

Former Em Appier beats Yanks

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kevin Appier's first two starts have produced two victories, 15 strikeouts and an 0.71 ERA.

"I feel pretty good out there," Appier said Sunday after pitching the Kansas City Royals to a 9-3 victory over the New York Yankees. "I was a little wild at times, but overall I feel good. The slider wasn't working as well as opening day, but it was still working pretty good."

Pitching on three days of rest, Appier struck out eight in six innings, allowing three hits and three walks.

Only one run off Appier, who was lifted on opening day after holding Baltimore hitless for 6 1/2 innings, was earned.

"Appier has been just terrific," said manager Bob Boone, who's trying to keep his rotation going on three days of rest in the early part of the season. "You couldn't ask for much more."

Hipolito Pichardo allowed just one hit in two innings and Jeff Montgomery worked a 1-2-3 ninth as the Yankees lost for the first time in four games this season.

Of more immediate concern to the Yankees might be the condition of catcher Mike Stanley, who was hit in the right hand by Pichardo's pitch in the eighth. He left the game.

Yankees manager Buck Showalter said it was unclear how serious the injury might be.

"It's just too early to say. We'll have to wait and see. But he had a pretty good lick," Showalter said.

He said the Yankees were planning no roster moves.

"If it's not broken, it could be a one- or two-day thing. We'll see what our options are and what the X-rays show," he said.

Gary Gaetti drove in four runs. The game drew 14,028 despite free tickets in the outfield stands.

The Royals struck for four runs in the third off Scott Kamieniecki (0-1). Rookie outfielders Jon Nunnally and Tom Goodwin hit one-out singles and Wally Joyner followed with a RBI single.

After Bob Hamelin walked, Gaetti hit a two-run single and Greg Gagne had an RBI double.

The Yankees got a run in the third on Paul O'Neill's single, and scored two unearned runs in the fifth after shortstop Gagne threw wildly to first on Tony Fernandez's grounder. Randy Valarde walked, then Wade Boggs singled home a run and O'Neill hit a sacrifice fly that made it 4-3.

Hamelin's one-out single in the fifth chased Kamieniecki, and Gaetti greeted Scott Bankhead with a two-run homer into the left-field bleachers.

"Scott just couldn't seem to get that first strike. He was pitching behind in the count all day," Showalter said.

Yankees first baseman Don Mattingly, who last year won his ninth Gold Glove, committed a rare error when he mishandled Gaetti's two-out grounder in the sixth that allowed Wally Joyner to score the ninth run.

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Baseball attendance down slightly

NEW YORK (AP) — Despite some exceptionally small crowds, baseball attendance during the first week of the season was down only 3 percent from last April — partly due to heavy discounting by some teams.

"Given the situation of not having a lot of time to promote, it's much too early to make any judgment," acting commissioner Bud Selig said Sunday. "When there's warmer weather and races heat up, attendance will improve."

Not counting Sunday night's game at Seattle, there were 65

games in the first week of the season. Teams sold 1,843,720 tickets, an average of 28,365.

Last April, teams sold 9,290,363 tickets for 317 games, an average of 29,307. The season average was 31,611.

"I don't think we'll be able to tell till June or July what the strike did to us as far as attendance," said Philadelphia Phillies owner Bill Giles, whose team averaged 37,309 for its first two home games. "I think you're going to see some of the clubs like Kansas City and Pittsburgh in particular — who got rid of a bunch of players — hurt in

attendance."

Pittsburgh averaged 20,944 for two home games and Kansas City averaged 22,515 for four games. The Royals' figure doesn't include 5,000 free tickets that were distributed for each game.

Los Angeles, despite reducing ticket prices to just \$3.50 — the Dodgers' top price when they moved to California in 1958 — averaged 29,773 for three home games. The New York Mets sold all tickets for \$1 for a pair of weekend games against St. Louis

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meter relay team's first-place finish. The team, comprised of senior Nilka Thomas, sophomore Christie Engesser, freshman Kaarin Knudson and sophomore Vicky Fleschner, ran the race in 8 minutes, 48.27 seconds, beating second place Indiana State by just seven-tenths of a second.

Senior Camara Jones also had a strong outing in the 200-meter dash, placing fourth with a time of 23.92 seconds. She then teamed up with sophomore Nicole Commissiong, junior Jamila Godfrey and junior LaReina Woods to run a 45.03 second 400-meter relay, good for second place in the event. She also joined Thomas, Godfrey and Commissiong in the 1,600-meter relay for a third-place time of 3:36.52.

On the men's side, freshman sprinter Pat Johnson ran a personal best 100 on Friday with a time of 10.26, beating Olympian Carl Lewis, who had a time of 10.32. Despite recording a PR, Johnson lost

his first college race as Obadele Thompson of Texas-El Paso ran a 10.19 in the event. Johnson also teamed up with junior Rick Cantwell, sophomore Ben Andrews and freshman Matt Davis in the distance medley relay, for a third-place time of 9:48.6.

In addition, Oregon junior Chris Nelson took third in the high jump with a best of 7-foot-1, while senior Jeremy Williams tied for fifth place in the pole vault with a mark of 16-6 1/2 and senior Dan Zorich placed sixth in the hammer throw with a 193-9 effort.

Both teams also entered several contestants in Saturday's Western Oregon State Invitational track and field meet. Junior DeWayne Ingram won the 100 and 200 with times of 10.87 and 21.79, respectively, as Oregon's Scott Nielson won the discus competition with a throw of 163-4.

The women's team got wins from senior Keri Esterbrook in the javelin (131-7), freshman Niki Stillian in the discus (138-8) and junior Carrie Black in the triple jump (36-6 1/2).

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