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Saturday, April 25, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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DOD budget threatened in Bergdahl dispute

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers are threatening to slash Defense Department funding by about \$500 million next year if Pentagon officials don't hand over documents related to a probe into the controversial prisoner swap that freed five Taliban detainees in exchange for captive U.S. soldier Bowe Bergdahl.

The Republican leadership of the House Armed Services Committee has tucked a provision into an early version of an annual defense bill that would cut funding for the Office of the Secretary of Defense by 25 percent in fiscal 2016, committee staff members said, unless the Pentagon provides unredacted emails related to the 2014 swap and additional information into the legal reasoning behind the exchange.

The unusual move illustrates the depth of Republican anger over the decision to transfer the five detainees from the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the Gulf state of Qatar. Critics allege the Obama administration endangered U.S. security and flouted U.S. law in failing to provide Congress with a mandated notification 30 days

prior to the transfer.

While the release of Bergdahl, who was held in Pakistan under difficult conditions for almost five years, received initial praise, the deal quickly came under attack from lawmakers angry about being left out of the loop and from those skeptical about the circumstances of Bergdahl's initial disappearance. Bergdahl has since been charged with desertion for walking off of his base in a remote area of Afghanistan in 2009.

Only days after the swap took place, the committee launched an investigation into whether the administration had broken the law.

In a June 9, 2014, letter to then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, then-committee Chairman Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., ordered the Pentagon to turn over emails and internal documents related to the transfer.

Lawmakers were particularly interested in internal deliberations surrounding the decision to forego congressional notification. While a probe into the matter by the independent Government Accountability Office found that the administration had violated federal rules, the

administration has maintained that the transfer was legal and necessary to protect Bergdahl's safety.

Hagel, speaking at a tense hearing last June, told lawmakers that officials had accelerated their efforts to liberate the country's only prisoner of war after they received a video in January 2014 showing that Bergdahl's mental and physical health had worsened.

After years of on-and-off contact with Taliban representatives or their intermediaries, officials said, the transfer came together quickly in the final weeks of May 2014.

"After the exchange was set in motion, only 96 hours passed before Sergeant Bergdahl was in our hands," Hagel said. "We believed this exchange was our last, best opportunity to free him."

Hagel also assured lawmakers that the Pentagon had obtained legal guidance from the Justice Department indicating that the administration could go ahead with the transfer without notifying Congress ahead of time, based in part on President Barack Obama's authority to act to protect the lives of Americans overseas.

The Obama administration

was also concerned that plans for the swap could become public, something they feared would cause the Taliban to scuttle the deal. On May 31, militants handed over Bergdahl — clothed in local garb, his head shaved — to Special Forces soldiers on a field in eastern Afghanistan.

For much of the last year, committee staff members have sifted through emails and documents that led up to that moment.

They have also called in officials for multiple briefings and visited Qatar to investigate.

But staff members said their investigation had been impeded by heavy redactions to over 3,000 classified and unclassified emails provided to the committee. They said the redactions obscured information about legal discussions, negotiations with the Qatari government and preparations for briefing Congress — the very information they believe they require for their probe.

In response, Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, the new committee chairman, drew up the punitive language in the initial version of the fiscal 2016 National Defense Authorization Act. Debate on the bill will begin next week.

Overseas hostage protocol may be revamped

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The White House is considering revamping its overseas hostage-rescue program after CIA drone strikes that mistakenly killed an American and an Italian held captive by terrorists in Pakistan, the latest incident to reveal gaps in U.S. counterterrorism efforts.

A key proposal would create an interagency task force to better coordinate efforts by the FBI, the Pentagon, State Department and intelligence agencies to find and free abduction victims, including a Pennsylva-

nia woman who is believed to be a Taliban captive in Afghanistan.

The proposed shift follows a series of high-profile failures, including a botched U.S. commando raid in December in Yemen during which the captors killed two hostages, an American and a South African. Several attempts to rescue Americans held by the Islamic State group in Syria also failed, and masked militants beheaded three of them last fall.

Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, said Friday that the proposed task

force also would seek to streamline communication with hostages' families. A recurrent and bitter complaint by parents and spouses has been that the government moves too slowly and shares too little information.

Some family members issued searing criticism after disclosures Thursday that CIA drone strikes on an al-Qaida compound Jan. 15 had inadvertently killed Warren Weinstein, a development expert from Maryland, and Giovanni Lo Porto, an Italian aid worker, in the tribal belt of northwestern Pakistan.

Deadly 7.8-magnitude quake rocks Nepal

The Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — A powerful earthquake struck Nepal Saturday, killing at least 1,180 people across a swath of four countries as the violently shaking earth collapsed houses, leveled centuries-old temples and triggered avalanches on Mount Everest. It was the worst tremor to hit the poor South Asian nation in more than 80 years.

At least 1,130 people were confirmed dead across Nepal, according to the police. Another 34 were killed in India, 12 in Tibet and two in Bangladesh. Two Chinese citizens died in the Nepal-China border. The death toll is almost certain to rise, said

deputy Inspector General of Police Komal Singh Bam.

It was a few minutes before noon when the quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 7.8, began to rumble across the densely populated Kathmandu Valley, rippling through the capital Kathmandu and spreading in all directions — north toward the Himalayas and Tibet, south to the Indo-Gangetic plains, east toward the Brahmaputra delta of Bangladesh and west toward the historical city of Lahore in Pakistan.

Shrish Vaidya, a businessman, was with his family in his two-story house on the outskirts of Kathmandu, when the quake struck.

“It is hard to describe. The house was shaking like crazy. We ran out and it seemed like the road was heaving up and down,” he told The Associated Press. “I don’t remember anything like this before. Even my parents can’t remember anything this bad.”

A magnitude-6.6 aftershock hit about an hour later, and at least 16 aftershocks continued to jolt the region for hours. Residents ran out of homes and buildings in panic. Walls tumbled, trees swayed, power lines came crashing down and large cracks opened up on streets and walls. And clouds of dust began to swirl all around.

“Our village has been almost

wiped out. Most of the houses are either buried by landslide or damaged by shaking,” said Vim Tamang, a resident of Manglung village near the epicenter. He said half of the village folks are either missing or dead. “All the villagers have gathered in the open area. We don’t know what to do. We are feeling helpless,” he said when contacted by telephone.

Within hours of the quake, hospitals began to fill up with hundreds of injured people. With organized relief and rescue largely absent, many of the injured were brought to hospitals by friends and relatives in motorized rickshaws, flatbed trucks and cars.

2 nuke launch officers charged

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two more Air Force nuclear missile launch officers have been charged with illegal drug use in cases stemming from an investigation that led to the disclosure last year of a separate exam-cheating scandal, the Air Force said Friday.

First lieutenants Michael Alonso and Lantz Balthazar, both members of the 12th Missile Squadron at the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, face hearings to determine whether

they will be court-martialed. One of their fellow missile officers who was a target of the same investigation pleaded guilty to illegal drug use in January and was kicked out of the Air Force.

The Malmstrom missile wing operates 150 of the Air Force’s 450 Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs. Launch officers are trained to operate ICBMs that are armed with nuclear warheads and are on constant alert for possible launch.

Alonso was charged with violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for illegal possession, use and distribution of ecstasy and for “conspiracy related to the drug offenses,” according to Malmstrom spokesman Josh Aycock.

Balthazar was charged with illegal possession, use and distribution of ecstasy and cocaine and for conspiracy related to the drug offenses. He also was charged with illegal use of Pentadrone, which Aycock said is commonly called bath salts.

\$50K weekend with Navy SEAL offered

Key contributors to a conservative group have received a special invitation: For \$50,000, they can shoot guns and hang out this June with Robert O’Neill, the former Navy SEAL credited with killing al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

The offer was recently made by the ForAmerica organization. Those invited have until May 10 to RSVP for an event at the Amangani Resort Hotel in Jackson Hole, Wyo. The facility offers picturesque views of the Snake River, and is on the southern tip of Grand Teton National Park. A room there can cost more than \$1,000 per night.

The event is billed as “a historic weekend honoring Navy SEAL hero Robert O’Neill.” It will include shooting at a gun range run by the Jackson Hole Shooting Experience, a private company nearby.

“Our event will consist of clay, pistol and ‘machine gun fun’ competitions with Rob O’Neill,” documents for the fundraiser say.

From The Washington Post

Hawaii may be first state to raise smoking age

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A bill that would make Hawaii the first state to raise the legal smoking age to 21 cleared the Legislature on Friday and is headed to the governor.

The bill would prevent adolescents from smoking, buying or possessing both traditional and electronic cigarettes.

“It’s definitely groundbreaking legislation,” said Jessica

Yamauchi, executive director of the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii, which pushed for the bill. “It’s amazing to be the first state in something.”

Gov. David Ige hasn’t yet decided whether he will sign the bill, and his staff has to vet all bills for legal issues, he said.

“The departments will be doing their review and then we’ll have the opportunity to look at it,” Ige said.

Those caught breaking the rules would be fined \$10 for the first offense, and subsequent violations would lead to a \$50 fine or mandatory community service.

Dozens of local governments have similar bans, including Hawaii County and New York City. Opponents say it’s unfair that a military veteran returning from service could be prevented from smoking.

Some top prospects avoid NFL draft spotlight

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

The hat-and-hug routine with the NFL commissioner that has become a rite of passage for many college football stars on draft night is not for everybody.

The waiting is the hardest part, even for players good enough to be invited to the draft, and some prefer to do it away from the ever-present eyes of a national television audience.

"I know that the draft is really a great event and a great thing to go to," said University of Pittsburgh offensive tackle T.J. Clemmings, a potential first-round pick who declined an invitation to attend the draft in Chicago next week. "It also can be pretty stressful. Nobody knows where they're going to go. But the wait, I'd rather have that wait with my friends and family here at home in New Jersey."

There will be several noticeable absences when the three-day draft starts Thursday night, including potential top picks. Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston, Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota and Alabama wide receiver Amari Cooper all plan to skip the spotlight.

Either Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback could be the first overall selection, with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers holding the top pick and in need of a passer. The last time the No. 1 pick did not attend the draft was 1994, when Cincinnati selected Ohio State defensive tackle Dan Wilkinson.

But this year, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell might have to wait until pick No. 3 or even 4 — Cooper could go in the top three, too — to pose for a picture with a just-drafted player, his new team's jersey in hand.

Not to worry. Goodell won't be lonely. Twenty-eight players are scheduled to attend, including Southern California defensive lineman Leonard Williams and West Virginia receiver Kevin White.

From 2000-09, an average of six prospects attended the draft, and even then some declined the invitation. Former Wisconsin offensive tackle Joe Thomas went fishing with his father the day he was drafted No. 3 overall by the Cleveland Browns in 2007.

When the NFL moved the draft to prime time in 2010, it expanded the invitations and 17 prospects attended.

"More and more asked how they could take part," NFL vice president of football communications Michael Signora said.

The NFL pays for two first-class or four coach airline tickets for each player, whichever the player chooses, and two hotel rooms, plus some in-town transportation.

Since 2010, the NFL has had at least 23 prospects attend each draft.

Players often slip out of the first round and into Day 2 — which can be a little uncomfortable.

Quarterbacks tend to draw the most attention, especially when they aren't selected as early as projected. Cal's Aaron Rodgers was the first to endure the long, televised wait when he dropped to No. 24 in 2005 before being scooped up by the Green Bay Packers. Southern California Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart (No. 10 to Arizona in 2006) and Brady Quinn (No. 22 to Cleveland in 2007) also endured the slide.

Leinart said he's glad he had the experience of going to the draft, but he would plan things differently if he could do it over again.

"I would have stayed home, had a big party in my parents' house with all my closest family and friends over. Been just super relaxed. Played golf. Whatever it may be," he said. "Enjoyed it with my family in a stress-free environment."

Last year it was Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel who had to wait backstage, with TV cameras cutting to him on just about every pick as he checked his phone and took swigs out of a water bottle. The Browns ended up taking Manziel at 22, and the cameras switched focus to

Teddy Bridgewater, Louisville's star quarterback.

The Vikings kept Bridgewater from having to return for Day 2 by taking him with the 32nd and last pick of the first round.

Geno Smith was not so lucky back in 2013. The West Virginia quarterback tumbled all the way out of the first round after there was talk he could be an early first-rounder. Smith considered not showing up for Day 2, but did and the New York Jets took him with the seventh pick of the second round.

Mariota and Winston probably don't need to worry about sliding that far, but still have decided there's no place like home.

"I applaud their decision, being home in a comfortable environment," Leinart said. "For Mariota, he's a shy person. That's not his deal. Jameis Winston is probably avoiding it for other reasons. To stay out of the media."

Winston had a series of off-field issues at Florida State, including a rape accusation against him. He has said he plans to spend draft night with loved ones, including his paternal grandmother whom, he said, has type-2 diabetes and cannot make long trips.

"I want the people who have been there since Day 1 to enjoy this moment," Winston told NFL Network after his pro day at Florida State last month. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I would look forward to spending with my family."

Mariota will be in his beloved home state of Hawaii, with more than 200 people at his high school alumni clubhouse, he said.

"For me it was a way to culturally pay respect to where I come from and to be with my family and friends, and at the same time to be with everybody who has helped me get here, and making sure they are all a part of this moment," Mariota said. "These are the people who got me here."

The commissioner can wait.

Harden, Howard give Rockets 3-0 lead on Mavs

The Associated Press

DALLAS — James Harden deferred to Dwight Howard and his role players when Houston swept two games at home to open a first-round series against Dallas.

The MVP candidate took over in the game that put the Rockets on the verge of Harden's first postseason series victory with Howard in their second season together — even interrupting his big man on a question about the best rebounding game of the center's career.

Harden scored a playoff career-high 42 points, Howard had his postseason best with 26 rebounds and the Rockets beat the Mavericks 130-128 on Friday night for a 3-0 lead in their first-round series.

"He was a beast," Harden said as Howard struggled for the right words about his big night on the boards. "He was a beast. Go ahead," he said, nodding toward his teammate.

By that time, Howard had the words.

"Tonight wasn't my night to score. I was OK with that," Howard said, although he did have seven of his 13 points to help Houston hold on in the fourth quarter. "But the one thing that I can always control is the paint and just try to get every rebound."

The high-scoring game was Dallas' first without effectively banished point guard Rajon Rondo, and Monta Ellis had a playoff career-high 34 points to match Dirk Nowitzki.

But Ellis missed a potential tying jumper just before the buzzer, leaving Dallas to face a fourth straight year without winning a postseason series since taking the franchise's first championship.

Game 4 is Sunday at Dallas. No team has ever rallied from a 3-0 deficit to win an NBA postseason series.

"It was an up-and-down game, shot-making and play-

making all over the place," said Nowitzki, who scored 16 points in the fourth quarter as the Mavericks rallied from 11 down after leading by 13 in the second — and trailing by 11 in the opening quarter as well. "This ranks up there with the toughest playoffs losses I've had in my long playoff career."

Harden set his playoff career high and hit 40 points with a three-point play on a layup when Dallas was within a point.

After Harden fouled Nowitzki on a three-point attempt and the big German hit all the free throws, Harden hit a jumper over Tyson Chandler. The ball rattled off the rim, hit the backboard and dropped back in for a 129-126 lead with 12.7 seconds remaining.

The Mavericks had one more chance, trailing by two with 6.7 seconds left, but Ellis wasn't close, missing to the right of the rim.

More concerned with protecting the rim after Howard and Josh Smith combined for five dunks off alley-oop passes in a key run in Game 2, the Mavericks let Harden have his shots. He found a rhythm and did most of his damage without his normal load of free throws, making 15 of 24 from the field.

"The first two games, they kind of put two on the ball and kind of got me off the ball," Harden said. "This game, there were really no traps or anything like that. They were just giving me lanes and letting me be aggressive. So I just tried to read the play and make the best decision."

When Dallas focused on slowing Harden in the second half, Corey Brewer hit two corner threes and scored 13 of his 15 points. Harden had nine assists, including a nifty pass for an easy dunk by Smith, who had 18 points.

The Mavericks were playing without Rondo two days after coach Rick Carlisle said he had a previously undis-

closed back injury while acknowledging that he didn't think Rondo would play for Dallas again. The announcement came after Carlisle benched Rondo for almost the entire second half of Game 2.

Spurs 100, Clippers 73: Kawhi Leonard had a post-season career-high 32 points and host San Antonio never trailed in dominating Los Angeles to take a 2-1 lead in their first-round series.

The Clippers scored a franchise postseason low and their 11 points in the third were their fewest in any quarter this season.

Boris Diaw had 15 points and Danny Green added 11 for San Antonio, which led by 37 points after two tense games in Los Angeles.

Tim Duncan was held to four points, but his production wasn't needed with Leonard displaying his offensive game a day after being named the league's defensive player of the year.

"[Leonard] continues to impress me every time he's out there," Duncan said. "He can put on a show like that in a situation like this. It's not only great for us, but it's impressive to watch."

Blake Griffin had 14 points and 10 rebounds and DeAndre Jordan added 10 points for the Clippers.

Game 4 is Sunday in San Antonio.

Wizards 106, Raptors 99: John Wall had 19 points and 15 assists and 37-year-old Paul Pierce hit two key late three-pointers as host Washington closed in on a first-round sweep.

Six Wizards scored in double figures, including Marcin Gortat, who had 24 points and 13 rebounds.

The Wizards lead the Eastern Conference series 3-0, and can end it Sunday when they host Game 4.

DeMar DeRozan led the Raptors with 32 points.



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Rangers close out Penguins

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Rangers aren't accustomed to this.

In last year's run to the Stanley Cup Finals, they went the seven-game limit in the first two series, then needed six games in the Eastern Conference final.

Now, after four straight 2-1 victories — the clincher in Game 5 Friday night against Pittsburgh on Carl Hagelin's overtime goal — they actually get some time to, as coach Alain Vigneault put it, "heal some bumps and bruises."

New York will face the winner of the Capitals-Islanders series, which Washington led 3-2 heading into Saturday's game at Nassau Coliseum. Rather than look ahead to a potential next opponent, the Rangers looked forward to some rest.

"Anytime you can close out a series and heal some bumps and bruises — which we certainly have a few — it's a good thing," Vigneault said. "We will take the next couple of days here to recuperate and recover and we'll get right back to strategizing for the next series and getting ready."

One of the injuries came in the first period to forward Mats Zuccarello. He left with an undisclosed injury, but looked woozy as he skated to the bench. The Rangers didn't have an update after the game.

Defenseman Kevin Klein could be back. He was having a superb season when he broke his left forearm on March 11.

"I think it's good for us right now," said

goalie Henrik Lundqvist, who was brilliant in the Game 5 win and for much of the series with the Penguins. "We have a couple guys that need a couple days to recover and take care of some stuff. I think it's huge for us to regroup a little bit and come ready for the second round."

They'll need to come to that round with more to offer on the power play, which went 3 for 20 against the Penguins. Too much passing and lots of wasted time trying to set up the perfect shot was damaging.

Still, they won, they shut down two of hockey's most dangerous scorers in Sidney Crosby (four points) and Evgeni Malkin (none), and they were opportunistic.

"I think it's pretty good but I still think we need to find another level," said defenseman Dan Girardi, who blocked 23 shots against Pittsburgh.

"Every series from now on gets harder. For points in this series we were spot-on and playing great hockey. Sometimes we were on our heels a bit and in our end for an extended period of time."

Most encouraging was the work on Crosby and Malkin.

"I probably wouldn't have believed it," Girardi said of the lack of production for the Penguins' stars. "We would have liked to have done a little better job on Crosby in Game 2 (when he had two goals), but sometimes you have to tip your cap to the world's best player. I think overall we did a strong job. It's everybody helping out. Obviously we're pretty happy with the job we did against those guys."

Senators 5, Canadiens 1: Craig Anderson made 45 saves and visiting Ottawa avoided elimination with a victory over Montreal in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference first-round series.

Montreal leads the best-of-seven series 3-2. Game 6 is Sunday night in Ottawa.

Bobby Ryan, Patrick Wiercioch, Erik Karlsson, Erik Condra and Mike Hoffman scored for Ottawa. The Senators are trying to become the fifth team in NHL history to win a series after trailing 3-0.

Tom Gilbert had the lone goal for Montreal, and Carey Price stopped 20 shots.

Montreal's struggling power play went 0-for-3 to drop to 1-for-19 in the series. Ottawa was 2-for-4.

Wild 4, Blues 1: Devan Dubnyk had a strong bounce-back effort in goal and visiting Minnesota beat St. Louis to take a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference first-round series.

After allowing six goals in two periods in a 6-1 loss in Game 4, Dubnyk but made 36 saves in Game 5 and twice robbed Alexander Steen from close range in the second period.

The Wild scored four straight goals after Vladimir Tarasenko gave St. Louis the early edge with his playoff-leading sixth goal, including Minnesota's fourth power-play tally of the series.

Nino Niederreiter scored the go-ahead goal in the second period, and Marco Scandella, Mikko Koivo and Charlie Coyle also scored for Minnesota. The Wild can wrap up the series at home in Game 6 on Sunday.

Hamlin dominant in Xfinity

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Denny Hamlin returned from last week's injury-shortened weekend and led almost from start to finish Friday night to win the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Richmond International Raceway.

Hamlin led the first 154 laps after starting on the pole. He relinquished the lead for one lap to Brian Scott during a series of green-flag pit stops, and to Elliott Sadler during another green flag stop late in the race, but both times regained the lead on the following lap. The Virginia driver routinely built leads of several seconds on the 0.75-mile oval and won by 3.719 seconds.

"It's been a great day obviously right from the very start," Hamlin said. "Our car had some great speed and that's the key to victory. It's not tricks or anything like that. It's just you've got to have a fast car."

"They gave me something special tonight and we were able to dominate with it. You don't get these cars often."

The victory was Hamlin's 12th in the series and third at Richmond. Following up on Kyle Busch's wire-to-wire victory for Joe Gibbs Racing in the series last September, the JGR teams have led 498 of the last 500 laps run in the series at RIR.

It also was Toyota's 100th victory in 281 races since the manufacturer joined the series in 2007.

The victory also capped a remarkable return for Hamlin, who started the race last weekend at Bristol, then turned the car over to NASCAR novice Erik Jones during a rain-delay because he was experiencing neck and back pain.

But he pronounced himself "100 percent" Friday at the track just 15 miles from where he grew up, and announced his return by winning the pole for the Xfinity race and then qualifying second for Saturday night's Sprint Cup race.

The superiority of his car, Hamlin said, was evident throughout, even when he struggled on restarts.

"I knew if I could get through the first five laps of a restart, I would be able to set the pace," he said.

The race also was the second dominant performance in the series in a row, Joey Logano having led wire-to-wire to win the 300-lap race last weekend at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Regan Smith was third, followed by Jones and Chase Elliott.

IndyCar: Conor Daly won't have to endure watching the Indianapolis 500 from a few thousand miles away this year.

He'll be a participant instead. Schmidt Peterson Motorsports announced Saturday at Barber Motorsports Park that Daly will drive its third entry, the No. 43 Honda, in the May 24 race.

The 23-year-old Daly also competed in the 2013 Indy 500 for AJ Foyt Racing and said he's "over the moon" to have another chance in IndyCar's premier race. He has been racing in Europe the past four years on the GP3 and GP2 series, trying to work his way up to Formula 1.

Daly drove for Dale Coyne Racing at Long Beach on less than an hour's notice before the final practice session when he switched from giving guests rides around the track to preparing to race. He finished 17th.

"We've always felt he was capable of being full-time in IndyCar," Sam Schmidt said, "and he proved that last week."

Hernandez, Mariners shut out Twins

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Felix Hernandez tossed a five-hitter for his first complete game victory since August 2012, and Nelson Cruz gave him all the offense he needed with his major league leading ninth home run as the Seattle Mariners beat the Minnesota Twins 2-0 on Friday night.

Cruz's homer led off the second inning and traveled 452 feet on a line five rows deep into the second deck above the bullpens in left field off Minnesota starter Phil Hughes (0-4). Cruz now has more homers than both the Twins and Milwaukee Brewers this season.

That was all the support Hernandez (3-0) needed on a night he was dominant. He retired the first 14 batters before Trevor Plouffe's single with two outs in the fifth. He struck out nine, threw 102 pitches and got out of jams in the sixth and seventh innings.

It was Hernandez's first complete game win since beating Minnesota on Aug. 27, 2012, when he also allowed five hits. Hernandez is now 3-0 for the second straight season and the third time in his career.

Logan Morrison added his first home run of the season — his first extra-base hit and first RBI of the season as well — with a solo shot to right-center field leading off the fifth.

Hughes went eight innings, allowing six hits and striking out nine.

Hernandez needed just 38 pitches to cruise through the first 12 batters, half striking out. He struck out Brian Dozier to start the fifth and got Kennys Vargas to ground out before Plouffe lined a 1-1 pitch into right field for the Twins' first hit.

An inning later, Hernandez found himself in a major jam. Kurt Suzuki reached

on an infield single deep in the hole at short and advanced to second when Brad Miller's throw went out of play. Jordan Schafer — robbed of a hit in the third on a great defensive play by Robinson Cano and Morrison — reached on an infield single, putting runners at the corners with no outs.

Danny Santana hit a fly ball to center field but wasn't deep enough for Suzuki to tag and score. Torii Hunter struck out and Joe Mauer grounded out to first to end the threat.

Minnesota put runners at the corners with two outs in the seventh, but Hernandez got a fly out from Suzuki to end the inning.

Hernandez was at 91 pitches after the eighth and came back for the ninth to a standing ovation. He got Mauer to ground out, Dozier to fly out and Vargas on a comebacker to close out the victory.

Angels 3, Rangers 2: David Freese hit a go-ahead homer for host Los Angeles, and Garrett Richards (1-1) pitched seven effective innings for his first win since injuring his knee last year.

Dodgers 3, Padres 0: Zack Greinke (3-0) extended his mastery of NL West opponents by holding San Diego to four hits in seven innings, and Carl Crawford homered to help Los Angeles to the road win.

Red Sox 7, Orioles 5: Brock Holt hit a tiebreaking three-run homer off Darren O'Day in the eighth inning, and visiting Boston extended Baltimore's losing streak to five games.

Indians 13, Tigers 1: Brandon Moss homered twice and drove in seven runs for visiting Cleveland, and Danny Salazar (2-0) struck out a career-high 11.

Cardinals 3, Brewers 0: Carlos Martinez (2-0) struck out eight in seven innings for visiting St. Louis, and Jason

Heyward and Jhonny Peralta homered.

Marlins 3, Nationals 2: Martin Prado hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning for host Miami, and four pitchers combined on a six-hitter.

Pirates 4, Diamondbacks 1: Gerrit Cole (3-0) pitched into the eighth inning, and Josh Harrison and Neil Walker each drove in two runs to lead Pittsburgh to the road win.

Rockies 6, Giants 4: Rafael Ynoa snapped a sixth-inning tie with a pinch-hit RBI double for host Colorado, and Eddie Butler (2-1) was backed by stellar defense over six shaky innings.

Phillies 1, Braves 0: Freddie Freeman mishandled Ben Revere's ground ball to first, allowing Freddy Galvis to score the winning run for host Philadelphia in the ninth.

Cubs 7, Reds 3 (11): Jonathan Herrera singled home the tiebreaking run in the 11th inning, and David Ross followed with a bases-loaded double that sent visiting Chicago to the victory.

Rays 12, Blue Jays 3: James Loney, Rene Rivera and Tim Beckham each hit a two-run homer, powering host Tampa Bay to the win.

Royals 2, White Sox 2 (8 susp.): One night after a benches-clearing brawl led to five ejections, Kansas City and host Chicago were tied when their game was suspended by rain heading into the ninth inning.

Marlins 3, Nationals 2: Martin Prado hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning for host Miami, and four pitchers combined on a six-hitter.

Astros 5, Athletics 4 (11): Robbie Grossman singled in two runs in the 11th inning, and visiting Houston matched its best start in eight years.