



By EARL WATT

- Leader & Times

A tough season for the Tigers didn't get any better Thursday night at Rosel Field.

The struggling Tigers had to play shorthanded Thursday while some players were involved with a school activity at Sunflower Intermediate, and the distance between the Tigers and the rest of the Cal Ripken League continued to widen with a 17-2 loss to the Cardinals.

The Cardinals were able to move back to the top spot in the league with the win with only three games remaining on the schedule.

The rough night started early for the Tigers.

The Cardinals were able to score eight runs in the first inning, and the Tigers only answered with one in the bottom half of the inning.

The Cardinals again scored in bunches in the second inning to jump out to a 12-1 lead.

The Tigers had base runners in the second but left two stranded at second and third to end the inning. The Cardinals actually recorded four outs during an inning-ending out at first, and Syris Dunlap ran down a runner leading off second for a tag out for the extra fourth out.

Ulises Rivera pitched a solid three innings for the Cardinals, only giving up one run and only allowing one base runner in the third.

The Cardinals built a 17-1 lead midway through the fourth, and Lee Hatcher came on in relief of Rivera. The Tigers scored a run and had runners on base when the final out was recorded for the run-rule win.

The Rockies will attempt to return to first against the A's tonight.