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Family: Militant leader raped US hostage

The Washington Post

The leader of the Islamic State group personally kept an American woman as a hostage and raped her repeatedly, according to U.S. officials and her family.

The family of Kayla Mueller, 26, said Friday that the FBI informed them that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, emir of the self-proclaimed Islamic State group, sexually abused their daughter, a humanitarian worker.

Mueller's parents said the FBI first spoke to the family about the sexual assault in late June and provided more details two weeks ago. The bureau pieced together what happened from interviews with other hostages and the captured wife of a senior Islamic State figure.

The FBI also told the Muellers their daughter had been tortured.

"June was hard for me," said Marsha Mueller, Kayla's mother. "I was really upset with what I heard."

The disclosure that Mueller was raped by Baghdadi adds to the grim evidence that the exploitation and abuse of women is sanctioned at the highest levels of the Islamic State group. The sexual enslavement of teenage girls is seen as religiously endorsed by the group and regarded as a recruiting tool.

News of Baghdadi's abuse of Mueller, who is from Prescott, Ariz., was first reported Friday by *The Independent*, a London newspaper.

"As painful as this is for our family, we just feel like the world needs to know the truth," said Carl Mueller, Kayla's father. The Muellers noted that Friday would have been their daughter's 27th birthday.

The Islamic State group claimed Mueller was killed after a Jordanian fighter plane dropped a bomb on the building where she was being held. The

Islamic State peddles children, women

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — A senior United Nations official says the Islamic State group is circulating a slave price list for captured women and children, and that the group's ongoing appeal and barbarity pose an unprecedented challenge.

The official, Zainab Bangura, said that on an April trip to Iraq, she was given a copy of an Islamic State pamphlet that included the list, showing that captured children as young as 1 year fetch the highest price.

The bidders include the group's own fighters and wealthy Middle Easterners.

Bangura, the U.N. special envoy on sexual violence in conflict who was also in Jordan and Turkey, said she has verified the document came from the Islamic State group and reflects real transactions.

"The girls get peddled like barrels of petrol," she said in a recent interview in New York. "One girl can be sold and bought by five or six different men. Sometimes these fighters sell the girls back to their families for thousands of dollars of ransom."

The militia's leaders take those they wish first, then rich outsiders from the region are permitted to bid thousands of dollars, Bangura said.

Those remaining are then offered to the group's fighters for the listed prices.

Officials and scholars have struggled to understand the Islamic State group's success despite breaking what are widely seen as rules for insurgents — to be sure to mingle with local populations, not take on established militaries or try to hold territory. The group has broken all those rules and draws thousands of foreign fighters despite its well-publicized savagery.

The Islamic State group has made a particular practice of enslaving communities it has conquered that are not Sunni Muslim. It portrays such conquests as God's work, drawing disaffected Muslims from around the world.

Bangura said the international community and the UN have been taken aback by such practices because they do not resemble those of village militias in other countries.

U.S. government confirmed the death but not the cause.

Kayla's mother said she thought her daughter had been treated reasonably until she learned about the conditions of her captivity during a June meeting with FBI officials in Washington.

Mueller was abducted in August 2013 after leaving a hospital in the Syrian city of Aleppo. Three months after she died, the compound where she had been held was targeted in a raid by U.S. special operations forces.

The operation was aimed at capturing Abu Sayyaf, the nom de guerre of a high-ranking Tunisian member of the Islamic State group who was thought to be in charge of oil smuggling and other illicit enterprises.

Sayyaf was killed in what U.S.

officials described as intense, "close-quarters combat." But his wife, identified only as Umm Sayyaf, survived and eventually was brought back to Iraq aboard a bullet-riddled U.S. aircraft. She then was questioned by U.S. interrogators for months, providing information about Mueller as well as the Islamic State group's leadership.

Mueller's mistreatment is the latest evidence of the Islamic State group's systematic abuse of women on a significant scale.

A report released in April by Human Rights Watch accused the Islamic State group of war crimes for its brutal treatment of female Yazidis who were captured in Iraq last August and were forced into sexual slavery.

After surging into the north-

ern Iraqi town of Sinjar last year, Islamic State fighters captured as many as 1,000 Yazidi women, many of whom were given a bleak choice of "marriage" to a fighter or imprisonment and potential death.

A recent issue of the English-language magazine published by the Islamic State group described the taking of sex slaves as religiously justified. The article — titled "Slave girls or prostitutes?" — endorsed the practice, saying sex slaves are "lawful for the one who ends up possessing them even without pronouncement of divorce by their (non-Muslim) husbands."

The article went on to cite accounts that the Prophet Muhammad "took four slave-girls as concubines," a purported religious basis for the practice.

States in competition to attract military retirees

Stateline.org

Maryland Republican Gov. Larry Hogan roared into office this year ready to cut taxes, including exempting all military pensions from the state's income tax. Despite a budget deficit and having to compromise with a Democratic legislature, he succeeded in doubling the exemption to \$10,000 in annual income.

Connecticut, also facing a budget shortfall, increased taxes on its wealthiest corporations but found room in the budget to get rid of its income tax on military retirement pay, joining 14 other states that do not tax the pensions.

Maryland and Connecticut are part of a growing competition among states wanting to attract and keep military retirees, who are some of the best-educated, best-trained and youngest retirees around. Active military members are generally eligible for retirement after 20 years of service. The majority then get civilian jobs, turning their military training

into skills for the private sector. As a result, they pay income taxes, sales taxes on everything they buy, and possibly business taxes, boosting the economies of the states they live in.

Most veterans have lived in many places. Plenty of websites can help them weigh the fiscal pros and cons of where they choose to live. While decisions on where to live might not be based only on tax rates, they're a factor — and states know it.

Nine states have no income tax. Of the 41 that do, 14 of them — Alabama, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — exempt all military pensions from taxation, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Another 20 provide a partial exemption, as does the District of Columbia. Seven states — California, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont and Virginia — provide no exemption.

Mass. race lets runners compete from treadmills

Associated Press

FALMOUTH, Mass. — While thousands of runners descend upon Cape Cod, Mass., for the New Balance Falmouth Road Race this weekend, another 100 are planning to compete from the comfort of their homes or gyms.

Whether they failed to snag coveted bibs or are serving overseas in the military, the displaced runners can grab tablet computers, hop onto treadmills and take off while watching video of the actual course of Sunday's race.

Falmouth is among the first

to let runners compete virtually from the treadmill, an idea that others are considering to widen their reach and to boost their revenue. The goal is to draw runners who can't attend in the flesh. For Falmouth, that includes 3,000 runners who were turned away this year because of size limits, along with others who couldn't travel to Cape Cod, such as military members overseas.

"This gives them an alternative to experience a little bit about what the race is all about," said Dave McGillivray, director of the storied 7-mile race, now in its 43rd running.

Afghan EOD troops 'not the best quality'

By CARLO MUNOZ
Stars and Stripes

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan — Growing pressure from military leaders in Kabul to churn out more bomb-disposal units is forcing Afghan and NATO trainers to put explosives specialists into the field who may not be up to the task, Afghan and coalition officials say.

Improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, have long been the weapon of choice for the Taliban and other insurgent groups fighting in Afghanistan. The bombs have routinely topped the list as the cause for military and civilian casualties throughout the 13-year Afghan War.

"We are always under pressure to do more," said Afghan Army Col. Ahmadullah, head of the military's combat engineering school in Mazar-e-Sharif. The school, home to the army's main training center for countering IEDs, is run by the Afghan military, with the support of NATO troops assigned to the coalition's training command in northern Afghanistan.

That pressure sometimes leads to putting bomb-disposal teams in the field who are "not the best quality," he said. "We do not have any other choice."

The makeshift bombs are the second leading cause of civilian deaths in the country this year, according to an April report by the U.S. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. The report says IEDs killed 309 Afghan civilians in the first quarter of 2015.

"In line with historical trends, direct fire and improvised explosive device attacks make up the majority of security incidents" in Afghanistan, the Pentagon said in a June report.

Throughout the war, American and NATO forces were responsible for the majority of counter-IED operations for Afghan security forces — one of the most hazardous missions undertaken by coalition forces. But with the end of combat op-

erations last year, the roughly 13,000 Western troops still in Afghanistan are now responsible for training and advising security forces. This leaves the country's indigenous forces bearing the brunt of bomb-disposal operations.

There are about 1,000 anti-IED specialists in the Afghan army, split into various explosive ordnance disposal teams across the country, Afghan defense officials said. But the pressure to keep up with the growing demand for counter-IED specialists is starting to take its toll, coalition military advisers say.

After graduating basic training, selected trainees go through a nine-month basic EOD course at the engineering school before becoming qualified to conduct counter-IED operations. The training time is the same as that received by U.S. Army and Navy EOD specialists.

But that is not enough time to churn out enough qualified bomb disposal experts to keep pace with the rapidly changing tactics of the insurgency's bombmakers, one German military adviser said.

As a result, many new counter-IED specialists are forced to hone their skills "on the job," which often ends with deadly consequences, the adviser said. The bomb technicians who live long enough to gain that invaluable battlefield knowledge usually become trainers at the anti-IED school, the adviser said on the condition of anonymity.

Moving those battle-tested anti-IED specialists from the field to the classroom compounds the problem, leaving a glut of neophyte bomb technicians to fight against battle-hardened insurgents, the adviser said.

munoz.carlo@stripes.com

Hackenberg ready to lead

Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — With all Christian Hackenberg's physical gifts, and few college quarterbacks have more, he was still at a loss to fix Penn State's issues last season.

New coaches. New offense. Inexperienced teammates. Hackenberg was not at his best and the players around him did not provide much help. The kid with the arm that screams future franchise quarterback often had Nittany Lions fans screaming something very different.

Hackenberg insists the bumps and bruises to his body and psyche have made him stronger. He enters his third — and possibly final — season at Penn State as the Nittany Lions' trump card. If they can give Hackenberg the support he needs, he could become a hero in Happy Valley and accelerate the post-Sandusky restoration of Penn State football. If not, it could be another season-long lesson in how to deal with adversity for the former five-star recruit.

"Overall, the entire thing that has happened, it's been an awesome experience, though it wasn't ideally what I pictured," Hackenberg told the AP. "It was one of the best experiences for me because not only in football but in life there's going to be changes, there's going to be things that don't go your way or not exactly how you planned it. And you've got to be able to adjust to that and make the best out of it."

See return on page 29

from back page

Growing up Hackenberg meant growing up around sports. His mother, Nikki, was a star college volleyball player. Dad Erick

played college football. Both have coached. Erick's father was a longtime high school football coach in Pennsylvania. When Barry Hackenberg died eight years ago, Erick was touched by how many of his father's former players shared stories about how he shaped their lives.

The coach-player relationship goes far deeper than playbooks and practices in the Hackenberg family.

"I have a profound respect for the profession," Erick said.

At Penn State, Christian found a coach he could connect with in Bill O'Brien. But after Hackenberg's record-setting freshman season, O'Brien left to become the Houston Texans' head coach. James Franklin took over.

Erick Hackenberg said, "We did go through a slight vetting process" when Franklin was hired. The elder Hackenberg said he owed it to his son to make sure Penn State was still the best place for him.

"He loves Penn State so much," Erick Hackenberg said of Christian.

It didn't always look that way last season.

Shackled by NCAA sanctions from the Sandusky scandal, Penn State had to piece together an offensive line and rely on freshman receivers. Blocks were missed, routes were busted. Hackenberg threw more interceptions and fewer touchdowns than he did as a freshman. He was sacked more than any quarterback in the Big Ten. He got booed at home. He could not conceal his disappointment.

"Has he shown signs of frustration with that at times? Yeah, but that's natural," Franklin said. "I don't think it ever got to a

point where it was a problem on our team."

As Penn State lost six of its final eight games, Hackenberg took it upon himself to fix the sputtering offense. He admits he made mistakes.

"The biggest thing had nothing to do with what anyone saw. It was how I acted throughout it," he said. "When that happens I just kind of shut down as a person. There was a point where I didn't talk to my parents for like two weeks."

"My high school coach called me and he's one of the biggest influences in my life and it took me four, five, six phone calls before I gave him a call back."

Worst of all for Hackenberg, he struggled with how best to lead his teammates. Tough love or positive reinforcement?

"I honestly didn't know what to do," he said.

The transfer rumors ramped up again, but Hackenberg said it never crossed his mind.

The end of the season brought hope. Hackenberg threw for 371 yards and four touchdowns in Penn State's 31-30 victory against Boston College in the Pinstripe Bowl. Franklin saw it as validation of the point he was making all season.

"If we give the guy time he will pick them apart," Franklin said.

Despite the terrible numbers Hackenberg had last season, 12 touchdowns, 15 interceptions and a 55.8 percent completion rate, talent evaluators recognize his vast potential.

"I see a guy who could be everything, I see a guy who could be the No. 1 pick in the draft," said Charles Davis, football analyst for Fox and the NFL Network.

For now it's all about Penn State.

Tebow mania rampant in Philadelphia

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — When Tim Tebow completes a pass or takes off running with the football, fans watching the Philadelphia Eagles practice cheer loudly and reporters quickly post about it on social media.

Few, if any, players fighting for a roster spot ever drew more attention.

Tebow is back after sitting out two seasons and competing for a job as the No. 3 quarterback. His passing skills have improved and everyone is eager to see how innovative coach Chip Kelly plans to use him.

"Tim obviously has a lot of skills that other quarterbacks don't have because of his ability to run the football," Kelly said. "But we haven't delved into any of that."

Tebow will get a chance to show his skills Sunday when the Eagles host the Indianapolis Colts. He's been impressive and sometimes erratic during training camp.

With Tebow, it's not always pretty. But he often finds a way to win.

"Tim is a little bit of a gamer," offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur said. "These team settings which are a little bit uncontrolled, he gets out there and makes plays. And we've seen great improvements in him from his ability to execute our offense. Then he's got that skill set where if it's not right, he's willing to take off and run, and when he's running with it, he's like a running back"

Sam Bradford is Philadelphia's starting QB. Mark Sanchez is the backup. Tebow and Matt Barkley are battling for the third spot. Tebow may have an advantage because of the intangibles. His athleticism fits Kelly's up-tempo offense. Perhaps Kelly will use him to run a few zone-read plays. Maybe he'll be a 2-point conversion specialist.

"My focus is whatever coach out here is trying to implement, do it as well as possible," Tebow said. "Then, when the game comes, sometimes it's a little bit different, getting tackled and getting hit."

The knock against Tebow has been his accuracy. His career completion percentage is 47.9. Tebow worked with former major league pitcher Tom House on his mechanics during the past two years. And, it shows.

"I think I've improved," he said. "I'm continuing to try to improve every day. It takes time, but it's been happening, and I just want to continue that process."

Tebow is wildly popular, even in feisty Philadelphia. Fans flocked to see him during two open practices at Philadelphia's home stadium, including a group of friends who drove 14 hours from Kentucky. About 43,000 fans attended practice last Sunday and many cheered Tebow's every move.

"It's something you always have to think about when you come out here because you can take it for granted," Tebow said. "... But you just realize how blessed you are when you come out here. You're able to play a game that you love. That's pretty special."

Georgia won't lose a step with Chubb

Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Mark Richt knows he has it good at Georgia when he can replace the first running back selected in the NFL Draft with another back regarded as perhaps the best in the nation.

Todd Gurley was a rare talent. Nick Chubb may be even better.

Chubb took over as Georgia's lead back when Gurley's 2014 season was shortened by a suspension and an injury. For most programs, having Gurley's season cut in half could have been a devastating loss. Chubb kept the running game going. He was named Southeastern Conference freshman of the year after rushing for 1,547 yards and 14 touchdowns.

"We are blessed, no doubt," Richt said last week. "We've had great backs."

Just like Gurley one year ago, Chubb will enter the season regarded as a Heisman Trophy candidate. He is expected to be the foundation of the Bulldogs' offense, especially as the team continues to search for a new starting quarterback.

Chubb was the first Georgia player since Herschel Walker in 1982 to post eight straight games with at least 100 yards rushing.

Perhaps most surprising about Chubb's freshman season was his endurance. He

seemed to grow stronger during games, no matter how heavy the workload. He stayed strong through the season and finished by running for 266 yards in Georgia's Belk Bowl win over Louisville. It was an SEC bowl record.

"I knew the kid was pretty good," Richt said. "I didn't realize the kind of stamina he had. I thought he would be mentally and physically tough because of the program he came out of. But to carry the ball as many times as he did more by need than by design, he was able to handle it. He was able to stay pretty healthy throughout."

It's no embarrassment for a player to "tap out" during a game, asking for a rest by tapping his helmet. Richt said he never saw Chubb give that sign, even when having back-to-back games of 38 and 30 carries against Missouri and Arkansas, respectively.

Richt hopes Chubb will have more help this season. Keith Marshall, who shared the spotlight with Gurley as a freshman in 2012, may be fully recovered from knee and ankle injuries.

"He looks great," Chubb said. "I don't know how he looked in practice freshman year, but I know sophomore year he didn't look like he was 100 percent. Now he's looking very good."

Sony Michel and Brendan Douglas also

return at tailback.

Chubb said he expects the carries to be spread out more this season. He just shrugged when asked if he is ready for more 30-carry games if necessary.

"I could do it," he said.

It's a typical response for the unassuming Chubb, who doesn't seem to understand why he so quickly became a star, especially on campus.

"I am surprised sometimes," he said of the looks he gets from other students. "Sometimes I see them just glance at me and they know it's me automatically. That's crazy."

While Chubb is a big man on campus, quarterbacks Brice Ramsey, Faton Bauta and Virginia transfer Greyson Lambert are battling for notoriety — and the starting job.

Georgia will hold its first preseason scrimmage on Friday. Richt said Wednesday he'll give the three quarterbacks "as equal of an opportunity as possible" in the scrimmage.

"They'll get shots with the ones and twos, and they may all get shots with the threes as well," Richt said.

The starter may be the quarterback who can best avoid mistakes in the passing game.

The handoffs to Chubb should be the easy part.



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Jones leads PGA Championship

Associated Press

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. — The early wake-up call was well worth it for Matt Jones, who made two birdie putts in pristine conditions at Whistling Straits on Saturday morning to complete a 7-under 65 and build a two-shot lead in the PGA Championship.

It only gave Tiger Woods a chance to get home to Florida this afternoon. He completed a 73 and missed the cut in his third straight major.

Jones holed a 15-foot putt from the fringe on the short par-4 sixth hole, and he holed a 50-foot birdie putt on No. 8. That put another shot between Jones and fellow Australian Jason Day, who made a birdie and bogey in his final four holes and wound up with a 67.

Jones was at 11-under 133.

The second round was delayed when a strong storm packing gusts that approached 50 mph moved in late Friday. In two hours Saturday morning, the final major of the year set the stage for what traditionally is moving day.

Jones has never finished better than a tie for 30th in a major, and this is only the ninth he has played.

"For me, it's amazing to be in the lead at a major," he said. "I've been in the lead

on a tour event, but a major is a different story. But I'm going to have fun with it, and I'm pretty relaxed on the golf course."

He will play the third round with Day, who has been on the cusp of breaking through the last couple of seasons, especially this year.

Day shared the 54-hole lead at the U.S. Open while coping with vertigo symptoms. He narrowly missed a birdie putt on the 18th hole at St. Andrews that would have put him in a playoff at the British Open.

"The way I played at the U.S. Open and going on to the British, it's just all kind of been trending in the right direction," Day said. "But I think it's all in the process that I've had. It's all the work that I put in weeks and weeks and weeks before that that's kind of prepared me for this."

Justin Rose made par on the 18th to complete his round of 67 and was three shots behind.

Masters and U.S. Open champion Jordan Spieth, who completed his 67 on Friday, was five shots behind.

Dustin Johnson, the 18-hole leader, struggled to a 73. He got out of position a few times off the tee on Friday that cost him, and Saturday morning wasn't much better. His drive on the reachable par-5 16th hole bounced right just short of the

lip of a bunker, and he had no chance to get to the green.

He was six shots behind.

Rory McIlroy was nine shots back in his return to golf from an ankle injury.

Woods entered the Wyndham Championship late Friday, though he hedged slightly when asked if he would play. Woods has to finish at least second alone next week to have any chance of making the FedEx Cup playoffs. His 73 on Saturday at Whistling Straits was his seventh consecutive round over par at a major, the longest streak of his career.

"I'm just going to sit back and I'll go through it with my team. We'll talk about it, what I need to do and see if that's the right move or not," Woods said. "We'll decide next couple of days."

Tournament director Mark Brazil braced for that possibility Friday evening when he said he has been in touch with Woods' agent "and understand that Tiger has entered the field to keep his options open."

Otherwise, Woods' season is over, even if he doesn't look at it that way.

"It's not really about the season. It's about the year," Woods said. "I haven't quite come to grips with the whole non-calendar season yet, this whole wrap-around thing. So for me, I still consider it a year."

Additional violations for UNC

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — North Carolina uncovered possible additional NCAA violations in women's basketball and men's soccer while preparing the response to its long-running academic scandal, the school announced Friday.

Its response to the NCAA, due next week, has been delayed. The NCAA will set a date after a review of the new information, school officials said.

During a 20-minute conference call with reporters, athletic director Bubba Cunningham twice referred to the school's ongoing effort to "earn back trust."

"As painful as it is, it's part of the Carolina culture that we want to know what happened, we want to understand it, we want to fix it," he said.

Cunningham said the new information in women's basketball was discovered when officials prepared to release emails from former U.S. Justice Department official Kenneth Wainstein's eight-month investigation. In their review of up to 6 million pages of information, they uncovered more examples of possible improper academic assistance to players.

They also discovered potential recruiting violations over two years in men's soccer that were unrelated to the current NCAA probe.

"I'm very disappointed in the timing. I'm very disappointed in the impact it's going to have on the institution, on the program and how it delays where we were," Cunningham said. "But I'm proud of the fact that people owned up to the mistakes that happened."

He said those possible violations came to light when the school administered a compliance test to its men's soccer coaches and one of them got a question wrong.

The AD didn't identify the coach and declined to disclose additional details because the investigation is ongoing.

"We came to understand the coaches misunderstood the rules, and we immediately turned that in," Cunningham said.

Under NCAA procedures, if those are determined to be Level I or II violations, the notice of allegations must be amended to include them. The school would then have 90 days from the day it receives the amended notice to respond, Cunningham said.

It is unclear exactly when the new possible violations were discovered. The school says they were reported to the NCAA's committee on infractions on Aug. 10.

The NCAA's notice of allegations included five charges, outlining a lack of institutional control and four other potential Level I violations, which are described as a "severe breach of conduct."

The NCAA regarded issues surrounding academic irregularities within the formerly named African and Afro-American Studies (AFAM) department as potential improper benefits by saying athletes received "special arrangements," such as access to courses and other assistance generally unavailable to non-athletes.

The lack of institutional control focused on the AFAM department and the academic support program for athletes, including the conduct of a women's basketball adviser for providing too much help on assignments. Cunningham described the new information in women's basketball as "more of the same of what we've seen in the past," referring to what was found by Wainstein.

Yankees end Blue Jays' streak at 11

Associated Press

TORONTO — Carlos Beltran hit a huge home run in the eighth inning, Andrew Miller escaped a big jam in the ninth and the New York Yankees stopped Toronto's 11-game winning streak, beating the Blue Jays 4-3 on Friday night.

Miller struck out Ben Revere and Troy Tulowitzki with runners on second and third to close out the victory. The win moved the Yankees a half-game ahead of Toronto and back into first place in the AL East.

David Price took a 3-0 lead into the eighth before New York rallied. He left after Chase Headley's RBI double and Beltran then greeted reliever Aaron Sanchez (6-5) with a pinch-hit, three-run homer.

Ivan Nova (5-4) wound up with the win. Dellin Betances pitched the eighth and Miller finished for his 26th save, fanning Tulowitzki to end a 12-pitch sequence.

Padres 9, Rockies 5: Matt Kemp hit a triple in the ninth for the first cycle in franchise history and visiting San Diego went on to beat Colorado.

Kemp also had a two-run homer in the first, single in the third and an RBI double in the seventh. His triple in the ninth went off the fence in center and he easily scampered into third.

Dodgers 5, Reds 3: Adrian Gonzalez hit a three-run homer to highlight a four-run fifth inning and host Los Angeles beat Cincinnati.

John Lamb (1-0) gave up four consecutive two-out hits, capped by Gonzalez's 23rd homer of the season into the lower right-field seats that put the Dodgers ahead 5-1.

Pirates 3, Mets 2 (10): Gregory Polanco singled home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning and visiting Pittsburgh ended New York's seven-game home winning streak.

The teams went into extra innings at 1-all. Polanco singled off Bobby Parnell (1-2) and Aramis Ramirez hit a sacrifice fly against Carlos Torres.

Cardinals 3, Marlins 1: Jaime Garcia

(5-4) pitched shutout ball into the ninth inning and Matt Carpenter homered, leading host St. Louis over Miami.

Garcia came within two outs of throwing the first complete game of the season for the NL Central leaders. He gave up six singles, walked one and struck out six.

Cubs 6, White Sox 5: Chris Coghlan hit two home runs, Anthony Rizzo also went deep, and Chicago's National League team made it eight straight wins and 14 in 15 games.

The Cubs, coming off a 7-0 homestand, extended their longest win streak since a nine-game run during the 2008 NL Central championship season.

Royals 4, Angels 1: Eric Hosmer hit a go-ahead two-run homer, Danny Duffy (6-5) settled down after a wild start and host Kansas City rallied for a victory over Los Angeles.

Duffy allowed five hits without a walk while matching a franchise record with three hit batters in just six innings. But the left-hander only allowed one run, wiggling out of a few jams by leaving six Angels on base — three in scoring position.

Giants 8, Nationals 5: Matt Duffy homered among his three hits and drove in three runs, Hunter Pence also had a homer and host San Francisco beat Washington.

Gregor Blanco added three hits and drove in two runs for the Giants, who have won three of four since being swept in a four-game series by the Cubs in Chicago.

Astros 5, Tigers 1: Dallas Keuchel (14-6) struck out eight in seven solid innings and Jed Lowrie powered the offense with a two-RBI double to lead host Houston to a win over Detroit.

The Astros trailed entering the fifth inning before scoring three runs, capped by the double by Lowrie to take a 3-1 lead.

Rangers 5, Rays 3: Josh Hamilton homered and delivered the tiebreaking sacrifice fly for host Texas in a victory that snapped Tampa Bay's four-game winning streak.

Hamilton's sixth homer of the season was a 437-foot blast to right-center field

in the second inning for a 2-1 lead. His sacrifice to deep center in the eighth broke a 3-3 tie.

Orioles 8, Athletics 6 (13): Manny Machado hit a two-run homer in the 13th inning, and host Baltimore also got home runs from Adam Jones and Chris Davis in a victory over Oakland.

Caleb Joseph doubled with one out in the 13th against Drew Pomeranz (4-5), who left after being visited on the mound by the team trainer. Aaron Brooks entered, and Machado sent the right-hander's second pitch into the seats in left field.

Braves 3, Diamondbacks 2: Julio Teheran (8-6) pitched six strong innings, Cameron Maybin drove in two runs and host Atlanta beat Arizona.

Atlanta got a solid outing from Teheran after their starters had gone 2-8 with a 6.02 ERA in the last 15 games.

Indians 6, Twins 1: Corey Kluber (8-12) flirted with a no-hitter for the second consecutive outing against Minnesota before finishing with a one-hitter in his second straight complete game as visiting Cleveland cruised to a win.

Kluber gave up just a solo home run to Joe Mauer and struck out seven in his fourth complete game of the season.

Brewers 3, Phillies 1: Wily Peralta (3-7) pitched seven scoreless innings and Jean Segura dashed home on a rare two-base sacrifice fly to lift host Milwaukee to a victory over Philadelphia.

Segura's scramble came after center fielder Odubel Herrera and right fielder Domonic Brown collided in the third inning. According to STATS, it was the first time a player had scored from second this season on a sacrifice fly.

Red Sox 15, Mariners 1: Travis Shaw hit two home runs and Rusney Castillo hit one to carry Boston to a route of Seattle just hours after manager John Farrell announced he's taking a medical leave to treat lymphoma.

Fighting back tears, the 53-year-old Farrell said that he had a "highly curable" form of cancer and has taken leave for the rest of the season.