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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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6 US F-16s arrive in Incirlik

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — A half-dozen F-16s and about 300 airmen from the 31st Fighter Wing have deployed to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey where they're expected to conduct airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq.

The jets could be seen departing Aviano Air Base early Sunday. A news release issued later in the day said the jets had arrived at Turkey's southern air base.

The brief statement said that six F-16s from Aviano and the airmen would be supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. "This follows Turkey's decision to host the deployment of U.S. aircraft conducting counter-ISIL operations," it said, using

an alternative name for the Islamic State group.

There are no U.S. aircraft permanently stationed at Incirlik, one of the smallest U.S. Air Forces in Europe installations in terms of personnel. But Air Force cargo and refueling planes have called the base a temporary home for years, supporting an array of operations, mostly in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

The U.S. has repeatedly pushed its NATO ally to allow it to conduct combat operations from Incirlik in the past, but has usually been denied permission to do so. Deny-flight missions over northern Iraq were a notable exception during Operation Northern Watch that began in 1997 and ended with the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Turkey had resisted pressure from its NATO allies to get more involved in the fight against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq until several incidents last month along its border resulted in the deaths of numerous Turkish military personnel, policemen and civilians.

Since then, Turkish jets based at Incirlik and other bases have repeatedly flown strike missions aimed at targets in Syria and Iraq.

There was no word on Sunday from Air Force officials on how long the Aviano contingent would remain in Turkey, when sorties might begin or if assets from other bases in Europe or elsewhere would join the mission at Incirlik.

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Bomber kills 29 in northern Afghanistan

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber in Afghanistan's northern Kunduz province has killed 29 people, mainly members of illegal armed groups that have clashed with security forces and the insurgents in the past, an Afghan official said Sunday.

Heyatullah Amiri, district administrative chief of Khan Abad district, said a suicide bomber on foot targeted a meeting of criminal groups late Saturday. Twenty-five of those killed were members of the armed groups, including four leaders, while the remaining four were civilians, he said. Amiri said 19 others were wounded, including 15 civilians.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack in an email sent to media.

In the northern Badakhshan province, Taliban insurgents hanged a 27-year-old mother of three after accusing her of having extramarital sex, said Nawid Frotan, spokesman for the provincial governor. Frotan said she was hanged from a tree before a public gathering early Saturday. In a separate incident, Taliban insurgents beheaded two local policemen and a civilian in Badakhshan. The insurgents accused the three of spying, Frotan said.

In the eastern Nangarhar province, a drone strike carried out by Afghan forces killed 15 insurgents and wounded nine others on Saturday, said Hazrat Hussain Mashreqiwal, spokesman for the provincial police chief. Mashreqiwal said a separate airstrike carried out by international forces killed at least 10 insurgents.

70th anniversary of bombing marked

Associated Press

NAGASAKI, Japan — The city of Nagasaki marked the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing Sunday with calls to abolish nuclear weapons and halt the Japanese government's push to loosen restrictions on what its military can do.

With Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the audience, a representative of Nagasaki bomb survivors told an annual ceremony that security legislation introduced by Abe's government goes against the wishes of the survivors and "will lead to war."

"We cannot accept this," 86-year-old Sumiteru Taniguchi said, after describing in graphic detail his traumatic injuries and how others died in the Aug. 9, 1945, attack on Nagasaki.

Representatives from 75

countries were among those gathered at Nagasaki Peace Park.

As a bell tolled, they observed a minute of silence at 11:02 a.m., the time when a U.S. B-29 plane dropped the atomic bomb, killing more than 70,000 people and helping to prompt Japan's World War II surrender. The first atomic bomb in Hiroshima three days earlier killed an estimated 140,000 people.

Abe's security bills, which he says are needed to increase Japan's deterrence capabilities in the face of growing threats in the region, have run into stiff public opposition. The legislation would ease constitutional limits that restrict the military to self-defense, allowing Japanese forces to defend allies in limited circumstances.

Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue, addressing the same ceremony, noted the "widespread unease" about the legislation, which has passed the lower house of parliament and is now before the upper house.

"I urge the government of Japan to listen to these voices of unease and concern," Taue said.

A message from U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon echoed calls by Taue and others to abolish nuclear weapons.

"I wholeheartedly join you in sounding a global rallying cry — no more Nagasakis; no more Hiroshimas," Ban said in a message read by Kim Won-soo, the acting U.N. high representative for disarmament affairs.

Abe, in brief remarks, said that Japan, as the only country to experience nuclear attacks, would seek to play a leading role in realizing a world without such weapons.

Eight found shot dead in Texas home

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Eight people — five children and three adults — were found dead inside a Houston-area home following the arrest of a man who exchanged gunfire with police, Texas authorities said Sunday.

Deputies were called to the home about 9 p.m. Saturday to perform a welfare check, Harris County Sheriff spokesman Thomas Gilliland told KHOU-TV. Gilliland said deputies subsequently received information indicating that a man inside the home was wanted on a warrant for aggravated assault on a family member.

Gilliland said that while waiting for a High Risk Operations Unit to arrive at the scene, deputies spotted the body of a juvenile through a window.

Four deputies then forced their way into the home, and the 49-year-old male suspect began shooting. Deputies pulled back and waited for the operations unit to arrive.

The man surrendered about an hour later.

“At this time, we have what appears to be five children and three adults,” Gilliland said. “Ages and genders we do not have, and cause of death we do not have. The medical examiner will have to determine a cause of death.”

The relationships between the suspect and victims weren’t immediately known. No further details were released.

Navy’s Busan HQ nearly finished

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND
Star and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Construction on U.S. naval command’s new headquarters in South Korea is nearly completed, with a number of personnel relocating from Seoul to the port city of Busan.

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea will move from U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan to Busan on the peninsula’s southeastern coast, and near South Korean naval headquarters.

“By moving to Busan, we will increase the readiness of both navies through closer cooperation and collaboration of our staffs,” said CNFK spokesman Lt. j.g. Joshua Kelsey. “We are across the street from our (South Korean) navy partners, which is right where we want to be. Simply put, Busan is the right location for the next stage in our long-standing partnership.”

The first CNFK personnel moved from Seoul to Busan in February, and 52 staffers who interact regularly with the South Korean navy have relocated, he said. Another 43 personnel who work with commands at Yong-

san remain at the Seoul base temporarily. Kelsey said the new headquarters building will be completed “in the very near future.”

The \$7.2 million, 9,000-square-foot building’s construction is being paid for by South Korea.

Proximity to the Navy’s South Korean counterparts will aid the mission, said Rear Adm. Bill Byrne, who assumed command of CNFK last week.

“I firmly believe that good, strong, personal relationships build up good, strong, professional relationships,” he said.

The move is part of the U.S. military’s long-planned relocation of the bulk of its forces on the peninsula to regional hubs south of Seoul.

Key to the relocation is the expansion of Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, where approximately 36,000 troops and civilians will eventually be housed or work. This is the peak year for construction at Humphreys, officials say, and most of the moves should be completed by the end of 2017.

The Navy maintains a small but significant presence in South

Korea, with approximately 450 personnel in a country where some 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed as a deterrent to North Korea. The potential for a maritime skirmish with the North to escalate, particularly along the disputed sea border, remains a top concern among military officials, as does the North’s apparent efforts to increase its submarine capabilities.

A North Korean torpedo sank a South Korean warship in 2010, killing dozens of sailors and illustrating the potential for deadly conflict at sea.

Earlier this year, the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University reported that satellite imagery showed a North Korean submarine that might be outfitted with launch tubes for ballistic or cruise missiles, a development that eventually could give Pyongyang’s weaponry a wider range. Imagery also showed that the North had been readying a naval shipyard for “a significant naval construction program” that could be submarine-related, the institute reported on its website, 38north.org.

Officials: Friendly fire kills 20 in Yemen

Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — A Saudi-led coalition airstrike in Yemen hit allied fighters in a friendly fire incident, killing at least 20, Yemeni security officials and pro-government fighters said Sunday.

The officials said the strike

late Saturday hit the fighters on a coastal road as they headed toward the embattled city of Zinjibar in southern Yemen.

The Saudi-led, American-supported coalition began launching airstrikes in March against Shiite Houthi rebels and their allies, who control the capital, Sanaa, and much of the

country’s north.

The United Arab Emirates said Saturday three of its soldiers were killed while taking part in a Saudi-led campaign. A statement carried by the official news agency WAM did not say how the soldiers were killed nor whether they died in Yemen.

March, silence mark year since shooting in Ferguson

Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — One year after the shooting that cast greater scrutiny on how police in the United States interact with black communi-

ties, the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., was to be marked with a somber march and a moment of silence.

The march late Sunday morning was to begin at the site

where Brown, who was black and unarmed, was fatally shot by Ferguson officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9, 2014. A grand jury and the U.S. Department of Justice declined to prosecute Wilson, who resigned

in November, but the shooting touched off a national “Black Lives Matter” movement.

After the moment of silence, a service commemorating the anniversary was planned at a Ferguson church.

Bettis headlines '15 HoF class

Associated Press

CANTON, Ohio —Pittsburgh Steelers running back Jerome Bettis headlined the eight-man class inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday, the sixth-leading rusher in NFL history greeted by thousands of roaring Steelers fans clad in the team's colors of black and gold.

Through 10 seasons with the Steelers, Bettis embodied the blue-collar mentality of the city of Pittsburgh and the storied team he helped lead to a fifth Super Bowl title in 2006 in his hometown of Detroit. He retired immediately after the game.

Bettis was beloved as much for his quick feet and easy smile as the massive thighs and lowered shoulders that churned out 13,662 yards in his career.

"I really thought the Bus' last stop was in Detroit at Super Bowl 40," he said, referring to his nickname during his playing days, "the Bus." "But now I know the Bus will always and forever run in Canton, Ohio."

Other former players joining Bettis in the Hall of Fame were Vikings center Mick Tingelhoff, Chiefs guard Will Shields, Chargers linebacker Junior Seau, Raiders wide receiver Tim Brown, and defensive end Charles Haley, who won five Super Bowl rings with the 49ers and Cowboys

— the only player in NFL history to do so.

Ron Wolf, the former Green Bay general manager, and Bill Polian, a former GM with Buffalo, Carolina and Indianapolis, were also honored.

Only Seau was elected in his first year on the ballot. His induction, however, proved bittersweet, coming more than three years after he took his own life. His death and the complex fallout from it — Seau's family filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the NFL — set the backdrop for the evening's most touching moment.

Hall of Fame rules about players awarded posthumously prevented Seau's daughter from giving a full speech on her father's behalf. Instead she spoke at length during an extended video tribute, calling her dad "a perfect match for football: both stubborn, both relentless, competitive and hard-hitting."

Those hard hits are at the center of the family's legal battle with the league, though Sydney Seau used the stage to instead pay homage to his spirit.

Haley gave a rousing speech that included good-natured jabs at everyone from former San Francisco owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr. to Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. DeBartolo called the decision to trade Haley to Dallas in 1992 his biggest mistake during his tenure.

Haley, who retired after the 1999 season

with 100½ sacks, also made a touching tribute to Jones, who organized a bone marrow drive when Haley's daughter was diagnosed with leukemia, and discussed his own battles with depression.

"My life spiraled out of control for years, for years," Haley said.

Wolf, who hired Mike Holmgren and traded for Brett Favre shortly after taking over in 1991, praised the core that restored the Packers to legitimacy after two decades of mediocrity. Green Bay won its first Super Bowl in nearly 30 years in 1997 when Favre guided the Packers by New England.

"There was always a threat to players of other teams that if they didn't shape up, they would be traded to Green Bay," Wolf said. "We worked hard to eliminate that stigma."

Polian praised Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy for helping him resurrect the Bills after Polian took over as general manager in 1984. The two men put together the foundation of a team that made four straight Super Bowl appearances behind Jim Kelly, Thurman Thomas and Andre Reed, all of whom Polian joined in the Hall.

Polian finally won a Super Bowl with Indianapolis in 2007.

Redskins, Texans brawl at practice

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — The joint portion of the final practice involving the Washington Redskins and Houston Texans came to an end Saturday when a series of fights broke out.

The teams had just started working against each other when the first skirmish occurred. When more followed on subsequent plays, and on both fields, the coaches decided to break the teams apart and each team worked on its own field for the rest of the session.

The change in plans caused Redskins coach Jay Gruden to agree the day was somewhat wasted.

"Initially we had a couple on our field on the offensive field, and I was just going to cut that period out and have everybody go to the side, let everybody cool down and finish practice," Gruden said, "but then the other one broke out on the other field and it wasn't worth it. Injuries take place."

"Obviously, it wasn't a good situation, but we missed an opportunity to get better today against a good team."

Gruden and Texans coach Bill O'Brien initially tried to let their teams know the fighting wasn't acceptable, but Gruden added: "Unfortunately, it wasn't two people. It was a group of men" and "for whatever reason, it escalated into a nasty brawl."

O'Brien said the Texans benefited from "two and a half" of their three days practicing against the Redskins. And both coaches agreed that joint workouts hold great value in helping to prepare a team for the start of the season.

"Other than having to separate today, we still got work done," O'Brien said. "But the two days that we were together there, we got a lot of situational work. It was good to work against them. Being in the hotel as a team, there's some bonding that goes on there, too."

Gruden's team worked for three days against the New England Patriots last year, spending the last day in shorts before meeting the Patriots in their pre-season opener. The coach, in his second season, said expecting teams to battle for three days in full pads might be asking too much.

The fights came early in the joint portion of the workouts as a heavy rain fell.

Redskins defensive lineman Chris Baker said one of the fights started when a Houston offensive lineman tried to "clean him off the pocket." Baker said when he removed his helmet and confronted the player, the player hit him with a right hook and a brawl ensued.

Texans linebacker Whitney Mercilus agreed that his team struggled on Friday, but chalked the fights up to "just a whole lot of intensity on both sides of the ball."

Jets' QB Smith bounces back after boos

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Geno Smith bounced back from some early struggles — and hearty boos — to throw two touchdown passes to Brandon Marshall during a scrimmage-like practice at MetLife Stadium on Saturday night.

Smith drew the ire of some fans when he misfired on a few passes and when he lost the ball on a strip-sack by Calvin Pace. Smith says he was smiling when he heard the reaction from the crowd, half-joking that it almost sounded like the Jets "were on the road."

Smith, entering his third season, has not thrown an interception through nine practices. He connected with Marshall on a nicely thrown 35-yard pass, and then again on a quick slant from 1 yard.

Ryan Fitzpatrick also threw a touchdown pass, a 65-yarder to Walter Powell.

Bills sign CB Robey to contract extension

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Bills signed cornerback Nickell Robey to a contract extension.

The third-year defensive back was entering the final season of his contract. Terms of the deal were not disclosed Sunday.

Robey signed with the Bills as an undrafted free agent out of Southern Cal in April 2013 and has not missed a game for Buffalo.

Packers' fans pack stands for Family Night

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Green Bay Packers accomplished two goals with their annual Family Night practice.

The Packers entertained 67,191 fans for 90 minutes, and none of the players got hurt on Saturday night.

"It's a win every single practice when you walk off the field and you don't have a major injury. And that's really how I view it," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said.

"Injuries are a part of the game, you do everything you can from a risk-assessment focus to try to minimize those big injuries. Because the big injuries obviously change things — change starting lineups, change opportunities and maybe even change your direction."

The Packers were already without inside linebacker Clay Matthews, who has been out since Monday with knee soreness.

Also sitting out Family Night were defensive tackle Mike Pennel, linebackers Jayrone Elliott (shoulder soreness), Nick Perry (groin), Mike Neal (hernia surgery, physically unable to perform list) and Adrian Hubbard (groin).

In other NFL news: ■ Jacksonville Jaguars running back T.J. Yeldon sprained a finger on his left hand in the team's scrimmage Saturday night.

■ Ravens coach John Harbaugh said defensive end Brent Urban will need surgery for a torn biceps. He could miss three months because of the injury.

■ The Kansas City Chiefs waived wide receiver Armon Binns and linebacker

Sage Harold and signed offensive tackle Anthony Dima and wide receiver Adam Drake in a series of moves Saturday.

Dima signed with the Cleveland Browns after going undrafted last year, and also has spent time with the Houston Texans. Drake led the Football Championship Subdivision in yards receiving last season at Eastern Illinois with 93 catches for 1,321 yards and 12 touchdowns.

■ Giants coach Tom Coughlin said after practice on Saturday that he finally spoke with injured defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul.

"I spoke with him late Friday afternoon," Coughlin said.

Pierre-Paul, who led the team with 12½ sacks last season, suffered a serious hand injury in a July 4 fireworks accident.

"Do I know more about how he is? No. He said he's not going to come here until he's ready to play," Coughlin said. "I'm not going to even speculate on when that is. He sounded good and sounded like he wanted to get back here. He wishes he was back here. Little by little, we're talking more with him. He's trying to make contact with us and that's a good sign."

Pierre-Paul has yet to sign his \$14.8 million franchise tender, so he is not under contract.

■ Dallas Cowboys cornerback Brandon Carr returned to Texas for surgery on a broken right hand, and All-Pro receiver Dez Bryant missed practice Saturday because of a strained hamstring.

Carr, who is set for surgery Monday, was hurt engaging a receiver during practice Thursday. Bryant tweaked his hamstring the same day.



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Price, Jays shut down Yanks

Associated Press

NEW YORK — David Price and Troy Tulowitzki show up, and suddenly the Toronto Blue Jays start pulling off all sorts of fantastic feats.

Like hitting a grand slam at Yankee Stadium, for once.

Price pitched three-hit ball for seven innings, Justin Smoak lined Toronto's first slam in the Bronx and the Blue Jays beat the New York Yankees 6-0 Saturday for their seventh straight win.

"I sense something different," Toronto manager John Gibbons said.

Tulowitzki also homered as the Blue Jays closed within 2½ games of the AL East-leading Yankees.

A day after R.A. Dickey and the Blue Jays beat New York 2-1 in a 10-inning matchup between the highest-scoring teams in the majors, Price (11-4) dominated.

Price won for the second straight time since Toronto acquired the 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner from Detroit. The lefty gave up three singles and struck out seven.

"That's what we envisioned" with the trade, Gibbons said.

Price had gotten tagged in his last two starts vs. the Yankees to the tune of a 33.26 ERA. Wearing a different uniform, he looked like a different pitcher against them.

In fact, he had taped a handwritten note above his own locker: "If you don't like it, pitch better." The last two words underlined, three times each.

Price pounded his left hand into his glove after his final toss, retiring Brendan Ryan on a popup to Smoak with runners at the corners.

Price combined with two relievers on Toronto's first shutout at Yankee Stadium since 2007.

Smoak broke open a scoreless game in the sixth by connecting against Ivan Nova (4-4) for his first career slam. Toronto had been limited to two singles before they loaded the bases with one out on a pair of walks and a hit.

Smoak was batting just .225 when he launched his drive to right-center. Known as a fine-fielding first baseman, he's had a penchant for getting key hits this season despite his low average.

Tulowitzki homered in the seventh, his third in 11 games since Toronto got him from Colorado.

The Blue Jays improved to 6-2 against New York this year, including 4-1 on the road. Last year, Toronto stopped its 17-game losing streak at Yankee Stadium.

"Before, they were good," Yankees outfielder Carlos Beltran said. "Adding Tulowitzki, one of the best shortstops in the game, and Price, one of the best pitchers in the game, of course was good for them."

Cardinals 3, Brewers 0: Matt Carpenter hit a leadoff home run, Jaime Garcia pitched two-hit ball for seven innings and St. Louis made it three straight shutout victories with a win over host Milwaukee.

The Cardinals have thrown 36 consecutive scoreless innings since the fourth inning of Wednesday's 13-inning 4-3 win.

Phillies 4, Padres 2: Adam Morgan held down host San Diego over six innings and Odubel Herrera had two hits and two RBIs to lead Philadelphia to a win.

Orioles 5, Angels 0: Ubaldo Jimenez yielded two hits over eight innings, and Manny Machado had four hits and scored two runs in Baltimore's victory over host Los Angeles.

Pirates 6, Dodgers 5: Left-hander Francisco Liriano hit the first home run of his 10-year career and Andrew McCutchen went 3-for-3 as Pittsburgh held on to beat visiting Los Angeles.

Rays 5, Mets 4: Grady Sizemore and Kevin Kiermaier each drove in two runs to erase an early deficit as host Tampa Bay stopped NL East-leading New York's seven-game winning streak.

Nationals 6, Rockies 1: Stephen Strasburg returned to Washington's rotation with a bang, striking out 12 in seven innings and contributing three hits as the

Nationals beat visiting Colorado.

The right-hander had been on the disabled list since a left oblique strain forced him out after 3 2-3 innings against the San Francisco Giants on July 4. He went to the disabled list for the second time this season before being reinstated Saturday. He allowed one run and three hits.

Royals 7, White Sox 6: Kendrys Morales and Salvador Perez each drove in two runs and host Kansas City overcame Jose Abreu's two home runs to beat Chicago.

Indians 17, Twins 4: Jerry Sands had a pinch-hit grand slam and Abraham Almonte was 4-for-5 with a two-run homer, leading host Cleveland to a victory over Minnesota.

Cubs 8, Giants 6: Kris Bryant homered and drove in three runs to help surging Chicago beat visiting San Francisco.

Reds 4, Diamondbacks 1: Keyvius Sampson earned his first MLB victory and Cincinnati hit three home runs as the Reds beat host Arizona.

Athletics 2, Astros 1: Danny Valencia delivered an early two-run double and right-hander Jesse Chavez went seven impressive innings to lead host Oakland to a victory over Houston.

Tigers 7, Red Sox 6: Victor Martinez hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning and host Detroit held off David Ortiz and Boston for the win.

Ortiz had three hits, including a home run in the sixth. His two-run single in the seventh gave Boston a 6-5 lead, but Martinez answered with a long drive down the right-field line off reliever Junichi Tazawa (2-5).

Rangers 11, Mariners 3 (11): Texas scored eight runs in the 11th inning, including a two-run homer by Prince Fielder, to pull away from host Seattle.

Braves 7, Marlins 2: Rookie Mike Foltynewicz won for the first time in three starts since returning to the Braves rotation as host Atlanta downed slumping Miami.

Logano a winner at the Glen

Associated Press

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — When it comes to the Xfinity Series race at Watkins Glen International, it's become Penske Racing's playground now that Marcos Ambrose is no longer around.

After a poor qualifying effort in Sprint Cup, Joey Logano shook off his frustration and won the Xfinity Zippo 200 at The Glen on Saturday, outdueling Penske teammate Brad Keselowski.

Logano, who started from the pole, overcame a stop-and-go penalty early in the caution-filled race, drove back to the front, and kept Keselowski at bay after a restart with four laps to go in the 82-lap race. It's the first road course win of his career, 25th in NASCAR's second-tier series, and fourth win of the year.

The Penske duo led all but three laps in a race on the 2.45-mile layout that was delayed by seven cautions for 20 laps. Ambrose, who returned to his native Australia after last season, had won the last four Zippo 200s that he'd entered at Watkins Glen, including last year, while Keselowski won in 2013.

Series points leader Chris Buescher was third, followed by Boris Said and Ty Dillon, and leads Chase Elliott by 24 points. Elliott was seventh.

Regan Smith, fourth in points, finished 20th after running in the top 10 early in the race. Smith rallied from early troubles but was doomed to a bad finish after being taken out by Dillon, and the two nearly came to blows after the race.

Cup regular Kyle Larson was running third early in the race and poised to challenge the Penske duo, but he suddenly made a beeline for the pits on the eighth lap with a broken axle on his No. 42 Chevy. He finished 28th, seven laps behind.

Ledecky wins fifth gold, sets 800-freestyle record

Associated Press

KAZAN, Russia — There's no stopping Katie Ledecky. The 18-year-old American virtually raced herself at the world swimming championships, and she was unbeatable.

Ledecky ended her meet in spectacular style Saturday night, lowering her own world record by 3.61 seconds in the 800-meter freestyle for her fifth gold medal.

She swam the 16-lap race in 8 minutes, 7.39 seconds, bettering her time of 8:11.00 set last year on home soil.

Ledecky completed a sweep of the 200, 400, 800 and 1,500 freestyles in Kazan. She swam the anchor leg on the victorious 4x200 free relay, too.

"It's really neat to say that you've done something nobody has done before," Ledecky said. "I'll enjoy this for a few days and then I'll get back to work and hopefully there's more to come."

She improved her results from two years ago in Barcelona, where she won four golds and set two world records. In Kazan, she won the 400 by 3.89 seconds, the 800 by 10.26 seconds and the 1,500 by

14.66 seconds, taking down her old world record in the preliminaries and the final.

Her closest race was the 200 free, when she rallied from fourth to win by 0.16 seconds.

Ledecky was under world-record pace throughout the 800, leaving the other swimmers trailing well behind her wake. She tore off one of her two swim caps and smashed the water with her hand in celebration of her third world record in Russia.

Defending champion Missy Franklin faltered in the 200 backstroke. She was overtaken down the stretch by Emily Seebohm of Australia, who touched in 2:05.81 to complete a sweep of the backstroke events.

Franklin, the Olympic champion, settled for silver in 2:06.34. In seven events, Franklin has five medals, but no individual gold two years after she won a record six golds in Barcelona.

Franklin returned later to anchor the U.S. team to victory in the mixed 4x100 free relay. Ryan Lochte, Nathan Adrian, Simone Manuel and Franklin won in 3:23.05, a world record. The Netherlands was second and Canada third.

Phelps answers Le Clos' taunts with faster time

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Maybe one day they'll learn.

Don't talk trash to Michael Phelps. It just makes him go faster.

After spending all day digesting Chad le Clos' taunts from halfway around the world, Phelps beat the South African's time from the world championships to win the 100-meter butterfly at the U.S. national championships Saturday night.

Phelps churned through the water on the return lap, far ahead of everyone, and touched in 50.45 seconds. He was nearly a second faster than his gold-medal winning time at the London Olympics and, more important to Phelps, he went faster than Le Clos' time about eight hours earlier in Kazan, Russia, where he won the world championship in 50.56.

After touching the wall, Phelps turned quickly to see his time, shot a defiant look toward the packed stands in San Antonio, pounded the water with his arms, and spit out a mouthful of water.

"The comments were interesting," Phelps said, with a knowing grin. "It just fuels me. If you want to do it, go for it. I welcome it."

Following others such as Milorad Cavic who tried to get under Phelps' skin, Le Clos launched a verbal assault from Russia, apparently confident that he had put up a time Phelps couldn't beat.

"I'm just very happy that he's back to his good form, so he can't come out and say, 'Oh, I haven't been training' or all that rubbish that he's been talking," Le Clos said. "Next year is going to be Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier."

Le Clos' father even got in on it, declaring he wasn't even bothering to look at the times Phelps was posting at the junior-varsity meet in Texas, where the winningest athlete in Olympic history was forced to swim after he was banned from the world championships as part of his punishment for a second drunken-driving arrest.

"However fast Michael goes, we go faster," Bert Le Clos told The Associated Press in Kazan.

Phelps responded with his fastest 100 fly ever in a textile suit.

All of this is setting up a tantalizing rivalry for Rio, which actually started when Le Clos stunned Phelps to capture gold in the 200 fly at the London Olympics.