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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Aftershocks from quake rattle survivors

The Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Shell-shocked and sleeping in the streets, tens of thousands of Nepalese braced against terrifying aftershocks Sunday while digging for survivors in the devastation wrought a day earlier by a massive earthquake that ripped across this Himalayan nation and killed more than 2,500 people.

Acrid, white smoke rose above the nation's most revered Hindu temple, where dozens of bodies were being cremated at any given time.

Aid groups received the first word from remote mountain villages — reports that suggested many communities perched on mountainsides were devastated or struggling to cope.

Landslides hindered rescue teams that tried to use mountain trails to reach those in need, said Prakash Subedi, chief district official in the Gorkha region, where the quake was centered.

"Villages like this are routinely affected by landslides, and it's not uncommon for entire villages of 200, 300, up to 1,000 people to be completely buried by rock falls," said Matt Darvas, a member of the aid group World Vision. "It will likely be helicopter access only."

Saturday's magnitude-7.8 earthquake spread horror from Kathmandu to small villages and to the slopes of Mount Everest, triggering an avalanche that buried part of the base camp packed with foreign climbers preparing to make their summit attempts. At least 18 people died there and 61 were injured.

With people fearing more quakes, tens of thousands spent the day crowding in the streets and the night sleeping in parks or on a golf course. Others camped in open squares lined

Global aid response to Nepal tragedy gears up

The Associated Press

LONDON — There is still time to save lives — that's why governments and aid agencies Sunday rushed doctors, volunteers and equipment to Nepal without waiting for the dust to settle.

Substantial logistical hurdles remain, but there were hopeful signs as Kathmandu's international airport reopened after Saturday's crushing earthquake, and some aid vehicles were able to travel overland from Indian to the stricken Nepalese city of Pokhara.

"That means supplies could potentially come in overland from India. That is a positive sign," said Ben Pickering, Save the Children's humanitarian adviser in Britain.

He cautioned that chaotic conditions may create a bottleneck at the airport as governments and aid agencies try to bring in personnel and supplies in the coming days.

The need is great. UNI-CEF said Sunday that at least 940,000 children in areas affected by the earthquake are in "urgent need" of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF staff reported dwindling water supplies, power shortages and communications breakdowns.

There is still a dearth of information about conditions

at the epicenter of the earthquake, Pickering said, and it is not clear which roads are passable.

"Going forward, it's about access to the epicenter, and helicopters are the key, but it's not clear whether they can be sourced and whether the high altitude is a problem," he said, adding that Save the Children has emergency kits pre-positioned in three warehouses in Nepal and plans to distribute bedding, buckets and other basic supplies to 2,000 families as quickly as possible.

International Search and Rescue Germany said a team of 52 relief workers including doctors, experts trained in searching for people buried under rubble, and several dog squads are flying in Sunday. The team will bring a mobile medical treatment center.

They will be supported by numerous governments that have announced plans to send aid worth millions of dollars.

The United Arab Emirates deployed an 88-member search-and-rescue team to Nepal on Sunday, and the Emirates Red Crescent also sent a team.

The Israeli military said it is sending a 260-member mission to Nepal to provide immediate search-and-rescue help and medical aid.

tershocks. It doesn't stop," said Rajendra Dhungana, 34, who spent the day with his niece's family for her cremation at the Pashuputi Nath Temple in Katmandu. "I've watched hundreds of bodies burn. I never thought I'd see so many ... Nepal should learn a lesson from this. They should realize proper buildings should be built. There should be open spaces people can run to."

Nepal authorities said Sun-

"We don't feel safe at all. There have been so many af-

Nepal authorities said Sunday that at least 2,430 people died in that country alone, not including the 18 dead in the avalanche. Another 61 people died from the quake in India and a few in other neighboring countries.

At least 1,152 people died in Kathmandu, and the number of injured nationwide was upward of 5,900. With search-and-rescue efforts far from over, it was unclear how much the death toll would rise.

Three policemen died during a rescue effort in Kathmandu, police spokesman Komal Singh Bam said.

The city is largely a collection of small, poorly constructed brick apartment buildings. But outside of the oldest neighborhoods, many in Kathmandu were surprised by how few modern structures collapsed in the quake.

While aid workers cautioned that many buildings could have sustained serious structural damage, it was also clear that the death toll would have been far higher had more buildings caved in.

Aid workers also warned that the situation could be far worse near the epicenter west of Kathmandu. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake was centered near Lamjung, about 50 miles northwest of Kathmandu.

by cracked buildings and piles of rubble. Helicopter blades thudded periodically overhead.

Crows screeched as the

ground shook with the worst of the aftershocks — magnitude 6.7. Panicked residents raced outdoors.



Source says NBC found Williams lied 11 times

The Washington Post

A monthslong internal investigation of Brian Williams by NBC News has turned up 11 instances in which the anchorman publicly embellished details of his reporting exploits, according to a person familiar with details of the probe.

NBC undertook the examination of Williams' statement after he apologized in early February for saying on "NBC Nightly News" that a military helicopter in which he was traveling at the start of the Iraq War had been damaged by rocket fire. His account was challenged by soldiers who were on the flight, leading to a furor that prompted NBC to suspend Williams for six months without pay and to investigate other statements he's made.

The Iraq claim was one of the 11 suspect statements that a team of NBC News journalists has identified during the inquiry, said the individual, who asked not to be identified because he isn't authorized to talk about an internal matter.

The investigators, led by NBC News Senior Executive Producer Richard Esposito, have also raised doubts about Williams' comments about his experiences covering Israel's military action against Hezbollah in Lebanon in 2006.

In an interview in 2007, Williams said he saw rockets passing "just beneath" the Israeli helicopter in which he was traveling. But Williams gave a less harrowing account of the same trip in an NBC News blog a year earlier.

Freddie Gray protests in Baltimore become violent

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A protest over the death of Freddie Gray, who was critically injured in police custody, started peacefully with thousands marching through downtown streets before the demonstration turned violent and volatile.

The chaotic scene Saturday night prompted the first public remarks from Freddie Gray's twin sister, who pleaded for peace at a news conference alongside the mayor.

"My family wants to say, can you all please, please stop the violence?" Fredricka Gray said. "Freddie Gray would not want this."

Just before nightfall, groups of protesters marched from City Hall to the Camden Yards baseball stadium, where the Baltimore Orioles played the Boston Red Sox. Fans were told to briefly stay inside the stadium until the police were able to clear an intersection outside

the venue.

Meanwhile, a smaller "splinter group" looted a convenience store and threw tables and chairs through storefront windows, shattering the glass. One group smashed the window of a department store inside a downtown mall, and at one point a protester tossed a flaming metal garbage can toward a line of police officers in riot gear as they tried to push back the crowd.

Earlier, a group of protesters smashed the windows of at least three police cars and got into fights with baseball fans outside a bar.

Police Commissioner Anthony Batts said roughly 1,200 officers were deployed downtown and across the city to try to keep the peace. At least five officers were injured and 12 people were arrested. Batts said he believes the "very violent agitators" are not from Baltimore.

"I'm proud of our residents," Batts said. "The majority of the people here did a great job."

Saudi-led strikes hit several Yemen cities

The Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Aircraft from the Saudi-led coalition battling Shiite rebels in Yemen struck targets in several cities on Sunday, including the capital, security officials said, as fighting raged across the country.

The continued airstrikes and combat between rival factions on the ground underline how a negotiated peace remains elusive in the Arab world's poorest country. They also come despite a Saudi announcement last week saying coalition operations would scale down and shift to focus on diplomacy, humanitarian and counter-terrorism issues.

The Sunday airstrikes began just after midnight, officials said, hitting a military base known to be an arms depot on the outskirts of Sanaa, as well as sites near the presidential palace where weapons were being moved.

Fierce street battles in the central city of Taiz killed some

20 civilians and wounded dozens, they added, with mortar rounds fired indiscriminately and landing near a hospital at one point.

In the southern port city of Aden, they said air raids targeted the rebels, known as Houthis, as street fighting between them and forces loyal to exiled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi continued. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Houthis are allied with military units loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh against the coalition and pro-Hadi forces. Although Hadi is Yemen's internationally recognized leader, he was forced to flee his stronghold of Aden last month as the Houthis advanced toward the port. The Saudi-led coalition began conducting air-strikes against rebel positions a day later on March 26.

Also on Sunday, pro-Saleh forces battled tribesman in the central Marib province, where coalition airstrikes also hit targets.

USS Roosevelt rejoins Inherent Resolve forces

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt transited the Strait of Hormuz, rejoining other U.S. and coalition forces supporting Operation Inherent Resolve in the Persian Gulf, U.S. 5th Fleet Officials said Saturday.

The Roosevelt had been operating in the Arabian Sea near Yemen since April 19, while Pentagon officials were tracking a nine-ship Iranian convoy heading toward the Yemeni port of Aden. The Iranian convoy was suspected of carrying arms to support the Houthi rebels there, but ended up turning around, Pentagon officials said

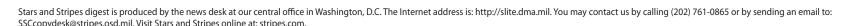
Friday.

Along with the Roosevelt, the U.S. Navy had positioned about eight other U.S. warships in the area, including the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group, a cruiser and two destroyers and two mine countermeasures ships.

It is not uncommon for the U.S. Navy to position its forces in those areas requiring more attention in order to ensure the freedom of navigation, the U.S. Navy said in a statement.

The Roosevelt was escorted into the Arabian Sea and back into the Persian Gulf by the guided missile cruiser USS Normandy.

news@stripes.com



Warriors complete sweep of Pelicans

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Golden State coach Steve Kerr deadpanned that he'd be relaxing on the beaches of Cabo San Lucas while waiting to find out who would be the Warriors' second-round playoff opponent.

"I'll be in Cabo all week. I told the guys just to get some work in if they want," Kerr said, unable to stop himself from smiling before he got to the end of the sentence.

Among those who won't be laughing is the Warriors' next opponent, which will have to figure out how to stop Stephen Curry and Co. from scoring in bunches, as they did in their convincing four-game sweep of burgeoning young All-Star Anthony Davis and the upstart New Orleans Pelicans.

Now Golden State awaits the winner of the Memphis-Portland matchup. Memphis leads the series 3-0. On Saturday night, the Warriors came through with

On Saturday night, the Warriors came through with their most complete performance of the first-round, building a 13-point lead at halftime, widening it to 24 late in the third quarter and squelching the Pelicans' desperate, last-gasp bid in the fourth quarter, 109-98.

Curry scored against anyone the Pelicans sent out to guard him, including 6-foot-10 Anthony Davis, in the clinching game. He also hit 6 of 8 threes he put up to finish with 39 points.

When he wasn't scoring, he had plenty of help from Klay Thompson and Draymond Green.

Curry averaged 33.8 points during the series, while

Thompson averaged 25 points and Green, 15.8.

"You play great defense and all of a sudden it looks like they're throwing up a shot, but it goes in," Davis said. "It's tough. Hats off to them. They made incredible shots through the course of the series. We tried our best to stay attached to them, but they did a great job. Some of it was us and some of it was them hitting tough shots."

Meanwhile, Andrew Bogut made it hard on any Pelican player trying to score inside, blocking eight shots in the series and altering many more.

"They're built to win a championship. They're probably the most complete team that we faced, them and San Antonio," Pelicans coach Monty Williams said. "I had to watch games that they lost just to see what teams did against them because you just don't see it when they're winning games. You're like, 'Where's the weakness?' So to me, they just don't have many weaknesses, if any. Obviously they're well coached and they have great players."

While the Pelicans narrowly made the playoffs as the Western Conference's eighth seed, they appeared to improve through the season, winning eight of their last 11 high-pressure games to pass Oklahoma City for the conference's final playoff spot.

Jrue Holiday, who had missed three months with a lower right leg injury, got healthy enough to play about 15 or so minutes per game just before the playoffs began, adding a boost to a team that already was already getting double-digit scoring from Davis, Tyreke Evans, Eric

Gordon and Rvan Anderson.

Meanwhile, 7-footer Omer Asik was averaging nearly 10 rebounds as he helped Davis protect the paint.

Yet the Warriors were in control for most of the series. The exception was Game 3, when they trailed by 20 entering the fourth quarter — on the road — yet still found a way to tie it at the end of regulation and win in overtime.

If there was a character-defining moment for the Warriors in their first-round series, that was it, and they celebrated as if it was a clinching triumph. For practical purposes, it may well have been as no NBA team has ever overcome a 3-0 playoff series hole.

"We still have a long way to go to accomplish what we want to do," Thompson said. "We've had a bull's eye on our back the whole year, but that makes it more fun. If you want to be great, you have to have high expectations. ... We've still got guys who really want to go deep in the postseason, including myself, who haven't had that experience yet."

The Warriors foresee tougher challenges ahead, but appear confident they'll improve on last season's second-round exit.

"If we just keep our composure to start games, especially on the road, we'll be fine," Curry said. "Our defense is what it is; it's carried us all season, and that will be there for us. But, offensively, if we just stick to who we are, moving the basketball, looking for the best shot every possession, our talent will shine across the board and we'll be in good shape."

Klitschko defends titles

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The champ returned to the Garden, and it sounded and felt like Kiev. Ukraine's Wladimir Klitschko easily outpointed a game-but-outclassed Bryant Jennings in the champion's first fight in the United States in seven years, defending his heavyweight titles with a unanimous decision on Saturday.

Klitschko's last U.S. fight was right here on Feb. 23, 2008, when he easily won over Sultan Ibragimov. This was his fourth Garden bout, and it seemed both comfortable and familiar.

"It is great to come back to Madison Square Garden, to be home here and fight here," Klitschko said. "I look forward to coming back to fighting here, a great crowd and a great atmosphere."

Although not at his dominant best, Klitschko was in control from the outset in his 18th straight successful defense. His jab and straight right hands kept Jennings from getting inside, and the unbeaten American had little chance of winning from distance.

The overwhelmingly pro-Klitschko crowd of 17,056 chanted Ukrainian slogans when the decision was announced: 116-111 on two cards, 118-109 on another.

Klitschko is 64-3 and has held a heavyweight belt for nearly a decade. Jennings

Rio sailing might be removed from bay

RIO DE JANEIRO — The world governing body of sailing threated Friday to move

all of its events for the 2016 Olympics out of the city's Guanabara Bay if action isn't taken quickly to clean the heavily polluted body of water that many sailors have described as an "open sewer."

Alastair Fox, the head of competitions for ISAF, said sailing officials had become "frustrated with it all" after seeing little done to clean the bay of raw sewage and floating debris.

"If we have to race all the races outside the bay, if that's what it comes to, to ensure a fair regatta, then that's something we're going to explore and could do," Fox said.

Fox said two sailing courses located just outside the bay in the open Atlantic could be used for all races.

Upset at Stuttgart: Kerber over Wozniacki

STUTTGART, Germany — Home favorite Angelique Kerber rallied to upset Caroline Wozniacki 3-6, 6-1, 7-5 in the final of the Porsche Grand Prix for her second straight title on Sunday.

After losing the opening set, Kerber twice broke the fourth-seeded Dane in the second. Wozniacki saved three match points at 6-5 in the third set, but Kerber took her fourth chance to win in 2 hours, 4 minutes.

In golf news:

■ Wu Ashun became the first Chinese player to win a European Tour title on home soil when he beat David Howell by one stroke to capture the Volvo China Open on Sunday at Shanghai.

Late layup helps save Bucks against Bulls

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Jerryd Bayless made a layup at the buzzer off an inbounds pass, lifting Milwaukee to a 92-90 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Saturday that drew the Bucks within 3-1 in their Eastern Conference playoff series.

With 1.3 seconds left, Jared Dudley threw a high-arcing pass toward the basket from side court. Bayless caught the ball and quickly threw up the layup with his right hand for the game-winning basket.

Bulls guard Derrick Rose walked away in frustration after trying to defend Bayless on the final play under the basket, while green and white streamers descended from the Bradley Center rafters.

The Bucks had won their first playoff game in five years.

Chicago had a chance to win with the game tied at 90. But Milwaukee's Khris Middleton tipped a dribble away from Rose to force a steal. Bucks coach Jason Kidd called a timeout to set up the final play.

Game 5 is Monday in Chicago.

Jimmy Butler had a playoff career-high 33 points for the Bulls. Rose finished with 14 points, while Pau Gasol had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

But the Bulls committed 28 turnovers, eight by Rose. And Chicago couldn't force a Milwaukee

mistake at the end.

"Just tried to get a stop ... Derrick lost Bayless and Bayless put it up," Gasol said about the final play. "But that definitely didn't lose us the game," he added. "Mistakes will happen — we just made too many of them throughout the game."

O.J. Mayo finished with 18 points, including a three-pointer with 1:42 left. Dudley had 13 points and five assists — including the one on the game-winner — while Bayless had 10 points.

Nets 91, Hawks 83: Brook Lopez had 22 points and 13 rebounds, Thaddeus Young added 18 points and 11 rebounds, and host Brooklyn beat Atlanta to cut the Hawks' lead to 2-1 in the Eastern Conference series.

The Nets seized control with an 18-0 run spanning the third and fourth quarters after the Hawks grabbed their first lead since the opening basket, then went on to beat the No. 1 seed for the first time in seven meetings this season.

Bojan Bogdanovic added 19 points for the eighth-seeded Nets, who can tie the series with another victory here Monday night in Game 4.

DeMarre Carroll scored a playoff career-high 22 points for the Hawks.

Grizzlies 115, Trail Blazers 109: Marc Gasol had 25 points and Memphis took a 3-0 lead in their playoff series over host Portland by withstanding a late Trail Blazers rally.

Courtney Lee had 20 points and Mike Conley added 14 before leaving the game late in the third quarter with a facial injury. Memphis was already thin at point guard with reserve Beno Udrih sidelined with a sprained right ankle.

Game 4 is Monday night at Portland.



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Navy grad makes MLB debut

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Adam Wainwright's ankle injury put a damper on Mitch Harris' major league debut for St. Louis and took most of the luster off the Cardinals' 5-3 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers on Saturday night.

Wainwright was helped from the field by a trainer after injuring his left ankle while stumbling out of the batter's box on his popup to first leading off the fifth inning. He allowed three hits in four shutout innings.

"It's something in the back of my ankle so we'll see what it is on Monday," said Wainwright, who was wearing a walking boot after the game. "Everything right now is just all speculation."

Wainwright has been placed on the 15-day disabled list with an Achilles and ankle injury, the team said, and could be out much longer. He is expected to have an MRI on Monday.

"It was by far the best I felt this year," Wainwright said. "I really had things working. I started changing arm angles a little bit, working in and out better than I have been and I just was having a lot of fun out there. It reminded me of last year a lot.

"Those strides I was talking about making over the course of the year, I started to make them today. That's the hardest part just knowing I was making such good adjustments, and now I've not a setback."

Harris then tossed 11/3 scoreless innings in his first big league

game at the age of 29 after serving five years of active duty in the U.S. Navy following his graduation from the Naval Academy.

"It's one of those bittersweet ... the last thing I want to see happen to Adam, but I was happy to finally get in there," said Harris, who struck out the first batter he faced.

Matt Holliday hit a three-run drive in the seventh for St. Louis, which has won four in a row. It was Holliday's first homer of the season

Milwaukee scored three runs with two outs in the eighth on an RBI single by Adam Lind and a bases-loaded double by Aramis Ramirez, but Hector Gomez bounced out to third to strand the tying runs.

Holliday's 26th career homer against the Brewers put the Cardinals up 5-0. Matt Carpenter, who extended his hitting streak to 12 games with a fifth-inning single, doubled with one out in the seventh and Jason Heyward drew a walk.

Brewers manager Ron Roenicke was ejected by plate umpire Dale Scott during the pitching change to Jeremy Jeffress, whose first pitch was hammered over the wall in right-center by Holliday.

"I didn't like his strike zone, so I told him he had a bad night," Roenicke said. "They're calling what they see. Some nights it works out against you and unfortunately, with us, it seems like it's been against us. But we're not playing good baseball and it happens all the way around, where you don't get calls, you don't get breaks, and that's what we're going through."

Orioles top Red Sox in 10th

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Minutes after watching a thrilling baseball game that featured one surprising play after another, thousands of fans at Camden Yards had no idea what to expect after emerging from the safety of the ballpark.

"Oh, calm. Good," Ali Howard said at the exit, around 15 minutes after the Orioles beat the Boston Red Sox 5-4 in 10 innings Saturday night to end a five-game losing streak.

A crowd of 36,757 showed up for this matchup of AL East foes. Outside the stadium, thousands gathered to protest the death of Freddie Gray, who died in police custody after suffering an unexplained spinal injury.

In the middle of the ninth inning, after

In the middle of the ninth inning, after the Red Sox extended a game the Orioles seemingly had in hand, the public address announcer told the fans that the mayor and city officials requested no one leave the ballpark because of "ongoing public safety issues."

By the bottom of the 10th, the restriction on departing the stadium had been lifted. But fans were warned against traveling in certain parts of the city.

"We took our sweet time coming out," Howard said. "This is by far the most insane thing I've ever been through."

As a slight rain began to fall, Baltimore blew a 3-2 lead in the ninth inning. The Orioles then fell behind in the 10th before rallying in the bottom half.

It was a tough loss for the Red Sox, who had no idea how they were going to weave through the demonstrators back to the team hotel.

"I'm sure there's a route that we will take that will be different from what we've done in the past, which would go right through where the protest is taking place currently," manager John Farrell

Baltimore trailed 4-3 in the bottom of the 10th when Adam Jones got a triple off Koji Uehara (1-1) on a liner that right fielder Allen Craig dove for and missed. After Chris Davis followed with a sacrifice fly, David Lough stepped to the plate.

Lough, who entered as a pinch runner in the eighth, smacked a 3-2 pitch to right.

Giants 5, Rockies 4 (11): Nori Aoki scored from third on Joe Panik's bunt

down the first base line in the 11th inning, lifting visiting San Francisco over Colorado.

Aoki reached on a leadoff walk from Brooks Brown (0-1) and was sacrificed to second. Angel Pagan followed with a single to center but Drew Stubbs' strong throw forced Aoki to hold up. Panik followed with a well-placed bunt down the line that allowed Aoki to break for the plate, and he slid into the plate just ahead of the throw home.

Jean Machi (1-0) pitched $1^{2/3}$ scoreless innings for the win.

Justin Maxwell and Andrew Susac homered for San Francisco, and Buster Posey had an RBI double in the first.

With the game tied at 2, Posey singled ahead of Maxwell's sixth-inning drive off Scott Oberg that umpires initially ruled had not gone out of the ballpark. But a replay review, initiated by crew chief John Hirschbeck, showed the ball clearly bounced off the topping beyond the yellow line atop the right field scoreboard before going into the seats for Maxwell's third homer of the season.

Mets 8, Yankees 2: Matt Harvey finished one out shy of a complete game, earning his first win against the team he rooted for growing up and leading the New York Mets to a victory over the crosstown host Yankees.

Kevin Plawecki hit his first major league home run and drove in three runs, and Lucas Duda and Eric Campbell also connected off an ineffective CC Sabathia (0-4). Juan Lagares went 4-for-4 with an RBI triple.

Dodgers 11, Padres 8: Adrian Gonzalez hit his sixth home run against San Diego this year, a three-run shot, and Andre Ethier, Howie Kendrick and Juan Uribe each had a two-run drive for visiting Los Angeles.

Brandon McCarthy (3-0) pitched fiveplus innings before departing with right elbow tightness.

Marlins 8, Nationals 0: Tom Koehler outpitched Stephen Strasburg, Giancarlo Stanton homered and revitalized host Miami earned their fourth win in a row.

Braves 5, Phillies 2: Andrelton Simmons led off the seventh with a homer, sparking a rally for visiting Atlanta.

The Braves scored three runs in the seventh and chased David Buchanan

(0-4) while snapping a four-game losing streak.

Angels 4, Rangers 1: C.J. Cron hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the sixth inning, leading host Los Angeles' rally to its third straight victory.

Albert Pujols tied it with a bases-loaded

single for the Angels, who scored three runs in the sixth despite having two runners thrown out at the plate.

Tigers 4, Indians 1: Victor Martinez drove in three runs, helping Alfredo Simon and host Detroit get the win.

Detroit slugger Miguel Cabrera drew four walks in a game for the first time in his career, three of them intentional. Earlier this season, the two-time AL MVP went 11-for-14 with six RBIs in a threegame series at Cleveland.

Astros 9, Athletics 3: Houston star Jose Altuve hit a three-run homer and extended his hitting streak against host Oakland to 28 games.

Jed Lowrie drove in two runs and George Springer homered for the Astros (10-7), who have won six of seven and are off to their best start since winning 12 of 17 games to open the 2006 season.

Pirates 2, Diamondbacks 1: Starling Marte singled home Neil Walker with two outs in the ninth inning, helping visiting Pittsburgh to its fourth consecutive win.

Walker doubled to the center-field wall against Addison Reed (0-1) before Marte hit a grounder past diving shortstop Cliff Pennington.

Twins 8, Mariners 5: Eduardo Escobar hit a solo home run and six other Minnesota players drove in at least one run to beat host Seattle.

Eduardo Nunez had two hits and two RBIs for Minnesota, which took advantage of three Mariners errors and two wild pitches.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 2: Tim Beckham hit a tiebreaking double during host Tampa Bay's three-run eighth inning, and the Rays won their fourth straight game.

James Loney tied it at 2 with a pinchhit RBI double before Beckham's hit off Miguel Castro gave Tampa Bay a 4-2 advantage.

Chicago eliminates Nashville

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Duncan Keith waited and waited for just the right moment, and then unloaded.

Another big goal for Chicago's top defenseman moved the Blackhawks into the second round of the playoffs.

Keith scored at 16:12 of the third, and Chicago overcame a brutal start on its way to a clinching 4-3 victory over the Nashville Predators in Game 6 of their tight postseason series.

"Certainly our guys, when the games are on the line, the stakes are higher, they just love that challenge and like to meet it and rise to it." Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said.

Keith beat a screened Pekka Rinne with a laser from the left point. The defenseman, who had the winning goal in a 4-3 double-overtime victory in the series opener, also had two assists.

Jonathan Toews, Patrick Kane and Patrick Sharp also scored for Chicago, and Corey Crawford stopped 13 shots after replacing Scott Darling in the first period after the rookie gave up three goals.

The Blackhawks will face St. Louis or

The Blackhawks will face St. Louis or Minnesota in the Western Conference semifinals as they try to finish an up-and-down season with their third Stanley Cup title since 2010. They eliminated the Blues and the Wild in last year's playoffs.

Nashville bowed out in the first

Nashville bowed out in the first round for the sixth time in eight playoff appearances.

James Neal had two goals for Nashville, and Matt Cullen also scored. Rinne made 28 saves, but got beat on some tough shots.

The winner came when Keith retrieved the puck just inside the blue line and waited for an opening before sending a drive past the goalie's right shoulder with 3:48 left. He had two goals and five assists in the series.

Islanders 3, Capitals 1: Nikolay Kulemin scored the go-ahead goal with 9:27 left and host New York beat Washington to force Game 7 in the Eastern Conference series.

Eastern Conference series.
Islanders captain John Tavares had a goal and assist, and Nick Leddy had two assists in what could still be the franchise's final game at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

John Carlson scored for the Capitals, who will host the deciding game Monday night

Red Wings 4, Lightning 0: Petr Mrazek stopped 28 shots and Detroit rebounded from a disappointing loss to shut down host Tampa Bay and take a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference series.

Riley Sheahan, Drew Miller, Pavel Datsyuk and Danny DeKeyser scored for the Red Wings. They can close out the Eastern Conference matchup by winning Game 6 at home Monday night.

The shutout was the second of the series for the young Mrazek, who had no previous NHL playoff experience before being named Detroit's starter over veteran Jimmy Howard.

Flames 7, Canucks 4: Matt Stajan broke a tie with 4:17 left and Calgary beat visiting Vancouver to win the Western Conformed playoff sories 4-2

Conference playoff series 4-2.
The Flames will face the Anaheim Ducks in the second round.

Michael Ferland and Jiri Hudler each scored twice, and Sean Monahan and Johnny Gaudreau added goals for Calgary. Hudler tied it at 4 with a power-play goal at 6:14 of the third period.

