

STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, July 25, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Turkey bombs Kurds, Islamic State

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkish jets struck camps belonging to Kurdish militants in northern Iraq, authorities said Saturday, the first strikes since a peace deal was announced in 2013, and again bombed Islamic State positions in Syria.

The strikes in Iraq targeted the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, whose affiliates have been effective in battling the Islamic State group. The strikes further complicate the U.S.-led war against the extremists, which has relied on Kurdish ground forces making gains in Iraq and Syria.

A spokesman in Iraq for the PKK, which has been fighting Turkey for autonomy since 1984 and is considered a terror-

ist organization by Ankara and its allies, said the strikes likely spelled the end of the peace process.

"Turkey has basically ended the cease-fire," Zagros Hiwa told *The Associated Press*. He said the first wave of strikes launched overnight Saturday didn't appear to cause casualties.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu announced a few hours later that he had ordered "a third wave" of raids against the Islamic State in Syria and a "second wave" of strikes against the PKK in northern Iraq — which were ongoing.

"Turkey's operations will, if needed, continue until the terror organizations' command centers, all locations where they plan (attacks) against Tur-

key and all depots used to store arms to be used against Turkey are destroyed," Davutoglu said.

He accused the PKK of not keeping a pledge to withdraw armed fighters from Turkish territory and to disarm.

The government statement earlier said the first strikes targeted seven areas including the Qandil mountains, where the PKK's command is based. The statement did not detail Islamic State targets but described the airstrikes in both Syria and Iraq as being "effective."

Hiwa said the jets struck villages on Qandil, although the PKK base was not hit.

Turkey's military also shelled Islamic State and PKK positions in Syria from across the Turkish border, the government said. It vowed to press

ahead with operations against the PKK and Islamic State, saying it was "determined to take all steps to ensure peace and security for our people."

Meanwhile, Turkish police proceeded with a major operation against the Islamic State, the PKK and the far-left DHKP-C for a second day. Nearly 600 people were detained in raids in 22 provinces, Davutoglu said.

Tensions flared with Kurds after an Islamic State suicide bombing in the southeastern Turkish city of Suruc on Monday killed 32 people.

On Friday, Turkey announced that it was allowing its air bases to be used by the U.S.-led coalition forces for operations against Islamic State extremists.

Obama: Africa is on the move

The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — President Barack Obama heralded Africa as a continent "on the move" Saturday as he opened a U.S.-sponsored business summit in Kenya, the East African nation where he has deep family ties.

"Africa is one of the fastest-growing regions of the world," Obama said. "People are being lifted out of poverty."

Obama's visit to Kenya — the first by a sitting U.S. president — has been highly anticipated in a nation that views him as a local son. The president's late father was born in Kenya, and many family members still live here, including his elderly step-grandmother.

"This is personal for me," Obama said. "There's a reason why my name is Barack Hussein Obama."

At a press conference later in the day, Obama nudged African nations to treat gays and lesbians equally under the law, a position that remains unpopular through much of the continent.

Sailor arrested for taking photos on sub

The Hartford (Conn.) Courant

The FBI says a sailor took illegal photographs of classified systems on the U.S. Navy's Groton, Conn.-based, nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Alexandria and later tried to destroy the evidence when he learned that the Navy and the FBI were investigating.

The Navy was alerted to the security breach when the town dump foreman in Hampton found a cellular telephone in a dumpster and decided to keep it to replace his own. When he noticed that the phone contained photographs, he showed them to a retired Navy chief, who called the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

U.S. Attorney Deirdre M. Daly said Friday that a federal grand jury has charged Kristian Saucier, 28, of Arlington, Vt., with unlawfully retaining photos taken inside restricted areas of a nuclear attack submarine, and obstructing an investigation.

Federal authorities did not respond to questions about the case, including what, if anything, investigators think Saucier intended to do with the photographs. A government affidavit filed in court said Saucier

admitted that the photographs were found on his telephone, but denied taking them.

"We vehemently deny that Mr. Saucier ever intentionally did anything to harm the U.S. or aid a foreign national," said his attorney, Derrick Hogan, of Albany, N.Y. "The government is trying to levy an espionage charge against him. The government is trying to make it a lot bigger than it is."

Saucier served as a machinist's mate aboard the Alexandria from September 2007 to March 2012.

The Alexandria is a Los Angeles, or 688-class, attack boat designed to hunt and destroy enemy submarines. The attack submarines, which also have been used in top-secret intelligence missions, date to the 1970s but remain an important element of the U.S. fleet.

The submarines' design and performance characteristics remain classified.

Naval and FBI investigators said in court filings that Saucier's telephone contained photographs of the ship's reactor, reactor compartment and maneuvering compartment, where the nuclear power, steam and electrical systems of the submarine are operated and monitored through control panels.

Sensitive info found in Clinton's private email

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department said Friday it has been notified of a potential compromise of classified information in connection with the private email account that Hillary Rodham Clinton used while serving as secretary of state.

A DOJ official said the department received a "referral" on the matter, which the inspector general of the intelligence agencies later acknowledged came from him.

The inspector general, Charles McCullough, said in a statement that he found information that should have been designated classified in four emails out of a "limited sample" of 40 that his agency reviewed. He made the "security referral," acting under a federal law that requires alerting the FBI to any potential compromises of national security

information.

"The main purpose of the referral was to notify security officials that classified information may exist on at least one private server and thumb drive that are not in the government's possession," he said in a statement, which was also signed by State Department Inspector General Steve Linick.

The server is Clinton's, and the thumb drive, containing 30,000 emails she turned over to the State Department, is in the possession of her attorney, David Kendall.

The statements — sparked by apparently inaccurate media reports that the Justice Department was weighing a "criminal" investigation related to the Clinton emails — marked the latest turn in an increasingly acrimonious, partisan battle over Clinton's tenure at the State Department.

Union report calls VA leaders dysfunctional

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Several months into his tenure as Veterans Affairs Secretary, Robert McDonald visited the subbasement in the agency's main Washington office to meet with the union heads.

Bill Preston, president of AFGE Local 17, which represents VA employees in the Washington central office, told McDonald that if he wanted to turn around the agency, he would have to fire a lot of executives and managers.

"Bill, I agree," Preston recalled him saying. "I need your help. Tell me who [they] are."

After an internal review, Preston sent McDonald a 39-page report Thursday, detailing accounts from hundreds of VA workers who shared stories

of dysfunction and insensitivity by their superiors.

Preston declined to give a copy to *The Washington Post*. But two union sources broadly described its contents. Nearly three dozen managers were mentioned in it, and each had at least three separate employee complaints, said the sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on behalf of the union. They said it alleges there are institutional problems with how employees, many of them veterans, are treated.

"Morale is very low," one union source said. "It creates a very hostile work environment, people can't do their work."

VA spokeswoman Victoria Dillon would not say if McDonald received the report.

La. theater shooter held extremist views

Los Angeles Times

John Russell Houser hated taxes, liberals, newspapers, gays and the United States, according to the broad trail he left in court documents and on the Internet. Nor was he overly fond of his family, which feared him so much that relatives sought a restraining order and once had him involuntarily committed on the grounds that he was mentally ill.

Houser's wife told police in 2008 that she had removed all the guns from their home because she was afraid of him, according to a Carrollton, Ga., police report that was part of a petition for a restraining order.

On Thursday night, about 20 minutes into the movie "Trainwreck," Houser stood up in a theater in Lafayette, La., and began firing with a .40-caliber semiautomatic handgun, killing two moviegoers and injuring nine, according to police. He then tried to escape by following the fleeing crowd. When he saw authorities, he dashed back inside and killed himself, police said.

Investigators were looking for a motive and were tracing the movements of Houser, 59, described by police as a drifter with a criminal past. In blog posts, he had expressed interest in white-power groups and neo-Nazis, and he had espoused anti-Semitic and anti-gay views, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, which said that "a picture is emerging online of a man caught up with a number of far right-wing ideas and fascinated about 'the power of the lone wolf.'"

"We're trying to put the pieces together to figure out why," the Louisiana State Police superintendent, Col. Michael D. Edmonson, said during a televised news conference. He said police were looking at the crime scene as well as Houser's mental health history, blogs and social media activities.

But it could be a long time, if ever, before the puzzle is solved,

he said. "We may not find a motive," Edmonson said. But it is clear, officials said, that he had planned to survive and escape.

The dead were identified as Jillian Johnson, 33, who ran two clothing and art boutiques, and Mayci Breaux, 21, a popular student studying to be a radiology technician.

Lafayette Police Chief Jim Craft said authorities didn't know what drew the attacker to the town.

"We don't know why he decided to stop and stay in Lafayette," Craft said. "It just seems like he was kind of drifting along."

Houser graduated from Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga., in 1988 with an accounting degree, university officials said. His last known address with the university was in Phenix City, Ala.

Sheriff Heath Taylor of Russell County, Ala., said Houser had applied in 2006 for a permit to carry a concealed firearm. The application was denied because Houser had been accused by his wife the previous year of domestic violence and because he had been arrested in connection with an arson case in Columbus, Ga., Taylor said.

In 2008, Houser's family members filed for a protective order against him for an "act of family violence." Houser "has a history of mental health issues, i.e. manic depression and/or bipolar disorder" and had "exhibited extreme erratic behavior," family members said in court documents.

Mona Boutwell, assistant chief deputy clerk in Muscogee County, Ga., said she had known Houser for nearly 25 years. She described him as "high-strung" and "hyper," with a sometimes violent streak. But when she heard his name in connection with Thursday's shooting, she could scarcely believe it.

"I think Rusty had serious issues. ... But I don't know anybody that would be capable of that horrific of a crime," she said.

USOC pushing for commitment from Mass. governor on '24 bid

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The U.S. Olympic Committee wants to know where the governor of Massachusetts stands on the Boston Olympics. His answer: Still crunching the numbers.

Gov. Charlie Baker refused to take a position on the city's troubled bid for the 2024 Games on Friday, even after receiving a request from USOC leaders to let them know as soon as possible.

"I get the fact that everybody would love us to just sort of say 'yea' or 'nay' today, and I appreciate the fact that the timing in all of this is frustrating," Baker said at a news conference, where he fielded several questions about Boston 2024.

A person familiar with the bid told The Associated Press the USOC had asked Baker for an answer by the end of the day Friday. That person asked for anonymity because the communications with the governor were confidential.

Asked about his contact with the USOC, Baker said the committee's leaders had

a meeting scheduled Monday, and "I'm planning to call them on Monday."

"But my message to them is going to be the same as my message is to you: We hired (a consulting group) because we wanted their opinion and we wanted an expert opinion and a full-blown analysis," Baker said.

The report from that group, The Brattle Group, isn't expected until next month.

"This is a 10-year decision and I wouldn't be doing the taxpayers ... or the city of Boston or the Olympics or anybody else any favors if we made this decision with anything less than the full report from the Brattle Group," Baker said.

He said he would render his decision "pretty quickly" after receiving the report.

Will that be soon enough?

The deadline for the USOC to officially put forth a candidate is Sept. 15 and a key meeting of the International Olympic Committee is set for next week in Kuala Lumpur. If the USOC were to bail on the Boston bid, and try to replace it with another city — presumably Los Angeles —

time is running short to make that move.

The bid has been beset by polling numbers in the 40s that have failed to move significantly upward, thanks in part to an active opposition concerned about how much taxpayer money might be spent on the games.

USOC Chairman Larry Probst has said he needs to see support grow sooner rather than later.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh has already come out in favor of the Olympics. The USOC considers the governor's support key to the effort, as well. A referendum is planned next year on the bid. If it doesn't receive majority support both in Boston and across the state, bid leaders have said they would halt the process.

"We have always said that the success of this bid will require majority public support and the united backing of state and city political leadership," USOC CEO Scott Blackmun said. "We're encouraged by recent discussions with Mayor Walsh and Governor Baker and look forward to continued, constructive dialogue."

Froome all but locks up Tour win

The Associated Press

ALPE D'HUEZ, France — Chris Froome grimly hung on against a flying final attack Saturday from his Tour de France rival Nairo Quintana on the last Alpine climb of this year's race to all but lock up the British rider's second Tour victory in the space of three years.

Quintana was outstanding on the final ascent to the Alpe d'Huez ski station in what was the Colombian's last real opportunity to unseat Froome. Piling on bursts of speed on the steep road teeming with frenzied spectators, the Movistar rider ate into the race lead that the Team Sky leader had carefully pieced together in the previous 19 stages.

Thibaut Pinot won Stage 20, for the third French victory at this Tour. But all eyes were on the battle behind the FDJ team rider for the overall race.

Lacking his usual explosive power, Froome gritted his teeth up the 21 hairpin bends as his advantage started to melt away, looking to limit the damage. Only at the end, in a final sprint at the ski station itself, did Froome show his top speed.

"Very hard," he said.

But his tenacious defense was enough: The 1 minute and 12 seconds he still has over Quintana will see Froome crowned the winner on Sunday on the Champs-Élysées.

"We finished off the job," said Froome's teammate Richie Porte.

Froome essentially won this Tour on the first big climbs in the Pyrenees in week two when, closely followed by teammate Porte, he triumphed at the La Pierre-Saint-Martin ski station to give him a big cushion at the top of the standings.

That carried him through the rest of those mountains and the hilly Massif Central region on the way to the Alps and dealt a heavy psychological blow to other podium contenders.

With the sole exception of Quintana, they all but resigned themselves to fighting for second and third place.

Ultimately, Quintana left himself too much to do on the last of four days of climbing in the Alps. Just as in 2013, he is set to finish runner-up again to Froome on Sunday.

Quintana said time he lost in the first week of the Tour cost him dearly at the end, leaving him too much to do.

Still, he wasn't despondent.

"Second at the Tour de France isn't half-bad," he said.

Their engrossing developing rivalry is box-office for the sport after the ravages wrought by Lance Armstrong's era of systematic doping and lying.

At age 25, Quintana's future is in front of him.

FIFA, Blatter get back to Cup business

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — FIFA and Sepp Blatter put their corruption crisis aside and got back to World Cup business at the 2018 tournament qualifying draw hosted by Vladimir Putin in a Russian state residence on Saturday.

The two presidents joined on stage for speeches to open a draw ceremony that almost two hours later paired Spain and Italy, respectively the 2010 and 2006 champions, in a group, and revived the game's oldest international rivalry, England vs. Scotland.

With the focus once more on football, the embattled FIFA leadership and much-criticized host nation Russia could display a confident and united front during a slickly staged show.

It was Blatter's first major public event since American and Swiss criminal investigations of corruption in world football were unsealed two months ago.

"Thank you President Putin, you make us happy and comfortable," said Blatter, making his first trip outside his native Switzerland since mid-May. He has avoided FIFA business in countries which have extradition treaties with the United States.

Putin and Blatter got a standing ovation from Russian and football officials and guests when they walked on stage together in a temporary venue built in the splendid grounds of Konstantin Palace.

"We are here to launch a football marathon," Putin said through a translator, almost three years ahead of the finals

tournament kicking off after around 850 qualifying matches.

The preliminary rounds will decide 31 qualifying slots for teams to join Russia at the month-long tournament in 11 cities.

"It is a good chance to visit a multi-faceted and open Russia that can surprise and inspire," said Putin, who promised "a special atmosphere of unity and overwhelming joy."

Still, this week saw black players at Russian clubs again draw attention to racial abuse by fans in domestic matches.

Blatter has long defended Russia against criticism, and earlier Saturday confirmed his backing at a brief photo call with Putin inside the former Romanov palace.

"We say yes to Russia, we are providing our support," Blatter said of the host nation, whose winning bid campaign is being examined by Swiss prosecutors in a wider case focusing on World Cup bids and FIFA spending.

"We see what's happening around football, but I know how you feel about it," Putin noted. "We thank you for concentrating your time and attention on football above all, despite this."

FIFA gathered football officials from around the world to the coastal parkland setting on the south-west fringe of Putin's home city. The palace previously hosted world political leaders for meetings of the G8 and G20 nations.

A total of 141 of FIFA's 209 member federations were involved in the draw, including top-ranked Argentina and joint No. 207-ranked Djibouti and Cook Islands.

The planned two-hour draw, co-hosted by supermodel Natalia Vodianova and television presenter Dmitry Shepelev in Russian and English, overran by six minutes.

The extra time let FIFA officials relax a little longer after weeks of being rocked by fallout from the May 27 arrest of senior colleagues in Zurich, and unleashing of investigations into alleged racketeering, bribery, and corruption implicating football and marketing officials.

Blatter was re-elected FIFA president two days later with support from Putin, who hinted the United States was meddling in football's affairs to help strip Russia of the 2018 World Cup.

Within a week Blatter had stunningly announced he would leave office after a new election to replace him. It is on Feb. 26.

Blatter could be interviewed for the Swiss case — which centers on suspected money laundering linked to the 2018 and 2022 bid contests — and is a stated target of American investigators. He denies all wrongdoing.

Russia bid leaders have also denied wrongdoing though provided little evidence requested by FIFA's ethics committee in a previous probe. That case concluded that wrongdoing by several bid candidates did not influence the victories of Russia and 2022 host Qatar.

Saturday's draw ceremony was conducted by Blatter's right-hand man, secretary general Jerome Valcke, on his second trip to Russia since May. Valcke has also avoided countries where he risks extradition to the U.S.



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NFL suspends Wolfe 4 games

The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — His scary spinal injury behind him along with the ill-fitting 4-3 defense, Derek Wolfe couldn't wait for the 2015 season to get here.

He won't be on the field now when it does.

The NFL informed the Denver Broncos on Friday that Wolfe would be suspended for the first month of the season for violating the league's policy on performance-enhancing substances.

In a statement, the fourth-year pro offered his "most sincere apology" to the organization, his teammates and fans and insisted he took medicine this offseason that he didn't realize was banned.

"The medication is not a substance which would enhance my on-field performance in any way and I genuinely was unaware that it was prohibited, but players are responsible for what is in their bodies," Wolfe said in a statement. "I will certainly exercise far greater caution in the future and will seek advice re-

lating to the permissibility of any and all medications."

Losing one of their starting defensive ends is a big blow to a defense that's already dealing with big question marks at middle linebacker — the fulcrum of Wade Phillips' 3-4 scheme — as Danny Trevathan (knee) and Brandon Marshall (foot) are returning from surgeries.

During Wolfe's absence, the Broncos will rely more heavily upon veterans Malik Jackson and newcomer Vance Walker, who played for the Chiefs last season. Wolfe's suspension also could benefit second-year pro Kenny Anunike.

Wolfe can practice during training camp and play in the preseason before his Sept. 5-Oct. 5 banishment. He'll miss games against some elite running backs, including Baltimore's Justin Forsett, Kansas City's Jamaal Charles and Minnesota's Adrian Peterson. That puts added pressure on safety T.J. Ward and outside linebackers Von Miller, DeMarcus Ware and first-round pick Shane Ray to stop the run.

Wolfe played in every game last year, contributing to a Denver defensive line that allowed 79.8 rushing yards per game, the lowest single-season figure in team history.

He said this spring, however, that he was just a shell of himself in 2014 after missing a good chunk of the previous season, which was marked by a seizure on the team bus. Doctors believe that was related to a bruised spinal cord he suffered that preseason.

Wolfe hasn't played a true 3-4 — with three down linemen and four linebackers — since his days at the University of Cincinnati. He said this offseason he was actually surprised the Broncos drafted him in 2012. After all, the old coaching staff preferred playing four down linemen and three linebackers most of the time.

Wolfe said the 3-4 suits him because "I'm not really a speed rusher, I'm not really a big 330-pound defensive tackle, either. I'm kind of a 'tweener and that's really what you need at the 3-4."

Anderson takes 5K swim race

The Associated Press

KAZAN, Russia — Haley Anderson of the U.S. defended her title in the 5-kilometer open water race to claim the first medal of the FINA world swimming championships Saturday.

She surged to the lead in the closing meters of the race in the choppy, brownish waters of the Kazanka River, hitting the touchpad in 58 minutes, 48.4 seconds.

Chad Ho of South Africa won the men's 5k in 55:17.6, the same time as silver medalist Rob Muffels of Germany. Matteo Furlan of Italy earned bronze in 55:20.0.

"I couldn't ask for a better race," Ho said.

Anderson, the 2012 Olympic 5k silver medalist from Granite Bay, Calif., used the shorter race as a tuneup for the 10k next week.

"I just wanted to be able to get on the course, feel it out," she said. "My strategy was just to stay toward the front because it's a short race. You got to kind of stay up there if you want to be able to make your move toward the end."

Anderson's medal was the 500th won by the U.S. in the 16-year history of the world championships.

Kalliopi Araouzou of Greece took silver in 58:49.8, while Finnia Wunram of Germany earned bronze in 58:51.0.

Sharon Van Rouwendaal of the Netherlands led most of the way on the wind-whipped rectangular course, but settled for fourth in 58:55.1 — more than 7 seconds behind Anderson.

The water temperature was 68 degrees while the air temperature was 73 degrees for the women's race at the course near the Kazan Kremlin, built at the behest of Ivan the Terrible in the 16th century.

"The water wasn't too cold, which was nice," Anderson said. "A little choppy, but it's choppy for everybody, it's cold for everybody. It was nice out there."

Anderson won the 5k at worlds two years ago in Barcelona, Spain, where the water temperature in the city's harbor was warm, but swimmers criticized the conditions as dirty and smelly.

Numerous boats carefully tracked the field of 41 swimmers, who were strung out after the lead pack. The water is four meters deep on the course — two times deeper than the FINA standard. The bottom of the river in the competition area was cleaned beforehand.

"The quality of the Kazanka water conforms to all the sanitary norms," said Dmitry Mikhailov, a deputy director general for sports projects.

The start and finish of the open water events is directly under the 27-meter tower that will be used for the high diving competition next week.

Anderson's teammate, Ashley Twichell, was sixth.

Like the U.S., Australia placed both of its swimmers in the top 10. Jessica Walker was fifth and Melissa Gorman tied for seventh with Anastasia Krapivina of Russia.

In the men's 5k, American David Heron was sixth and teammate Alex Meyer 11th.

Diving and synchronized swimming medals were to be awarded later on Saturday.

In the debut of mixed duet synchro at worlds, the Russian duo of Darina Valitova and Aleksandr Maltsev was first with 88.85 points in the technical preliminary.

Americans Christina Jones and Bill May were second at 86.71, while the Italian duo of Manila Flamini and Giorgio Minisini was third with 84.07. The final is Sunday.

Hamilton powers Rangers past Angels

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Josh Hamilton doubled, singled and scored two runs in his return to Angel Stadium, and Texas got 7-plus outstanding innings of four-hit ball from Colby Lewis in a 4-2 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Friday night.

Hamilton was booed whenever he stepped to the plate or touched the ball at the stadium where he played the previous two seasons after signing a five-year, \$125 million free-agent deal with the Angels. The former AL MVP was traded back to Texas three months ago following two dismal years in Orange County.

Mike Trout hit his 29th home run, pulling even with Albert Pujols atop the AL homers race.

Astros 4, Royals 0: Scott Kazmir pitched seven strong innings in his debut with his hometown team, leading visiting Houston to a shutout of Kansas City.

The 31-year-old left-hander limited the Royals to three singles and only runner — Mike Moustakas in the fourth — past first base. Kazmir (6-5), who lowered his ERA to 2.24, retired the final nine batters he faced.

Cardinals 4, Braves 2: Randal Grichuk homered and rookie Tim Cooney threw seven solid innings to earn his first major league win, leading host St. Louis to a victory over Atlanta.

St. Louis improved to 6-1 since the All-Star break and pushed its home record to an MLB-best 35-12. Meanwhile, the Braves have lost their last six road games.

Giants 9, Athletics 3: Hunter Pence had four hits and drove in two runs, Brandon Belt had three RBIs and host San Francisco won its third straight, beating Oakland.

Jake Peavy (2-4) pitched six strong innings to earn his second straight victory. Buster Posey extended his hitting streak to 10 games with three hits and drove in a run, and Joe Panik and Angel Pagan each also drove in runs for the Giants, who won their ninth in 10 games.

Dodgers 7, Mets 2: Justin Turner homered and drove in three runs against his former club, emergency starter Ian Thomas (1-1) hurled five effective innings, and visiting Los Angeles beat New York.

The Dodgers spoiled the major league debut of outfielder Michael Conforto, the

Mets' first-round draft pick last year who was promoted from Double-A Binghamton earlier in the day. Conforto drove in the Mets' first run with an RBI groundout in the fifth inning.

Pirates 7, Nationals 5: Gregory Polanco homered and drove in three runs as Pittsburgh exacted some measure of revenge against Max Scherzer and Washington.

Just over a month after Scherzer no-hit the Pirates, Pittsburgh touched Washington's ace for five runs in five innings before putting it away against reliever Sammy Solis (1-1). Neil Walker and Pedro Alvarez also homered off Scherzer, the most home runs Scherzer has given up in a game in nearly four years.

Twins 10, Yankees 1: Phil Hughes (9-6) pitched seven shutout innings against his former team and Miguel Sano hit one of host Minnesota's four home runs in a victory over New York.

Hughes gave up seven hits, struck out three and wiggled out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh. Trevor Plouffe went 3 for 4 with a homer and a double and Torii Hunter and Brian Dozier also went deep for the Twins.

Mariners 5, Blue Jays 2: Felix Hernandez (12-5) pitched seven strong innings to pick up his 12th win of the season, Mark Trumbo gave his team the lead with a two-run homer and host Seattle beat Toronto.

Seattle opened a key six-game home-stand by getting production throughout its batting order and another solid performance from its staff ace.

Padres 3, Marlins 1: Matt Kemp, Yonder Alonso and Brett Wallace all homered to back seven strong innings from Andrew Cashner (4-10) and lead host San Diego to a victory over Miami.

Wallace hit his first homer with San Diego leading off the fourth to tie the game at 1-all. Alonso and Kemp hit back-to-back homers in the fifth to make it 3-1.

Red Sox 2, Tigers 1 (11): Xander Bogaerts' single up the middle off Blaine Hardy in the 11th inning drove home the winning run, and host Boston snapped an eight-game losing streak with a victory over Detroit.

Hardy (3-2) gave up a leadoff walk to Mookie Betts, who moved to second on Brock Holt's sacrifice bunt. Bogaerts

then sent a changeup into center field and Betts beat the throw home in a play that withstood a video review as the Red Sox celebrated their first victory in nearly two weeks.

Rockies 6, Reds 5: Carlos Gonzalez homered twice, tying the game each time, and Charlie Blackmon scored on a wild pitch in the ninth inning to lift host Colorado over Cincinnati.

Joey Votto homered in the top of the ninth off closer John Axford (3-3) to tie the game at 5.

Brewers 2, Diamondbacks 1: Ryan Braun homered, Jimmy Nelson (8-9) threw seven innings in one of his best starts of the season to win a pitching duel with Patrick Corbin, and visiting Milwaukee beat Arizona.

Nelson allowed five hits and escaped a couple of early jams to improve his record to 5-1 over his last six starts. He struck out five and walked three, one intentionally.

Rays 3, Orioles 1: Tim Beckham snapped an eighth-inning tie with a two-out, bases-loaded single that gave host Tampa Bay a victory over Baltimore.

The sputtering Rays rallied after being limited to two hits over seven innings by Orioles starter Chris Tillman, who came within six outs of winning his sixth straight decision before walking Kevin Kiermaier leading off the eighth.

Phillies 5, Cubs 3 (10): Jeff Francoeur hit a two-run homer with two outs in the 10th inning and visiting Philadelphia beat Chicago.

Francoeur drove his game-winner deep into the bleachers in left field off Cubs reliever Rafael Soriano, who came in for James Russell (0-2), who gave up a leadoff single to Cesar Hernandez in the 10th.

White Sox 6, Indians 0: Jose Quintana (5-9) pitched a seven-hitter for his first career shutout and complete game and Jose Abreu homered off Corey Kluber (5-11), sending visiting Chicago to a victory over Cleveland.

Quintana got his first win since July 1, and the left-hander did it with customary control and efficiency. He did not allow a walk and hasn't yielded a base on balls in five of his past six starts. The Indians only got two runners as far as second base against Quintana, who was making his 107th major league start. He struck out eight and improved to 5-4 in night starts.