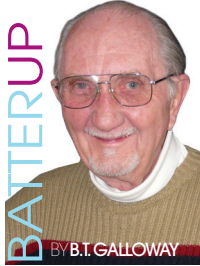


Red hot Rockies lead the West

The hot hands that have powered the Rockies opening surge of wins in this high-pressure short season are those of their pitching staff. They have grabbed the early lead in the Western Division thanks to the quality outings of their four starters German Marquez, Kyle Freeland, Jon Gray and Antonio Senzatela who have a combined ERA of 2.0.

It's apparent in this early going that each of these guys began to fade after about 80 pitches. But not to worry. The Rockies have built a powerhouse bullpen that can carry them the rest of the way. That group includes the resurgent Daniel Bard, former Miami Marlin reliever Tyler Kinley, Carlos Estevez and Jairo Diaz – all of this relief corps feature a tricky three-pitch mix with high 90s fastballs. The only negative news is that a shoulder strain suffered by would be closer Wade Davis has sent him to the 14-day IL. We were also saddened to hear that Mr. Reliable, Scott Oberg will be out for the rest of the season due to recurring blood clots in his throwing arm.

At the plate, the Rockies have been powering up but are not yet anywhere near



full speed. Through Sunday's 9-6 win over the San Diego Padres Charlie Blackmon had 10 hits and 7 RBI in 34 plate appearances, batting .353 with 1 homerun, 2 doubles.

Trevor Story was on another long ball tear launching 4 homeruns in 29 plate appearances. Another plus performer has been first baseman Daniel Murphy who is batting .364 with 8 hits in 22 at bats including a homerun. Not surprisingly, the biggest additional plus in the lineup has been veteran slugger Matt Kemp. Appearing mainly as the designated hitter he's batting .385 with 5 hits in 13 at bats which include 2 homeruns. It's been slow going so far for the big bats of Nolan Arenado (.235). David Dahl (.263) and Ryan McMahon (.242). Fear not. Before this season progresses much further these three will be heard from big time.

For the next month the Rockies have their work cut out for them. They'll be playing 25 games in the 26 days including a 3-game series in LA with the Dodgers. This long trek begins on Friday with a trip to Seattle for a weekend series with the Mariners at T-Mobile Park.

Starting college during a global pandemic

BHGHCO Collegian begins his next chapter

Meet Isai.

He is a recent graduate of Aurora Central High School. In a few short weeks, he will be headed to Colorado State University. He's wanted to go there for as long as he can remember. His brother is a CSU graduate. I sat down with him (via phone) and asked him what moving to CSU during a global pandemic looks like.

The move into campus housing will begin during the week of August 16th. The university has dedicated the entire week to this process in order to break up the number of people arriving at one time. Classes will begin on August 24th.

Isai is beyond excited and he expressed that he cannot believe it is finally here. He remembers beginning Spring Break in March, unsure of whether he would ever be physically going back to high school once quarantine began. College seemed so far off. But time has flown and here he is, done with Summer and setting out to begin his future. He says it feels unreal at times.

Preparing for college living is slightly different nowadays. With technology, you're able to find a compatible roommate ahead of time, through an app called RoomSync. With this app, Isai was aligned with different profiles that matched his interests and he began messaging potential roommates weeks ago. By the time it came to choosing a roommate, he and his new friend were requesting to live with one another. Sounds like an incredible way to avoid that move in awkwardness, meeting for the first time, amongst parents, siblings, tons of boxes and all your Walmart bags filled with the essentials you need when you're on your own for the first time. His roommate also comes from a local Aurora high school, so they will have a lot in common.

Isai and his roommate have what is called a double suite. While he is not completely sure what that looks like, but he mentions that the school is taking precautions wherever they can and upon move in they have packages for sale that include washable masks, hand sanitizer, gloves and even a door opener so that no student has to touch a door handle.

Classes will be a hybrid of both responsible, in person



Isai is headed to Colorado State University

social distance learning and online classes. Either way, Isai is excited for this tangible campus experience. He knows that not every starting Freshman has this opportunity in 2020. He also cannot wait to get involved in campus activities and the community. Living in Fort Collins will be a new freedom for him. He

talks about the responsibility of handling himself, exploring on his own and getting to know life as an adult.

While he remains undecided, he is considering both bio-medical and electrical engineering. Whatever his choice, this amazing young man will succeed at whatever he dreams. I asked him what

his best advice is for the other current scholars, working towards graduation and college acceptance. His words of wisdom

not only showcase who he is, but also - as I quickly relayed them to my daughter who is just beginning high school - very sound guidance.

"Most important, take advantage of concurrent enrollment. If you can take college courses, make sure you do, as that is free knowledge and it will set you up to be successful in college. You will better understand what to expect. GPA does matter, but so do things like AP courses and being involved. Learn as much as you can. Be a part of the community. Take advantage of extra-curricular activities – sports, clubs, volunteering." Isai goes on to add, "Prioritize building your resume. How do you want to represent yourself to colleges? It's important to decide that early on."

I ended our conversation wondering who was older and wiser – me or Isai? He is an impressive individual and the team at BHGHCO looks forward to watching him achieve every goal he sets for himself!

Support Isai and other scholars like him by providing school supplies and college dorm accessories at

bhghcolorado.org/wishlist

Colorado Ballet announces cancellations and updates to its 60th Anniversary Season

The Nutcracker and Ballet MasterWorks Canceled & Giselle Postponed to 2021

Colorado Ballet announced July 29 the cancellation of two productions in its 60th Anniversary Season, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. All 2020 performances of Colorado Ballet's beloved production of The Nutcracker are canceled, along with the 2021 production of Ballet MasterWorks. Giselle, originally slated to take place in October, will replace Ballet MasterWorks, moving all performances out of 2020.

"It is with a very heavy heart that we must announce the cancellation of The Nutcracker this season, as well as Ballet MasterWorks in 2021, which will be replaced with our postponed season opening production of Giselle," stated Colorado Ballet's Artistic Director Gil Boggs. "The safety of our dancers, staff and audiences is our highest priority, and we want to ensure that everyone who experiences Colorado Ballet's in-person performances in the future is able to do so safely. We have worked with all constituencies to evaluate every possible option. After many months of discussions and monitoring the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have unfortunately been forced to realize that we cannot safely conduct performances at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House for the remainder of 2020."

"This is certainly not the way we hoped to open our 60th Anniversary Season," stated

Boggs. "The Nutcracker was our first production 60 years ago, so it's very difficult for us to imagine a holiday season without it. We were looking forward to unveiling new sets and costumes for our 60th anniversary performance, but now hope to unveil them for The Nutcracker in 2021. We are extremely grateful to all our patrons and supporters for helping to build Colorado Ballet into the strong and vital organization it is today. We will get through these difficult times together, and we will be back."

Previously scheduled for five productions at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, Colorado Ballet's 60th Anniversary season will now feature three productions: The Great Gatsby (February 5 – 7, 2021), The Wizard of Oz (March 5 – 14, 2021) and Giselle (April 9 – 18, 2021).

Colorado Ballet's 60th Anniversary season was originally scheduled to open October 9, 2020 with eight performances of Giselle and continue in November and December with 26 performances of The Nutcracker. Ticketing revenue from these two productions was projected to be between \$3.5 and \$4M.

Colorado Ballet's dancers returned to work this week, following their summer break, to begin class and rehearsals virtually through Zoom. They will be working on choreography for next year's performances of Giselle. Additionally, Colorado Ballet's staff and Academy teachers remain employed. The Raydean Acevedo Colorado Ballet Academy will offer virtual classes in the fall semester starting on August 17, 2020.



Boys Hope Girls Hope

"Prioritize building your resume. How do you want to represent yourself to colleges? It's important to decide that early on."
– Isai