

Triggers rebound from loss to beat Santa Fe 23-13

By Mike Albanese
The Chronicle-News

The Trinidad Triggers rebounded from Wednesday night's loss to pound Santa Fe with an offensive onslaught, crushing the Santa Fe Fuego 23-13 Thursday night in Santa Fe.

The final game of the three-game set in Santa Fe Friday was rained out and is being rescheduled.

Pecos League Commissioner Andrew Dunn said there is a possibility the game could be moved to Trinidad.

The Triggers pounded

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Triggers	1	0	3	3	4	9	3	0	0	23	25	10
Santa Fe	0	1	0	0	5	0	1	0	6	13	15	4

Winning pitcher: Anthony Smith - 4.1 IP, 6 R, 3 ER
Key Stat: Alex Loftin - 6-6, 2 RBI

Santa Fe pitcher Isaac Hernandez around the park with 25 hits in Thursday night's win.

Trinidad starting pitcher Anthony Smith captured the win for Trinidad, despite pitching 4.1 innings and surrendering six runs,

three of them earned.

John Sullivan surrendered one unearned run in two innings of work and outfielder Andrew Riddick provided two innings on the mound, surrendering five runs, but only one earned run.

The Triggers made 10 errors on the night.

Shortstop Alex Loftin went 6-6 and had two RBI and Jacob Fabry, Daniel Pembroke and Rob Herrmann went yard for the Triggers.

Riddick went 3-6 with

two RBI, and third baseman Ryan Pembroke went 3-7 and three RBI.

Trinidad scored in every inning except the second, eighth and ninth and were led by a nine-run sixth inning.

Trinidad began a week-

end series of scrimmages with the El Paso Diablo's. The Triggers did not start the weekend right, losing 11-2n to El Paso and walking 17 batters.

The Triggers games against El Paso are non-league games and will not count in the standings.

Triggers will return to Central Park May 24 to take on the Alpine Cowboys at 7 p.m.

Contact Mike Albanese at malbanese@trinidadchroniclenews.com or 719-846-3311 ex 207.



Associated Press

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, right, puts up a shot as Denver Nuggets center JaVale McGee defends during the second half in Game 7 in their first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Saturday in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 96-87.

Nuggets lose out in first round of playoffs as Lakers move on

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press

DENVER — The Denver Nuggets are one-and-done in the NBA playoffs again. Only this ouster has a much different feel.

The young team grew up in a hurry in taking the star-studded Los Angeles Lakers to the brink before losing a thrilling Game 7 at Staples Center on Saturday night.

They even impressed Kobe Bryant, who said the Nuggets "showed a lot of heart."

Along with plenty of promise.

Ty Lawson established himself as a bona fide difference-maker, and joining him with flashes of brilliance at various points were rookie Kenneth Faried, speedster Corey Brewer, forward Danilo Gallinari, big man JaVale McGee, guard Arron Afflalo and center Timofey Mozgov.

Al Harrington and Andre Miller provided the veteran leadership, and they nearly pulled off the upset.

"I'm proud of the team," coach George Karl said. "I've never been in a locker room after the season where every guy in front of me I'm happy with and I'm content with. We're staying with the same crew and going to work next year."

Well, not entirely.

Miller is an unrestricted free agent this summer and he suggested after the game that if he's going to be a backup like he was this season for the first time in his stellar career, it might as well be with a championship contender.

The Nuggets aren't quite there yet.

But they are showing signs of moving in the right direction after general manager Masai Ujiri's second major makeover in 15 months brought in the raw but promising McGee — who will be a restricted free agent this summer — in place of Nene, the oft-injured big Brazilian who never seemed productive or healthy enough to get the Nuggets over the hump.

Denver has advanced past the first round just once since 2003, but this time they're building with a young core that's sure to benefit from the stretched-out series that was knotted up at three games each and tied 78-all with 6:27 left Saturday night before the Lakers' big men secured the 97-88 win.

The Nuggets had trailed by 16 midway through the third quarter before going on a 27-7 run with a small lineup against the Lakers' star-studded cast of Bryant, Pau Gasol, Metta World Peace, Andrew Bynum and Steve Blake to take a four-point lead early in the fourth quarter.

It didn't last, and the Lakers advanced to the second-round against Oklahoma City, while the Nuggets went home as first-round fodder again.

"It's tough," Lawson said. "We played together and played as a team. Just the way it went down is kind of tough for us. We fought hard and we showed a lot of energy. Next year we're going to be even better."

The Nuggets jumped out to a fast start this season but

were done in by injuries and had to quickly adjust to McGee after Nene was dealt at the trade deadline. They finished strong, securing the sixth seed in the Western Conference.

They were smoked twice in L.A. to start the series, then bounced back to win three of four and put a scare into the Lakers.

"We've been dealing with all the injuries and the trades, and this team just became so close-knit and tight," said Harrington, who played through a bum knee down the stretch and a broken nose in the playoffs. "I think that's the only reason we had a chance to get out of this series. We went in expecting to compete, to have a chance to win, but we really came together in this series and proved we could win."

"It's only going to help us next year to be even better and even tougher."

The Nuggets have plenty to build on and now the young core has a taste of the intensity playoff basketball brings.

"It was a valiant effort in the second half," Karl said. "We had a lot of opportunities. The game was so physical, and I think their size won over our speed. We gave a great effort. We made them miss enough shots to win the game, but we just didn't rebound the ball. And when you have two guys (in Gasol and Bryant) that put their mind to rebounding the ball, they're damn good. I'm sure there are things we could have done better, but some of it is they're damn good, too."

Cellos Two improvises concert for intimate Shuler audience

By Tim Keller
Special to The Chronicle-News

RATON — For adjectives, you could choose short and sweet, but a more accurate description of the Cellos Two concert on the Shuler Theater stage Saturday would be rich and unique.

Master cellists who met just a few years ago and get together only every few months, Mark Dudrow and Michael Kott, sat with their cellos and no further plan than to play them together. Because the audience numbered only 24, someone had the brilliant idea of placing that many chairs on the stage in a semi-circle right around the musicians. (An "overflow" of six more people ended up sitting down in the auditorium.)

The result was an intimate concert experience like nothing heard before in Raton — unless you've had a couple of cello virtuosos break out their instruments in your living room after dinner one evening.

Adding to the magic was late-afternoon thunder and rain outside, the rain pounding the Shuler roof as the musicians began their improvisations. Later, Dudrow credited the rain, along with the close audience, for contributions to the improvisations.

The initial notes sounded like Dudrow and Kott were tuning their instruments to each other: tentative and directionless, they turned out to be tuning to each other, artist to artist.



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

When Cello Two's improvisation concert ended, the audience of two dozen erupted with appreciation.

After a minute, they'd embarked.

With the rain falling so loudly above, the first piece could have been named "Paeans to Rain" as the musicians alternately plucked and bowed. Dudrow's eyes downcast and closed in concentra-

tion, Kott's eyes wide-open and cast straight up to the roof where he seemed focused on the sounds of the rain and thunder.

Lasting 18 minutes, the first of three improvisations seemed to move through landscapes and moods, soundscapes and

minor keys, flowing so organically from one to another that transitions were difficult to detect.

Mostly this was music that's never existed before — and, because no one was recording it, will never exist again — but occasionally the musicians would

find themselves in a melody they knew. Smiles would accompany the recognition and they'd stay in the tune for a minute, sometimes accompanied by Dudrow's foot taps for traditional fiddle tunes such as "Whisky Before Breakfast" and "Angelina Baker."

Jimi Hendrix's "Manic Depression" appeared, as did part of the prelude to a Bach cello suite. Once, the cellos evoked a western movie film score influenced by the American folk tunes of Aaron Copland, Kott plucking strong bass lines while Dudrow bowed lush melodies over the rhythm.

In fact, all of the music displayed the musicians' deep rhythmic underpinnings. Great music is always rhythmically strong, and everything in the Cellos Two concert proved to be great music.

Rather than call and response, Dudrow and Kott appeared to communicate through layering. Each in turn would apply a new layer on top of what the other was doing. Results included lush melodies, fascinating counterpoints, bits of dramatic dissonance, and sometimes humor. Seated almost as close to the cellists as they were to each other, the audience was part of the circle, enveloped in the music right down to the vibrations in the floor.

Producer Landon Young said that this benefit for the 2012 ShortGrass Music Festival was the first time the festival had presented a concert of entirely improvisational music. Judging by the huge grins on the faces of the audience members during a boisterous standing ovation at the 45-minute concert's end, it shouldn't be the last time.