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Cardinal pitcher Serbando Avila prepares to tag out Tiger Christian Hernandez at home plate Saturday during a Cal Ripken game at Rosel Field. The Cardinals won the game, 9-2. L&T photo/Earl Watt

By EARL WATT

• Leader & Times

The white Sox were able to avoid any late-season upset bid by the Rockies Saturday to protect their position as the first-place team in the league with a 12-1 win in their season finale.

The game only lasted four innings due to the run rule.

Trey Stout pitched for the White Sox and was able to keep the bases clear of Rockies most of the game.

But the Rockies weren't as fortunate. The White Sox were able to push runners across the plate in the shortened game to earn the win.

That left the A's chasing the White Sox for at best a tie at the top of the conference if the A's are able to win their two remaining games on the schedule this week. The A's will play the Royals at 6 p.m. today and the Tigers at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

In Saturday's other game, the Cardinals continued to improve with a 9-2 victory over the Tigers. Serbando Avila pitched for the Cardinals and was able to get out of a couple of jams including a bases loaded second inning.

The key play of the game came when a wild pitch gave Christian Hernandez a chance to score, but Avila was able to make a play at the plate. That killed a Tiger rally, and the Cardinals went on for the win.

This week's games will be critical in determining seeding for the post-season tournament which begins Friday at Rosel Field.

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