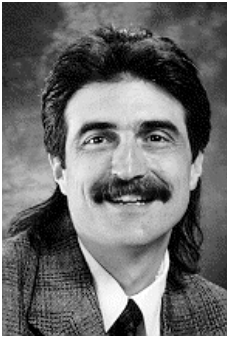


Physics Department Seminar

Friday February 25th, 2005

11:00am in PhSc 105

“Measurement of the COR of Baseballs as a Function of Humidity”



Dr. David Kagan
Department of Physics
California State University, Chico

Abstract:

Coors Field, where the Colorado Rockies play baseball, is known to be a “hitter’s ballpark.” This is not surprising to a physicist because the thinner, drier air at the high altitude of Denver will cause less drag on a fly ball. The Rockies attempted to correct for this effect by humidifying the baseballs used at these games. In principle, the balls will then have a smaller coefficient of restitution (COR) and therefore not leave the bat with as high a velocity. We have measured the COR as a function of humidity and can definitively say whether this feature of the weather is a cloud on the horizon of the National Pastime.

