

# Hereford BRAND

99th Year, Vol. Number 224 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

TUESDAY, May 16, 2000

8 Pages 50 Cents

HUSTLIN' HEREFORD  
HOME OF  
Michael Kitten

## Today's weather OUTLOOK

### Partly cloudy skies

Tonight: Partly cloudy and breezy, low around 60, south to southwest wind 15 to 25 mph.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy and windy, high 85 to 90, south to southwest wind 20 to 30 mph with higher gusts.

Wednesday night: Mostly clear, low in the lower 50s.



### Extended forecast

Thursday: Partly cloudy. High around 85.

Friday and Saturday: Partly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms, low in the lower 50s, high around 80.

### Hereford weather

Monday's high, 96; low, 60; no precipitation.

## Drought affects ag value

(Editor's note: Part of this story was inadvertently omitted in the weekend edition of the Hereford Brand. The story is being reprinted in full. The newspaper regrets the error.)

By Donald M. Cooper

Hereford Brand Managing Editor

Two years of drought during the latter part of the 1990s had an adverse effect on the tax base in Deaf Smith County.

County chief appraiser Danny Jones said the value of agricultural land within the county fell by about \$6 million last year. Within the Hereford Independent School District, the value of agricultural land fell by about \$7 million.

Jones said the estimated valuation of the land for 2000 may change after the Deaf Smith County Appraisal Review Board (ARB) hears protests from property owners; however, he said the value of farmland still will be lower than in 1999.

In determining the value of agricultural land, the appraisal district includes a five-year average of crop value.

"The crop year we're looking at now was a drought year, so ... the numbers drop. I hate to lower (the value) because next year we'll have to raise it," Jones said.

He said the crop yields (and value) were down in 1997 and 1998 because of drought, but when the appraisers begin work on the 2001 valuations, the 1999 crop year will be the base — and "In 1999, some farmers made money. The yields were better than in '98 and '97."

"But the bottom line is, we lost \$6-\$7 million in value," he said.

Tax abatements also cost the county and school district about \$3 million each, Jones noted.

Archer-Daniels-Midland, which is building a grain-handling complex near the junction of U.S. Highway 60 and County Road 1, and Bimbo Cereal Foods Inc., which recently completed a masa mill near Dawn, received 50 percent, five-year tax abatements.

Because of the abatement, both companies will be taxed on half of the value of their properties. The taxable value of ADM is \$1,889,500; Bimbo's taxable value is \$4,301,960.

The value of residential prop-

Please see VALUE, Page A8

## DECISION Mayor casts the tie-breaking vote as panel adopts wastewater plan

By Donald M. Cooper

Hereford Brand Managing Editor

With Mayor Bob Josserand casting the tie-breaking vote, the Hereford City Commission directed the city engineer to design an aerated lagoon system for treatment of wastewater.

The plant will be built at the city farm.

The city's wastewater treatment plant does not meet state standards, and the commissioners have been reviewing options for breaking the plant into compliance. Following a May 2 workshop, the commissioners had narrowed its options to two: aerated lagoon system and facultative system.

The aerated lagoon system is more efficient, but more expensive to operate. The facultative system is less expensive to operate, but it also is less efficient and requires more land area.

However, either plan is capable of dealing with 1.2-1.5 million gallons of effluent generated each day by the wastewater system's customers.

The aerated lagoon method, which was recommended by the city staff, would require about 34 acres of land. There would be three aerators in each lagoon that would treat the effluent.

This system would require the installation of pumps and motors, as well as electricity. While much more efficient than the facultative system, the aerated method also is more expensive to operate and requires personnel on site.

Construction of the aerated lagoon system will cost an estimated \$4 million.

Under the facultative system, the wastewater goes into the lagoon, where it stays at a constant level. Wave action from the wind aerates the wastewater and bacteria dissolve the solids. No personnel are necessary to be on site.

For the facultative system, the

city would need three lagoons, each 10-12 feet deep covering an area of about 68 acres. This system would cost about \$6.1 million to build.

Following the formal adoption of the plan, Oller Engineering Inc. will begin drafting plans for the plant.

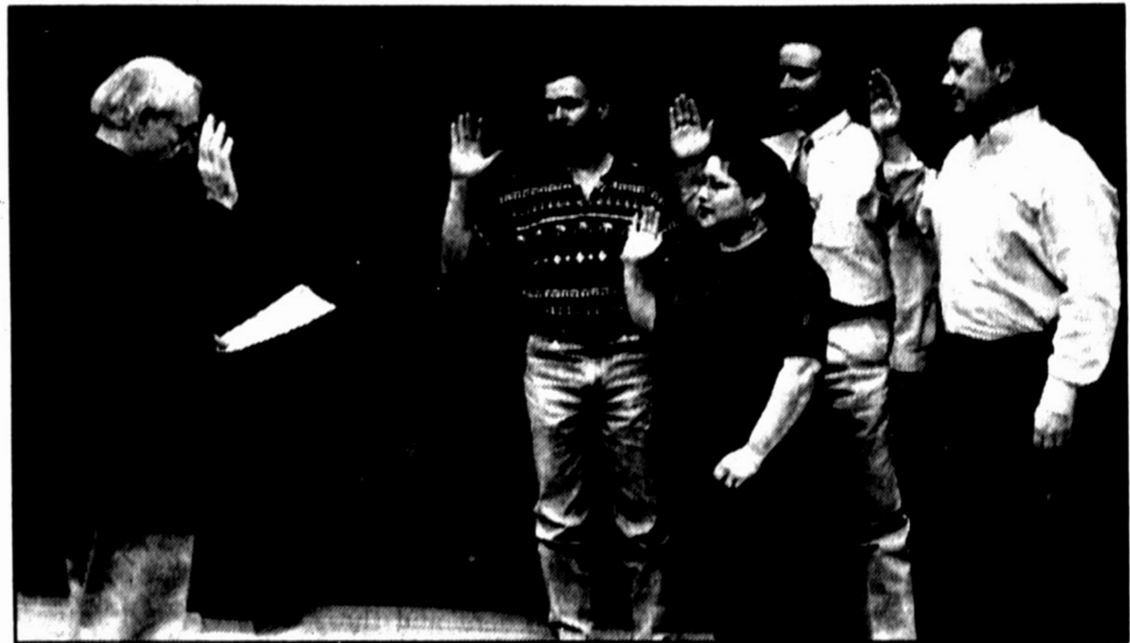
Oller Engineering developed recommendations to bring the plant up to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission standards. The recommendations ranged from adding new treatment units, renovating the treatment units or building a new plant.

The estimated cost of the recommendations range from a low of \$1.4 million for the minimal work required to meet state standards to \$6.1 million for construction of a new plant.

The city has about \$1.2 million available for the project. In anticipation of this situation, the city commission had authorized 10-percent increases in water/sewer rates for three years, with the extra revenue to be set aside for improvements to the aging facility. The last of the three annual increases went into effect last summer.

The commissioners had considered a proposal to treat a portion of the effluent for use at John Pitman Municipal Golf Course, however, the \$1 million cost for the golf course irrigation was considered prohibitive at this time.

Commissioner Wayne Winget said his concern about the project would be the possible effect on groundwater. However, he said everything he has seen so far indicates the site meets all state standards for perme-



Hereford Mayor Bob Josserand had double duty Monday night at the Hereford City Commission meeting. The mayor (above, left) swore in (from left) Wayne Winget, Angie Alonzo, Michael Kitten and Roger Eades to terms on the commission. He also presented a plaque of appreciation to outgoing Commissioner Carey Black (at left, right), who decided not to seek re-election to the commission. Black's seat was filled by Kitten, who was unopposed in his bid for an at-large seat. Alonzo, Eades and Winget were re-elected without opposition.

ability.

Commissioner Tom Coneway also said he would prefer the plan to include the irrigation system for the golf course and city parks, adding he believes "now is the time to conserve water." The golf course and parks are on the city's water system.

Michael Kitten, who had just taken his seat on the commission,

said he was didn't support using the treated effluent for irrigation of the golf course, noting a golf course in another city was irrigated with treated effluent and the grass has been not been healthy. He also said he had concerns about runoff that

Please see CITY, Page A8



**Four Injured** — Hereford rescue personnel render aid Monday evening to Otis Dwight Simpson, 77, of Wheatridge, Colo., following a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Farm Road 1057 and U.S. Highway 385, about 11 miles north of Hereford. Simpson was southbound on U.S. 385 when the Oldsmobile Ciera he was driving broadsided a Ford F-150 pickup driven by Justin Lee Parrish, 19, of Hereford. According to witnesses at the scene, Parrish failed to yield the right of way and pulled his pickup-trailer combination in front of the Simpson vehicle. Simpson and three occupants of the pickup were transported to Hereford Regional Medical Center.

## SOCIAL (IN)SECURITY: Bush, Gore outline stands on U.S. retirement program

GLENSIDE, Pa. (AP) — Making Social Security a defining issue of the presidential campaign, George W. Bush argued that Americans should be allowed to invest some of their taxes in the stock market and Al Gore warned that such a program would be a dangerous gamble.

Both men outlined their philosophies Monday as the debate over the retirement program arrived with full force in their contest for the White House, underscoring a sharp contrast on an issue that has divided lawmakers and paralyzed action in



George W. Bush (left) and Al Gore are making Social Security a major election issue.

Congress.

"Both Bush and Gore should be commended for saying to the public, 'Here's where I am,' instead of waiting until after the election," said Martin Corry, director of federal affairs for AARP, the nation's largest organization of older adults.

Social Security payroll taxes are now invested in government bonds,

while the stock market has produced considerably larger returns over time. Conservatives and others have argued that private investments will pump more money into the system and give people more control over their funds.

Bush called the stock market "the best, safest way to build personal wealth."

"There is a fundamental difference between my opponent and me. He trusts only government to manage our retirement," the Republican told senior citizens in Rancho

Cucamonga, Calif. "I trust Americans to make their own decisions and manage their own money."

But with winners come losers, said Gore, who criticized the plan as risky.

"You shouldn't have to roll the dice with your basic retirement security," the Democratic told students at Beaver College. Gore argued that the government ultimately will wind up bailing out those whose investments don't pan out.

Please see ISSUE, Page A8

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# LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Tuesday, May 16, 2000 • A3



**La Madre Mia Study Club officers for 2000-2001 were installed Thursday evening. Pictured are, front from left, Marline Watson, installing officer and parliamentarian; Tricia Sims, president; Nicky Walser, treasurer; Betty Lady, reporter; back from left, Tommie Stevens, vice president; Georgia Sparks, secretary; and Mysedia Smith, historian.**

## La Madre Mia Study Club holds installation of 2000-2001 officers

Installation of officers for La Madre Mia Study Club was held Thursday after a dinner at "Once Upon a Time" served by owner Jennifer Reid.

Outgoing president Marline Watson conducted the installation, presenting each new officer with a stuffed animal from *The Attic Treasures Collection* whose name described the responsibilities of the new office.

Officers installed were Tricia Sims, president; Tommie Stevens, vice president; Georgia Sparks, secretary; Nicky Walser, treasurer; Betty Lady, reporter; Mysedia Smith, historian; and Watson, parliamentarian.

Business included discussion of plans for the Tour of Homes to be held Dec. 3.

A representative from La Madre Mia will present the Brent Cumpston Memorial Scholarship during the Senior

Awards ceremony.

Plans were also made for the club's Ruidoso Retreat at the home of Ruth Black in June.

Attending were special guest Bernice Pyeatt of Clyde and members Carolyn Baxter, Francyne Bromlow, Cindy Cassels, Merle Clark, Lajeane Henry, Kay Hall, Mary Herring, Glenda Marcum, Gladys Merritt, Bettye Owen, June Owens, Nancy Paetzold, Susan Robbins, Betty Taylor,

Lady, Sims, Smith, Sparks, Stevens, Watson and Walser.

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## Ann Landers



**Ann Landers**

**Dear Ann Landers:** My grandfather died last year, and named me executor of his estate. I am also a beneficiary. My grandfather gave each of his grandchildren \$50,000, and I received an additional \$20,000, plus, all of my grandmother's jewelry.

I have two sisters and a wife. After I received the jewelry, my sisters insisted there were several items that had been promised to them by my grandmother, including some pearls and a diamond ring. Unfortunately, my wife fell in love with these particular pieces, and told me she wanted at least one of them.

Since these items originally belonged to my grandmother, I felt my sisters should be given priority. I knew there wasn't any sentimental value attached, but the ring and pearls were unquestionably the most valuable items in the collection. If I gave the pieces to my wife, my sisters would resent it, and I didn't want to cause any problems. My wife

agreed that my sisters should keep the pearls and the ring, and that we would keep the remaining antique jewelry and sell it.

Here's the clincher. We gave the pearls and the ring to my sisters, and then, took the other items to a reputable auction house. We were shocked to find out they are junk and virtually worthless. Now, my wife is accusing me of tricking her into giving up the good stuff. She says I chose my sisters over her, and has become very cold and uncommunicative. How can I fix this so she isn't mad at me for the rest of my life? — In the Middle in Va.

**Dear Va.:** I see only one plausible solution, but it's going to cost you big time. Since you have inherited \$70,000 from Gramps, you can well afford to buy your wife a lovely piece of jewelry. Consider it a peace offering. Let's hope she will be so pleased, she will let you out of the doghouse.

**Dear Ann Landers:** I have been seeing a nice divorced man for about a year. "Ryan" is the father of two children under the age of 10. His marriage broke up five years ago, and his wife has primary cus-

tody of the children. Ryan gets to see them every other weekend. Since he has such limited time with the kids, I understand why he might be reluctant to share any of those precious moments with me.

Even though Ryan has told me he is serious about our future together, I have yet to meet his children, and they have no idea their father is dating anyone. I have asked him repeatedly to introduce me, but he says they don't need to know about our relationship. I have never dated anyone with children before. Can you give me some guidelines on whether or not it is proper for him to introduce me to the kids, and if so, when? — Bewildered in Tennessee

**Dear Tennessee:** You say you have been going with Ryan for a year, and he has yet to introduce you to his children, and they have no idea that you exist? This makes me wonder if he is really serious about marriage. Tell Ryan you want to meet his children very soon, and be firm about it. If he continues to drag his feet after another month, tell him to park them elsewhere.

**Dear Ann Landers:** You

ought to start a new category and call it "Noteworthy Pronouncements of Public Figures." Here are a couple of entries for starters: Former Australian cabinet minister Koppel Enderbery made this extraordinary observation: "Traditionally, most of Australia's imports come from overseas." And this beauty from former Vice President Dan Quayle: "It is wonderful to be here in the great state of Chicago." — A 40-Year Fan in Three Rivers, Mich.

**Dear Fan:** The "new category" should yield some Lulus. I invite my readers to send their entries.

*Is life passing you by? Want to improve your social skills? Write for Ann Landers' new booklet, "How to Make Friends and Stop Being Lonely." Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$4.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Friends, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$5.15.)*

To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). ANN LANDERS (R) COPYRIGHT 2000

## Alzheimer's support group meets Thursday

In affiliation with the Alzheimer's Association, Panhandle Chapter, the Hereford support group for family caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 18 in Fellowship of Believers Church, 245 N. Kingwood, next door to Hereford Care Center.

A support group is a gathering of people with common problems, needs and interests to share their

feelings, thoughts, questions, experiences and concerns in a combined effort to better cope with and survive the challenge presented by persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Presenters for Thursday's program will be Shelly Moss with King's Manor and Betty Koelzer with Deaf Smith Home Health Care. They will discuss paperwork relating to end of life issues, such as directives to physicians, do not

resuscitate orders and living wills, as well as recent changes that have been implemented with these paperwork requirements.

Friends, relatives and neighbors of these brave caregivers are encouraged to offer to stay with the person with Alzheimer's to allow the caregiver a rest. Respite care is vital for these caregivers whose days are typically 36-hours long.

The "bible" for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's is

entitled, **The 36-Hour Day: A Family Guide to Caring for Persons with Alzheimer's Disease, Related Dementing Illnesses, and Memory Loss in Later Life** by Mace and Rabins. Thanks to the generosity of Hereford's Pilot Club and the Fellowship of Believers Church, this excellent resource is available at no cost by calling 364-0359.

Group facilitator is Nathan L. Stone, Ph.D., pastoral counselor and former senior chaplain with Family Hospice of Temple.

[hbnews@wtrt.net](mailto:hbnews@wtrt.net)



**Mother's Day Tea** - King's Manor hosted a Mother's Day Tea Friday afternoon in the Lamar Room. Ladies wore old hats and were presented with a silk rosebud corsage and a long stem red rose. They were served almond teas and cookies. Saturday evening they were treated to a Mother's Day meal at K-Bob's. Pictured are, from left, Lois Moore, Clovis Seago and Carrie Mae Doak.

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Dear Citizens,

It is with great pleasure that the Hereford Independent School District invites you to meet with Dr. William Glasser and members of our staff, Wednesday, May 17, 2000, when he officially names Aikman Primary School a Glasser Quality School, one of only eight schools in the nation so honored since the inception of the program approximately five years ago. Because of your strong interest in the H.I.S.D., we know you will be proud of Aikman Primary's accomplishments.

Dr. Glasser will speak to the public and be available for questions during a meeting which begins at 4 p.m. in the Southwest Open Area of the Central Administration Building, 601 North 25 Mile Avenue Please be our guest on May 17 to meet with this inspirational and innovative educational leader.

Sincerely,  
 Elizabeth Abernethy, Superintendent  
 Charles Lyles, Principal

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**The Korean War Flag**, above, was publicly displayed for those attending the closing luncheon for Los Ciboleros Chapter NSDAR Saturday at Hereford Country Club. The flag is part of the material furnished to Los Ciboleros by the Department of Defense for use in presenting programs on the Korean War during the next four years. Shown with the flag are, from left, Los Ciboleros Regent Patricia Robinson, members of the Commemorative Events and Program committees Lesta Lee Neill, Jean Beene, Juanita Brown and Charlotte Clark, and Texas State Regent Al' Louise Ramp from Canadian. Ramp gave the program following the luncheon and presented Los Ciboleros Chapter with two awards from Texas State Conference.

## Los Ciboleros Chapter NSDAR has closing luncheon, meeting

Texas State Regent Al' Louise Ramp from Canadian was speaker and special guest at the closing luncheon and business meeting of Los Ciboleros Chapter NSDAR Saturday at Hereford Country Club.

As a part of her presentation, Ramp honored Los Ciboleros Chapter with two awards from the Texas State Conference. One was for participation in the George Washington Bicentennial tribute and the other was for Outstanding Achievement Level I.

In addition to the awards presented by Ramp, for 1999-2000 Los Ciboleros Chapter has received 33 awards. The 1999-2000 Yearbook won a blue ribbon for first place and the chapter has

received Certificates of Merit for: Veterans Patients, School Support, Public Relations, American Heritage, American History, Community Events, Constitution Week, DAR Good Citizens, Flag Day Celebrations, Literacy Challenge, President General's Project and World War II Memorial Contributions, among others.

Regent Pat Robinson presided over the business meeting. Chaplain Juanita Brown led the opening prayer. Nell Norvell led the Pledge of Allegiance, Margaret Bell led the American Creed and Charlotte Clark led the Preamble to the Constitution.

The National Defense report was given by Helen Rose and the Constitution Sidelight by Brown.

Vice regent Jean Beene have an update regarding the 50th anniversary of the Korean War which will begin June 25, 2000.

Ruth Newsom, chairman of the American History Essay committee, announced that certificates for essay contest winners will be presented at the various school assemblies.

Luncheon guests were Mildred Fuhrmann, Martie McElhane, Olive Massie, Becky Thorn, Cathy Guseman, Marie Griffin and State Regent Ramp.

Members present were Linda Knowles, Donna Smith, Lois Gilliland, Lesta Lee Neill, Pat Smart, Robinson, Clark, Brown, Beene, Bell, Rose, Norvell and Newsom.

## Korean War memorial ceremony presented to remember veterans

Los Ciboleros Chapter vice regent Jean Beene presented a Korean War memorial ceremony in conjunction with the chapter's closing luncheon Saturday at Hereford Country Club.

The ceremony is part of the commitment by Los Ciboleros as a Commemorative Community as designated by the United States of America Korean War Commemoration Committee.

The program was a commemoration of Phase I of the Korean War, June 27 to Sept. 15, 1950, and is known as the UN

Defensive.

Those in attendance participated in a ceremony to honor, memorialize and remember the sacrifices of the Korean veterans, both living and dead, who participated in this phase of the war.

They were also the first group to publicly view the official flag of the Korean War, which was furnished by the Department of the Defense, along with other materials used in the presentation.

The flag is symbolic of the unified effort of the United

States, the Republic of Korea and our allies to stop Communist aggression on the Korean Peninsula 50 years ago.

All materials, posters, information and the flag provided by the Department of Defense are available for use by any club, group or civic organization who would be interested in preparing a program on the Korean War.

To find out more about this material, or to provide information on anyone who served in the Korean War, contact Jean Beene at 364-6117.



**Bear collection** — It is no secret at the Deaf Smith County Library that Maricela Martinez, circulation supervisor, loves teddy bears. She is sharing a part of her collection with library patrons this month, featuring her favorite, the ballerina bear. Keeping the ballerina company is the motorcycle bear compete with leather jacket and goggles.

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# SPORTS

A5 • HEREFORD BRAND • Tuesday, May 16, 2000



BRAND/Jeff Blackmon

## HEREFORD BOXERS

Three nights a week residents of Hereford gather together to get schooled on the nature of boxing. The Hereford Pit Bull Boxing Club (above) was founded by Javier Buentello and is a program designed to get kids off the streets and out of trouble. The club has several members who are attempting to make the

Junior Olympics, and members travel to different parts of the state to compete. The age group accepted for the club ranges from as young as 8-years-old to 33. The club is also looking to host its first boxing tournament in Hereford. To make this happen the club needs to get several sponsors willing to donate time and money. The club is a non-profit organization and is opened to those who want to work hard and are dedicated. Club members pictured above are (front row) Steven Aguilar, Isaias Cervantes, Matthew Marquez, (back row) Jesse Nunez, Joe Mendez, Jerry Alvarez, Javier Buentello, Nick Alrozer and Leon Garcia. Another club member that is not pictured is Arturo Davila. Nunez and Cervantes (right) qualified for the tournament in May in El Paso, and they were also crowned 2000 Regional Junior Olympic Box Off Champs at their last competition. The club's next tournament will be in Amarillo on May 20 at the ABC Boxing Club.

## PUGILIST SPECIALISTS



BRAND/Jeff Blackmon

# Dallas evens series with 3-2 win

## Mike Modano lifts Stars in series tying win against Colorado

DALLAS (AP) — After being out-hit, out-thrusted and outplayed in Game 1, the Dallas Stars were desperate.

If Dallas came out flat again and headed into Friday's Game 3 with a two-game deficit, there would be little hope of a repeat for the Stanley Cup champions.

Instead, center Mike Modano provided the spark Monday night, scoring two goals as the Stars won their eighth consecutive Game 2

with a 3-2 victory over the Colorado Avalanche in the Western Conference finals.

The Stars have rallied from a 2-0 deficit just once in their 33-year history, and that was 32 years ago. Even with a 1-1 tie in the series, Dallas still has to win at Colorado to advance to the Stanley Cup finals, and the Avalanche are undefeated at home in six playoff games this season.

"It was desperation time on our part," said Modano, who has eight goals in the playoffs. "With the way they came out in Game 1, it was our turn to respond."

The Stars are 1-8 after losing the first two games of a series. Their only comeback was 1968 against the Los Angeles Kings.

Backed into a corner, Dallas came out checking and shooting.

The Stars had just 11 shots in the first two periods of

Saturday's loss, but had nine by the end of the first period and 26 at the end of two. Colorado out-hit Dallas by six in Game 1, but Dallas came in the first period with shoulders lowered, notching 25 hits to Colorado's 17.

"They did us what we did in Game 1," Avalanche center Joe Sakic said.

Dallas got the better of Colorado in the first period, but watched the effort go to waste as the Avalanche scored the first goal — just 25 seconds into the second period on a power play.

Sandis Ozolinsh found the net when his shot from about 50 feet found its way through Adam Deadmarsh's legs and Ed Belfour's pads.

It was reminiscent of Game 1, when Dallas controlled the puck most of the game and still lost.

"When you have as many minutes in the offensive zone

and nothing comes about, that is when the frustration sets in," Stars coach Ken Hitchcock said. "The energy drops."

Unlike Game 2, the Stars' intensity seemed to increase after Colorado scored.

Dallas peppered Patrick Roy with shots for the next few minutes before Modano tied it at 5:24 when he slipped a shot under Roy's pads as both were falling to the ice.

Sakic took Modano out from behind as he charged the net to rebound Brett Hull's miss, but also knocked down Roy in the process. Modano swiped it in just before hitting the ice.

Modano scored again on a power play with 1:45 left in the second, lifting a shot over Roy's glove shoulder.

Roy, the NHL's leader in career playoff wins with 119, allowed eight goals in his previous seven playoff games.

Modano's second goal left Colorado in a tough position.

The Avalanche, already without injured defenseman Ray Bourque, lost Adam Foote 2:42 into the first period when he took a stick to the side of the head.

Foote got hit next to his right eye when Jere Lehtinen's shot caught Foote on the follow-through. He was taken to a hospital, but was later released and waiting for the team at the airport.

Bourque, who has missed four straight games, is expected to play Friday.

"It's tough to lose Foote like that, but that is no excuse," said Peter Forsberg, who pulled Colorado to 3-2 with 5:37 left.



MIKE MODANO

## Rangers hold off Tampa Bay

### Pudge sparks Texas in 6-5 win

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Texas manager Johnny Oates can't settle on what spot in the Rangers lineup to put Ivan Rodriguez because he excels in all of them.

"Each year, we've talked about what we want him to do. I'm about to run out of superlatives to describe him," Oates said. "It's not just his durability, but his ability to adapt his game to whatever the manager asks him to do."

Rodriguez hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning Monday night, lifting the Rangers to a 6-5 victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

"Last year, we put him in the second spot in the lineup and told him we needed for him to run a lot and try to create some scoring chances, and the next time I look up,

he's stolen 15 bases," Oates said.

"This year, we put him in the No. 3 spot and told him he wouldn't be able to run as much, that he'd have to sit there. The No. 3 hitter is the best hitter on the ballclub. Not only do you expect to get on base, you have to hit the ball out of the ballpark. He does whatever you tell him to do."

In a couple of years, Oates said, Rodriguez probably will be playing second base.

"He could be a great second baseman. He probably won't pitch, even though he's asked to. He could be a great pitcher. A couple of times, he's asked to bat left-handed, and I asked him not to."

"This year, he's on a pace to hit more home runs than Mark McGwire or Sammy Sosa. Will he? I don't know, but don't say that he can't or he will, just to show you,"

Oates said.

Darren Oliver (1-2) allowed four runs on five hits in seven innings for his first win in eight starts this season. John Wetteland pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

Jose Canseco, Jose Guillen and Gerald Williams homered for the Devil Rays, who have lost eight straight against left-handed starters.

Canseco's two-run homer tied it 3-3 in the top of the seventh, but the Rangers scored three times in the bottom of the inning.

"We played well, but came up short," Devil Rays manager Larry Rothschild said. "The object of the game is to win, and we've come up short a lot lately. These games need to start becoming wins and not losses."

Luis Alicea singled and Chad Curtis walked off Tampa Bay reliever Rick White (1-3) in the bottom of the eighth, and Rodriguez homered to center.

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