

STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, July 19, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

National Guardsmen ordered to be armed

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Governors in several states ordered National Guardsmen to be armed in the wake of an attack on two military facilities in Tennessee, and Florida Gov. Rick Scott went a step further Saturday by immediately relocating recruiters to armories.

In an executive order, the Republican governor said he wants Guard recruiters to move from six storefront locations into armories until state officials can evaluate and make security improvements, including possibly installing bullet-proof glass or enhanced surveillance equipment.

Scott ordered the Guardsmen to be armed, as did governors in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Indiana.

Security for the recruiting centers has come under scrutiny since the Tennessee shootings because some people believe they are too vulnerable. U.S. military officials have said security at recruiting and reserve centers will be reviewed, but the Army's top officer, Gen. Ray Odierno, said it's too early to say whether the facilities should have security guards or other increased protection.

Scott, however, said during an interview with CNN that recruiting centers could be targets, and that's why he wants the National Guard moved until officials are "comfortable" that servicemembers will be safe.

"We've got to understand that you know we have people in our country that want to harm the military," Scott said. "They need to be safe and they need to be armed."

As governor, Scott oversees the Florida National Guard and can act without federal involvement. He ordered officers to make sure all full-time members of the guard are armed "in the interest of immediately se-

curing Florida National Guardsmen who are being targeted by ISIS."

The Tennessee attacks have not been linked to the Islamic State group. Authorities have called their probe a terrorism investigation and said they were looking into the gunman's overseas travel and whether he was inspired or directed by a terrorist group.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter late Friday asked the military services to determine whether additional steps can be taken to ensure people are safe at military installations, and said he wants a report back by the end of next week.

The comments came as Navy officials confirmed a separate incident outside Atlanta, where a recruiter accidentally shot himself in the leg with his personal .45-caliber pistol while discussing the Tennessee shootings with one of his recruits. Officials said he showed the sailor the unloaded gun, then reloaded it and inadvertently discharged it as he was putting it back into his holster.

Rep. Scott DesJarlais, R-Tenn., said he has drafted legislation titled the "Enhancing Safety at Military Installations Act" that would repeal bans on military personnel carrying firearms at military recruitment facilities and bases. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, said he plans to introduce a similar bill.

"By disarming the Armed Forces, gun-free policies at military facilities have made our men and women in uniform easy targets for terrorist attacks," Johnson said in a statement.

The six storefront locations in Florida are located in and around urban areas, including two just outside Tampa, one in Orlando, one in Jacksonville and one in Miami.

Shooter's family says he suffered from depression

The Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — The family of the man who killed four Marines and a sailor in Chattanooga said in a statement that their son suffered from depression and was not the son they knew.

"There are no words to describe our shock, horror, and grief," said the statement, provided Saturday to The Associated Press by a lawyer representing the family of Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez. "The person who committed this horrible crime was not the son we knew and loved. For many years, our son suffered from depression. It grieves us beyond belief to know that his pain found its expression in this heinous act of violence."

The family added that they are cooperating with the investigation.

"Now is the time to reflect on the victims and their families, and we feel it would be inappropriate to say anything more other than that we are truly sorry for their loss," the statement said.

In Chattanooga, a city that prides itself on strong ties between people of different faiths, some Muslims feared the community's perception of them had changed after the shooting rampage Thursday.

Mohsin Ali, a member of the Islamic Society of Greater Chattanooga, said he hoped the local community didn't dissolve into turmoil.

"We, our kids, feel 100 percent American and Chattanooga," said the Pakistani-born Ali, who is a child psychiatrist. "Now they are wondering if that is how people still look at them."

As FBI agents served a warrant on the Abdulazeez home Thursday, two women wearing Islamic head coverings were seen being led away in handcuffs. But FBI agent Jason Pack said Saturday no arrests have been made.

Authorities are looking into the shooting as a terrorism investigation and whether Abdulazeez was inspired or directed by any terrorist organization. They still don't know what motivated Abdulazeez.

The president of the Islamic Society of Greater Chattanooga said Abdulazeez's father told him he felt blindsided.

"He told me that he had never seen it coming, and did not see any signs from his son that he would be that way and do something like that," Bassam Issa said.

Ali said immigrants such as himself owe a debt of gratitude to America and the armed forces that protect it, because they often know firsthand what it means to live in countries without personal freedoms or the rule of law. At a service Friday night, at Ali's urging, dozens of Muslims received a standing ovation as they stood in support of their city and their nation.

US-backed offensive disappoints

Tribune Washington Bureau

BAGHDAD — A U.S.-backed military offensive against Islamic State fighters faltered in its first week as several hundred militants entrenched in the provincial capital of Ramadi withstood punishing airstrikes and held off a far-larger force of Iraqi ground troops, senior U.S. and coalition commanders said Saturday.

The slow going in what officials portray as a major test of efforts to bring Iraq's fractured security forces into a common front against the Sunni Muslim extremists comes as a

truck bomb late Friday killed more than 100 people, including women and children, in a mostly Shiite Muslim market town about 35 miles north of Baghdad.

The push by pro-government forces to retake Ramadi, which fell to the militants in May, includes about 10,000 members of the Iraqi army, federal police and Shiite militias, and Sunni tribal fighters. But they have struggled to gain ground against heavy resistance, including hundreds of booby traps built by a small but capable force of 250 to 350 Islamic State fighters believed

to be holed up in the city, about 60 miles west of Baghdad.

The abrupt government defeat in Ramadi in May forced the White House to reassess its strategy for pushing the Islamic State back, and President Barack Obama has offered only guarded assessments of the seesawing progress. U.S. and Iraqi critics have urged the White House to authorize a more direct American role in the war, including putting U.S. advisers into combat with Iraqi units and assigning forward air controllers to front lines to help direct airstrikes.

3 admirals censured

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Three U.S. admirals were censured for dining at “extravagant” banquets in Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore and accepting other gifts from an Asian defense contractor at the center of a bribery scandal that continues to rattle the highest ranks of the Navy, according to documents released late Friday.

One dinner alone cost \$23,061, or about \$768.72 for each of the 30 attendees. To get around ethics rules, the admirals reimbursed the contractor — a Malaysian national known in Navy circles as “Fat Leonard” — but only for a fraction of the expense, writing personal checks for between \$50 and \$70 each, the documents show.

The incidents occurred nearly a decade ago, while all three officers — Vice Adm. Michael Miller, Rear Adm. Terry Kraft and Rear Adm. David Pimpo — were assigned to the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier strike group. Each was forced to retire this summer.

They were officially censured in February, although Navy officials at the time disclosed few specifics. On Friday night, the Navy released a handful of documents that shed new light on the case but withheld many others. Journalists had sought the public records for the past five months under the Freedom of Information Act.

None of the three admirals responded to requests for comment.

Pimpo, a supply officer, was singled out for also accepting sightseeing and shopping tours from the contractor, as well as lodging for himself and other officers while in Hong Kong.

Pimpo and Miller were also censured for accepting ship models of the USS Reagan but reimbursing the contractor for less than their estimated market value of \$870.

The admirals are the highest-ranking casualties so far in a scandal involving a Singapore-based firm that bilked the Navy out of an estimated \$20 million.

Pacific Fleet chief on surveillance flight

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — In a move likely to irk China, the new U.S. commander of the Pacific Fleet joined a seven-hour surveillance flight over the disputed South China Sea over the weekend on board one of America's newest spy planes.

Adm. Scott Swift joined the surveillance mission on board a P-8A Poseidon plane Saturday to witness the aircraft's full range of capabilities, the U.S. Pacific Fleet said Sunday.

Territorial disputes involving China, the Philippines and several others have flared on and off for years, creating fears that the South China Sea could spark Asia's next major armed conflict. Beijing has asked the

United States to stay out of what it says is a purely Asian dispute, but Washington has said that ensuring freedom of navigation in the disputed waters and the peaceful resolution of the conflicts are in the U.S. national interest.

The Chinese Embassy in Manila had no immediate reaction to the Pacific Fleet commander taking part in the surveillance flight.

The Navy has acquired and plans to purchase more of the versatile P-8A Poseidon aircraft to replace its aging P-3 Orion fleet. The plane can be used for a range of undertakings, including anti-submarine warfare and surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

A picture posted by the Pa-

cific Fleet on its website shows Swift intently looking on as U.S. officers demonstrate the P-8A's capabilities. In another, Swift, wearing headphones with a microphone, looks out the window at the blue sky over the South China Sea.

U.S. Navy Capt. Charlie Brown, a Pacific Fleet public affairs officer who flew with Swift aboard the P-8A, said by telephone that the admiral “was pleased with the capabilities of the Poseidon.”

Brown did not provide other details on the flight, like whether the plane flew over disputed areas where China has undertaken massive island-building that Washington has asked Beijing to stop.

Trump criticizes McCain's military record

The Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump criticized Sen. John McCain's military record at a conservative forum Saturday, saying the party's 2008 nominee and former prisoner of war was a “war hero because he was captured. I like people who

weren't captured.”

The comment drew some boos from the audience — and quick condemnation from rivals who have been waiting for such an opening to rein him in. Trump has surged in polls recently, frustrating many in his party concerned that he has hijacked the 2016 Republican primary

and damaged the GOP brand.

Trump and McCain traded barbs last week. At a rally in Phoenix, McCain said Trump's controversial comments about immigrants had “fired up the crazies.” Trump retorted that McCain was “a dummy” who graduated at the bottom of his class at the Naval Academy.

Dempsey scores 3 as US routs Cuba

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Clint Dempsey walked away with the game ball for one of the few times in his career. With his first international hat trick, he boosted the United States to a 6-0 rout over Cuba on Saturday and into its eighth straight CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal.

Dempsey put the Americans ahead with a fourth-minute header, converted a penalty kick in the 64th and added the final goal in the 78th.

In Wednesday's semifinal at Atlanta, the Americans play Jamaica, which beat Haiti 1-0 in the second game of the doubleheader.

"Habits carry over: scoring goals, getting a clean sheet, people getting assists," Dempsey said. "That confidence, definitely it grows in the team. And as the tournament goes on, people are getting stronger as a group."

Dempsey has scored a tournament-high six times, and his 47 international goals are 10 behind Landon Donovan's American record.

"I didn't know that it was his first hat trick. It took him a long time," quipped U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann, who never had a three-goal game in his celebrated international career for Germany.

Gyasi Zardes (15th minute), Aron Johannsson (32nd) and Omar Gonzalez (45th) also scored as the Americans built a 4-0 halftime lead against a Cuban team depleted by five absent players who may have defected. Before

a pro-U.S. crowd of 37,994, the Americans outshot the Cubans 24-7.

"After a couple shaky performances in the group, we came out here and dominated the game," Johannsson said.

Now 32, Dempsey said he does not take home that many mementoes. He has played up top in recent years under Klinsmann after being used as a withdrawn forward and a wide midfielder by Bruce Arena and Bob Bradley.

"He's always been a striker mentality," midfielder Michael Bradley said. "He's a guy who is hungry and determined to make big plays, hungry and determined to score goals. And that's always been him. It doesn't really matter whether he's lined up as an out-and-out striker, as a second striker, a little bit underneath somebody else, even at times under my dad when he and Landon played tilted wide."

It was more than 90 degrees on the field and sunny for the 5 p.m. kickoff, causing Costa Rican referee Henry Bejarano to call for a water break after the third goal. With its highest victory margin in the championship of soccer's North and Central American and Caribbean region, the U.S. improved to 8-1 in Gold Cup quarterfinals, the only blemish a penalty-kicks loss to Colombia in 2000.

Cuba, which has a history of defections at sporting events, listed five of its 23 players as absent: goalkeeper Arael Arguëllez, midfielders Dario Suarez, Aricheel Hernandez and Ariel Martinez; and forward Keiler Garcia.

The Cubans, ranked 104th, have not reached the World Cup since 1938 and have been eliminated by Curacao in qualifying for the 2018 tournament.

"The players that aren't here now, they don't really have anything to us because they've chosen their path," Cuba coach Raul Gonzalez said through a translator.

Left back Fabian Johnson sparked the opening goal, playing a cross that went through to the other side of the field. Zardes played the ball back to Timmy Chandler, who with his left foot lofted it 30 yards to Dempsey for an 8-yard header past goalkeeper Diosvelis Guerra.

Johnson's 25-yard pass from the flank allowed Zardes, who had burst past the defense, to volley in with his right foot from 6 yards. Given space, Bradley played a 50-yard pass to Johannsson, who ran onto the ball, took a touch and chipped Guerra from the edge of the 18-yard box.

Gonzalez, who played for the University of Maryland, made it 4-0 with his first international goal, poking the ball in from 3 yards after Johannsson headed down Bradley's corner kick.

"It was pretty hot, and once I got my goal I was a little too tired to celebrate," Gonzalez said.

Dempsey's penalty kick was awarded when Angel Horta pulled on Johannsson's jersey in the penalty area. Dempsey scored sliding with his right foot from 7 yards in the 78th off a pass from Bradley.

"He's hungry for goal," Klinsmann said. "So he has two more meals ahead of him."

Greipel takes Stage 15

The Associated Press

VALENCE, France — Andre Greipel took his third stage victory of this Tour de France by winning a bunch sprint at the end of Stage 15 on Sunday, while Britain's Chris Froome remained in control of the overall race lead on a day when French police boosted security around his team.

Greipel, the Lotto-Soudal rider from Germany, powered to the line at Valence.

John Degenkolb of the Giant-Alpecin team was second, Katusha's Alexander Kristoff third and Peter Sagan of Tinkoff-Saxo finished fourth on the 114-mile stage from Mende.

Police stationed half a dozen officers around Froome's Team Sky bus at the start after the race leader complained the previous day that a spectator shouting "doper!" in French hurled a cup of urine at him on Stage 14.

Froome blamed what he called "very irresponsible" media for turning public opinion against him and his team by questioning their dominant performance. Froome repeated that claim at the finish in Valence.

"What I am saying is that if people are led to believe that these performances are not legitimate, that's what's going to push them to start booing, and to start punching and spitting and throwing urine on riders," Froome said.

He again insisted cycling is cleaner than it was.

"Times have changed. Everyone knows that," he said. "This isn't the wild west that it was 10 or 15 years ago. Of course there are still going to be riders who take risks in this day and age, but they are the minority. It was the other way around 10 or 15 years ago. There is no reason in this

day and age for that level of suspicion to continue. There's absolutely no reason."

Because of its flat finish, Stage 15 represented the last opportunity for sprinters to shine before climbers take back the spotlight in the Alps in the last week after a rest day on Tuesday.

Mark Cavendish, the only rider to beat Greipel in a massed bunch sprint at this Tour, wasn't able to compete for the win in Valence because he was dropped by the speeding pack early in the stage that was hilly at the beginning.

Telling himself "you have to hang on here," Greipel managed to stay with the pack that rode at a furious pace over the bumpy terrain, determined not to let breakaway riders take the stage win.

At Valence, Greipel and his team positioned him neatly for the final sprint. From there, he did the rest, choosing just the right time to accelerate away.

"I made the right decision. The team put me in the right spot," Greipel said.

"I had the power in my legs to finish it to the line," he said. "It's all about the legs. Mother Nature gave me this."

Cavendish rolled in among a last group of 26 riders who finished nearly 16 minutes behind Greipel. Greipel launched himself at top speed about 300 yards from the line and held on for his ninth stage win overall at the Tour. At this Tour, he also won stages 2 and 5.

The manager of Cavendish's Etixx-Quick Step team, Patrick Lefevere, said the British rider was exhausted after a bad night's sleep in a hotel without air conditioning.

"After two weeks of the Tour de France those things kill you," Lefevere said.

Cavendish said stomach problems kept him awake.

Tie atop British Open

The Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Paul Dunne has turned the British Open into amateur hour.

The 22-year-old Irishman shot a 6-under 66 on Sunday and strolled to the clubhouse tied for the lead at St. Andrews.

Not bad for a guy who doesn't plan to turn pro until later this summer.

Dunne played collegiately at Alabama-Birmingham and had to qualify for his first Open. Now, stunningly, he'll start Monday's final round as one of the leading contenders, after three straight rounds in the 60s left him with a 12-under 204 total.

He sure didn't look out of place in the third round. Dunne posted a bogey-free round, taking full advantage of the soft greens and slight breeze.

Dunne is trying to become the first amateur champion at the British Open since the great Bobby Jones in 1930.

Louis Oosthuizen played with Dunne and also is at 204 after shooting a 67 Sunday.

Jason Day also is at 12 under after a 67. He had a shot at the outright lead but missed a birdie putt at the 18th. The Aussie is set to play with Jordan Spieth, who is one shot back and aiming for his third straight major after the Masters and the U.S. Open.

Dustin Johnson, meanwhile, was the leader after the second round and was on his way to playing with the leaders on Monday, but three straight bogeys to close his round dropped him to 7-under after a 3-over 75 on Sunday.

Spieth still has his sights on the claret jug — and another step toward the Grand Slam.

Spieth bounced back from a frustrat-

ing second round to shoot a 6-under 66 Sunday, putting himself in prime position to compete for his third straight major championship.

Spieth says he'll "sleep fine" and hopes the experience of winning the Masters and the U.S. Open will give him an advantage in Monday's final round. He says he feels calmer than he did at Augusta National or last month at Chambers Bay, knowing he has "a little more experience in that position." As he says, "I know I'm able to pull it off."

After struggling with his putter during a weather-delayed second round that took almost 39 hours to complete, Spieth found his stroke on the back side Sunday. He ripped off three straight birdies starting at No. 10, and added another at the 15th.

Spieth's only stumble came at the ninth, where he missed about a 5-foot putt to save par. He chased after the ball as soon as it left his club, knocked in the bogey, and gave an exaggerated follow-through with his putter. He bounced right back with three straight birdies, all of them set up by brilliant iron shots.

Padraig Harrington found his game, and he'll go into the final round with a chance to claim the claret jug for the third time.

The Irishman shot a 7-under 65 on Sunday, his best score ever in golf's oldest major championship, to get to 10-under, just two shots behind the leaders and one back of Spieth.

Marc Leishman posted the best score of the week so far with an 8-under 64. Jim Furyk and Rickie Fowler both shot 66. David Duval posted a 67, his best score in the Open since winning it in 2001.



Ship's Store official new car program

Exclusive Navy at-sea offers:

www.navyauto.com or nasinfo@navyauto.com

Hamlin pushes to Xfinity win

The Associated Press

LOUDON, N.H. — Denny Hamlin turned sideways into Kyle Busch and had Austin Dillon all bent out of shape.

Hamlin roughed up the field and bruised some feelings, when he nudged Dillon out of the lead Saturday and raced to his second NASCAR Xfinity Series victory of the season.

Hamlin had the dominant car and led 145 of the 200 laps at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. But when Dillon briefly took the lead, Hamlin put his No. 20 into the left side of Dillon's car at lap 179 and knocked him out of the way. Hamlin was mad because he said Dillon jumped the restart, forcing him to make the hit-and-run pass any driver should attempt in that situation.

Dillon lashed out after the race and said Hamlin purposely tried to wreck him and

vowed payback.

"What is racing if you can't race side by side for more than a corner? He never even went through a corner with me. The whole race," Dillon said. "Didn't want to, just moved me, missed the corner, wrecked me. I'm fine with racing rough. I promise you, I can do it to anybody."

Hamlin and Dillon feuded in 2012 after they tangled in the second-tier series race at Texas Motor Speedway. It carried over when Hamlin leveled a nepotism charge against Dillon, grandson of team owner Richard Childress, saying, "He got his ride because of his name."

"He called me a spoiled rich kid at Texas two years ago. And I hate it," Dillon said. "He said check the last name. I said my last name's Dillon, not Childress. But he is my grandfather. I'll always act with class. Everybody in the media knows that. I've worked my way here like anyone else.

With Denny acting like that, what does he want me to call him? I don't do that. I know how to act."

What to call Hamlin? He had a simple retort: "A winner."

Hamlin also irked Busch, his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate, early in the race when he got sideways and knocked both drivers to the back of the field.

Busch sternly said, "it didn't do anything, it didn't matter," to the final result.

Hamlin also won the series race at Richmond in April. He brushed off his dust-up with Dillon.

"Eventually, I was going to get back around him anyway," Hamlin said.

Brad Keselowski was third, Busch fourth and Daniel Suarez fifth. Chris Buescher was 14th and maintained his lead in the series standings.

Favre feted in return to Lambeau

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Brett Favre headed up the Lambeau Field tunnel, a path that he had walked dozens of times.

He turned left at the end, and then walked through a set of double doors. The Green Bay Packers' locker room was just down the hall on the right.

And that's when it finally hit him. He was back at his football home.

The three-time MVP quarterback had his No. 4 jersey retired by the Packers on Saturday night before being inducted into the franchise's Hall of Fame in a ceremony inside Lambeau Field. It was the first time in the team's storied history that a player received both honors at the same time.

"It was like I never left. It was a great feeling. It was kind of weird because I had been here for a couple of hours and just walked off of Lambeau," Favre said before the ceremony. "It's kind of funny how things are triggered. And then it was kind of a sigh of relief almost."

It was a moment that some Packers fans thought would never come, not after the "will he-or-won't he retire" drama that marked the end of his 16-year tenure in Tittletown. He was traded to the New York Jets in 2008, then played two more seasons with division rival Minnesota starting in 2009 before calling it quits for good.

Now a reconciliation that has been years in the making is finally complete.

"Congratulations Brett. Welcome home," Packers Hall of Fame president Perry Kidder said while presenting Favre with a ring and bronzed football.

Favre will return to Lambeau on Thanksgiving night, when his No. 4 will join other retired numbers on the stadium's interior facade in a ceremony during the Packers' game against the Bears.

Hunter-Reay leads US sweep at Iowa

The Associated Press

NEWTON, Iowa — It was the most successful IndyCar finish for American drivers in nearly a decade.

But no one could make Juan Pablo Montoya, the Colombian points leader, pay for his early misfortune.

Ryan Hunter-Reay raced to his third victory at Iowa Speedway in the last four years Saturday night, leading the first U.S. podium sweep in nine years.

Hunter-Reay held off the field on a late restart to give Andretti Autosport its sixth consecutive win on the 0.894-mile oval and its seventh in nine races at the track.

"(My car) was on rails until the end. I was driving the snot out of it. It was

loose, and I just kept my foot to the floor," Hunter-Reay said. "It was a lot of work in the cockpit. This was one we really had to work for."

Josef Newgarden was second and rookie Sage Karam was a career-best third, putting Americans in the top three spots for the first time since the 2006 Indianapolis 500.

Montoya's night lasted just nine laps after his No. 2 Penske car flew into the wall.

The crash threatened to put Montoya's cushy lead in jeopardy — especially with Scott Dixon running strong.

Montoya's lead dropped from just 54 points to 42 over Graham Rahal, who finished fourth to give Americans the top four spots.

Dixon finished 18th after a mechanical issue and fell to third, gaining just six points on Montoya.

Hunter-Reay, who used fresh tires to get past half the field in the final 10 laps to win in 2014, raced to his 15th career win and gave beleaguered Honda its fourth victory in 13 starts this season.

"This is a huge win for us. Absolutely massive," Hunter-Reay said. "It's a statement win."

Montoya, who maintained his edge with top-10s in every race but one, lost control and hit the wall in the second turn, crushing the right side of Team Penske's No. 2 Chevrolet.

It ended a string of 18 straight races where Montoya was running at the finish.

Cubs' Lester loses unusual no-hit bid in 8th

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Jon Lester didn't know what to think when he was getting ready to bat in the top of the eighth inning, looked at the scoreboard and saw he hadn't allowed a hit.

An unusual reversal by the official scorer created the short-lived no-hit opportunity that had players in both dugouts confused.

Lester lost his bid for a no-hitter in the eighth inning but ended the longest winless streak of his career as the Chicago Cubs shut out the Atlanta Braves 4-0 on Saturday night.

A chopper down the line in the Braves' first by Nick Markakis was originally ruled a hit. The scorer, longtime Atlanta sports writer Jack Wilkinson, changed his call in the top of the seventh and charged an error to third baseman Kris Bryant, who let the ball get under his glove.

"I really didn't understand what was going on, why they changed it or what happened or why it took so long or whatever," Lester said.

"At first it was kind of confusing why all of a sudden it was changed but at the end of the day it didn't matter."

A.J. Pierzynski, Lester's batterymate in Boston for the first half of the 2014 season, led off the eighth with a line-drive single to right field for Atlanta's first hit.

With one out, Andrelton Simmons' single up the middle chased Lester.

Wilkinson said he thought about changing his ruling even before realizing there was a potential no-hitter at stake.

Lester (5-8) had gone 10 starts without a win. He struck out seven, walked one and hit Pierzynski with a pitch in 7¹/₃ innings.

Royals 7, White Sox 6 (13): Lorenzo Cain homered in the 13th inning and Kansas City outlasted host Chicago in a game that took nearly five hours.

Brandon Finnegan (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings in the four-hour, 56-minute game. Ryan Madson earned his first save in three chances after allowing a single in the 13th.

The Royals finished with 17 hits, including five doubles.

Mariners 4, Yankees 3: Robinson Cano ended a season-long slump with a pair of two-run homers against his former team. Hisashi Iwakuma pitched neatly into the sixth and visiting Seattle held on for the win.

Orioles 3, Tigers 0: Chris Tillman gave up a leadoff single and not much else and combined with Zach Britton on a one-hitter to lead host Detroit.

Dodgers 4-3; Nationals 2-5: Clayton Kershaw struck out a season-high 14 in eight shutout innings and visit-

ing Los Angeles earned a split of the two games decided on the day.

In the completion of a game suspended a day earlier after the fifth inning because of a lighting malfunction, pinch-hitter Matt den Dekker lined a two-run homer in the eighth inning that lifted the Nationals over the Dodgers.

Rays 3, Blue Jays 2: Curt Casali hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning to lead visiting Tampa Bay past Toronto.

Phillies 3, Marlins 1: Chad Billingsley had his best outing in nearly three years to lead host Philadelphia past Miami.

Indians 9, Reds 4: Michael Brantley, Brandon Moss and Yan Gomes homered — part of a rare Cleveland splurge with Corey Kluber on the mound — and the Indians ended a nine-game losing streak in Cincinnati.

Cardinals 12, Mets 2: Jason Heyward matched a career best with five hits, Randal Grichuk had two homers and six RBIs, and John Lackey worked seven strong innings to lead host St. Louis.

Brewers 8, Pirates 5: Jonathan Lucroy, Aramis Ramirez and Khris Davis homered as host Milwaukee took full advantage of a late lineup change.

Pittsburgh left-hander Francisco

Liriano was scratched minutes before the game began due to neck stiffness. Sudden starter Vance Worley (3-5) gave up five runs — all with two outs — in four innings.

Rangers 7, Astros 6: Rougned Odor homered early, then got into a testy exchange at home plate in the ninth inning that escalated into a shouting match between the managers as Texas beat host Houston.

Padres 5, Rockies 4: Clint Barmes hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the seventh and rookie catcher Austin Hedges homered and threw out a runner to help host San Diego to its fourth straight win.

Angels 3, Red Sox 0: Garrett Richards pitched a two-hitter for his second career shutout. Kole Calhoun hit two homers, and host Los Angeles got its 13th victory in 16 games.

Giants 8, Diamondbacks 4: Jake Peavy got his first win of the season, Buster Posey drove in four runs, and visiting San Francisco won its fifth straight.

Athletics 3, Twins 2 (10): Stephen Vogt hit a game-ending single in the 10th inning to lift host Oakland past Minnesota.