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(Colo.)- Snell Ks 13, Rays Blank Rockies For 5th Straight Win

By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 04/03/2019 08:38 AM

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) - Blake Snell matched a career high with 13 strikeouts, pitching seven innings of two-hit ball to lift the Tampa Bay Rays over the Colorado Rockies 4-0 on Tuesday night for their fifth straight win.

The AL Cy Young Award winner struck out six straight during one stretch, helping Tampa Bay improve to a franchise-best 5-1. Snell rebounded splendidly after allowing five runs in an opening day loss to Houston.

Trevor Story had singles in the fifth and seventh innings for Colorado's only hits. The Rockies have lost four straight and scored only one run in their last 30 innings. They never got a runner as far as second base against Snell and reliever Wilmer Font, who closed with two hitless innings.

Tampa Bay scored three runs in the first inning against Kyle Freeland (1-1), an effort aided by catcher Chris Iannetta's error.

With the bases loaded and one out, Mike Zunino hit a chopper to third baseman Nolan Arenado, who threw to the plate for a forceout. A replay review showed Iannetta lifted his foot off the plate before catching the ball, allowing Yandy Diaz to score. Guillermo Heredia followed with a two-run single.

Christian Arroyo's two-out single off reliever Carlos Estevez made it 4-0 in the sixth.

Freeland lost for the first time in 12 starts since last Aug. 1. He tied his career high with 10 strikeouts in 4 2/3 innings. He gave up three hits and four walks.