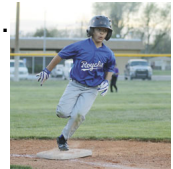


By EARL WATT

- Leader & Times

No lead is ever safe in the Liberal Cal Ripken League, and the first-place Rockies found that out Tuesday against the Royals.

The Rockies trailed 2-0 early but rallied to take a 3-2 lead in the top of the fourth.



Royal starter Jett Brown had a sore arm and had to be pulled from the mound with a 2-1 lead, and the Rockies took advantage by scoring five runs.

Cesar Burciaga started for the Rockies, but Brodie Warren pitched the second through sixth innings until he struggled and Burciaga returned to the mound.

Erick Ibarra and Edgar Aguilar hit doubles to the fence to narrow the score to 6-4. Brown walked with the bases loaded to force in a run with two outs, and Matthew Hernandez hit a walk-off two-RBI single to right field for the game-winner, 7-6.

The Rockies would have taken a commanding lead with a win, but the loss keeps four teams within a half game of first.

