

STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, August 2, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Sanctions put a crimp in Russia's naval plans

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

Russia's ambitious plan to revamp its navy, highlighted last week in a visit by President Vladimir Putin to the Kaliningrad exclave on the Baltic Sea, faces new hurdles in the form of economic sanctions imposed for Moscow's interference in Ukraine.

The measures are blocking import of critical parts for warships, at the same time an economic recession has lightened the nation's coffers.

"It's a case of there are aspirations there. Delivering on it may be difficult," said Nick Childs, a naval expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

Russia's navy has been a large focus of the country's armaments program, which called for roughly \$340 billion of military spending from 2010 to 2020, with a goal of modernizing 70 percent of the armed forces. The service continues to build nuclear attack and ballistic missile submarines, and it is in the early stages of contracts for several classes of guided-missile corvettes and frigates. Plans call for modernizing the fleet's older cruisers and beginning work on destroyers for delivery to the navy sometime in the 2020s, said Dmitry Gorenburg, a naval analyst at CNA Corp.

With an emphasis on guided missiles, the service is tilting toward strategic deterrence and territorial defense in the near term versus the kind of blue-water capabilities associated with the U.S. Navy, Gorenburg said.

"You're not going to do so well in a big naval battle, but you can threaten at least your neighbors and a lot of NATO

countries," he said.

Even if those plans are implemented, the Russian navy would remain a pale shadow of its Soviet predecessor, which averaged more than 50 warships and auxiliaries in the Mediterranean for much of the 1970s and '80s. Yet many experts say Russian plans were ambitious even before 2014, when the sanctions hit, with timelines and capabilities often overstated.

Recent tensions with the West have compounded those problems, as nations imposed sanctions in response to Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula and its continued support of separatists in eastern Ukraine. Key components like chipsets made in Western Europe are now off-limits to Russian shipbuilders. Problems importing gas turbines from Germany raise questions about the newest corvette class, the Gremyashchy.

According to Gorenburg, budget woes are likely to blame for slowed production of the Yasen-class nuclear attack submarine, whose first-in-class Severodvinsk wowed even U.S. Navy shipbuilders when it became operational in 2014. Where initial plans called for eight submarines to be operational by 2020, Gorenburg said only two or three are likely in that timeframe.

Despite these issues, the Russian navy remains a regional power with an ability to patrol its territory, experts say.

"Unlike the U.S. Navy, they're not looking to patrol the world right now," Gorenburg said. "So the fact they can patrol most of their neighborhood in both the Pacific and European theaters is really sufficient."

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Navy to loosen body weight standards in physical fitness test

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY
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NAPLES, Italy — The Navy will relax the body weight standards in its physical fitness assessment beginning next year, as it moves away from what service leaders say is too narrow a gauge of health and physical ability.

New rules to be announced Monday and take effect in January will result in more sailors passing the body composition portion of the physical fitness assessment, or PFA, and participating in the exercise portion of the assessment, Navy officials said. Current rules prohibit anyone who fails the body composition portion from moving on to the exercise test.

The new rules add a single-step abdominal measurement for those who don't meet the Navy's maximum weight allowances by height, and they raise body fat limits to a maximum 26 percent for men and 35 percent for women, following Department of Defense standards. They also reduce the number of permitted failures to two in three years from three in four.

Navy officials said the changes are the first step in a move away from an emphasis on body size and toward strengthening the physical readiness test, or PRT.

"I want them taking PRTs," Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Bill Moran said of the changes in a video released by the Navy. "I want them testing. I want them physically active. That's going to improve our overall health at the end of the

day."

The fitness assessment is held twice annually. Last year, about 5,000 sailors failed at least one of the two cycles, according to the Navy, the majority because they didn't pass the body weight portion, known as the body composition assessment, or BCA. Only those who exceed the Navy's maximum weight allowances by height are currently required to "tape-in," or have their body fat percentages calculated by measuring the circumferences of the neck and the abdomen.

Current rules call for sailors who fail three physical fitness assessments in four years to be separated from the Navy. As part of the new guidelines, the Navy will erase all but one prior failure from sailors' records in January, and it will give those currently being separated for fitness reasons a chance to stay on, provided they pass an exercise test by Dec. 1.

The service also will overlook body composition failures in this year's fall cycle, although it will require all medically cleared sailors to take the exercise test.

The new rules keep the same maximum weight allowances but add the single-site abdominal measurement before the traditional taping. Male sailors with abdominal circumferences less than or equal to 39 inches will pass the body composition portion and will move on to the physical readiness test, as will females with measurements equal to or less than 35.5 inches.

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Marine's defense trial to start

Pemberton accused of killing Filipina transgender last October

By **SETH ROBSON**
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The defense case for a U.S. Marine accused of killing a transgender Filipina during a port call is set to begin Monday, according to Philippine media.

Prosecutors say Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton, 19, killed Jeffrey "Jennifer" Laude last Oct. 11. Laude was strangled and drowned in a toilet, The Associated Press reported.

Pemberton is alleged to have killed Laude after discovering she was transgender, the AP said, citing Philippine state prosecutors. The pair met at a red-light district disco while Pemberton was bar-hopping with other Marines after joint U.S.-Philippine military exercises, according to the prosecu-

tors cited by the AP.

The trial opened in March with testimony from a witness who placed Pemberton and Laude at the crime scene, a seedy hotel in Olongapo, prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos said.

Another Marine, Lance Cpl. Jairn Michael Rose, testified that after the pair returned to their ship on the night Laude died, Pemberton told him, "I think I killed a he or she," according to the Philippine Star newspaper.

Rose told the court that Pemberton confessed to dragging Laude to the toilet and strangling her. Rose demonstrated how they were trained in the Marines to choke and do an arm lock, the newspaper reported.

The testimony corroborated

an autopsy report showing that Laude had a hematoma on her larynx suggesting she was strangled, the newspaper reported.

A latent print examiner from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, Jessica LeCroy, testified that Pemberton's fingerprints were found on one of three condoms recovered from the room where Laude's body was discovered, the Philippine Inquirer newspaper reported.

The trial comes at a crucial time for Washington and Manila, which are deepening their defense relationship under an agreement that will see thousands of U.S. troops rotate through bases in the Philippines over the next decade.

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Fire breaks out on 6th Fleet's Mount Whitney

NAPLES, Italy — The crew of 6th Fleet flagship the USS Mount Whitney has been surveying the damage from a fire Friday aboard the ship, which was in port in Croatia, according to the Navy.

There were no injuries in the blaze, which began in the evening and was put out after 45 minutes by crewmembers and shipyard personnel, according to a news release. Fleet officials have not said where or how the fire began, but said an investigation is ongoing.

The ship remains in the Viktor Lenac Shipyard in Rijeka, Croatia, where it was in the final stages of a scheduled overhaul that began in January. It had recently come out of dry-dock and was in a "beautification" phase that included modifications to the exterior, passageways and flight deck, according to the fleet.

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Memorial on Japanese island honors US colonel, Marines

By **CHIYOMI SUMIDA**
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URUMA, Okinawa — A memorial bearing a Marines Corps unit's insignia stands on a quiet hillside overlooking the tranquil fishing village of Hamahiga Island, Japan.

Residents built the monument — which sits next to a tribute to locals who died during World War II — more than 40 years ago to honor and console the soul of Col. Kermit Shelly, who brought

much-needed infrastructure to the tiny remote Okinawa island in the late 1960s.

"What this island enjoys today greatly owes to what he and (the) U.S. military did for us back then," said Ryoji Morine, 66, who has been caring for the memorial for four decades.

Shelly was commanding officer of 3rd Force Service Regiment, known today as 3rd Force Service Support Group, out of Camp Foster. From 1967 until he killed himself in 1968 — peo-

ple who knew the island's old residents say he suffered from depression after losing so many troops in Vietnam — Shelly and his Marines frequently visited Hamahiga, bringing improvements and building a friendly relationship with its people.

In July, the colonel's granddaughter, Christine Shelly, 42, executive vice president of Grantham Education Corp., visited Hamahiga from Washington. She had heard about her grandfather's warm rela-

tionship with the island several years ago and has wanted to visit ever since.

At the memorial site, Ryoji Morine polished the tribute's copper plate and, as he does every year, planned to visit Camp Courtney — the closest Marine Corps base — to pick up flowers for Shelly's monument.

"He is an American and a Marine," he said. "I know he loves to have something that has a touch of his country."

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Kerry in Egypt to resume suspended talks on security issues

Associated Press

CAIRO — The United States and Egypt on Sunday resumed formal security talks that were suspended six years ago amid the political unrest that swept the country in the wake of the Arab Spring.

Two days after the U.S. delivered eight F-16 warplanes

to Egypt as part of a military support package, Secretary of State John Kerry restarted the dialogue with Egyptian officials in Cairo.

Kerry, on the first stop of a Mideast trip aimed at assuaging Arab concerns over the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, began his day in talks

with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry. He later was to see President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi before leaving for Qatar, where he will hold discussions with Gulf Arab foreign ministers on the Iran deal.

Despite ongoing human rights concerns in Egypt, the Obama administration is increas-

ing military assistance to the country as it confronts growing threats from extremists, particularly in the Sinai Peninsula. That aid had been on hold until earlier this year due to human rights and democracy concerns in the wake of the military overthrow of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi in 2013.

Rousey KOs Correia in 34 seconds

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — It's not a good idea to give Ronda Rousey some extra motivation.

Hurt by comments about her family and moved by the death of a close friend and idol, Rousey got off to a quick start and knocked out home-crowd favorite Bethe Correia only 34 seconds into the first round at UFC 190 on Saturday night.

Rousey defended her bantamweight title by throwing a rapid sequence of punches at the Brazilian's head, landing a combination of right and left strikes that sent her opponent face-first into the ground and disappointed the local fans packing the HSBC Arena.

It was yet another impressive performance by Rousey, who improved to 12-0 in her incredible MMA career.

She has been crushing her opponents inside the octagon, but this victory seemed special.

Rousey came into the fight upset with Correia after the Brazilian made a comment apparently referencing Rousey's father's suicide. Rousey said Correia crossed the line, so she would try to embarrass her in front of her fans.

"I hope that nobody really brings up my family anymore

when it comes to fights," she said. "I hope this is the last time."

Before the fight, Correia had said she didn't know about what happened to Rousey's father and never intended to attack her personally.

Rousey also was extra motivated after the death of Hall of Fame wrestler Roddy Piper, who was one her greatest idols and inspired her to take the "Rowdy" nickname. She had said she would be fighting for him.

"We've lost a really close friend, 'Rowdy' Roddy Piper, who gave me his permission to use his name as a fighter, so I hope he and my dad had a good time watching this today," Rousey said.

The UFC's biggest star, Rousey arrived in Rio as the overwhelming favorite against Correia (9-1) after winning her previous three title defenses in a combined 96 seconds. She needed only 14 seconds to beat Cat Zingano at UFC 184 earlier this year.

"It kind of went how I expected it," Rousey said. "I planned to instead of trying to force a clinch, overwhelm her [by] striking first so that she would want to clinch first, and that's exactly what happened."

Rousey, who has been redefining the sport, has won 11 of her fights in the first round while being taken to the

third round once. She has finished most of her opponents with her signature armbar, but this time it was her striking force that made the difference.

"I guess she can't really say anything about my hands anymore," Rousey said of Correia.

Rousey's next opponent will likely be fellow American Miesha Tate.

In the second-to-last fight on the main card on Saturday, Mauricio Rua topped Rogerio Nogueira with a unanimous decision in a fight between veteran Brazilian light heavyweight fighters. It was a rematch of a fight between the two in 2005, when Rua won a contest that lasted 38 minutes.

"I knew he was going to be well prepared, but I won, I got the victory," Rua said.

In other fights Saturday, top-ranked strawweight fighter Claudia Gadelha of Brazil defeated Mexican-born Jessica Aguilar with a unanimous decision after three rounds; heavyweight Antonio Silva of Brazil beat Soa Palelei of Australia with a second-round knockout; Stefan Struve of the Netherlands beat Brazil's Minotaur Nogueira with a unanimous decision.

The line is the question mark in Giants' offense

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — If there's anything that's going to slow down the New York Giants' offense this season, it's going to be their offensive line.

Getting big yards from a passing game that features Eli Manning, Odell Beckham Jr. and Victor Cruz seems to be a given.

Having a running game to support that attack is not as certain. The line couldn't establish the run last year and three of the five players are back this year, although at different positions.

Justin Pugh has moved from right tackle to left guard. Weston Richburg has shifted from right guard to center, and Geoff Schwartz is the right guard after missing almost all of last season with a toe injury.

The biggest change is at the tackles. First-round draft pick Ereck Flowers had replaced the injured Will Beatty (pectoral injury) on the left side and Marshall Newhouse is on the right side after signing as a free agent.

For now, the line is a work in progress.

The group is hard working, optimistic and they talk a good game. They want everyone to know they plan to be tough unit.

The question is can they get it together, protect Eli Manning and open up holes for Rashad Jennings, Shane Vereen and Andre Williams?

"Well, offensively you kind of go where your offensive line goes, I think, especially running the ball," Schwartz said. "We have to run the ball better, there's no question about that, and we know that. We're going to do what we can to kind of bring that part up."

There are advantages to the changes in the middle of the line.

Richburg will be returning to center — his college position — after playing

his rookie season at guard. Pugh and Schwartz, who was limited to two games last season because of toe and ankle injuries, add size to the guard spots, with both being former tackles.

The tackle spots are the iffy ones.

There is a lot of hope for Flowers, the ninth pick overall in the draft. He has the size and the tools. The issues will be learning a new offense and protecting Manning.

"We all have to be ready to go and so does he," Schwartz said. "It's an accelerated process when you're a rookie and things are coming in fast, but he's got a lot of things, great things going for him. He's tough, he's athletic, he's smart. He's got a lot of good building blocks to get him to be ready for the first game."

Newhouse started five games for Cincinnati last season. He spent his first four seasons with the Green Bay Packers, starting two years at right tackle, which gives him a working knowledge of coordinator Ben McAdoo's offense.

The concern though is he couldn't hold the starting job with the Bengals.

Line coach Pat Flaherty has some depth. John Jerry is back after starting all 16 games at guard last season. Beatty, who is currently on the physically unable to perform list, also hopes to be back for the second half of the season.

"Confidence is high," Jennings said. "We have a group of guys that is clicking quick. We changed some guys around and everybody is feeling comfortable in their positions. Really we are just focusing on day to day, not looking too far ahead."

There is a deadline. Most offenses like to have their starting lines set by the third preseason game, which gives the Giants until the end of the month to get their line in gear.

Big Ten plans tougher schedule, no FCS teams

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The College Football Playoff has turned strength of schedule into a constant talking point, with each conference claiming its road to the postseason is most daunting.

Hoping to set themselves apart when playoff selection time comes around, Big Ten teams plan to play at least one non-conference game against a Power Five opponent and eliminate FCS schools from their schedules starting in 2016 when the league goes to a nine-game conference slate.

Commissioner Jim Delany touted the league's "1910" scheduling model at Big Ten media days: one Power Five nonconference game, nine conference games, one conference championship game, zero games outside Bowl Subdivision.

The Big Ten would become the only Power Five conference to play nine league games, eliminate FCS opponents and require a Power Five nonconference game.

Delany said the scheduling guidelines are not a mandate, though he believes they will make an impression on the playoff selection committee. The Big Ten has been working on its scheduling model for several years, but this week was an opportunity for Delany to tie it all together on a big stage.

Delany said games in Notre Dame and BYU, both independents, would count as Power Five opponents and the FCS games will be weaned off Big Ten schedules so its schools would not have to break current contracts.

"But this is the template that everybody thinks is best going forward from a variety of perspectives," Delany said.

The Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference each require their teams to play at least one Power Five nonconference opponent, but play only eight confer-

ence games and have no plan to eliminate FCS opponents.

Judging by postseason success and the number of players it sends to the NFL, the SEC has been considered the strongest conference over the last 10 years. So good that its coaches claim their eight-game schedule is more challenging than the nine-game slates played by other conferences.

The Big 12 plays nine conference games, but has no conference title game and its teams play FCS opponents. The conference was hurt in the playoff selection process last year when TCU and Baylor were judged against teams that played a league title game, which made the Big 12 leaders consider adding one. Baylor seemed to be hurt just as much by a particularly weak nonconference schedule that featured no Power Five opponents.

The Pac-12 has a nine-game conference schedule and a championship game, and while its members don't play FCS opponents as frequently as other Power Five leagues, they do play outside of the FBS. Pac-12 teams are also not required to play teams from other Power Five conferences, though most usually do.

Last season, Ohio State's schedule strength of schedule did not match that of SEC champion Alabama, but it didn't keep the Big Ten champions from making it to the College Football Playoff. The Buckeyes then won the first playoff as the fourth seed, beating Alabama in the semifinals and Oregon in the national title game.

Delany said the Big Ten's future scheduling format is not just about setting up its teams better for playoff selection. Better opponents help draw more fans to stadiums and to television sets.



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Duda, Mets close in on Nats

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A roaring crowd. A newcomer to a suddenly potent lineup. A stingy pitching staff. The Washington Nationals are finding it's not so easy coming into Citi Field anymore.

They could find themselves out of sole possession of first place, too, if they don't figure out a way to break through against these new-look Mets.

Washington wasted an early two-run lead Saturday night, losing 3-2 to New York behind Lucas Duda's two homers and an eighth-inning, tiebreaking double.

"It's been a long time since we've come to play the Mets and they've had a packed stadium. It's good for baseball. It makes it fun," Jayson Werth said. "I don't think it adds any pressure or anything like that. It just makes for an exciting night of baseball and a good atmosphere. We welcome the challenge."

The Nationals ran off 12 straight wins at Citi Field, a streak that ended last

September. The Mets have won the first two games in this series to secure a home series win against Washington for the first time since April 19-21, 2013.

With their second straight late win, the Mets moved one game behind Washington in the NL East with one game remaining in the series.

Playing for the first time since being acquired from Detroit on Friday at the non-waiver trade deadline, righty swinging Yoenis Cespedes was walked by left-handed reliever Matt Thornton (1-1) to face Duda, a lefty bat, even though Duda had already homered twice off Joe Ross on fireworks night and has been on a recent tear.

"We have confidence in [Thornton] every time he faces a lefty," Nationals manager Matt Williams said. "You get an opportunity to get him back in there tomorrow, we'll do it."

With 42,996 fans on their feet and cheering, Duda drove a 1-2 pitch the opposite way to left field that short-hopped the

wall. Curtis Granderson, who doubled leading off the inning, scored to put New York ahead.

New York fell behind in the first on Ian Desmond's two-run single off Jacob deGrom, tiring the Mets All-Star with long at-bats in a 31-pitch inning. But deGrom held the Nationals through six innings, even without his best fastball.

Hansel Robles (3-2) struck out Bryce Harper and Werth in the eighth for the win.

Jeury's Familia was perfect in the ninth for his 28th save, striking out Michael Taylor with the elated crowd stand and chanting "Let's go Mets!" for the final out.

Ross held New York without a hit until Duda sent a shot to center field with two outs in the fourth. Duda then homered to left field leading off the seventh.

"Both home runs, they were OK pitches, I wouldn't say down the middle by any means," Ross said. "I guess I kind of learned my lesson, be a little bit more careful next time."

US men miss relay finals in swimming

Associated Press

KAZAN, Russia — So much for the U.S. swim team's plan to kick off the world championships with a strong performance in the 4x100-meter freestyle relay. The American men didn't even qualify for the final.

The U.S. squad of Jimmy Feigen, Anthony Ervin, Matt Grevers and Conor Dwyer tied Germany to win the final heat but placed only 11th overall — missing out on the eight-team final later Sunday.

In 15 previous worlds, the American men have won this relay 11 times — although not once since 2009. The only other time they didn't make the final was back in 2001 in Fukuoka, Japan.

So what happened? "Honestly don't know," Ervin said. "Jimmy looked pretty good coming in, I felt good going out. I died real bad at the end of my leg, which is not uncommon. I didn't really see the rest of the relay, I was still kind of rolling around in a bit of a lactic acid blackout."

Host Russia, featuring sprinting standout Vladimir Morozov, topped the heats in 3:12.46.

Brazil qualified second, Italy third and defending and Olympic champion France was fourth. The U.S. was more than 3½ seconds off Russia's time.

Meanwhile, Katie Ledecky of the United States opened an ambitious program with an easy victory in the 400-meter freestyle Sunday night.

The 18-year-old Ledecky led all the way and was under her world-record pace until the next-to-last lap, touching in 3 minutes, 59.13 seconds to set a championship mark. Ledecky set the world record of 3:58.37 at last year's Pan Pacific championships in Australia.

Lucchino stepping down as Red Sox president

BOSTON — Larry Lucchino is stepping down as president and CEO of the Boston Red Sox at the end of this season.

Team spokesman Kevin Gregg said Saturday night in an email that Lucchino hopes to remain with the club in some capacity. Gregg also said Sam Kennedy, the executive vice president and COO of the Red Sox, is Lucchino's choice to take over as president.

The Boston Herald first reported the move.

Undefeated Garcia stops Malignaggi in ninth round

NEW YORK — Danny Garcia and Paulie Malignaggi were both looking to the future — with vastly different visions.

Garcia stopped Malignaggi in the ninth round of their welterweight fight Saturday night at Barclays Center to remain undefeated.

Garcia improved to 31-0 with his 18th knockout. Malignaggi dropped to 33-7.

Nadal beats Fognini to win Hamburg Open

HAMBURG, Germany — Top-seeded Rafael Nadal overcame some sloppy play on his beloved clay to beat Fabio Fognini 7-5, 7-5 and win the Hamburg Open for the second time on Sunday.

Dodgers' Kershaw extends streak

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Clayton Kershaw extended his scoreless streak to 37 innings with eight innings of two-hit ball and batterymate Yasmani Grandal hit a two-run homer, leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 3-1 victory over the Angels on Saturday.

Kershaw (9-6) struck out seven, walked one and retired his last 15 batters while working on eight days' rest. His previous start was a three-hit shutout on July 23 at New York in which he took a perfect game into the seventh inning. The three-time Cy Young Award winner hasn't given up a run since Wilmer Flores' RBI single for the Mets on July 3 at Dodger Stadium.

Kenley Jansen, battling a virus for the past four days, pitched a shaky ninth for his 20th save in 21 attempts. He ended it by retiring Erick Aybar on a popup with runners at the corners after giving up an RBI single by Albert Pujols.

Kershaw had a 41-inning shutout streak last season, when he became the first pitcher since 1968 to be named NL MVP and won his unprecedented fourth consecutive major league ERA title.

Pujols' leadoff single in the second and Johnny Giavotella's leadoff single in the fourth were the only hits off Kershaw, who lowered his ERA this season to 2.37 and raised his major league-leading strikeout total to 192.

Giants 9, Rangers 7 (11): Cole Hamels followed up his no-hitter by pitching into the eighth inning of his Texas debut without a decision as visiting San Francisco beat the Rangers in 11 innings.

Hunter Pence led off the 11th with a homer off Sam Dyson (0-1), another pitcher in his first game for Texas.

Astros 9, Diamondbacks 2: Hank Conger hit two homers, including his first career grand slam, and rookie Carlos Correa also homered twice to help host Houston to a win over Arizona.

Rockies 6, Cardinals 2: Nolan Arenado and Ben Paulsen homered, sending Jorge De La Rosa and Colorado to a victory at St. Louis.

Royals 7, Blue Jays 6: Ben Zobrist hit two homers, Eric Hosmer singled home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as visiting Kansas City beat Toronto to snap a three-game losing streak.

White Sox 8, Yankees 2: Melky Cabrera and Alexei Ramirez homered, and John Danks struck out eight as host Chicago beat New York.

Reds 4, Pirates 3: Eugenio Suarez had a sacrifice fly and an RBI double off 14-game winner Gerrit Cole as Cincinnati extended its home-field success over Pittsburgh.

Cubs 4, Brewers 2: Kyle Hendricks scattered four hits and Anthony Rizzo continued his homer binge to lead

Chicago to a win at Milwaukee.

Athletics 5, Indians 1: Marcus Semien homered to back a strong outing by Oakland newcomer Aaron Brooks as the Athletics beat visiting Cleveland to snap a three-game losing streak.

Twins 3, Mariners 2: At Minneapolis, Kurt Suzuki hit the winning RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning after two wild pitches by Seattle closer Carson Smith let Minnesota tie the score.

Orioles 6, Tigers 2: Caleb Joseph homered and drove in three runs and Kevin Gausman allowed four hits in seven innings as surging Baltimore beat visiting Detroit.

Manny Machado hit his 23rd home run for the Orioles, who have won seven of eight.

Red Sox 11, Rays 7: Travis Shaw hit his first two major league homers and went 4-for-4 with five runs and four RBIs as host Boston beat Tampa Bay.

Phillies 12, Braves 2: Odubel Herrera, Freddy Galvis and Cameron Rupp all homered as surging host Philadelphia set a season high for scoring over slumping Atlanta.

Padres 5, Marlins 3: Odrisamer Despaigne pitched six solid innings and Yangervis Solarte and Matt Kemp each had two hits and drove in a run as visiting San Diego beat Miami.

Blaney holds on for Xfinity win

Associated Press

NEWTON, Iowa — Ryan Blaney finally had the car he needed to claim the win that had evaded him all year.

But after dominating Iowa Speedway's short oval all night Saturday, Blaney was forced into a flurry of late restarts and two green-white-checkered finishes.

Blaney maintained his composure and clinched a win he had deserved from the opening lap.

Blaney survived four cautions in the last 24 laps to win the NASCAR Xfinity race for his first victory of the season.

The 21-year-old Blaney erased the

sting of a disappointing runner-up finish last week in Indianapolis by maintaining his lead through a second green-white-checkered finish on the 0.894-mile oval.

Blaney led a track-record 252 laps — two more than were originally scheduled — and won after finishing second three times in six other Xfinity starts this season.

Regan Smith was second, followed by Brian Scott, Ty Dillon and Brendan Gaughan.

Fifty-one-year-old Kenny Wallace, the career Xfinity starts leader with 547, finished 15th in the last race of his NASCAR career.

Blaney, whose miscue on the final lap

last week in Indianapolis allowed Kyle Busch to slip past him for the win, cruised past pole-sitter Daniel Suarez on the opening lap.

Blaney had to endure multiple restarts as championship contenders Chase Elliott, Chris Buescher and Darrell Wallace Jr. got involved in incidents.

Suarez was sixth in his attempt to become the first Mexican-born driver to win in the series.

Elliott was ninth, Darrell Wallace 11th and points leader Buescher 13th.

Kenny Wallace finished his Xfinity career after 26 seasons with 10 poles and 173 top-10 finishes, good for seventh-most in the series.