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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Tension building in Yemen

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Top Obama administration officials have failed for several days to persuade Saudi Arabia's government to limit the scope of its airstrikes on cities and towns in Yemen, a campaign that authorities said killed nearly 50 people Monday in Sanaa, the capital.

The U.S. effort to restrain the Saudi attacks came as the Pentagon moved the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and a guided-missile destroyer into waters off Yemen. In all, nine U.S. warships are patrolling near strategic shipping lanes in the Gulf of Aden and the southern Arabian Sea.

Officials said the growing armada is meant, in part, to deter Iran from shipping weapons and other supplies to the Houthi rebels and their allies battling remnants of the central government for control of Yemen, the Arab world's poorest nation.

At the Pentagon on Tuesday, Defense Department spokesman Col. Steve Warren said the presence of a flotilla of nine Iranian cargo ships in the Gulf of Aden was "certainly one of the factors" that played into the decision to move additional U.S. naval forces into the area.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest would not comment Monday on the movement of the carrier, but said the administration is increasingly alarmed about Iran arming the Houthis and the growing humanitarian crisis.

"We have seen evidence that the Iranians are supplying weapons and other forms of support to the Houthis in Yemen," he said. "That support will only contribute to greater violence in that country."

Warren said the U.S. is able to see containers on the Iranian cargo ships, but it's "difficult to say" whether they contain arms

Saudi strikes pound rebels

The Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — The Saudi-led coalition pounded Shiite rebels in Yemen on Tuesday, killing 20 in a city in the country's west as the civilian death toll rose to 38 from airstrikes the day before in the capital, Sanaa, officials said.

The U.S.-backed campaign by Saudi Arabia and its allies, mainly Gulf Arab countries, is aimed at crushing the rebels, known as Houthis, who have taken over Sanaa and areas in northern Yemen and have been pressing an offensive to expand their gains in the rest of the country, including the southern port city of Aden.

The ground fighting and the airstrikes have pushed Yemen to the brink of collapse. The fighting has also taken on the appearance of

a proxy war between Iran, the Shiite powerhouse backing the Houthis, and Sunni-dominated Saudi Arabia.

On Tuesday, airstrikes hit a gathering of Houthis in the western city of Ibb, killing 20 fighters, security officials on the ground said. The rebels were assembling to head to Aden as reinforcements in the battle against forces loyal to President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who fled the country from Aden to Saudi Arabia last month.

In Sanaa, the death toll from bombings Monday targeting rebel depots and weapon caches in the Fag Atan mountains overlooking the city rose to 38, medical officials said. The bombings flattened houses and sent villagers fleeing for their lives.

or other items. The Iranian ships have so far not demonstrated any threat to maritime security, but "by having American sea power there, we're able to keep a very close eye on them."

There has been no communication between the American warships and the Iranian vessels. "They have not declared their intentions or what they're going to do," Warren told reporters.

Saudi warplanes began bombing Yemen on March 26 in an effort to stop the swift advance of the Shiite Muslim rebels, to protect the kingdom's southern border and to return President Abdu Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who fled into exile last month, to

focus on protecting the Saudi border, according to a senior administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in discussing internal deliberations.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said the administration is trying to work with the Saudi government "to frame an achievable objective."

"There is an effort to walk the Saudis through the process and point out that there is a limit to what you can accomplish through the air," Schiff said in a telephone interview.

Officials at the National Security Council and the Saudi Embassy did not respond to questions about the U.S. effort.

President Barack Obama, who spoke to Saudi King Salman by phone Friday, met at the White House on Monday with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan, of the United Arab Emirates, which is part of the coalition conducting the airstrikes.

The United Nations last week reported more than 760 civilian deaths in the last month. An airstrike Monday in Sanaa killed 38 people, injured hundreds more and wrecked a large number of homes, officials said.

The airstrike apparently targeted a mountaintop missile depot but set off a series of secondary explosions that shattered windows miles away, wrecked dozens of storefronts and sent smoke billowing skyward.

A spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition, Brig. Gen. Ahmed Asiri, blamed the explosions on the Houthis and their allies. "The size of the explosions showed they have other ammunition and missiles stored there," Asiri told reporters in Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Harper in Washington contributed to this report.

Minn. men determined to join Islamic State

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — When Guled Ali Omar made up his mind to join the Islamic State group, authorities said, he wasn't easily deterred.

The Minnesota man emptied his bank accounts last May and planned to fly to Syria via San Diego, federal officials say, but his family confronted him, and he set his plans aside. In November, officials said, he tried to board a flight in Minneapolis but was stopped by the FBI.

Even while under investigation, authorities say, Omar and five other men kept trying to make their way to Syria, coming up with a plot to secure false passports.

Omar is among six Minnesota men of

Somali descent charged with terrorism-related offenses in a criminal complaint unsealed Monday. They are among the latest Westerners accused of traveling or attempting to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State group, which has carried out a host of attacks, including beheading Americans.

Authorities described the Minnesota men as friends in the state's Somali community who recruited and inspired each other and met secretly to plan their travels. They are charged with conspiracy to provide material support and attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization.

"What is remarkable about this case is that nothing stopped these defendants from pursuing their goal," U.S. Attorney for Minnesota Andy Luger said Monday. "They

never stopped plotting another way to get to Syria to join ISIL," an alternate acronym for the militant group.

Since 2007, more than 22 young Somali men have traveled from Minnesota to Somalia to join the militant group al-Shabab, which is also listed by the State Department as fomenting terrorism. Authorities have said a handful of Minnesota residents have traveled to Syria to fight with militants in the past year, and at least one has died.

The Minnesota men charged on Monday were identified as Omar, 20; brothers Mohamed Abdihamid Farah, 21, and Adnan Abdihamid Farah, 19; Abdurahman Yasin Daud, 21; Zacharia Yusuf Abdurahman, 19; and Hanad Mustafe Musse, 19.

2 Italy-based soldiers sentenced for rape

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Two U.S. paratroops were sentenced earlier this month by an Italian judge to six years in prison for the rape and beating of a pregnant Romanian woman last summer.

Pfc. Jerelle Gray and Pvt. Darius McCollough, both with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, were sentenced April 9, a lawyer for the victim confirmed.

Officials with the brigade did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The two soldiers had agreed to pay for sex with the woman, who sometimes worked as a prostitute, on July 15, 2014. They attacked her after she declined to have sex when they refused to wear condoms, according to news reports.

They beat and raped her in a secluded spot for more than two hours, according to the woman's testimony and other evidence in the case, said the woman's lawyer, Alessandra Bocchi. The woman, who was assaulted under the back of Gray's car, memorized the car's license plate. She report-

ed the rape the same night.

The woman, who was six months pregnant, was hospitalized for more than two weeks after the attack. Her baby was born with a disability that could have been caused by the rape, and the Italian government is seeking damages from the U.S. for the woman and her baby, Bocchi said.

McCollough remains restricted to the barracks at Del Din.

Gray is in custody in a Verona jail, following a December incident in which he allegedly attacked other women. The status of that case is unclear.

Marine drills aim to train the trainers

BY JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

YUMA, Ariz. — A crowd of civilians gathered, snapping photos and leaning over the fence, as the CH-53E Super Stallions landed on the grass and Marines poured out, securing the landing zone and unloading aid supplies.

Lance Cpl. Eric Martin stood watch, trying to keep rowdy people from breaking through the gate, while other Marines arranged a camouflage net over a makeshift aid station.

The humanitarian aid scenario on this hot Friday afternoon was part of a training exercise spread over two states, designed to show students at a training school how to respond when Marines are called to evacuate an embassy and provide medical help.

It's not a new training scenario for Marines but here they're learning how to teach others while honing their own skills.

The Weapons and Tactics Instructor course is a biannual seven-week graduate-level course that prepares Marine pilots to return to their units as training instructors. It also incorporates ground and logistics Marines into the scenarios to make them as realistic as possible.

No answer yet on Md. man who died in custody

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The lawyer for the family of Freddie Gray, a black man who died of spinal injuries during an arrest in Baltimore, said he believes the police had no reason to stop the man in the first place.

Gray, 25, was arrested on April 12 after police "made eye contact" with him and another man and the two started running, authorities said. Gray was placed in a transport van, and roughly 30 minutes later was rushed to the hospital in critical condition. Gray died

Sunday of what Deputy Police Commissioner Jerry Rodriguez described at a Monday news conference as "a significant spinal injury."

What led to that injury — and why Gray was initially pursued by police — is still unknown.

According to court documents, Officer Garrett Miller sought to charge Gray with carrying a switchblade, which was discovered in Gray's pocket after he was stopped. Police Commissioner Anthony Batts said the reason for Gray's stop is "a question we have to dig into."

Billy Murphy, the lawyer

hired by Gray's family, said he believes the officers had no probable cause to stop Gray.

"They've made concessions on lack of probable cause," Murphy said of officials. "Running while black is not probable cause. Felony running doesn't exist, and you can't arrest someone for looking you in the eye. You have to believe he committed a crime and have an objective basis for that belief. They had none of that."

Gray's death has prompted daily protests and a vigil was planned for Tuesday evening at the spot where he was arrested.

Warriors rally, up 2-0 on Pelicans

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr likes to say his team teeters on “explosive and careless” basketball, pulling off an astonishing play one moment and a perplexing one the next.

Kerr saw both extremes Monday night. And the better half was just good enough to defend home court.

Klay Thompson scored 26 points, Stephen Curry had 22 points and six assists and the Warriors regrouped from an early deficit to beat the New Orleans Pelicans 97-87 and take a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

“We still get excited at times and do some crazy things. I kind of like the fact that we walk that line,” Kerr said. “It’s what makes us who we are.”

The top-seeded Warriors fell behind by 13 points in the first quarter after a strong start by Anthony Davis and Eric Gordon quieted an announced sellout crowd of 19,596 wearing golden yellow shirts. But a big burst before halftime pushed the Warriors ahead, and their defense clamped down in the closing moments to put away the pesky Pelicans.

Game 3 of the best-of-seven series is Thursday in New Orleans.

Davis had 26 points and 10 rebounds, and

Gordon scored 23 points for a Pelicans team that played with more poise and passion than it did in the series opener.

“We just have to stick with it,” Gordon said.

“We’re playing the best team in the league and we’re fighting tooth and nail,” Pelicans coach Monty Williams added. “Our guys are grouping up on the fly.”

In the end, the Warriors were just better when it mattered most.

Golden State turned up the NBA’s top-rated defense late, holding the Pelicans to 35 points in the second half. New Orleans shot just 37.8 for the game.

The Pelicans still pulled within one in the final minutes before Draymond Green and center Andrew Bogut — Golden State’s defensive stoppers — helped the Warriors shut down Davis and New Orleans again. Green finished with 14 points, 12 rebounds and five assists.

Thompson also converted a running bank shot over Gordon to start a three-point play, and Bogut followed with a two-handed slam to give Golden State a 97-86 lead with 1:02 left, fending off a tougher-than-expected fight from the West’s eighth seed.

“We know we’re going to have turnovers or lapses. But it’s the defense that won us the game,” Thompson said.

The Warriors have won 20 straight

games and 41 of 43 at home this season. Their last loss at Oracle Arena came against Chicago in overtime on Jan. 27.

New Orleans shook off all those marks to nearly pull off a playoff surprise.

Williams riled up the Warriors’ vocal fan base before the morning shootaround, saying the decibel level at Oracle Arena might not be legal. Williams later said he meant it more as a compliment and didn’t mean to suggest the Warriors were breaking any rules.

Fans seemed to pounce on Williams’ words. Chants of “War-ri-ors!” drowned out the Pelicans during pregame introductions, but they figured out a way to control the crowd: Get off to a fast start.

New Orleans made five of its first six shots and got big contributions from Gordon and Davis to go ahead 28-17 after the first quarter. Reserve guard Leandro Barbosa (12 points) and the backups brought the Warriors back in the second quarter, though Pelicans super sub Norris Cole countered with some big shots of his own.

Of course, the Pelicans struggled to corral Curry and Thompson in the key moments.

“We know that we can beat this team,” Davis said. “We were right there. They made shots, and we didn’t.”

Bulls win as Butler gives boost

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jimmy Butler was simply following orders from Derrick Rose and Joakim Noah.

He kept shooting and the ball kept going in.

Butler set a playoff career-high for the second straight game with 31 points, and the Chicago Bulls beat the Milwaukee Bucks 91-82 on Monday night to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round series.

After scoring 25 points in Game 1, Butler trumped that with another terrific performance. He was at his best down the stretch, scoring 14 in the fourth quarter.

“Jo, Derrick were telling me to score the ball — literally telling me to shoot and not to pass up any shots,” Butler said. “I was feeling it a little bit so I just put the ball in the basket.”

Butler hit 4 of 5 shots in the fourth and all three three-pointers after missing his first six from long range.

Rose scored all of his 15 points in the second half after dominating in the series opener.

Pau Gasol added 11 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks. Mike Dunleavy Jr. scored 12 points. Noah grabbed 19 rebounds and the third-seeded Bulls dominated on the glass 64-48 while taking a commanding lead in the series.

Game 3 is Thursday at Milwaukee.

Khris Middleton led the sixth-seeded Bucks with 22 points, and Michael Carter-Williams scored 12.

“They’ve been in the playoffs before so they understand this moment,” said coach Jason Kidd, whose team shot about 36 percent. “For us, it’s to make it hard for everybody. Pau — we’re trying to make it hard on him. Rose, Dunleavy, it doesn’t matter who it is. Butler got going there. We just couldn’t slow him down.”

The Bulls were trailing 74-71 early in the fourth when Butler started a 13-0 run with a three-pointer.

He drove along the right side for a vicious two-handed dunk on Zaza Pachulia and hit the free throw to complete the three-point play. Butler finished the run with another three, giving Chicago an 84-74 lead with 6:01 remaining.

“That one dunk that Jimmy had was definitely huge,” Noah said. “It gave us some confidence as a team. He was really feeling himself after that.”

Pachulia and Chicago’s Nikola Mirotic got into a skirmish in the closing minutes going for a loose ball, shoving each other while they were on the court.

Both players picked up technicals and Pachulia was ejected with 2:48 left. Mirotic was seen being examined on the sideline after that before heading to the locker room. The Bulls said he has a strained left quadriceps and would be re-evaluated Tuesday morning.

Rose missed his first seven shots after scoring 23 points in his first playoff game since 2012 and was 4-for-14 overall. He finally nailed an open three early in the third and scored 12 in the quarter.

Ducks spoil Jets’ home playoff return

The Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Fired up for the first NHL playoff game in town in 19 years, Winnipeg Jets fans booed Corey Perry off the ice in warmups and cheered every icing call against the Anaheim Ducks.

They went silent when the Ducks scored.

The waves of emotion ebbed and flowed throughout.

The raucous “whiteout” crowd left on a somber note when Anaheim’s Rickard Rakell scored at 5:12 of overtime to beat the Jets 5-4 Monday night at MTS Centre and take a 3-0 series lead.

“I personally have never had anything like that before, and we certainly fed off the energy,” Jets winger Lee Stempniak said.

“It’s disappointing on a couple of levels to go down 3-0 in the series, and also not to deliver for our fans. ... You can’t put into words how tough this loss is.”

The Jets blew a third-period lead for the third straight game, and now face an elimination game. That’ll be Game 4 Wednesday night.

“We’ve got a mountain to climb, and we’re looking forward to the challenge,” Jets center Bryan Little said.

The 2-0 series deficit entering the game didn’t seem as difficult to climb because of the atmosphere players expected in the first Stanley Cup playoff game in Winnipeg since 1996.

It delivered and then some.

“That’s as good a building as I’ve ever seen in my life,” coach Paul Maurice said. “We had good jump and good legs be-

cause of it.”

There was enough jump to take a lead when Stempniak opened the scoring, when Tyler Myers tied it, and when Blake Wheeler and Little each scored go-ahead goals.

The jump was there in the crowd almost every time goaltender Ondrej Pavelec made one of 26 saves, leading to enthusiastic “Pavy” chants.

The building also went silent on Anaheim goals by Cam Fowler, Perry, Jakob Silfverberg, Ryan Kesler and then Rakell, who provided the clincher 5:12 into overtime.

Each time a goal was scored Monday night, it took the sellout crowd of 15,016 on an emotional roller-coaster. The highs were deafening, and the lows were almost dead silent.

“That’s one you’ll always remember, just too bad it wasn’t a more fond memory,” winger Blake Wheeler said.

It wasn’t a fond memory for Winnipeg because Game 3 followed a familiar script. For the third straight time, the Jets led going into the second intermission and for the third straight time gave it up.

This was a better third period, Maurice and players said, but the result wasn’t any different.

“It was just more of the same,” said Wheeler, whose goal was his first point of the series.

“We lead the whole series and we’re 0-3. That’s the way it goes. That’s hockey.”

In the series, the Jets have led for 65:53 to Anaheim’s 11:21.

Rangers 2, Penguins 1: Henrik Lundqvist stopped 23 shots and New York regained

control of its first-round series against host Pittsburgh with a win in Game 3.

Carl Hagelin and Chris Kreider scored for New York, which dominated for two periods then held on late to take a 2-1 series lead.

Patric Hornqvist scored his third career playoff goal for the Penguins, but Pittsburgh couldn’t overcome another slow start. Marc-Andre Fleury made 24 saves, but the Penguins couldn’t back up their strong play in Game 2.

Wild 3, Blues 0: Devan Dubnyk made 17 saves and Jason Pominville and Zach Parise scored second-period goals as host Minnesota earned a victory over St. Louis in Game 3 of their Western Conference series.

Mikael Granlund had two assists, Nino Niederreiter added an empty-netter and the Wild, which now lead the series 2-1, had the edge in every way, without being drawn into a single trip to the penalty box.

St. Louis’ Jake Allen stopped 21 shots, with the over-capacity crowd taunting him with chants of his last name throughout the game, but the Blues lost on the road in the playoffs for the ninth straight time.

Game 4 is in Minnesota on Wednesday. After that, the series shifts south to St. Louis on Friday for Game 5.

They’ve advanced past the first round only once since 2002, when they beat San Jose in 2012. That was the year of their most recent postseason victory away from St. Louis, a 3-1 decision on April 19.



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Kemp, Norris lead Padres' 17-hit romp over Rockies

The Associated Press

DENVER — Odrismer Despaigne turned in another impressive start, but his first major league hit brought the biggest cheers from his San Diego teammates.

It also means a new wardrobe for the young right-hander.

Despaigne pitched strong into the seventh inning, Matt Kemp had three hits and four RBIs and the San Diego Padres scored nine runs in the first two innings of a 14-3 rout of the Colorado Rockies on Monday night.

Derek Norris had three of San Diego's 17 hits and Will Venable homered to help the Padres win for the fifth time in six games.

"This lineup is capable of doing that at any ballpark," shortstop Clint Barmes said.

For the second time this season every Padres starter got a hit, including Despaigne (2-0), who led off the third with a single. It was more than enough for the Cuban right-hander, who allowed just two runs on six hits in 6²/₃ innings.

But his teammates celebrated when Despaigne led off the third with a sharp single to right.

"Our bench went crazy," manager Bud Black said. "He's such a likable guy on our team."

The single also earned Despaigne a new set of clothes from the staff. He said his fellow pitchers told him if he got his first hit at Coors Field they would take him shopping.

"They're going to take (me) shopping and buy whatever I want," Despaigne said through translator and first base coach Jose Valentin.

The game was well in hand when Despaigne got his hit. Rockies starter Jorge De La Rosa struggled in his 2015 debut, lasting two innings. The left-hander missed the first two weeks of the season with a left groin strain and was activated from the disabled list before the game.

He didn't have his usual sharpness at Coors Field, where he has a 45-15 career mark.

"I was overthrowing a lot," De La Rosa said. "I was trying to throw as hard as I can but you can't make outs if you don't have command."

The first four Padres batters got hits, and Yonder Alonso's two-run single capped the best first inning since scoring five at Cincinnati on July 29, 2009.

Will Middlebrooks' two-run triple highlighted a four-run second that ended De La Rosa's night.

De La Rosa (0-1) allowed nine runs — seven earned — on nine hits for his worst outing in seven years.

Colorado scored twice in the fourth but San Diego answered with five more runs in the fifth — two on Venable's second homer of the season — to go up 14-2.

It's the fifth time since 2000 the Padres have scored five or more runs in two innings of the same game, with three of those at Colorado.

Despaigne was knocked around, too, but his issues were comebackers off Colorado bats. Carlos Gonzalez led off the second with a grounder that went off the pitcher's left calf, but Despaigne was able to pick up the ball and throw him out.

Three batters later, Nick Hundley's line drive hit Despaigne in the chest, but he stayed in the game.

White Sox 4, Indians 3: Melky Cabrera

capped Chicago's four-run ninth inning with an RBI single off Cody Allen, sending the host White Sox past Cleveland.

Six consecutive batters reached safely before Cabrera drove a fastball into left-center for the game-ending hit. Alexei Ramirez doubled home two runs and Gordon Beckham had a tying RBI single.

David Robertson (1-0) worked a perfect ninth for his first win with the White Sox. Allen (0-2) recorded just one out in his first blown save in four chances.

Chicago had managed just four hits before the big finish.

Trevor Bauer pitched seven sparkling innings for Cleveland, which has dropped seven of nine. Ryan Raburn and Brett Hayes homered, and Michael Brantley had an RBI double.

Red Sox 7, Orioles 1 (6¹/₂): Justin Masterson benefited from five unearned runs as Boston beat Baltimore in a soggy Patriots' Day game shortened by rain.

The first pitch was thrown at 11:04 a.m. under cloudy skies on the Massachusetts holiday after Boston Marathon runners already were on the course that passes close by Fenway Park. Rain began falling steadily in the fourth and intensified, and the game was called after a 1-hour, 42-minute wait.

With the score tied at 1, Boston scored four runs in the third when Wei-Yin Chen (0-1) walked four and made an error, and third baseman Manny Machado committed another error.

Masterson (2-0) allowed one run, three hits and three walks in five innings with six strikeouts.

Cubs 5, Pirates 2: Kris Bryant turned his tiebreaking two-run double into a homer with some heads-up baserunning, and the star rookie had three hits and three RBIs to lead visiting Chicago.

Bryant's double off Arquimedes Caminero (0-1) hit off the base of the left-center field fence in the seventh inning and snapped a 1-all tie. He advanced to third base on the throw home, and raced across the plate when catcher Francisco Cervelli missed the throw for an error.

Bryant, who tied the game with an RBI single in the fifth, is 6-for-14 (.429) with four RBIs in four games since his much-anticipated callup from Triple-A Iowa on Friday. He was a spring training sensation, hitting nine home runs in 40 at-bats for the Cubs.

Jake Arrieta (2-1) allowed only one run and three hits in seven innings for the win while striking out seven and walking none.

Tigers 2, Yankees 1: J.D. Martinez and Yoenis Cespedes hit consecutive RBI singles in the seventh inning, and Joba Chamberlain got Jacoby Ellsbury to hit into a crucial double play in the eighth, helping Detroit beat visiting New York.

CC Sabathia (0-3) faced the minimum number of hitters through the first six innings, but with two out and a man on second in the seventh, the Yankees intentionally walked Victor Martinez. J.D. Martinez followed with a sharp single that shortstop Didi Gregorius was unable to keep in the infield, and Cespedes' single scored Martinez.

The Yankees had men on first and third with one out in the eighth when Chamberlain relieved Alfredo Simon (3-0). Ellsbury's hard grounder went right to second baseman Ian Kinsler, and the double play ended the threat.

Joakim Soria pitched the ninth for his

fifth save

Royals 7, Twins 1: Edinson Volquez dodged trouble for seven innings as host Kansas City scored two runs on wild pitches before pounding bumbling Minnesota.

Alcides Escobar returned from a sprained knee to score a run, and Kendrys Morales and Paulo Orlando drove in a pair each as the Royals finally figured out Twins nemesis Kyle Gibson.

The right-hander gave up four runs in five-plus innings. Gibson (1-2) had earned the win in his first four starts against Kansas City, including a dominant performance in a 3-1 victory last week at Target Field.

Reds 6, Brewers 1: Anthony Desclafani pitched eight shutout innings and Zach Cozart and Joey Votto homered to lead visiting Cincinnati.

Desclafani (2-0) held Milwaukee hitless until Adam Lind's double with two outs in the fourth. Hector Gomez's fifth-inning single was the only other hit off Desclafani, who struck out five and ran his scoreless innings streak to 15.

Desclafani and Milwaukee starter Wily Peralta (0-2) were locked in a scoreless battle through five innings. The Reds got to Peralta in the sixth. Brayan Pena drove in the game's first run with a sacrifice fly and Cozart followed with a three-run homer. Votto added a two-run homer in the seventh off Peralta.

Ryan Braun homered with one out in the ninth for the Brewers.

Athletics 6, Angels 3: Stephen Vogt hit a go-ahead three-run homer, Marcus Semien also went deep against Matt Shoemaker and visiting Oakland won the opener of a four-game series.

Athletics right-hander Kendall Graveman was staked to a 5-3 lead in his third major league start, but lasted just three-plus innings. Manager Bob Melvin pulled him after he walked Erick Aybar and C.J. Cron to open the fourth and ran his pitch count up to 73.

Dan Otero (1-1) retired the next three batters and gave up just one hit over a career-high four innings. He has not allowed a run in 13 career appearances against the Angels, spanning 19²/₃ innings.

Tyler Clippard got the last three outs for his first American League save and 35th of his career.

Shoemaker (2-1) threw 68 pitches in three-plus innings, giving up five runs and seven hits.

Astros 7, Mariners 5: Luis Valbuena hit two solo home runs, including a go-ahead eighth-inning shot, to help Houston beat host Seattle.

Valbuena, who started the scoring with a blast in the first inning, opened the eighth with a homer to right on a 1-1 pitch from Danny Farquhar (0-1). It was his fifth this season.

It was the first home run allowed by a Mariners reliever this season. Jed Lowrie added an RBI single in the inning.

Colby Rasmus also had his second home run on a 2-0 pitch from starter Hisashi Iwakuma in the fifth.

Tony Sipp (1-0), who worked the seventh and eighth, picked up the victory.

Budenholzer earns NBA coach of year

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — After a tumultuous off-season and leading the Atlanta Hawks to the top seed in the Eastern Conference, Mike Budenholzer beat out Golden State's Steve Kerr for NBA coach of the year on Tuesday.

Budenholzer, in his second year as a head coach, was honored after the Hawks went 60-22 during the regular season, the best mark in franchise history. They won their first division title since 1994, which also was the last time they held a No. 1 seed in the playoffs.

Budenholzer received 67 first-place votes and 513 points overall in balloting by U.S. sports writers and broadcasters. Kerr, who guided the Warriors to an NBA-best 67-15 record in his first season as coach, received 56 first-place votes and 471 points.

Milwaukee's Jason Kidd finished a distant third in the balloting with one first-place vote and 57 points. San Antonio's Gregg Popovich and Chicago's Tom Thibodeau were the only other coaches to receive first-place votes.

Reds' Price sorry for language, not message

MILWAUKEE — Cincinnati Reds manager Bryan Price has apologized for using profanity during a pregame meeting with reporters, but says he stands by his message that media shouldn't report developments he feels would put his team at a competitive disadvantage.

Price had a profanity-filled monologue before a 6-1 win over the Brewers on Monday. The struggling Reds had just been swept in St. Louis.

Through the team's Twitter account on Tuesday, Price said his language was "wholly inappropriate" but that he wasn't backing away from his message.

In other MLB news:

■ Former Navy man Mitch Harris has made it to the majors, ready to join the St. Louis Cardinals' bullpen.

The 29-year-old pitcher is a 2008 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. The Hall of Fame says it believes the only Naval Academy graduate to appear in the major leagues was pitcher Nemo Gaines for the 1921 Washington Senators.

Harris was selected by the Cardinals in the 13th round of the 2008 amateur draft and started his professional baseball career in 2013.

Harris tweeted: "What a journey ... the dream has come true. From Navy to MLB. Looking forward to what the future holds."

Venezuelan man last to finish race in 20 hours

BOSTON — An inspirational Venezuelan man has become the last finisher of the Boston Marathon, crossing about 20 hours after he started.

Maickel Melamed finished at about 5 a.m. Tuesday, after enduring torrential downpours and thunderstorms for the last few miles.

The 39-year-old Melamed has a form of muscular dystrophy that severely impairs his mobility. He was accompanied along the race by volunteers.

Melamed has participated in marathons in Chicago, New York, Berlin and Tokyo, but he says Boston is special because it's where his parents brought him as a child for treatment.