

Drillers to retain complete coaching staff

Cole will return as manager; McLaughlin and Merced will also coach again for Tulsa.

By LYNN JACOBSEN
World Sports Writer

The Tulsa Drillers and the Colorado Rockies announced Thursday that manager Stu Cole would return in 2007 for his second season with the Double-A baseball club.

Also returning is pitching coach Bo McLaughlin, hitting coach Orlando Merced and trainer Austin O'Shea.

"I'm excited to come back,"

Cole said in a phone interview from his home in North Carolina. "It's nice that we have everyone back."

Cole guided the Drillers to a 75-64 record last season and a Texas League playoff berth. The Drillers earned their playoff spot with a 41-29 first-half record in the North Division.

Following that, Cole was tabbed to coach in the Arizona Fall League and took his team to the championship in mid-November.

Cole had one of the most talented teams in Drillers history last season. Six players who played in Tulsa in 2006 eventually were promoted to the big leagues, the most in Drillers his-

tory.

"We had a lot of guys make improvement and move up," Cole said of last summer's success. "I'm excited about the young guys we have coming in. Greg Reynolds is one of our good young arms who could possibly be in Tulsa depending on what happens at spring training. Corey Wimberly (second baseman) is another guy the organization has talked about."

"With so many guys moving up, it will make room for others. We were always striving to get the best out of the guys we have and when you do that, you go in expecting to win."

Cole said fans will see a slightly different team in 2007.

"I know it won't be a power hitting team like last year, but we'll probably have more speed on this upcoming club," he said.

Cole said he would like to duplicate the success of a year ago with one exception.

"We want to finish this season with a championship," he said.

Drillers general manager Mike Melega said the organization was pleased to have Cole back.

"We are elated to have Stu Cole return for his second season in charge of the Drillers," Melega said in a press release. "In his first Double-A season, Stu did a great job of developing a young squad. With us likely to have another young but maybe even more talented team in 2007, it is

good to have Stu and his entire staff returning."

This season will be Cole's seventh as a manager in the minor leagues. He has had just one losing season in his managerial career and has amassed a 395-378 overall record.

In 2003, Cole was named the California League Manager of the Year after leading Visalia to a league-best 79-61 record.

Before becoming a manager, Cole served six seasons as a coach in the Colorado system. He also played professional baseball for nine years, reaching the major leagues as an infielder with the Kansas City Royals in 1987.

McLaughlin is the only pitch-

ing coach the Drillers have had since becoming a Rockies affiliate in 2003. His 2004 pitching staff posted the lowest team earned run average in the Texas League.

Last season, McLaughlin had three pitchers who eventually advanced to the big leagues.

Merced is back for his second season as Tulsa's hitting coach.

A former major leaguer, Merced had over 1,100 hits in 13 seasons in the major leagues. He finished second to Jeff Bagwell in voting for the 1991 National League rookie of the year award.

O'Shea also returns for his second season as the team's trainer.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Duke downs Gonzaga

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greg Paulus had a career-high 20 points and combined with Josh McRoberts on three big plays in the second half to help No. 6 Duke beat No. 22 Gonzaga 61-54 on Thursday night in the Aeropostale Classic at Madison Square Garden in New York.

The two sophomores came up big for the Blue Devils (11-1) on the offensive end in a defensive game with lots of missed shots.

On the defensive end, the Duke star was freshman guard Jon Scheyer, guarded Gonzaga senior Derek Raivio, who finished with a season-low four points, 16 below his average.

Duke bounced back from an awful first half that ended with the Bulldogs (9-4) leading 21-20. The Blue Devils 22.6 percent (7-for-31), while Gonzaga made 35.7 percent (10-for-28).

Scheyer finished with 14 points, while McRoberts had 11 points and 11 rebounds. Jeremy Pargo had 21 points, 17 in the second half, for the Bulldogs, who have lost three of four.

Notre Dame 88, Army 47: Colin Falls made his first seven shots, including four 3-pointers, and finished with a season-high 24 points to help 20th-ranked Notre Dame (10-1) grab control early en route to an 88-47 victory over Army (9-3).

Falls scored nine of Notre Dame's first 12 points. At one point, he was outscoring Army 18-15. The 88 points by the Irish were the most allowed by Army this season.

Linescores in For the Record

Rebel flag leads to boycott

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIKEVILLE, Ky. — A high school basketball team has voted to boycott a game against an opposing team that waves the Confederate flag, adding fuel to a debate over what is appropriate behavior at sporting events.

The team of eight male players, including one black student, at the private David School in Floyd County unanimously decided this week to boycott a Jan. 19 game against Allen Central High School, said Ned Pillersdorf, the David School's athletic director and boys basketball coach.

The players believe Allen Central's displays of Confederate emblems are a form of taunting, which is forbidden by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, Pillersdorf, also an attorney, said Thursday.

Pillersdorf sent a letter to Allen Central officials, stating in part, "David has the only basketball team with black players in Floyd County, we want to assure you that the decision was made by all of our players."

Allen Central Principal Lorena Hall and her students have defended their Confederate emblems, saying they symbolize strength, independence and pride.

BASKETBALL

NEADL

EASTERN DIVISION

W	L	Pct	GB	
Fort Worth	7	1	857	1
Dakota	6	2	750	1
Arkansas	6	4	600	2
Sioux Falls	5	5	545	2
Tulsa	6	5	545	2
Austin	0	9	0	7

WESTERN DIVISION

W	L	Pct	GB	
Colorado	5	2	714	—
Albuquerque	6	3	667	—
Los Angeles	6	5	545	1
Anaheim	4	7	364	3
Idaho	3	6	333	3
Bakersfield	1	7	125	4

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Dakota at Colorado, ppd., snow

Bakersfield at Tulsa

Anaheim at Fort Worth

Austin at Sioux Falls

Los Angeles at Arkansas

Albuquerque at Idaho

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
New Jersey	11	14	440	—
Toronto	11	15	423	—
Boston	10	14	417	—
New York	11	17	393	1
Philadelphia	11	14	440	5

Southwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Orlando	17	10	608	—
Washington	13	12	520	3
Miami	11	14	440	5
Atlanta	9	15	375	9
Charlotte	6	18	250	9

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Detroit	16	8	667	—
Chicago	15	10	600	1
Cleveland	14	11	560	2
Indiana	14	13	519	3
Milwaukee	11	14	440	5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
San Antonio	20	6	769	—
Dallas	19	7	731	1
Phoenix	15	10	600	4
New Orleans	10	14	417	9
Memphis	6	20	231	14

Northwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Utah	19	7	731	—
Denver	14	9	609	3
Portland	12	14	467	7
Minnesota	10	12	455	7
Seattle	10	17	370	9

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Phoenix	18	6	769	—
L.A. Lakers	9	9	654	2
Golden State	13	14	481	6
L.A. Clippers	10	14	417	8
Sacramento	10	14	417	8

THURSDAY

Detroit 87, Cleveland 71

Washington 126, Sacramento 119

FRIDAY

Utah at Charlotte, 6 p.m.

Golden State at Orlando, 6 p.m.

Indiana at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.

Chicago at New York, 6:30 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.

Houston at San Antonio, 7 p.m.

Memphis at New Orleans, 7 p.m.

Milwaukee at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

Philadelphia at Boston, 7 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

Sacramento at Denver, 8 p.m.

Toronto at Portland, 9 p.m.

Washington at Phoenix, 9:30 p.m.

Summaries

PISTONS 87, CAVALIERS 71

Detroit 22 20 15 30 — 87

Cleveland 22 17 14 16 — 71

Detroit: Prince 8-11 0-0 16, Wallace 4-12 1-2 9, Mohammedi 4-9 2-2 10, Hamilton 4-10 3-3 11, Billups 4-13 7-7 17, Black 0-1 0-0 0, McDyess 5-8 1-1 11, Davis 0-0 0-0 0, Murray 0-3 0-0 0, Delfino 0-2 0-0 0, Maxwell 5-7 1-5 11, Dupree 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 35-80 15-20 87.

Cleveland: James 9-20 8-26 36, Gooden 3-9 0-0 8, Ipagaskis 7-13 2-2 16, Hughes 5-17 2-6 12, Snow 0-0 0-0 0, DaJones 1-6 0-0 3, Marshall 1-3 0-0 3, Varego 0-6 1-4 1, Gibson 0-3 0-0 0, Pavlovic 1-2 0-0 2, Pollard 0-0 0-0 0, Wesley 0-0 2-2 2. Totals 27-79 15-22 71.

3-Point goals: Detroit 2-8 (Billups 2-4, Prince 0-1, Wallace 0-3), Cleveland 2-11 (Marshall 1-2, DaJones 1-4, James 0-1, Gibson 0-1, Hughes 0-3). Rebounds: Detroit 58 (McDyess 11), Cleveland 51 (James 10). Assists: Detroit 18 (Billups 10), Cleveland 15 (James 5). Total fouls: Detroit 16 Cleveland 17. Technical fouls: Davis, Cleveland Defensive Three Second. Flagrant fouls: Gooden, A, 20.562. (20.562).

Leaders

Through Wednesday

SCORING

Anthony Den. 22 265 153 696 31.6

Iverson Den. 18 151 84 468 31.2

Arenas, Wash. 24 224 176 699 29.1

Wade, Mia. 23 222 202 657 28.6

Johnson, Atl. 20 212 91 566 28.3

College: Men

BIG FIVE

Oklahoma 58, Tulsa 48

Oklahoma St. 95, Pittsburg 89, 20T

AP TOP 25

No. 6 Duke 61, No. 22 Gonzaga 54

No. 15 OSU 95, No. 7 Pittsburg 89, 20T

No. 20 Notre Dame 88, Army 47

EAST

Delaware St. 65, Buffalo 62

Duke 61, Gonzaga 54

George Mason 58, Holy Cross 46

Penn. St. 80, Ill.-Chicago 78

St. Francis, N.Y. 76, Manhattan 37, OT

St. John's 68, N.J. Tech 50

Vermont 73, Dartmouth 62

Virginia Tech 80, Seton Hall 61

MIDWEST

E. Michigan 71, N. Colorado 61

Illinois 71, Idaho 58, OT

Indiana St. 92, Wagner 86, OT

N. Dakota St. 72, SW Minnesota St. 68

Notre Dame 88, Army 47

Wright St. 63, Chicago St. 62

SOUTHWEST

Oklahoma 58, Tulsa 48

Oklahoma St. 95, Pittsburg 89, 20T

SMU 64, TCU 62

FC WEST

Colgate 59, UC Riverside 56

E. Washington 85, Idaho 56

New Mexico St. 100, W. New Mexico 76

Portland St. 78, Howard 49

Utah St. 77, IPFW 63

TOURNAMENT

ASU STEEL AMERICA CLASSIC

First Round

Arizona St. 11, Carolina A&T 66

San Juan Shootout

Championship

Appalachian St. 87, Vanderbilt 79, OT

Third Place

UCF 73, Tennessee Tech 66

Fifth Place

Northwestern 77, Utah 44

Seventh Place

Virginia 59, Puerto Rico-Mayaguez 52

STATISTICAL

Midwestern St. 74, Pittsburg St. 71 (Mon.)

Conference Standings

BIG 12 CONFERENCE

STATE/AREA

W L PCT W L PCT

Oklahoma St. 0 0 0.00 12 1 923

Kansas 0 0 0.00 9 2 818

Missouri 0 0 0.00 9 2 818

Texas A&M 0 0 0.00 9 2 818

Texas 0 0 0.00 8 2 800

Nebraska 0 0 0.00 7 2 778

Texas Tech 0 0 0.00 9 3 750

Kansas St. 0 0 0.00 8 3 727

Oklahoma 0 0 0.00 7 3 700

Baylor 0 0 0.00 6 3 667

Iowa St. 0 0 0.00 7 5 583

Colorado 0 0 0.00 3 6 333

THURSDAY

Oklahoma 58, Tulsa 48

Oklahoma St. 95, Pittsburg 89, 20T

CONFERENCE USA

W L PCT W L PCT

Memphis 1 0 1.000 8 3 727

SMU 0 0 0.00 9 1 900

Southern Miss. 0 0 0.00 8 1 889

Tulsa 0 0 0.00 8 2 800

UCF 0 0 0.00 5 3 625

Houston 0 0 0.00 5 3 625

Rice 0 0 0.00 5 4 556

Tulane 0 0 0.00 5 4 556

UTe 0 0 0.00 6 5 545

UTR 0 0 0.00 6 5 545

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