0-2 count with no outs in the sixth inning and the bases empty, Senzatela was one pitch away from getting out of the inning and turning in a quality start.

Instead, the veteran made Senzatela work, eventually roping a 2-2 fastball for a double to center field. That set up Ketel Marte’s two-RBI triple a couple of batters later as Arizona retook the lead, 4-2.

“He’s a really good hitter, like everyone knows,” Senzatela said of the Goldschmidt at-bat. “I made a bunch of really good pitches, but the last pitch, he got me. I missed that pitch.”

Colorado then finally got to Greinke again in the bottom of that inning after he had set down 15 straight hitters. Arenado’s second double of the evening got the rally going with two outs, and then David Dahl followed with a double of his own to make it 4-3 before Story’s grounder ceased the threat.

“(Greinke) knows what he’s doing — he really changes speeds, and he mixes in that 65-mile-per-hour curveball too, so you never know what you’re going to get,” Story said. “He kept our hitters off-balance.”

The Rockies then tested the Arizona bullpen again in the seventh inning after Matt Holliday chased Greinke from the game with a two-out double off the right-field wall that was inches from landing in the Colorado bullpen. Walks to Chris Iannetta and Charlie Blackmon loaded the bases, but LeMahieu grounded out off Brad Ziegler to end the inning.

Ottavino’s shaky eighth inning followed, which got off to a bad note with a leadoff walk to Peralta plus Story’s indecisiveness throwing to first on a groundball a few batters later that turned a would-be out into a hit.

“It was a weird play by me in the field, and one that I wish I would have been a little quicker with,” Story said. “If I was, maybe the ninth inning goes a little differently.”

And, in the final, decisive moment, Colorado couldn't cash in on a no-out, runners-on-the-corners opportunity in the ninth inning.

After Carlos Gonzalez led off with a double and Ryan McMahon followed with a perfectly placed bunt single up the first base line, Ian Desmond and Jannetta struck out, and Charlie Blackmon flied out to center field to end the game.

**Rockies' Trevor Story becomes first MLB shortstop to reach 40 doubles, 30 homers and 25 steals in a season**  
*A first-inning RBI double on Tuesday night against the Diamondbacks at Coors Field also put him in exclusive company with A-Rod*

**Kyle Newman | Denver Post | Sept. 11, 2018**

Trevor Story's historic season continues.

With a first-inning RBI double on Tuesday night against the Diamondbacks at Coors Field, Story became the first major league shortstop to reach 40 doubles, 30 home runs and 25 steals in a season.

Only two other Colorado players have accomplished the feat — Ellis Burks in 1996 and Larry Walker in 1997, the year Walker won the National League MVP — and only 16 players all-time have hit those marks.

The hit also put Story in rare company with Alex Rodriguez as the two are the only shortstops in MLB history to have hit 30 home runs, driven in 100 runs and stolen 20 bases.

Just last week in LoDo, Story blasted three long balls, including the longest home run in the Statcast era at 505 feet to left field.

**Kiz vs. Saunders: Would you vote Jacob deGrom over Kyle Freeland for the Cy Young Award?**

*Kyle Freeland's 2.21 ERA at Coors Field is like a 1.12 ERA at Dodger Stadium*

**Patrick Saunders | Denver Post | Sept. 11, 2018**

**Question: Would you vote Jacob deGrom over Kyle Freeland for the Cy Young Award?**

**Kiz:** Here in Denver, we love Rockies pitcher Kyle Freeland. He is Colorado's ace. But everywhere else in the country, Freeland gets no love. What's up with that? I keep hearing Jacob deGrom of the New York Mets could win the Cy Young award in the National League, despite going into action Tuesday night with an 8-8 record. Does it make any sense deGrom is getting major props, while Freeland is getting ignored by your baseball media brethren?

**Saunders:** Kiz, you set me up with a hanging curveball, so here comes the home run swing: the national media loves to trash Rockies hitters for putting up gaudy numbers at Coors Field, but when Freeland spins a 2.21 ERA in LoDo he's largely ignored. Sure, national folks are beginning to pipe up now, but it's an afterthought. A 2.21 ERA at Coors Field is like a 1.12 ERA at Dodger Stadium. That's how good Freeland has been.

**Kiz:** We like to gripe about three things in Colorado: 1) Traffic snarled on Interstate 25; 2) Texans clogging our ski slopes; and 3) East Coast bias against our sports teams. But I must admit deGrom is the best pitcher I've seen work in the NL during 2018. His earned run average evokes Bob Gibson, even if his won-loss record brings back memories of Joe Niekro. As much as I love Freeland, my first-place vote would go to deGrom. Good thing your baseball media brethren in Denver don't let me anywhere near a ballot.

**Saunders:** Kiz, I have an MVP ballot, not a Cy Young ballot, but I think I'd vote for the Nationals' Max Scherzer. This year's NL Cy Young race is tighter than umpire Alfonso Marquez strike zone. The Mets are terrible, but deGrom's 1.68 ERA is amazing. Washington is the most disappointing team in baseball, but Scherzer has an incredible 0.88 WHIP and leads the NL with 277 strikeouts. He's tossed double-digit Ks 16 times! Aaron Nola, the Phillies' young phenom, has a 9.3 WAR. There are good arguments for each.

**Kiz:** Everywhere I look, the top three candidates for the Cy Young are deGrom, Scherzer and Nola. All are outstanding pitchers. None of them have to work regularly in the thin air of Coors Field. And the Mets, Nationals and Phillies won't make the playoffs. In the MVP voting, hitters receive bonus points for helping a team to postseason contention. I know Freeland won't win the Cy Young, but can he do anything to squeeze into the top three?

**Saunders:** Freeland is on the record saying that he thinks deGrom should be the front-runner. Let's face it, Freeland remains a relative unknown, so unless he had a truly historic season, there was no way he was going to get enough votes to climb into the top three. The closest a Rockies pitcher has ever come to winning the Cy Young award was Ubaldo Jimenez, who finished third after his remarkable 2010 season. I think Freeland's eyes are on the bigger prize: Colorado winning the NL West. If the Rockies do that, he'll get his due when the national media suddenly "discovers" him.

## **Comparing the pitching campaigns of Kyle Freeland, German Marquez to Ubaldo Jimenez's record-setting 2010 season**

*Carrying the team down the stretch, Freeland and Marquez are turning in seasons that rival hard-throwing Jimenez's banner year*

**Kyle Newman | Denver Post | Sept. 11, 2018**

Ubaldo Jimenez's 2010 season is, by most measures, the obvious high-water mark for a single campaign by a Colorado starting pitcher.

But this year, the memorable right-hander has company at the top of the Rockies' record book, as both Kyle Freeland and German Marquez are turning in seasons that rival Jimenez's banner year — albeit in different ways.

The left-handed Freeland, who has four foreseeable starts remaining, is challenging Jimenez's club-best marks in ERA (2.91 compared to Jimenez's 2.88) and bWAR (7.2 to 7.5).

And Marquez, three foreseeable starts left, is threatening to break Jimenez's records in total strikeouts (195 to 214) and WHIP (1.23 to 1.16). Plus, he's already a near-lock to break the club record for strikeouts per nine at 10.24, easily besting Jon Gray's mark of 9.91 from two seasons ago and Jimenez's 8.69 rate in 2010.

Of course, neither Freeland nor Marquez is going to top Jimenez's 19 wins, four complete games (no Rockies starter has one this season), two shutouts or the honor of being the starter in the all-star game.

But as Freeland emphasized, consistently putting the team in position to win is imperative, especially as the Rockies battle the Dodgers and Diamondbacks for their first National League West title and others in the rotation — namely Tyler Anderson and Antonio Senzatela — have scuffled in the second half.

“Ubaldo had a ton of consistency, and it seemed like every time he went out, the team had a really good chance of winning,” Freeland said. “You get that feeling now, too, when myself or German or any of the other pitchers are rolling good. The team feels good playing behind them. They're looking to fight for their guy.”

Over Freeland and Marquez's last 26 combined starts since June 30 — also right around the time the Rockies began to turn the corner collectively — the team is 22-4.

“What those two fellas are doing, and what they do in their next three or four starts, will go down in history as great seasons right there along with Ubaldo,” said Colorado skipper Bud Black, who saw Jimenez from the other side as the Padres’ manager. “They have pitched outstanding.”

The statistical comparisons to Jimenez are especially cool for Marquez, who is projected to finished with 216 K’s, one better than Jimenez’s tally. The 23-year-old right-hander grew up watching the Rockies in Venezuela, and recalls being impressed by Jimenez’s overwhelming stuff.

“He’s comfortable (under pressure), he’s got a big two-seamer and he was a power pitcher,” Marquez said. “He had a ton of good years here, and made the team fun to watch.”

So, too, does the 2018 rotation’s leading duo.

And while there’s still business left to finish throughout September, as Colorado pitching coordinator Darryl Scott notes, Freeland and Marquez already deserve inclusion into the conversation with Jimenez.

“That Ubaldo year was pretty special,” said Scott, who worked with the majority of Colorado’s current staff in the minor leagues. “But the year that Marquez and Freeland are having is pretty special, too.”

## Looking ahead

**Diamondbacks LHP Patrick Corbin** (11-5, 3.01 ERA) at **Rockies RHP Jon Gray** (11-7, 4.69), 6:40 p.m. Wednesday; ATTRM, 850 AM

Lacking good feel for his fastball and slider, Gray allowed two runs on four hits across four innings Friday in the Rockies’ 4-2 loss to the Dodgers. Gray came away with a no-decision, striking out four while issuing a career-high tying five walks. He’ll need to be better vs. Arizona. The right-hander is 4-0 with a 3.17 ERA over 10 starts since returning from a stint at Triple-A, and Colorado is 8-2 over those starts. Gray has struggled vs. the Diamondbacks, especially at Coors Field, where he’s 0-2 with a 6.23 ERA in three career starts. David Peralta has scorched Gray, batting 8-for-16, with a triple. Paul Goldschmidt has struggled vs. Gray, going 0-for-12 with five strikeouts during the regular season, although Goldschmidt blasted a curveball for a home run in the first inning of last year’s wild-card playoff game. Rockies manager Bud Black said that Corbin has the best slider in the majors. Little wonder that Corbin has at least seven punchouts in nine consecutive starts. The left-hander is coming off an impressive outing against Atlanta, pitching six innings and

allowing one earned run, four hits and one walk while striking out nine. DJ LeMahieu has battered Corbin, batting .372 (16-for-43) with four home runs and three triples.

**Thursday:** Diamondbacks RHP Clay Buchholz (7-2, 2.01 ERA) at Rockies LHP Kyle Freeland (14-7, 2.91), 1:10 p.m.,  
Facebook

**Friday:** Rockies LHP Tyler Anderson (6-8, 4.89) at Giants RHP Chris Stratton (9-9, 4.99), 8:15 p.m., ATTRM

**Saturday:** Rockies RHP German Marquez (12-9, 3.94) at Giants LHP Madison Bumgarner (5-6, 3.30), 7:05 p.m, ATTRM

— *Patrick Saunders, The Denver Post*

## **Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 3: Late rallies fall short in tough loss**

*The Rockies had their chances but lost on Tuesday night.*

**Hayden Kane | Purple Row | Sept. 11, 2018**

The **Colorado Rockies** lost a tough game to the **Arizona Diamondbacks** on Tuesday night. **Antonio Senzatela** battled **Zack Greinke** but gave up two key hits to allow four runs. That set the Diamondbacks on their way to holding off late rallies from the Rockies to earn a 6-3 win at Coors Field.

### ***Ketel Marte, Rockies killer***

The annoying thing about the rallies that led to **Marte's** killer hits on Tuesday night is that they felt avoidable. With the score tied 2-2 in the top of the sixth inning, **Antonio Senzatela** had two outs and nearly struck out **Paul Goldschmidt** to end the inning. He didn't get the borderline call, however, and three batters later **Marte** was putting the Diamondbacks up 4-2 with a triple.

The Arizona rally in the eighth inning was even more annoying. **Adam Ottavino** issued a lead-off walk. With one out and **David Peralta** on second, **Trevor Story** froze on a grounder from **A.J. Pollock** when **Peralta** ran in front of him. That should be a baserunning mistake, but **Story** wasn't quick enough to try and get him and consequently not quick enough to get **Pollock** at first. Such was the "rally" before Marte drove in two more with a single to right.

That's to take nothing away from Marte delivering in those clutch spots with his team desperate to win and stay afloat in the National League West race. September has lots of heroes, and Marte was the hero tonight.

### ***Missed opportunities***

The Rockies had the bases loaded in the seventh inning. **Matt Holliday** started the rally by coming agonizingly close to tying the game with a solo home run off **Zack Greinke** with two outs. Two walks later and the bases were loaded for **DJ LeMahieu**. He grounded out, and it ends up being one inning that stands out among many in which the Rockies didn't score runs on Tuesday night.

The bottom of the ninth inning started to hint at some LoDo magic, with **Carlos Gonzalez** doubling and **Ryan McMahon** bunting his way on to bring the tying run up with nobody out. The Diamondbacks turned to their one good reliever in **Yoshihisa Hirano**, and he answered by sitting down the next three men in order for the save.

*Looking ahead*

This series with the Diamondbacks continues on Wednesday with **Jon Gray** starting against **Patrick Corbin**.

## Colorado Rockies morning after: A missed opportunity

Kevin Henry | Rox Pile | Sept. 12, 2018

The Colorado Rockies had their chances on Tuesday night to put the Arizona Diamondbacks away, not only for the night but perhaps for the season as well. However, as has been the case often throughout a remarkable season, Colorado couldn't take advantage of the opportunity.

Arizona pinned a 6-3 decision on the **Colorado Rockies** using a tested method as of late. The Diamondbacks scored in the first inning and held off the Rox when a late-inning rally seemed to be brewing.

With the loss, Colorado's National League West lead stayed at 1.5 games over the Los Angeles Dodgers (who, thankfully, simply can't seem to beat the Cincinnati Reds) while Arizona pulled back to within 2.5 games.

Just think if the Diamondbacks had slipped to 4.5 games back with 17 games left on their slate. It's a tantalizing thought that will remain just a thought ... for now.

For the Rockies, the good news is this: They got through the game against **Zack Greinke**, who is now 11-5 all-time against Colorado, including 4-1 at Coors Field. Of all of the games this series, Tuesday's was the one where the Rockies seemed to have, on paper, the lowest odds of winning. With **Jon Gray** and **Kyle Freeland** set to finish the series, Colorado will have two of their strongest second-half pitchers on the mound.

Colorado, however, had their chances against Greinke on Tuesday, rallying from a quick 2-0 deficit on first-inning RBI doubles by **Nolan Arenado** and **Trevor Story** to tie the game at 2. **Story's double provided a measure of history** in addition to tying the contest.

From there, however, Arizona took advantage of its opportunities, including a defensive miscue by Story and a frustrating frame by starter **Antonio Senzatela**, who seemed to be on the verge of getting out of the sixth inning before a two-out, two-strike double by Rockies killer **Paul Goldschmidt** started a two-run rally that gave the visitors the lead for good.

For a team that manager **Bud Black** always likes to say never gets too high or too low, Tuesday night's loss is disappointing, especially knowing the opportunity the Rockies had to give themselves some space in the division. However, with five games left against the Diamondbacks and a nine-game road trip through the NL West lurking at the end of the week, there is no time to look back and wring hands over missed opportunities.

## **Colorado Rockies: The many things Trevor Story brings to the lineup**

**Lisa Lovato | Rox Pile | Sept. 11, 2018**

The Colorado Rockies are still hanging on to the top of the National League West. One of the main reasons for that is Trevor Story. His first year was special. His second season was rough. His third year, however, has proven to be spectacular.

Yes, **Colorado Rockies** fans know the impact of solid shortstops. For years, the Rockies had one of the best in the game in **Troy Tulowitzki**. He was a great player for the Rockies. When he was **traded to the Toronto Blue Jays**, fans did not know what would happen at the position. Who would be the Rockies' next shortstop? Fans did not have to wait long for the answer. Story was ready to take that position.

The first year, Story was compared a lot to Tulowitzki. The questions of, "Can he replace such a key member of the Colorado lineup?" came up often. It is his third year now and Story has proved that, yes, he can take the place of Tulowitzki. Is he better than Tulo in his prime? Not yet, but Story isn't in his prime either. He does, however, make amazing plays night after night and, while his defense is amazing, his offense is spectacular. This 25-year-old guy has it all.

Story has the potential to be so much better than Tulowitzki was. One of Tulo's problems was hitting outside of Coors Field. Story has shown that he can hit in all parks. He is not intimidated by anyone or any park. We saw that in his very first game in a record-setting performance in Arizona.

Colorado's season has had its ups and downs, but Story has, after a slow start, been consistent all year. He has carried the offense on more than one game, including several in the last 30 days where he is hitting .311 with eight homers ... and especially in the last seven games where he has six homers and 12 RBI. He brings a fire to the team that, when Tulo left, many fans thought could be gone too.

Story has been one of the main reasons why this team is at the top of the division. He shows up night after night and refuses to give up. He has proved he deserves a shot at that National League Most Valuable Player award.

With Trevor on the Colorado Rockies side, players and fans just may have that Storybook ending all of us have been waiting for.

## **Rockies can't come up with big hit, Diamondbacks even series**

**Drew Creasman | BSN Denver | Sept. 11, 2018**

DENVER – With Arizona Diamondback's ace Zack Greinke on the hill on Tuesday night, the second game of this four-game set was always going to be an uphill battle for the Colorado Rockies.

And it turned out to be a hill just a bit too steep to climb.

They battled and gave themselves a chance to win at many turns up couldn't come up with the big hit, falling by a score of 6-3 to even the series.

Starting pitcher Antonio Senzatela did a fine enough job, giving up a few runs early and late but giving his team a chance to win by keeping them in the game against Greinke.

You already know how the game started, though.

The Diamondbacks took an early lead on a blooming single to center from Eduardo Escobar and a no-doubt two-run bomb off the bat of David Peralta who blasted one to right. Senzatela settled down after that, walking Paul Goldschmidt but not allowing any further damage.

The Rockies struck back immediately with a double high off the wall in right field, just barely missing a home run. DJ LeMahieu moved him to third with a grounder to the right side but Blackmon would have scored anyway on a Nolan Arenado double off the wall in left, the second time in the inning Colorado narrowly missed a round-tripper.

Arenado was cashed in anyway on a game-tying double to left field from new MVP-candidate Trevor Story.

With that, Story became the first shortstop in history with 25 stolen bases, 32 home runs, and 40 doubles. He also became just the second shortstop in MLB history to hit 30 home runs, tally 100 RBI, and steal 20 bases, joining Alex Rodriguez.

The game stayed deadlocked until the Diamondbacks mounted a two-out rally against Senzatela in the sixth. In an 0-2 count, Goldschmidt began things by launching a double over Blackmon's head in center and Arizona caught a big break

when A.J. Pollock hit a slow bouncer toward third that not even Arenado could turn into an out, going down as an infield single.

Ketel Marte followed with a groundball that just snuck by a diving Ryan McMahon at first base, rolling all the way into the corner for a two-run triple that put the Diamondbacks on top 4-2.

The Rockies responded with a two-out rally of their own, though they only managed one run out of it. Arenado hit his second double of the game by pulling one over the third baseman's head and into left field before David Dahl went down and lifted a pitch off of his shoetops to line the club's fifth double of the game into right field. Story hit a groundout to second, stranding the tying run at second.

Jake McGee came on in the seventh and allowed a leadoff single to Greinke but got Jon Jay to fly out to center before making way for Scott Oberg. Oberg threw just two pitches to get two outs as Escobar to hit into an inning-ending double play.

Colorado had a great chance to tie it up or even take the lead with yet another two-out run. Matt Holliday came into the game in a pinch-hit situation and hit a high line drive that just barely stayed inside the ballpark, bouncing high off the wall in right-center field for a double. Chris Iannetta and Blackmon followed with walks to load the bases but DJ LeMahieu hit a groundball to second to end the inning without a run scoring.

To add insult to missed opportunity, the Diamondbacks got a couple of insurance runs against Adam Ottavino in the eighth. Peralta walked and stole second. Then Pollock hustled down the line on a grounder to short that included a brief hesitation from Story who seemed to consider a throw to third. But he was too late in making an eventual throw to second and Pollock was safe. He too was able to easily swipe second against the slow-moving Ottavino which meant a pair of runs scored when Marte lofted a single over McMahon's head at first.

That gave the Diamondbacks a 6-3 lead.

Colorado had one more chance in the ninth with a Carlos Gonzalez double and McMahon bunt hit single. But Ian Desmond and Iannetta went down on strikes before Blackmon flew out to center to end it.

## The rise of Colorado Rockies shortstop Trevor Story

Brandon Ewing | Mile High Sports | Sept. 12, 2018

The rise is real for Colorado Rockies shortstop Trevor Story, and it continued Tuesday night when he became the first shortstop in Major League history to record 40 doubles, 30 home runs, and 25 stolen bases in a single season.

In the Rockies' current quest for the franchise's first NL West title, Story has played a major role in the team's success this season. After slugging three home runs in a victory over the San Francisco Giants last week, Story followed it up with a three-run home run in Monday's victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks. With third baseman Nolan Arenado stuck in one of his worst slumps of his career, Story's picked up the slack for the Rockies' offense and it undoubtedly landed him in the conversation for National League MVP.

After a rough 2017 campaign, Story's bounced back to give the Rockies a major jump-start in their quest for a second straight postseason berth. A first-round pick by the Rockies back in 2011, Story paid his dues in the Rockies' minor league system before making the team for the 2016 season. A solid start to his career gave the Rockies hope for his future with the franchise, and his play as of late is indicative to the work he's put in each of the last three seasons.

Starting his career with a bang, Story homered not once, but twice against Diamondbacks starter Zack Greinke. As a rookie, Story was thrust into the spotlight not only by his performance, but because he was replacing arguably the best shortstop in Rockies history, Troy Tulowitzki. Still, that didn't bother Story, as he became the first player in history to hit seven home runs in his first six major league games. Story also tied White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu for the most home runs hit in the month of April by a rookie (10).

Story finished his rookie season with 27 home runs, 72 RBIs, and placed fourth in the Rookie of the Year voting. In a season cut short due to a wrist injury, Story played just 97 games, posting an alarming 130 strikeouts in just 372 at bats. Story's strikeout issue was a trend that continued into his second season, where he posted 191 strikeouts in 503 at bats. [According to Fangraphs](#), Story struck out 34 percent of the time and hit a ground ball 34 percent of the time during the 2017 season. This caused Story's WAR (Wins Above Replacement) to sit at 2.6, which was down from his rookie season (3.2).

As much as Story struggled at the plate in 2017, his glove made up for it. Story's fielding percentage was up five points from the year before (.982) and he turned 101 double plays, which almost doubled his number as a rookie (64).

Committing just 11 errors on the season, Story placed seven amongst shortstops tying him with the eventual gold glove winner, Giants shortstop Brandon Crawford.

With the organization's number one prospect, Brendan Rodgers, coming up as a shortstop, the 2017 season became critical for Story to show his worth to the Rockies' organization. In what's been a historic and revelatory season, Story has shown that he's one of the league best shortstops. After being selected to his first All-Star game, Story made it a memorable one, taking Houston Astros starter Charlie Morton deep in his first at-bat.

The greatest development in Story's decreased stakeout rate has been his approach at the plate. According to Fangraphs, Story's strikeout rate has improved by nine percentage points, and coincidentally, his contact rate is up by seven percent. After striking out 191 times in 503 at bats last year, Story currently sits at 156 strikeouts in 546 at bats this season. That strikeout difference is historic, and its one of the greatest year-to-year strikeout differences dating all the way back to the 1900's.

K% Improvements, 1900 - 2018					
Player	Year 1	Year 2	Y1 K%	Y2 K%	Change
Mark Belanger	1968	1969	21.5%	9.1%	-12.4%
David Ortiz	2010	2011	23.9%	13.7%	-10.2%
Brook Jacoby	1986	1987	21.4%	11.8%	-9.6%
Jeff Burroughs	1975	1976	23.1%	13.7%	-9.4%
Sam Chapman	1940	1941	17.1%	8.1%	-9.0%
Jason Thompson	1983	1984	20.5%	11.5%	-9.0%
Cory Snyder	1987	1988	27.0%	18.1%	-8.9%
<b>Trevor Story</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>34.4%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>	<b>-8.9%</b>
Bobby Thomson	1948	1949	15.2%	6.5%	-8.7%
Willie McCovey	1967	1968	20.4%	11.7%	-8.7%

Minimum 500 plate appearances in consecutive seasons.

One of the greatest contributors to Story's success has been his willingness to swing at first-pitch strikes and not get himself caught in pitcher friendly counts. Story owns a league leading 21 first-pitch extra-base hits, which is a number he recorded just 12 of last season, and seven during his rookie season. This upward trend points to a readiness when he steps into the box and a willingness to be aggressive early in counts.

The other stat that stands out is Story's two-strike percentage compared to years past. Just last season, Story ended up with a two-strike count 62 percent of the time; this season, that number is down to 52 percent. Story isn't striking out as much because he's taking himself out of those situations, and its only allowed his numbers to improve.

In 142 games this season, Story has posted career highs in hits (161), doubles (40), triples (5), home runs (32), RBI's (100), stolen bases (25), and a slash line of .293 (batting average), .348 (on base), .559 (slugging). With just five more

stolen bases, Story has the opportunity to become just the fourth Rockies player to post a 30-30 season, a feat that hasn't been accomplished since Larry Walker did it in 1997.

Out of all of Story's stats, the one that might be most impressive is his wins above replacement. With a WAR of five, Story currently leads the Rockies in that category and sits at 24th in the majors. After sitting at 2.6 last season, Story has almost doubled that number with his growth as a hitter and uncanny ability to flash the leather out at shortstop.

Story's new and improved approach at the plate has allowed him to sneak into the MVP conversation with just a couple of weeks remaining in the regular season. In each of his first three seasons, Story has shown his ability to be a solid fielder, but the bat is what's always fallen behind. Not anymore — the Rockies' shortstop has turned into a bonafide five-tool player that has the ability to affect the game in every aspect, and he may end up earning some hardware because of it.

In what's going to be one of the toughest stretches in franchise history, Story has the ability to not just help the Rockies win their first NL West title, but to go even farther than that.

## **Diamondbacks offense gives Greinke all the support he needs in 6-3 win over Colorado**

**Aniello Piro | Mile High Sports | Sept. 12, 2018**

The Colorado Rockies lost to the Arizona Diamondbacks Tuesday night, 6-3, dropping their record to 79-65; 1-1/2 games ahead of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Arizona jumped out to a lead in the first inning when David Peralta hit a two-run home run off of Rockies' starting pitcher Antonio Senzatela.

The Rockies answered the Diamondbacks' run quickly in the first inning, scoring two runs off of Zack Greinke. Charlie Blackmon started the frame with a double to right field and then advanced to third base when DJ LeMahieu grounded out to first base. Nolan Arenado then hit a RBI double to left field, scoring Blackmon to tie the game at a run apiece. Later in the inning, Trevor Story hit a RBI double to left field, making the score 2-1.

Past the first inning, each starting pitcher kept each team's lineup in check. Both starters pitched into the sixth inning where the teams again traded blows.

Arizona established another lead in the sixth inning. Senzatela recorded the first two outs before running into trouble, starting with All-Star first baseman Paul Goldschmidt hitting a double to deep center field. From there, AJ Pollock reached base on an infield single, which was followed by an RBI triple off the bat of Ketel Marte to put Arizona ahead 4-2.

Senzatela's night was finished after the sixth inning as he departed with a line of six innings pitched, allowing four runs on seven hits while striking out four batters.

The Rockies managed to get within one run of the Diamondbacks' lead in the bottom half of the sixth inning. Following back-to-back fly-out's from Blackmon and LeMahieu, Arenado ripped a double to left field. David Dahl then followed with a RBI double to make the score 4-3.

Jake McGee and Scott Oberg combined to work a clean top of the seventh inning. The Rockies were able to load the bases in the bottom half of the inning, but were unable to push any runs across the plate.

Arizona added an additional pair of run in the eighth inning via an RBI double hit by Marte, extending the Diamondbacks lead to 6-3. Marte accounted for four of the Diamondback's' six runs.

## **Marte drives in 4, D-backs beat NL West-leading Rockies 6-3**

**Associated Press | ESPN.com | Sept. 12, 2018**

DENVER -- Ketel Marte was told his playing time would decrease. A struggling bullpen was informed their roles would be juggled.

They responded in a big way.

Marte drove in four runs, including a two-out, two-run triple to break a sixth-inning tie, reliever Yoshihisa Hirano helped Arizona weather a ninth-inning scare for his first big league save and the Diamondbacks pulled closer in the NL West standings by beating the first-place Colorado Rockies 6-3 on Tuesday night.

The Diamondbacks cut their deficit in the division to 2 1/2 games. The Rockies maintained a 1 1/2 -game advantage over the Los Angeles Dodgers, who lost for a second straight day in Cincinnati. Colorado is chasing after its first NL West crown in franchise history.

"We needed to win a game," said reliever Brad Ziegler, whose team stopped a three-game skid. "It doesn't matter how it happens as long as we walk away happy at the end of the night."

With Marte, the plan is to use the Daniel Descalso a little more down the stretch. Marte made his case to remain in the lineup with his league-leading 11th triple. He also added a two-run single in the eighth for a 6-3 lead.

"I'll be ready whenever they need me," Marte said.

As for the bullpen, it's been altered after some struggles of late.

"They kind of said from about the sixth inning on, everybody be ready at any point," Ziegler explained.

Zack Greinke (14-9) gave up two runs in the first before recovering his command to allow three runs in 6 2/3 innings. He retired 15 straight batters at one point as he beat the Rockies for a third time this season.

Pinch-hitter Matt Holliday nearly tied the game at 4 in the seventh off Greinke, with his two-out double to right-center hitting off the top of the wall. That would've been a homer in his first stint with the Rockies, but team the raised the wall in 2016.

Andrew Chafin relieved Greinke and walked two straight. He was replaced by Brad Ziegler, who retired DJ LeMahieu on a groundout. Ziegler also bottled up the Rockies in the eight.

Jake Diekman started the ninth, only to surrender a double to Carlos Gonzalez and a bunt single to Ryan McMahon.

Hirano struck out two straight, then retired Charlie Blackmon on a flyout.

"We had a lot of chances. Tonight we didn't get the big hit," Rockies manager Bud Black said. "They made some pitches when they needed to."

Antonio Senzatela (4-6) gave up two runs in the first and four runs total over six innings. The Rockies pitching staff has a 7.75 ERA in the opening frame.

Senzatela was cruising along until two outs in the sixth when he thought he threw strike three to end a harmless inning. Paul Goldschmidt took the pitch for a ball and followed with a double. A.J. Pollock reached on an infield single, and Marte lined a changeup past a diving McMahon at first to make 4-2.

Greinke masterfully varied speeds and pitches all night to keep the Rockies off balance. A sample: He struck out McMahon on a 90 mph fastball, Tony Wolters on a 83 mph slider and both Trevor Story and Carlos Gonzalez on curves ranging from 65-to-67 mph.

"You just never know what you're going to get," Story said. "He just keeps hitters off balance."

#### EXPLOSIVE FIRST

David Peralta hit a two-run homer in the first that landed in the trees over the fence in straightaway center. Colorado answered as Blackmon doubled to lead off the first. Nolan Arenado and Story both delivered RBI doubles.

#### THIS & THAT

Goldschmidt finished 1 for 3 with a walk to extend his streak of reaching base in road games to 47 straight. ... Greinke struck out five to reach 2,421 and move one ahead of Max Scherzer for 43rd place. ... Story has 100 RBI to become the second major league shortstop with at least 30 homers, 100 RBI and 25 stolen bases in a season. Story joins Alex Rodriguez.

#### UP NEXT

The Diamondbacks send LHP Patrick Corbin (11-9, 3.01) to the mound Wednesday against the Rockies. He's 6-1 with a 2.33 ERA against the division this season. The Rockies will throw righty Jon Gray (11-7, 4.69), who is 4-0 with a 3.17 ERA since being recalled from Triple-A Albuquerque.