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This 'nightmare' buried its would-be rider in the slop; but the Brent Lachman team recovered to ride off with first place in the wild horse racing event at the Whoop-Up Days Rodeo on Thursday.

HERALD PHOTO BY KEVIN KOOP

Mudders make rodeo mark

By GARRY ALLISON
of The Herald

If there's one constant in rodeo it's that rain creates mud and mud creates havoc. The second performance of the Whoop-Up Days Rodeo was blessed with rain and mud Thursday — about six inches of the gooey stuff throughout the entire arena.

As stock contractor Greg Kesler said, different animals react differently to the sloppy going. "Some broncs are mudders, just like horses on a race track," said Kesler. "The mud also affects the broncs, very much so. If a horse has a little extra spunk this is the type of weather that will bring that out. The older, more seasoned horses, the ones that have seen this weather before and may have fallen or slipped, well, when they feel their feet slip and they can't get a good hold they'll just carefully do what they have to get things finished."

Kesler said while the mud was evident there's still a good solid base underneath. But if the rains continue through tonight and Saturday it will be treacherous by the final day.

Bulls have split hooves said Kesler and those hooves can move about and adjust to the ground. A horse's hoof is flat and slides just like a ski.

He said the saddle bronc riders who've had a horse fall with them in the past and maybe even hung up are a lot more cautious in this type of weather. On the other hand the weather has little affect on bareback riders.

Steers and calves have a sticky time in the mud and in particular the calf ropers have a problem running down their rope to the calf. Pickup men, who help the cowboys off the broncs at the end of the

ride, have to be careful to pickup on the straight away and not in a corner. As the horses turn and the cowboy shifts his weight from the bronc to the pickup horse there's a potential for a spill if they are cornering.

A Red Bluff, Calif. cowboy — where drought is a way of life — found the Whoop-Up mud to his liking.

Toby Adams spurred out a 79 on Kesler's Crazy Blaze to take the lead in the saddle bronc event.

He said of the 125 rodeos he will

Muddy night's madness for chuckwagon racers

The idea in the pony chuckwagon racing Thursday night at Whoop-Up Downs was to get into the lead and stay there.

That way you finished covered in the least amount of mud.

Mud was flying everywhere, off wheels and hooves, and there wasn't a laundromat or a car wash in site.

The mud brought running times down about 10 seconds off Wednesday night's opening races.

But Thursday's mud didn't bother Gary Cook, driver of the Fernie Carthage rig.

He had the fastest running time of the night, a 112.27 second tour of the sloppy Whoop-Up track.

But he still trails the two-day leader Bill Ramage in the West End Husky rig from Rocky Mountain House.

Ramage has a two-day running time of 218.76 seconds, just ahead of Peter Donald and the Rent A Wreck wagon sitting at 219.26.

competes at this year only about 10 will be mud baths.

"I don't think about the mud," he said. "Sometimes a horse may lose its footing, but this one here was all right."

Adams, in the top 20 in the world standings, said Crazy Blaze just jumped and kicked and ignored the mud.

Kesler's former world champion saddle bronc, Skoal's Alley Cat, enjoyed the mud as he dumped his rider, Norman Kerr of Kamloops, square in the middle of it.

Ken Waterston of Kamloops and

Todd Brantner of Wrentham liked rolling in the mud as well and took the lead in the steer wrestling, both with four second runs.

Veteran barrel racer Francis Church, who has a son and a daughter in university, was disappointed with the mud Thursday. She said her young horse just isn't ready for the heavy going and has seen too many wet rodeos this spring and summer.

Church, from Calgary, riding another horse, rounded the barrels in 26.54 seconds. The leader is Rayel Robinson of Sundre, with a 16.67 second run Wednesday night.

Wednesday's leaders in bull riding, bareback bronc riding and calf roping remained the same.

For a complete list of Whoop-Up Days rodeo times and scores after two days see The Herald's Scoreboard.

Third is first-night leader Jack Stott in the Mailer, Stott Livestock wagon at 219.29.

Cook is fourth at 219.41. Top driver each night receives \$108 and the prize money is scaled down through to the last driver in the 24 wagons. There are eight heats each night, three wagons to a heat.

The pony chuckwagons are super quick off the barrels, even in the mud. They are so fast they hold the track record at Ponoka and that includes the big wagons that run at the Calgary Stampede.

The cold and wet weather not only took its toll on the race track but in the grandstand as well. There were only 110 people on hand at the start of the pony chuckwagon races.

The pony chucks hit the track again tonight at 6:30.

A complete two-day total of wagon times appears in The Herald's Sports Scoreboard.

New York ended a four-game losing streak.

Tigers 5 Angels 3
In Detroit, Cecil Fielder hit his major-league leading 30th homer and Mark Leiter (3-2) won as a starter for the first time since July 31, 1990.

Royals 6 Brewers 5
In Milwaukee, George Brett led off the 11th inning with his seventh homer of the season for Kansas City as Tom Gordon (7-9) allowed four hits in three innings and Jeff Montgomery registered his 21st save.

A's 4 Red Sox 2
In Boston, Dave Henderson's ninth-inning, two-run single led Oakland to its ninth win in 11 games. Joe Klink (8-2) went eight innings for the victory while Dennis Eckersley added his 28th save.

White Sox 13 Rangers 2
In Chicago, Frank Thomas drove

in three runs as the White Sox won their eighth straight.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Phillies 4 Expos 1
In Montreal, Terry Mulholland (10-10) pitched a three-hitter as Philadelphia (43-58) climbed into a last-place tie with the Expos in the NL East. About all the 24,953 paying customers at Olympic Stadium had to cheer about was a pre-game ceremony to honor Expos' pitcher Dennis Martinez, who threw a perfect game Sunday against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Giants 8 Reds 1
Kevin Mitchell and Will Clark homered to lead a 17-hit attack that carried San Francisco to their 11th straight win Thursday night.

Cardinals 6 Pirates 3
In St. Louis, Jose Oquendo extended his hitting streak to eight games, going 3-for-3 with three runs-batted in.

Olerud, Gruber help jump-start Jays' offence

By The CANADIAN PRESS
TORONTO (CP) — John Olerud and Kelly Gruber, silent partners in the Blue Jays' early climb to the top of the American League East, let their bats do the talking Thursday afternoon.

Olerud and Gruber each homered and drove in three runs as Toronto rallied from a 5-3 deficit for a 7-5 win over the Cleveland Indians.

The Blue Jays, who left for Boston immediately after the game for a three-game series with the Red Sox starting tonight, kept their six-game edge on second-place Detroit.

Solid pitching and defence plus an offence jump-started by Devon White, Roberto Alomar and Joe Carter sent Toronto into first place before the all-star break. Olerud struggled to get above .200 while Gruber was sidelined most of time with an ailing right hand.

Since the three-day break, however, Gruber has hit five homers and driven in 14 runs while Olerud

is 18-for-44 (.409) in his last 11 games.

"It makes it awfully hard if you rely on the same guys every night," said Olerud, who drove in the winning run with a bases-loaded sacrifice fly against Indians reliever Jesse Orosco. "I know I wasn't contributing the way I thought I could."

Carlos Martinez's RBI single — lengthening his hitting streak to 16 games — staked Cleveland to a 1-0 lead in the first inning.

But the Jays responded with three runs in the bottom half on Olerud's run-scoring double and Gruber's 11th homer, a two-run shot.

The Indians went on to score single runs in each of the next four frames, however, largely due to a severe case of wildness by Toronto starter Juan Guzman. The rookie right-hander served up six walks, a hit batsmen and four runs in his brief stint.

"I've never seen my fastball

LAA midget players urged to register for camp

University of Lethbridge Pronghorns' hockey coach Dave Adolph and the LAA (Lethbridge Athletic Association) which operates all the select hockey teams in the city, are working together to offer LAA bantam and midget age hockey camps in August.

The camps are geared towards more than just conditioning and drills, they emphasize team systems and team strategy sessions during the days and scrimmages in the evenings, with both bantam and midget camps to run Aug. 26-30.

"The bantam camp is already full, we have 23 players in one session and 24 in the other for 47

in total; but we badly need midget players, right now we have 11 registrations," says Adolph.

Adolph points out that the midget camp can't run without more registration and registration deadline of Aug. 5 has now been left open until the day the camp opens.

"The LAA inform me that for some reason midget age players tend to be slower in registering and we want to offer camps for both age groups."

The bantam sessions run from 12 to 1:30 p.m. and 1:45 to 3:15 p.m. each day with scrimmage from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each night and the midget

camp is slated to run 3:30 to 5 p.m. and 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. with scrimmaging from 8:45 to 10:15 p.m. each day. Civic Arena is host for both camps.

Midget age players interested in registering should contact Dave Adolph by phoning 329-2681 during the days. All registrations are being taken by phone. Registration fee for the camp is \$120, which covers 15 hours of instruction and ice-time.

Eight instructors will work with the camp, including Dave Adolph, Doug McLeod, Mark Kabayama and Al Lockyer, along with coaches out of the LAA system.

Argentina posts win over Canada

By CHRIS CARIOU
EDMONTON (CP) — Canada withstood the din of Latin drums from Argentina's fans but the hosts could not hold off their opponents despite a spirited comeback Thursday at the world junior basketball championship.

The Canadians fell behind 16-6 early and trailed 32-24 at the half before taking a 40-39 lead seven minutes into the second half. But they ran out of steam as Argentina won 69-65.

The loss eliminated Canada from the medal round beginning Saturday, leaving the hosts 0-3 in the championship round and now unable to finish better than fifth overall. They could finish as low as eighth.

"Everybody's happy with their performance," said six-foot-five forward Rowan Barrett of Toronto, who had 14 points for Canada. The Canadians had talked all week about finishing in the final four.

"We played hard, it wasn't that we let down, but we are kind of disappointed."

The Canadians had to win by 22 points to get into the medal round. Barrett said the strategy was to hold Argentina defensively in the first half and reassess the game plan then.

"If we were up by nine or 10, then we were going to go for the gold," he said. "If not, we were just going to go for the win. We tried to go for the win, but we fell a little short."

Down by eight at the half, Canada mounted a brilliant comeback and took the lead with seven minutes gone in the second half. The teams exchanged three-point field goals but Argentina pulled away.

The hosts fell behind by eight but reduced that lead to four as six-foot-four guard Keith Vassell of Toronto made a slam dunk with no time left on the clock to push his team high points total to 16.

"We put ourselves in that hole and then we fight back, fight back

and fight back," said Canadian coach Ken Olynyk. "We actually took the lead but we just couldn't maintain it."

"If we finish fifth, it's the best finish Canada has ever had," he said. "That's what we go for, that's what we shoot for. When you make the championship side of the world championship, there are no easy games."

The win vaulted Argentina past Brazil and Canada into the medal round along with the United States, 3-0 through the championship round and unbeaten in six tournament games overall.

Italy, also 6-0, advanced from the other pool into the medal round along with Yugoslavia, the defending champions from the last world championship for players under 20 in 1987.

Italy will play Argentina on Saturday while the Americans, two-time winners of the championship in 1979 and 1983, will take on Yugoslavia, the country that beat them in the 1987 final.

The winners of those games will play in Sunday's final for first place, while the losers of Saturday's games will also play Sunday for third place.

Canada drops into a group with Spain, Romania and Brazil to fight for placings five through eight. The Canadians will play Spain on Saturday while Romania takes on Brazil.

The winners of those two games will square off for fifth place, the losers will play for seventh. Canada's best finish ever was in 1987, when it ended up sixth.

In other results Thursday, Yugoslavia qualified for the final four despite losing 99-95 to Spain. The defending champs got in by virtue of a better points differential than Romania and Spain, who also were 1-2.

The U.S. beat Brazil 94-78 and Italy defeated Romania 96-89.

Elks hope big bats can help claim title

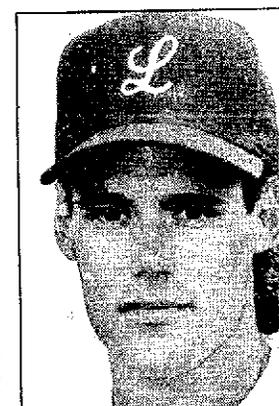
Lethbridge Elks' coach Dave Dickerson feels the club has some definite strengths to work from as the Elks head to the Montana State American Legion AA Baseball Championships in Kalispell commencing Saturday.

An eight team, true double knockout championship will see Elks opening at 12:30 p.m. against Helena, third place finishers in the East Division of the league.

Elks finished second in the six team West Division. Their 14-8 record was primarily built around a great first half to the campaign and possibly the best hitting lineup in either division of the league.

The hitting and what Dickerson feels is the best one-two starting pitching combination in the division must help the club overcome some lack of pitching depth and inconsistent defensive play.

"We were on the road and so busy in the late scheduling that we didn't have much time to practice and practice is what you need to work on your defence. Late in the year our defence was pretty shaky, we were back on our heels with too many untimely errors."



DAVE DICKERSON

On the mound, Doug Schow and Kevin Hurt have excelled for most of the season and while there may be some starters as good in Montana State play, Dickerson feels no one can put a better one-two combination out for games.

"Depth is a problem for most teams on the mound. I feel Kevin Reedyk is our third starter entering the playoffs and Scott Sleightholm (one of the youngest players on the team) has steadily improved with work late in the year and would be our fourth man."

Elks can also call upon Ron Strate, Tom Rodzinyak and Lethbridge Miners' call-up J.C. Beresnak for pitching help.

"As a team we are hitting something like .320 and Schow, Hurt, Rodzinyak and Nowlin are all well over .300, while Reedyk has had a hot late season bat and along with Strate are both around .300."

Elks can expect their stiffest competition for a possible state title to come from the two respective division winners. Missoula Mavericks out of the west finished 18-2 but could only split four games with the Elks and Miles City from the East division are a very aggressive club with outstanding team speed. Other teams in the eight team playoffs include Whitefish and host Kalispell along with Billings Royals and Billings Scarlets.

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