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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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US takes lead on airstrikes out of Turkey

BY TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Turkey has stopped conducting airstrikes against Islamic State fighters in Syria as U.S. air operations ramp up from Incirlik Air Base, the Pentagon said Friday.

Turkey began bombing Islamic State fighters in Syria and Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) camps in northern Iraq in late July in response to a suicide bombing that killed more than 30 in the southern Turkey border town of Suruc.

Turkey's air campaign was criticized for concentrating more on the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) camps in northern Iraq instead of on the Islamic State, and for potentially targeting the U.S.-allied People's Protection Units (YPG), a Kurdish militia in Syria. The airstrikes complicated the U.S. campaign against the Islamic State in Syria, which relies heavily on the YPG participation to push back the Islamic State and to coordinate airstrikes against the militant group there.

"Turkey continues to communicate to us that they are committed to participating in the counter-[Islamic State] campaign," said U.S. Central Command spokesman Col. Pat Ryder.

"In the meantime, they agreed to not undertake independent counter-[Islamic State] strikes in Syria so that we can ensure that we are deconflicting and conducting safe air operations," Ryder said.

"They have stopped doing any counter-

Militant group's possible use of chemical weapons probed

EDGARTOWN, Mass. — The United States is investigating whether the Islamic State used chemical weapons, the White House said Thursday, following allegations that Islamic State militants deployed chemical weapons against Kurdish forces in northern Iraq.

Alistair Baskey, a spokesman for the White House's National Security Council, said the U.S. is taking the allegations "very seriously" and seeking more information about what happened. He noted that Islamic State had been accused of using such weapons before.

"We continue to monitor these reports closely, and would further stress that any use of chemicals or biological material as a weapon is completely inconsistent with international standards and norms regarding such capabilities," Baskey said in a statement.

Earlier Thursday, Kurdish officials said their forces, known as peshmerga, were attacked the day before near the town of Makhmour, not far from Irbil. Germany's military has been training the Kurds in the area, and the German Defense Ministry said some 60 Kurdish fighters had suffered breathing difficulties from the attack — a telltale sign of chemical weapons use. But neither Germany nor the Kurds spec-

fied which type of chemical weapons may have been used.

Confirmation of chemical weapons use by Islamic State would mark a dramatic turn in the U.S.-led effort to rout the extremist group from the roughly one-third of Iraq and Syria that it controls.

Although the U.S. and its coalition partners are mounting airstrikes against the Islamic State, they are relying on local forces like the Kurds, the Iraqi military and others to do the fighting on the ground. Already, those forces have struggled to match the might of the well-funded and heavily armed extremist group.

At the United Nations, U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power said the U.S. was speaking with the Kurds who had made the allegations to gather more information. She said that if reports of chemical weapons are true, they would further prove that what Islamic State calls warfare is really "just systematic attacks on civilians who don't accord to their particularly perverse worldview."

She added that as a result of earlier chemical weapons use by the Syrian government, the U.S. and its partners now have advanced forensic systems to analyze chemical weapons attacks.

Similar reports of chemical weapons use by Islamic State had surfaced in July. But it's unclear exactly where the extremist group may have obtained any chemical weapons.

From The Associated Press

[Islamic State] flights until we finalize some of the details in terms of how they will be part of the coalition air campaign," he said.

It was not immediately clear whether Turkey also had agreed to pause its air campaign in northern Iraq. Ryder said that the U.S. recognizes Turkey's right to defend itself against the PKK, and "from our perspective there is no connection between this deeper cooperation against [the Islamic State] and their

operations against the PKK."

The U.S. launched its first manned airstrikes against the Islamic State from Incirlik Air Base earlier this week, after six U.S. F-16s from Aviano Air Base and about 300 support personnel relocated there over the weekend. Ryder said the F-16s will be a regular part of the daily airstrike operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

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USS Ashland leaves Saipan ahead of storm; Marines stay

BY ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — USS Ashland is leaving typhoon-battered Saipan ahead of a potential tropical storm, but Marines assisting the island's aid efforts will remain, military officials said Friday.

The military's Joint Typhoon Warning Center issued

a warning Friday morning that tropical depression 16W was moving 376 miles east-southeast of Guam, which is roughly 90 miles south of Saipan.

The depression had developed maximum sustained winds of 29 mph on Friday morning, with a 48-hour prediction of 52 mph sustained winds.

A typhoon watch has been is-

sued for Saipan and Tinian, and a tropical storm watch is up for Rota and Guam, according to the National Weather Service on Guam.

The Ashland arrived Aug. 8 to assist the U.S. commonwealth island, which is recovering from an Aug. 3 strike by Typhoon Soudelor that left Saipan's 50,000 residents without power and running water.

Sasebo, Japan-based sailors and Marines from Okinawa's 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit have helped distribute drinking water, generators and other critical supplies.

Navy ships typically leave piers during storms to avoid damage to the vessel and piers, officials said Friday.

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Kerry presses for democracy in Cuba

Associated Press

HAVANA — U.S. Marines raised the Stars and Stripes over the American Embassy in Cuba on Friday as Secretary of State John Kerry made an unprecedented call for democratic change on the island ruled by a single party for more than five decades.

“We remain convinced the people of Cuba would be best served by a genuine democracy, where people are free to choose their leaders, express their ideas, practice their faith,” Kerry said before an audience of Cuban and U.S. diplomats on the embassy grounds, and with millions of islanders watching and listening live.

Political change remains a taboo topic in Cuba despite economic reforms and the re-establishment of diplomatic ties with the U.S. under President Raul Castro, who took over from his brother Fidel.

Hundreds of Cubans outside the embassy cheered as Kerry spoke, the U.S. Army

Brass Quintet played “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and the flag rose alongside the building overlooking the Malecon seaside promenade.

Across the country, it seemed as if virtually all of Cuba was glued to a television or listening to a live radio broadcast.

“We agree with what Kerry said,” said mechanic Julio Garcia, 51. “More democracy, elections, we hope for that to come with this diplomatic opening.”

Dissidents were not invited to the ceremony, avoiding tensions with Cuban officials who typically boycott events attended by the country’s political opposition. The State Department said it had limited space at what it called a government-to-government event, and invited dissidents to a separate afternoon flag-raising at the home of the embassy’s chief of mission.

Kerry was then scheduled to meet with Cuba’s foreign minister, the country’s Roman Catholic archbishop and, separately, a hand-picked group of dissidents.

Military says it’s committed to fairness in Manning case

Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — The U.S. military said Thursday that it is committed to “a fair and equitable process” in the case of national security leaker Chelsea Manning and other prisoners accused of breaking rules at the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The response comes a day after Manning’s lawyer disclosed that the transgender Army private faces charges at a hearing next Tuesday for allegedly having a copy of Vanity Fair with Caitlyn Jenner on the cover and an expired tube of toothpaste, among other things. The maximum penalty is indef-

inite solitary confinement.

The former intelligence analyst, formerly known as Bradley Manning, was convicted in 2013 of espionage and other offenses for sending more than 700,000 classified documents to WikiLeaks while working in Iraq. She is serving a 35-year sentence for leaking reams of war logs, diplomatic cables and battlefield video to the anti-secrecy website in 2010.

In a statement issued Thursday, Army spokeswoman Tatjana Christian said Manning’s case is pending before a disciplinary board, which is “a common practice in correctional systems to hold prisoners accountable to facility rules.”

Gen. Milley steps in as Army chief of staff

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — As the Army’s new chief of staff took responsibility for the service Friday morning, he was called “a leader, a warrior and a statesman.”

Gen. Mark Milley will need those skills as the Army’s top officer for the next four years at a time when budgets and forces are shrinking and global threats are growing.

Milley was sworn in as the Army’s 39th chief by Army Secretary John McHugh during a traditional ceremony at Fort Myer’s Summerall Field in Arlington, Va., as his predecessor, Gen. Ray Odierno, retired.

Defense officials lauded Milley, who most recently led U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg, N.C., as a battle-hardened warrior and an intellectual with the necessary skill set to lead the Army through an uncertain future with the possibility of a continually shrinking force if sequestration continues into fiscal 2016.

“He’s the right officer for the Army for the next four years to shape our forces and continue restoring its readiness that the nation expects from our

Army,” Defense Secretary Ash Carter said during the ceremony. “Mark is a leader, a warrior and a statesman.”

Carter recounted being in Afghanistan in 2013 with Milley when the U.S. Consulate in Iraq was attacked.

“As we flew there I saw him take decisive command of the scene,” the secretary said.

“In addition to decades of such operational experience, Mark clearly also has the strategic vision to build upon what (Odierno) started. I have confidence; I know he’ll succeed because he carries that same unyielding commitment to the Army, soldiers and to families.”

McHugh said Friday’s ceremony was “a typically bitter-sweet moment,” because the Army was losing Odierno, a highly accomplished general he called a “battle buddy and friend.”

“Ray is as fine an officer as I have ever known,” McHugh said Friday. “He’s a leader wholly committed to the Army ... wholly dedicated to the people and relationships that propel our mission and to the broader strategies within the Department of Defense.”

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Drone talk in top-secret emails on Clinton’s server

WASHINGTON — The two emails on Hillary Rodham Clinton’s private server that an auditor deemed “top secret” include a discussion of a news article detailing a U.S. drone operation and a separate conversation that could point back to highly classified material in an improper manner or merely could reflect information collected independently, U.S. officials who have reviewed the correspondence told The Associated Press.

The sourcing of the information in the emails could have

significant political implications as the 2016 presidential campaign heats up. Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination, agreed this week to turn over to the FBI the private server she used as secretary of state, and Republicans in Congress have seized on the involvement of federal law enforcement as a sign that she was either negligent with the nation’s secrets or worse.

The two emails were marked classified after consultations with the CIA, which is where the material originated, officials said.

From The Associated Press

New team. New city. Same old Rex.

Associated Press

PITTSFORD, N.Y. — Rex Ryan had just finished wrapping up his daily post-practice session with reporters at training camp when a Bills fan in the nearby stands delivered what has become a common message to the team's new coach.

"We love you, Rex!" the woman yelled. "Thank you," Ryan responded. Smiling, he added as an aside for only a few to hear: "We haven't lost yet."

There's truth in that, though don't think for an instant the ever-confident Ryan believes there will be many losses in the Bills' immediate future.

"Everybody gets it, that this is the honeymoon period, and we haven't lost a game," Ryan said.

"But you know what the great thing is? This ain't the honeymoon period. The honeymoon period's coming," he said. "I truly believe there's going to be such great days ahead of us that the true honeymoon period is getting ready to take place. It hasn't taken place."

If that sounds like a playoff promise, you wouldn't be wrong.

"Yeah, we're all in," Ryan said. "It's never crossed my mind that this team wouldn't be a factor."

New team. New city. Same Rex.

With a bigger than-life personality, Ryan has taken western New York by storm since arriving in mid-January. Weeks after being fired by the New York Jets, Ryan replaced Doug Marrone, who abruptly stepped down on Dec. 31.

Ryan embraced the blue-collar town and culture by having beer and wings at The Big Tree Inn, a long-time Bills hangout, while referencing the franchise's storied past, from Hall of Fame quarterback Jim Kelly to 1960s star running back Cookie Gilchrist.

"Rex gets it," Kelly said. "If there's somebody in Buffalo that's not excited about this season, something's wrong."

Added veteran defensive tackle Kyle Williams: "He understands what the history of this team means to the community. Because once you understand that connection, you can understand why our fans are as passionate as they are."

Ryan has provided a brash voice and swagger to a team that's faded from relevance during a 15-season stretch of missing the playoffs — the NFL's longest active drought.

He has vowed to build a "bully." He's tricked-out his Ford F-250 pickup truck in red, white and blue Bills colors. He's thrown out the first pitch on opening day for the Triple-A Buffalo Bisons. And his news conferences are regarded as "must-attend" events.

Ryan has needled Patriots quarterback Tom Brady for bouncing a pitch into the dirt before the Boston Red Sox home opener. Last week, he joined Bills owner Terry Pegula in munching on a dog biscuit to promote the SPCA. He's referred to UFC star Ronda Rousey as "the baddest person on the planet."

And let's not forget Ryan jumping out of a plane in a tandem skydive with the U.S. Army parachute team last month.

"That's Rex," Pegula said. "I'm surprised he had a parachute on. I'm sure he would've felt comfortable without one."

Ryan appears to be walking on air in getting a second chance after his six-year tenure with the Jets unraveled with a string of losses, injuries and front-office infighting. He and general manager John Idzik were fired following a 4-12 finish.

Ryan doesn't mention Idzik by name, though the coach still feels he was shunted aside once Idzik took over in 2013.

"I'll say this, Woody Johnson I always felt was with me," Ryan said, referring to the Jets' owner. "I felt it was my team initially, and then it became like I was an employee."

Ryan went 46-50, and in his first two years led the Jets to consecutive AFC championship games, both losses.

In Buffalo, the 52-year-old defensive specialist and son of famed coach Buddy Ryan is re-energized.

"I feel like I've been here for years," Ryan said.

He's no stranger to Buffalo. He and his twin brother Rob spent much of the 1970s growing up in nearby Toronto. Ryan attended several Bills home games, though he was rooting for the Jets, when his father was an assistant coach from 1968-75.

"Buffalo's different," Ryan said. "I think I'm the only (coaching candidate) who brought it up, about fielding a team that would represent this community, and recognizing the loyalty of the fan base."

Pegula recalls the first thing Ryan said was how he wanted to live in the part of

town where it snowed the most.

"The word that comes to mind is authentic," Bills President Russ Brandon said. "I think people appreciate that he's one of us. It's who he is. It's not manufactured."

In Buffalo, Ryan has something he believes he lost in New York: top-to-bottom loyalty.

"Look, I know I'm decent at this job, but it's the people that are with me," Ryan said. "And the great thing about this organization, everybody's with me, from players, coaches, management, ownership. Everything."

The Bills are embarking on a new era under Terry and wife Kim Pegula, who purchased the team in October following the death of Hall of Fame owner Ralph Wilson. They inherited a franchise that lacked continuity and front-office stability, going through six coaches since 2000.

Marrone had the Bills' support, but his departure left the owners perplexed and disappointed.

Now they get to start anew with Ryan, who embraces the challenge to win in what he insists will be his last head-coaching job.

"If we don't accomplish what we set out to do, I want it on one's guy's shoulders. I want it on me. Yet, when we win, and I know we're going to win, it's on everybody, man," he said.

"It's the 72,000 people in the stands, and it's all the people at home watching. That's who I want to feel great about this," Ryan added. "It's the Buffalo Bills. And it's a sense of pride. You say, 'I live in Buffalo. Home of the Bills.' That's what I want it to be."

Johnson off to hot start, leads at PGA Championship

Associated Press

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. — Rory McIlroy was nervous about his game. Jordan Spieth was frustrated with his putting.

Not so surprising about the opening round of the PGA Championship on Thursday was Dustin Johnson.

He was leading.

Shaking off a double dose of disappointment in the majors, Johnson breezed his way to a 6-under 66 in moderate morning conditions at Whistling Straits and wound up with a one-shot lead over David Lingmerth of Sweden. It was the fifth time in 13 rounds at the majors this year that Johnson had at least a share of the lead.

Just never on Sunday, which he knows all too well.

"It's only the first round," Johnson said.

It was a big start for McIlroy, and a shaky one for Spieth. They were the main event in the first round of the final major. McIlroy has not played since the U.S. Open, out for 53 days because of an injury to his left ankle and mildly curious whether his game would be sharp enough to compete. Adding to the buzz was playing with Spieth, the Masters and U.S. Open champion who is closing in on McIlroy's No. 1 ranking.

"It's not that. It's more just being a little bit anxious coming back and seeing how my game is going to react whenever I'm

put under a little bit of pressure and have a card in my hand and have to really score," McIlroy said. "Once I got those first couple of holes out of the way, I felt like I settled into the round really nicely."

Three birdies on the par 5s, and one big par save with his feet in the water, carried him to a 71.

Spieth doesn't usually go 11 holes without making a putt of any length, and frustrations were starting to wear on him until he chipped in from behind the 12th green for birdie, which steadied him enough to match McIlroy with a 71.

Considering they played in a strong wind and tough afternoon conditions, it was a reasonable start.

It certainly was for Johnson.

He took three putts from 12 feet on the final hole at the U.S. Open to shockingly go from a chance to win to a runner-up finish behind Spieth. He had the 36-hole lead at St. Andrews until he disappeared on the weekend. And the PGA Championship was at Whistling Straits, where five years ago Johnson famously grounded his club in a bunker and lost out on a spot in the playoff because of the two-shot penalty. It was like none of that ever happened.

He birdied the first two holes. He hit 4-iron to 30 feet and made eagle on No. 16.

He added a trio of birdies on the front nine.

"Today was pretty easy, I would have to say," Johnson said. "But I was swing-

ing well and I was hitting the shots where I was looking. So anytime you're doing that, it makes things a lot easier on you. The ball was going where I was looking. I was controlling it. In this wind it's tough to do, but I did a great job of controlling the golf ball today."

The one par McIlroy made on the par 5s was as big as his three birdies.

He pulled his third shot on the par-5 fifth hole into the water, and a double bogey looked likely. But his ball was sitting up in the water, so McIlroy rolled up his pant leg, splashed it out to 7 feet and saved par.

"The only thing I was trying not to do was get my feet wet," McIlroy said. "Because if the water gets through this shoe, then the tape gets wet and then that would be a little more than just sort of annoying or uncomfortable for the rest of the day. But it was fine. It was a little bit deeper on the right side, so I just rolled my right trouser leg up and it was fine. I just had to remember to hit it hard. And I was very fortunate to escape with a par there."

That shot made for good TV. Good for his soul was getting that first tee shot out of the way, and especially the 3-wood he hit pure as ever onto the green at the par-5 second that led to birdie.

"That was full bore, as good as I can do," McIlroy said.

Spieth was far more boring in opening

with 10 pars, and he was far more irritated. He had one birdie chance after another on the front nine and missed them all, trying to get the speed right and wondering how much the wind would affect it.

"I guessed wrong," he said.

And then he started to press, and it nearly cost him. He wasted an easy birdie chance on the short 10th hole by chipping 12 feet by the hole. He three-putted from about 15 feet on the par-5 11th for a bogey. After going just long of the par-3 12th, he had to play a chip because of a sprinkler head in his line.

The chip came out hot, and Spieth figured it would have gone some 12 feet by the hole. Spieth said he was pleading for it to hit the pin, if nothing else to keep it near the hole. It hit straight on and dropped for a birdie he badly needed.

"If I didn't get that good break on 12, it could have been a different story the rest of the round," he said.

The wind began to blow hard over the final hour of Johnson's round, and it showed in the scores. Of the 14 players who broke 70, Lingmerth and Scott Piercy (68) were the only ones who faced the tougher afternoon conditions.

Tiger Woods might be one day away from the end of his season. Woods opened with a 75 and was in danger of missing the cut. In the four majors this year, he is 18-over par in the opening round with a scoring average of 76.



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Bonds relieved to be cleared

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Legally cleared at last, Barry Bonds is unconcerned with everybody else's thoughts on his career or credentials: He's a Hall of Famer. Hands down.

"I don't even justify that. There's no need," he said Thursday night at AT&T Park. "That's without saying."

The 51-year-old home run king said he feels a huge sense of relief since federal prosecutors dropped what was left of their criminal case against him last month after a nearly decade-long steroids prosecution.

"I can say yes, there's a lot. Because it'd be not true if I said there wasn't some weight lifted off my shoulders," Bonds said in an interview with The Associated Press, his first since the government announcement.

"I've never been much of a talker. That's never been my game. I don't have time to put people down, I don't have time to do all that stuff. I don't care to. If people want to say negative things, that's their opinion," the former San Francisco Giants star said.

The government's pursuit of Bonds ended July 21 with a one-paragraph motion by the U.S. Department of Justice announcing Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr. would not ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the appellate decision that overturned Bonds' obstruction of justice conviction.

"That's why I say God is good. Every player who's ever played against me

knows my ability, and that's something I will never, ever have to explain," Bonds said. "I'm not insulted by anything. I don't hold grudges. I'm not going to hold a grudge. I know what I brought to the game. I'm proud of that. That's all, I'm proud of that."

Bonds, the seven-time NL MVP, broke Hank Aaron's career home run record of 755 on Aug. 7, 2007, in the last of the slugger's 22 big league seasons. Bonds hit 762 homers in all.

In his third year on the Hall ballot in 2015, Bonds received 202 votes for 36.8 percent from the Baseball Writers' Association of America. A player must garner at least 75 percent of the vote to be elected.

Bonds realizes there are plenty of people who still won't like him or ever consider him a Hall of Famer, those who will always assume he cheated by using performance-enhancing drugs.

He knows his legal victory doesn't assure him a spot in Cooperstown, either. Or change his legacy, whatever that winds up being.

"I don't mind if people get on me at times, I don't mind that stuff," Bonds said. "That's part of the game, that's part of the business. I know now that I'm retired more so than when I was playing."

"I think when you're playing and you're giving all you can, you want people to praise you more than being negative toward you. After being away for a while, some people just say you mature a little bit later. Got it after the fact," he said.

Bonds also acknowledged how he wasn't always the nicest guy to be around during his playing days, but, "I was preparing for

my job. I thought at that time it was in my way in what I needed to do to go to work. So I was a little more standoffish or whatever you want to call it."

A jury found Bonds guilty in 2011 for giving a meandering answer to a federal grand jury in 2003 when asked whether his personal trainer gave him anything that required a syringe for self-injection. An 11-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned that conviction this past April.

Bonds was charged in 2007, four years after his testimony before the grand jury after receiving a grant of immunity. He didn't dispute that he took steroids, but testified to the grand jury that his former trainer, Greg Anderson, told him they were flaxseed oil and arthritic balm.

After a three-week trial, Bonds was convicted for his response to the question: "Did Greg ever give you anything that required a syringe to inject yourself with?"

A three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit unanimously upheld the conviction in 2013 but the larger group of judges ruled in April that there was insufficient evidence Bonds' answer was material to the federal investigation into sports doping.

His new passion of bicycling helped him cope with the stresses of his legal issues.

"I can say yes. Cycling has. I see the world differently. I always saw it in the car," he said. "I've had knee surgeries, back surgeries, hip surgeries, cycling kind of ... I'm an athlete, that's what I am. That's what I do. I like to train, that's what I enjoy to do."

Kyrgios drawing criticism

Associated Press

BRISBANE, Australia — With tournament titles drying up, it's the tantrums now that are drawing attention to Australian men's tennis.

A month after Nick Kyrgios faced criticism from some of Australia's sporting greats for his racket-smashing, profanity-laced run at Wimbledon, the 20-year-old Aussie was back at the center of another media storm following his unsavory remarks to two-time major champion Stan Wawrinka during a Rogers Cup match in Montreal on Wednesday.

Wawrinka urged tennis authorities on Thursday to take action against Kyrgios for comments that were "not only unacceptable but also beyond belief."

Later in the day, the ATP fined Kyrgios for his "insulting remark." The organization did not announce the amount of the fine but said in a statement that further details would be released after Kyrgios was notified.

A courtside microphone picked up Kyrgios saying that Australian player Thanasi Kokkinakis had slept with a player who is reportedly Wawrinka's girlfriend.

"There is no need for this kind of behavior on or off the court and I hope the governing body of this sport does not stand for this," the fifth-ranked Wawrinka posted on Twitter.

Kyrgios, who advanced when Wawrinka retired in the third set with a lower-back injury, issued an apology Thursday on his Facebook page.

"My comments were made in the heat of the moment and were unacceptable on many levels," Kyrgios wrote. "I take full responsibility for my actions and regret what happened."

He had initially claimed there was an element of provocation.

"He was getting a bit lippy at me so, I don't know, it's just in-the-moment sort of stuff," Kyrgios said in a post-match interview. "I don't really know, I just said it."

At Wimbledon, Kyrgios battled with umpires time and again, was accused of tanking and swore so loudly and abused his rackets so violently that he was fined nearly \$10,000. He lost in the fourth round to Richard Gasquet.

Australian swimming great Dawn Fraser said she was disgusted with Kyrgios' behavior at Wimbledon, telling a breakfast television show that he "should be setting a better example for the younger generation of this great country of ours."

Her later remark — "If they don't like it, go back to where their fathers or their parents came from" — caused an instant storm on social media, with the 77-year-old Fraser later apologizing for the comments. Kyrgios was born in Canberra, the Australian capital. His father was born in Greece and his mother in Malaysia.

Rod Laver, who completed the Grand Slam twice in the 1960s, said Kyrgios' behavior was holding back his development as a player.

"Nick's young and maybe doesn't realize what he is doing sometimes," Laver said. "He's playing with emotion ... that's certainly something that he needs to grow out of and he needs to grow out of that sooner rather than later. There's certainly no excuse for swearing. That's just bad behavior, that's ugly."

Blue Jays stretch winning streak to 11

Associated Press

TORONTO — The surging Toronto Blue Jays won their 11th straight game Thursday, beating the Oakland Athletics 4-2 behind Mark Buehrle's arm and Ryan Goins' bat.

The AL East leaders, who also won 11 in a row in June, became the first team to post a pair of winning streaks of at least 11 since Cleveland in 1954.

Toronto finished off a three-game sweep and hosts the second-place New York Yankees in a three-game set beginning Friday night. David Price starts the opener for the Blue Jays.

Buehrle (13-5) won his fourth straight decision and improved to 8-1 in 14 starts since May 29. He allowed two runs and seven hits in seven-plus innings. Roberto Osuna worked the ninth for his 12th save.

Goins hit a three-run homer during a four-run second against Jesse Chavez (6-12).

Giants 3, Nationals 1: Yunel Escobar hit the game's first pitch for a home run and Ryan Vogelsong settled in to win for the first time in more than seven weeks as host San Francisco beat Washington.

Matt Duffy and Buster Posey hit RBI singles in the bottom of the first against Stephen Strasburg (6-6) for the defending champions to kick off a key four-game series in a rematch of last fall's NL division series won in four games by the Giants.

Vogelsong (8-8) allowed one run on three hits, struck out eight and walked four over five innings for his first victory in five starts since June 24 as San Francisco won for just the second time in seven games.

Both teams sit in second place in their respective divisions looking to make a move over the final eight weeks.

Santiago Casilla finished for his 28th

save.

Reds 10, Dodgers 3: Billy Hamilton had a career-high four hits, including a solo homer, to help visiting Cincinnati defeat former teammate Mat Latos and NL West-leading Los Angeles for just its third victory in nine games.

Hamilton went 4-for-4 with four runs scored and two RBIs for the Reds, who piled up 15 hits while never trailing against a team coming off consecutive shutout victories.

Rookie Keyvius Sampson (2-1) allowed two runs and five hits in five innings. The right-hander struck out three and walked one in winning his second straight.

Latos (4-9) gave up five runs and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Brandon Phillips went 2-for-5, drove in three runs and scored a run on a night when Joey Votto went 1-for-4 and drew his major league-leading 32nd walk for the Reds.

Pirates 10, Cardinals 5: Pedro Alvarez homered in a seven-run first inning and Pittsburgh broke an eight-game losing streak at Busch Stadium, beating St. Louis.

The Pirates moved within six games of the first-place Cardinals in the NL Central with their 12th victory in 18 games.

St. Louis, which won the first two in the series, has won the last seven sets between the teams at Busch Stadium.

Alvarez had three hits as the Pirates held on. The Cardinals closed their seven-run deficit to 7-5 in the seventh.

Francisco Liriano (8-6) pitched six innings.

Lance Lynn (9-7) got just two outs in the shortest of his 119 career starts.

Cubs 9, Brewers 2: Kyle Schwarber hit two homers and drove in four runs, Jon Lester won his fourth straight decision and host Chicago beat Milwaukee for its

seventh victory in a row.

Schwarber, Dexter Fowler and Anthony Rizzo each homered in the fifth inning as Chicago won for the 13th time in 14 games. The Cubs' winning streak is their longest since 2011.

The Cubs, holding the lead for the second NL wild-card spot, completed their first undefeated homestand of at least seven games since 2008.

Lester (8-8) struck out 10 in six innings. He gave up two runs and seven hits.

Angels 7, Royals 6: C.J. Cron and Kole Calhoun each drove in a pair of runs in the ninth inning, rallying Los Angeles past host Kansas City and its stout bullpen for a victory and an end to its seven-game skid against its opponent.

Kansas City had built a 5-1 advantage heading to the eighth, but All-Star reliever Wade Davis coughed up two runs in his first appearance since Aug. 6, when a stiff back put him on the shelf.

Mets 12, Rockies 3: Curtis Granderson and Kelly Johnson each homered and drove in three runs, powering New York to a rout of visiting Colorado that completed a four-game sweep.

Noah Syndergaard (7-6) recovered nicely from a rocky start — he allowed first-inning homers by DJ LeMahieu and Nolan Arenado — for his latest win at Citi Field, where the Mets have won 10 straight against Colorado. It was the seventh consecutive home win and 11th in 13 games overall for the NL East leaders (63-52).

Rangers 6, Twins 5: Mitch Moreland drove in four runs on a career-high four hits, including a two-run homer to help Texas avoid a sweep at Minnesota.

Elvis Andrus hit the go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth inning against Casey Fien (2-5) after Adrian Beltre and Moreland started the frame with singles.