

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## US launches F-16 strikes from Incirlik

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. on Wednesday launched its first airstrikes by Turkey-based F-16 fighter jets against Islamic State targets in Syria, marking a limited escalation of a yearlong air campaign that critics have called excessively cautious.

In a brief statement the Pentagon announced the F-16 strikes were launched from Incirlik air base in southern Turkey but provided no details on the number or types of targets struck.

A U.S. defense official said later that two

of the six F-16s based at Incirlik flew the mission over Syria to hit one or more targets that had been selected in advance. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the mission.

Earlier this month the U.S. began flying armed drones from Incirlik, but the F-16 flights add a new dimension to the air campaign, in part because of the added risk to pilots who might encounter Syrian or other air defenses.

Pentagon officials have said the main advantage of using Incirlik is its proximity

to Islamic State targets in northern Syria, although a senior U.S. defense official said Wednesday that the F-16s may also be used on missions over Iraq. The official was not authorized to discuss F-16 mission details publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Most U.S. aerial combat missions over Iraq and Syria are being flown from more distant air bases in Qatar and elsewhere in the Persian Gulf region, although the U.S. also is flying F-16s from Muwaffaq Salti air base in Jordan.

## Odierno: Embed US troops as advisers for Iraqis

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. should consider embedding American servicemembers in Iraqi Security Forces units battling the Islamic State to help them gain momentum in their ground fight against the militant group, the Army's top general said Wednesday during his final press briefing.

Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army's 38th chief of staff, will retire after relinquishing his job to Gen. Mark Milley on Friday. He said that embedding U.S. troops wouldn't necessarily mean they would be directly fighting, but they could serve as direct advisers as Iraqi units move on the battlefield.

"If we find in the next several months we're not making the progress that we have, we should probably absolutely consider embedding some soldiers and see if that will make a difference," Odierno said. "It's an option we should present to the president when the time is right."

There are more than 2,900 U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq and other areas of the Middle East in support of the Combined Joint Task Force-Op-

eration Inherent Resolve, the multinational coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

The American troops in Iraq serve as advisors, but do not operate on the battlefield. Instead, the operation relies heavily on the U.S.-trained ISF, Kurdish fighters and moderate Syrian rebels fighting on the ground and supported by U.S. airstrikes. The U.S. has begun conducting manned airstrikes from Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, against the Islamic State.

The \$500 million U.S. program that aims to train and equip 15,000 vetted Syrian fighters each year has come under scrutiny recently after it produced only 54 graduates out of 7,000 volunteers.

Some of the 54 of the so-called New Syrian Forces were killed or captured by the al-Qaida linked Nusra Front in a recent attack. Officials have said hundreds more fighters are in the training pipeline.

Despite the setbacks, Odierno agreed with a statement made last week by U.S. Central Command that the fledgling program should move forward.

Although the train and equip program "hasn't gone as well as we'd like it to, I think it's im-

portant to train Syrian rebels because we want ... our enemy to have to respond to several different fronts," Odierno said. "In my opinion, we want to develop capabilities so we have Iraqi Security Forces (battling the Islamic State) from the south, we have Kurds from the north and we have Syrian rebels in Syria pushing from the west."

About a year into the Inherent Resolve campaign, the battle against the Islamic State is "kind of a stalemate," he said.

While the Pentagon estimates that the Islamic State has about 20,000 to 30,000 fighters — just as it did a year ago — Odierno said many of its top commanders have been eliminated, weakening the group. The militants rely heavily on recruiting via social media to replace the fighters that are killed in battle.

"I think that ISIL has been blunted somewhat; they've not made any progress since we started airstrikes," he said Wednesday, largely crediting Kurdish forces for their prolonged success in pushing the militant group out of territory it had seized in Syria and Iraq.

He largely blamed the U.S.'s quick exit in 2011 — based on

a 2008 agreement to turn over the country's security to its own government — for the current state of Iraq.

When the U.S. left, Odierno said, violence was down and the economy was growing. Political divides within the country's government and military, he said, made it easy for a group like the Islamic State to successfully push out Iraqi forces and control key cities.

The U.S. military — which Odierno said could defeat the Islamic State with its own ground forces — is not the long-term solution to the issues in Iraq and Afghanistan, he said.

"We'd be right back where we are today six months later," he said, adding that the region must change politically and economically to achieve lasting peace.

"It has to be done by those in the region," Odierno said. "It's important for us to support that. It's important for us to support that by training and trying to develop their capabilities and capacity.... The U.S. cannot solve this problem for the region."

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## City turns to paint to prevent public urination

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Public urination has gotten so bad in San Francisco that it has painted nine walls with a repellent paint that makes pee spray onto the offender.

It's the latest effort to address a chronic problem in a city where the head of public works calls himself Mr. Clean. Walls are coated with a clear, liquid-repellent material that goes on much like paint. Any urine that hits it splashes back on a person's shoes and pants.

Mohammed Nuru, director of San Francisco's Public Works Department, said, "If you have to go, go in the right place."

Nuru got the idea from Germany, where walls in Hamburg's St. Pauli quarter are painted with the material to encourage late-night beer drinkers to find a bathroom rather than an alleyway.

Public urination has long been a problem in San Francis-

co, where a light pole corroded by urine recently fell onto a car. The city appears to be the only one in the nation using Ultra-Ever Dry from a Florida-based company, and it's already receiving a stream of queries about the product's success.

"We are getting calls from all over the place — Washington, D.C., Hawaii and Oakland," said Nuru, who Tweets under the handle @MrCleanSF.

Signs hanging above some walls read: "Hold it! This wall is not a public restroom. Please respect San Francisco and seek relief in an appropriate place."

Other efforts also are underway to stop or curb public urination.

Solar-powered toilets roll through city streets several afternoons per week; attendants are manning public toilets to encourage people to use them; and city crews will check thousands of light posts to make sure they won't topple.

## Former President Jimmy Carter is battling cancer

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Former President Jimmy Carter, who at age 90 still travels the world supporting the humanitarian endeavors that have consumed his time in the decades since he left office, announced he has cancer that has spread in his body.

A statement released by the Carter Center on Wednesday makes clear that Carter's cancer is widely spread but not where it originated, or even if that is known at this point. The liver is often a place where cancer spreads and less commonly is the primary source of it. The statement said further information will be provided when more facts are known, "possibly next week."

"Recent liver surgery re-

vealed that I have cancer that now is in other parts of my body," Carter said in the statement. "I will be rearranging my schedule as necessary so I can undergo treatment by physicians at Emory Healthcare."

Carter announced on Aug. 3 that he had surgery to remove a small mass from his liver.

Good wishes poured in on social media after Carter's announcement, while President Barack Obama said he and first lady Michelle Obama wish Carter a fast and full recovery.

Carter was the nation's 39th president.

Before his career in politics, Carter graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and served seven years in the Navy submarine force.

## Explosions at Chinese port kill at least 50

Associated Press

TIANJIN, China — Huge, fiery blasts at a warehouse for hazardous chemicals killed at least 50 people and turned nearby buildings into skeletal shells in the Chinese port of Tianjin, raising questions Thursday about whether the materials had been properly stored.

Hundreds of people were injured in the explosions shortly before midnight Wednesday, which sent out massive fireballs that turned the night sky into day and shattered windows several miles away. Twelve of the dead were from among the more than 1,000 firefighters sent to the mostly industrial zone to fight the ensuing blaze.

"I thought it was an earthquake, so I rushed downstairs without my shoes on," said Tianjin resident Zhang Siyu, whose home is several miles from the blast site. "Only once I was outside did I realize it was an explosion. There was the huge fireball in the sky with thick clouds. Everybody could see it."

Zhang said she could see wounded people weeping. She said she did not see anyone who had been killed, but "I could feel death."

The municipal government in Tianjin, a key port and petrochemical processing hub about

75 miles east of Beijing, said 701 people were injured, including 71 in serious condition. It gave no figure for the missing.

There was no indication of what caused the blasts, and no immediate sign of any toxic cloud in the air as firefighters brought the fire largely under control by morning. However, the Tianjin government suspended further firefighting to allow a team of chemical experts to survey hazardous materials at the site, to assess dangers to the environment and to decide how best to proceed.

State media said senior management of the company had been detained, and that President Xi Jinping demanded severe punishment for anyone found responsible for the explosions.

"It was like what we were told a nuclear bomb would be like," said truck driver Zhao Zhencheng, who spent the night in the cab of his truck after the blasts. "I've never even thought I'd see such a thing. It was terrifying, but also beautiful."

Authorities said the blasts started at shipping containers at the warehouse owned by Ruihai Logistics, a company that says it stores hazardous materials including flammable petrochemicals, sodium cyanide and toluene diisocyanate.

### Bombing at Baghdad market kills dozens

BAGHDAD — A truck bomb ripped through a popular Baghdad food market in a predominantly Shiite neighborhood early Thursday morning, killing at least 67 people, police officials said, in one of the deadliest single blasts in the Iraqi capital in years.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the explosion, saying it targeted a gathering place of Shiites and vowed more such attacks.

The truck hit the Jameela

market in the Iraqi capital's crowded Sadr City neighborhood shortly after dawn, according to two local police officers. They said at least 152 people were wounded at the market, which is the main center for produce and food sales in Baghdad.

Residents of the Shiite community rushed to help the victims, carrying corpses in garbage bags and blankets and sending the wounded to local hospitals in ambulances or personal cars.

From The Associated Press



# Iwakuma tosses no-hitter

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Off the bat, Hisashi Iwakuma believed the slicing flyball was going to find its way to the outfield grass and end his dream of joining an elite pitching fraternity one out shy.

Then he saw Seattle teammate Austin Jackson sprinting with his glove extended in the air, ready to squeeze the final out and put Iwakuma's name next to Hideo Nomo as the only Japanese-born pitchers to throw a no-hitter.

"I can't find the words to express my feelings," Iwakuma said through an interpreter after the fourth no-hitter in the major leagues this season. "I'm truly happy."

Iwakuma became the first American League pitcher in nearly three years to throw a no-hitter, silencing the Baltimore Orioles in the Mariners' 3-0 victory on Wednesday in Seattle.

Talented but often injured since arriving from Japan in 2012, the 34-year-old native of Tokyo didn't overpower the Orioles.

That's not his style.

Instead, Iwakuma smartly used a biting splitter and precise control to throw the fourth individual no-hitter in franchise history and become the oldest pitcher since Randy Johnson in 2004 to throw a no-no.

Iwakuma's gem ended a streak of 11 straight individual no-hitters thrown by National League pitchers, including three this season: Philadelphia's Cole Hamels — prior to his trade to Texas — Washington's

Max Scherzer and San Francisco's Chris Heston.

The last AL pitcher to keep zeros across the board was teammate Felix Hernandez, who tossed a perfect game at Safeco Field on Aug. 15, 2012. And in an odd numerical coincidence, Hernandez's perfect game against Tampa Bay came on 8/15/12, while Iwakuma's no-hitter was on 8/12/15.

Not surprisingly, Hernandez was one of the first to greet Iwakuma as he was mobbed on the pitcher's mound after the final out, wearing a fuzzy bear hat that was handed out to fans earlier in the season in a promotion to honor Iwakuma.

"I'm just glad it's over. I've had to pee since the fifth inning," Seattle manager Lloyd McClendon joked. "It's pretty special. I've seen a lot. I thought in the fifth inning his stuff was really sharp and his split was coming out crisp. I thought you never know but he may have a shot here."

The right-hander struck out seven and walked three and while Jackson made a solid catch for the final out, the play everyone will remember is Kyle Seager's contorting catch to open the ninth inning. Seager tracked David Lough's foul ball near the stands and made a nifty over-the-shoulder catch for the first out.

"In that situation you're not letting it get down if you can," Seager said. "You're going to do whatever you can."

Baltimore was no-hit for the seventh time in franchise history and first since Boston's Clay Buchholz in 2007. The Orioles best chance at getting to Iwakuma came

in the fourth inning after Manny Machado walked to lead off and Gerardo Parra chopped a grounder in the hole between first baseman Mark Trumbo and second baseman Robinson Cano. Quickly moving to his left, Cano tracked down the grounder in shallow right field and threw across his body to get Parra at first.

Iwakuma walked Chris Davis with two outs, but he struck out Jimmy Paredes to end the threat.

Iwakuma also walked Jonathan Schoop on a check-swing, full-count pitch to open the eighth inning. But after striking out Ryan Flaherty looking, Iwakuma got Caleb Joseph to ground into a double play.

After Lough fouled out to open the ninth, Machado grounded out to Seager and Parra flew out to shallow center field to end it. It was the first complete-game of Iwakuma's career, having pitched 8 2-3 innings twice, including earlier this month against Minnesota.

"It's not just a normal loss. We're going down in the history books on the bad side of a no-hitter," Baltimore's Adam Jones said. "But tip your cap. Iwakuma threw his game."

Iwakuma missed 2½ months early in the season after straining a muscle in his back and side. He's been solid since returning and there were rumblings around the trade deadline Iwakuma might be moved.

"That's all I thought was to come back and give it all I've got every start and make up for the lost time I had in the first half," Iwakuma said.

## Bills claim QB-punching ex-Jet LB Enemkpali

PITTSFORD, N.Y. — Rex Ryan won't excuse linebacker Ikemefuna Enemkpali for a sucker punch that broke quarterback Geno Smith's jaw in the New York Jets' locker room.

That doesn't mean Ryan — the former Jets coach in his first season in Buffalo — isn't willing to provide Enemkpali a second chance with the Bills.

With new owner Terry Pegula's blessing, the Bills claimed Enemkpali off waivers a day after he punched Smith and was released by the Jets.

"I think it's clear it was a mistake. Nothing justifies hitting somebody and all that stuff. And I'm not trying to say that it wasn't a mistake," Ryan said before the Bills opened an evening practice. "But I also believe that he's going to learn from this. And we'll give him a chance to compete."

In other NFL news:

■ Pro Bowl receiver T.Y. Hilton agreed to a five-year contract extension worth \$65 million, with \$39 million guaranteed. Agent Drew Rosenhaus said the deal makes Hilton the NFL's fourth-highest paid receiver.

In three seasons, Hilton has 214 catches, 3,289 yards and 19 touchdowns. Last season, he had 82 catches and seven TDs and set a career high with 1,345 yards.

■ A federal judge put the NFL on the defensive over its four-game suspension of New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady on Wednesday, demanding to know what evidence directly links Brady to deflating footballs and belittling the drama of the controversy.

"What is the direct evidence that implicates Mr. Brady?" Judge Richard M. Berman repeatedly asked NFL lawyer Daniel L. Nash at the first hearing in the civil case in Manhattan federal court as Brady and Commissioner Roger Goodell looked on.

Nash responded there was "considerable evidence Mr. Brady clearly knew about this," including records of text messages and phone calls between the quarterback and one of two Patriots employees implicated in the scandal known as "Deflategate."

Both sides are scheduled to return to court next week.

## Vonn fractures ankle in training crash

QUEENSTOWN, New Zealand — Lindsey Vonn said she fractured an ankle bone in a training crash in New Zealand.

It is the latest setback for the American skier, who returned from serious leg injuries to set the all-time women's World Cup win record last season. She also won her seventh World Cup downhill title.

## Kyrgios fined for remark toward Wawrinka

MONTREAL — The ATP fined Nick Kyrgios on Thursday for his "insulting remark" toward French Open champion Stan Wawrinka during a match at the Rogers Cup.

The organization did not announce the amount of the fine.

On Wednesday night, a courtside microphone picked up Kyrgios saying that fellow Australian player Thanasi Kokkinakis had slept with a player who is reportedly Wawrinka's girlfriend.

# Toronto tops A's, moves into 1st in AL East

Associated Press

TORONTO — After winning their 10th straight game, the Toronto Blue Jays are a first-place team.

That doesn't mean they're satisfied.

Toronto surged to the top of the AL East, beating the Oakland Athletics 10-3 Wednesday night behind a pair of three-run homers from Chris Colabello and Justin Smoak.

Josh Donaldson had two hits and two RBIs, boosting his majors-leading total to 85.

The Blue Jays trailed the Yankees by six games on July 31. But after making several bold trades, they have gone on a streak that included a sweep of New York, losing only once since Troy Tulowitzki joined the team to move a half-game up in the division.

"It's great, don't get me wrong, but I think everyone in this club wants to be in first place on Game 162," Colabello said. "That's what's important."

Toronto, which has not reached the playoffs since back-to-back World Series titles in 1992 and 1993, has stirred excitement among its fans by going on a roll after adding Tulowitzki and David Price before the trade deadline.

**Dodgers 3, Nationals 0:** Clayton Kershaw tied Sandy Koufax's franchise record of six straight 200-strikeout seasons while tossing eight scoreless innings, and NL West-leading Los Angeles defeated visiting Washington.

**Kershaw (10-6)** took a perfect game bid into the sixth inning, when Michael Taylor doubled to deep center field. Kershaw retired the next two batters on grounders to end the inning.

The 27-year-old left-hander struck out the side in the second to equal the mark set by Koufax from 1961-66. Koufax and Tom Seaver (1968-76) are the only pitchers in modern NL history to accomplish the feat in six or more consecutive seasons.

**Indians 2, Yankees 1:** Danny Salazar pitched neatly into the eighth inning, and host Cleveland dropped New York out of first place in the AL East.

**Mets 3, Rockies 0:** Jacob deGrom surrendered only two hits and struck out 10 in seven innings, pitching host New York past Colorado.

**Cardinals 4, Pirates 2:** Yadier Molina tripled in the go-ahead run in the sixth inning when right fielder Gregory Polanco missed an attempted shoe-top catch and Michael Wacha got his 14th win to tie for the major league high as host St. Louis beat Pittsburgh.

**Cubs 3, Brewers 2 (10):** Miguel Montero homered in the bottom of the 10th inning to give Chicago a victory over Milwaukee for the Cubs' sixth straight win and 12th in 13 games.

**Astros 2, Giants 0:** Colby Rasmus homered to lead off the seventh inning to help Scott Feldman earn his first win in more than two months, and visiting Houston held on to beat San Francisco.

**White Sox 3, Angels 2 (13):** Avisail Garcia's line-drive double to the wall with one out in the bottom of the 13th inning drove in Jose Abreu from first base and lifted Chicago to a win over Los Angeles to finish a three-game sweep.

**Tigers 7, Royals 4:** Ian Kinsler doubled home two runs and visiting Detroit batted around in a four-run eighth inning to defeat Kansas City.

**Twins 11, Rangers 1:** Aaron Hicks had four of Minnesota's 17 hits, Miguel Sano homered twice and Mike Pelfrey picked up his first win since June as the host Twins routed Texas.

**Reds 7, Padres 3:** Rookie Raisel Iglesias pitched six strong innings and Joey Votto scored the go-ahead run on a balk by James Shields and later homered to lead visiting Cincinnati to a victory against San Diego.

**Phillies 7, Diamondbacks 6:** Cameron Rupp homered and drove in a career-high four runs and visiting Philadelphia avoided a series sweep with a win over Arizona.

**Rays 9, Braves 6:** Curt Casali capped a six-run seventh inning with a two-run homer and host Tampa Bay rallied for a victory over Atlanta.

**Marlins 14, Red Sox 6:** Rookie J.T. Realmuto drove in six runs, including five in a franchise record-tying 10-run sixth inning, which helped host Miami complete a two-game sweep in a series between last-place teams by beating Boston.



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# NBA schedule 'player-friendly'

Associated Press

The Golden State Warriors will see an old friend on opening night and LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in an NBA Finals rematch on Christmas, two of the highlight games of their title defense.

The NBA released its schedule Wednesday, a more player-friendly model that addresses Commissioner Adam Silver's directive for additional player rest by slashing the times teams have to play four times in five nights to an average of one per team.

NBA senior vice president of operations Kiki VanDeWeghe called it the best schedule he had seen, adding that the league was "very, very mindful of player rest and recuperation, and the idea of putting the best product on the floor each and every night."

The season begins Oct. 27 with three

games, including the Warriors hosting New Orleans, the team they eliminated in the first round before the Pelicans hired Alvin Gentry, who was one of Steve Kerr's assistants last season.

Chicago hosts Cleveland earlier on opening night in its first game under Fred Hoiberg, who was hired after the Bulls fired Tom Thibodeau.

Most teams begin Oct. 28, including the new-look San Antonio Spurs making their debut with LaMarcus Aldridge and David West at Oklahoma City, which could welcome Kevin Durant back to regular-season action after his 2014-15 season was cut short by injury.

The extended All-Star break the NBA introduced last season returns, with a week off around the Feb. 14 game in Toronto, and there are other tweaks that should benefit players.

There are just 27 instances of teams

playing four times in five nights, and no team faces more than two four-in-five night stretches. Back-to-backs were also trimmed to an all-time low of less than 18 per team.

Following a season in which stars such as Kobe Bryant, Durant and Carmelo Anthony all missed significant time with injuries, extra space was created in the schedule by having additional games on Thursdays — the lightest night of the week, when TNT hosts a doubleheader — as well as Mondays and Saturdays, when ABC will begin televising a game in January.

Anthony clapped when told of the reduction of four-in-five night stretches.

"To not have to play all these four-in-five night games, I think it's good for the players, I think it's good for the league overall. I think it's good for the fans, too," the Knicks All-Star said.

# Top two players face off at PGA

Associated Press

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. — Rory McIlroy faces a different set of questions from the last time he played, and he had answers for most of them.

His left ankle, with swelling the size of a tennis ball after he heard it snap while playing soccer with friends in early July, felt fine when he got off the plane and began preparing for the final major of the year. His game is good, and he sees no one reason why that will change this weekend at the PGA Championship. One other question was a little more tricky.

Who's the best player in the world? McIlroy is No. 1 in the world rankings. He also has watched Jordan Spieth produce an inspiring year in golf by winning the Masters and U.S. Open, and then coming within one shot of a playoff at the British Open. Spieth has four wins this year, one more than McIlroy, though two of them are majors.

"If you were to go by this year, you would have to say Jordan," McIlroy said. "If you go over the last two years, I would say it's probably a toss-up between Jordan and myself. That's a hard one. OK, we've got the rankings there, but it's all a matter of opinion."

And what was his opinion? "I'll tell you at the end of the week," McIlroy said with a smile.

The shine came off golf when Spieth's bid for the Grand Slam ended at St. Andrews. It returned when McIlroy began posting photos and videos last week that indicated he would be playing at Whistling Straits, his first tournament since the U.S. Open.

They faced off Thursday afternoon, in the same group with British Open champion Zach Johnson. It was the third time in the last eight majors that McIlroy and Spieth played together in the opening two rounds.

It has never received attention like this. "I think that's just what you guys want to see," Spieth said. "I think he and I just want to go out there and try and win the tournament. We have to beat each other in order to do that, along with ... 155 other guys. It's great. We're all very happy to see him back. I'm excited to just share a couple days with Rory, and Zach as well."

"Hopefully, we can all get into contention, and it will certainly be exciting."

McIlroy, the defending champion, said he never targeted the PGA Championship as his return. His test came in Portugal last week when he played — and walked — 72 holes. There was no pain, no swelling. And he knew he was ready.

"If I hadn't passed that test, I wouldn't have been here," he said.

For all the attention Spieth has earned with his four victories (along with playoff losses at the Colonial and Houston Open), McIlroy hasn't been a mere spectator to this sensational season. He has three victories, one of them a World Golf Championship, and he had top 10s in both majors he played.

Still, there is a degree of uncertainty about his game. It will have been 53 days without competition when McIlroy tees it up Thursday.

# Five best starts by players that faded in later rounds

Associated Press

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. — Players seem to brace for the worst at certain majors, right up until someone delivers the best score. It happened in 2004, the first time the PGA Championship came to Whistling Straits, a mysterious course that looked like a sheer brute with its rugged terrain off Lake Michigan.

Someone asked Sergio Garcia if he would take even par at the end of the week. "Yes," he replied, "and I'll win by four."

And then Darren Clarke opened with a 65 the next day.

Expect something similar from the PGA Championship this weekend at Whistling Straits. And expect a similar outcome. Clarke never broke 70 the rest of the week in 2004 and tied for 13th. It's not about the start. It's about the finish.

Seven players have opened the PGA Championship with a 64 or better. Here are the five who faded from view:

**5 Scott Simpson.** He could see this coming. He opened with a 7-under 64 at rain-softened Inverness in 1993 on a day of low scoring. He only had a one-shot lead, and after walking off the 18th green, he headed straight for the practice range.

"Obviously, that was a career round," Simpson said. "Odds are I'm not going to shoot that again."

And he didn't. He didn't break 70 the rest of the way and got progressively worse — 70-71-72 — and finished five shots out of the lead.

**4 Doug Tewell.** He was looking forward to the end of his season. He had a herniated disc and was gulping aspirin to get by. But in the first round of the 1985 PGA Championship at Cherry Hills, "I didn't feel a thing out there."

Tewell holed a bunker shot for birdie, made an eagle and came to the 18th hole with a chance to become only the seventh player to shoot 63 in a major. He made bogey from the bunker for a 64.

"Something to cherish," he said.

And something that didn't last. He followed with a 72, which wasn't awful. He followed that with a 77, which was. By the end of the week, Tewell was an afterthought. A closing 72 left him seven shots behind Hubert Green. He tied for 12th.

**3 Steve Stricker.** He stood 10 feet away from the first 62 in major championship history in 2011 at Atlanta Athletic Club, and television went to commercial. The score was posted before it came back on and watched one of the best putters in golf narrowly miss his shot at history.

He had to settle for the "63 club" which by 2011 was turning into a long list. Only after he walked off the green was he aware it was for the record. Not that it bothered him.

"I wish I would have been able to make that putt to be one better than that group of guys," he said. "But 63 is a heck of a start."

It just wasn't much of a finish.

Stricker shot 74 the next day and kept slipping all the way down to a tie for 12th, seven shots out of the lead.

**2 Grant Waite.** Waite had never made the cut in four tries at the PGA Championship when he arrived at Atlanta Athletic Club in 2001. He had never even had a round in the 60s. And when he rolled in an 18-foot putt on his final hole, he had a 6-under 64 and a two-shot lead.

Waite never won on the PGA Tour. The closest he ever came was in the Canadian Open a year earlier, when Tiger Woods beat him with that bunker shot over the water.

"I've never been close to any position like this before," Waite said. "This is an adventure. I want to look back at the end of the week and say I enjoyed it."

It didn't last. He followed with a 74 and was seven shots back going into the weekend. He closed with 73-72 and tied for 59th, 18 shots out of the lead.

**1 Michael Bradley.** No one took advantage of soft Riviera in the 1995 PGA Championship like Bradley. He missed a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole and had to settle for a 63, though it only gave him a one-shot lead.

Bradley spoke as if he knew it wouldn't last. He even referenced a pro-am in Saskatchewan when he shot a 59. "I shot 74 the next day," he said.

"There is no pressure on me," Bradley said. "If I shoot 80 tomorrow, no one will give it a second thought. But if I shoot 66, people will say, 'Who is this?' It's a chance to make a name for myself."

He shot 77 the next day.

# LeBron not sure if he'll play in Rio

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — LeBron James said Wednesday his health and his family will determine whether he tries for a record third basketball Olympic gold medal next summer.

James took part in USA Basketball's minicamp, satisfying chairman Jerry Colangelo's mandate that anyone wanting to be considered for the 2016 roster show up this week in Las Vegas.

James suited up in a No. 27 jersey and worked out, though he won't play in the Americans' intrasquad exhibition Thursday because of a previous commitment back in Ohio.

The Cleveland Cavaliers All-Star could join Carmelo Anthony and Chris Paul as the only three-time gold medalists, and he and Anthony would be the first American men to appear in four Olympics. James says he's "not penciling it in, as of now, for next summer" and that his decision may not come until after next season.

"All my decisions go through my family. We'll see how my family feels about it," James said. "And then with my health, going another NBA campaign season, as far as my team back home in Cleveland, and I'll go from there."

He first played for the Americans in the 2004 Olympics, when he and Anthony were part of the disappointing bronze medalists following their rookie seasons. That duo and Paul, all close friends, are the only players in camp this week who competed in both 2008 and 2012, and could decide together whether they will try to make history.

"It'll probably be a joint decision," James said. "Pretty much everything that we do, for the most part, especially with Team USA, we kind of do together. We'll see what happens."

James also played with the Americans in the 2006 world basketball championship and the 2007 Olympic qualifying tournament. He said he enjoyed being back Wednesday and reconnecting with coaches and teammates.

For now, he's done what is necessary to give himself the option if he wants it.