



MEDIA CLIPS – Sept. 13, 2018

LeMahieu's first career walk-off HR lifts Rox

Owen Perkins | MLB.com | Sept. 12, 2018

DENVER -- With the Rockies trailing by one run and down to their final two outs, **DJ LeMahieu** tapped into Colorado's late-inning magic and hit a two-run walk-off homer in a 5-4 win over the D-backs, helping secure its hold on first place in the National League West.

It was the Rockies' 43rd come-from-behind victory this season, their eighth walk-off win of the season and their fifth walk-off homer. LeMahieu, who recorded his first career walk-off hit, received a standing ovation from the 31,687 fans at Coors Field as he was showered in ice water by his teammates.

"I was just looking to drive the ball," LeMahieu said. "I enjoyed it for sure. It was my first walk-off. It was just really cool, a lot of fun."

The Rockies maintained a 1 1/2-game lead over the Dodgers, who beat the Reds earlier in the day, and extended their lead over the third-place D-backs to 3 1/2 games.

Gerardo Parra opened the ninth with a single off D-backs reliever **Yoshihisa Hirano**, then advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by **Charlie Blackmon**. LeMahieu followed with his game-ending home run.

"Charlie in the last five days was hitting great, and then he sacrifices a bunt," Parra said. "That's big when you see that. We play with each other. We don't play like we're thinking about the Dodgers. We just play to win. We're a team right now. That's what's important right now."

Hirano pitched a scoreless inning and earned a save on Tuesday, but the Rockies had better success against him this time.

"I know [LeMahieu] hit it good," Parra said. "I was jumping because it was a homer, and that's a great win today. When we win like that, we're more excited, more happy, and tomorrow the attitude is way better. That's a big game right now."

The team effort was perhaps best exemplified by the Rockies' bullpen, which combined to toss five perfect innings -- a franchise record for the 'pen -- after starter **Jon Gray** lasted only four. **Chris Rusin** pitched the fifth and sixth, **Scott Oberg** took the seventh and eighth and closer **Wade Davis** pitched the ninth, earning the win.

"The credit goes to the bullpen, too," Rockies third baseman **Nolan Arenado** said. "That was huge for us. We needed them. And honestly, when Wade got out of that clean ninth like that, I really felt good about our chances. The top of the order's coming up, we have a chance to do something. Parra's going to lead off. It felt good."

Arenado collected three hits off D-backs starter **Patrick Corbin**, including a solo home run in the fifth that cut the Rockies' deficit to 4-3. He lifted his average to .300 after dipping below the mark last week for the first time since April 6.

"My numbers against Corbin weren't very good," Arenado said. "He's actually been really hard on me ever since my rookie year. It was just a good day. I caught a couple pitches up, a slider down. He threw some that I swung and missed and I thought I was on. He has that slider. I was just happy to hit the ball hard, and obviously the homer, I was able to get enough barrel on it.

"I was happy I was able to help. When you struggle and you're going through tough times, it sucks, because I just want to contribute and help the team win, especially in this moment in September when we have a chance. It feels good to be able to do that."

GRAY'S ABBREVIATED OUTING

Gray retired the D-backs in order in the first before struggling through a long second. After a **Nick Ahmed** sacrifice fly gave Arizona a 1-0 lead, Gray escaped a bases-loaded jam by getting Corbin to ground into an inning-ending double play.

Over four innings, Gray allowed four runs on four hits with two walks and six strikeouts. He gave up home runs to **Eduardo Escobar** and **Alex Avila**.

"It was kind of a letdown after last week," Gray said. "I just tried to battle. A lot of weird things happened, I know that. Still, I had two pitches I threw that were mistakes that got hit out. I have to make sure that doesn't happen again. Other than that, I'm just trying to battle and get in the zone as much as I can. I know when I'm efficient in the zone, I'm going to work deep into games."

HE SAID IT

"That was really awesome that the bullpen was able to do our job tonight, put up a bunch of zeros, give our team a chance. We've got a bunch of talented guys down there. I know we struggled the first half, early in the year. But guys keep believing in each other, believing in ourselves, and the team believes in us, so we just go out there and make pitches and try to help the team win every night." -- *Oberg, on the bullpen hitting its stride*

UP NEXT

Kyle Freeland (14-7, 2.91 ERA) will toe the rubber in the finale of the four-game set with the D-backs, facing off against **Clay Buchholz** (7-2, 2.01) at 1:10 p.m. MT on Thursday. Freeland was brilliant in a win over the Dodgers on Saturday, allowing one run on four hits over six innings, striking out eight. The left-hander has recorded seven consecutive quality starts, and he is only the fourth pitcher in franchise history to throw 20 quality starts in a season. The Denver native is 8-2 with a 2.21 ERA in 13 home starts. Fans can watch the game **exclusively on MLB Live on Facebook**.

Arenado, Story both in NL MVP conversation

Owen Perkins | MLB.com | Sept. 12, 2018

DENVER -- For the second year in a row, the Rockies have a pair of players in the conversation for the National League Most Valuable Player Award.

In 2017, **Nolan Arenado** finished fourth in NL MVP voting and **Charlie Blackmon** finished fifth. **Giancarlo Stanton**, then with the Marlins, won the award.

"Word on the street was the writers who vote for MVP, there was a split vote," Rockies manager Bud Black said about Arenado and Blackmon. "This year, it could be the same thing."

While Arenado has been discussed as a leading MVP candidate since before the season started, **Trevor Story** has come on strong as the season has evolved, hitting over .300 in June, July and September. Entering Wednesday, he was hitting .293 with 32 homers and 100 RBIs, and on Tuesday, he **became the first shortstop** to record 30 homers, 40 doubles and 25 steals in a season.

"It's great to see Trevor's career emerging the way it is," Black said. "I think we saw this coming. I think in '16, his rookie year, we saw him do some things. And the second half of last year, he really took off. It's great that we have a couple guys in the conversation. We're going to have a guy [**Kyle Freeland**] in the Cy Young conversation as well, which is awesome. It's good stuff."

Their teammates are not shy about talking about the MVP credentials of the Rockies' third base-shortstop tandem, but don't expect them to manage the campaign for one candidate over another.

"MVP is an individual award, but at the same time, you don't win without your teammates," said outfielder **Carlos Gonzalez**, who finished third in the 2010 NL MVP voting. "This is a group that is always pushing for all of us. Either way it goes, I will feel extremely happy. I'm glad I don't have that vote."

Any Rockies player or coach could make a case for Arenado's and Story's critical contributions to the club. Both are key reasons why Colorado is leading the NL West this late in the season.

"Nolan's having one of those Hall of Fame careers," Gonzalez said. "He's passionate about the game, he's really hard on himself. Everyone can really see that from the stands. He shows a lot of emotion, but that's just the way he is. He loves the game, and he wants to be the best he can be and help us win every night."

Arenado is happy to praise Story, who has been thriving in September.

"He's competing every day," Arenado said. "He does everything, he's got five tools. You don't see a lot of five-tool players in this game, and he's one of them. He's been unbelievable to watch.

"Obviously, the 25 [steals], the 40 doubles, the 30-plus homers, 100 RBIs, maybe a Gold Glove -- that all speaks for itself, what he's doing on both sides of the ball. He's a complete baseball player. We all try to be that player that can be a complete baseball player, and he can do it on both sides of the ball and the bases. There's not too many guys doing that."

Pioneer League finals update

The Pioneer League Grand Junction Rockies lost a 12-9 slugfest against Great Falls in the opener of the best-of-three Pioneer League finals at home on Tuesday. The Voyagers scored five runs in each of the first two innings to take an early 10-3 lead. Game 2 of the series is scheduled for Thursday at Great Falls.

DJ LeMahieu launches walk-off homer as Rockies beat D-backs to extend NL West lead

D-backs and Rockies play the fourth game of their series Thursday afternoon

Patrick Saunders | Denver Post | Sept. 12, 2018

DJ LeMahieu does not covet the off-field spotlight. The Rockies' soft-spoken second baseman would rather just do his job on the diamond and at the plate, then let the results do the talking.

But there was no escaping center stage Wednesday night. Not after one of the biggest moments of his career and inspiring the Coors Field crowd of 31,687 to shout, "DJ! DJ!" after he hit a two-run, walk-off home run to lift the Rockies to a critical 5-4 win over Arizona.

Naturally, LeMahieu summed up the moment with an economy of words: "It was cool. Just a great moment. Just a lot of fun. It was awesome."

Not only was it the first walk-off home run of his career, it was — hard to believe — the first walk-off RBI of an eight-year career that includes 3,371 at-bats, 1,009 hits and 342 RBIs.

Thanks to LeMahieu's magic moment, the Rockies (80-65) held onto their 1½-game lead over Dodgers (79-67) in the National League West. Los Angeles won 8-1 at Cincinnati on Wednesday afternoon, snapping a six-game losing streak to the lowly Reds. The third-place Diamondbacks (77-69) fell 3½ games behind the Rockies.

LeMahieu's game-winner came off of Diamondbacks right-handed reliever Yoshihisa Hirano, who gave up his first run in 11 games. LeMahieu clobbered a 1-1, 93 mph fastball over the manual scoreboard in right field.

"I was just looking to drive the ball," said LeMahieu, who finished 3-for-5. "I knew I hit it really good, but a lot of those balls go off the wall. I wasn't sure it was going to get up."

Hirano knew his pitch missed its spot and the mistakes led to the Diamondbacks' 21st last-at-bat loss of the season, the most in the majors. Arizona has lost via walk-off three times in its last nine road games.

"I was just trying to get the ball low, but it got away and it was kind of up where he could hit it," Hirano said through an interpreter.

Colorado recorded its eighth walk-off win of the season, and its fifth via a walk-off home run, the second most in franchise history (the 2010 team had seven).

Pinch-hitter Gerardo Parra started the rally with a hard shot off the glove of first baseman Paul Goldschmidt. It was ruled a hit. Charlie Blackmon's sacrifice bunt advanced Parra to second.

"I thought I had to be aggressive, because I knew we were losing," Parra said. "So I tried to be aggressive with a good pitch."

LeMahieu, manager Bud Black and Parra all went out of their way to talk about Colorado's tenacity late in games and ability to win as a team.

"We all play together," said Parra, who's batting 8-for-22 (.364) as a pinch hitter. "Charlie has been hitting well, so it's big when you see him sacrifice like that. We are a team right now, we play together, and I think that's most important right now."

Colorado's 43 comeback wins are the second-most in the National League and the fourth-most in franchise history. It would be easier, of course, to lead from start to finish, but Black likes what he's seeing from the veterans on his team.

"Experience matters, especially at this time of year," Black said. "Parra leads off with a first-pitch (hit) off Hirano. A bullet. It handcuffs Goldschmidt. So experience matters, especially in these kind of situations."

Black has sung LeMahieu's praises all season, and was glad to do so again late Wednesday night.

"With DJ, there is poise to him, there's a plan," Black said. "The ball that's up, he can drive it. We've seen that. DJ has all-field power, he's a big guy."

"His game, obviously, is hitting for average, spraying the ball around the field, getting the bunt down, hit-and-run, the occasional homer. But tonight he got a ball up, put a good swing on it, squared it up — home run."

For a long while, it looked as if it was going to be a frustrating night for Colorado. The Rockies outlit the Diamondbacks 13-4, but they were just 3-for-11 with runners in scoring position until LeMahieu delivered in the ninth.

Starter Jon Gray had another disappointing performance, and was gone after just four innings. But Colorado got stellar bullpen work from left-hander Chris Rusin and right-handers Scott Oberg and Wade Davis.

It marked the first time in franchise history that the Rockies' bullpen pitched five perfect innings. The prior record for the most innings pitched in a game by Rockies relievers without allowing a baserunner was $4\frac{2}{3}$ innings in a 1-0 loss at Atlanta on Sept. 6, 2012.

Rusin, who's beginning to resemble the solid pitcher he was last season, pitched perfect fifth and sixth innings, and Oberg followed with flawless seventh and eighth frames. Since being recalled from Triple-A on May 28, Oberg has posted a 1.15 ERA, with 35 strikeouts vs. only six walks. Davis pitched a clean ninth inning.

"That was awesome that the bullpen was able to put up some zeroes tonight and give our team a chance," Oberg said. "In this building, really anything can happen from an offensive standpoint. We take pride in going out there and just executing pitches and giving us a chance to win. And then DJ put us over the top."

Nolan Arenado also had a big night for Colorado.

Arenado, who suffered through one of the worst slumps of his career from late August through early September, is heating up to "Nolanesque" standards. He batted 3-for-4, with two doubles, a home run and two RBIs. Arenado's solo shot to lead off the fifth inning — he ripped starter Patrick Corbin's 87 mph slider to dead center — trimmed Arizona's lead to 4-3. Arenado leads the Rockies with 33 home runs, trailed by shortstop Trevor Story with 32.

Gray's night was encapsulated by his reaction to catcher Alex Avila's solo home run in the fourth inning that put Arizona ahead 4-2. As Gray watched Avila's home run creep over the center-field wall, Gray grabbed his cap and ripped it off his head.

"I'm just trying to battle and work deep into games," he said. "I think I just got away from attacking and I expanded (the strike zone). I just have to trust my fastball down in the zone. I can't get behind guys ... things don't work out too well when you do that."

It took Gray 94 pitches to zigzag through his four innings, an indication of his difficult night. He was charged with four runs on four hits, including a two-run homer to Eduardo Escobar in the third after Gray plunked A.J. Pollock to open the inning.

“It wasn’t the ‘Jon game’ that we expect,” Black said. “Any time a pitcher goes four innings and needs 94 pitches, that tells you there was some inconsistency. It tells you that the opposition laid off some borderline pitches, which they did. Jon was a little erratic.”

It marked the second consecutive game in which Gray pitched just four innings — not what the Rockies need in the thick of a playoff race.

“I’m still ticked off,” Gray said. “But then again, I’m happy with the ending of the game. That was awesome. I wouldn’t be smiling like this if we hadn’t won like we did.”

Gray did help out with his bat, clubbing a leadoff double off Corbin to deep center in Colorado’s two-run third. Gray scored on Arenado’s double. The Rockies’ other run in the inning was scored by LeMahieu, who beat out an infield single, took third on Arenado’s double and scored on a wild pitch.

The D-backs and Rockies play the fourth game of their series Thursday afternoon at Coors Field.

Rookie league affiliate Grand Junction Rockies, led by an array of 2018 draft picks, made team history this year
First baseman Grant Lavigne, right fielder Niko Decolati and infielders Coco Montes, Hunter Stovall highlight the offense

Kyle Newman | Denver Post | Sept. 12, 2018

As the Colorado Rockies chase history this month by way of a first divisional title, the Grand Junction Rockies have already made theirs.

Colorado's rookie league team is playing in its first-ever Pioneer League Championship Series after defeating the Ogden Raptors — the Dodgers' rookie affiliate — in the south division finals in order to advance.

Grand Junction, down 1-0 in the best-of-three championship series, will need to pull off consecutive road victories over the White Sox's Great Falls Voyagers on Thursday and Friday in order to secure the title.

Catalyzing Grand Junction's success this year are an array of 2018 draft picks, as first baseman Grant Lavigne (No. 42 overall), right fielder Niko Decolati (No. 186) and infielders Coco Montes (No. 456) and Hunter Stovall (No. 636) highlight the offense while Colorado's first-round selection, southpaw Ryan Rolison, has posted a 1.86 ERA in nine starts.

Lavigne, who was playing high school baseball in New Hampshire just four months ago, has already progressed quickly up minor league baseball's initial learning curve by leading the team with a .350 average, a .477 on-base percentage, 45 walks and a .996 OPS.

"As a player, I'm trying to learn as much as I can about first base and how I can improve my skill set around the base, and I'm always trying to improve as a baserunner, whether that's studying pitcher tendencies or getting better dirt-ball reads," Lavigne said. "As a hitter, I'm learning as much as I can about myself, too, though experience and study."

And it's been a bounce-back season for Decolati, who paces Grand Junction in total bases (140), RBIs (56), and steals (17) in addition to being tied for the lead in home runs at 11 with third baseman Reese Berberet, also a 2018 pick at No. 516 overall.

"I didn't have the year I wanted to or expected to (as a junior at Loyola Marymount), so it's nice to reset here and have a clean slate," the Boulder native said. "That fresh start has propelled me to what I've done so far."

What Decolati & Co. have done so far collectively is make an early statement about the legitimacy of Colorado's most recent draft class on a team managed by Jake Opitz, a 2004 graduate of Heritage High School who in his first season on the job.

“Being able to say that we’re still alive, and still competing for a championship, is pretty cool considering we got here in June with a brand new group of guys and we didn’t really know what to expect,” Decolati said. “But we have awesome chemistry, and clearly a lot of talent.”

Rockies “role players” — Scott Oberg, Ryan McMahon, Matt Holliday — essential to postseason hopes
NL MVP candidate Trevor Story is having a September to remember

Patrick Saunders | Denver Post | Sept. 12, 2018

What do Scott Oberg, Ryan McMahon and Matt Holliday have in common?

At the all-star break, none of them was considered essential to the Rockies’ postseason chances. In fact, McMahon was still making his bones at Triple-A Albuquerque; Holliday was in baseball limbo, a seven-time all-star without a team; and Oberg, having missed time with a back injury, was trying to regain his form after an early-season tuneup at Triple-A.

Now those three are key to Colorado’s quest for its first National League West title. The Rockies entered Wednesday night’s game against Arizona with a one-game lead over the Dodgers in the NL West and a 2½-game lead over the Diamondbacks.

Holliday, the 38-year-old slugger who has been a force at the plate, made his ninth start in left field Wednesday night. Holliday had recorded a hit in 10 of the 13 games in which he played, batting .321 (9-for-28), with two home runs. He was 3-for-4 with a double and a home run as a pinch hitter.

“Matt has done an outstanding job for us, but he’s not the only one of our guys to contribute off the bench,” Manager Bud Black said. “Like I’ve said all season, it’s going to take everyone on our roster to get where we want to go.”

Oberg, who struggled out of the gate, posting a 6.97 ERA in nine appearances, has been Colorado’s steadiest reliever, and he has earned Black’s trust. Indeed, Oberg has supplanted struggling Bryan Shaw as one of Colorado’s late-game set-up men.

“For me it’s been about getting ahead of guys early and utilizing my four-seam fastball,” said Oberg, who entered Wednesday’s game 7-0 with a 2.44 ERA and .221 batting average against. “I’ve learned how to spot it where I want it. I’m staying aggressive with every pitch, and I think I’ve got much better in-game awareness.”

Oberg had posted a 1.22 ERA with 33 strikeouts and just six walks since his recall May 28. He has become one of Black’s favored right-hand men.

“Of course I don’t think about that in the moment, but when I get back to my apartment at night, I look back and think, ‘Wow, that’s all right.’ It’s nice to see the fruits of your labor pay off,” Oberg said.

McMahon, 23, made Colorado's opening-day roster but struggled out of the gate and was optioned to Triple-A twice this season. His versatility has given him playing time — 20 starts at first base, eight and second and eight at third — but he still comes off the bench a lot. It's a job he's relishing.

"My role has fluctuated," McMahon said. "There are some weeks I start five times and other times I start once. But I'm all about the team winning right now.

"I know we're always supposed to say that, but I mean it. I'm concentrating on getting ready for the late-inning at-bat. Because we have seen so many big-time pinch hits lately. I want to be part of that."

McMahon entered Wednesday batting .269 (21-for-78) with three home runs and 10 RBIs in 35 games since his recall from Triple-A on July 29. Four of his five home runs this season have come in the seventh inning or later.

True Story. Shortstop Trevor Story, being touted by Black as an MVP candidate, is having a September to remember, putting together hits and homers at a record pace. Here is the latest tally:

- Smacked his 40th double Tuesday night to become the first shortstop in big-league history to record at least 40 doubles, 30 home runs and 25 stolen bases in a season.
- Story is the second shortstop since 1920 (when RBIs became an official statistic) to have a season with 30 home runs, 100 RBIs, 25 stolen bases and 100 or more games at shortstop. Alex Rodriguez also did it in 1998 with Seattle.
- Story leads the the majors this month with six homers and 15 RBIs, while hitting .325 (13-for-40).
- He entered Wednesday ranked first in the NL in total bases (307) and extra-base hits (77), was tied for first in doubles (40), tied for second in RBIs (100), tied for third in home runs (32), tied for sixth in hits (161) and tied for fifth in stolen bases (25).

Looking ahead

Diamondbacks RHP Clay Buchholz (7-2, 2.01 ERA) at **Rockies LHP Kyle Freeland** (14-7, 2.91), 1:10 p.m., Facebook Watch, 850 AM

Freeland has worked his way into the National League Cy Young conversation, at least as someone who will garner honorable-mention votes. The lefty's already had 20 quality starts and has been remarkably good at Coors Field, going 8-2 with a 2.21 ERA, with 75 strikeouts vs. only 29 walks in 13 starts. In three outings vs. Arizona this season, Freeland is 0-1 with a 4.96 ERA. In 80 at-bats vs. Freeland in his career, the Diamondbacks have swatted just one home run. Buchholz

has been dominant over the last two-thirds of the season, going 6-1 with a 1.53 ERA and .218 batting average against across his last 11 starts. He's posted five consecutive starts allowing zero or one earned runs, but hasn't received a decision in any of his last three starts. Buchholz will be getting his first tastes of Coors Field. His only start vs. the Rockies came on May 26, 2016 when he took the loss, giving up five earned runs over six innings.

Note: Thursday's Diamondbacks vs. Rockies game will be a MLB Facebook Watch broadcast, available on desktop, mobile and TV. The game will be broadcast with no commercials. To watch the game, search for "MLB Live" after logging into 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

Sunday: Rockies RHP Antonio Senzatela (4-6, 5.01) at Giants Dereck Rodriguez (6-3, 2.35), 2 p.m. ATTRM

Rockies notebook: Colorado to face MLB's coldest team in San Francisco, inside Scott Oberg's domination and more

Plus, young guns to watch, Trevor Story's thoughts on MVP talk and what players would rack up the most space homers

Kyle Newman | Denver Post | Sept. 12, 2018

Following Thursday afternoon's series finale against Arizona at Coors Field, Colorado heads on its final road trip of the season for a dozen-game NL West stint that begins Friday night against the Giants.

Here are five things to know heading into the series at AT&T Park.

San Francisco's September woes

It doesn't take a whole lot of opposition research to figure out fourth-place San Francisco is currently the coldest team in all of baseball, and that the Friday through Sunday series is a huge three-game opportunity for the Rockies to capitalize against the free-falling Giants.

After being swept by the Braves on Wednesday at AT&T Park, the Giants have now dropped a franchise-record 11 straight games. Over that time span, San Francisco is hitting an MLB-worst .193 as a team, and that trend should figure to buy more room for error by Colorado's trio of slated starters in Tyler Anderson, German Marquez and Antonio Senzatela.

Scott Oberg's been money

As Patrick Saunders wrote in Wednesday's Rockies journal, Scott Oberg has become one of manager Bud Black's most reliable relievers since since being recalled June 27th from a back strain that kept him out for several weeks.

In 32-plus innings pitched during that time frame, Oberg has club-best marks in ERA (1.39), on-base percentage (.233), wOBA (.232), and strikeout to walk ratio (6.4), not to mention how he's dominated righties to the tune of a 1.37 ERA with 18 Ks, a .188 average and just one long ball.

Plus, he's come through when it's mattered most for Colorado in that span, posting a team-low 1.23 ERA in 22-plus innings that were either medium or high leverage situations — better than the steely trio of Seunghwan Oh, Adam Ottavino and closer Wade Davis.

Making the success all the more sweet for the 28-year-old was the birth of his first child last month, not to mention the fact he's overcome numerous medical issues prior to this season, which at 7-0 with a 2.34 total ERA is certainly shaping up to be a career-best for the fourth-year right-hander.

Blood clots in his arm and shoulder ended Oberg's campaign on Aug. 22 of last year, and before that, he went through his fair share of adversity while at UConn. As a sophomore, he was diagnosed with psoriatic arthritis in his feet and legs, temporarily forcing him to use a cane, and then he underwent Tommy John surgery in 2011 before being drafted by the Rockies in the 15th round the next year.

Young guns to watch

Plenty of attention has been given to Colorado's top three pitching prospects: Albuquerque Isotopes right-hander Peter Lambert in Triple-A, Boise Hawks right-hander Riley Pint in Class-A short season and Grand Junction Rockies' left-hander Ryan Rolison (the club's 2018 first-round pick) in rookie ball.

But with an eye toward future September playoff pushes at the big league level, here are the other, less-well-known minor league arms that fans should familiarize themselves with, according to pitching coordinator Darryl Scott.

Class-A Advanced Lancaster featured quality relievers in left-hander Ben Bowden and righties Robert Tyler and Justin Lawrence, whom Scott describes as "a rare, high-velocity sidearm". Plus, for Double-A Hartford, right-handers Reid Humphreys, Ryan Castellani and Jesus Tinoco, plus southpaw Mitch Horacek, are all on the rise and will be playing for the Salt River Rafters in the upcoming Arizona Fall League.

Story focused on pennant race

As Trevor Story added another milestone to his season on Tuesday — becoming the first shortstop in major league history to record 40 doubles, 30 home runs and 25 steals in a single season — local clamor for his MVP candidacy increased.

While the 25-year-old said it's an honor to have emerged into the conversation regarding the National League's best player, he emphasized his focus is on helping Colorado secure its first divisional title.

"I'm more worried about this team, and getting wins, as opposed to personal stuff," Story said. "It's flattering to be mentioned, but my mindset is more focused on the race, for sure."

Along with Nolan Arenado, St. Louis corner infielder Matt Carpenter, Atlanta first baseman Freddie Freeman and Arizona first baseman Paul Goldschmidt headline the MVP race. Arenado's case has cooled off lately, though, as he's hitting just .270 with two homers this month.

Rockies homering in space

An interesting article by Carson Cistulli was published on Fangraphs on Wednesday morning, detailing the sabermetrics behind who would be the MLB's best home run hitter in space.

It sounds like a goofy premise, and it is, but if you're a baseball nerd, you should check it out. Cistulli assumes a park environment with zero gravity, and uses a mathematical combination involving launch angle, strikeout rate and ground ball rate to determine who would be the best power hitter at, say, a lunar Coors Field.

According to those parameters, Royals infielder Whit Merrifield — who has a dozen homers this season — would be the league leader, with 354 dingers in 620 plate appearances.

The best Colorado power hitters would be Charlie Blackmon (24th with 298 home runs), Arenado (27th with 292) and Story (32nd with 287).

What to know and how to watch Rockies vs. Diamondbacks on Facebook

The only place to watch Thursday's Rockies game is on Facebook

Renee Dechert | Purple Row | Sept. 12, 2018

You may have noticed that **AT&T SportsNet Rocky Mountain** isn't airing the **Rockies-Diamondbacks** today's game, when **Clay Buchholz** faces **Kyle Freeland**. As it turns out, you're in luck — kind of — because you'll be able to watch the Rockies' Facebook Watch **MLB Live** debut. If you plan to watch the game, it's the *only* platform that will be airing it, so you have no other options.

I've dipped into a few games just for the experience and wasn't terribly impressed. Here are a few things to know about the experience

On the positive side, there's no dealing with local blackouts or the lack of an **MLB.TV** subscription. Plus, this allows many fans living outside the United States to have synchronous access. If you've grown tired of the AT&T SportsNet crew, you can try out the Facebook announcers. And if Facebook interaction is your thing, you'll have a continuous opportunity to be social with others watching the feed.

On the less positive side, Facebook will be **collecting your data** while you stream. In addition, you'll need to watch on your computer, tablet, or phone, unless you set up your television to stream Facebook. There's also a constant stream of distracting commentary, and some of it is NSFW, for those of you who plan to watch at work.

That said, it's easy to shut off the social. MLB.TV's Help Center provides **directions** on how not only to connect to the broadcast but also how to disable comments, so they're aware that baseball fans aren't enthusiastic. (But even with comments turned off, Facebook regularly reminded how to do it, which was just another form of comments I didn't need or want to see.)

The reviews overall have not been positive — see **here** for example, and I particularly recommend reading **Grant Brisbee's thoughts**. But MLB's ever-innovative commissioner **Rob Manfred seems pleased** with the collaboration, saying that Facebook games have "skewed about 20 years younger than traditional broadcasts" and "drive[s] traffic up by a factor of five or six."

So while I'm not thrilled about it, I've accepted that I'm going to give Facebook three hours of my personal data for a sub-optimal viewing experience this afternoon. Rockies, please beat the D-backs and make this sacrifice worthwhile.

Rockies 5, Diamondbacks 4: DJ LeMahieu's walk-off home run gives Rox the win

What. A. Finish.

Eric Garcia McKinley | Purple Row | Sept. 12, 2018

What a finish. With the **Rockies** down one run in the ninth inning, **DJ LeMahieu** knocked an opposite field walk-off home run to give the Rockies the win. **Jon Gray** had a rough start, and the offense missed a lot of opportunities to take the lead (eight men left on base), but the bullpen shut down the **Diamondbacks**, and DJ walked 'em off.

The 5-4 win improves the Rockies record to 80-65. They're 1.5 games ahead of the **Dodgers** for first place in the NL West and are now 4.5 ahead of the Diamondbacks.

Great signs

Besides the big finish, there are two major things to note from the game. First, **Nolan Arenado** appears to have gotten over that slump. He went 3-4 with two doubles and a home run. The out he made was a real bummer though. With the tying run on first base, **Arenado** hit a bullet that looked like it might knock **Eduardo Escobar** over at third. Unfortunately, it didn't and turned into an easy double play.

The bullpen was also excellent. **Chris Rusin**, **Scott Oberg**, and **Wade Davis** combined to pitch five perfect innings after Gray left the game. **Rusin** looked like the pitcher everyone fell in love with in 2017, **Oberg** showed why Bud Black has come to rely on him more and more in late inning situations, and **Davis** just looked like himself. They came in and gave the Rockies every opportunity to win.

The two Jon Grays

There are two Jon Grays. One Jon Gray has a nasty slider that either finishes off or sets up strikeouts. The other Jon Gray has a flat slider, control issues, and gives up home runs to guys like **Alex Avila**. Both Jon Grays made an appearance on Wednesday night. Gray walked two batters, hit another one, and allowed a home run while giving up three runs all before recording his first strikeout. Then he struck out six of the next eight batters he faced. Unfortunately, one of those two non-strikeouts was a home run buy a guy like **Alex Avila** — Alex Avila in particular.

Up next

The Rockies finish their four-game series against the Diamondbacks, as well as their 10-game home stand, tomorrow afternoon. **Kyle Freeland** faces Clay Buchholz. The 1:10 MT game will only be viewable on Facebook (more on that tomorrow).

Colorado Rockies: Hey fans, act like the Rockies are in first place!

Aaron Hurt | Rox Pile | Sept. 12, 2018

I hate to say it ... but I am ashamed of the fans of the Colorado Rockies the last three nights. That's right, I am calling all of you out.

I understand that the Denver Broncos are back in action but, if you haven't noticed, the **Colorado Rockies** are in the middle of a pennant race and they really could use your help. The Rockies are in first place in the National League West by the slimmest of margins but, despite chasing their first-ever division title, the crowds have been sparse.

The Arizona Diamondbacks came into town on Monday night trailing the Rockies in the standings by 2.5 games but the announced attendance for the game was only 25,114. What was going on in Denver that was more important than the Rockies? It's not like the two Monday Night Football games for the first week of the season were anything special and the Broncos played the day before.

Tuesday night, the announced attendance was 26,510. Seriously?!? There isn't anything that is must-see TV on a Tuesday night and a school night is not an excuse for a 6:40 (local) start time. The Rockies really could have used your help in **the 6-3 loss** because that game could have gone either way.

Then, on Wednesday night, a little better 31,687 showed up to watch **DJ LeMahieu** blow the roof off the joint with **his walk-off homer** (don't you wish you were there?). That means only 83,311 fans were in attendance for the first three games of an all-important series. That's ridiculous.

Our Tyson Crocker wrote an article last week on how to **increase MLB attendance** ... but there something to be said when fans aren't packing the stadium for big games like these.

Coors Field has a capacity of 46,897. If that place isn't sold out for the final homestand of the season starting September 24, with playoffs on the line, then shame on you.

I live in Omaha, so unfortunately I can't be there, but those of you who live in the Denver metro area and don't get your butts in those seats, that is pathetic.

Get your kids' homework done early and get yourselves out to the ballgame. The Rockies have a division title to win and they are going to need all of your help to do it.

Colorado Rockies vs. Arizona Diamondbacks: How to watch on Facebook

Kevin Henry | Rox Pile | Sept. 12, 2018

The Colorado Rockies will face the Arizona Diamondbacks at Coors Field for the last time in the 2018 regular season on Thursday afternoon at 1:10 p.m. (Mountain time). The game will be broadcast exclusively on Facebook Watch.

So what does this mean for fans who want to watch the game? It means you will have to get on Facebook to see if the **Colorado Rockies** can maintain their lead over the Diamondbacks in the race for the National League West crown.

As part of an agreement between Facebook and Major League Baseball, it was decided that one MLB game each week would be shown exclusively on Facebook. Weekday games are chosen that start before 4:10 p.m. (Eastern time) in order for a global audience to be reached through the social media giant. This week, it's the Rockies and Diamondbacks that will be featured.

These games are not available on any other television platform except for Facebook Watch or platforms such as MLB.tv or MLB Live. There are also no blackout restrictions for fans of either team. The games will be available globally, except to fans in Australia, Alto Adige, Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, New Zealand, Palau, Samoa, South Korea, Tahiti, Taiwan Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Western Samoa, .

To watch the game on Facebook, go to **www.Facebook.com** and search for MLB Live. You can follow the MLB Live page to receive updates on the game.

One of the biggest complaints from users who have watched past games on Facebook has been the amount of comments from other users that keep flooding the screen. You can avoid watching comments scroll by simply by hovering over the live video then clicking on the quiet mode button.

For more tips, tricks and information on how to watch the game on Facebook, **please click here**.

On Thursday, Colorado's **Kyle Freeland** (14-7, 2.91 ERA) will oppose Arizona's **Clay Buchholz** (7-2, 2.01 ERA) in the final game of Colorado's 10-game homestand.

DJ LeMahieu walks off on the Diamondbacks in Rockies most dramatic win of the season

Drew Creasman | BSN Denver | Sept. 12, 2018

DENVER – They say in the game of baseball that it's not about how you start, but how you finish.

Well, the Colorado Rockies have been proving that with their 2018 season and did so again on Wednesday with another dramatic come from behind thanks to a walk-off home run from pillar of the franchise, DJ LeMahieu.

In one of the greatest moments of his career, and staring down impending free agency, the mild-mannered second baseman found himself at the plate with the game hanging in the air and having come up empty twice in the last two games with the bases loaded and absolutely unleashed on one, launching it into the bleachers in right field to give his club the win over the Arizona Diamondbacks and make sure they stayed more than a game up in the NL West.

Starter Jon Gray had his second straight frustrating-but-not-necessarily-terrible outing. He once again went four innings but allowed four runs on four hits, walking two and striking out six.

Trouble started in the second (not the first this time) with a leadoff double from Paul Goldschmidt and a walk to Daniel Descalso. Misfortune struck when Steven Souza Jr. hit a groundball in between third and short that Trevor Story fielded and threw to third, but it was high, pulling Nolan Arenado off the bag and everybody was safe.

Nick Ahmed came up with a sac fly to center, making the Rockies pay for the misplay, which hurt even more when Corbin grounded into an inning-ending double play.

The Diamondbacks added in the third on a solo home run from Eduardo Escobar.

But Colorado struck back with a pair of runs in the bottom of the third. They got a surprise double from Gray to lead things off. He was able to advance on a single to right off the bat of DJ LeMahieu and score on a double down the left-field line from Arenado.

With runners now at second and third, Corbin unleashed a wild pitch, allowing LeMahieu to score a second run before Matt Holliday flew out to center, stranding another potential run at third.

Arizona answered with a solo home run from Alex Avila in the top of the fourth.

The Rockies got that one back in the bottom of the fifth when Arenado went down to get a breaking ball that might have burrowed through the Earth if he hadn't lifted it into the heavens for his 33rd home run of the season.

Gerardo Parra led off the ninth with a single, setting the stage for LeMahieu's dramatics.

FINAL STATS:

Jon Gray: 4 IP, 4 H, 4 ER, 2 BB, 6 K

Chris Rusin: 2 IP, 0 H, 0 ER, 0 BB, 2 K

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

Wade Davis: 1 IP, 0 H, 0 ER

Nolan Arenado: 3-for-4, 1 R, 2 RBI

DJ LeMahieu: 2-for-4, 1 R

WHAT'S NEXT:

The final game of the series is set for Thursday afternoon. Clay Buchholtz will face off against the King of Coors Field, Kyle Freeland. First pitch at 1:10 Mountain Time.

Rockies' walk-off win gives them leg up in NL West

David Schoenfeld | ESPN.com | Sept. 12, 2018

The Colorado Rockies have never won a division title. If they keep winning games the way they did Wednesday night, it might finally happen. They beat the Diamondbacks 5-4 on DJ LeMahieu's one-out, two-run, walk-off home run:

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It was LeMahieu's first career walk-off hit, let alone walk-off home run. It came after Charlie Blackmon had curiously bunted Gerardo Parra over to second (Parra had reached when Paul Goldschmidt couldn't handle his hard one-hopper, a play Goldschmidt usually gobbles up). Given that Blackmon has 26 home runs, you don't want to see him give up an out at Coors Field, even if it did put the tying run into scoring position.

But it has been that kind of season for the Rockies. Somehow, things are working out. They've been outscored by two runs, but they're 80-65 and are 1½ games up on the Dodgers. My editor Dan is a huge Rockies fan and he described their success the other day to me as, "It's a different hero every night type of lineup."

That's what we saw with LeMahieu on Wednesday. It was his 15th home run, a career high, and while he's one of the game's most extreme opposite-field hitters, he does usually pull his home runs -- Wednesday's winner was just his third opposite-field home run of the season.

Meanwhile, the bullpen was spectacular in relief of Jon Gray, who departed after four innings and an inefficient 94 pitches. Chris Rusin, Scott Oberg and Wade Davis threw five innings and retired all 15 batters they faced.

Not so spectacular is the Arizona bullpen. LeMahieu's home run came off Yoshihisa Hirano, installed Tuesday as the new closer. Back to the drawing board for Torey Lovullo. The Diamondbacks have played 11 games in September and this has happened:

-- Blew a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the eighth

-- Blew a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the ninth

-- Lost in the 10th

-- Lost again in the 10th

-- Blew a 4-3 lead in the ninth by giving up six runs

-- And now this game

The Diamondbacks are now 3½ games behind the Rockies, and it's going to be almost impossible to recover from this skid and pass both the Dodgers and Rockies to win the division. And they're even further back in the wild-card race.

Dodgers avoid sweep: The Reds entered Wednesday afternoon's game in Cincinnati with a 6-0 record against the Dodgers -- they improbably swept L.A. at Dodger Stadium back in May -- but the Dodgers finally pulled one out, winning 8-1 as seven pitchers combined for a five-hitter and 11 strikeouts.

The Dodgers can point to their mediocre record against the worst teams in the NL as a big reason they're still battling for a playoff spot:

Reds: 1-6

Marlins: 2-4

Mets: 4-2

Padres: 12-4

Giants: 7-9

That's 26-25 overall. The weird part is the Dodgers have outscored four of the five teams in their head-to-head matchups (all but the Reds) to the tune of 236-181. That run differential suggests they should be 32-19 in these games, so they've underperformed the expected win total by six wins. That aligns with what has happened all season. The Dodgers are plus-133 in run differential and have an expected record of 88-58, which would be the best in the National League. Instead, they're 79-67.

Yes, some of that is the bullpen's lack of success in close games. The Dodgers are 21-21 in one-run games. It's also a misnomer that good teams dominate one-run games. Sometimes they do. But what good teams actually do is dominate in blowouts. In games decided by five or more runs, the Dodgers are 25-8. They're 13-19 in games decided by two runs. So some of the blame goes to the offense. Check this out:

High-leverage situations: .642 OPS (29th in majors)

Low-leverage situations: .778 OPS (third in majors)

Dodgers hitters stink when games are close and pad their stats in blowouts. Blame the offense just as much as the bullpen.

If the Dodgers fail to make the playoffs, they're going to look back at a stretch from late April to early May. After starting the season 11-10, they went 5-16 to fall to 16-26. That included the sweep by the Reds, losing two of three twice to the Marlins, two of three to the Padres and three of four to the Giants. So the worst stretch of the season came against one of the easiest parts of the schedule.

AL Cy Young race is a Snell game: Blake Snell was at it again, giving up only one hit in seven innings -- a Jose Ramirez home run in the seventh -- as the Rays beat the Indians 3-1. Snell fanned nine and improved to 19-5 with a 2.03 ERA.

Twitter Ads info and privacy

So, does this make Snell the frontrunner for the AL Cy Young Award? With apologies to Gerrit Cole and a couple of relievers, the five contenders:

PITCHER	ERA	IP	SO	W-L	BWAR	FWAR
Chris Sale	1.96	147	221	12-4	6.6	6.1
Blake Snell	2.03	164	195	19-5	6.2	3.9
Trevor Bauer	2.22	166	214	12-6	5.7	5.9
Justin Verlander	2.72	195	258	15-9	4.9	5.7
Corey Kluber	2.91	195	194	18-7	5.4	4.8

A few notes: (1) Corey Kluber is going to skip his next start. (2) Chris Sale is also on the slow mend and probably will make three more starts but might go only three or four innings in his next one. (3) Trevor Bauer is still out because of a stress fracture in his leg, although the Indians are hopeful he will pitch before the end of the regular season. (4) Yeah, Snell's FanGraphs WAR is a little low; it's kind of silly to think he's only four wins better than a replacement-level starter. Anyway, I think we can eliminate the two Cleveland pitchers since they don't have any obvious advantage over the others and have benefited from an easy division (Bauer had a chance if he hadn't been injured).

The issue with Sale is that he won't even end up qualifying for the ERA title if he doesn't pitch 15 innings the rest of the season. Even if he does, that will mean he will have thrown 20 innings the final two months. You can argue that all that

matters is what Sale has accomplished when he has pitched and that still makes him the favorite. Some voters, however, will understandably have trouble voting for a guy who barely pitched the final two months.

But Snell has only 17 more innings than Sale. That might give Verlander a chance, especially if he finishes strong. He has 48 more innings than Sale, although you could argue about the value of those innings. He has given up 28 more runs than Sale in those 48 innings (5.25 runs per nine), so he basically has been replacement-level over those extra frames. Still, he has gone out there every turn, helped save innings for the bullpen and pitched in a pennant race down the stretch while Sale has been resting for the postseason.

Then there's Snell's win-loss record. We all know W-L record isn't a key indicator anymore, but in a close race, it could be the difference-maker. If he ends up with 20 wins and Sale ends up with 13, that could push Snell to Cy Young honors.

The A's are good, the Orioles are not: The A's beat the Orioles 10-0. The Orioles got one hit. The A's scored all 10 runs in the third inning. Yes, the Orioles keep coming up with new ways to lose.

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OK, so who is Willians Astudillo? He's a rookie with the Twins, previously in the Phillies and Diamondbacks organizations. In his 17 big league games, he has played catcher, second base, third base, left field and -- get this -- one inning in center field (no putouts). He even pitched an inning.

The most remarkable thing to know about him, however, is that he rarely strikes out. In 48 plate appearances in the majors, he has only two strikeouts. At Triple-A, he fanned just 14 times in 307 PAs. In winter ball, he fanned four times in 204 at-bats. He's a modern-day Joe Sewell. There is nobody like him in the majors. I mean, there *really* isn't anybody like him in the majors. Did you watch that highlight?

What to make of him? He also rarely walks and doesn't really have a position (he mostly played catcher and third at Triple-A). He can hit a little (.276/.314/.469 at Rochester), but not a lot. Maybe there's a spot as a utility guy/third catcher. I hope so. Because we need Willians Astudillo in the majors, that's for sure.

Red Sox win 100th: David Price cruised in a 1-0 win over the Blue Jays, giving up three hits and no walks with seven K's in seven innings. That's two really good starts since that short DL stint, and he has 1.56 ERA in the second half. On Tuesday, Price said he does not plan on opting out of his contract (which has four years left). He also acknowledged that

he has to prove himself in October, as he has never won a postseason start: "I could go 35-0 with a zero [ERA] and it wouldn't matter. I need to win in October."

A few notes from ESPN Stats & Information:

-- The Red Sox have 100 wins for the first time since 1946. Nineteen franchises have won 100 since the Red Sox last did it. (This is remarkable given the Red Sox have had so few losing seasons over the past 50 years.)

-- Alex Cora is the fifth manager to win 100 in his first season, joining Mickey Cochrane, Ralph Houk, Sparky Anderson, Dusty Baker.

-- The Red Sox could become the seventh team to win 110-plus games. Three of those won the World Series: 1998 Yankees, 1927 Yankees, 1909 World Series. Two lost in the World Series: 1906 Cubs and 1954 Indians. One didn't reach the World Series: 2001 Mariners.

Not that I'm still bitter about that or anything.

LeMahieu hits 2-run homer in 9th, Rox beat D-backs 5-4

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

DENVER -- DJ LeMahieu found himself in the spotlight even if he doesn't much care for being in the spotlight.

Walk-off homers will do that. Especially the first one of his career, in the middle of a heated division race.

LeMahieu hit a two-run homer off Yoshihisa Hirano in the ninth inning, and the NL West-leading Colorado Rockies rallied to beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 5-4 on Wednesday night.

"It was cool. Just a great moment," the soft-spoken LeMahieu said. "That was awesome."

LeMahieu launched a fastball over the fence in right as the Rockies kept their 1 1/2-game advantage over Los Angeles intact after the Dodgers beat Cincinnati earlier in the day. The Diamondbacks fell 3 1/2 games behind in the division race. This is the latest in the season the Rockies have been alone in first place since 1995.

A night after getting his first career save, Hirano (4-3) allowed a single by Gerardo Parra off the glove of first baseman Paul Goldschmidt to begin the ninth. Charlie Blackmon bunted Parra over to second and LeMahieu followed with the walk-off homer. He was doused with water after crossing home plate as fans chanted "DJ, DJ, DJ!"

"I was just looking to drive the ball. It was a lot of fun," LeMahieu said.

Hirano's pitch to LeMahieu was the latest miscue by a struggling Arizona bullpen where some roles have been juggled.

"He just made a mistake," Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said. "He threw a fastball that could be taken the other way."

Overlooked in LeMahieu's ninth-inning theatrics was the performance of Colorado's bullpen, which turned in five perfect innings, including two each by Chris Rusin and Scott Oberg. Wade Davis (3-6) picked up the win by pitching a flawless ninth, including two strikeouts.

That marks the first time the Rockies' bullpen has tossed five perfect innings in franchise history, according to the team.

"Awesome the bullpen was able to do our job tonight, throw up a bunch of zeroes and give our team a chance," Oberg said. "In this building, really anything can happen from an offensive standpoint."

Nolan Arenado had a big night for the Rockies with two doubles, including a run-scoring one in the second, and a solo homer.

LeMahieu's blast spoiled a solid outing by Diamondbacks starter Patrick Corbin, who allowed a season-high 10 hits, but navigated his way through trouble. He went 6 1/3 innings and allowed three runs.

The left-hander's most crucial pitch was a slider to strike out LeMahieu with the bases loaded in the fourth.

Arizona's bullpen bent a little in the eighth, issuing two walks, only to have reliever Archie Bradley enter with two outs and get pinch-hitter Carlos Gonzalez to roll out.

Eduardo Escobar's homer in the third inning was his 21st of the season and sixth with the Diamondbacks since being acquired from the Minnesota Twins on July 27. Goldschmidt finished 2 for 4 with a double and extended his streak of reaching base to 48 straight road games. Alex Avila added a solo homer.

"These are tough, tough to lose under these circumstances," Lovullo said. "It hurts."

Since 2015, the Diamondbacks are now 17-6 against Colorado during games played in September or later -- including their win in the NL wild-card contest last October.

Rockies starter Jon Gray labored on a night he didn't have his best stuff. He lasted four innings and allowed four runs.

"I wouldn't be smiling like this if we didn't win the game like we did," Gray said.

SCOREBOARD WATCHING

Asked if he watches scoreboards, manager Bud Black quipped: "It's hard not to. We have a beautiful scoreboard out there."

Playing right field, Gonzalez has a close-up view of the scoreboard over his shoulder.

"When we're not winning, I go like this," he said, turning his head as if he was looking at the scoreboard. "Just to make sure the other team is not doing better."

WEIGHING IN

Arenado and Trevor Story are both starting to get some mention in the NL MVP race. Gonzalez's vote would be simple -- both.

"Either way it goes, I will feel extremely happy," he said of the possibility of a teammate winning the award.

UP NEXT

Arizona RHP Clay Buchholz (7-2, 2.01 ERA) makes his first career start at Coors Field in the finale of a four-game series with Colorado on Thursday. The Rockies will throw LHP Kyle Freeland (14-7, 2.91), who is 8-2 at home this season. The game will be an MLB Facebook Watch broadcast.