

IDAHO FALLS CHUKARS

Chukars bash the Brewers in Helena

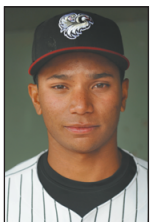
■ Idaho Falls built a 6-0 lead in the third inning and staved off any Brewers rally.

POST REGISTER

At Helena, Mont., the Idaho Falls Chukars built an early lead and held on Thursday to top the Helena Brewers 10-6. Idaho Falls (7-14) earned their third road victory of the season as

it opened a 6-0 lead after the second inning.

The Chukars brought home three runs in the second on a Carlos Garcia sacrifice fly and RBI singles from Humberto Arteaga and Elier Hernandez. Idaho Falls added another three runs in the third inning on a throwing error and



Garcia

Nick Cuckovich's two-run single, and it held a comfortable lead the rest of the night.

Helena (12-9) threatened late, loading the bases in the ninth and scoring three runs in its last at-bats. But right-handed reliever Glenn Sparkman eventually worked out of the jam to earn the four-inning save.

Tyler Mack notched the win in relief of starting pitcher Cody Reed, Kansas City's second-round pick in June. Mack surrendered one run (zero earned) on

three hits in two innings after four walks racked up Reed's pitch count and he exited after the three innings.

Atreaga finished the game 3 for 6 with two RBIs and Cuckovich and Dominique Taylor each added a pair of hits for the Chukars, who recorded 10 hits, all singles. Helena aided Idaho



Mack

Falls' cause with 11 walks.

Third baseman Hunter Dozier saw his hitting streak come to an end at 11 games with an 0-for-4 night. But the Royals' first-round pick walked twice, ensuring that he has reached base in all 21 games so far this summer.

Idaho Falls concludes its four-game series in Helena tonight before moving on to Missoula for a three-game series starting Saturday. It returns home from the seven-game road trip Wednesday to face Helena.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



Gene J. Puskar / Associated Press

Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Jeff Locke delivers during the third inning against the Philadelphia Phillies in Pittsburgh on July 3.

LOCKED IN

Pirates send surprise hit Jeff Locke to All-Star Game

■ The lefty has a 2.15 ERA and is 8-2.

WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Jeff Locke understands the entire premise is borderline preposterous.

Four months ago, the 25-year-old left-hander was simply hoping to escape spring training with a spot at the back end of the Pittsburgh Pirates' starting rotation.

Now he's fielding questions

about whether he'd feel comfortable appearing in the All-Star game on one day's rest.

No, seriously.

"Every once in a while, there's a little reality check," Locke said.

The reality, for the moment, is that Locke is one of baseball's biggest surprises. With one start remaining before jetting off to New York, Locke is 8-2 with a 2.15 ERA, second-best in the NL behind Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw.

To be honest, Locke is so surprised about his rapid ascension from question mark to steady

presence, he says he doesn't really care. If he pitches on Tuesday night, great. If he spends a couple days star gazing in the Big Apple and giving his arm some time off, that's just fine, too.

"My main focus is here, it will always be here," Locke said while surrounded by reporters in the Pittsburgh clubhouse on Wednesday afternoon. "I'd like to go there and play some catch with some of those guys but that's about it."

In a game designed to showcase baseball's household names, Locke may need to wear

an ID tag just to get inside Citi Field.

With his mop-top of brown hair and slight build, Locke looks more like a high schooler than one of the bright lights of the season's first half.

Yet don't let the slender 6-foot, 185-pound frame or the kid-next-door grin fool you. Locke isn't one for self-promotion, but he never doubted he could excel in the big leagues if given the

■ Locke won his starting spot with a great spring showing

LOCKE, Continued on Page B2

NFL Football

Broncos admins can't buck trouble in offseason

■ Broncos players have stayed out of the spotlight, but top administrators haven't set a good example.

ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Denver Broncos coach John Fox gathered his players at midfield last month just before they dispersed for summer vacation and gave them his usual admonition about staying out of trouble.

By all accounts, they have heeded that advice not to embarrass themselves or the organization. But Executive Vice President John Elway's top two assistants haven't.

"Just make good decisions, be smart," Fox said

that hot June 13 afternoon, a mantra heard across the league as players scattered for some R&R following months of offseason workouts.

One day before, the Broncos brass had learned that Tom Heckert, the former Cleveland Browns general manager, had been charged with driving under the influence in nearby Parker just a month after being hired as Denver's director of pro personnel.

The Broncos kept Heckert's June 11 arrest quiet until The Associated Press reported it Tuesday, a day after Broncos director of player personnel Matt Russell, Elway's right-hand man, apologized for his arrest over the weekend on suspicion of driving under the influence stemming from his crash into a police SUV.

The revelation of a second

■ The hiding of Heckert's arrest sparked outcry on social media

BRONCOS, Continued on Page B2

SOCCER

Alleged Gold Cup fixer found

■ Belize players came forward and said the man offered money to throw Tuesday's match.

BRADY McCOMBS

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A man who allegedly offered two Belize players large sums of money to fix a Gold Cup match against the United States has been identified by football officials, and he's believed to have tried to fix matches in other countries.

In a statement on Thursday, CONCACAF said it and FIFA are investigating the bribery allegations made by Ian Gaynair and Woodrow West. The players said

they rejected the offer, made on Sunday, and immediately reported it. When a CONCACAF representative showed them a photo of a man being monitored for trying to fix matches in other countries, the Belize players confirmed it was the same man who approached them.

"So this isn't just about our country or a one-time thing," coach Ian Mork said after practice. "This is something much bigger."

Belize lost to the United States 6-1 on Tuesday in its first Gold Cup appearance. It faces Costa Rica here on Saturday, and finishes Group C play next Tuesday with a game against Cuba.

CONCACAF said it could not comment further on the ongoing investigation. But Mork said he

doesn't believe the players were asked to fix any other games beside Tuesday's match against the U.S.

FIFA investigated reports of fixed matches at the 2011 Gold Cup, with Sports Illustrated reporting the questionable games involved Cuba, Grenada and El Salvador.

Only two of the 23 players in Belize's squad play professionally: Goalkeeper Shane Orio and defender Elroy Smith play in Honduras. The rest have regular jobs and play in the semi-pro league in Belize in their free time.

"We're just trying our best to compete at this level," said Mork,

■ The Belize team had to host fundraisers to pay for expenses

FIXING, Continued on Page B2



Don Ryan / Associated Press

Belize's Elroy Smith, right, and United States' Chris Wondolowski chase down the ball during the first half of their CONCACAF Gold Cup match in Portland, Ore., on Tuesday.