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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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US offers to share Syria intel with Russia

The Washington Post

The Obama administration has offered to help Russia improve its targeting of terrorist groups in Syria if Moscow will stop bombing civilians and opposition fighters who have signed on to a cease-fire and use its influence to force Syrian President Bashar Assad to do the same.

The offer early this week of what one administration official called “enhanced information

sharing” does not include joint military planning, targeting or coordination with U.S. airstrikes or other operations in Syria.

But it would expand cooperation beyond the “deconfliction” talks the U.S. and Russian militaries began last year to ensure their planes do not run into each other in Syria’s increasingly crowded airspace.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter, who has long opposed any additional cooperation, said Thursday that if Russia would “do the

right thing in Syria — that’s an important condition — as in all cases with Russia, we’re willing to work with them.”

“The Russians got off on the wrong foot in Syria,” Carter said. The stated purpose of airstrikes Russia began last fall was “to fight ISIL and ... assist the political transition in Syria towards a post-Assad government. They haven’t done either of those things,” he said.

ISIL is an alternative term for the Islamic State group.

Senior administration officials declined to discuss details of the proposal, saying that publicizing the content of diplomatic talks would undermine their possible success.

“We’ve made no bones about the fact that if the Russians, with their military presence in Syria, proved to be willing to focus those efforts against Daesh, then that’s a conversation we would be willing to have,” said State Department spokesman John Kirby.

CIA chief: Islamic terrorists have ‘a lot of momentum’

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — U.S.-led military efforts to contain violent Islamic State radicals in the Middle East have not yet succeeded, and the group’s engine of worldwide terrorism “still has a lot of momentum,” CIA Director John Brennan said Wednesday.

“We cannot rest at all. We have to increase our efforts,” Brennan said.

Brennan said suicide bombings at Istanbul’s international airport a day earlier, which killed 41 people, bore “the hallmarks” of the Islamic State.

He described the group as far larger than al-Qaida ever was and determined to attempt to strike terror inside the United States.

“It would be surprising to me that ISIL is not trying to hit us both in the region as well as in our homeland,” Brennan said in a talk at the Washington office of the Council on Foreign Relations, a research center. He used an alternate abbreviation for the group.

The Islamic State, which is also referred to as Daesh, seeks to inspire homegrown extremists to launch attacks, he said.

While U.S. border defenses

were strengthened considerably after the 2001 terror attacks on New York and Washington, Brennan said: “If anybody here thinks that the U.S. homeland is hermetically sealed and that Daesh or ISIL would not consider that, I would guard against that.”

Brennan cautioned against thinking that suicide bombings can be routinely thwarted.

First off, he said, suicide bombers “don’t have to worry about an escape route. It makes carrying out that attack so much easier.” He noted that the terrorists use modern encryption methods that facilitate

communications, and generally operate with only a handful of individuals.

Turmoil in the Middle East, which has left war-torn states such as Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Libya devastated, has provided fertile ground for the Islamic State’s growth, he said.

“Al-Qaida at its height had maybe 2,000 individuals with maybe a core of several hundred. ISIS has tens of thousands of individuals that are scattered not just in the Middle East but also to West Africa, to Southeast Asia and beyond,” Brennan said.

Senate panel OKs visas for 4K Afghans who aided US

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Senate panel decided Wednesday to provide an additional 4,000 visas to allow Afghans who sided with the American-led coalition and are at risk of being killed or injured by the Taliban to resettle in the United States.

The Appropriations Committee voted unanimously to approve a foreign operations spending bill that includes a provision granting the extra visas and extends the

so-called special immigrant visa program for another year.

The Afghan civilians worked for the coalition as interpreters, firefighters and construction laborers. But the militants consider them traitors. The top American commander in Afghanistan, Army Gen. John Nicholson, urged Congress to extend the special immigrant visa program so they and their families could escape what he called “grave consequences.”

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., told her

colleagues that many Americans who served in Afghanistan are alive today because of the support they received from Afghans willing to put themselves in danger.

“If Congress fails to extend this program, this could be a death sentence for many Afghans who have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our military and diplomats,” Shaheen said.

Senate backers of the visa program still face objections from skeptical lawmakers in the GOP-led House.

Official: DOD budget to be top challenge

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON—The return of budget caps and the potential for automatic across-the-board spending cuts through 2021 pose the No. 1 defense fiscal challenge for the next president and defense secretary, according to Pentagon Comptroller Mike McCord.

“There is no deal on the books, so you are starting with a clean sheet of paper” that “over-shadows their whole first term,” McCord said in an interview.

Cuts in defense and domestic spending that would be imposed through a process called sequestration have been eased by stopgap deals in Congress,

including a two-year relaxation of budget caps under Public Law 114-74 for the current year and for fiscal 2017, which begins Oct. 1.

After that, McCord said, the Pentagon faces about \$106.6 billion in potential cuts from its current budget projections — starting with \$33.6 billion in fiscal 2018, the first budget to be submitted by the winner of the presidential contest, which includes presumptive nominees Hillary Clinton for Democrats and Donald Trump for Republicans.

Those cuts would be followed by \$29 billion in 2019, \$21.3 billion in 2020 and \$22.8 billion in

2021, he said.

“Before you finalize a 2018 budget” you’d need to know whether the new president supports living with the Budget Control Act of 2011, Public Law 112-25, McCord said. “We’ve been very consistent” in submitting a budget that reflects what the Pentagon thinks it needs over the caps, McCord said. “What does the new team think?”

McCord said spending decisions for the next president will include whether to slow the pace of purchases of Lockheed Martin Corp.’s F-35, the costliest U.S. weapons system.

The return of budget caps

would affect not only military readiness but government spending in communities across the U.S. on bases and on weapons contracts. Neither Clinton nor Trump has discussed the sequestration issue in detail in their campaigns.

Trump said in an April 27 foreign policy speech that his administration would “lead a free world that is properly armed and funded, and funded beautifully.”

Whoever wins, the return of the caps will complicate the incoming administration’s attempts to craft a new budget for submission to Congress by April, according to McCord.

USMC plan to relocate tortoises on hold

Special To The Washington Post

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — Troops sent to the Marine Corps’ sprawling base in the Mojave Desert near here for advanced combat training are warned sternly about an unbreakable rule: no harming the desert tortoises or leaving behind food crumbs that are likely to attract ravens, the tortoises’ arch-predator.

To further protect the creatures with the high-domed shells on their backs, certain areas of the base are off-limits. And to prop up the tortoise population on base, the Marines have teamed with UCLA to run an on-base hatchery.

Yet a battle is brewing between the Marines and the tortoises — or, really, their environmental advocates — that shows how even a fast-moving fighting force must sometimes give way to some of the slowest creatures on Earth.

The issue is a live-fire exercise set for August to train troops in assaulting an enemy from numerous locations. Similar exercises have been done in the past, but this year’s event was to have included annexed property that is home to numerous desert tortoises.

To protect the tortoises from becoming collateral damage as bombs, mortars and artillery are fired and Humvees rumble around, the Marines were planning to airlift more than 1,100 of them away from the area.

But just weeks before the relocation was to begin, the Center for Biological Diversity in Tucson, Ariz., said the effort would mean certain death for large numbers of the tortoises, in violation of the Endangered Species Act. The group warned it would go to court to stop the operation.

As a result, the airlift is on hold, the training exercise has been downsized and federal officials not aligned with the Marine Corps are reviewing the tortoise relocation to judge its impact.

The desert tortoise is found in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts of California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona. An adult tortoise can reach 6 inches in height, weigh up to 15 pounds and live as long as 100 years. The tortoise population in the western Mojave, which includes the Marine base, has declined by 90 percent since the early 1980s, according to the advocacy group Defenders of Wildlife.

Among the causes of the decline cited by the group and others for the decline are drought, respiratory disease, a population explosion among ravens, suburban development and increased use of the desert by off-roaders and other recreationalists.

In response to the environmentalists’ concerns, the Marines say they have carefully monitored the health of tortoises set to be relocated and will continue to do so through small transmitters on the animals’ backs. The Corps has allocated \$50 million for the airlift, environmental assessments, fencing, research and health monitoring of the tortoises through 2045.

“We’re not just going to throw them over a fence,” said Walter Christensen, natural and cultural resources branch manager at the base. Six spots adjacent to the base have been assigned for the relocation, he said. All have sufficient water and food and are far enough away from the tortoises’ current homes that they will not try to walk back, he said.

At 1,190 square miles, the Marine base is nearly the size of Rhode Island. Most Marines sent to Iraq and Afghanistan come here for training.

Getting out the word on voting from overseas

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

Voting assistance officers are using Independence Day celebrations to encourage U.S. military personnel stationed overseas to register to vote.

“Registering and requesting a ballot is a great way for servicemembers and overseas citizens to celebrate July 4th,” Federal Voting Assistance Program Director Matt Boehmer said in a statement.

The program is promoting Armed Forces Voters Week and Overseas Citizens Voters Week over the long weekend with support from the Defense and State departments. U.S. military installations, embassies, consulates and overseas citizens’ groups are offering voter registration opportunities as part of holiday celebrations.

Joseph Dyson, a voting assistance officer at Yokota Air Base in Japan, said Friday he had helped 200 people register to vote during the past few months and expects to be even busier as November’s election nears.

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Coastal Carolina captures title

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Coastal Carolina coach Gary Gilmore often said he just wanted his team to reach the College World Series.

Until this week, he never imagined the Chanticleers would do so much more: They're heading back to Conway, S.C., with the school's first national championship in any sport.

The Chanticleers defeated Arizona 4-3 in the deciding Game 3 of the College World Series finals on Thursday, capitalizing on two errors on the same play to score four unearned runs in the sixth inning of a game delayed a day by bad weather.

It was worth the wait.

"Whenever I die, I'll know this group of guys here, they willed themselves to be the national champion," Gilmore said. "It was just meant to be, no doubt. If there is such a thing as a team of destiny, this group is it."

Coastal Carolina (55-18) became the first team since Minnesota in 1956 to win the title in its first CWS appearance. Arizona (49-24) was trying for its second national title since 2012 but came up just short in a season in which it was picked to finish ninth in the Pac-12.

"Amazing season, and they're a deserving champion," first-year coach Jay Johnson said of the Chanticleers. "We played as good as we possibly could this year, and they're the best team we've played, in my opinion."

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from back page

Andrew Beckwith (15-1), the national leader in wins, went 52/3 innings after pitching two complete games and picked up his third victory of the CWS. He was named the Most Outstanding Player.

"He's been coaching for 21 years, and he deserves every bit of it," Beckwith said of Gilmore. "We got him to Omaha and we got him a national championship. The senior class, the hard work in the fall, the dedication of the guys who don't play much. It doesn't go unnoticed. It was a full team effort the whole College World Series, and we got it done."

Alex Cunningham earned his first save, striking out Ryan Haug with a full-count fastball to end the game after Arizona had pulled within one in the bottom of the ninth. When Haug swung and missed, Cunningham turned to his dugout, beat his chest with his fist three times and saluted before flipping his glove away to start the celebration.

"The running joke is that in high school I lost the state championship three times in a row. I was not going to lose this one, I promise you that," Cunningham said.

The championship was the first in a team sport in the 33-year history of the Big South Conference. The Big South could savor the accomplishment for only about eight hours. The Chanticleers become members of the Sun Belt Conference on Friday.

"This program has been a lot better than people give it credit for," Gilmore said. "They thought we played in a small conference and couldn't get this done. This bunch wanted to prove everybody wrong."

Arizona, which came into the day with just two errors in seven CWS games, saw second baseman Cody Ramer commit two on the same play in the sixth inning. He couldn't get a handle on a grounder, allowing David Parrett to score from third. Then Ramer tried to get Michael Paez running from second to third, but he

overthrew Kyle Lewis. That allowed Paez to come home. G.K. Young then launched a no-doubt homer into the seats above the right-field bullpen for a 4-0 lead.

"It's the best feeling of my life," Young said. "I'm trying not to cry right now. Just dreaming of that in my head since I was 10 years old, hitting a home run in the College World Series. I never would have thought it would come in the championship game."

The Wildcats cut the lead in half with two unearned runs in the bottom half of the sixth against a tiring Beckwith. Arizona's Bobby Dalbec (11-6) worked 5 2/3 innings, striking out eight to increase his CWS total to 26 in 20 2/3 innings.

Arizona's first two batters in the bottom of the ninth reached base against Cunningham, and Gibbons' sacrifice fly made it a one-run game with two outs. Ryan Aguilar then doubled into the left-field corner, but Ramer was held at third because Anthony Marks was able to get the ball back to the infield so quickly.

"That's the play of the season in college baseball," Johnson said. "We play aggressively, but Cody would have been out by 100 feet — and I know it's only 90 feet. I can't believe the play that was made."

ALL-CWS TEAM

Parrett, Coastal Carolina, catcher; Aguilar, Arizona, first base; Ramer, Arizona, second base; Zach Remillard, Coastal Carolina, third base; Ryan Merrill, TCU, shortstop; Gibbons, Arizona, outfield; Marks, Coastal Carolina, outfield; Jared Oliva, Arizona, outfield; Luken Baker, TCU, designated hitter; JC Cloney, Arizona, pitcher; Beckwith, Coastal Carolina, pitcher and Most Outstanding Player.

C Whiteside will remain with Miami

Associated Press

Hassan Whiteside is staying with the Miami Heat.

A person familiar with the terms of the agreement tells The Associated Press that Whiteside will be signing a four-year contract worth the maximum amount the Heat could offer, roughly \$98 million. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal cannot be finalized and signed before July 7.

Whiteside made his announcement Friday on Snapchat and through a post on The Players Tribune, a few hours after he met with the Heat and the Dallas Mavericks in New York to hear their sales pitches. He went into those meetings leaning toward the Heat, and apparently emerged even more convinced that staying with the franchise that helped him resuscitate his career was the best move.

"I've played on eight teams since college — from Reno to Sioux Falls to Sichuan, China," Whiteside wrote on Players Tribune. "I am not ready for there to be a ninth. I have decided to re-sign with Miami. I just wanted to take this time to tell all the fans how much you mean to this team, and to me. Can't wait to get back to work and try to bring another championship to Miami."

It is life-changing money after a breakout season. Whiteside will be signing a contract worth roughly 100 times more than what he made this past season, when he averaged 14.2 points, 11.8 rebounds and a league-best 3.7 blocked shots per game.

In other news since free agency got under way on Friday:

- All-Star shooting guard DeMar DeRozan is staying in Toronto after agreeing early Friday to the basic parameters of a deal.

DeRozan and the Raptors still were in the process of completing terms, though the sides agreed that he would be staying put.

- Nicolas Batum agreed to terms on a five-year, \$120 million contract with the Charlotte Hornets.

- The Detroit Pistons are working on a five-year maximum contract offer with All-Star center Andre Drummond.

Drummond's maximum contract would be worth around \$125 million according to NBA salary cap rules.

- Guard Jordan Clarkson has agreed to a four-year, \$50 million deal to return to the Los Angeles Lakers.

- The Orlando Magic have agreed on a contract with veteran point guard D.J. Augustin.

Terms of the deal were not immediately available.

- Russian center Timofey Mozgov has agreed to a four-year, \$64 million contract with the Los Angeles Lakers.

- The Washington Wizards agreed to terms with shooting guard Bradley Beal on a five-year maximum contract worth \$128 million.

- Point guard Jeremy Lin tweeted he was signing with the Brooklyn Nets.

Terms were not immediately disclosed.

Del Potro upsets 4th-seeded Wawrinka

Associated Press

LONDON — After a three-year absence from Wimbledon, Juan Martin del Potro is making another strong run at a Grand Slam.

Del Potro, the 2009 U.S. Open champion who has undergone three surgeries on his left wrist since 2014, beat fourth-seeded Stan Wawrinka 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (2), 6-3 on Friday to reach the third round on another rainy day at the All England Club.

"My hands (are) shaking," del Potro said after walking off Centre Court to a loud ovation. "It's a great sensation for me because I'm playing tennis again and I feel alive."

Wawrinka, a two-time Grand Slam champion, is the highest seeded man eliminated so far.

"It's great for tennis to see him back," the Swiss player said of del Potro. "He's a great guy, a really good player, big champion."

The match was played with the retractable roof closed over Centre Court, with play on the outside courts delayed and interrupted by scattered rain.

This is del Potro's first appearance at

Wimbledon since 2013, when he reached the semifinals, and his first at any major since the 2014 Australian Open.

"After my third surgery, I've been trying to play tennis again," he said. "It's like my second or third career in my short life. Now I am in the third round in my first Grand Slam after three years. That means a lot of good things for me."

Five-time women's champion Venus Williams, meanwhile, made it through the rain and into the fourth round by overcoming 29th-seeded Daria Kasatkina of Russia 7-5, 4-6, 10-8.

The match on No. 1 Court was delayed four times by rain, including once with Williams holding a match point at 7-6 in the third set. When play resumed, Kasatkina saved the match point and held to 7-7.

Four games later, the eighth-seeded Williams broke to end the contest, with Kasatkina slapping a forehand into the net on the final point.

Del Potro, a 27-year-old Argentine, who had played just one match against a top-10 player since November 2013, showed flashes of the explosive game that made him one of the most feared men in

tennis.

After dropping the first set, del Potro lifted his game and took a 4-1 lead in the second set to take control. He relied on the low, flat and deep forehand that is considered one of the best shots in the game.

Wawrinka, who has reached the quarterfinals twice at Wimbledon, was far from his best, with more unforced errors than winners — 48 to 47. Even del Potro's stats weren't great: 23 winners and 25 unforced errors. But he managed four breaks of serve, compared to three for Wawrinka.

"I beat one of the guys who is playing great tennis this season," del Potro said. "I couldn't expect this victory for today but I think I played much better after the first set. And I really enjoyed the crowd."

Wimbledon officials are considering the possibility of scheduling matches on the tournament's middle Sunday, traditionally a day off.

Only three times in Wimbledon's 139-year history have matches been played on the middle Sunday: in 1991, 1997 and 2004.



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Carrasco helps Tribe win 13th in a row

Associated Press

TORONTO — A dominant performance from Carlos Carrasco gave the Cleveland Indians their longest winning streak in nearly 65 years.

Carrasco struck out a season-high 14, Jason Kipnis and Rajai Davis hit solo home runs and the Indians matched a franchise record by winning their 13th consecutive game Thursday night, beating the Toronto Blue Jays 4-1.

Manager Terry Francona said Carrasco "pitched his heart out."

"That's a good lineup and he really pitched well," Francona said.

Cleveland's streak is the longest by any team this season, and the longest for the Indians since they won 13 straight in August 1951. Cleveland also won 13 in a row in 1942.

It's the longest streak by an AL team since Oakland won 20 straight in 2002.

The Indians went 22-6 in June, the best single month in team history.

"It feels great," Carrasco said. "We've played really hard and we need to continue that. Everything is coming together."

Indians starting pitchers are 10-0 during the streak, and Cleveland has outscored its opponents 80-26.

"We expect to win every night we step on the field," Davis said. "We've just got to keep that mindset and not worry about everything else."

Still, Francona doesn't want his players getting too excited.

"You turn the page pretty quick," he said. "If you start taking time to sit back and evaluate (what happened) two weeks ago, then tomorrow might not be so good."

Coming off a four-hit shutout victory at Detroit, Carrasco (4-2) allowed one run and three hits in 7 1/3 innings to win back-to-back starts for the first time since April 13 and 19. The right-hander was sidelined from April 25 to June 2 with a strained left hamstring.

"No doubt about it, it was Carrasco's night," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. "He was on."

Carrasco's career-high in strikeouts is 15, set last Sept. 25 at Kansas City. Against Toronto, he struck out four straight in the third and fourth innings, then fanned six straight in the sixth, seventh and eighth.

Bryan Shaw replaced Carrasco after Darwin Barney ended the strikeout streak

with a double. Shaw struck out pinch hitter Russell Martin, walked Ezequiel Carrera, then fanned Josh Donaldson to end the inning.

Cody Allen got the last three outs for his 17th save.

Davis hit a leadoff shot off R.A. Dickey in the second and Kipnis hit a one-out drive in the third.

"They ran into a few that didn't do much," Dickey said.

Dickey (5-9) allowed three runs and eight hits in seven innings. The knuckleballer has allowed six home runs in his past two starts, all of them solo shots. He is 0-6 with a 5.14 ERA in eight home starts.

Donaldson provided Toronto's only offense with a two-out solo homer off Carrasco in the fourth.

Mets 4, Cubs 3: Yoenis Cespedes socked a colossal home run, Jeurys Familia pitched out of a huge jam in the ninth inning and Brandon Nimmo keyed a three-run rally in the seventh that sent host New York past Chicago in their first meeting since last year's NL Championship Series.

Chicago put runners on second and third with no outs against Familia, who got two strikeouts and a bases-loaded popup for his 27th save, most in the majors.

He screamed and pumped his arms repeatedly after Javier Baez popped up to end it.

Baez's throwing error at second base allowed Nimmo to score the go-ahead run, and the Mets overcame a 3-0 deficit to stop their four-game slide.

New York, which swept Chicago last October to reach the World Series, had lost nine straight regular-season games to the Cubs dating to August 2014.

Yankees 2, Rangers 1: Chase Headley scored on a passed ball with two outs in the bottom of the ninth as host New York won in its final at-bat for the second straight game.

Didi Gregorius, who had the winning home run Wednesday night, hit a solo shot in the fifth to tie the score after Shin-Soo Choo homered to lead off the game.

Tony Barnette (5-3), the third Rangers reliever of the afternoon, walked Headley to lead off the bottom of the ninth. With runners on second and third and two outs, his pitch got through catcher Robinson Chirinos and Headley just beat the throw.

Aroldis Chapman (2-0) earned the win after pitching a scoreless ninth.

Tigers 10, Rays 7: Cameron Maybin capped a dramatic eight-run ninth inning with a tiebreaking three-run double as visiting Detroit overcame a five-run deficit.

Detroit trailed 7-2 entering the ninth and opened the inning with four consecutive hits off Ryan Garton, including Victor Martinez's RBI single.

Erasmus Ramirez (7-7) replaced Garton and allowed Justin Upton's run-scoring single, Steven Moya's sacrifice fly and an RBI single to Jarrod Saltalamacchia that made it 7-6.

Jose Iglesias drew a walk to load the bases, and Ian Kinsler got another free pass on a 3-2 pitch to tie it 7-7.

Maybin's drive to left-center cleared the bases to put Detroit up 10-7.

Winner Anibal Sanchez (5-8) gave up two runs in two innings. Francisco Rodriguez got the final three outs for his 22nd save.

Giants 12, Athletics 6: Madison Bumgarner pitched into the seventh to snap a two-start skid and also batted in an AL ballpark as visiting San Francisco avoided a four-game sweep.

Brandon Belt had four RBIs and hit a go-ahead two-run double in the third ahead of Buster Posey's ninth home run. Bumgarner helped start the rally with a leadoff double.

Bumgarner (9-4) was given the option by manager Bruce Bochy to bat himself rather than the Giants using a designated hitter and of course the big lefty chose to swing the bat.

A's lefty Dillon Overton (1-1) was done after three innings in his second major league start, giving up eight runs and eight hits.

Mariners 5, Orioles 3: Taijuan Walker held powerful Baltimore to just four hits over 6 1/3 innings and Seth Smith hit a two-run home run for host Seattle.

Walker (4-6) gave up a solo home run to Hyun Soo Kim in the seventh but otherwise did not allow a runner past first base. He struck out five and walked no one.

With Kim's homer, the Orioles set the major league record for most home runs in June with 56. The 1996 Oakland A's had held the record of 55. Chris Tillman (10-2) took the loss, ending his nine-game winning streak.

Steve Cishek got four outs for his 19th save

Nationals 13, Reds 4: Danny Espinosa hit a grand slam and a three-run homer to finish with a career-high seven RBIs as host Washington cruised to its fifth straight victory.

The switch-hitting shortstop connected off Brandon Finnegan (3-7) batting right-handed, then went deep from the left side against Josh Smith.

Gio Gonzalez (4-7) gave up four runs and struck out nine over six innings for the NL East-leading Nationals.

Royals 4, Cardinals 2: Kendrys Morales homered and recorded his sixth straight multihit game to lead visiting Kansas City.

Wade Davis recorded his 19th save in 21 opportunities.

Morales, a designated hitter playing right field for the second straight night, doubled in the sixth inning off Mike Leake (5-6) to push the lead to 3-1.

Kansas City reliever Dillon Gee (3-2) picked up the win allowing one run in two innings.

Dodgers 8, Brewers 1: Trayce Thompson, Yasmani Grandal and Corey Seager hit home runs to lead visiting Los Angeles.

Kenta Maeda (7-5) held the Brewers to one run over six innings.

Thompson put the Dodgers in front in the second with a two-run homer off Zach Davies (5-4). Grandal extended the Dodgers' lead in the fourth with a solo blast over the left-field bullpen. Seager's homer in the fifth accounted for two of the Dodgers' three runs in the inning.

White Sox 6, Twins 5: J.B. Shuck's two-out single scored the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning and Todd Frazier hit his 23rd home run for host Chicago.

Fernando Abad (1-2) got the first two batters in the eighth before consecutive walks. Shuck's career high-tying third hit of the game to left scored Avisail Garcia from second.

Nate Jones (4-2) allowed a hit while getting four outs and David Robertson worked around a single in the ninth for his 21st save.

Braves 8, Marlins 5: Pinch-hitter Brandon Snyder had two RBIs in a four-run sixth inning to help host Atlanta rally. Dario Alvarez (2-1) earned the win. Wei-Yin Chen (4-3) allowed eight hits, four runs, two walks and struck out two in 5 1/3 innings.

Phelps, Lochte headed for showdown in 200 IM final

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte did their part.

The longtime rivals are headed to another showdown at the U.S. Olympic swimming trials.

Phelps and Lochte cruised through the semifinals of the 200-meter individual medley Thursday night, each of them winning their heats in dominating fashion.

"It means a lot," Lochte said. "I've been racing him in this event since like 2003. He's a tough competitor. I just love racing against him because it's a challenge."

This one is especially significant for Lochte, an 11-time Olympic medalist who has yet to qualify for an individual event in Rio.

Slowed by a groin injury, the 31-year-old Lochte missed out in the 400 IM — a race he won at the Olympics four years ago — finished fourth in the 200 freestyle, and dropped out of the 200 backstroke.

Though also entered in the 100 but-

terfly, Lochte is basically putting all his hopes on the 200 IM. A top-two finish will give him that cherished spot, but he really wanted a win over Phelps in Friday night's final before they head to the Olympics.

Lochte was the top qualifier at 1 minute, 56.71 seconds, while Phelps took the second spot in 1:57.61. That means they'll be right beside each other in the final, just as they've been so many times during their dazzling careers.

Phelps has already qualified for Rio in the 200 fly, but the most decorated athlete in Olympic history is eager to add two more individual races to his program. He'll be a big favorite in the 100 fly, a race in which Lochte doesn't figure to be a major threat.

This is their only real chance to race.

Missy Franklin, on the other hand, didn't even advance to the final of the 100 freestyle.

Another big star from London struggled to an 11th-place showing in the semifinals, leaving her with only one individual

race in Rio and just one more chance to bulk up her program: the 200 backstroke.

No matter what, Franklin's bubbly personality will be much less of a presence at these Summer Games than it was four years ago.

"That speed just doesn't feel like it's quite there this meet," she said. "No idea why. It's super disappointing, but I really feel like my endurance is there, so it gives me a lot of hope for my 200 back."

Nathan Adrian, the burly 27-year-old who won the 100 freestyle in London, used a powerful finishing kick to win in 47.72 seconds. Caeleb Dressel will also get to swim the down-and-back sprint in Rio, taking the second spot at 48.23.

Anthony Ervin, the oldest swimmer at the trials, got off to a blistering start and led at the turn. The 35-year-old couldn't hold on, fading to fourth in 48.54 while also touching behind Ryan Held (48.26).

But the top four are assured of spots on the team for the 4x100 free relay, meaning Ervin will be headed to his third

Olympics.

On the fifth night of the meet, Josh Prenot became the latest Olympic rookie to make the team, knocking off Kevin Cordes in the 200 breaststroke. Cordes had already won the 100 breast and was more than a second under world-record pace at the final turn of the longer race.

But Prenot, furiously bouncing up and down in the water, surged past Cordes on the final lap to win in 2 minutes, 7.17 seconds, setting an American record and finishing just off the world mark of 2:07.01 held since 2012 by Japan's Akhiro Yamaguchi.

Also Thursday, Cammile Adams won the 200 butterfly after being briefly disqualified one day earlier during the preliminaries. The ruling that she made an illegal turn was quickly overturned after a review provided by the underwater camera, and Adams took advantage of her second chance to win with a time of 2:06.80. Hali Flickinger took the second Olympic spot in 2:07.50.