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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Sniper fire kills 5 Dallas officers

The Washington Post

DALLAS — Five Dallas police officers were killed and seven others wounded Thursday night when sniper fire turned a peaceful protest over recent police shootings into a scene of chaos and terror.

The gunfire was followed by a standoff that lasted for hours, with a suspect who the Dallas police chief said had told authorities “he was upset about the recent police shootings” and “wanted to kill white people, especially white officers.” He was killed when police detonated a bomb robot.

After the bloodshed — the deadliest single day for law enforcement officers since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks — authorities said the gunman was killed, three potential suspects were in custody and police were still trying to investigate who may have been involved in the attack.

“We are heartbroken,” Dallas police Chief David Brown said during a news conference Friday. “There are no words to describe the atrocity that occurred to our city.”

The eruption of violence at about 9 p.m. occurred during a calm protest over recent police shootings in Minnesota and Louisiana, with similar demonstrations occurring in cities across the country. As a barrage of gunfire ripped through the air, demonstrators and police officers alike scrambled. Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings told CBS News that in addition to the dozen officers shot, two other people also were wounded by gunfire, though their conditions were not immediately known.

Police have not officially released the identity of the attacker, who said he was upset by police shootings, but a se-

Gunman, two victims had ties to US military

BY ALEX HORTON
Stars and Stripes

SAN ANTONIO — The gunman who killed five Dallas police officers Thursday was an Army veteran who served in Afghanistan, and one victim was a veteran of the Navy Reserve who served in Iraq, the Pentagon confirmed Friday.

The gunman, Micah Xavier Johnson, 25, of Mesquite, Texas, served most recently with the 420th Engineer Brigade out of Seagoville, Texas, as a carpentry and masonry specialist. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2013 and left the service in April 2015, according to his service record provided by Army spokeswoman Lt. Col. Jennifer Johnson.

One of the officers killed was Patrick Zamarripa, 32,

who served on active duty for eight years before moving to the Navy Reserve, according to Navy spokeswoman Lt. Jackie Pau. While his family told the Washington Post that Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Zamarripa served in Iraq, Pau could not confirm his Iraq Campaign Medal came from service in the country.

Dallas transit police officer Brent Thompson, 43, also was among the dead. He helped train police in Iraq and Afghanistan as a contractor, according to The Associated Press.

Seven officers and two civilians also were wounded in the attack. Johnson was killed by a police-guided robot using a small, explosive charge after a standoff with police. Three suspects were detained, Dallas Police Chief David Brown said.

it was unclear Friday how many attackers were involved.

For hours after the assault, police said, they spent hours in a standoff with Johnson after he was cornered on the second floor of a building downtown. Police exchanged gunfire with him and negotiated with him, but those discussions broke down, Brown said.

In those conversations, Brown said the suspect told police that “he was upset about Black Lives Matter” and angered by the police shootings in Louisiana and Minnesota that dominated national news this week after officers in both places fatally shot people. He also said he was not involved with any groups and acted alone.

“He said he was upset about the recent police shootings,” Brown said Friday. “The suspect said he was upset at white people. The suspect stated he wanted to kill white people, especially white officers.”

During the standoff, Johnson also told authorities that “the end is coming” and spoke about bombs being placed downtown, although no explosives had been found by Friday. Ultimately, Brown said police had no other option but to place an explosive device on their bomb robot and send it to the suspect, who was killed when the bomb detonated.

Even as people were still trying to hide or shelter in place after the gunfire, videos began to circulate on social media showing some of the bloodshed.

One video showed a person with an assault-style rifle shoot a police officer in the back at point-blank range. In the footage, a gunman is seen running up behind an officer moving behind a pillar and firing at his back. The officer is seen falling to the ground, and it is unclear if they survived.

nior U.S. law enforcement official familiar with the probe identified him as Micah Xavier Johnson, 25, who is believed to be from the Dallas area. Johnson did not appear to have any ties to international terrorism, the official said.

There are no immediate indications the attack was related to terrorism, international or domestic, according to a second federal law enforcement official, who asked not to be identified discussing an ongoing probe.

Attorney General Loretta Lynch said Friday that federal officials were on the scene and working with local law enforcement to help investigate the

attack.

“This has been a week of profound grief and heartbreak and loss,” Lynch said during remarks Friday. Noting that the attack in Dallas happened during a protest sparked by police shootings, she added: “After the events of this week, Americans across our country are feeling a sense of helplessness, uncertainty and fear ... but the answer must not be violence.”

The slain police included four Dallas police officers and one Dallas Area Rapid Transit officer. While police said they were killed by “snipers” perched atop “elevated positions” and initially said there were two snipers,

House OKs measure to bar women from draft

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican-led House backed a measure Thursday that seeks to bar women from being required to register for a potential military draft, a victory for social conservatives who fear that forcing females to sign up is another step toward the blurring of gender lines.

By a vote of 217 to 203, lawmakers approved an amendment that would block the Selective Service System from using any money to alter draft registration requirements that currently apply only to men between the ages of 18 and 25.

The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Warren Davidson, R-Ohio, was added to a financial services spending bill. The House also approved an amendment by Rep. Paul Gosar, R-

Ariz., that would block any money in the bill from being used for sanctuary cities, a term for jurisdictions that resist turning over immigrants to federal authorities.

Davidson said much more study is necessary before such a significant, if largely symbolic, change to the draft is made. The U.S. has not had a military draft since 1973, in the waning years of the Vietnam War era, and the odds for another wide-scale draft are remote. Still, the draft registration requirement remains for men, and many lawmakers believe women should be included.

The House vote comes just a few weeks after the Senate passed an annual defense policy bill that mandates for the first time in history that young women sign up for a draft.

Pentagon names new Inherent Resolve leader

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has tapped a veteran of its counterinsurgency wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to replace Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland as commander of U.S. and allied military operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, military officials said.

Lt. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, who now serves as commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps based in Fort Bragg, N.C., will take command of Operation Inherent Resolve in August or September, officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss an appointment that has not yet been made public.

That makes Townsend the man who is likely to oversee the bulk of the fighting for city of Mosul, in what promises to be a pivotal battle against the militant group. U.S. and Iraqi officials have not said when Iraqi forces will begin their assault

in earnest on the northern city, which has been under Islamic State control since 2014. But it's expected to begin as early as later this summer or fall.

A decisive victory in Mosul would deprive the Islamic State of its last major city in Iraq and would deal a major blow to the group's claim of a flesh-and-blood caliphate stretching across Iraq and Syria. But if the operation stumbles, it would hand the militants a giant propaganda victory and would worsen the already significant political problems facing Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi.

Townsend is not a stranger to Iraq. As a brigade commander in Iraq in 2007, Townsend, then a colonel, oversaw a major operation in which U.S. troops sought to clear insurgents from Iraq's Diyala province, one of the country's most volatile areas.

NATO leaders approve eastern Europe buildup

BY JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

WARSAW — NATO leaders approved on Friday a long-expected but controversial plan to base combat troops close to Russia's border in the Baltics and Poland.

Allies hailed the initiative to set up four rotational battalions in eastern Europe — a move brought on by concerns about a more assertive Russia — as a “landmark” development.

“The four battalions will be multinational battalions, meaning they will send a very clear message — that an attack on one ally will trigger the response from the whole alliance,” NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said.

The deployments are set to begin in 2017.

But U.S. defense and security analysts on the sidelines of NATO's summit in Warsaw described the effort as an important “first step,” as questions remain over whether allies can summon the unity for more robust defense measures in the months and years ahead.

For NATO, the plan to establish a rotational force led by the U.S., Germany, the United Kingdom and Canada, has been the key agenda item during two days of talks among heads of state from the 28-nation NATO alliance and 26 partner nations. The effort also represents something of a compromise between eastern state allies that

wanted a larger, more permanent presence and nations such as Germany that have advocated a more cautious approach, concerned about antagonizing Russia.

However, if NATO wants to have a credible deterrent capability in the east — where Russia outguns allies by a wide margin — more work needs to be done, U.S. defense and security analysts said.

“This is not the end of the road. This is a benchmark,” said Mike Carpenter, the Pentagon's deputy assistant secretary of defense for Russia affairs, during a panel discussion on the sidelines of the summit.

Next, allies must look at ways to enhance NATO's maritime position in the Baltic and Black seas and address insufficient air defense capabilities in places like the Baltics and Poland, he said.

NATO on Friday also declared that its missile defense efforts in Europe have reached “initial operational capability,” meaning that U.S. assets such as Aegis warships out of Rota, Spain, and American missile defense personnel in Romania and elsewhere can now operate within NATO command and control structures.

Stoltenberg said the shield isn't directed at Russian ballistic missile systems but threats outside of Europe. Russia has lashed out at the effort, calling the system a potential threat to its own missile deterrent.

Baghdad security head fired by PM after attack

BAGHDAD — Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi fired Baghdad's security chief Friday following a series of attacks, including one at a Shiite shrine that killed 37 people and was claimed by militants from the Islamic State group.

Anger against the government is running high among

Iraqis following a large-scale car bombing last Sunday that killed at least 186 people.

That attack was followed Thursday night by mortar fire on the Sayyid Mohammed shrine and a nearby market in Balad, 50 miles north of the Iraqi capital.

Al-Abadi fired the commander of Baghdad Operations, a statement from his office said.

From The Associated Press

Alvarez stops Dos Anjos for title

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Eddie Alvarez persevered through financial troubles, promotional disputes and a loss in his UFC debut to get back to the cage with a title shot.

And then he beat Rafael Dos Anjos with a fire that's been growing for years.

Alvarez won the UFC lightweight belt Thursday night, stopping Dos Anjos in the first round with a blistering series of strikes.

Alvarez (28-4) needed just 3:49 to finish Dos Anjos (24-8), the Brazilian champion with a five-fight winning streak. The Philadelphia-based contender initially caught Dos Anjos with a damaging right hand, but had to unload dozens of strikes on the still-standing Dos Anjos until finally getting a stoppage.

"This has always been a marathon for me, not a sprint," Alvarez said. "Everybody was always telling me what I should do and when I should do it. I just think if you work hard enough and you love something, these belts are just by-products of it. This (belt) will not be here forever, but I just think working hard and doing something you're passionate about is important."

Alvarez won the title in just his fourth fight with the UFC, which signed him in 2014 after his protracted departure from the Bellator promotion. The accompanying legal troubles drained Alvarez's bank account and nearly soured him on the sport.

After finally getting to the UFC, Alvarez was trounced by Donald "Cowboy" Cerrone in his first bout. He recovered with split-decision wins over Gilbert Melendez and Pettis to get a title shot — and he was nearly perfect.

Alvarez believed he could better Dos Anjos' formidable striking skills, and he was devastatingly correct: His big right hand appeared to roll Dos Anjos' eyes back in his head.

Silva steps into Jones' place

LAS VEGAS — Anderson Silva will replace Jon Jones at UFC 200, taking on light heavyweight champion Daniel Cormier on two days' notice.

One day after Jones apparently failed a doping test, the UFC decided to replace him with one of the greatest fighters in mixed martial arts history for the promotion's biggest show of the summer.

The 41-year-old Silva (33-7) reigned as the middleweight champion for nearly seven years, but he hasn't earned a victory in four fights since October 2012. He was hit with a doping suspension that invalidated his only win in that stretch, and he had surgery to remove his gall bladder just seven weeks ago, forcing him to drop out of a scheduled fight in his native Brazil.

"I haven't trained in a few months, but I think I'm in good condition to go in there and put on a good fight," a smiling Silva said through a translator at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Silva and Cormier will have a three-round, non-title bout in the third slot on the five-fight pay-per-view card, UFC President Dana White said. Although Silva claims to be in solid shape, he wasn't ready to accept a five-round fight, the required length to fight for a championship belt.

The UFC also changed the bout order for the second time in 24 hours, promoting Miesha Tate's bantamweight title fight against Amanda Nunes to the main event.

— Associated Press

"I just remember thinking, 'Step on the gas and don't let this get out of the first, because I could be dealing with a long night,'" Alvarez said. "I had him hurt, so I had to empty the gas tank. I told you, don't bring the dog out of me."

Dos Anjos somehow kept his feet against several flurries of big punches, but Alvarez chased Dos Anjos across the cage and unloaded with another bunch of unblocked shots, forcing the referee to stop the bout.

"No excuses. All the credit is for Eddie," Dos Anjos said. "I was with my hands up when I got caught. I saw the punch. I was watching. That's the fight game, man."

Dos Anjos defended his belt impressively with a 66-second TKO of Cerrone in

December for his first title defense, but he missed out on a lucrative bout with Conor McGregor in March after breaking his foot in training.

The 12-fight event at the MGM Grand Garden Arena kicked off International Fight Week for the UFC, which is staging shows on three consecutive nights, culminating in UFC 200 on Saturday.

Before the main event, heavyweight contender Derrick Lewis (16-4) won a split decision over veteran Roy Nelson (22-13), and welterweight contender Alan Jouban (14-4) earned his fourth win in five fights with a punishing performance against iron-chinned UFC newcomer Belal Muhammad (9-1).

Brown resigning after four seasons at SMU

Larry Brown is leaving SMU after turning down a contract extension, ending a four-year run during which the Mustangs made the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1993 and then were banned from postseason play last season.

SMU athletic director Rick Hart said Friday that Brown, who was signed through next season, had been offered a new deal through 2020.

"This morning, however, I was notified by his agent that he would be stepping down," Hart said. "Coach Brown was able to accomplish so much in his four years on the Hilltop, including leading us to our first conference title since 1993. He has left his mark on SMU basketball, and we are thankful for what he's done."

Brown didn't return messages left on his cellphone by The Associated Press.

The Hall of Fame coach had repeatedly said how much he loved what he was accomplishing at SMU. Brown, who turns 76 in September, had indicated late last season that he wanted to keep coaching as long as SMU would have him.

Associate head coach Tim Jankovich will take over as head coach, as had been expected since he came to SMU with Brown in 2012 after serving five seasons as Illinois State head coach.

Newman-Haas Racing co-founder dies at 86

LINCOLNSHIRE, Ill. — Carl Haas, co-founder of Newman-Haas Racing with late actor Paul Newman, has died. He was 86.

His company, Carl Haas Automobile Imports Inc., posted a statement on its web site Thursday saying Haas died on June 29 at his home surrounded by family.

Newman-Haas cars made 30 starts over a 28-year span at the Indianapolis 500 from 1983-2011, with six top-five finishes. He also fielded teams in Can-Am, Formula 1 and NASCAR.

Johnson: Players get painkillers 'like candy'

DETROIT — Calvin Johnson says NFL players could get painkillers like they were "candy" during the first half of his career with the Detroit Lions.

Johnson's comments were part of a wide-ranging interview on ESPN's news magazine E:60 that was scheduled to be broadcast Thursday night.

The record-breaking receiver retired earlier this year, leaving the Lions at the age of 30 after nine seasons.

Golovkin set to fight welterweight champ

Britain's Kell Brook will move up in weight to take on Gennady Golovkin on Sept. 10 in a fight matching two unbeaten champions.

Brook, who holds a piece of the welterweight title, will move up two weight classes to fight Golovkin at the O2 arena in London. It will be fought at the standard middleweight class limit of 160 pounds.

Golovkin is 35-0 with 32 knockouts, while Brook is 36-0 with 25 knockouts.

— Associated Press

Federer falls to Raonic in semifinals

Associated Press

LONDON — Roger Federer's bid for a record eighth Wimbledon title was cut short in the semifinals Friday by Milos Raonic, a big-serving Canadian who came from two-sets-to-one down to win in five and reach his first Grand Slam final.

Raonic beat the seven-time champion 6-3, 6-7 (3), 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 on Centre Court, handing the Swiss great his first loss ever in the Wimbledon semifinals after 10 straight wins.

"This one clearly hurts because I felt I could have had it," Federer said. "So close. It was really so, so close. It clearly hurts."

The 25-year-old Raonic became the first Canadian man in history to advance to the final of a Grand Slam tournament. The only other Canadian to get this far was Eugenie Bouchard, the women's runner-up at Wimbledon in 2014.

The sixth-seeded Raonic, who served

23 aces among his 75 winners, avenged a Wimbledon semifinal loss to Federer in straight sets two years ago. The No. 3-seeded Federer broke serve only once, while Raonic managed three breaks.

"An incredible comeback for me, really," Raonic said. "I was struggling there through the third and fourth sets. He was playing some really good tennis. And just on the little, little opening, I managed to turn it around."

In Sunday's final, Raonic will play the winner of the semifinal match between 2013 champion Andy Murray and 2010 runner-up Tomas Berdych.

"I'm by no means done what I want to be here to do," said the 6-foot-5 Canadian, whose serves reached 144 mph and who averaged 129 mph on first serves — 3 mph faster than Federer's fastest of the day.

For Federer, the loss means he remains one title short of the all-time Wimbledon men's record. He's still tied with Pete Sampras and 1880s player William

Renshaw with seven.

Federer last won Wimbledon in 2012, the last of his record 17 Grand Slam championships. He lost in the Wimbledon final the past two years to Novak Djokovic, who was ousted in the third round this year by Sam Querrey.

"I mean, yes, while I'm in the tournament, it's a dream to win my eighth," Federer said. "It's not my only reason why I play tennis, just to be clear, otherwise I'll go in a freeze box now and come out before Wimbledon next year."

It was a breakthrough victory for Raonic, who has had John McEnroe in his coaching corner since the Wimbledon warm-up tournament at Queen's Club.

"What he told me today is: 'Go out there, leave it all out there,'" Raonic said. "I showed a lot of emotion out there, always positive, and I think that's what got me through. Mentally, I had one of my best matches."



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Flores, Mets beat Nationals in slugfest

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK
Associated Press

NEW YORK — In a back-and-forth game between the top teams in the NL East, the biggest swing came from Wilmer Flores.

That's been happening a lot lately for the surging New York Mets.

Flores hit a go-ahead, three-run homer and New York rallied past the Washington Nationals 9-7 on Thursday night in the opener of a pivotal four-game series.

"He's on a roll right now. He's unbelievable," new teammate Jose Reyes said. "He makes it look easy."

Reyes, Travis d'Arnaud and Asdrubal Cabrera also went deep for New York in a slugfest that featured eight home runs — most in the eight-year history of Citi Field. The second-place Mets improved to 7-1 on their 11-game homestand leading into the

All-Star break and shaved Washington's division lead to three games — two in the loss column.

Washington's attempt to rally in the ninth inning was thwarted when Jayson Werth was called for an illegal takeout slide at second base, giving the Mets a double play after Cabrera made a diving stop at shortstop of Daniel Murphy's sharp grounder.

The call was upheld following a replay review, and Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo got into a shouting match with second base umpire Jim Joyce in the hallway between clubhouses just moments after the final out.

"I know I've been told four or five different things from different crews about the rules and last time I was told it was going to be a common-sense type thing," Washington manager Dusty Baker said. "I don't know how you teach young players

now to break up a double play, because there's no such thing as breaking up a double play."

The victory provided an emotional pick-me-up for the Mets, who announced sobering news before the game: Struggling right-hander Matt Harvey has symptoms consistent with thoracic outlet syndrome and might require season-ending shoulder surgery to treat a serious condition that has jeopardized the careers of other major league pitchers.

Murphy homered and drove in three runs, his latest big performance against the Mets since the defending NL champions let him leave as a free agent in the offseason. Bryce Harper, Clint Robinson and Anthony Rendon hit solo shots off 43-year-old Bartolo Colon in the fourth to give the Nationals a 4-1 lead.

That put prized prospect Lucas Giolito in good position to earn his first career

win, but the 21-year-old right-hander tired quickly and didn't make it through the fourth inning. He threw 90 pitches in 3²/₃ innings and gave up four runs, seven hits and four walks in his second major league start — both against the Mets.

"We fought back, they fought back. Probably a heck of a game to watch, but a terrible game to lose," Baker said.

After the ninth-inning double play, All-Star closer Jeurys Familia struck out Harper for his major league-best 31st save. Familia has converted a club-record 47 consecutive regular-season save opportunities since August, though he did blow a four-run lead this year.

With the Mets trailing 6-4 in the fifth, Cabrera and Brandon Nimmo singled. Flores, who had just come off the bench in a double switch to play first base, drove the first pitch he saw from Oliver Perez (2-2) just over the facing of the second deck in left field.

Frazier and Trumbo head HR Derby field

Defending champion Todd Frazier and Mark Trumbo lead the field for Monday's All-Star Home Run Derby in San Diego.

Frazier, second in the American League with 23 homers, will take on Colorado's Carlos Gonzalez in the first round, while Trumbo — the No. 1 seed and current major league leader with 26 — faces the Los Angeles Dodgers' Corey Seager.

Cincinnati's Adam Duvall is paired with the host Padres' Wil Myers and Seattle's Robinson Cano will go against Miami's Giancarlo Stanton in the other matchups. The Trumbo-Seager winner will face Cano or Stanton in the semifinals, while the Frazier-Gonzalez winner will go against Duvall or Myers.

Brackets were based on season home run totals through Wednesday.

Each batter gets four minutes per round. A batter may call a 45-second timeout in each of the first two rounds, and two in the final. Players can earn 30 seconds of bonus time with two homers of 440 feet or more.

Story ties NL record with 21st home run

DENVER — Trevor Story broke out of a slump in grand fashion.

Story tied an NL rookie record for most home runs before the All-Star break, homering twice and boosting his total to 21 as the Colorado Rockies beat the Philadelphia Phillies 11-2 on Thursday night.

Story, one of five players on the ballot for the last NL All-Star spot, had a three-run drive in the third and a solo shot in the fifth. He snapped an 0-for-17 skid that accompanied playing through a bruised middle finger and thumb suffered when he was hit in the hand by a pitch June 26 against Arizona.

"The last couple of nights, I felt good out there," Story said.

"I just haven't had the results. You just simplify, keep working, trust your preparation in the cage and how it's going to translate to the field."

It translated well enough for Story to join Dave Kingman (1972) and Albert Pujols (2001) as the only NL rookies to hit 21 home runs prior to the break.

"Any time you're with guys like that, it's an honor. To have done what they've done, it's pretty cool," Story said.

From The Associated Press

Braves add to slumping Cubs' woes

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Nick Markakis homered twice, including a game-tying solo shot in the ninth inning, and Tyler Flowers' two-out single in the 11th early Friday morning gave the Atlanta Braves a 4-3 victory over the slumping Chicago Cubs.

Chicago closer Hector Rondon blew his fourth save when he gave up the second homer to Markakis to lead off the ninth, Atlanta's first hit since the second inning.

Flowers singled to right off Spencer Patton (1-1) and Freddie Freeman, who walked, barely beat Ben Zobrist's throw home.

Dario Alvarez (3-1) worked a perfect 10th before giving up consecutive singles to Contreras and Jason Heyward to lead off the 11th.

Blue Jays 5, Tigers 4: Troy Tulowitzki drove in the tying and go-ahead runs with a bases-loaded single in the eighth inning as host Toronto rallied for its season-best sixth consecutive victory.

Tulowitzki finished 2-for-4 with a walk and three RBIs. He is batting .338 with 20 RBIs in 17 games since coming off the disabled list June 18.

Royals 4, Mariners 3: Salvador Perez ripped a double off the wall in the ninth inning, scoring Whit Merrifield and Jarrod Dyson for host Kansas City.

Brooks Pounders (1-0) tossed a scoreless inning for his first major league win.

Yankees 5, Indians 4: Didi Gregorius had two hits, including a solo homer, and scored twice for visiting New York.

Cleveland, which leads the AL Central, lost its second consecutive home game after 13 victories in a row at Progressive Field.

Cardinals 5, Pirates 1: Stephen Piscotty hit a three-run home run and Randal Grichuk also went deep to help St. Louis avoid a four-game sweep and end visiting Pittsburgh's season-best seven-game winning streak.

Adam Wainwright (8-5) worked seven effective innings for St. Louis, which reclaimed second place in the NL Central by a half-game over Pittsburgh to end a rough 4-5 homestand.

Padres 2, Dodgers 0: Drew Pomeranz allowed two hits in seven innings and Melvin Upton Jr. led off the game with a homer as visiting San Diego beat Los Angeles in a tough return for pitcher Hyun-Jin Ryu, who was making his first major league start since 2014 after missing all of last season because of shoulder surgery.

Pomeranz (8-7) struck out six and walked two in his third consecutive straight start of seven innings with one run or fewer runs allowed.

Athletics 3, Astros 1: Yonder Alonso doubled and drove in two runs, and Rich Hill tied a season high with 10 strikeouts in six solid innings for visiting Oakland.

Hill (9-3) allowed three hits and one run to extend his winning streak to six games.

Twins 10, Rangers 1: Max Kepler drove in three runs with a homer and a short sacrifice fly, Tyler Duffey matched a career high with nine strikeouts and visiting Minnesota again beat AL-leading Texas.

Angels 5, Rays 1: Albert Pujols and C.J. Cron drove in runs to back Hector Santiago and lead visiting Los Angeles.

Mets' ace Harvey may need surgery

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK
Associated Press

NEW YORK — All of a sudden, the New York Mets face this sobering uncertainty: Matt Harvey might never be a healthy ace again.

The struggling star has symptoms consistent with thoracic outlet syndrome and could require season-ending surgery to treat a serious condition that has jeopardized the careers of other major league pitchers.

General manager Sandy Alderson announced the unusual diagnosis Thursday after Harvey was examined in St. Louis by a specialist, Dr. Robert Thompson. Alderson said a decision on surgery is expected in the next few days before the All-Star break.

"I think you can bounce back from it, but everybody's different, as we know,

anytime you have surgery. So there's a level of concern," Mets manager Terry Collins said. "But certainly, you can't be very excited about it. You just don't know."

Thoracic outlet syndrome is a condition caused by the compression of nerves, blood vessels or both in the area between the neck and armpit. After his start Monday, the 27-year-old Harvey complained of some common symptoms, which include numbness in fingers and shoulder discomfort.

The former ace was seen by Mets doctors, referred to Thompson for further examination and placed on the 15-day disabled list Wednesday, retroactive to Tuesday.

"His arm just felt like it was dead," Collins said.

Another temporary treatment option is a "nerve-block injection" that might help Harvey return to the mound fairly quickly,

but surgery is probably inevitable and the operation usually requires a four-month recovery period, Alderson said.

Thompson would likely perform the procedure, the GM added. Surgery sometimes involves the removal of a rib.

Other big league pitchers have been treated for TOS with inconsistent results and varying degrees of success, including Josh Beckett, Chris Carpenter, Jaime Garcia, Matt Harrison, Shaun Marcum and Chris Young.

Thompson removed one of Young's ribs in a 2013 operation that helped the right-hander make a successful comeback as a major league starter.

"Again, anytime that you introduce a significant surgery of this type, I think you have to be cautious about what will happen," Alderson said. "But at the same time, I fully expect that Matt will be back and ready to go in 2017."