

Article - Tsao gets win, makes history along the way

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Rockies 7, Brewers 3

Tsao gets win, makes history along the way

By NICK WALTER
THE GAZETTE

DENVER • His body sweaty, his stomach churning and his mind spinning, Rockies pitcher Chin-hui Tsao took the mound in front of 39,013 at Coors Field as the first Taiwanese pitcher to compete in a Major League game.



TODAY

Milwaukee (Matt Kinney 6-8, 5.01 ERA) at Colorado (Denny Stark 1-0, 3.13), 6:05 p.m., Ch. 6, 850 AM

INSIDE: Denny Neagle may need season-ending surgery.

Sports 5 "I've played baseball since grade school and I've never been so nervous as I was today," said Tsao, through translator Justin Yeh. "I was actually back to myself by the third inning."

Tsao joined Los Angeles outfielder Chin-Feng Chen as the only Taiwanese players to make it on a major-league roster.

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ROCKIES: Tsao fans flock to Coors Field

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ROCKIES: Tsao fans flock to Coors Field

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The game was televised in Taiwan via MLB International and ESPNSTAR. According to Major League Baseball's Russ Gabay, MLB International received approximately 900 requests from the Far East region for television highlights of Tsao's debut.

Tsao, who was recalled from Double-A Tulsa Friday morning, rated his debut a "C." He went 63 innings, allowing eight hits and three runs while striking out five.

"I was impressed that he showed up at 4:15 (p.m.)," said Rockies manager Clint Hurdle, who arrived at 1 p.m. for the 7 p.m. game. "He knew what was in front of him."

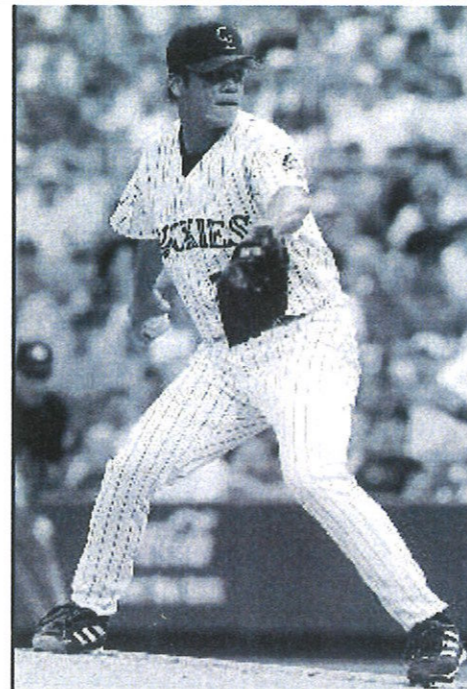
What he faced, beside Brewers batters itching to take their hacks at the rookie, was a Taiwanese flag that was sporadically held up by four Taiwanese behind home plate.

The four friends were born in Taiwan and had made a 9-hour drive from Albuquerque, N.M., Friday morning.

"We're very proud of him," Pei-yuan Cheng said. "The first two innings — scary. After that — perfect."

It was nearly that, except for the solo home run Tsao surrendered to John Vader Wal in the sixth. Tsao retired the three batters that followed.

When Tsao left in the seventh, Colorado was up 4-3 thanks to back-to-back home runs in the fourth inning by Preston Wilson and Larry Walker. Jay Payton nearly made



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
CHIN MUSIC: Rockies pitcher Chin-hui Tsao delivers a pitch to Brewers batter Richie Sexson in the first inning in Denver on Friday.

that three consecutive homers, drilling a ball off the right field fence for a triple.

Javier Lopez, Adam Bernero and Justin Speier combined to finish off the Brewers.

Milwaukee starter Wes Orbermueller made his Brewers debut, allowing three runs and five hits in six innings.

"It was good baseball for two first-time pitchers," Hurdle said. "(Tsao) put us in position to win. He forgot he had to hit the first time he went to the plate so we had to go get him. But he had a lot on his mind."