

STARS AND STRIPES®

Monday, July 20, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Officials: US strike killed Afghan troops

BY JOSH SMITH
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — American military helicopters fired on a position manned by Afghan security forces just south of Kabul on Monday morning, killing at least seven soldiers, according to Afghan defense officials.

Dawlat Waziri, a deputy spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry, said five soldiers were injured in the apparent “friendly fire” incident, including one who remained in serious condition. The toll makes it one of the deadliest such incidents involving coalition and Afghan troops in the 14 years that international forces have fought in Afghanistan.

American helicopters were

flying in the Chiltan area of Logar province’s Baraki Barak district, about 40 miles south of Kabul, about 6 a.m. when they took ground fire, the Defense Ministry said in a statement. When the crews returned fire, they reportedly struck Afghan army forces and insurgent fighters, according to the statement.

The helicopters hit an Afghan army post manned by more than a dozen soldiers, Mohammed Rahim Amin, governor of Baraki Barak district, told Stars and Stripes. Police from the area said the position was clearly marked by the Afghan flag and other army equipment.

A “high-level delegation” has been dispatched to investigate, the Defense Ministry said.

U.S. military spokesman Col. Brian Tribus would not confirm that the strike hit Afghan

troops but said: “We are aware of an incident involving U.S. forces in Logar province this morning, 20 July. This incident is under investigation.”

During the past four days, Baraki Barak district has been the scene of significant fighting between government and Taliban forces, the Defense Ministry said.

The number of U.S. airstrikes dropped drastically after the coalition declared an end to its combat mission at the end of 2014, when Afghan security forces took over responsibility for the country’s security. About 13,000 coalition forces remain in the country as part of a mission to train, advise and assist. But as Afghans have come under assault from insurgents, the U.S. has continued to provide air support.

In June, US aircraft deployed 106 weapons, compared with 41 in May. Overall this year, U.S. aircraft have flown at least 153 sorties during which they released their weapons, according to statistics posted by U.S. Central Command on June 30. That’s a small fraction of the 1,136 such sorties flown last year and the 2,678 missions conducted in 2011.

Last year, five U.S. special forces troops and an Afghan soldier were mistakenly killed by an American bomber aircraft in Zabul province. Civilian deaths caused by coalition airstrikes have also been a source of controversy during the war, although those incidents declined as international forces drew down.

smith.josh@stripes.com
Twitter: @joshjonsmith

White House silent over not issuing half-staff order

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The White House provided no explanation Monday amid questions over why the president had not ordered flags across the nation to half-staff in the wake of a Chattanooga, Tenn., shooting that killed five servicemembers.

Spokesman Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama offered condolences last week and may speak to veterans at a Veterans of Foreign Wars conference Tuesday about the shooting, but he had no further comment.

Obama has issued presidential proclamations that lowered flags at federal facilities and military bases after many mass shootings, including attacks at the Washington Navy Yard; Fort Hood, Texas; and Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.

The lack of a proclamation following the deaths of four Marines and a sailor in a possible terrorist attack Thursday by a Muslim man rankled some and sparked online outrage.

“I don’t have more information about the status of the flag over the White House,” Earnest said, responding to a question at a daily briefing Monday with the press.

Obama is scheduled to speak at the National VFW Convention in Pittsburgh on Tuesday.

On the day of the shooting, Obama said he was offering deep condolences to the victims in Chattanooga and support to help them through the grief.

“My main message right now is, obviously, the deepest sympathies of the American people to the four Marines that have been killed,” he said, before the fifth servicemember died. “It is a heartbreaking circumstance for these individuals who have served our country with great valor to be killed in this fashion.”

Mohammad Youssef Abdulazeez, 24, an electrical engineer from the city, attacked a recruiting office in a strip mall and fired a deadly barrage into a Navy and Marine Corps recruiting center nearby. He was killed by local police, and the FBI is now

investigating for a motive.

The governor of Tennessee on Friday ordered flags in that state to fly at half-staff. Governors in New Hampshire, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Arkansas and Massachusetts have issued similar orders.

The mayor of Easton, Pa., a city north of Philadelphia, became a minor Facebook celebrity and received media coverage when he unilaterally decided Saturday to lower the city’s flag — a move he said should be ordered by the president or the governor.

“Why wait? Our men were gunned down on our home soil,” Mayor Sal Panto Jr. wrote on his Facebook page under a photograph of the flag. His office did not return repeated calls for comment.

Obama ordered that flags be lowered to half-staff for four days after a gunman killed 12 people and injured others during a shooting rampage at the Washington Navy Yard in 2013. Flags were lowered for five days for the first Fort Hood shooting in 2009.

tritten.travis@stripes.com
Twitter: @Travis_Tritten

UN council endorses Iran deal

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council on Monday unanimously endorsed the landmark nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers and authorized a series of measures leading to the end of U.N. sanctions that have hurt Iran's economy.

The measure also provides a mechanism for U.N. sanctions to "snap back" in place if Iran fails to meet its obligations.

Both U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power and Iranian U.N. Ambassador Gholamali Khoshroo called the agreement an important achievement for diplomacy, the Iranian promising to be "resolute in fulfilling its obligations" and the American pledging to be vigilant in ensuring they are carried out.

The resolution had been agreed to by the five veto-wielding councilmembers, who along with Germany negotiated the nuclear deal with Iran. It was co-sponsored by all 15 members of the Security Council.

Under the agreement, Iran's nuclear program will be curbed for a decade in exchange for potentially hundreds of billions of dollars worth of relief from international sanctions. Many key penalties, such as those related to Iran's energy and financial sectors, could be lifted by the end of the year.

Iran insists its nuclear program is purely peaceful, aimed at producing nuclear energy and medical isotopes, but the United States and its Western allies believe Tehran's real goal is to build atomic weapons.

British U.N. Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said, "The world is now a safer place in the knowledge that Iran cannot now build a nuclear bomb." But Israeli U.N. Ambassador Ron Prosor said the Security Council had "awarded a great prize to the most dangerous country in the world," calling it "a very sad day" not only for Israel but the entire world.

Islamic State could disrupt US plans to leave Afghanistan

Tribune Washington Bureau

KABUL, Afghanistan — The emergence of militants in Afghanistan claiming allegiance to the Islamic State group could disrupt White House plans to remove the remaining U.S. troops in that country by the end of next year.

The Islamic State has provided new ammunition to Pentagon and Afghan officials seeking to persuade the White House to

reverse its decision to pull out U.S. troops. Their argument, in effect, is that the same security collapse that occurred in Iraq could happen in Afghanistan if the U.S. removes its troops as planned.

Gen. John Campbell, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, said Sunday that President Barack Obama's pledge to withdraw most of the 9,800 troops in Afghanistan by the end of 2016 was made before the appear-

ance of the Islamic State. He said the group has contributed to a worsening security situation in the country this year.

Neither the Islamic State nor the far more powerful Taliban insurgency is a threat to take over Afghanistan next year, Campbell told a group of reporters in Kabul, the Afghan capital. But he said, "If we leave and there's no money coming in, years later, could that happen? Yeah, maybe."

Blast in Turkey near Syria kills 30

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL — An explosion rocked the Turkish city of Suruc near the Syrian border on Monday, killing 30 people and wounding nearly 100 others in what Turkish authorities said appeared to be an Islamic State group-inspired suicide bombing.

The midday explosion took place at a cultural center in Suruc as a political group, the Federation of Socialist Youths,

was wrapping up a news conference on plans to rebuild the Syrian city of Kobani, a witness said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but one senior government official told The Associated Press that Turkey suspected the Islamic State was behind the blast in its southeastern city.

Suruc is just across the border from Kobani, the scene of fierce battles between Kurdish groups and the Islamic State

group. The city, populated heavily by Syrian Kurds, was the Islamic State group's biggest defeat last year since the militants established control over large swaths of Iraq and Syria. Its ruins have become a symbol of Kurdish resistance.

Fatma Edemen, 22, said the federation of about 200 youths had been pressing for more access to help reconstruction in Kobani before the blast that police told her came from a suicide bomber.

Ash Carter warmly received on Israel visit

The Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Defense Secretary Ash Carter was warmly welcomed by his Israeli counterpart Monday on the first Cabinet-level U.S. visit to the Jewish state since the Iran nuclear deal was announced.

The Pentagon chief met at Israel's defense headquarters with Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon and on Tuesday is to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has strongly criticized the Iran deal.

Ya'alon thanked Carter for

his contributions to Israeli security and said Israel appreciates its friendship with the U.S.

On his flight to Tel Aviv, Carter said he has no expectation of persuading Israeli leaders to drop their opposition to the Iran nuclear deal. He said he'll emphasize that the accord imposes no limits on what Washington can do to ensure the security of Israel and the U.S.'s Arab allies.

Netanyahu has argued that the deal clears the way for Iran to build nuclear weapons that would threaten Israel's existence and ultimately diminish

U.S. and global security.

Even as tensions between the U.S. and Israel have grown over how to contain Iran's nuclear program, the U.S.-Israel defense relationship has deepened in recent years.

The U.S. has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in an Israeli air defense system known as Iron Dome, which is designed to shoot down short-range rockets, mortars and artillery shells fired into northern Israel from southern Lebanon and into Israel's south from the Gaza Strip.

Kyle Busch wins to trim gap on Chase

The Associated Press

LOUDON, N.H. — Stuck in a hospital, Kyle Busch could only think about a comeback, not championship contention.

Could Busch imagine, days after a horrific crash, he would become a title contender?

"Yeah, right," he said. "You're crazy."

Nothing seems preposterous these days for Busch, whose dormant-to-dominant run over the last two months has not only made him a regular in Victory Lane, but steamrolled him toward the cusp of a Chase berth.

Busch rolled on Sunday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, winning for the second straight weekend and the third time in the last four NASCAR Sprint Cup races.

"This is something I'm not sure we ever would have expected," Busch said.

Busch isn't where he needs to be in the standings quite yet. His three wins are certainly enough to earn a Chase for the Sprint Cup championship berth. He's still outside the top 30 in points, which is the second major qualifier to race for the title in the final 10 races of the season.

Busch won at Sonoma Raceway and last week at Kentucky Speedway and is 33rd in the standings, 58 points

SEE GROUND ON PAGE 30

behind David Gilliland for 30th.

Cole Whitt is 31st and Brett Moffitt 32nd, easy pickings for Busch.

"I'm not sure we've unleashed the beast at all," Busch

said.

Busch broke his right leg and left foot in a crash the day before the season-opening Daytona 500. He missed the first 11 races of the season, then returned in late May determined to earn a playoff spot.

Busch, who last won at New Hampshire in July 2006, said Friday he still is bothered by the leg injuries. The aches hardly seemed to matter in the No. 18 Toyota.

"We've got to keep doing our deal," Busch said. "Every week it keeps getting better and better."

Busch has gained 70 points on the 30th spot over the last two races and is not only a threat to qualify for the Chase — but to win it all for Joe Gibbs Racing should he crack the 16-driver field.

"Ever since that injury, he's been on it," Gibbs said. "I don't know what (the deficit is) now but it's sure helping."

With Busch in the field or not, JGR has three other contenders in Carl Edwards, Denny Hamlin and Matt Kenseth. Kenseth finished sixth, Edwards started from the pole and was seventh, and Hamlin 14th. JGR took four of the top-five spots at Kentucky. Busch won and Hamlin-Edwards-Kenseth went 3-4-5.

"I think we're certainly back, closer," Gibbs said. "I don't know that we've turned the corner."

NASCAR granted Busch a waiver upon his return that made him Chase eligible, should he qualify. He has seven races left to crack the top 30 before the Chase opens Sept. 20 at Chicagoland Speedway.

Busch had one of his best performances in his come-

back, rallying from a lap down to win. Busch, who led 95 laps, stayed out during a late pit stop to take the lead from contenders Brad Keselowski and Kenseth.

Keselowski was second, followed by Kevin Harvick, Joey Logano and Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Keselowski led a race-high 101 laps and his No. 2 Ford appeared the car to beat, leaving him clearly irked at losing the lead with 48 laps left.

How tough would it be to beat Busch in the Chase?

"He's good," Keselowski grumbled, "but we're a good team and I feel like we can beat him."

Crew chief Adam Stevens, in his first season calling the shots in Cup for JGR, made all the right choices to keep Busch in contention for the win and a crack at the top 30.

"I don't have any fears of being able to close that gap," Stevens said.

Busch was joined by son Brexton, born in late May, in victory lane wearing a No. 18 outfit. He should have borrowed his son's bibs for the winner's 21-pound lobster he was awarded in victory lane.

He also made it 12 different winners at the last 12 New Hampshire races, the longest active streak at any track without a multiple-race winner in NASCAR.

On a day with temperatures soaring into the 90s, Matt DiBenedetto and Michael Annett were treated after the race at the NASCAR care center.

"This is one of the warmest days I can remember in this part of the country," Busch said.

FIFA sets election date

The Associated Press

ZURICH — Sepp Blatter will stay in control of world soccer for seven more months after resisting calls to step down immediately ahead of a presidential election, which FIFA decided Monday will be on Feb. 26.

A defiant first public appearance by Blatter since his resignation statement last month began in pandemonium as he was showered in fake money by a comedian who gatecrashed the media conference at FIFA's headquarters.

"Where is my security?" Blatter shouted.

The interruption provided an awkward reminder of a far more serious incident for FIFA in May, when the arrest of soccer and sports marketing officials plunged the game's ruling body into its deepest crisis.

Jolted by dual American and Swiss criminal investigations into soccer corruption, Blatter suddenly announced four days after being elected for a fifth term that he would leave FIFA.

"It was not only the pressure of any authorities ... it was also the pressure of political interference and also the pressure of you, media," said Blatter, who is a target of the U.S. investigation. "I had to do something very special and I did it. In footballing terms, I kicked the ball out of the field to stop something."

FIFA's executive committee decided at a meeting Monday on the February election date and Blatter ended weeks of uncertainty by insisting he would not perform one of his renowned about-turns by in fact being a candidate.

"On the 26th of February FIFA will have a

new president," Blatter said. "I cannot be the new president because I am the old president."

The 79-year-old Blatter, who first joined FIFA 40 years ago, has held onto the most powerful job in world soccer since 1998.

Prince Ali bin al-Hussein, who lost to Blatter in May, had told The Associated Press earlier Monday: "President Blatter's resignation cannot be dragged out any longer. He must leave now."

But while Blatter said he felt "regret" about the crises, he insisted he would not be "abandoning" the presidency until a successor is elected by the 209 members.

"I am still the elected president by 133 national associations and I will use my mandate as president ... to make sure that when at the end of February I come at the end of my career I can say the FIFA we have started again — with the reforms," Blatter said, highlighting the need to "rebuild the reputation of FIFA."

The Feb. 26 date was seen as a political victory for Blatter over UEFA and other confederations, who thought they had agreement on Sunday for Jan. 15. Instead, Blatter and senior vice president Issa Hayatou cited the importance of the second-tier African Nations Championship — a tournament for little-known home-based players — hosted in Rwanda from Jan. 16-Feb. 7.

Presidential candidates must gain five nominations from FIFA's 209 member associations by an Oct. 26 deadline. Only former Brazil great Zico and Liberia football federation president Musa Bility have so far expressed their intention to stand. Other potential candidates are Prince Ali and UEFA President Michel Platini.

Sports defections sore spot in Cuba-US relations

The Associated Press

TORONTO — The manager of Cuba's baseball team at the Pan Am Games wanted nothing to do with questions about defections to the United States.

Cuba has acknowledged that two players defected during warm-up games two weeks ago in the United States, and last week four rowers at the Pan Am Games in Canada left the team and crossed the American border.

Cuban athletes have a history of defecting, and that hasn't changed even as the United States and Cuba opened embassies on Monday in the other's country, ending more than 50 years of separation.

"I'm not interested in talking about this," said Roger Machado, manager of Cuba's baseball team. "Talk to me about baseball."

Roberto Ramirez, Cuba's media representative at the games, declined comment about the rowers.

"We're not speaking in regard to this," he told The Associated Press on Sunday. "This is a right that we have."

Many Cuban athletes at the games declined to talk on the record, and those who did defended the government and criticized those leaving.

Cubans living in Canada and attending Pan Am events spoke more openly, acknowledging the pull of big money. But some declined to speak, showing hostility at being asked about an act that some regard as treason.

At a Gold Cup soccer game on Saturday against the United States in Baltimore,

Cuba listed five players as absent and gave no reason.

Mijain Lopez, the two-time defending Olympic gold medalist in greco-roman wrestling, was reported almost five years ago to have defected to the United States. It's a rumor he denied at the time, and again this week.

"I never thought of leaving Cuba," he told The Associated Press at the Pan Am Games. "I love my people, my country. Those guys [that defected] have betrayed our revolution. I hope they're happy. They have left something beautiful behind, which is socialism and our country's dignity. Let them do what they can in other countries. We will continue doing what we can for the revolution."

A fellow Cuban gold-medal wrestler at the Pan Am Games used a similar tone.

"I don't stick my nose in politics," said Reineris Salas, after defeating American Jake Herbert for gold in freestyle in the 86-kilogram class. "All I know is I won gold and dedicate it to my family, to Fidel Castro and all of Cuba."

Cuba-born Rafael Borrell attended a Cuba vs. United States baseball game at the games. He wore a white Cuba baseball jersey with No. 10 on the back, and a red cap with "Cuba" written in script above the bill.

Borrell immigrated to Canada 20 years ago and works as a carpenter.

"Maybe in two or three years it won't matter," he said. "People can go back and forth like in any other place so then they won't have to be killed by sharks going to Florida."



Ship's Store official new car program

Exclusive Navy at-sea offers:

www.navyauto.com or nasinfo@navyauto.com

Dodgers' Greinke extends scoreless innings streak

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Zack Greinke is really piling up the zeros.

Greinke extended his scoreless streak to 43²/₃ innings, striking out a season-high 11 through the eighth and leading the Los Angeles Dodgers over the Washington Nationals 5-0 Sunday.

Greinke's string is the longest in the majors since Orel Hershiser set the major league record of 59 shutout innings in 1988 with the Dodgers.

"I don't think about it at all. I'm just not making a bunch of mistakes and making good pitches," Greinke said.

Last Tuesday night, Greinke started the All-Star Game and gave up a leadoff homer to Mike Trout, but that run doesn't count in the regular-season statistics.

Greinke's next start is scheduled for the coming weekend at the New York Mets.

Only Hershiser and Hall of Famers Don

Drysdale (58) and Bob Gibson (47) have had longer scoreless spans than Greinke during the post-1960 expansion era. Los Angeles teammate Clayton Kershaw threw 41 shutout innings last year.

Greinke (9-2) leads the big leagues with a 1.30 ERA. He scattered three singles, walked one and threw 119 pitches in eight innings. He also picked a runner off first base.

This was his sixth straight scoreless start, all of them lasting at least six innings.

Max Scherzer (10-8) gave up one run in six innings. He left with the loss, and a 2.09 ERA.

Greinke said he didn't focus on who was pitching against him.

"I stopped thinking about (such duels) a long time ago. Whenever I tried to do more, the results would be worse," he said.

Said Los Angeles manager Don

Mattingly: "It's hard to be better than this."

Washington first baseman Clint Robinson said facing Kershaw, a three-time Cy Young winner, and Greinke in less than 24 hours wasn't a lot of fun. Kershaw and Greinke combined to strike out 25 Nats in 16 innings.

"With those guys, you just have to get them in the strike zone and then, you know, put a good swing on it and hope something good happens," Robinson said.

Scherzer's wild pitch in the fourth gave the Dodgers their first run.

Andre Ethier led the inning with a double, moved up on Yasmani Grandal's sacrifice and scored with two outs on Scherzer's wild pitch.

Los Angeles broke away with four runs in the ninth off Blake Treinen. Ethier and A.J. Ellis hit RBI singles and Yasiel Puig added a two-run single.

Molina wins Tour stage marred by wild crash

The Associated Press

GAP, France — Riding downhill at break-neck speeds, Ruben Plaza Molina rode triumphantly into Gap as the solo winner of a treacherous Stage 16 on Monday that saw a teammate of race leader Chris Froome careen into a telephone pole and Peter Sagan finish second for a fifth time.

Froome's Sky teammate Geraint Thomas, who had been sixth overall, suffered the crash on a hairpin bend, after another rider collided with him. That sent Thomas into the telephone pole. He bounced off and disappeared into a dark thicket of woods, with his bike, scattering roadside spectators who leapt out of the way.

Although Thomas remounted, rode on and finished, the hair-raising accident showed how tricky the end of Stage 16 was, with a long, winding downhill that riders tore down at speeds of 45 mph or more.

The rider who slammed into Thomas on the bend, Warren Barguil, said he wanted to brake but his finger slipped, sending him into the Welsh rider.

Froome kept his overall lead. Tuesday is a rest day at the Tour before four days of climbing in the Alps that will decide the overall standings ahead of the finish Sunday in Paris.

Plaza, 35, was riding far ahead of Froome in a breakaway. The Spanish rider left that group of escapees on the final climb, the mid-grade Manse pass, and held them off on the 12-kilometer (7-mile) descent to the finish at Gap in the foothills of the Alps.

Chapman fastest to 500 Ks in loss

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The Cleveland Indians had plenty of scoring chances. They cashed in on just enough to squeeze out a win.

Yan Gomes drew a bases-loaded walk — Cleveland's fourth of the game — to drive in the tiebreaking run in the 11th inning and the Indians beat the Cincinnati Reds 5-3 on Sunday.

Jason Kipnis added a sacrifice fly in the 11th for Cleveland.

"We had some great late-game at bats," said Cleveland manager Terry Francona, who rued Cleveland's season-high 18 runners left on base. "We scored on four walks and a sacrifice fly. That's an interesting way to score five runs."

Pedro Villareal (1-3) gave up singles to Mike Aviles, Michael Bourn and Brandon Moss to open the 11th and load the bases. He then walked Gomes for force in the Indians' go-ahead run and Kipnis followed with his sacrifice fly.

Marc Rzepczynski (2-3) pitched two-thirds of an inning to get the win, and Zach McAllister got the last two outs for his first career save.

The Indians led 3-2 in the ninth, but Eugenio Suarez doubled off closer Cody Allen with two outs and scored on Jason Bourgeois's single. The blown save was Allen's second in 21 opportunities.

Allen also gave up Joey Votto's RBI single in the eighth.

Reds closer Aroldis Chapman struck out five in two innings to set a major league record for the fastest to reach 500 career strikeouts.

Chapman, who routinely throws over 100 mph, reached the mark when he got pinch-hitter Giovanny Urshela to end the 10th inning. The All-Star lefty needed just 292 innings to reach 500 strikeouts. The previous mark was by San Diego's Craig Kimbrel, who got to 500 in his 305th inning on May 25. Cincinnati starter Johnny Cueto, making perhaps his final start in Cincinnati with the trade deadline looming, issued six walks — as many as he had

allowed since 2011.

Cueto matched his season low with two strikeouts while allowing two runs and four hits in four innings. His abbreviated start snapped his streak of consecutive starts with at least five innings at 53.

Mets 3, Cardinals 1 (18): Ruben Tejada hit a sacrifice fly in the 18th inning as New York outlasted host St. Louis despite stranding 25 baserunners.

The Mets went 1-for-26 with runners in scoring position, yet still won the majors' second-longest game this season. Boston beat the Yankees in 19 innings in April.

Tejada hit a bases-loaded fly for the lead and Eric Campbell drove in another run with a squeeze bunt.

The game was scoreless until before both teams got a run in the 13th.

Astros 10, Rangers 0: Astros ace Dallas Keuchel struck out a career-high 13 in seven scoreless innings, leading host Houston over Texas.

Keuchel (12-4) retired 18 straight batters during one stretch. The Rangers piled up a total of 29 hits in the first two games of the series, but couldn't do anything against Keuchel. He leads the AL with a 2.12 ERA.

Yankees 2, Mariners 1: Mark Teixeira homered with two outs in the eighth inning as New York rallied for a victory over visiting Seattle for a series win.

On a steamy day with a game-time temperature of 92 degrees, both Cy Young Award winning starters, CC Sabathia and Felix Hernandez, were done after six impressive innings with the score tied 1-1.

Orioles 9, Tigers 3: Jonathan Schoop hit a three-run homer — part of Baltimore's six-run fourth inning against Justin Verlander — as the Orioles routed host Detroit.

Royals 4, White Sox 1: Danny Duffy took a shutout into the ninth inning in the longest outing of his career as surging Kansas City beat Chris Sale and host Chicago.

Athletics 14, Twins 1: Jake Smolinski homered twice for four RBIs and Josh

Reddick hit a grand slam as host Oakland slugged past Minnesota.

Billy Butler and Josh Phegley hit two-run homers for the A's, who cleared the fences a season-high five times to boost their 2015 total to 80.

Blue Jays 4, Rays 0: Marco Estrada pitched eight shutout innings to outduel Chris Archer, and Chris Colabello and Jose Bautista each hit two-run homers as Toronto beat visiting Tampa Bay.

Estrada (7-5) allowed just two hits through the first seven innings, with both runners erased trying to steal.

Phillies 8, Marlins 7: Jeff Francoeur's two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning lifted host Philadelphia over Miami.

Philadelphia ace Cole Hamels was roughed up for the second straight outing, giving up five runs and eight hits in three innings.

Brewers 6, Pirates 1: Rookie Taylor Jungmann pitched seven strong innings and Khris Davis hit a two-run double as host Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh for a sweep.

Jungmann (5-1), added to the Brewers' roster in early June, won his third straight decision. He gave up one run and five hits.

Giants 2, Diamondbacks 1: Madison Bumgarner and four relievers scattered nine hits and Justin Maxwell homered, helping San Francisco beat host Arizona.

Bumgarner (10-5) pitched five innings for the win, allowing a run and four hits with three strikeouts and a walk in his first start since July 10.

Cubs 4, Braves 1: Jake Arrieta pitched seven dominant innings and Jorge Soler homered to help Chicago beat host Atlanta.

Arrieta (11-5) gave up three hits, three walks and struck out 10, throwing 73 of his 112 pitches for strikes. Over his last six starts, the right-hander is 5-0 with a 0.96 ERA.

NCAA tweaks seeding rules for March Madness

INDIANAPOLIS — The NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee is making some changes to how it seeds teams for March Madness.

The committee will now have the flexibility to slide every team up or down the seed list, including the last four at-large teams selected. Until now, the last four teams voted into the tournament field had to participate in the First Four. Going forward, the last four at-large teams on the overall seed list will play in the First Four.

The committee will also now have more flexibility for handling the No. 2 seeds. The committee can now consider moving the team seeded fifth overall out of its natural geographic area, which will avoid the best No. 2 seed being placed in the same region as the top overall team.

Army football player recovering after fight

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Army football player Josh Jenkins is recovering from a head injury stemming from a fight with another cadet during the Fourth of July weekend.

The academy said Jenkins was injured near his barracks room after returning from an off-campus restaurant. He was later taken to Westchester Medical Center for evaluation after classmates observed him acting out of character.

The academy is investigating. West Point did not immediately respond to a request from The Associated Press on Monday for an update on Jenkins' condition.

In other college football news: Tennessee and Georgia Tech will open their 2017 seasons by facing each other Sept. 4 in the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game in Atlanta.

Their prime-time matchup was announced Monday.

The meeting is expected to be one of the first college games to take place at the new home stadium of the NFL's Atlanta Falcons, which is set to open in 2017.