



MEDIA CLIPS –May 14, 2018

Rockies drop series finale on Mother's Day

Thomas Harding / MLB.com | May 13, 2018

DENVER -- The Rockies rarely hit strangers. That problem arose again Sunday, when Freddy Peralta celebrated his Major League debut -- and Mother's Day -- with 13 strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings of the Brewers' 7-3 victory at Coors Field. The Rockies, who finished this homestand 2-4, and dropped to 7-11 at home on the year, didn't have a hit until David Dahl's single with one out in the sixth. Then, Peralta fanned Charlie Blackmon to end his day at 98 pitches.

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Peralta fanned leadoff man DJ LeMahieu three times, and Blackmon, Nolan Arenado, Carlos Gonzalez and Trevor Story fanned twice apiece. Tony Wolters averted a shutout with a solo shot off Matt Albers in the seventh, and Dahl added a left-on-left, two-run shot off Dan Jennings in the eighth, but the problem was that the Rockies' first look at Peralta was not a pretty one.

"Not seeing a guy makes it a little but tougher; you don't know what it looks like from the box, you don't know what the timing is, you don't know what the movement looks like," Blackmon said. "You don't know what you're going to get. Having faced a guy a few times, there's a little bit of a comfort level that gives you more of an advantage."

Struggling with starters they had not seen is a pattern for the Rockies. To wit:

- On April 10, the Padres' Joey Lucchesi (whom the Rockies will face Monday night in San Diego) struck out eight in six innings as the Rockies lost, 5-2.
- On April 29, Caleb Smith held the Rockies scoreless and fanned nine in seven innings as the Marlins completed a 3-0 shutout.
- On Wednesday night, the Rockies never figured out Jaime Barria, who struck out seven in 5 1/3 innings of an 8-0 Angels victory.

Dahl, the only one who can talk about his hit off Peralta should the Rockies meet the Brewers again, said there was deception. Although he is somewhere near 6-foot, Peralta has a long, Tim Lincecum-like stride that allows him to release the ball closer to the plate. While Statcast™ calculated that he threw a vast majority of fastballs and few curveballs, Peralta's fastballs ranged 86.8 mph to 94.8 with unpredictable movement.

"He was tough to pick up," Dahl said. "He hid the ball well. He had some late cut. The ball really took off. It played a lot better than 90-92."

On the Brewers' side it was a beautiful story. Peralta's family -- with his proud mom, of course -- had come to Colorado from the Dominican Republic to watch him pitch professionally for the first time. The plan was to see him pitch for Milwaukee's Triple-A affiliate in Colorado Springs, but he was promoted to start for the big league club on Sunday. But it's the same old story on the Rockies' side.

Sunday's 15 strikeouts brought the total to 60 for the homestand. The 10 per game is a decent scoring average in basketball, but no one was wearing shorts on a cool Sunday afternoon.

"We are not happy about that," Rockies manager Bud Black said. "We have to make sure that those strikeout totals come down, for sure. It's not something we are going to stand for as we move forward."

It was an odd outing by Jon Gray (4-5) who after giving up just one run in his previous three starts, gave up six runs in 5 1/3 innings -- despite his own 10 strikeouts.

Gray at times displayed a sharp slider, but the Brewers feasted on mistake fastballs for eight of the 10 hits he surrendered. Leadoff man Christian Yelich singled in two runs in a three-run second. Travis Shaw, who arrived in Denver in a 5-for-50 rut, but went 7-for-16 at Coors, homered into the second deck in the third inning.

"It's the easiest pitch to throw but if you don't have command of it that day, it's really frustrating," Gray said. "It may be one thing if it's the curveball or the slider, but you should always have the fastball."

Gray left with two on, and saw reliever Harrison Musgrave yield Jesus Aguilar's three-run shot for a 7-0 lead.

SOUND SMART

With Peralta's 13 strikeouts and Gray's 10, it marked the first game in Rockies history that both starters reached double figures in that category. The 30 total strikeouts are also a record for a Rockies game.

YOU GOTTA SEE THIS

Dahl, a prized organization product, has been bucking for everyday playing time since being called up from Triple-A

Albuquerque on April 22. However, a rough beginning against lefty pitchers -- 0-for-14 with 10 strikeouts -- made it hard to use him in that matchup.

But during a pregame live batting practice session in Chicago with lefty reliever Chris Rusin completing a comeback from an intercostal injury, Dahl homered on a first-pitch changeup. His timing and confidence have grown since.

"It's just honestly getting at-bats off of them, feeling a lot better off of them," Dahl said. "Staying in there, not trying to pull the ball, trying to stay through it."

The homer off Jennings -- to dead center, an estimated 431 feet -- gave him hits in three straight at-bats against lefties.

He singled off the Angels' Jose Alvarez on Wednesday night and off the Brewers' Boone Logan on Thursday night.

HE SAID IT

"Guys are searching for consistency. We're not terrible, but we're not good right now." -- *Blackmon, on the Rockies' offense*

UP NEXT

The Rockies will head back to the road -- where they are 15-8 this season -- to meet the Padres at Petco Park on Monday night at 8:10 p.m. MT to start a two-game set and a nine-game National League West road trip. Lefty Tyler Anderson (2-1, 4.23 ERA), who will face lefty Joey Lucchesi (3-2, 2.98), has a 1.50 ERA in 12 innings over two starts against the Padres.

Rockies host Honorary Bat Girl on Mother's Day

Thomas Harding / MLB.com | May 13, 2018

DENVER -- The pink that the Brewers and Rockies wore on the field on Mother's Day, and similar items that have been spotting sports and society for years, make the unmistakable statement that Susan G. Komen is there.

Last year, Rochelle McKenzie found Komen Colorado is there for her and others going through the same struggle.

At 30, McKenzie, single parent of a daughter, Amyah, 5 1/2, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer and needed immediate treatment. But, she was selling skin care products and had no insurance. Komen Colorado was a life-saver.

"It's really important for everyone to get involved in anything they can," said McKenzie, honored Sunday as the Honorary Bat Girl, a program observed by each MLB team. "There are so many organizations out there that can help, like Susan G. Komen, who helped me get started with treatment right away -- life-saving treatment -- so that I could be here this Mother's Day with my daughter, Amyah."

The Honorary Bat Girl program was introduced in 2009 to raise additional awareness and support for the annual "Going to Bat Against Breast Cancer" initiative celebrated on Mother's Day. Going to Bat Against Breast Cancer is a Major League Baseball initiative supported by MLB charitable partners, Stand Up To Cancer and Susan G. Komen. This initiative raises awareness about the breast cancer cause, while also raising funds to support breast cancer research. For more information, please visit HonoraryBatGirl.com.

Since 1991, Komen Colorado has awarded more than \$40 million in grants to local non-profit organizations and healthcare facilities to offset costs for mammograms, diagnostic testing, chemotherapy and radiation and surgery. The organization uses 75 percent of net proceeds raised during Race for the Cure.

McKenzie's grant helped her begin treatment before she could eventually qualify for Medicaid. She would endure eight rounds of eight rounds of chemotherapy, 20 rounds of radiation, a bilateral mastectomy, reconstructive surgery -- and an infection that landed her in the hospital for several days.

Since receiving the support, McKenzie has been giving back to others.

She was honored at a WWE Smackdown event, when Dana Warrior presented her with a special pink championship belt and she met many of the wrestlers. She immediately took the belt to her oncologist, and also brought it to patients at the Rocky Mountain Cancer Clinic to offer encouragement. She volunteers with unions her company works with to raise money and awareness for various concerns, gathers Toys for Tots, has bowled to raise money for Puerto Rico as it recovers from Hurricane Maria, and sponsors a 5-year-old girl, Nethmi, in Sri Lanka through World Vision.

"Just don't give up, and believe that you're going to get through," McKenzie said. "A lot of getting over an illness is mind over matter, for sure. The mind is very powerful. Just believe and go."

McKenzie, who as a child was a fan of the Rockies and All-Star Dante Bichette, has lost count of the number of people she has reached out to while offering encouragement.

"I don't even know -- I tell everybody, and people are always so shocked," she said. "I want to keep telling people because it's everywhere. Unfortunately, one out of five women get diagnosed with breast cancer. I had a friend that was diagnosed the same time as me and she actually died from it. So, it's always important to do your monthly checks, know your body and know what's normal."

Rookie Freddy Peralta dominates strikeouts-prone Colorado Rockies as Milwaukee Brewers win at Coors Field

Patrick Saunders / The Denver Post | May 13, 2018

Facing talented Brewers rookie Freddy Peralta, the slumping Rockies had no hope and no prayer Sunday afternoon at [Coors Field](#). What they did have was an historic plethora of swings and misses in a 7-3 defeat.

Making his major-league debut, and with his parents in the stands to watch him pitch professionally for the first time, the right-hander from the Dominican Republic struck out 13 Rockies in just 5 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings. Peralta, 21, crafted a no-hitter for 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings until [David Dahl](#) sliced an opposite-field single to left field.

When the carnage was complete, the Rockies had fanned 15 times in front of a Mother's Day crowd of 40,453, losing for the fourth time in five games. They finished the homestand 2-4 and are 7-11 at Coors.

Peralta's 13 strikeouts are the most in Brewers history in a big-league debut, and the most by any Milwaukee rookie pitcher. Also, his 13 strikeouts tied for fourth-most all-time in major-league debuts, and are the most since Washington's Stephen Strasburg struck out 14 in his debut June 8, 2010 vs. Pittsburgh.

"It was fun," Peralta said. "I did everything I know how to do. My pitching coach (Derek Johnson) told me, 'Just smile, breathe and pitch.' That's what I did."

Asked why Peralta was so effective, Rockies first baseman Ian Desmond offered some gallows humor: "I think he just loves his mom more than we love our moms."

But Desmond, Dahl and manager Bud Black all said essentially the same thing: Peralta's fastball, though not always overpowering at 87-95 mph, was difficult to pick up. Indeed, of Peralta's 98 pitches, 90 were fastballs and only eight were off-speed.

"You have to get in there and see the ball, and today we just couldn't quite pick him up, for whatever reason," Black said when asked about facing the difficulty of facing a pitcher for the first time. "We had a number of strikeouts by guys who usually don't strike out a ton. So there had to be something within his delivery that we just couldn't pick up."

Peralta struck out leadoff hitter DJ LeMahieu three times and cleanup hitter Nolan Arenado twice.

In a season when strikeouts are on a record pace, the Rockies are certainly part of the trend. They now have 379 strikeouts, the fourth-most in the National League. In an 8-0 loss to the Angles on Wednesday, Colorado whiffed 14 times, and they struck out 60 times during the homestand. That didn't sit well with Black.

"We are not happy about that," he said. "We have to make sure that those strikeout totals come down, for sure. It's not something we are going to stand for as we move forward."

Colorado finally got on the board via a solo homer by [Tony Wolters](#) in the seventh off reliever Matt Albers. A single by LeMahieu, followed by a two-run homer by Dahl off Dan Jennings cut the Brewers' lead to 7-3 in the eighth.

Colorado's [Jon Gray](#) whiffed 10 Brewers, but he was not sharp in his 5 ⅓ frames, getting blistered for six runs on 10 hits, including a solo homer by Travis Shaw in the third that traveled 452 feet and into the second deck above right field. Gray, so sharp in his last three starts, fell to 4-5 and saw his ERA rise to 4.85.

"I felt like I had good stuff today, but I just didn't have good command of my fastball," Gray said.

Despite their offensive ineptness, the Rockies appeared to be in the game — kind of, sort of — until the sixth when Jesus Aguilar hit a three-run homer off reliever Harrison Musgrave to push Milwaukee's lead to 7-0.

Swings and Misses

The Brewers and Rockies struck out a combined 30 times in Sunday's game. Some particulars from the fan fest:

- It marked the first game in Rockies history in which both starting pitchers compiled 10-plus strikeouts.
- 23 combined strikeouts for the starting pitchers are the most ever for starters in any game featuring the Rockies.
- 30 total strikeouts are the most combined strikeouts in any game featuring the Rockies in their history.
- It was first nine-inning game in the majors with 30 or more strikeouts since St. Louis and Milwaukee combined for 31 strikeouts on Aug. 29, 2016 at Milwaukee.
- Freddy Peralta's 13 strikeouts are the most in Brewers history in a major-league debut.
- Peralta's 13 strikeouts are tied for fourth-most all-time in major-League debuts, and are the most since Washington's Stephen Strasburg struck out 14 in his debut on June 8, 2010 vs. Pittsburgh. — Patrick Saunders, The Denver Post

Looking ahead

Colorado Rockies starting pitcher Tyler Anderson #44 pitches against the Los Angeles Angels in the first inning at Coors Field May 09, 2018.

Rockies LHP Tyler Anderson (2-1, 4.23 ERA) at **Padres LHP Joey Lucchesi** (3-2, 2.98), 8:10 p.m. Monday; ATTRM, 850 AM

Anderson was rolling along until he stumbled against the Angels on Wednesday at Coors Field, giving up four runs on six hits (including two homers) over five innings in an 8-0 Colorado loss. He's fared well against the Padres, going 1-1 with a 1.80 ERA in five career starts. In two starts vs. the Padres this season, Anderson has a pair of no-decisions, but owns a

crisp 1.50 ERA. When he's on his game, Anderson uses a well-located fastball to set up an effective changeup. Lucchesi, a rookie left-hander, has pitched well at Petco Park, where he's made six of his eight starts. He's posted a 2.87 ERA at San Diego's downtown ballpark, averaging more than a strikeout per inning. In 11 innings against the Rockies, he has not allowed an earned run. — *Patrick Saunders, The Denver Post*

Tuesday: Rockies RHP German Marquez (2-4, 5.35) at Padres RHP Jordan Lyles (0-1, 3.28), 1:40 p.m., ATTRM

Wednesday: Off

Thursday: Rockies RHP Chad Bettis (4-1, 3.12) at Giants RHP Jeff Samardzija (1-2, 6.62), 8:15 p.m. ATTRM

Friday: Rockies LHP Kyle Freeland (3-4, 3.42) at Giants LHP Derek Holland (1-4, 4.95), 8:15 p.m., ATTRM

In debut season with the Rockies, closer Wade Davis' excellent has become an uninteresting expectation

Kyle Newman / The Denver Post | May 13, 2018

Nolan Arenado knew the Rockies had signed a special breed of closer early in spring training when he sat with Wade Davis in the video room at Salt River Fields and the right-hander caused the third baseman to suffer a partial identity crisis.

"I asked him how he approached me when I faced him last year, and he told me some things that I never would've thought of," Arenado said. "It made me realize I need to understand who I am a little bit more, because he understands exactly who he is."

Who Davis has been this season is everything Colorado thought he would be when the club inked him to a three-year, \$52 million deal in December that made the former Ray, Royal and Cub the most expensive reliever in major league history by annual value.

The 32-year-old leads baseball with 14 saves, and yet the stoic 'thinking man's closer' somehow isn't gobbling up headlines. Maybe that's because of the team's distracting problems on offense, or maybe it's because the rest of the bullpen has also, for the most part, been nails.

Or, as pointed out by reliever Adam Ottavino — the gem of the Rockies' bullpen so far with a 1.23 ERA and 0.68 WHIP in 22.0 innings of work — maybe the lack of attention Davis receives on a day-to-day basis in Denver is simply because his excellence has become an uninteresting expectation.

"When you're the best, people start to get used to that," Ottavino theorized. "With him — he had around a 1.00 ERA for three years (in Kansas City), and then was one of the best last year in Chicago — people just expect it. So when he does good, it's not a story."

Davis only needed seven pitches to sprint through his spring training debut, and since that day he's continued to perform with boring efficiency, surpassing 20 pitches in just three of his 18 regular-season appearances.

And for his part, Davis is content with playing the role of anonymous all-star — "attention can sometimes be counterproductive," he pointed out — with a repertoire of plus-pitches (fastball, curve, slider, cutter) that keeps everyone in the ballpark but him guessing.

"With some guys, when they get on the mound, you know they're going to throw this pitch or that pitch in a situation," Rockies reliever Mike Dunn said. "When Wade's up there, you have no idea what pitch he's going to throw — we're always trying to guess out in the bullpen — and he's got 100-percent conviction behind all his pitches."

It seems the only interesting Davis storyline left to be discussed is whether he can maintain his torrid pace.

Manager Bud Black doesn't believe there's any "overall concerns about the long-range consistency of Wade" throughout the grind of a 162-game season that ending up wearing down the Rockies' 2017 closer, Greg Holland.

Holland was dominant in the first half of last year, converting 28 of 29 save opportunities, but lost his magic after the all-star break to the tune of a 6.38 ERA and three blown saves in August alone.

"I think Holland was a little bit different from the standpoint he was coming off Tommy John (surgery), and he hadn't pitched the year before — that had a lot to do with (his second-half struggles)," bullpen coach Darren Holmes said. "With Wade, we've been good at monitoring his usage — he hasn't pitched more than two days in a row so far, and we've been keeping the communication open every day on how he's feeling."

Meanwhile, as Colorado's offense continues to search for its collective identity, Davis remains a virtual ninth-inning rock. Even two blown saves so far this year, against Atlanta on April 7 and the Brewers on Friday, has done nothing to deter the widespread feeling in the clubhouse that the Rockies possess one of the best, if not the best, closer in the majors.

"Even if he does give up a save," Arenado said, "there's nobody I would rather go down with than Wade Davis."

Rockies have pretty good playoff odds after pretty good start to 2018 season

Eric Garcia McKinley / Purple Row | May 14, 2018

Believe it or not, the 2018 regular season is about one-fourth over. In that time the Rockies have been frustrating, successful, underachieving, and overachieving, sometimes all at the same time. We'll figure out the whole narrative of the 2018 season in the coming months. But for now, let's take a look at what the leading projection systems have to say about the Rockies so far and their chances of making the postseason.

At the one-fourth mark of the season, the projection systems think the Rockies have about a one in four chance of making the postseason. Baseball Prospectus, FanGraphs, and FiveThirtyEight publish their playoff odds daily. Taken together, the Rockies chances can be classified as "pretty good." They're in the thick of things, but they aren't out in front, and they may have a smaller margin of error than their competitors.

The systems are all quite bullish on the Diamondbacks. The Dodgers have gotten off to slow starts in recent years, and every time it seemed like their playoff odds were consistently high, despite their record. They usually followed that up by doing something stupid like winning 40 out of 50 games. Now, however, the D-backs' odds are higher than the Dodgers all around. The NL West is one tough division.

Not only that, but the entire National League field is crowded at the moment. A lot of teams are surprising early and holding on to higher than expected odds. We'll see how the crowd thins out as the season progresses.

Playoff odds %

Team	Baseball Prospectus	FanGraphs	FiveThirtyEight
Braves	34	22	21
Brewers	37	24	38
Cardinals	53	69	52
Cubs	71	90	75
Diamondbacks	85	53	73
Dodgers	31	46	27
Giants	13	11	16
Mets	25	25	5
Nationals	71	92	58
Phillies	43	17	15

Team	Baseball Prospectus	FanGraphs	FiveThirtyEight
Pirates	26	22	28
Rockies	22	29	25

Rockies gearing up for important divisional road trip

The Rockies head west for their first extended west coast trip of the season

Samantha Barfield / Purple Row | May 14, 2018

It's time for divisional play to start ramping up. The Rockies head out today for their first big divisional road trip of 2018.

They'll start with two games against the San Diego Padres, then follow it up with a four against the San Francisco Giants, and conclude a three-game series Los Angeles Dodgers. In three notorious "pitcher's parks," there is extra pressure on this streaky offense to score early and often, and for the defense to play well to prevent the other team from doing just that against them.

Currently, the Rockies trail the Arizona Diamondbacks by 2.5 games. The Giants are third, only two games behind the Rockies. The Dodgers and Padres are fourth and fifth respectively, sitting 8 and 9 games out of first place. Out of the entire National League West, the Rockies and Diamondbacks are the only teams with a winning record. The Giants just broke a six game losing streak yesterday, and the Dodgers have lost four straight.

Here are some things to pay attention to during this upcoming road trip.

Familiarity helps (or not)

Just like any divisional series, it can help that these teams see each other 19 times per year. Everybody knows how everyone works, so they know how to attack them (but hopefully not physically). They also know the parks much better than the others that they see only a handful of times per year. That doesn't mean they still don't have to be prepared, but it might help a little bit.

Offensive consistency

The Rockies' offense has been streaky. They seem to either score enough for fans to get tacos or score fewer than two runs. In order to be successful on this road trip, they need to find a way to score if they want to outduel the opposition. In their last ten games, they have scored 43 runs to their opponents' 48 and, again, the team seems to either earn tacos for the fans or barely get off the ground. Nolan Arenado, Noel Cuevas, David Dahl, Carlos González, Gerardo Parra, and Trevor Story all hit above .300 on this home stand, whereas Ian Desmond, Charlie Blackmon, and Tony Wolters all hit under .200.

Finding a way for the whole team to play well

Again, the season narrative has been that the offense needs to step it up. However, there have been some games where the pitchers need to play well too. Take Friday night's game against the Brewers. The Rockies scored 10 runs! However, they fell in the tenth inning 11-10 after a bullpen meltdown. It started with Manny Piña's two-run home run off of Wade

Davis in the top of the ninth and was finished by an RBI single by Travis Shaw to win the game for the Brewers off of Jake McGee. Starter Chad Bettis only pitched 5.0 innings and gave up seven runs on ten hits with three walks and three strikeouts. It was the second straight game in which the Rockies starter did not pitch a quality game after a franchise record nine straight quality starts.

Kyle Freeland was able to bounce back on Saturday with a nice quality start of 6.1 innings with four hits, four walks, and six strikeouts, but Trevor Story was the source of all of the team's runs with a two-run home run, a solo home run, and an RBI double. He alone went 3-for-3 with two runs, four RBI, and a walk. The rest of the team went 6-for-30 with two doubles, one triple, two walks, and five strikeouts combined.

The Clayton Kershaw-less Dodgers

On May 7, the Dodgers placed ace Clayton Kershaw on the 10-day disabled list with bicep tendinitis in his pitching arm. This is the third straight season that Kershaw has landed on the DL. In 2016, the Dodgers won the NL West after finishing 91-71 without their ace for two months, and in 2017, they won the west again with a record of 104-58 and ended up going to the World Series. That being said, they are currently in the middle of a three game losing streak and are 4-6 in their last ten games.

Their season so far has been marred by injuries, and not just of Kershaw. Third baseman Justin Turner went down with a broken wrist in spring training but is expected back shortly, shortstop Corey Seager recently had season-ending Tommy John surgery, and top starting pitcher Hyun-Jin Ryu is out until at least July with a severe groin strain. Earlier this year, outfielder Yasiel Puig spent time on the DL with a bruised hip and ankle but was recently activated.

That being said, they're still the Dodgers and they are still really good and will be a tough opponent for the Rockies. They've been faltering a bit even with Kershaw on the mound, but they still can't be overlooked.

What needs to happen

Overall, it's not a bad time for this road trip. The division as a whole is squandering a little bit, so everyone will be looking to make up some ground, especially since the Diamondbacks have seemingly hit a wall. The expectations are certainly higher since we're now in May and playing more within the division. The team is 15-8 on the road and 7-11 at home, so if they can rack up some division wins on the road and go 5-4 or better, that would really help propel them up since they have a stretch of 12 out of 15 games at home against the division coming up next.

Probables (subject to change)

San Diego

Monday, 5/14 - Tyler Anderson vs. Joey Lucchesi

Tuesday, 5/15 - Germán Márquez vs. Jordan Lyles

San Francisco

Thursday, 5/17 - Chad Bettis vs. Jeff Samardzija

Friday, 5/18 - Kyle Freeland vs. Derek Holland

Saturday, 5/19 - Jon Gray vs. Chris Stratton (ESPN)

Sunday, 5/20 - Tyler Anderson vs. Ty Blach

Los Angeles

Monday, 5/21 - Germán Márquez vs. Walker Buehler

Tuesday, 5/22 - Chad Bettis vs. Kenta Maeda (ESPN)

Wednesday, 5/23 - Kyle Freeland vs. Ross Stripling

Rockies prospects Hampson and Hilliard run all over in Yard Goats' win

Samantha Barfield / Purple Row | May 14, 2018

The Hartford Yard Goats are 7-3 in their last ten games, beating the Bowie Baysox 9-4 on Sunday. Left fielder Sam Hilliard (no. 17 PuRP) and shortstop Garrett Hampson (no. 9 PuRP) combined for five hits, two runs, a double, three RBI, a walk, a strikeout, and three stolen bases. Hampson's stolen base was his 18th of the season and Hillard notched numbers 10 and 11. Third baseman Ryan Metzler also stole his third base of the season.

Another notable performance from the Yard Goats was second baseman Brendan Rodgers (no. 1 PuRP), who went 2-for-4 with three runs, a double, a home run, three RBI, and a walk. DH Dom Nuñez (no. 21 PuRP) also notched three hits (including a double) and three runs. In Triple-A Albuquerque, outfielders Raimel Tapia and Mike Tauchman (no. 22 PuRP) combined for five hits, four runs, a double, two home runs, and five RBI in the Isotopes' loss to the Las Vegas 51s.

★★★

Triple-A: Las Vegas 51s 9, Albuquerque Isotopes 7

Raimel Tapia: 2-for-4, 2 R, HR, 3 RBI

Pat Valaika: 1-for-3

Ryan McMahon (no. 2 PuRP): 0-for-4, K

Tom Murphy (no. 11 PuRP): 1-for-3, R, HR, RBI, BB, K

Jordan Patterson (no. 14 PuRP): 0-for-4, 2 K

Mike Tauchman (no. 22 PuRP): 3-for-4, 2 R, 2B, HR, 2 RBI

David Holmberg: 6.0 IP, 8 H, 7 R, 4 ER, 2 BB, K, 2 HR

★★★

Double-A: Hartford Yard Goats 9, Bowie Baysox 4

Brendan Rodgers (no. 1 PuRP): 2-for-4, 3 R, 2B, HR, 3 RBI, BB

Who are these Rockies? It seems they're not even sure yet

Rich Kurtzman / Mile High Sports | May 14, 2018

What's the deal with the Rockies?

For the first month of the season, Colorado pitched better than we've seen in a majority of the 25 years they've been in existence. Yet, the offense — which is usually the mainstay of the team — stunk like hot garbage in the sun.

Then, offensively, things changed, when we hit May.

The Rockies broke out of their team-wide hitting slump in Chicago, first winning 3-1 on May 1, and then exploding out of that slump with an 11-run, 15-hit performance to win the series over the Cubs. Those 11 runs and 15 hits were each season-highs, which included fireworks and four home runs. Slump, over, right?

After a day off, the Rocks continued rollin' with an eight-run performance and narrow 8-7 victory over the Mets in New York. Colorado continued the hot pitching, and not only won the series, but swept the Mets. Through the first five games of the month of May, the Rockies were 5-0 and enjoyed five straight quality starts from their pitchers; this was the best they've played all year long.

Then, they came back home and won their sixth straight over the LA Angels. That's when things, again, changed.

Last Wednesday, the Rockies weren't just beaten, they were blown out and shut-out, 8-0 by the Angels of Anaheim. That game, everything fell apart. Tyler Anderson pitched only five innings, giving up six hits and four earned runs before getting pulled. Meanwhile, the offense managed to produce eight hits, but it was their knack for leaving runners in scoring position which left them high and dry. That night, Colorado left 11 on base and went 0-12 with RISP, which might as well stand for RIP. As in, if a team can't produce runs, they're dead in the water.

Then came in the Milwaukee Brewers, who the Rockies may find themselves in a fight with for a Wildcard berth much later in the season. The Brew Crew won 5-2 as both the Rockies' pitching and hitting struggled on the same day, setting up Colorado's worst loss of the season.

On Friday night, the Rockies were on fire. They led 9-3 through four innings, doing everything necessary from the plate to win. They hit singles, doubles, triples and even a few home runs in those first four innings, importantly hitting their teammates home once they got into scoring position.

Then, the wheels fell off. The Brewers scored one in the fifth, but their sixth inning was nothing short of magical, scoring four total runs to bring the game to 9-8, Rockies. Colorado bounced back when Carlos Gonzalez hit a one-run homer in the bottom of the sixth, but that would be the the last score of the night for the Rockies.

Meanwhile, Milwaukee kept fighting, and in the ninth, Manny Pina's two-run bomb tied the game up at 10-10. Into the 10th the game went, where the Brewers finished off Colorado by manufacturing one more run. That 11-10 loss is one which will sting for a long time, one the Rockies need to learn from.

They won their next game 4-0 over Milwaukee, but lost Sunday 7-3 and lost the series to the Brewers (24-17) 3-1.

At 22-19, the Rockies are currently 2.5 games back of the Arizona Diamondbacks in the NL West. But, who are these Rockies?

They aren't who we thought they were, at least, historically. They're a solid pitching team this year, but, ironically, one of the worst hitting teams in baseball. Can they still turn it around at the plate? Sure, but we're quickly coming up on the one-third point in the season, and the longer they go hitting this poorly, the more we know who this team truly is.

In terms of batting average, the Rockies' .231 is 25th in baseball. And, according to weighted Runs Created Plus (wRC+), Colorado is second-worst in the MLB at 77. wRC+ is a weighted metric, in which 100 is average, and the best offensive team this year is the Atlanta Braves, at 111.

And, while the Rockies are usually great at home and struggle on the road, at 15-8 this year, they're the third-best road team in baseball. From historically horrible offense, to mostly solid pitching, to winning on the road and losing at home; everything's flipped on its head this year.

This Rockies team is simply like none other we've seen, which makes us wonder, from day to day; who are these Rockies? And; will they ever get it all figured out?

Tonight, Colorado starts a nine-game, California road trip against the San Diego Padres, San Francisco Giants and finish with the Los Angeles Dodgers, three NL West teams who play in some of the toughest parks in the majors for hitters. Meaning, this could be a long, rocky road trip.

Freddy Peralta strikeouts out 13 in major league debut as Rockies fall to the brewers

Justin Michael / Mile High Sports | May 14, 2018

Making his major league debut for the Milwaukee Brewers in front of a packed Mother's Day crowd, rookie pitcher Freddy Peralta became the first big league pitcher to strike out ten batters in a professional debut since Matt Harvey in 2012, as the Brewers dominated the Rockies 7-3 Sunday.

Milwaukee's young pitching prospect had the Rockies fanning left and right Sunday afternoon, striking out 11 of the first 15 hitters he faced and taking a no-hitter into the sixth inning.

Peralta was rewarded by his offense with four quick runs in the first three innings, and with an early lead, Peralta was able to settle into a groove on the mound without having to worry about a tight contest.

Peralta consistently attacked the Rockies at the plate and worked himself into pitcher's counts. Then with the count in his favor, Peralta was able to get the Rockies to chase his eye candy.

In total, Peralta threw first-pitch strikes against 13-of-19 hitters and struck out 13 in 5 2/3 innings. Peralta's 13 strikeouts is a new franchise record for a rookie pitcher.

Trying to keep up with the masterful performance from Peralta, Jon Gray's outing was not as poor as the scorecard may indicate, but struggles with consistency costed him big-time in the loss.

After giving up a double to Christian Yelich to lead off the game, Gray struck out the side in the first inning. It was a common theme in the contest. Gray would look really off for a hitter or two and then he would recover with a big strikeout.

The right-handed starter from Oklahoma racked up the K's for Colorado Sunday afternoon, totalling ten in 5 1/3 innings.

However, the Brewers were able to tally ten hits off him, including four extra base hits, resulting in six earned runs.

Coming into Sunday's game, Gray only gave up ten hits in his previous three starts combined. While Gray's struggles certainly hurt the Rockies Sunday, Colorado's inability to get anything going offensively kept them out of the game from the start. Seven of Colorado's eight starting position players struck out at least once and the middle of the lineup finished a combined 2-for-15 at the dish.

Tony Wolters did finally break through in the seventh inning with a 419 foot solo shot, and David Dahl gave the club some late hope with a two-run bomb in the eighth. Ultimately the lead was always safe for Milwaukee though.

The Rockies struggled in just about all facets of the game Sunday, but they at least looked good while they did it. Donning pink hats and uniform accessories in celebration of moms around the globe, Colorado's 2018 Mother's Day look was much cleaner than last season.

The pink hats and socks were nice additions to the uniform but leaving the jersey trim the same made was a good decision from the league. In 2017, the Rockies Mother's Day uniforms were a bit overwhelming, but they definitely got it right this time around.

Colorado (22-19) will have to rebound from the series loss quickly, as the Rockies will head to San Diego for a two-game set before squaring off with San Francisco for three games at AT&T Park.

Rockies celebrate Mother's Day with pink uniform accessories

Justin Michael / Mile High Sports | May 14, 2018

The Colorado Rockies will have a different look Sunday afternoon. The team will be honoring mothers around the globe with pink uniforms accessories for the rubber match against the Milwaukee Brewers, an annual tradition that the majority of players around the MLB seem to really enjoy.

Colorado's young outfielder Noel Cuevas posted a photo with a preview of the 2018 Mother's Day gear Sunday morning. Ten years ago, players would use pink bats but rarely made serious alterations to their traditional uniform choices. But in 2018, the MLB really goes all out with pink uniforms, hats, bats, cleats and a variety of other accessories.

Along with the gear on the field, the Rockies are partnering with Susan G. Komen Colorado to raise funds for breast cancer research. According to the organization's official website, their promise is "to save lives and end breast cancer forever by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all, and energizing science to find the cures."

For every ticket the Rockies sell as part of its Mother's Day package, they team will donate \$5 to Susan G. Komen Colorado. The ticket package includes an opportunity for families to walk on the field pre-game and participate in a parade around the warning track.

The Rockies snapped a three game losing streak with a 4-0 shutout victory over the Brewers Saturday night. In the victory, Kyle Freeland recorded his fourth consecutive quality start, tossing 6 1/3 scoreless innings.

Jon Gray will be looking to match the success of his young teammate with another strong performance as well. Gray has won three consecutive starts, tossing at least six innings in all three of those ballgames. Over that span, Gray has given up only one run and recorded 25 strikeouts.

Colorado Rockies: The 2018 season vs. the 2017 season by the numbers

Aaron Hurt / RoxPile | May 14, 2018

	2017	2018
W/L	26-15	22-19
Games Back	+2	3.5
Home	13-10	7-11
Away	13-5	15-8
Vs NL West	18-10	7-6
1 Run Games	9-0	7-4
RS/RA	199/184	165/185

Side by side there are a lot of things that stick out.

Obviously, the runs scored/runs against differential is a big reason for why the Rockies have won 4 less games than last year through 41 games. The offensive struggles are well documented and the Rockies are scoring a half a run less a game than last year.

Surprisingly, for as good as the pitching has been with all of the quality starts, the runs against is practically on par with the previous year. The Rockies are very lucky to have won as many games as they have had. [According to MLB.com](#), the Rockies expected record with the their run differential is 18-23.

The schedule disparity compared to last season is staggering. Rockies have played 15 less games against the NL West to start the season. This may come back to hurt the Rockies with the all teams up and down the division riddled with injuries to high profile players.

I'm guessing the Rockies would love to have seen a Dodgers or Giants series without having to face Clayton Kershaw or Johnny Cueto. This will soon change as the Rockies next 18 of 24 games are against teams in the NL West.

The early schedule has been tilted towards the road as 23 of the first 41 games have been on the road. Rockies have been praised as road warriors as they are 7 games over .500 to start the year. Last year, the Rockies started off hot on the road too but ended the season at 41-40. Past road history suggests that the Rockies will likely struggle, so the amount of games and early success bodes well the remainder of the year.

On the flip side, the Rockies' struggles at home is mind boggling. They got off to a fairly slow start last year but it was nowhere as bad as this season. The Rockies will have 62 home games remaining to somehow get to the magic number of 50 home wins to have a fighting chance at making the playoffs.

[NEXT: Nolan Arenado's grade of the Rockies through the first quarter of the season](#)

The "it's still early" excuse is officially over. The Rockies have played 25 percent of the 2018 season and its time for the Rockies' veterans to step up and make an impact. When we update these numbers at the 81 game point of the season, there better be a drastic improvement, especially in the Run Scored category, otherwise the playoff hopes will be in serious jeopardy.

Colorado Rockies prospects: Talking with Brendan Rodgers, more

Edison Hatter / RoxPile | May 14, 2018

Warren Schaeffer, Manager.

ROX PILE: So, what's the season been like for you guys as a team? You started 0-6, then won seven in a row, and now have dropped a couple in a row. What's it been like during those down times to keep positive and during the up times to just keep winning?

Schaeffer: "When you got a good team like we do, you can't get down when you're 0-6. None of the guys got down. You can't panic. I didn't panic. None of the guys panicked. We know what kind of club we got and that seven-game win streak was nice for us and we expect a lot of that. These last couple of games, we lost. We played a good ball team down there in Richmond, but it was a good experience with a lot of fans. Tough one-run game yesterday, but we're feeling good."

ROX PILE: What's it been like for Brendan Rodgers as he shifts towards playing third base from his usual shortstop and second base positions?

Schaeffer: "He's good, he's good. He's just learning it and the in-game stuff is when he's going to learn the most positioning-wise, situationally, when he's going to have to play in, back, and just see what swings look like from that side of the infield. But, he's great and it's fun as a manager to watch, to be able to put guys all over the place and have them succeed."

Brendan Rodgers, #12 prospect in all of baseball according to *Baseball Prospectus*.

ROX PILE: So you've been transitioning towards third base and today was your third game there. I could really see you working over there during batting practice. What has that transition been like for you?

Rodgers: "It's been good. It is definitely something new, but I just want to be as versatile as I can. I want to be able to play any infield position and I'm just working my butt off to learn all three as best I can."

ROX PILE: Earlier in the season, you had the chance to go out to Spring Training with the big league club for a while. What was that like?

Rodgers: "It was good. It was a good experience and I learned a lot from those guys, just picking their brains. Nolan (Arenado), DJ (LeMahieu), (Trevor) Story, definitely a good group to learn from and I just tried to learn something new every day."

ROX PILE: You started the season a little slow, hitting .143 through the first week of the season, but have definitely gotten back on track and are up to a nearly .300 batting average now. What has the approach been like at the plate through all of that?

Rodgers: "I just tried to stay consistent and calm and stick to my approach at the plate and not throw away at-bats. I just had to stay on my feet and try to put a good swing on the ball every time."

Mitch Horacek, relief pitcher who pitched in the Baltimore Orioles system from 2013 to 2017, but is a native of Littleton, Colo.

ROX PILE: What's it like being traded to your home town team after spending a few years in a different organization?

Horacek: "It's been really fun. I grew up watching the Rockies and you know I went to a lot of games when I was a little kid, so it's really cool to be playing with the Rockies logo on my chest and hat. It's just really cool."

ROX PILE: What about back in 2010 when you were originally drafted by the Rockies in the 46th round. Was it a tough decision to turn that down and go to college?

Horacek: "You know it really wasn't. I was a really late draft pick and I knew I wanted to go to school and I feel like the Rockies kind of drafted me as a courtesy pick, but it ended up being a really good thing for me. It has allowed me some other opportunities, like playing on college summer ball teams, and it wasn't really a decision at all. In fact, they didn't actually even offer me a contract or anything."

ROX PILE: With the Rockies, you've been relieving more, whereas with the Orioles you were more of a starter. What has that transition been like?

Horacek: "It was good. I mean starting is pretty hard, you have to get the lineup out three times usually and you have to have three or four pitches going. Relieving is a little different. You go in there and go all out for an inning or two with your best one or two pitches and that has suited my skill set the best, so I have really enjoyed it."

ROX PILE: You spent three years at the Hi-A level and now you've moved up to the Double-A level. What's the biggest change you've noticed?

Horacek: "I'd say the pace of play is a lot different, a lot quicker. The hitters have a better approach, and just overall everyone is a little better, it's just better quality baseball. But it's been a lot more fun, the games are just a lot more exciting for me."

Colorado Rockies: Nolan Arenado discusses the first 40 games

Kevin Henry / Mile High Sports | May 14, 2018

Certainly, there are some numbers for the Rockies to be somewhat concerned with. Through the first quarter of the season, Colorado sits 22nd in team batting average (.232) and 24th in on-base percentage (.309). The Rockies have lived and died this season by the long ball (their 51 homers rank sixth in Major League Baseball), as was the case in Saturday's win when Trevor Story hit a pair of home runs to account for three of Colorado's four runs.

Two of those runs scored on Saturday night came from Nolan Arenado, who is once again putting together an All-Star-caliber season. A .315/.409/.598 split and 1.008 OPS goes along with a team-leading 21 walks shows just why Arenado has reached base in 22 consecutive games heading into Sunday's series finale at Coors Field.

Long after the game was over, I had the chance to ask Arenado how he would grade Colorado's first quarter of the season.

"I don't know. It's been an interesting start," Arenado said. "Guys are feeling like they're not doing what they're capable of doing, yet we're still playing good. It shows what this team is about. We haven't really hit our stride yet. Hopefully, we will. I don't know when but hopefully we can do it soon and carry it on.

"We're doing a good job right now. We're winning ball games and that's all that matters."

I also asked Arenado how he personally judges the team's success and what he uses to measure that success? Does it go by series or homestand/road trip or other mile markers during the campaign?

"I judge off who we play against. How good these teams are or who is throwing those days and how we can compete," Arenado said. "It's also a long season. If we lose a series, it's doesn't mean it (the season) is over.

"The Brewers are a good test for us. They're a really good team, just like the Cubs were in Chicago or the Mets were in New York. They're all good tests for us and we know we can compete with any of them."

While the Rockies haven't found their stride yet, they've still been able to stay close in the race for the National League West lead. Part of that is due to the injuries that have plagued the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Francisco Giants. As I was talking to Arenado, the television behind me was showing the Cincinnati Reds pin a 5-3 loss on the Dodgers at Chavez Ravine.

So how does what's going on in the division affect the Rockies? Arenado was asked this, especially knowing the team leaves a nine-game road trip to San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco right after they finish the series with the Brewers on Sunday.

“We watch it. You see it. You see what’s going on. But, at the same time, I think it’s extra motivation for us to get after it and start winning ball games,” Arenado said. “We have to take care of business. But it’s still May and a lot of these other teams want to get going, just like we want to get going.”

Colorado Rockies: The curious case of Mike Dunn

Colin Gaiser / Mile High Sports | May 14, 2018

After either Jake McGee or Bryan Shaw make an appearance, Adam Ottavino and Wade Davis (aka “Wade Savis”) close games with a riveting one-two punch. They’re the magic behind the Rockies’ 7-3 record in one-run games, which is third-best in baseball.

And then there’s Mike Dunn. He is languishing in a cleanup role, off to a horrendous start to the 2018 campaign. Over 11 appearances and 9.0 innings pitched, he sports an ERA of 10.00 — the highest on the Rockies’ pitching staff. His ERA+ is an unsightly 47 and he is having serious control issues, giving up eight walks while striking out just six, contributing to a WHIP of 2.22.

There isn’t much horizontal movement to Dunn’s fastball or his high-velocity slider, so establishing control of these pitches is imperative. That control is missing so far this season. For example, if you check out at the spray charts of his eighth-inning appearance against the Pirates on April 18, batters took advantage of nearly every pitch he missed inside the zone. But if you are searching for a glimmer of optimism, Dunn’s field independent pitching (FIP) is 5.94, suggesting he is pitching better than his ERA would suggest. His batting average for balls in play (BABIP) is also an unnaturally high .367, and is bound to regress (his career average is .301).

While we revel in the success of the top end of the bullpen, Dunn has to rediscover his form while he has the chance. A baseball season is a long, grueling and chaotic slog, and there is no telling what could happen going forward. McGee has been shaky while Shaw has battled his own inconsistency. Chris Rusin looks eminently hittable. And there is always the risk of a catastrophic injury to Ottavino or Davis.

Dunn has the stuff. In 2017, he spent his first month with the Rockies pitching in high-leverage situations as an effective set-up man for Greg Holland. While pitching 7.2 innings and facing 29 batters, he struck out 10 and allowed just one run and two walks.

Of course, the honeymoon came to a grinding halt, as Dunn was disastrous in the months of May and June after a brief stint on the disabled list. He pitched 18.2 innings and was torched for seven home runs as he lost command of his fastball. Despite racking up 25 strikeouts, he gave up 13 walks, and his WHIP was 1.98. His ERA was 7.71 and his FIP was hardly better at 7.44, showing that Dunn truly dug his own grave. By the All-Star break, he was eating innings the bottom of the bullpen.

But Dunn recovered dramatically in 2017, acquiring an ERA of 3.00, a FIP of 3.49, and a WHIP of 1.13 in the period from July through September. And he only gave up *one home run*. The turnaround was more than welcome, but manager Bud Black still didn't seem to trust him as a back-end reliever, and he never regained his role as a set-up man.

NEXT: An exclusive interview with Harrison Musgrave

Guys like Brooks Pounders and Harrison Musgrave have shown potential in their brief stints with the Rockies, but Mike Dunn is a veteran with the talent and experience to be a reliever for a playoff contender. He just needs to find that form again. As the Rockies hover precariously just over .500, we shouldn't be afraid to ask: could the real Mike Dunn please stand up?

Peralta fans 13 in debut as Brewers beat Rockies 7-3

Michael Kelly / Associated Press | May 34, 2018

DENVER

Pedro Peralta cries every time his son Freddy pitches, and watching him make his major league debut was certain to bring tears.

Young Freddy made sure they were tears of joy.

Peralta took a no-hit bid into the sixth inning of his first big league start and set a Milwaukee rookie record with 13 strikeouts, leading the Brewers over the Colorado Rockies 7-3 on Sunday.

It became a memorable Mother's Day for Pedro, Peralta's mother, Octavia, and his girlfriend, Maritza, who came to Colorado expecting to watch him pitch professionally for the first time at Triple-A Colorado Springs. But a stomach illness forced Chase Anderson to miss his Saturday start against the Rockies, and Peralta's start for the Sky Sox was scratched so he could pitch for the Brewers on Sunday.

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The news brought more tears for Pedro.

"I know he cries a lot," Peralta said. "Like (Saturday), when I told him what was going on, he started crying."

A 21-year-old right-hander who was 5-1 this season at Colorado Springs, Peralta (1-0) didn't allow a hit until David Dahl hit a sharp single to center with one out in the sixth. Peralta froze Charlie Blackmon on a 92 mph fastball for a called third strike and was replaced by Matt Albers.

As he walked off the mound, the enormity of the moment nearly overcame him.

"I was like, 'Oh my god, I did it. I'm here,'" he said. "I almost started to cry. Almost."

Peralta walked two in 5 2/3 innings and left after 98 pitches. He broke the Brewers rookie strikeouts record of 12 shared by Teddy Higuera (1985), Juan Nieves (1986), Cal Eldred (1992) and Steve Woodard (1997).

His 13 strikeouts are the fourth-most in major league debuts and the most since Washington's Stephen Strasburg had 14 on June 8, 2010, according to the Brewers.

"He got his emotions out in the first three pitches and kept getting better," Milwaukee manager Craig Counsell said. "You could see by the swings they weren't comfortable with the fastball."

Peralta struck out Nolan Arenado, Carlos Gonzalez and Trevor Story in order in both the second and fourth innings.

Colorado loaded the bases in the third on a fielding error by third baseman Travis Shaw and two walks before Blackmon grounded out.

"His stuff was on point tonight," Colorado's Tony Wolters said. "I swung at some pitches and I'm like, 'Why didn't I hit that?' It just keeps cutting. Yeah, he's a good pitcher."

Jon Gray (4-5) gave up six runs and 10 hits in 5 1/3 innings.

"I feel like I had good stuff. Just didn't locate very well," Gray said. "I feel like I couldn't command my fastball."

Shaw and Jesus Aguilar homered for the Brewers, who opened a 7-0 lead by the sixth.

Tyler Saladino's RBI double and Christian Yelich's two-run single built a three-run lead in the second, Shaw made it 4-0 in the third with his ninth homer, and Aguilar hit a three-run homer against Harrison Musgrave in the sixth.

Wolters homered in the seventh against Albers, and Dahl hit a two-run drive in the eighth off Dan Jennings.

WHIFFLE BALL

Colorado batters struck out 60 times during the six-game homestand, including 15 in Sunday's loss, which means they made 38.5 percent of their outs without putting the ball in play.

"We're not happy about that. We got to make sure that those strikeouts totals come down for sure," Rockies manager Bud Black said. "It's not something that we're going to stand for as we move forward."

STILL STREAKING

With Arenado's two-out single in the sixth, he has now reached base safely in 23 consecutive games since April 12, the second longest streak of his career. He reached in 30 straight in 2014.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Brewers: RHP Zach Davis (right shoulder) played catch again, and the Brewers hope to know more Monday about his availability.

UP NEXT

Brewers: RHP Junior Guerra (2-3, 3.09) will open a three-game series in Arizona on Monday night.

Rockies: LHP Tyler Anderson (2-1, 4.23) starts a three-game series in San Diego on Monday night.