

Army unit's antics in Poland could cost leaders

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A U.S. Army Apache helicopter unit's planned visit to World War II sites in Poland devolved into a drunken escapade at an off-limits strip club, leading to the suspected drugging of a battalion executive officer who went missing and wasn't found until the next day, an Army investigation found.

The incident involving the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade's "No Mercy" battalion during its recent deployment to Europe now has multiple officers facing the possible end of their military careers.

"The command took immediate and appropriate adverse action against the leaders involved," Col. Joseph Buccino, spokesman for the 18th Airborne Corps, said in a statement. "Some officers are facing further administrative actions to determine whether they will continue to serve in the Army."

A command investigation report obtained by Stars and Stripes details how taxpayer dollars were spent on a trip that was supposed to

be about improving "unit cohesion and morale," but ended in scandal as rumors of the battalion's deeds swirled through the brigade in the months that followed.

The Army probe into the incident in Poland also revealed broader concerns about potentially compromised combat readiness due to a pilot being incapacitated during the trip, as well as perception within the unit of special treatment that undermined morale.

"These issues included perceived preferential treatment for pilots over other personnel, and for officers over NCOs/Soldiers, as well as the way incidents were treated by the chain of command," the Dec. 3 Army 15-6 investigation report said.

A 15-6 investigation is typically a commander-driven probe that can lead to administrative punishment or a court-martial following a recommendation from an investigating officer.

About 40 members of the "No Mercy" 1st Battalion, led by Lt. Col. Matthew Fix, took part in the two-day trip to Gdansk. The unit, part of the 101st Airborne Division

based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., was responsible for carrying out a wide range of missions during its nine-month rotation in Europe providing airpower along NATO's eastern and southern flanks.

The Army 15-6, which was based on interviews with numerous soldiers, detailed the chain of events this way:

At the end of the first day, the team gathered for dinner at The Legendary White Rabbit Saloon and celebrated their sergeant major's 40th birthday. By the end of the evening, many were "heavily intoxicated" and returned to their hotels around midnight, the report said.

At that time, an unspecified number of soldiers, including battalion executive officer Maj. Matthew Conner, went to Club Obsession in Gdansk's city center.

Reviews of the club by various online travel sites warn of a sketchy scene where drinks get spiked with narcotics and woozy patrons get scammed out of thousands of dollars.

A warrant officer told the Army's investigator that during the

ride back to Powidz, Poland, at the conclusion of the trip, Conner described the events at the strip club in similar terms. Fix, the battalion commander, was driving the car.

Neither Fix nor Conner responded to requests for comment from Stars and Stripes.

It's unclear how the night at the strip club ended, but by morning no one in the battalion knew where Conner was. That's when Fix and Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Winberry organized a search party, calling on all staff ride attendees to meet in the city center and retrace their steps from the night before.

Eventually, Conner was found at a different hotel by Fix and Winberry. The team then completed an abbreviated version of their World War II battlefield tour.

The 15-6 recommended that Fix and Conner face administrative or disciplinary action along with several other junior officers and a first sergeant. An Army official said that Fix is in the process of retiring after receiving a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand, while Conner faces a separation review board.

2 Marines test positive for COVID during Darwin isolation

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Two U.S. Marines have tested positive for the coronavirus after recently arriving in Australia's Northern Territory for six months of training.

Both service members, who landed in Australia on April 12 and 14, tested positive during their mandatory 14-day quarantine, according to a statement Saturday from Marine Rotational Force — Darwin.

"The Marines are asymptomatic and will be transferred to the Northern Territory Centre for National Resilience at Howard Springs, in compliance

with Australian health protocols," the statement said.

The Marines will have to test negative for COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus, before leaving quarantine.

Another Marine who arrived in Darwin for the annual rotation tested positive for the coronavirus in February, the Marines reported that month.

The Darwin rotation is expected to be back at nearly full strength this year, with 2,200 Marines in the Northern Territory by June, according to Australia's defense department.

The onset of the coronavirus

pandemic meant last year's force was cut by more than half, well short of the 2,500 Marines who went Down Under in 2019.

The Marines and Australian troops will train for humanitarian assistance missions and security operations and conduct live-fire exercises, Australian Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds said in a statement in February.

They also hope to train with partner countries, including during the Talisman Sabre exercise this summer, she said. Japan, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K. participated in the drills in 2019.

The biennial Talisman Sabre, which involved 34,000 U.S. and Australian personnel in 2019, is scheduled to kick off in late June and peak July 18-31, according to the Australian Defence Force.

On Sunday, the Marines participated in an Anzac Day dawn ceremony in Darwin. Anzac Day originally commemorated the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps forces from World War I, but now also recognizes the men and women who have served in the Australian and New Zealand armed services in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

US general: Afghan forces 'must be ready'

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — America's top general in Afghanistan said Sunday that the U.S. military has begun closing down operations in the country and that Afghanistan's security forces "must be ready" to take over.

"I often get asked, how are the security forces, can the security forces do the work in our absence? And my message has always been the same. They must be ready. They must be ready," Gen. Scott Miller told Afghan journalists at a press conference in the capital Kabul.

He also said the Taliban not returning to peace talks "does not make sense."

His comments came just hours before Taliban negotiator Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai appeared to indicate a breakthrough in negotiations.

In a terse tweet, Stanikzai said "soon the Taliban leaders name will be removed from blacklist. And 7,000 Taliban prisoners will be released."

Until now Afghanistan's Council for National Reconciliation has tied the Taliban's twin demands to a cease fire. Stanikzai made no mention of a cease fire and there was no immediate comment from the reconciliation council headed by Abdullah Abdullah.

The Afghan government and President Ashraf Ghani has until now refused to release any more Taliban prisoners, charging the 5,000 his government released last year were at least in part responsible for the stepped up violence, having returned to the battlefield.

The Taliban deny the charges.

The 5,000 prisoners were released in keeping with the peace deal the previous U.S. administration negotiated with the Taliban, which the Biden administration reviewed and has largely followed.

Meanwhile, peace talks between the Taliban and Afghan government that were to begin in Turkey this weekend were canceled after the Islamic militia dismissed the

U.S.-promoted conference in Istanbul as a political spectacle serving American interests.

"From a purely military perspective, the idea of them not returning to a peace process, again, does not make sense," Miller said. "A return to violence would be ... senseless and tragic."

While the official start to the withdrawal of Washington's 2,500 to 3,500 troops and NATO's 7,000 allied forces is May 1, Miller said "at the same time, as we start taking local actions, we've already begun that."

The U.S. military and NATO would be shipping some military equipment out of Afghanistan while deciding what would remain behind with the Afghan Defense and Security Force, he said.

In February last year, the U.S. military began closing its smaller bases. In mid-April, the Biden administration announced that the final phase of the withdrawal would begin May 1 and be completed before Sept. 11.

SOCOM: Hacker to blame for Afghanistan, ISIS tweet

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

U.S. Special Operations Command Central says a hacker was responsible for a "misleading message" posted to its Twitter account over the weekend.

The now-deleted tweet contained only the words "Afghanistan" and "Islamic State" in quotation marks, according to screenshots shared on the social media platform.

"In the past 12 hours someone hacked our unit's official account and tweeted a misleading message," the Tampa, Fla.-based command tweeted on Saturday evening. "We apologize for any confusion or insensitive content."

Special Operations Command Central is charged with planning special operations throughout the Middle East,

Central Asia and parts of South Asia.

The command, which has posted only eight tweets this year, did not immediately respond to telephone messages and emailed questions about the tweet.

Some Twitter commenters were, however, skeptical that the account had been hacked and a few took the opportunity to poke fun at the command.

One posted a screenshot of the unit's Twitter profile that features the motto "Molon Labe," which translates as "come and take" and noted, "I guess someone did."

Last month, U.S. Strategic Command provided fodder for conspiracy theorists after its official Twitter account posted an unusual sequence of characters: "¡;gmlxzssaw."

Vaccinated Americans can soon visit EU

Stars and Stripes

American tourists fully vaccinated for the coronavirus will be able to travel to European Union countries this summer, the leader of the bloc told The New York Times on Sunday.

The fast pace of vaccinations in the U.S. has prompted EU officials to begin the process of loosening travel rules for those with proof they've been immunized, said Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission.

"The Americans, as far as I can see, use European Medicines Agency-approved vaccines," von der Leyen said. "This will enable free movement and the travel to the European Union."

All 27 EU member states will accept, "unconditionally," all those who are vaccinated with

inoculations approved by the European Medicine Agency, she said in The New York Times report.

The three vaccines approved for emergency use in the U.S., Moderna, Pfizer/BioNTech and Johnson & Johnson, are all accepted in Europe.

Talks are underway between the U.S. and Europe on a format for vaccination certificates. Von der Leyen did not offer a timeline for when the details would be worked out or when tourist travel would be allowed.

Flights between the U.S. and Europe have been limited mainly to official and essential travel since last year.

It would also make it easier for many of the tens of thousands of U.S. troops and military civilians in Europe to reunite with friends and family.

CEO sold stock before firm ruined 15M doses

The Washington Post

The stock price of government contractor Emergent BioSolutions has fallen sharply since the disclosure at the end of March that production problems at the firm's plant in Baltimore had ruined 15 million doses of Johnson & Johnson's coronavirus vaccine. Since then, AstraZeneca moved production of its own vaccine out of the facility, and Emergent temporarily halted work there altogether.

Those developments came after Emergent's stock price had tumbled Feb. 19, following the company's published financial results. Emergent stock has fallen since mid-February to about \$62 a share from \$125 a share, or 51%.

But the decline has had less of an impact than it might have on the personal finances of Emergent's chief executive, Robert Kramer, who sold more than \$10 million worth of his stock in the company in January and early February, securities filings show.

The transactions were Kramer's first substantive sales of Emergent stock since April 2016, according to a review of securities filings by *The Washington Post*.

Those 2016 sales by Kramer, along with sales by other Emergent executives about the same time, were the subject of a lawsuit brought by investors who alleged that executives offloaded stocks after making misleading claims about the scale of an upcoming

order from the government for an anthrax vaccine. When the order turned out to be smaller than analysts anticipated, the share price fell. Emergent denied the allegations, but the parties later agreed to a settlement in which Emergent paid the investors \$6.5 million.

Kramer made his recent sales by exercising stock options that Emergent had awarded him as part of his compensation package in past years. Those options allowed him to buy the stocks for about \$2.5 million; he then sold them at market price. Kramer's remaining stake in Emergent is worth about \$10.1 million, according to securities filings, and he has almost 60,000 stock options that he may begin exercising next year.

Kramer's sales were made as part of a trading plan that he adopted on Nov. 13, according to securities filings. Such plans, which establish in advance when stocks are to be bought and sold, are intended to protect company insiders from suggestions that they traded on the basis of confidential information that would influence the stock price, which is unlawful.

Investors sued Emergent, Kramer and other executives in federal court in Maryland last week, alleging that the firm artificially inflated its stock price by boasting of its ability to make coronavirus vaccines and by not disclosing problems at the Baltimore site, which is known as Bayview.

India's health system taxed by record cases

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Dr. Gautam Singh dreads the daily advent of the ventilator beeps, signaling that oxygen levels are critically low, and hearing his critically ill patients start gasping for air in the New Delhi emergency ward where he works.

Like other doctors across the country, which on Monday set a record for new coronavirus infections for a fifth day in a row at more than 350,000, the cardiologist has taken to begging and borrowing cylinders of oxygen just to keep his most critical patients alive for one more day.

On Sunday evening, when the oxygen supplies of other nearby hospitals were also near empty, the desperate 43-year-old took to social media, posting an impassioned video plea on Twitter.

"Please send oxygen to us," he said with folded hands and a choked voice. "My patients are dying."

India was initially seen as a success story in weathering the pandemic, but the virus is now racing through its massive population of nearly 1.4 billion, and systems are beginning to collapse.

In addition to oxygen supplies running out, intensive care units are operating at full capacity and nearly all ventilators are in use.

On Monday, the country reported another 2,812 deaths, with roughly 117 Indians succumbing to the disease every hour — and experts say even those figures are likely an undercount. The new infections brought India's total to more than 17.3 million, behind only the United States.

Krishna Udayakumar, founding director of the Duke Global Health Innovation Center at Duke University, said it would be impossible for the country to keep up with needs over the coming days as things stand.

"The situation in India is tragic and likely to get worse for some weeks to months," he said, adding that a "concerted, global effort to help India at this time of crisis" is desperately needed.

The White House said the U.S. is "working around the clock" to deploy testing kits, ventilators and personal protective equipment, and it would seek to provide oxygen supplies as well.

Help and support were also offered from archrival Pakistan, and Germany's Health Ministry said it was "urgently working to put together an aid package" for India.

Worries mount as Italy begins to reopen

Associated Press

MILAN — Italy's gradual reopening Monday after six months of rotating virus lockdowns is satisfying no one: Too cautious for some, too hasty for others.

Allowing outdoor dining comes too little, too late for Italy's restaurant owners, whose survival is threatened by more than a year of on-again, off-again closures. The country's continued 10 p.m. curfew puts a damper on theater reopenings, and is seen as bad public relations for Italy's key tourism industry, which hopes the second summer of the pandemic can finally see the return of overseas visitors. The government has also been facing strong pressure to reopen from Italy's right-wing parties.

Yet the nation's weary virologists and medical workers worry that even the tentative reopening planned by Premier Mario Draghi's government will invite a free-for-all that risks a new virus surge before the current one is truly tamped down.

Italy has the second-deadliest pandemic toll in Europe after Britain, with over 119,000 confirmed deaths. And experts say that number is low because more Italians suspected of having COVID-19 died in spring 2020 before they could be tested.

By Monday, 15 of Italy's 21 regions and autonomous provinces were under the lowest levels of coronavirus restrictions, with inter-regional travel allowed for the first time since the fall.

Supreme Court to take up case over carrying a gun

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court agreed on Monday to hear an appeal to expand gun rights in a New York case over the right to carry a firearm in public for self-defense.

The case marks the court's first foray into gun rights since Justice Amy Barrett came on board in October, making a 6-3 conservative majority.

The justices said Monday they will review a lower-court ruling that upheld New York's restrictive gun permit law. The court's action follows mass shootings in recent weeks in Indiana, Georgia, Colorado and California.

The case probably will be argued in the fall.

The court had turned down review of the issue in June, before Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death.

New York is among eight states that limit who has the right to carry a weapon in public. The others are: California, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

In the rest of the country, gun owners have little trouble legally carrying their weapons when they go out.

Paul Clement, representing challengers to New York's permit law, said the court

should use the case to settle the issue once and for all. "Thus, the nation is split, with the Second Amendment alive and well in the vast middle of the nation, and those same rights disregarded near the coasts," Clement wrote on behalf of the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association and two New York residents.

Calling on the court to reject the appeal, the state said its law promotes public safety and crime reduction and neither bans people from carrying guns nor allows everyone to do so.

Federal courts have largely upheld the permit limits. Last month an 11-judge panel of the federal appeals court in San Francisco rejected a challenge to Hawaii's permit regulations in an opinion written by a conservative judge, Jay Bybee.

"Our review of more than 700 years of English and American legal history reveals a strong theme: government has the power to regulate arms in the public square," Bybee wrote in a 7-4 decision for the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The issue of carrying a gun for self-defense has been seen for several years as the next major step for gun rights at the Supreme Court, following decisions in 2008 and 2010 that established a nationwide right to keep a gun at home for self-defense.

Profanity-laced Snapchat leads to court case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fourteen-year-old Brandi Levy was having that kind of day where she just wanted to scream. So she did, in a profanity-laced posting on Snapchat that has, improbably, ended up before the Supreme Court in the most significant case on student speech in more than 50 years.

At issue is whether public schools can discipline students over something they say off-campus. The topic is especially meaningful in a time of remote learning because of the coronavirus pandemic and a rising awareness of the pernicious effects of online bullying.

Arguments are on Wednesday, via telephone because of the pandemic.

The case has its roots in the Vietnam-era case of a high school in Des Moines, Iowa, that suspended students who wore armbands to protest the war. In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court sided with the students, declaring students don't "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate."

Ever since, courts have wrestled with the contours of the decision in *Tinker v. Des Moines* in 1969.

Levy's case has none of the lofty motives of *Tinker* and more than its share of teenage angst.

Levy and a friend were at a convenience store in her hometown of Mahanoy City, Pa., when she took to social media to express her frustration at being kept on her high school's junior varsity cheerleading squad for another year.

"F—— school f—— softball f—— cheer f—— everything," Levy wrote, in a post that also contained a photo in which she and a classmate raised their middle fingers. The post was brought to the attention of the team's coaches, who suspended Levy from the cheerleading team for a year.

Levy, now 18, is finishing her freshman year in college. "I was a 14-year-old kid. I was upset, I was angry. Everyone, every 14-year-old kid speaks like that at one point," she said.

Her parents filed a federal lawsuit, claiming the suspension violated their daughter's constitutional speech rights. Lower courts agreed and restored her to the cheerleading team.

Gunfire erupts in Somalia capital after leader OKs longer mandate

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Gunfire erupted in Somalia's capital Sunday between soldiers loyal to the government and others angry at the country's leader as tensions spiked over President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed's extended stay in power.

The gunfire heard across much of the city highlighted earlier warnings that the election standoff could increase instability in the Horn of Africa nation. The estimated hundreds of mutinous soldiers, still in uniform, took up key positions in northern Mogadishu as some residents hid.

Somalia's homeland security minister, Hassan Hundubey Jimale, expressed condolences to all victims but didn't say how many people had been killed or wounded.

He accused "some people who are not interested in the security of their people" of launching an attack in Mogadishu and said security forces had repulsed them.

The president faces growing opposition in Somalia and abroad after the lower house of parliament approved a two-year extension of his mandate and that of the federal government and he OK'd it, to the fury of Senate leaders and vocal criticism from the international community. The African Union was the latest to condemn the actions.

Somalia's election, meant for early February, has been delayed amid disputes between the federal government and the states of Puntland and Jubbaland along with the opposition.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police arrest man after finding his severed finger

AZ MARICOPA — Authorities in Arizona arrested a man who police believe severed his finger while slashing his neighbor’s car tires after an argument.

Maricopa Police Department spokesman Hal Koozer said Kevin Johnson was arrested and identified as the owner of the finger found on his neighbor’s driveway, the Casa Grande Dispatch reported.

Francesca Wikoff told police she found the finger after discovering her vehicle had two slashed tires on one side. Police said a trail of blood led to a nearby residence.

Authorities said Wikoff and her husband went to a neighbor’s home the day before. She told police a male neighbor joined them uninvited and became drunk and aggressive. Wikoff said the neighbor pushed and threatened her and her husband before being asked to leave.

Assault-style rifle stolen from DNR truck

MN ST. PAUL — Police were trying to track down a thief who stole an assault-style rifle from a state Department of Natural Resources truck.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press reported that two DNR trucks were broken into while they were parked in a Shoreview hotel parking lot. A number of DNR officers had been working with the Minnesota State Patrol and the National Guard to support police during Derek Chauvin’s trial in Minneapolis.

Ramsey County Sheriff Bob

Fletcher said the rifle was locked and secured in the vehicle but someone smashed the back window to get to it. The thief also made off with a 30-round magazine.

Officials: Invasive rats eradicated on island

HI HONOLULU — The state Department of Natural Resources has declared Lehua Island in Hawaii free of invasive rats after decades of eradication efforts.

Officials monitoring the small, uninhabited island off of Kauai’s western coast said getting rid of the rats creates new possibilities for the birds on the island, which has one of the most diverse seabird colonies in the state, Hawaii News Now reported.

At least 17 seabird species, many of which are threatened, live on Lehua Island.

Maple season cut short, sap yields low sugar

VT BURLINGTON — Seventy-degree Fahrenheit weather and low sugar content in tree sap have caused one of the shortest maple seasons in over a decade for producers in Vermont, the country’s top maple syrup producing state.

Allison Hope, executive director of the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers’ Association, said that most maple syrup producers made anywhere from 40% to 70% of an average crop of maple syrup this season.

Early warm weather put an end to the flowing sap, Hope said.

The average sugar content of the harvested maple sap was

2%, according to Hope, which increases the sap needed to produce maple syrup.

Vermont usually produces nearly 2 million gallons of maple syrup, which is over half of domestic production.

“One off-year is no problem with meeting demand,” Hope said.

State fair will be open to the public this year

KY LOUISVILLE — The Kentucky State Fair will be open to the public this year, officials said.

The Kentucky State Fair Board voted to hold the event Aug. 19-29, according to a statement from Kentucky Venues. Tickets will go on sale in July.

Last year, the event was closed to the public due to the coronavirus pandemic. Some events were held but only participants were allowed to attend.

Officials were beginning to plan and said specific information will be announced later.

Marshall students create bowls for fundraiser

WV HUNTINGTON — Marshall University ceramics students are conducting an annual fundraiser to help feed needy families.

The 18th annual Empty Bowls event will take place in person Friday at Pullman Square in Huntington, the university said in a news release. Masks are required at the event and social distancing will be observed.

Marshall students and volunteers are making ceramic bowls to be purchased at the six-hour event. The bowls are \$20 each. Bowls also will be sold online by the Pottery Place.

The fundraiser will benefit the Facing Hunger Foodbank. Each bowl sold will provide 180 meals for those in need.

2 hurt after vehicle collides with bear

MN BRAINERD — Two people were recovering from injuries they suffered when their sport utility vehicle hit a bear in east-central Minnesota.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune reported that Tyler S. Peterson, 19, and Cynthia Thompson, 20, both of Brainerd, were northbound in Crow Wing County when they hit the bear, went off the road and overturned.

Both were wearing their seat belts, the Minnesota State Patrol said. They were taken to a hospital in Brainerd with non-life-threatening injuries. The patrol says alcohol was not involved.

No one inside car found in lake

CT WATERBURY — Police in Waterbury were investigating after a car went into a lake and rescuers found no one inside.

Police said that firefighters responded to the area near Bellevue Lake after reports of a car in the water. Dive crews found a 2016 Chevy Malibu, but didn’t find anyone inside the car or in the lake.

Police said they contacted the owner, who told them the car hadn’t been stolen. They were unable to find witnesses and couldn’t determine if the car was occupied when it entered the water.

— From wire reports



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Padres top Dodgers in October preview

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Although the Padres and the Dodgers know it's only spring, every remarkable thing that happened in their seven games over the past 10 days proved this matchup was far more important than your average April baseball.

When a distinctly autumnal chill settled in Chavez Ravine while their seventh exhausting meeting stretched into extra innings Sunday night, both teams and their fans could be forgiven for thinking ahead to the bigger, colder nights possibly on the way.

"Definitely a good preview of what should come in October," San Diego's Eric Hosmer said.

The Padres could take plenty of extra warmth back home after a stirring comeback and an impressive finish gave them an early advantage in this unfolding showdown.

Fernando Tatis Jr. scored on Hosmer's

sacrifice fly in the 11th inning, and the Padres rallied from a late six-run deficit for an 8-7 victory over Los Angeles and their fourth win in seven largely thrilling games against the Dodgers.

Manny Machado delivered the tying RBI single in the ninth inning for the Padres, who claimed their third win in this four-game series between Southern California rivals in appropriately dramatic fashion.

"I think we certainly made a statement," said Hosmer, who also had an RBI single in the eighth. "The whole baseball world was watching these games, and I think we showed we can compete with these guys. We respect who they are, we respect what they've done, but we're certainly not going to back down from them."

The Padres trailed 7-1 entering the seventh, but scored two runs in each of the next three innings to force the defending World Series champs into extras. After scoring an 11th-inning run without a hit, San Diego won

for the fourth time its last five matchups with the powerhouse Dodgers, who took the first two at Petco Park last weekend.

"For us, it felt like a lot of missed opportunities, and then some good moments, but we weren't able to shut the door on them when we needed to," said Chris Taylor, who hit a three-run homer in the sixth for Los Angeles. "We know we didn't play our best baseball, and that's one where we've got to take care of business and win."

Los Angeles failed to score in the 10th with the bases loaded and one out. Tim Hill (1-2) escaped the jam by striking out pinch-hitter Clayton Kershaw and rookie DJ Peters, who could have ended the game if he hadn't swung at a fastball well above the strike zone on a full count.

Tatis started the 11th on second, stole third and scored easily on Hosmer's long fly off Garrett Cleavinger (0-1), who was making his Dodgers debut and second career major league appearance.

Bumgarner's seven-inning no-hitter unofficial

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Madison Bumgarner threw a seven-inning no-hitter, an achievement that won't count in the Major League Baseball record book but completed a dominant day of Arizona Diamondbacks pitching for a 7-0 win over the Atlanta Braves and a doubleheader sweep Sunday.

Bumgarner (2-2) struck out seven and walked none. The only Braves batter who reached base against him came on shortstop Nick Ahmed's throwing error in the second inning.

Officially, Bumgarner's gem won't count in the list of no-hitters. MLB's eight-man committee on statistical accuracy decided in 1991 that a no-hitter was a game of nine or more innings that ended with no hits.

Bumgarner casually shook hands with catcher Carson Kelly after Marcell Ozuna lined out to end it. Then the rest of the Diamondbacks joined in and the celebration livened up around the mound.

In the opener, Zac Gallen (1-0) pitched a one-hitter, al-

lowing Freddie Freeman's sharp single to right-center field with one out in the sixth of a 5-0 win. This was the first time a team pitched two complete-game shutouts in a doubleheader since Boston's Reggie Cleveland and Don Aase at Toronto on Sept. 5 1977

Arizona has won six of seven.

Orioles 8, Athletics 1: Oakland's 13-game winning streak ended as Austin Hays hit his first two home runs for host Baltimore.

Rockies 12, Phillies 2: Trevor Story hit a grand slam to cap a seven-run fourth inning, letting loose a shout to his dugout and a big bat flip, and host Colorado overcame two solo home runs by Bryce Harper.

Indians 7, Yankees 3: Framil Reyes hit a three-run homer, tripled and stole his first career base, helping host Cleveland avoid a four-game series sweep.

Blue Jays 1, Rays 0: Toronto starter Hyun Jin Ryu was forced to leave early with a right glute strain after giving up three hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Five relievers completed a five-hitter for the visiting Blue Jays.

Royals 4, Tigers 0: Danny Duffy (3-1) allowed four hits in five innings and struck out eight to lead visiting Kansas City over Detroit.

Red Sox 5, Mariners 3: J.D. Martinez doubled twice to raise his season total to 10, and Eduardo Rodríguez (4-0) gave up eight hits and struck out eight in six innings in host Boston's major league-leading 11th comeback victory of the season.

Mets 4, Nationals 0: Taijuan Walker (1-1) pitched three-hit ball for seven innings in his first win for host New York, and J.D. Davis hit a two-run homer in the first off a faltering Patrick Corbin.

White Sox 8, Rangers 4: Michael Kopech (2-0) struck out a career-high 10 while allowing one run and four hits in five innings, José Abreu homered and drove in three runs and host Chicago won its season-high fourth straight.

Pirates 6, Twins 2: Gregory Polanco homered and had

three hits as Pittsburgh beat Minnesota to complete a 6-3 road trip.

Cardinals 5, Reds 2: Tyler O'Neill homered twice and Jack Flaherty (4-0) allowed one run and three hits in seven innings to help host St. Louis hand Cincinnati its seventh straight loss, its longest skid since an eight-game slide from March 31-April 7, 2019.

Brewers 6, Cubs 0: Brandon Woodruff (2-0) allowed two hits in six innings and struck out eight for his first win in 11 career appearances against host Chicago.

Angels 4, Astros 2: Shohei Ohtani hit a tiebreaking solo home run in the eighth inning off Luis Garcia (0-2) as visiting Los Angeles stopped a four-game losing streak.

Giants 4, Marlins 3: Logan Webb (1-1) pitched three-hit ball for seven scoreless innings, matched his career-best with eight strikeouts and had a two-run triple off Paul Campbell (0-1) for his first career extra-base hit to lead host San Francisco.

Wizards beat Cavs for 8th straight win

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bradley Beal scored 33 points and the Washington Wizards rallied to beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 119-110 on Sunday night for their eighth straight victory.

Down eight early in the fourth quarter at 95-87, Washington tied it at 105 on Beal's jumper with 4:55 remaining. Washington then closed on a 14-5 run to equal the team's longest winning streak since 2001, when Michael Jordan was on the roster.

Beal, who entered Sunday as the NBA's second leading scorer, averaging 31.1 points and just a fraction behind Golden State's Stephen Curry, scored 20 points in the first half and then ended with nine in the fourth quarter despite constant double teams causing coach Scott Brooks to deliver some high praise.

"He's impossible to stop," Brooks said.

Russell Westbrook had 14 points, 11 assists and five rebounds, ending his triple-double streak at four. He failed to record a triple-double for only the third time in 17 games.

Cavaliers coach J.B. Bickerstaff was happy with his team's defense on Westbrook.

"I thought we did a good job of shrinking the floor around him and making him play in a crowd," Bickerstaff said.

Cleveland scoring leader Collin Sexton sat out because of a concussion after scoring 28 points Friday night in a loss to Charlotte.

Nets 128, Suns 119: Kevin Durant scored 33 points in his latest return from injury, Kyrie Irving had 34 and host Brooklyn beat Phoenix in a matchup of two of the NBA's top teams.

Durant missed three games after bruising his left thigh early in a loss to Miami last Sunday and has been limited to just 25 games this season. He played 28 minutes off the bench in his return, shooting 12 for 21.

Blake Griffin scored 15 points to help the Eastern Conference leaders improve to 25-7 at home and 20-6 against West teams.

Devin Booker scored 36 points and Deandre Ayton had 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Suns.

Warriors 117, Kings 113: Stephen Curry scored 37 points and set an NBA record for three-pointers in a month at 85, leading Golden State past visiting Sacramento. Kelly Oubre Jr.'s jumper with 1:42 left put the Warriors ahead 112-111 before Richaun Holmes missed a pair of free throws at the 1:25 mark, then Draymond Green scored moments later.

Curry shot 11-for-21 with seven more three-pointers after the two-time MVP rolled his right ankle during Friday night in a victory over Denver. His April total

topped James Harden's record of 82 in November 2019.

Pacers 131, Magic 112: Malcolm Brogdon scored 24 points and visiting Indiana used a big third quarter to rout short-handed Orlando in a game marred by Magic rookie Devin Cannady's gruesome ankle injury.

Cannady suffered an open fracture of his right ankle in the first quarter when he landed awkwardly while trying to contest Edmond Sumner's layup. Orlando center Mo Bamba was so shaken by the sight of the injury that he took his jersey off and placed it over Cannady's badly broken and bleeding ankle. The former Princeton star was set for surgery Sunday night.

Hornets 125, Celtics 104: Devonte Graham had 24 points and nine assists and P.J. Washington added 22 points and 12 rebounds in host Charlotte's victory over Boston.

Hawks 111, Bucks 104: Lou Williams made four three-pointers in the final seven minutes, including a jumper that gave Atlanta its first lead of the second half, Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 32 points and the host Hawks beat Milwaukee.

Grizzlies 120, Trail Blazers 113: Ja Morant had 28 points and visiting Memphis beat Portland for the second time in three days.

Zibanejad's 3 goals help Rangers close in on Bruins

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mika Zibanejad scored three times for his third hat trick in 22 games and seventh of his career to help lift the New York Rangers past the Buffalo Sabres 6-3 on Sunday night.

Kaapo Kakko added two goals and Kevin Rooney had an empty-netter for the Rangers, who pulled within four points of Boston for the final playoff spot in the East Division after the Bruins lost 1-0 to Pittsburgh earlier Sunday.

Adam Fox had three assists and Igor Shesterkin made 31 saves to improve to 4-0-1 in his career against Buffalo.

New York won for the seventh time in its last 10 games and improved to 5-1-1 against the Sabres this season, including 3-0-0 at home. The teams meet again Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden.

"We can't control what's going on around the league," coach David Quinn said regarding the playoff race. "We've just got to keep

taking each game as it is and keep playing meaningful hockey until someone tells us these games aren't meaningful."

Jeff Skinner, Victor Olofsson and Sam Reinhart scored for Buffalo. Dustin Tokarski made 23 saves.

Zibanejad opened the scoring 4:49 into the first period with a hard wrist shot from the right wing.

Skinner tied it less than two minutes later, stopping teammate Colin Miller's shot from the point with his stick before backhanding the puck past Shesterkin. Skinner has three goals in his last 11 games after scoring just three in his first 35 games of the season.

Kakko gave the Rangers a 2-1 lead midway through the first with a one-timer off an impressive pass from Fox.

"That's his vision," Kakko said of Fox. "He's a great player and when he's got the puck at the blue line, just be ready, he can do something like that."

Penguins 1, Bruins 0: Tristan Jarry made

29 saves for his first shutout of the season and Jake Guentzel scored in host Pittsburgh's victory over Boston.

Jarry has won his last four decisions, including a sloppy 7-6 home victory over New Jersey last week, in which he allowed six third-period goals. He rebounded two nights later against the Devils and has earned a point in 11 of his last 12 starts.

The Penguins, who are in sole possession of first place, have a two-game series against the Washington Capitals after Tuesday's home game against the Bruins.

Lightning 4, Blue Jackets 3 (OT): Victor Hedman scored 10 seconds into overtime to give lift host Tampa Bay past Columbus.

Flyers 4, Devils 3 (SO): Claude Giroux scored twice in 22 seconds to force overtime and was one of three Flyers to score in a shootout in host Philadelphia's victory over New Jersey.

Sean Couturier also scored in regulation for the Flyers, and Brian Elliott had 29 saves.

Keselowski claims 6th win at Talladega with OT pass

Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Brad Keselowski made exactly the right final move this time, winning again at Talladega Superspeedway and demonstrating a painful lesson well learned.

Keselowski's overtime victory made him the ninth driver to win through 10 NASCAR Cup races this season and avenged an embarrassing Team Penske gaffe in the season-opening Daytona 500. He and teammate Joey Logano triggered a last-lap crash as Keselowski tried to pass Logano for the victory.

"Daytona, that's a big one. Oh man, it stings still," Keselowski said. "But this is a good one. We'll take it. Beggars can't be choosers. I certainly learned some lessons from that race and I tried to apply them, and it all came together there at the end.

"Michael McDowell gave me a good push like he did at Daytona, and I was a little bit smarter with how I handled it."

Keselowski led just one lap, the last one, in a race that featured 35 lead changes among 27 drivers.

"The whole race I had a couple opportunities to take the lead, but I just kept thinking, 'Man, keep your car in one piece,'" Keselowski said.

Logano was involved in an airborne wreck and called on NASCAR to change the dangerous racing conditions at Daytona and Talladega.

"On one hand, I am mad about being in the crash and on the other, I am happy to be alive," Logano said. "On another hand, I am wondering when we are going to stop because this is dangerous doing what we are doing. I got a roll bar in my head. That is not OK.

"I am one hit away from the same situation Ryan Newman just went through. I just don't feel like that is acceptable."

Newman escaped serious injury racing for the win on the final lap of the 2020 Daytona 500.

The victory, Keselowski's sixth at Talladega, came after team owner Roger Penske pulled the three Team Penske drivers and affiliate Matt DiBenedetto onto a call this week to discuss his expectations on how they should race Sunday. Penske refused to accept another Daytona disaster when Logano or Keselowski should have won the race but instead of working together, the two triggered a fiery crash that also collected a third Penske car.

All three Penske drivers have now claimed spots in the 16-driver playoff field.

William Byron was second, Daytona 500 winner McDowell — the beneficiary of that February blunder — took third and Kevin Harvick a season-high fourth.

"I felt like I was in a good spot again working with Brad and drug back off of him coming off of Turn 4," McDowell said. "I thought I would have the run but just didn't suck him down enough."

DiBenedetto, who led 28 laps, finished fifth but gave away the win with a late lane change that allowed Keselowski to surge to the front.

Ford drivers took four of the top five spots.

Kaz Grala finished a career-best sixth and was followed by Tyler Reddick and Austin Dillon in a trio of Chevrolets.

Ford drivers took spots nine through 13 and the highest finishing Toyota driver was Christopher Bell in 17th.

Keselowski tied Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jeff Gordon with six wins each at Talladega.

Herta's IndyCar win at St. Pete ties him on the list with his dad

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Colton Herta went a solid eight years ignoring any advice about racing cars that came from his father, an actual professional driver.

Sunday on the downtown streets of St. Petersburg, in their very first race working together, Herta was listening. He followed the sound of his father's voice all the way to victory and alongside him on IndyCar's win list.

Herta raced to his fourth IndyCar victory to match the same total his father, Bryan, achieved over his own 12-year career. The son needed just 34 races for his four wins and he begins his third full IndyCar season as a strong title contender.

"Growing up, I had a lot of arrogance and I didn't want to hear anything that my dad had to say," Herta said. "And then I realized — bigger, faster cars — I learned more about the sport and I was like 'Hey, he actually knows what he's talking about.'"

Herta started from the pole and led a race-record 97 of the 100 laps to win his first race with Bryan Herta as his race strategist. Andretti Autosport paired the Hertas for the first time this year, dismissing previous father-son combinations that simply didn't work in IndyCar.

This one would work, Michael Andretti insisted, because Colton Herta is so calm and so collected, and Bryan Herta had been a master on the radio previously for both Alexander Rossi and Marco Andretti. So when two cautions created two late restarts for Colton Herta to hold off Josef Newgarden, Bryan Herta was asked if father or son was more nervous about the fate of the race.

"Neither of us," Bryan Herta said.

Going back home: Mulkey leaves Baylor for LSU

Associated Press

Hall of Fame coach Kim Mulkey has left Baylor to return home and take over the LSU women's basketball team.

The school announced the move Sunday.

Mulkey, who won three national championships at Baylor, is a native of Tickfaw, La. She helped Baylor win the 2019 NCAA championship, and the Bears lost in the regional finals to

UConn last month.

"Kim Mulkey is a champion and a Hall of Famer, and we are thrilled to welcome her home," LSU athletic director Scott Woodward said. "Her accomplishments are unprecedented, her passion is unrivaled, and her commitment to winning in all aspects of life — in the classroom, on the court, and in the community — is unparalleled. We look forward to working

with her as she instills that championship culture at LSU."

The 58-year-old coach inherits an LSU team that went 9-13 last season and hasn't made it past the Sweet 16 since 2007. She became the fastest coach in Division I history to reach 600 wins — needing only 700 games to do it.

Mulkey replaces Nikki Fargas, who stepped down earlier this week.