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(Colo.)-Lifeless Arizona Drops 4-3 Decision To Colorado

By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 04/21/2013 07:51 AM

DENVER (AP) - Diamondbacks manager Kirk Gibson and outfielder Cody Ross got steamed up and thrown out.

After the Diamondbacks' 4-3 loss to Colorado, though, in which both were ejected in the seventh inning, they were just disappointed.

"We didn't have a very good game," Gibson said. "We made a couple of errors to give them unearned runs, made a couple of outs on the bases and we had a shaky start."

Ross was glum, too.

"The concentration level is down, collectively as a group," Ross said. "It doesn't seem like we have that fire. We need to start from the first pitch and not have to come back in the seventh, eighth and ninth innings."

Colorado starter Jorge De La Rosa pitched six innings of two-hit ball, Michael Cuddyer homered and the Colorado Rockies won their season-high eighth in a row by beating the Arizona Diamondbacks 4-3 on Saturday night.

"We swung at some mighty good pitches," Gibson said. "He kept the ball down and threw a lot of off-speed pitches."

De La Rosa (2-1) won for the first time at Coors Field since returning late last year from reconstructive surgery on his pitching (left) elbow. And he resumed his mastery at home of the Diamondbacks, improving to 7-0 with a 1.38 ERA in eight career starts against Arizona at Coors Field.

He struck out four and walked two and didn't allow a run in a second consecutive six-inning outing as the Rockies ran their home record to 8-0. Colorado is the only team in the majors without a loss at home.

Cuddyer connected for his fourth homer of the season in the sixth, driving the first offering from

Trevor Cahill (0-3) into the left field bleachers. It's the first time in Cahill's career that he's started a season with three straight losses.

Gibson and Ross were run by plate umpire Chad Fairchild for arguing balls and strikes.

Ross took a called third strike to end the top of the seventh and flipped his bat in disgust. Fairchild responded immediately with an ejection. An enraged Ross moved toward the umpire but was held back by Gibson.

"I've done it a few times. Normally it is an equipment violation," Ross said. "I was frustrated with myself, for us not swinging the bat the last few games. It's just a lot of frustration."

As Ross went off the field, Gibson began arguing heatedly with Fairchild. The umpire listened for a bit before Gibson, too, was thrown out.

An error that ended their eight-game run without one as well as a base-running mistake cost Arizona.

Josh Rutledge, rounding third on Reid Brignac's second-inning single to right, was caught in a rundown but wound up scoring when catcher Wil Nieves threw the ball into the dirt for an error as he chased the runner back towards third. The ball rolled past the bag into left field, allowing Rutledge to score easily.

Trailing 3-0, Arizona got a leadoff single from Martin Prado in the fourth. Paul Goldschmidt followed with a deep fly ball to center, and Prado tagged up and tried to advance but was cut down at second by center fielder Dexter Fowler's throw and Rutledge's relay to shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, who was covering the bag.

The Rockies' defense also nipped another fledgling Arizona rally in the fifth. Nieves drew a one-out walk and Josh Wilson followed with a grounder up the middle that looked like it would get through. But Tulowitzki ranged to his left, dipped his glove down to snag the ball and quickly flipped it to Rutledge for the force before the second baseman fired to first for the inning-ending double play.

Arizona didn't break through until Eric Chavez hit a two-run, pinch-hit home run in the eighth off reliever Edgmer Escalona.

The Diamondbacks loaded the bases with one out in the ninth against closer Rafael Betancourt with a double by A.J. Pollock, a single by Paul Goldschmidt and a walk by Gerardo Parra.

Pollock scored from third on pinch-hitter Miguel Montero's groundout to first before Betancourt got Nieves to fly out to right for his seventh save in seven chances.

In the third, Eric Young Jr. led off with a triple that rolled to the center field wall. Cahill hit the next

batter, Dexter Fowler, with a pitch that caught him on the right wrist. After Fowler stole second, Young scored and Fowler advanced on Carlos Gonzales' ground out. Tulowitzki then lifted a fly to deep left that scored Fowler.

NOTES: Parra replaced Ross after his seventh inning ejection. ... Jason Kubel's stay on the 15-day disabled list could be extended after an MRI found a fluid buildup in his left quad. ... Arizona RHP Brandon McCarthy (0-2) is slated to pitch Sunday's series finale against Colorado RHP Juan Nicasio (2-0).