

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Monday, August 24, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Marine denies killing transgender Filipina

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A U.S. Marine charged with murder testified in court Monday that he choked a Filipina unconscious during a fight that started in a Philippine motel when he discovered that she was a transgender woman but stressed that he didn't kill her, his lawyer said.

Lawyer Rowena Flores said her client, Pfc. Joseph Scott Pemberton, told the court in Olongapo City, northwest of Manila, that Jennifer Laude was unconscious but breathing when he left her in the shower of a motel, where they checked in to have sex after meeting in a bar in October. Pemberton panicked after seeing her unconscious and left.

Defense lawyers would present evidence that raises the possibility that someone else killed Laude, according to Flores.

Flores quoted Pemberton as telling the court that he felt he'd

been raped.

Flores said defense lawyers would prove Laude was a sex worker who deceived Pemberton, a man she said went to church regularly and had never been involved in a fight until he scuffled with Laude, whose former name was Jeffrey.

Philippine prosecutors charged Pemberton with murder in December, saying there was "probable cause" that he killed Laude in an attack that "was aggravated by treachery, abuse of superior strength and cruelty." Laude apparently had been strangled and drowned in a toilet bowl.

The case reignited a debate over custody of American military personnel accused of crimes. Washington agreed to move him last year from a U.S. warship to the Philippine military's main camp in metropolitan Manila, where he remained under U.S. custody with an outer ring of Filipino guards.

Activists demanded again

on Monday that Pemberton be turned over to Philippine custody, saying the current arrangement "is a continuing affront to our national sovereignty."

Renato Reyes, of the left-wing activist group Bayan Muna, said Pemberton's admission should pave the way for his conviction, adding the "Laude family deserves nothing less than full and complete justice."

In his testimony, Pemberton recounted how he and fellow Marines descended on Olongapo city, a former liberty town, on Oct. 11 after taking part in joint military exercises with Filipino forces. He narrated how he met two women in a bar who went with him to the motel. One woman left, leaving Pemberton with Laude, Flores said.

While in bed, Pemberton discovered that Laude was a transgender woman and pushed her away, causing her to fall off the bed.

Laude allegedly slapped him hard and was about to hit him

again, prompting Pemberton to punch Laude, Flores said.

Pemberton choked Laude "only to subdue" her, Flores said, adding that when Laude lost consciousness, he dragged her to the shower to try to revive her. When he saw that she was still breathing, he left, fearing that her companions might return and gang up on him, Flores said.

Marine Lance Cpl. Jairn Michael Rose, who went out with Pemberton that night, acknowledged that the suspect later confided on their ship that he attacked the woman by choking her after discovering that she was transgender when she undressed, according to the prosecutors.

"I think I killed a he/she," Pemberton was quoted as having told Rose.

The defense attorney said Pemberton has denied he told Rose that he killed her.

## At talks, Koreas agree on deal to defuse tensions

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea has agreed to halt propaganda broadcasts at noon Tuesday after North Korea expressed regret over a recent land mine blast that maimed two South Korean troops, the countries announced after three days of intense talks aimed at pulling the rivals back from the brink of war.

During the talks at the border village of Panmunjom, North Korea also agreed to lift a "quasi-state of war" that it had declared last week, chief South Korean negotiator and presidential security adviser Kim Kwan-jin told a televised briefing.

Kim said the Koreas have also agreed to resume reunions of families separated by war in September. He said the countries will hold talks to improve their ties soon in either Seoul or Pyongyang.

The North's Korean Central News Agency also released the same details.

The announcement came after the second round of negotiations the rivals began Saturday after events at their heavily guarded border pushed them toward a possible military confrontation.

Both sides had wanted a face-saving way to avoid an escalation that could lead to bloodshed, especially the North, which is outmatched

militarily by Seoul and its ally, the United States.

The announcement came after South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Monday said that without a clear North Korean apology for the mine attack, the anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts that infuriate the North would continue. Kim said the loudspeaker campaign, which began after the blast, would stop at noon Tuesday unless an "abnormal" event happens.

Pyongyang had denied involvement in the land mine explosions and rejected Seoul's report that Pyongyang launched an artillery barrage last week. It was not clear whether North Korea's expression of regret

meant it was now admitting its involvement.

Even as the two countries held talks over the weekend, South Korea's military said North Korea continued to prepare for a fight, moving unusual numbers of troops and submarines to the border.

These were the highest-level talks between the Koreas in a year. Just the fact that senior officials from countries that have spent recent days vowing to destroy each other were sitting together at a table in Panmunjom, the border enclave where the 1953 armistice ending fighting in the Korean War was agreed to, was something of a victory.

# France honors men who thwarted gunman

Associated Press

PARIS — The president of France pinned his country's highest award, the Legion d'Honneur, on three Americans and a Briton on Monday, saying they "gave a lesson in courage" by subduing a heavily armed attacker on a high-speed train carrying 500 passengers to Paris.

President Francois Hollande said that while two of the Americans who tackled the gunman were soldiers, "on Friday, you

were simply passengers. You behaved as soldiers but also as responsible men."

Hollande then pinned the medals on U.S. Airman Spencer Stone, National Guardsman Alek Skarlatos and their longtime friend Anthony Sadler. All took part in subduing the gunman as he moved through the Amsterdam-to-Paris train with an assault rifle strapped to his bare chest. British businessman Chris Norman, who jumped into the fray, also received the medal.

The Americans looked earnest and

slightly overwhelmed — and a little underdressed — for the unanticipated event in the ornate Elysee Palace. Their short-sleeved polo shirts and khakis contrasted with the gilded and velvet-curtained ceremonial hall as Hollande read out their names one by one — and kissed them on each cheek, in French style.

The men showed "that faced with terror, we have the power to resist. You also gave a lesson in courage, in will, and thus in hope," Hollande said.

## Dow takes plunge in early going

Associated Press

U.S. investors got a serious jolt Monday when the Dow Jones industrial average tumbled 1,000 points minutes after the market opened in a wave of selling that circled the globe after a historic plunge in Chinese stocks.

Though the declines eased significantly as the morning went on, it sent a shiver of fear through Americans with retirement accounts or saving to buy homes that the bull market is over.

Treasurys surged as investors bought less risky assets.

The Dow fell 1,089 points within the first four minutes of trading as traders dumped shares. But the fire sale was short-lived. A wave of buying cut the Dow's losses by half just five minutes later.

Heightened concern about a slowdown in China had already shaken markets around the world on Friday, sending the U.S. stock market sharply lower. A big sell-off in Chinese stocks on Monday caused the rout to continue.

China's main index sank 8.5 percent amid fears over the health of the world's second-largest economy.

## Blast rocks US depot near Tokyo

BY ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — A blast at a U.S. Army depot outside Tokyo sparked a fire that burned for hours early Monday and set off secondary explosions. Officials said there were no apparent injuries.

The explosion at Sagami Depot in Kanagawa Prefecture, 34 miles from downtown Tokyo, occurred inside a one-story, concrete warehouse about 12:45 a.m., Army spokesman Lt. Col. Kevin Toner said.

YouTube videos posted by Japanese residents show that the explosion shot up fireballs and some fireworks-like blasts. They were visible from miles away.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately known, Toner said, adding that the building housed tanks of compressed air, nitrogen, oxygen

and Freon.

"There are no indications of injuries," Toner said in an email message. "The building that exploded was not designated as a hazardous material storage facility."

Sagami Depot does not normally store ammunition or radiological materials, Toner said.

Paint fumes and the smell of charred wood lingered at the building and surrounding area at midday. Debris was mostly contained within 50 yards of the building, although some had been recovered as far as about 300 yards away, according to investigators at the scene.

Inside the building, punctured gas canisters laid strewn around the floor, while plywood boxes on one side appeared blackened by smoke but otherwise intact. A partially melted phone found in the debris still worked despite the damage.

Firefighters from a base station a block away arrived soon after the explosion, base officials said.

Sagamihara city's fire department dispatched 14 trucks and 51 firefighters to the blaze, which smoldered for more than six hours until finally dying out at 7:09 a.m., department spokesman Satomi Kurihara said.

The firefighters did not attempt to extinguish the fire with water, based on the judgment of U.S. military officials at the scene who were uncertain about what materials the building might have contained, Kurihara said.

The fire posed no threat to nearby structures, Kurihara said.

Aerial footage on Japan's NHK television showed a broad warehouse with a large section missing from the roof.

## Militants hit Iraq military outpost, kill 8

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A series of Islamic State group suicide car bombings targeting a military outpost in Anbar province killed eight soldiers and wounded six Monday, military and security officials said, the latest extremist attacks to hit beleaguered Iraqi forces in the region.

The assault west of Anbar's provincial capital, Ramadi, involved three vehicles, including two fuel trucks, officials said. The outpost housed a joint contingent of army soldiers, policemen and allied Sunni militiamen, they said.

Monday's violence is the latest deadly Islamic State attack in Anbar, where government

forces backed by U.S.-led airstrikes have been battling the extremist group for months. Since Friday, at least 75 soldiers and allied Sunni militiamen have been killed.

In scattered violence Monday in Baghdad, three separate roadside bombings killed seven people and wounded 24, police and hospital officials said.

# OSU first unanimous preseason No. 1

Associated Press

Ohio State is the first unanimous preseason No. 1 in the Associated Press college football poll.

The defending national champion Buckeyes received all 61 first-place votes from the media panel in the rankings released Sunday.

TCU is No. 2, followed by Alabama, Baylor and Michigan State.

The Buckeyes won the first College Football Playoff championship last season and are trying to become the 12th team to win consecutive AP titles since the poll began in 1936.

Preseason rankings date back to 1950. Since then no team had received more than 97 percent of the first-place votes in a preseason poll.

In 2013, Alabama, which had won two straight championships, received 58 of 60 first-place votes and defending champion Florida did the same in 2009. Neither finished the season No. 1.

The rest of this year's preseason top 10 is Auburn, Oregon, Southern California, Georgia and Florida State.

2 — The last two times the Buckeyes opened the season at No. 1 (1998 and 2006), they finished No. 2.

6 — Pac 12 has six teams ranked in the preseason poll for the second straight year.

8 — It is the eighth time Ohio State is ranked No. 1 in preseason. Only Oklahoma has been rated the top preseason team more times, with 10.

8 — SEC has eight teams ranked for the third time, the most by any conference.

SEC set the record in 2011 and had eight teams ranked last year.

10 — Ten times the preseason No. 1 has gone on to win the national title. Only twice, Florida State in 1999 and Southern California in 2004, has the top-ranked team in the preseason poll gone wire-to-wire as No. 1.

27 — Ohio State has appeared in the preseason poll for 27 consecutive years, the longest current streak and the fourth longest all-time. Oklahoma has the second longest current streak at 16 years.

**Close again:** You might have heard that TCU and Baylor shared the Big 12 championship last year. It was sort of a big deal. Well, the second-ranked Horned Frogs and No. 4 Bears are close again and both have their best preseason rankings.

TCU's previous best preseason ranking

was No. 6 in 2010.

Baylor's previous best was No. 7 in 1957.

**Rolling:** No. 3 Alabama is preseason top-five for the seventh consecutive season. It is the third longest streak of preseason top-five rankings in the history of the poll. Florida State did it 11 straight times from 1990-2000 and Oklahoma had eight straight preseason top-five rankings from 1974-81.

**Sparty, yes!** No. 5 Michigan State has its best preseason ranking since 1967 when it started No. 3.

**Raising Arizona:** No. 22 Arizona is ranked in the preseason for the first time since 1999. The Wildcats and rival Arizona State, ranked 15th, are both preseason ranked for just the fifth time (1974, '89, '98 and '99).

## Packers fear Nelson tore ACL in preseason game

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Jordy Nelson caught the ball, spun and prepared to dart downfield.

Two steps later, Green Bay's Pro Bowl wide receiver was on the turf, his left knee injured and his season very much in doubt. While Nelson was able to gingerly walk to the sideline early in the first quarter of Sunday's 24-19 exhibition loss to Pittsburgh, it might be the last sign of Nelson in his familiar No. 87 jersey this year.

While Packers coach Mike McCarthy stressed the defending NFC North champions "will look for good news" when Nelson is re-evaluated in Green Bay on Monday, quarterback Aaron Rodgers expressed equal parts frustration and mystification.

"It's difficult to lose a guy like that in a meaningless game," Rodgers said.

The play that may change the course of Green Bay's season started innocently enough. The Packers were driving crisply down the field on their opening possession when Rodgers hit Nelson on a little hitch route. Nelson leapt to make the catch and planted his left leg while turning to face Pittsburgh cornerback Antwon Blake only to unexpectedly drop to his knees, a potentially devastating blow for the Packers and dynamic playmaker who set career highs in receptions (98) and yards receiving (1,519) in 2014.

"I'm not going to get into the 'What if' game," Rodgers said. "I don't know what his status will be. I'm just hoping for the best."

So are the Steelers after Pro Bowl center Maurkice Pouncey exited in the first quarter with a left ankle injury coach Mike Tomlin said will likely require surgery. Pouncey, who

missed all of 2013 after tearing multiple ligaments in his right knee in the opener against Tennessee, is out indefinitely.

**Ready to go:** While Nelson and Pouncey are sidelined, Rodgers and Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger appear ready to go.

Rodgers completed four of five passes for 57 yards during two series of work, with one drive ending with a touchdown run by Eddie Lacy and the other with Rodgers getting sacked by James Harrison for a safety.

Roethlisberger finished 11-for-14 for 100 yards and a score, though it took some time to get going.

The Steelers struggled in the first quarter — a 58-yard touchdown pass from Roethlisberger to Antonio Brown was wiped out by an offensive pass interference penalty — but regrouped in the second.

Working out of the hurry up offense, Roethlisberger led the Steelers 51 yards in seven plays, the last one a little 5-yard flip to a wide open Markus Wheaton that put the Steelers up 9-8 before the reserves took over.

**Quarterbacks:** Green Bay second-string quarterback Scott Tolzien completed 11 of 19 passes for 102 yards and a 21-yard score to Richard Rodgers late in the first half.

Bruce Gradkowski's preseason debut was brief. The primary backup behind Roethlisberger spent the first three weeks of training camp on the physically unable to perform list with a sore arm. He connected on 3 of 5 passes for 12 yards before leaving with a left finger injury.

Third-stringer Landry Jones, trying to convince the Steelers to keep him around, tossed a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns to complete a rally from a 10-point deficit.

## NFL OK with Suggs' hit, but Eagles aren't

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The NFL says Terrell Suggs' hit on Sam Bradford's knees Saturday night wasn't illegal and shouldn't have been a penalty.

Chip Kelly disagrees.

Suggs was called for roughing the passer after a low hit on Bradford in the first quarter of Philadelphia's 40-17 win over Baltimore. He argued the quarterback is fair game on zone-read plays. Dean Blandino, the league's vice president of officiating, agreed.

"Because the quarterback has an option, he's considered a runner until he either clearly doesn't have the football or he re-establishes himself as a passer," Blandino said Monday.

"So it's not a foul by rule. It's something that we'll make sure that we cover with our game officials because the defensive end coming off the edge, he doesn't know if the quarterback is going to keep it, he doesn't know if he's going to take off and run or drop back and so we treat the quarterback in that instance as a runner until he clearly re-establishes as a passer or he clearly doesn't have the football. The referee felt it was late so we'll clarify that and make sure everyone is on the same page."

But Kelly said the play was a simple handoff out of a shotgun formation. Replays show Bradford didn't attempt to carry out a fake.

"That's not a zone-read play. On a zone-read play, a quarterback can get hit," Kelly said. "Not every shotgun run is a zone-read play. We don't run as much zone-read as everybody thinks we do. Are they going to hit every quarterback in the league when they handoff in a shotgun?"

"That's up to the league. Sam wasn't going anywhere. If you watched him, he was handing the ball off. If our quarterback hands the ball off and isn't going anywhere, you shouldn't be able to hit him. That's the way the rule has been explained to us."

Kelly said he hadn't spoken to Blandino.

Bradford played his first game since his second ACL surgery in 11 months. He was upset with the hit. Left tackle Jason Peters called it "dirty" and suggested it was premeditated.

"When you run the read-option, you have to know the rules," Suggs said. "If you want to run the read-option with your starting quarterback that's had two knee surgeries, that's on you. That's not my responsibility to update you on the rule. I could've hit him harder on that. I didn't. I eased up."

In other NFL news:

■ The NFL has suspended defensive lineman Jeremiah Ratliff of the Chicago Bears without pay for the first three games of the season for violating its substance-abuse policy.

The league announced the decision Monday. Ratliff will miss games against the Packers, Cardinals and Seahawks before he is eligible to return to the active roster Sept. 28.

### ATP suspends, fines Kyrgios

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Nick Kyrgios was suspended for 28 days from any ATP-sanctioned event and fined an additional \$25,000 on Monday for his comments this month about Stan Wawrinka at the Rogers Cup in Montreal.

The penalties, however, are withheld provided he meets certain conditions over the next six months, ending Feb. 24, 2016. Kyrgios remains eligible for the U.S. Open, which starts next week.

The governing body of men's tennis completed its review of Kyrgios' conduct and cited him for "aggravated behavior." On Aug. 12, a courtside microphone picked up Kyrgios saying that fellow Australian player Thanasi Kokkinakis had slept with a player who reportedly is now Wawrinka's girlfriend.

The suspension and fine will be dropped provided Kyrgios does not draw any fines for verbal or physical abuse at any ATP tournament, and does not accumulate fines totaling more than \$5,000 for any other offenses at ATP sanctioned tournaments.



## Ship's Store official new car program

Exclusive Navy at-sea offers:

www.navyauto.com or nasinfo@navyauto.com

# Indy driver in coma after crash

Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — Justin Wilson always understood the danger that lurked behind the wheel for an IndyCar driver.

"When it goes wrong," Wilson said following his 2012 return from race injuries, "it can get messy."

It went terribly wrong for Wilson on Sunday.

The British driver was in a coma in critical condition after sustaining a head injury when he was hit by a large piece of debris that broke off another car in the crash-filled race at Pocono Raceway. IndyCar released the information on Wilson's condition Sunday night and said he was undergoing evaluation at Lehigh Valley Health Network Cedar Crest Hospital in Allentown.

The debris shot off Sage Karam's car when Karam spun into the wall late in the race. Wilson's car veered left and directly into an interior wall. He was quickly swarmed by the safety crew and taken away by helicopter.

"It's just a tough one right now," said Michael Andretti, car owner for Wilson and race winner Ryan Hunter-Reay. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Justin right now. We're going to see. Hopefully, he's OK."

Wilson's wife, Julia, was transported to Pennsylvania from their home in Colorado by IndyCar, while his younger brother, Stefan, was lent Tony Stewart's plane to make the trip from Indianapolis. Stewart, the three-time NASCAR champion and former IndyCar champion, is an Indiana native.

"Praying for my bro right now," Stefan Wilson tweeted.

IndyCar had a subdued Victory Lane and Hunter-Reay said his thoughts were

only with Wilson, a popular driver in the paddock.

The accident was a grim reminder how drivers in open-wheel racing put their lives on the line.

Indianapolis 500 winner Dan Wheldon died in 2011 after his car became ensnared in a fiery 15-car pileup, flew over another vehicle and landed in a catch fence at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Wheldon's head hit a post in the fence, and he died instantly. He was the last fatality in a form of racing that saw drivers Scott Brayton (1996), Tony Renna (2003) and Paul Dana (2006), among others, die after wrecks.

On Sunday, drivers fanned out eight-wide across the track off a restart late in the race — a spectacle both thrilling and dangerous.

"Four wide, five wide, then Takuma (Sato) got inside of me," Indy 500 champion Juan Pablo Montoya said. "My spotter didn't even know what to say."

The race resumed after the Karam and Wilson accident with seven laps remaining and Hunter-Reay picked his way through the field. He passed Montoya, Takuma Sato and then used a bold inside pass of leader Gabby Chaves to take the lead with five laps to go.

Chaves then appeared to have an engine failure that brought out the caution with three to go. The race ended under yellow. Josef Newgarden was second and IndyCar points leader Montoya finished third.

Hunter-Reay was one of many discussing safety measures — and not his win — for the open-cockpit series.

"Maybe in the future we can work toward something that resembles a canopy," Hunter-Reay said. "Something that can give us a little bit of protection and still keep the tradition of the sport. Just

to be innocent bystander like that and get hit in the head with a nose cone is a scary thought."

The 37-year-old Wilson, a native of Sheffield, England, entered this season without a full-time ride. He latched on with Andretti and was in the sixth of seven scheduled races with the team. The deal was put together right before the season-opening race in March and initially started as just a two-race agreement at Indianapolis.

Sponsorship was found for another five races as the season progressed, and Wilson finished a season-best second earlier this month at Mid-Ohio.

Wilson broke a bone in his back at Mid-Ohio in 2011. He missed the final six races of the season and wore a back brace for more than two months as he was restricted from any physical activity. The injury kept him out of the season finale at Las Vegas and the race where Wheldon died.

He broke his pelvis and suffered a bruised lung in the 2013 season finale at Fontana.

Wilson said in 2012 his injuries and Wheldon's death did nothing to change his perspective or make him question his career choice.

"I've had the conversation with Julia — this is what we do, and you try to make the best plans if that ever happens," Wilson told The Associated Press upon his return in 2012. "You've got to know the risks and work out if those risks are acceptable. To me, it's acceptable. But I'm not going to stop trying to improve it."

"All the drivers, this IndyCar, we're always trying to make it safer, but at the end of the day, it's a race car. We're racing hard, we're racing IndyCars and it's fast."

# Love is third-oldest winner in PGA history

Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — During their practice round together before the Wyndham Championship, Tiger Woods pumped local favorite Davis Love III for tips on how to play the course.

Looks like Love saved a few secrets for himself.

Love became the third-oldest winner in PGA Tour history with his victory Sunday, while Woods' season came to an abrupt end.

The 51-year-old Love closed with a 6-under 64 for a one-stroke victory over Jason Gore.

"Tiger and I were talking on the putting green — one of us needed to get going and win this thing," Love said.

He did.

Woods had trouble getting his final round started.

The dominant storyline all week at Sedgefield Country Club was the mere presence of Woods, who needed a victory to earn a spot in the FedEx Cup playoffs opener next week.

He was poised to challenge Sunday, starting just two strokes off the lead. But he only had one birdie during his first 10 holes, dropping way off the pace with a triple bogey on the par-4 11th. Woods shot a 70, finished four strokes back and ended at No. 178 in the standings, well outside the top 125.

"I gave myself a chance, and I had all the opportunity in the world today to do it," Woods said. "I didn't get it done."

Now comes a break before his next tournament, the Frys.com Open in October in northern California. It's the first event of the tour's 2015-16 season.

"This is my offseason right now," he said.

Love — who started at No. 186 — played himself into The Barclays by earning 500 FedEx Cup points and \$972,000 in prize money.

At 51 years, 4 months, 10 days, Love trails only Sam Snead and Art Wall on the tour's age list. Snead won the last of his eight Greensboro titles in 1965 at Sedgefield at 52 years, 10 months, 8 days, and Wall took the 1975 Greater Milwaukee Open at 51 years, 7 months, 10 days.

**LPGA Tour:** At Coquitlam, British Columbia, Lydia Ko won the Canadian Pacific Women's Open for the third time and first as a professional, beating Stacy Lewis with a par on the first hole of a playoff.

The 18-year-old Ko finished with an even-par 72 to match Lewis at 12-under 276 at Vancouver Golf Club. Lewis, also a playoff loser this year in the ANA Inspiration, had a 67.

So Yeon Ryu, the winner last year at London Hunt in Ontario, tied for third with fellow South Korean player Sei Young Kim at 11 under. Ryu had a 64, and Kim shot 68.

**Champions Tour:** At Snoqualmie, Wash., Billy Andrade won the Boeing Classic, overcoming trouble early in the final round for a one-stroke victory.

Andrade closed with a 1-over 73 to finish at 9-under 207. Bernard Langer was second after a 71. Fred Couples (69), Mark O'Meara (68), Guy Boros (68) and Fran Quinn (69) tied for third at 7 under.

# Blue Jays power past Angels for sweep

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Edwin Encarnacion went 4-for-4 with a homer and four RBIs, and the Toronto Blue Jays completed a thunderous three-game sweep of the Los Angeles Angels on Sunday with a 12-5 victory that vaulted them back into first place in the AL East.

The Jays' 16th victory in 19 games, coupled with the Yankees' 4-3 loss to Cleveland, put Toronto atop the division for the first time since Aug. 13.

The Blue Jays, who lead the majors by far with 670 runs, set a franchise record for a three-game series with 36. They totaled 48 hits against a vanquished Angels pitching staff that has surrendered 44 runs, 60 hits and 15 walks over their last four games following Jered Weaver's 1-0 victory over the White Sox on Wednesday.

R.A. Dickey (8-10) won his fifth straight decision over seven starts, despite allowing five runs and 11 hits in six innings. The knuckleballing right-hander overcame a 39-pitch first inning in which he gave up all five runs.

Garrett Richards (12-10) was charged with nine runs and 10 hits in five-plus innings.

Encarnacion hit an RBI single that extended his career-best hitting streak to 19 games. Ben Revere had a run-scoring infield hit, and Kevin Pillar scored the go-ahead run when shortstop Erick Aybar misplayed Ryan Goins' grounder toward the middle for the Angels' fifth error of the series.

**Indians 4, Yankees 3:** Francisco Lindor homered off Dellin Betances in the eighth,

Trevor Bauer threw 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> strong innings and CC Sabathia exited with an injury as Cleveland beat host New York on Andy Pettitte Day in the Bronx.

**Cardinals 10, Padres 3:** Michael Wacha pitched six solid innings and Stephen Piscotty homered twice and drove in five runs to help visiting St. Louis avoid a three-game sweep.

**Mariners 8, White Sox 6:** Robinson Cano had a two-run homer and Nelson Cruz doubled in two runs to help host Seattle avoid a three-game sweep.

**Athletics 8, Rays 2:** Eric Sogard hit a tiebreaking two-run single as part of a seven-run seventh inning as host Oakland withstood another blown late lead by the bullpen to beat Tampa Bay.

**Mets 5, Rockies 1:** Logan Verrett stepped into Matt Harvey's spot and earned his first major league win in his first start, pitching eight impressive innings to lead visiting New York.

**Twins 4, Orioles 3 (12):** Trevor Plouffe hit a tying single with two outs in the ninth inning as visiting Minnesota took advantage of two errors in the 12th to complete a four-game sweep.

**Cubs 9, Braves 3:** Kris Bryant homered twice and Kyle Schwarber connected an inning after hitting a hard foul ball that sent a fan to the hospital as host Chicago handed Atlanta its seventh straight loss.

The game was briefly delayed in the first inning after Schwarber's foul liner hit a female fan sitting just past the camera well on the first base side. The woman was carried off on a stretcher and taken to a hospital. The Cubs said the woman was conscious.

**Astros 3, Dodgers 2 (10):** Jason Castro's solo homer in the 10th inning helped host Houston complete a three-game sweep.

There was one out in the 10th when Castro connected off Chris Hatcher (1-5), launching a 96 mph fastball into the first row of the seats in left field. The play was reviewed and confirmed.

**Royals 8, Red Sox 6:** Mike Moustakas' two-run double capped a four-run ninth inning that rallied AL Central-leading Kansas City past host Boston.

**Nationals 9, Brewers 5:** Anthony Rendon and Wilson Ramos homered, and Danny Espinosa hit a three-run double to lead host Washington over Milwaukee.

**Rangers 4, Tigers 2:** Cole Hamels threw six strong innings, and Mike Napoli and Chris Gimenez homered to help visiting Texas hold onto the second AL wild-card spot.

**Diamondbacks 4, Reds 0:** Chris Anderson gave up five hits in 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, and Wellington Castillo and David Peralta homered to help Arizona hand host Cincinnati its season high-tying ninth straight loss.

**Phillies 2, Marlins 0:** Rookie Aaron Nola pitched a career-high eight innings and allowed only one runner to advance beyond first base, helping Philadelphia beat host Miami and tighten the race for next year's top draft pick.

**Pirates 5, Giants 2:** Andrew McCutchen hit his 19th homer and Pedro Alvarez made up for some shaky defense by adding his 20th of the season as host Pittsburgh held off San Francisco.