

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Navy: Renew extra pay for extended deployments

The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — The Navy wants the Defense Department to reauthorize a program that pays sailors extra when their deployments exceed 220 days, which became commonplace in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The two-year program is set to expire Sept. 17, but the Navy is working to extend the program so sailors will continue to receive bonuses in their paychecks, according to Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen, spokesman for the chief of naval personnel.

Sailors receive a prorated bonus of \$495 per month for an extended deployment, which equals \$16.50 for each day beyond 220 days.

Six months was once the standard length of time Navy ships were out to sea. But in recent years, many ships' deployments lasted nine to 10 months. Extended deployments became so routine following 9/11 that the military stopped paying troops extra. The Navy now wants a standard deployment to last seven months, with ships deploying every three years.

The USS Harry S. Truman was supposed to be the first aircraft carrier to have a seven-month deployment under that new system. But an additional 30 days were tacked on to give the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower time to replace it in the Middle East while the Truman's aircraft continued to patrol the skies over Iraq and Syria as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Extending the Truman Carrier Strike Group's deployment is projected to cost more than \$1.3 million in bonus pay, according to figures from Navy Personnel Command.

Trump accepts GOP nomination

The Washington Post

CLEVELAND — Donald Trump painted a dire portrait of a lawless, terrorized nation as he accepted the Republican presidential nomination here Thursday night, delivering a sweeping indictment of a feckless political and corporate class that he argued was thrusting the United States into a perilous decline.

Declaring that he, alone, has the leadership strength to secure the homeland and to rejuvenate the economy, the billionaire real estate mogul offered himself as a "law and order" candidate and made a direct appeal to blue-collar Americans who have felt left behind in the 21st century.

"The forgotten men and women of our country — people who work hard but no longer have a voice: I am your voice," Trump said in a long address to fired-up delegates on the closing night of the Republican National Convention.

Rather than pivoting to the political middle with an uplifting address, Trump punctuated the turbulent, four-day convention with a heavy speech with simple declarations. And he focused intensively on the alleged dangers posed by immigrants and refugees, showing that on the biggest stage of his campaign he would not shy away from rhetoric that many minority voters find repulsive.

Trump spoke with so much gusto it sounded much of the time as though he were screaming, and by the end, his face was notably red and glistening with sweat.

The address lasted an extraordinary 76 minutes, with balloons falling in Quicken Loans Arena and fireworks shooting over Lake Erie nearly an hour after the scheduled time.

The tone of his prepared text was hard-edged — at times severe — and echoed the dark themes of Richard Nixon's 1968 campaign. Trump is betting that general-election voters feel so beleaguered that they will heed his call for radical change.

Trump described the country as beset by illegal immigrants, some of them killers. The crowd chanted back at him, "Send them home," and "Build the wall." And Trump decried an increase in homicides in some cities.

"I have a message to every last person threatening the peace on our streets and the safety of our police: When I take the oath of office next year, I will restore law and order to our country. Believe me. Believe me," he said.

Trump's relentlessly gloomy tone was a jarring contrast to the sunny introduction by daughter Ivanka Trump, who portrayed him as a generous, magnanimous business executive who would be "the people's champion" and "a fighter" who delivers results.

Donald Trump laid out stark differences between his agenda and that of presumed Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. He asserted that his rival is a "puppet" of corporations and elites, and that she would "keep our rigged system in place."

Trump blamed Clinton directly for the past decade and a half of foreign policies that have wrought turmoil in the Middle East and cast the former secretary of state as a favor-trading, self-enriching agent of overseas powers.

"This is the legacy of Hillary Clinton: death, destruction, terrorism and weakness," he said. "But Hillary Clinton's legacy does not have to be America's legacy."

Several killed in attack on German mall

Associated Press

BERLIN — Six people have been killed at a shooting Friday at a McDonald's restaurant in a mall in Munich, the German public broadcaster Bayrischer Rundfunk reported.

Munich police said Friday night they were hunting for multiple shooters, saying "the suspects are still on the run."

Police urged visitors to stay home, to seek safety inside

buildings and to avoid public places.

The city has sent smartphone alerts to tell people to stay indoors.

The attack, the second in Germany this week, occurred just before 6 p.m. at the Olympia-Einkaufszentrum shopping mall in the northern part of Munich.

The German rail company Deutsche Bahn has stopped train traffic to Munich's main

station and Munich public transit operator MVG has shut down all subway, bus and trolley cars because of the police operation to find the shooters.

Police said witnesses reported seeing three different people with guns near the mall.

Munich police spokeswoman Claudia Kuenzel told The Associated Press there were "several dead and wounded" in the shooting. She could not provide exact numbers.

Carrier USS Eisenhower restarts ops vs. militants

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and the embarked Carrier Air Wing 3 renewed operations against the Islamic State group on Friday, after a brief break while transiting from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf, a Navy statement said.

From June 28 to July 8, Ike launched 116 sorties from the Eastern Mediterranean Sea in support of the 19-nation air coalition combating the militant

group in Iraq and Syria.

The addition of the aircraft carrier to the campaign comes a week after an attempted military coup in Turkey that briefly halted air strikes from Incirlik air base — a key hub in the air war against Islamic State positions.

The versatility and power of an aircraft carrier and its embarked air wing are a welcome addition as the U.S. continues to accelerate operations in the region.

The operations are Ike's first in the Persian Gulf since 2013.

Outside electrical service to Incirlik Air Base back on

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC

Stars and Stripes

Outside power was restored on Friday to Incirlik Air Base, a week after Turkish authorities cut electricity as they rounded up members of the military suspected of involvement in the failed coup attempt, including the base's Turkish commander.

The U.S. military had been running backup generators to maintain operations at the base, a key hub in the air war against Islamic State militants in neighboring Syria and Iraq.

U.S. European Command said in a statement that the generators will continue to be on standby.

"We will retain this capability should the power be interrupted again," the statement said. "Meanwhile, there is a steady flow of hot food, water, and fuel to support our servicemembers and civilians in Turkey."

Authorities cut power to the base about 7:30 Saturday morning, just hours after authorities said the coup attempt had been thwarted. They also closed the airspace around the base for about 24 hours, halting airstrikes against the Islamic

State group. The airspace was reopened soon after the arrest of the Turkish general in charge of the Incirlik installation. Since then, U.S. air operations against the militants in Iraq and Syria have continued from the base, located about 60 miles from the Syrian border.

The electricity cutoff sparked concerns that the air base, which is crucial to the U.S. war effort, could become a bargaining chip as Ankara seeks to pressure Washington to extradite a Muslim cleric living in exile in Pennsylvania who is accused of orchestrating the coup attempt.

On Wednesday, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said in Washington that his Turkish counterpart had assured him power would be restored to Incirlik soon.

EUCOM said the U.S. was working closely with the Turkish military.

The U.S. "will continue to work towards ensuring our facility, the U.S. servicemembers who live and work on it, and the operations occurring there remain fully prepared to take on a myriad of missions as we work together to defeat terrorism," the EUCOM statement said.

Coalition: Human shields used in Syria

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A U.S. military spokesman said Friday that Islamic State group fighters have used thousands of civilians as human shields and decoys in the battle for the northern Syrian city of Manbij, where it was reported earlier this week that nearly 60 civilians were killed by an airstrike.

The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces have captured about half of Manbij in recent days, though they've faced fierce resistance from the terrorist group as its fighters attempt to hold on to the strategic city about 50 miles northwest of Raqqa, said Army Col. Chris Garver, the Baghdad-based spokesman for the U.S.-led anti-Islamic State group coalition.

Manbij is a stop along what is believed to be the final major supply route that the Islamic State group controls from its de facto Syrian capital in Raqqa to the outside world, through Turkey.

The SDF, predominantly comprising Kurds, has moved "slowly and deliberately" through western Manbij and toward the city's center, where at least "a couple thousand" civilians remain trapped by the Islamic State group, Garver said. Their presence has complicated the operations to capture the city, which would be among the largest strategic victories to date by the SDF on their push toward Raqqa.

The SDF troops "are being very careful in how they fight this," Garver said. "When you realize [The Islamic State group] is sending civilians out toward the lines to draw fire so they can use that as a propaganda tool or in some way get a benefit from [U.S.-backed forces] accidentally killing civil-

ians, that keeps that operation very deliberate as they work through the city."

Activist groups observing the war in Syria raised allegations earlier this week that U.S.-led coalition airstrikes have killed dozens of civilians near Manbij. The Operation Inherent Resolve coalition has conducted more than 500 airstrikes near the city since May 21, when the SDF launched its siege.

The Pentagon is continuing a "credibility assessment" of those reports, Garver said Friday. That initial investigation should be completed in about the next 10 days, when a commander will determine whether the United States will launch a formal investigation into the incident. Garver said Army Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland, the top OIR commander, and Army Gen. Joseph Votel, the U.S. Central Command chief, are monitoring the reports.

"We apply an extraordinary amount of rigor into strike-clearance procedures to do everything possible to avoid civilian casualties or unnecessary collateral damage and to comply with the principles of the law of armed conflict," Garver said.

The accusations concern attacks on a convoy of vehicles and nearby buildings in an Islamic State-held village just north of Manbij, where SDF forces observed militants preparing for an attack early Tuesday morning.

Garver said initial reports from "internal and external sources" claimed civilians might have been intermixed in that convoy. The Great Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights estimated at least 56 civilians were killed in the strikes. Another activist group, the Turkey-based Syrian Institute for Justice said more than 85 civilians were killed.

Former NFL coach Green dies at 67

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Dennis Green, a trailblazing coach who led a Minnesota Vikings renaissance in the 1990s before a less successful run with the Arizona Cardinals, has died. He was 67.

Green's family posted a message on the Cardinals website on Friday announcing the death.

"His family was by his side and he fought hard," the statement read. Other details were not immediately disclosed, though the Cardinals said Green had died of a heart attack.

Green spent 10 seasons in Minnesota, leading the Vikings to eight playoff appearances and two NFC championship games. He only had one losing season and compiled an overall record of 97-62, including a 15-1 regular season in 1998 spearheaded by a record-setting offense.

Green went out on a limb in the draft

before that season, plucking Randy Moss at pick No. 21 after the super-talented receiver fell due to character concerns. Moss was a sensation from the start, teaming with Cris Carter, Jake Reed, quarterback Randall Cunningham and running back Robert Smith to give the Vikings the most dynamic and explosive offense the league had ever seen.

But the Vikings were upset at home by the Atlanta Falcons that season and also were embarrassed by the New York Giants 41-0 in their other trip to the NFC title game after the 2000 season.

Green went 4-8 in the postseason, one of the reasons he was fired by Minnesota late in the 2001 season.

"Denny made his mark in ways far beyond being an outstanding football coach," the Vikings said. "He mentored countless players and served as a father figure for the men he coached. Denny founded the Vikings Community Tuesday Program, a critical initiative that is now

implemented across the entire NFL. He took great pride in helping assistant coaches advance their careers. His tenure as one of the first African-American head coaches in both college and the NFL was also transformative. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Green family."

Green did some television work and interviewed with several teams before being hired by the Cardinals in 2004. The Cardinals gave him a four-year, \$10 million contract to turn around a woebegone franchise, but he was fired after a three-year run.

Green made several moves that seemed to backfire, beginning with the abrupt release of offensive lineman Pete Kendall on the eve of his first training camp. In his first season, Green benched quarterback Josh McCown for Shaun King even though the team had won three of its last four. By the time McCown got the job back, the Cardinals had lost three straight.

In his final season, the Cardinals won their opener and then lost eight in a row to quickly fall out of the playoff hunt. The skid included close home losses to St. Louis, Kansas City and, most memorably on a Monday night, to Chicago. The Bears rallied from 20 down, returning two late fumbles and a punt for touchdowns, and that all led to one of the more memorable postgame rants by an NFL coach.

Green pounded the podium and yelled "The Bears are who we thought they were!" afterward, a line that would be replayed endlessly over the years.

Green was fired after the season, one day after the Cardinals concluded a 5-11 run with a 27-20 loss at San Diego. He finished with a 16-32 record at Arizona, none of his teams winning more than six games in his three seasons.

Green was also a head coach in college at Northwestern and Stanford and served as an assistant to Bill Walsh on the dominant 49ers teams of the 1980s.

Upheaval is buzzword as training camps open

Associated Press

Peyton Manning is retired. Tom Coughlin is gone. Heck, the Rams no longer are in St. Louis.

Upheaval is the buzzword for the NFL as training camps open. At least until big-name players get big-time injuries, or major holdouts end, or tackling and blocking for real begin, the departures of a likely Hall of Fame player and coach will be front and center.

Not to mention the first shifting of an NFL franchise since the Oilers moved to Tennessee in 1997.

Manning's retirement doesn't exactly leave a void at the top of the quarterback ranks with Aaron Rodgers, Tom Brady, Ben Roethlisberger, Cam Newton and, oh yeah, Peyton's little brother, Eli, still around. It does, however, create a huge chasm to fill in Denver.

With Von Miller's messy contract situation settled — it got ugly at times — Denver still must deal with the defections of Malik Jackson and Danny Trevathan from the brilliant defense via free agency. So change hasn't exactly been positive for the champion Broncos.

"Nothing's smooth about what we do," coach Gary Kubiak has said. "There's always things happening. But the most important thing is what we do out there on that field and how we get ready to play."

"So, I think we've done a good job of sorting through distractions and various things that are going on with our football team and staying focused on football."

The Giants have a new look on the sideline as the often red-faced Coughlin resigned (before he was forced out) after a dozen seasons. Whether his gesticulations or his coaching acumen will be most missed is anyone's guess, but Ben McAdoo steps in for his first top job in the pros.

McAdoo's first challenge is getting the team out of a four-year rut of not making the playoffs. General manager Jerry Reese and team owners spent big in free agency to provide McAdoo with the tools to turn around the Giants.

"We have talented players. It is just a matter of getting the most out of their ability, letting them make plays and letting everyone step up and do their job," quarterback Eli Manning said.

"I think we made a big jump this offseason," linebacker Devon Kennard adds. "It is a great group of guys that came in through the draft and free agency and jelling with the guys who have already been here."

We'll see.

Other new head coaches are Adam Gase in Miami, Hue Jackson in Cleveland, Doug Pederson in Philadelphia, Dirk Koetter in Tampa, and Chip Kelly in San Francisco. Mike Mularkey has moved from interim to head coach in Tennessee.

Los Angeles, meanwhile, returns to the NFL roster at the expense of St. Louis, where the Rams previously resided for two decades. Things won't look much different with the Rams, however — they left the LA area (Anaheim, actually) in 1995 — as they call the aging LA Coliseum home until their palace in nearby Inglewood is ready in 2019.

While NFL owners clearly were eager to get back to Hollywood, it remains questionable how enamored of the NFL fans in SoCal will be.

But Rams general manager Kevin Demoff doesn't seem concerned.

"This has really been a labor of love over the past five months to get this team up and running in every facet," Demoff told the Ventura County Star. "Our group has been working tirelessly. I must say, the warm reception we have received from everybody in this community has been unbelievable."

Boldin, Bush, Welker among big-name vets seeking work

Associated Press

NEW YORK — They were once big names with huge contracts. Now, several former NFL stars are unsigned and unemployed, anxiously awaiting another — and, maybe, final — opportunity to get back on the football field.

Just a few years ago, a list that included Anquan Boldin, Reggie Bush, Wes Welker, Andre Johnson and Roddy White would have highlighted the league's best playmakers. But age, injuries, contract squabbles and off-field issues have the NFL's unemployment line filled with familiar faces as teams prepare to head to training camp.

Here's a look at some prominent unsigned free agents:

Anquan Boldin: The 35-year-old wide receiver showed he still has plenty left, catching 69 passes for 789 yards and four touchdowns last season for a bad 49ers offense. Boldin has drawn some interest from teams in the last few weeks, so it would be a surprise if he isn't in camp with someone needing a possession receiver. He has 1,009 career receptions and 74 TDs.

Reggie Bush: Once one of the league's most dynamic running backs, Bush has played in only 16 games the last two seasons because of injuries. After signing a one-year deal with San Francisco last offseason, he tore a knee ligament during a game in November when he slipped on the concrete bordering the field at the St. Louis Rams' Edward Jones Dome and hit a wall. Bush told SiriusXM NFL Radio last month that he's healthy now and doesn't "feel like I lost a step" at age 31.

Marques Colston: The Saints' career leader in receptions and TDs was released by New Orleans in March. Colston missed the last two games of 2015 with a chest injury and had career lows with 45 catches, 520 yards receiving and four touchdowns.

The 33-year-old receiver was a seventh-round pick out of Hofstra in 2006 and has 711 career receptions for 9,759 yards and 72 scores.

Antonio Cromartie: After a Pro Bowl year in Arizona, the athletic cornerback reunited with Darrelle Revis in the Jets' secondary last season and was mostly solid, but also showed some signs of slippage. Cromartie, who turned 32 in April, failed to get an interception for the first time since his rookie season in San Diego in 2006. New York cut Cromartie in February in a cost-cutting move, saving \$8 million on the salary cap.

Ryan Fitzpatrick: The 33-year-old quarterback appears on this list only because he and the Jets remain in a contract squabble that appears to have no end in sight. Fitzpatrick set a Jets franchise record with a career-best 31 TD passes after taking over as the starter last summer when Geno Smith had his jaw broken by a punch from a teammate. Many still expect Fitzpatrick to end up back with the Jets, who fell one game short of the playoffs last season with him under center.

Wes Welker: Age and a series of concussions during the last three years have the 35-year-old wide receiver weighing retirement. Welker played in eight games for the Rams last season and finished with 13 catches and no touchdowns. His 903 career receptions are the most in NFL history by an undrafted player, but Welker is four years removed from his last 100-catch, 1,000-yard season.

Roddy White: The Falcons released their career leader in receptions, yards receiving and TD catches in March, and the 34-year-old receiver remains without a job. He had a six-season stretch from 2007-12 in which he had at least 1,100 yards receiving every year, but White had just 43 catches for 506 yards and one TD in a diminished role with Atlanta last season.



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Dodgers halt Strasburg's streak

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — By the time Stephen Strasburg settled down and looked like his dominant self, it was too late and his undefeated season was over.

Strasburg struck out 10, but allowed six runs and seven hits, including two home runs, and the Washington Nationals lost to the Los Angeles Dodgers 6-3 on Thursday. It's Strasburg's first loss since Sept. 9, ending a streak of 16 consecutive winning decisions.

"During the streak he was outstanding," manager Dusty Baker said. "You know every streak is going to end. That's the best streak I've ever seen, I think. Now you just go back to the drawing board and start a new streak."

The All-Star right-hander allowed two and three-run home runs to third baseman Justin Turner in the first and third innings and an RBI single to first baseman Adrian Gonzalez. After Turner's home run, Strasburg retired 12 of his final 13 batters.

"It was just a couple of pitches where I just didn't execute when I needed to, and I got beat on them," Strasburg said. "Once I got past those first couple innings I started throwing more first-pitch strikes."

Strasburg (13-1) had the longest winning streak to begin a season among National League starters since Rube Marquard of the New York Giants went 18-0 in 1912.

Tigers 2, White Sox 1 (7): Ian Kinsler hit his 20th home run, Miguel Cabrera added his 19th and visiting Detroit beat struggling Chicago in a game that was called after more than a two-hour rain delay in the seventh inning on Thursday.

A heavy downpour before the bottom of the seventh sent players and umpires running for cover. And after two hours, five minutes the game was finally called.

The Tigers opened a seven-game trip on a winning note while the White Sox have now dropped seven of eight.

Kinsler and Cabrera made it 2-1 with solo homers against James Shields (4-12) in the fifth. Mike Pelfrey (3-9) won for just the second time in nine starts, and the Tigers came out on top after dropping two of three against Minnesota.

Orioles 4, Yankees 1: Chris Tillman tied for the major league lead with his 14th victory, pitching four-hit ball for seven innings and helping depleted Baltimore avert a four-game sweep in New York.

The Orioles had lost four straight overall, costing them their lead in the AL East.

Baltimore slugger Chris Davis, shortstop Manny Machado and manager Buck Showalter returned from a stomach bug that's hit the clubhouse. But Orioles center fielder Adam Jones didn't play because of back spasms, catcher Matt Wieters missed his third consecutive

game after being hit by a pitch in the foot and rookie outfielder Joey Rickard sat out with an injured thumb.

Tillman (14-2) matched White Sox ace Chris Sale for the most victories in the majors. Tillman gave up three hits and two walks to the first eight batters, capped by Starlin Castro's RBI single. The tall right-hander then set down 16 of his final 17 hitters. Brad Brach pitched the eighth and Zach Britton closed for his 30th save in as many chances.

CC Sabathia (5-8) lost on his 36th birthday

Pirates 5, Brewers 3: Francisco Liriano took another step toward putting his season-long control issues behind him, striking out 13 in host Pittsburgh's victory over Milwaukee.

Liriano (6-9) gave up three runs and four hits in 6 2/3 innings and didn't issue a walk for just the second time in 19 starts. The left-hander entered the game having issued a major league-high 62 walks.

Mark Melancon worked the ninth for his 28th save.

Matt Joyce hit a three-run homer off Matt Garza (1-4) in the first inning and finished with four RBIs after being a last-second substitution in the outfield when Starling Marte was diagnosed with flu-like symptoms shortly before the first pitch.

Jonathan Villar homered for the Brewers.

Red Sox 13, Twins 2: Mookie Betts homered on the first pitch his team faced, David Ortiz added a late two-run homer and host Boston continued to surge through July with a victory over Minnesota.

Dustin Pedroia went 5-for-5 with two doubles for Boston. The Red Sox had 17 hits while winning their third straight and improving to 12-3 in July.

Betts, Ortiz and Xander Bogaerts had three hits apiece and Jackie Bradley Jr. hit a solo homer and finished with three RBIs. Steven Wright (12-5) tied his career high with nine strikeouts and held Minnesota to four hits in eight innings.

Boston, which had 16 hits in an 11-7 win over San Francisco on Wednesday, was up 3-0 after getting four hits against Minnesota starter Tyler Duffey (5-7) in the first.

Cardinals 6, Padres 5: Aledmys Diaz's walk-off single in the ninth inning gave St. Louis a comeback victory over visiting San Diego.

St. Louis scored four runs — the last three on Stephen Piscotty's homer — to tie it in the eighth and went on to its first four-game series sweep at home since beating Colorado on Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2010.

Tommy Pham led off the ninth with a double off reliever Carlos Villanueva (1-1). With the bases loaded and one out, Diaz ripped a 3-2 pitch to left for the winner.

Yangervis Solarte homered in the eighth

inning to extend the Padres' franchise-record home run streak to 19 consecutive games. The streak is the longest in the National League since Milwaukee hit home runs in 20 consecutive games in July 2008.

Rockies 7, Braves 3: Carlos Gonzalez hit a three-run homer to break a scoreless tie in the sixth inning, Chad Bettis threw efficiently into the seventh and Colorado topped visiting Atlanta.

Gonzalez lined a 97 mph fastball from Mike Folytyniewicz (3-4) over the fence in right-center. It was Gonzalez's 20th homer of the season.

Bettis (8-6) allowed one run over 6 2-3 innings. He was cruising through Atlanta's lineup until hitting a bump in the seventh when he gave up an RBI double to A.J. Pierzynski.

Trailing 7-1 in the ninth, the Braves scored twice before the Rockies brought in closer Carlos Estevez with two outs. He got Jace Peterson to roll out to end the game and earn his seventh save.

Marlins 9, Phillies 3: Tom Koehler pitched eight strong innings, Ichiro Suzuki moved within four hits of 3,000 for his career and Miami pounded out 16 hits against host Philadelphia. Christian Yelich homered, and the Marlins won three of four over the Phillies to cap a seven-game road trip at 5-2. Miami moved 1 1/2 games ahead of idle New York for the second NL wild-card spot.

Koehler (7-8) rebounded from a month-long slump with arguably his best outing of the season. He gave up two hits and only one of his three runs allowed was earned while striking out five and walking one.

Ryan Howard and Freddy Galvis homered for Philadelphia.

Jerad Eickhoff (6-11) was the loser

Rays 7, Athletics 3: Tim Beckham homered and then sparked a four-run inning with his eighth straight hit over three games to lead visiting Tampa Bay to a victory over Oakland.

He followed up a five-hit game in Colorado on Wednesday by hitting a solo homer in the second against Sonny Gray (4-9) and then adding a leadoff single in the big fifth inning that gave Tampa Bay the lead for good.

Beckham, who started the streak with a single in his final at-bat Monday, was finally retired when he popped out to end the sixth but by then he had done his damage. His eight hits in eight at-bats — he walked in his other plate appearance — were one more hit than he had in 41 at-bats in all of June.

Corey Dickerson homered and drove in three runs, and Logan Forsythe, Brad Miller and Evan Longoria added RBI hits in the fifth inning to back a solid start by Matt Moore (6-7).

All-Star Game out of Charlotte

Associated Press

The NBA is moving the 2017 All-Star Game out of Charlotte because of its objections to a North Carolina law that limits anti-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay and transgender people.

The league had expressed its opposition to the law known as HB2 since it was enacted in March, and its decision Thursday came less than a month after state legislators revisited the law and chose to leave it largely unchanged.

"While we recognize that the NBA cannot choose the law in every city, state, and country in which we do business, we do not believe we can successfully host our All-Star festivities in Charlotte in the climate created by HB2," the league said in a statement.

The league added that it hoped to announce a new location for next February's events shortly. It hopes to reschedule the 2019 game for Charlotte if there is a resolution to the matter.

"We understand the NBA's decision and the challenges around holding the NBA All-Star Game in Charlotte this season. There was an exhaustive effort from all parties to keep the event in Charlotte, and we are disappointed we were unable to do so," Hornets chairman and Hall of Famer Michael Jordan said. "With that said, we are pleased that the NBA opened the door for Charlotte to host All-Star weekend again as soon as an opportunity was available in 2019."

Commissioner Adam Silver wanted to wait as long as possible to make one, believing positive dialogue could lead to changes it felt the law needed. But he also said a decision would need to be made this summer, and the league was disappointed when the General Assembly restored the ability of workers to use state law to sue over employment discrimination on the basis of race, religion and other factors — but left gender identity and sexual orientation unprotected.

There was no appetite among Republican lawmakers to change the provision requiring transgender people to use restrooms corresponding to the sex on their birth certificates in many public buildings — a measure at the heart of two legal challenges in federal court.

The law passed in a March special session also excludes sexual orientation and gender identity from antidiscrimination protections related to the workplace, hotels and restaurants; and overrules local antidiscrimination ordinances. Republican leaders have said the law was passed in response to a Charlotte ordinance that would have allowed transgender people to use restrooms consistent with their gender identity.

Governor Pat McCrory lashed out at the sports and entertainment industry and the media in response to the NBA's announcement.

"The sports and entertainment elite, Attorney General Roy Cooper and the liberal media have for months misrepresented our laws and maligned the people of North Carolina simply because most people believe boys and girls should be able to use school bathrooms, locker rooms and showers without the opposite sex present," McCrory said in a statement issued by his office.

The law has drawn opposition from a number of entertainers who have canceled performances in North Carolina. Duke recently had to replace one of its games scheduled for next season when Albany was prevented from traveling to Raleigh by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's travel ban.

Froome crashes but still finishes stage

Associated Press

SAINT-GERVAIS-LES-BAINS, France — Rain and crashes played havoc at the Tour de France on Friday as Chris Froome hit the ground and Romain Bardet posted the first French victory at this year's race.

Froome quickly borrowed a teammate's bike and kept the now torn yellow jersey after crossing the finish line 36 seconds behind Bardet, who climbed to second place overall.

Froome holds a lead of 4 minutes, 11 seconds over Bardet, with two-time runner-up Nairo Quintana of Colombia moving up to third, 4:27 back.

Bardet attacked on a descent moments before Froome slipped on road paint and hit the ground. The two-time champion was able to continue racing after Geraint Thomas gave him his bike.

Froome was descending at a relatively cautious speed of almost 28 mph when he fell, but the crash left him wounded. With his yellow jersey torn, cuts and bruises on his back and blood on his right elbow, Froome looked uncomfortable on Thomas' bike.

Despite the circumstances, Froome caught up with the group of favorites in the brutal final climb to Le Bettex with the help of teammate Wouter Poels.

Froome crossed the line grimacing in

pain, then put his arm around Poels to thank him for the support.

The 91-mile ride featured four ascents in the Alps and was marred by several crashes on roads made slippery by rain. Second-placed Bauke Mollema also crashed at a roundabout and got dropped, as his hopes of finishing on the podium in Paris disappeared.

"Right now I'm on a cloud," Bardet said after posting his second Tour stage win. "I rode with my instinct. I'm second overall, I won the stage, it is beautiful."

Spaniard Joaquim Rodriguez finished the stage in second place, in the same time as Alejandro Valverde, 23 seconds back.