

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Weapons tester: USS Ford needs fixes

Bloomberg

The U.S. Navy's newest aircraft carrier isn't ready for warfare.

The \$12.9 billion USS Gerald R. Ford — the most expensive warship ever built — may struggle to launch and recover aircraft, mount a defense and move munitions, according to the Pentagon's top weapons tester. Onboard systems for those tasks have poor or unknown reliability issues, according to a June 28 memo obtained by Bloomberg News.

"These four systems affect major areas of flight operations," Michael Gilmore, the Defense Department's director of operational test and evaluation, wrote Pentagon and Navy

weapons buyers Frank Kendall and Sean Stackley. "Unless these issues are resolved, which would likely require redesigning" of the aircraft launch and recovery systems "they will significantly limit the CVN-78's ability to conduct combat operations," Gilmore wrote, using a technical name for the carrier.

The reliability woes mean that delivery of the Ford — the first of three carriers ordered up in a \$42 billion program — will probably slip further behind schedule. The Navy announced last week that the ship, originally due by September 2014, wouldn't be delivered before November this year because of continuing unspecified testing issues.

The service has operated 10 carriers since the retirement of the USS Enterprise in 2012. Extended deployments of the ships have placed stress on crews and meant added strain meeting global commitments from the battle against the Islamic State group to ensuring freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. A prolonged delay could also hamper the military if a new conflict arises.

"Based on current reliability estimates, the CVN-78 is unlikely to conduct high-intensity flight operations" such as a requirement for four days of 24-hour surge operations "at the outset of a war," Gilmore wrote.

As delivery of the Huntington Ingalls Industries vessel ap-

proaches, "my concerns about the reliability of these systems remain and the risk to the ship's ability to succeed in combat grows as these reliability issues remain unresolved," Gilmore said.

Republican Sen. John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, called the Navy's announcement of additional delays last week "unacceptable."

A Navy spokeswoman, Lt. Kara Yingling, said the Navy was aware of the report but referred additional comment to Kendall's office. Kendall spokesman Mark Wright said in an email "we don't feel it is appropriate to release our response to this internal memo."

## It's official: Donald Trump crowned GOP nominee

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The art of the coronation has taken something of a beating at the Republican National Convention. Nevertheless, Donald Trump now has the crown — and a final chance to summon unity from the party's restive ranks in the ritual's closing days.

The roll call of the states Tuesday night delivered Trump the nomination, which he welcomed in a videotaped message saying "This is a movement, but we have to go all the way."

House Speaker Paul Ryan announced that Trump had amassed 1,725 delegates, more than triple the number of his nearest competitor, the fruits of a political phenomenon without parallel in modern times.

Day 3 of the convention will bring two conservative stalwarts to the stage: Trump's

running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, a favorite of evangelicals; and the nominee's most tenacious challenger in the primaries, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, the man Trump used to call "Lyin' Ted."

Pence is heartily on board the Trump bandwagon; Cruz isn't yet, nor are many of his supporters in Cleveland. The senator's scheduled prime-time address will be keenly watched as a barometer of the party's fighting spirit as the GOP turns to the fall campaign against Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Trump, the in-your-face outsider, won at the cost of alienating many traditional Republicans both on the right and in the center, and the divide has spilled over into the convention, though without overwhelming it.

## Admiral's comments on China show concerns

Associated Press

BEIJING — The top U.S. admiral said Wednesday that friendly exchanges with China's navy are conditional on safe interactions at sea, an indication of Washington's concern over recent fractious encounters with Chinese forces in and over the disputed South China Sea.

On a visit to the northern Chinese port of Qingdao, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson said he backs more exchanges, but added, "In this area we must judge each other by our deeds and actions, not just by our words."

"I am supportive of a continued and deepening navy-to-navy relationship, but I will be continuously reassessing my support conditioned on continued safe and professional interactions at sea," Richardson

said, according to a Navy news release.

Richardson is on what the Navy is calling a five-day visit to "improve mutual understanding and encourage professional interaction between the two navies." In Qingdao, he visited the headquarters of China's North Sea Fleet and met with its commander, Vice Adm. Yuan Yubai.

Richardson "underscored the importance of lawful and safe operations in the South China Sea and elsewhere where professional navies operate," the Navy said. He said the U.S. Navy would continue to conduct "routine and lawful operations" around the world, including in the South China Sea, in order to protect "the rights, freedoms and lawful uses of sea and airspace guaranteed to all."

## AF: Noncombat injury caused officer's death

BY CHRIS CHURCH  
*Stars and Stripes*

MANAMA, Bahrain — The Defense Department announced Tuesday the death of an Air Force officer supporting the U.S. effort against the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq.

First Lt. Anais A. Tobar, 25, of Miami, died Monday from a noncombat-related injury, the Defense Department said in a statement. She was assigned to the 4th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron out of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. She was deployed in April to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, where she was assigned to the 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The Miami Herald reported Tobar was found dead in her room. The circumstances surrounding her death are still being investigated.

Tobar was commissioned into the Air Force in May 2013.

Longtime family friend Mercy McGee told the Herald that Tobar was devoted to serving others and her country.

"There are not enough words to tell you what a loving and wonderful girl she was," McGee said.

Friends and servicemembers who served alongside Tobar, posting on Facebook, remembered her as a wonderful friend who always had a smile and "infectious kindness."

The 4th Fighter Wing commander expressed condolences on behalf of the unit.

"The entire base joins me in sending our deepest sympathies to the Tobar family during this period of bereavement," Col. Christopher Sage said in a statement on the base's website. "The bonds that tie the Air Force family together are strong, both down-range and at home station. This tragedy affects us all; put your arm around those who are grieving, both personally and professionally."

# Defense chiefs meet, discuss anti-Islamic State strategies

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Wednesday asked his counterparts from more than 30 nations partnered in the anti-Islamic State coalition to commit to do more to help local forces in Iraq and Syria fighting the terrorist group.

Carter and the defense chiefs from the other nations gathered at Joint Base Andrews, Md., to map out the next steps that the U.S.-led coalition should take to build on recent momentum as the indigenous ground forces inch closer to Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria, two key cities

still held by the Islamic State group.

"We're all going to need to do more," Carter told his counterparts Wednesday morning. "Today, we'll identify both our enduring and emerging requirements and review our detailed metrics matrix of national contributions ... We must ensure that our partners on the ground have what they need to win the fight and then hold, rebuild and govern their territory."

The battle for Mosul, a city that has been controlled by the Islamic State group for more than two years, appears likely to happen before the attack on Raqqa. Iraqi officials have said

they aim to retake Mosul by the end of 2016, though American officials have cautioned against placing a timetable on the siege.

The Mosul operation will be among "the most complex" efforts the Iraqi military has faced to date, said Brett McGurk, President Barack Obama's special envoy to the anti-Islamic State coalition.

"We have it in sight, but we have to do it right," McGurk told reporters ahead of the Wednesday meeting. "Militarily, it has to be very well planned."

Last week, Carter announced the United States would send another 560 troops to Iraq.

## N. Korea: Launches a rehearsal for attack

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea says a ballistic missile test was a rehearsal for attacks against South Korean ports and airports that have U.S. nuclear warheads as it defiantly rejects efforts to contain its atomic weapons program.

North Korea fired three missiles — two Scuds and a Rodong — on Tuesday, officials said. Two of the missiles flew about 310 to 372 miles across the country before landing off the east coast in the Sea of Japan, South Korea's military said, adding the distance flown by the third was still being analyzed.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised the launches and gave the order to begin, according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency. He later "expressed great satisfaction over the successful drill," it said.

"The drill was conducted by limiting the firing range under the simulated conditions of mak-

ing pre-emptive strikes at ports and airfields in the operational theater in South Korea where the U.S. imperialists' nuclear war hardware is to be hurled," KCNA said Wednesday.

"And it once again examined the operational features of the detonating devices of nuclear warheads mounted on the ballistic rockets at the designated altitude over the target area," it added.

The official ruling Workers' Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun carried photographs of a ballistic missile launch along with Kim apparently observing it, a strategic map of the peninsula titled "the strategic forces' firepower strike plan" sprawled in front of him.

Neither report mentioned the date of the drill.

Tuesday's salvo was widely believed to be North Korea's answer to the July 8 agreement by the U.S. and South Korea to deploy a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system, known as THAAD, on the divided peninsula to counter the growing mis-

sile threat from the North.

The two countries began talks about deploying the THAAD after the North conducted its fourth underground nuclear test, followed by a long-range rocket launch. Seoul had resisted the idea due to objections by its key trading partner, China, but relented as Pyongyang persisted with a series of missile tests, including two fired from a submarine.

Military officials said the missiles fired Tuesday had sufficient range to reach any part of South Korea, including the Seongju region southeast of Seoul where the anti-missile battery is to be stationed.

Top South Korean military commanders warned that more military provocations from the North, including another nuclear test or more missile launches, were likely ahead of joint exercises with the U.S. set for August.

North Korea also said Wednesday that U.S. forces in South Korea would be its first target.

# Aging athletes remain competitive

Los Angeles Times

Some days, when Meb Keflezighi hits the road, his legs just don't want to move.

That is what happens to a marathoner when he reaches the comparatively ancient age of 41.

"You can't run like you're 25 anymore," he said. "You're going to have bad days."

The fact that Keflezighi has qualified for the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro — where he will become the oldest American Olympic marathoner — astonishes some of his younger teammates.

"Meb is amazing," middle-distance runner Alysia Montano said. "He isn't the norm."

He isn't a rarity, either. More elite athletes are remaining competitive at an athletically advanced age.

The 40-somethings on the U.S. team headed for Brazil include runner Bernard Lagat, triathlete Hunter Kemper and cyclist Kristin Armstrong, a defending Olympic champion in road racing who has come back from retirement twice.

Kerri Walsh Jennings will try for her fourth gold medal in beach volleyball at 37. That's the same age as taekwondo athlete Steven Lopez. Race walker

John Nunn and tennis players Bob and Mike Bryan are 38.

"With the science we have now, we can preserve the body and allow the physiology to go longer," said Tim Pelot,

a strength and conditioning coach with the U.S. Olympic Committee. "We have older athletes competing at a really high level."

With each Olympics over the past three decades, the average age of the American team has crept steadily upward, from 25.2 at the 1984 Los Angeles Games to 27.1 in London four years ago.

"We're seeing it in other sports too," said Scott Sailor, president of the National Athletic Trainers' Association. "Even in sports like football."

Much of this longevity can be attributed to advancements in conditioning and nutrition. Injuries are diagnosed sooner and treated more effectively.

"I just think we've come a long way with knowledge," Walsh Jennings said. "People are training smarter and eating better."

Something else that might not seem to jibe with elite sports is helping: knowing when to take it easy.

"Recovery" is a catchphrase among top athletes. Pelot stresses paying attention to your body because those aches, pains and twinges are sending an important message.

"When fatigue happens, we can't perform at the same capacity, so we have to adapt our workload," he said. "We have to modify our training."

For Keflezighi, that means dialing back on off-days to avoid over-fatigue or injury. He talks about the wisdom of knowing

"you don't have to have your a-plus game all the time."

At the relatively younger age of 30, judoka Marti Malloy has made similar accommodations in her daily regimen. "When I was in college, I was able to wake up at 6 a.m. and do weight training then go to work and class, then go do judo," she said. "That's all in one day."

Now she plans her workouts for months in advance, building up slowly, tapering down after particularly tough weeks, fitting rest time into the schedule.

"I hate saying that because it makes me feel so old," she said. "But it's something you have to stay on top of."

Modern athletes have another advantage when it comes to lasting longer: money.

"Look at Mark Spitz," said David Wallechinsky, an author and Olympic historian. "He won seven gold medals in 1972 but couldn't make a living, so he quit swimming."

Now, with corporate sponsors, part-time job programs and Olympic training centers such as the one in Chula Vista helping with expenses, athletes can continue training while leading reasonably comfortable lives.

"We didn't have that kind of infrastructure when I was diving," recalled Greg Louganis, who won five Olympic medals through the 1970s and '80s. "It's exciting to see athletes can continue on longer than they thought was possible."

The final piece of the puzzle might be psychological.

Karen Cogan, a USOC psychologist, uses the history of the mile race as an example. For decades, people thought the "four-minute barrier" would never be broken, but after Roger Bannister did it in 1954, the record was lowered numerous times in ensuing years.

Now, every athlete who competes in his or her 40s is changing the mind-set in sports.

"It comes down to expectations," Cogan said. "If someone does it, it becomes possible."

Keflezighi ranks high among the role models.

The Eritrean native, who emigrated to the U.S. as a boy, figures luck has played a role, helping him avoid serious injury as he looks forward to his 24th career marathon in Rio.

Not an obvious medal favorite, Keflezighi remains a threat if only because of his experience. His successes have ranged from a silver medal at the 2004 Athens Games to a fourth-place finish at the 2012 London Games and a victory at the 2014 Boston Marathon.

Even on tough days, he has found a way to keep going. "You get up the next morning and work out again," he said. "You have to think the next day is going to be brighter and better."

## IOC weighing all Rio options for Russia

Associated Press

LONDON — With just over two weeks until the Opening Ceremony, Russia still doesn't know whether its athletes — all or even some — will be competing in the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. It may all come down to the lawyers.

While the IOC decided Tuesday to ban from the Rio Games all Russian Sports Ministry officials and other administrators implicated in allegations of a state-run doping program, it delayed a ruling on whether to take the unprecedented step of barring the entire Russian Olympic team.

The International Olympic Committee said it "will explore the legal options with regard to a collective ban of all Russian athletes for the Olympic Games 2016 versus the rights to individual justice."

The IOC has also said it could let individual international sports federations decide on whether to ban Russians from their events in Rio, just as the IAAF has done by ruling track and field athletes from the Games. The 28 international federations that govern the individual sports at the summer Games have made clear that they do not support a blanket ban.

The IOC's legal options may become clearer after Thursday, when the highest

court in sports will rule on an appeal by 68 Russian track and field athletes seeking to overturn their ban from the games.

Two-time Olympic pole vault champion Yelena Isinbayeva was among those arguing the Russian track and field team's case Tuesday in Geneva at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Should the court rule Thursday in their favor, it would seemingly rule out the chance of the IOC imposing a blanket ban.

The 15-member IOC executive board met by teleconference Tuesday to consider its moves following a report issued by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren.

The report, commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency, accused the Russian Sports Ministry, headed by Vitaly Mutko, of overseeing the doping of the country's Olympic athletes on a scale larger than previously alleged. It said the ministry had help from Russia's intelligence service, the FSB.

The investigation uncovered an alleged doping program that ensnared 28 sports, both summer and winter, and ran from 2011 to 2015. It found 312 positive tests that Russia's deputy minister of sport directed lab workers not to report to WADA.

## Thrasher focuses on Olympic target

Associated Press

Anyone who has met or spoken with Ginny Thrasher usually ends up with the same description of her personality: bubbly.

Not the stereotypical, air-headed kind. More engaging, friendly, opinionated. Vivacious.

When Thrasher raises her rifle toward the 10-ring target 50 meters downrange, the other side of her personality takes over. Determined, focused, confident.

That's the part that pushed the 19-year-old to become the first freshman rifle shooter to win both individual NCAA titles and earn a spot at the Rio Olympics in less than a month.

"When it comes to anything that's a challenge — a test, a competition, training — it's very easy for her to dial in that concentration," said Jon Hammond, Thrasher's rifle coach at West Virginia University.

Shooting a rifle on the elite level is a large-caliber challenge centered upon the process: setup, path of the gun to the target, reaching a state of mental and physical calm to squeeze the trigger at the precise moment.

Thrasher loved trying to piece together the puzzle of process, searching not for

a single answer, but the one that worked for her.

Thrasher attended national shooting powerhouse West Virginia. Though Hammond wasn't sure if she would be among the top five for the 18-time champion Mountaineers, Thrasher established herself as one of the nation's best shooters by the end of the year.

She entered the NCAA championships confident, yet was more focused on helping the four seniors with her to win a national championship in Akron, Ohio. The Mountaineers did just that and Thrasher had two added bonuses: individual national championships in small-bore and air rifle with many of her family and friends watching.

Thrasher had another week of school after that, spent spring break in Costa Rica with her family, then headed to Fort Benning, Ga., for the U.S. Olympic Trials. She pulled off another surprise by building a massive lead after two days of the three-position event to earn a spot in Rio.

It didn't stop there.

A week after the trials, Thrasher went to Rio for an Olympic test event and came back for the final week of school. From there, she headed to Colorado, Munich, the Czech Republic, home to northern Virginia, France, Georgia, Germany and back home again.



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# Harrison propels Pirates past Brewers

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH— Josh Harrison watched his long drive hit off the wall in right-center field leading off the bottom of the ninth of a tie game against Milwaukee on Tuesday night and one thought kept running through his head: Keep going.

So the Pittsburgh Pirates third baseman did, racing around second and diving into third before strolling home when the relay from Milwaukee second baseman Scooter Gennett bounded by the bag and out of play as the Pirates escaped with a 3-2 victory Tuesday night.

"I saw [Milwaukee center fielder Kirk Nieuwenhuis] jump for the wall, and from there I never broke stride," Harrison said. "I was going to make [Gennett] make a perfect relay."

Gennett didn't, and Harrison's Little League homer off Tyler Thornburg (3-4) allowed the Pirates to start a crucial stretch against National League also-rans with a victory despite a second straight blown save by All-Star closer Mark Melancon (1-1) and a scary moment in the second inning when rookie pitcher Jameson Taillon took a line drive to the head.

Taillon, making his return from a stay on the disabled list to deal with right shoulder fatigue, was pitching to Hernan Perez with one out in the second when Perez sent a shot right back to Taillon that hit the 24-year-old in the back of the head and rolled out into left field. Taillon lay on the ground for several minutes while being tended to by medical staff before being cleared to stay in the game.

"I saw it coming at me, turned from it and remember going down," Taillon said. "I could feel it on my head a little bit, but I remained conscious. I saw where the play went. I answered all the questions they asked me. I wanted to get up quicker than I was able to. I remember it pretty clearly."

Pittsburgh manager Clint Hurdle admitted his thoughts went to Taillon's parents watching on television but decided to trust the recommendation of the medical staff that Taillon was OK to continue.

"This is one area that I'm not really comfortable with," he said. "I have to trust our people. They do know what they're doing, how to follow protocol to test the player and the things to do."

The near miss hardly seemed to faze Taillon, who allowed one run and five hits, striking out three without a walk before being removed after throwing 65 pitches.

"I felt like I dealt with it pretty well," Taillon said. "I definitely had some adrenaline after. I thought some of my pitches were up afterwards. It's tough to control

the emotions right after that. I was able to keep the team in the game."

**Mets 2, Cubs 1:** Jeury's Familia escaped a bases-loaded jam with a game-ending double play after Rene Rivera drove in the tiebreaking run with two outs in the top of the ninth, lifting visiting New York over Chicago.

Familia walked Addison Russell and Miguel Montero to start the ninth, then Javier Baez reached on a bunt single when third baseman Jose Reyes threw wide to first. Pinch-hitter Matt Szczur hit a grounder to first baseman James Loney, and Loney threw out Russell at the plate. Kris Bryant then hit into a 5-4-3 double play to give Familia his 33rd save in 33 chances.

Rivera had the third single in the ninth — following hits by Loney and Asdrubal Cabrera — off Hector Rondon (1-2) as the Mets beat the Cubs for the fifth time in six games after sweeping them in last year's NL Championship Series.

Hansel Robles (4-3) pitched two scoreless innings in relief for the win.

**Red Sox 4, Giants 0:** David Ortiz hit a three-run homer and Rick Porcello remained unbeaten at home as Boston beat struggling San Francisco.

Brock Holt also homered for the Red Sox, who won for the seventh time in eight games. The NL West-leading Giants remained winless since the All-Star break with their fourth straight loss.

Porcello (12-2) scattered four hits over 6 1-3 innings, improving to 9-0 at home.

Jake Peavy (5-8), a key member of Boston's 2013 World Series champions, struck out six over six innings and held his former teammates to three hits, but two left the park.

The Giants played at Fenway Park for the first time since 2007.

**Dodgers 8, Nationals 4:** Chase Utley drove in three runs with three hits, including a leadoff homer that quickly spoiled the major league debut of Reynaldo Lopez and sent Los Angeles over host Washington.

Los Angeles swept three games from Washington at home in June and has won six straight in the series.

Scott Kazmir (8-3) gave up one run and four hits in seven innings, striking out eight. He extended his unbeaten streak to 12 starts, going 6-0 in that span.

Lopez (0-1), considered one of Washington's top prospects, allowed six runs and 10 hits in 4 2/3 innings. He struck out nine, featuring a fastball in the upper 90s mph.

**Marlins 2, Phillies 1 (10):** Christian Yelich homered and drove in the winning

run with a single in the 10th inning for visiting Florida.

J.T. Realmuto added two hits for the Marlins, who won their third straight to remain one game ahead of the New York Mets for the second wild-card spot in the National League.

Adeiny Hechavarria opened the 10th with a double off David Hernandez (1-3). After Hernandez walked Martin Prado to put runners on first and second with two outs, Phillies manager Pete Mackanin lifted Hernandez so left-hander Daniel Stumpf could face the left-handed Yelich.

Yelich put Miami in front by lacing Stumpf's 3-2 pitch to left field, easily scoring Hechavarria.

A.J. Ramos pitched a scoreless 10th for his 31st save in 32 opportunities.

Mike Dunn (2-1) tossed a 1-2-3 ninth to earn the victory.

**Indians 7, Royals 3:** Danny Salazar handled Kansas City for the third time this season while visiting Cleveland roughed up its opponent's starter-by-committee.

Salazar (11-3) allowed three runs over 6 2/3 innings while striking out seven.

Mike Napoli hit a two-run homer off Brian Flynn (1-1), and Carlos Santana drove in two runs.

Francisco Lindor also homered as the AL Central leaders snapped a five-game skid at Kauffman Stadium.

**Blue Jays 5, Diamondbacks 1:** Edwin Encarnacion hit his 25th home run and Aaron Sanchez pitched seven strong innings for visiting Toronto.

Sanchez (10-1), pitching on nine days' rest thanks to the All-Star break, allowed a run and scattered six hits to improve to 9-0 in his last 15 starts. He struck out five with no walks and hit two batters.

Zack Godley (2-1), called up from Triple-A Reno to make the start for Arizona, went five innings, giving up four runs, three earned, and six hits. He struck out seven and walked one.

**Yankees 7, Orioles 1:** Starlin Castro hit a two-run homer and drove in four runs, Nathan Eovaldi won for the first time since May and host New York beat Baltimore to move back above .500.

The AL East-leading Orioles have lost three in a row.

Castro homered in the second off Vance Worley (2-1) and hit a two-run double in the sixth. Chase Headley added a two-run homer in the eighth.

Making his first start since July 1 following three relief outings caused by a six-start winless streak, Eovaldi (8-6) won for the first time since May 29.

**Angels 8, Rangers 6:** Albert Pujols hit a pair of three-run homers and host Los

Angeles remained unbeaten since the All-Star break with its season-best fifth straight victory.

Pujols connected in the fourth and fifth innings against Kyle Lohse (0-2) for his second multi-homer game in three days, driving in six runs for the first time since 2009.

**Athletics 4, Astros 3 (10):** Marcus Semien scored from second base on Josh Reddick's two-out infield single in the 10th inning to lift host Oakland.

The A's rallied from three runs down and trailed 3-2 before Coco Crisp's game-tying double off Astros closer Will Harris in the ninth.

**White Sox 6, Mariners 1:** Melky Cabrera hit a tie-breaking homer leading off the seventh inning, Todd Frazier added a two-run shot in the ninth and visiting Chicago snapped a five-game losing streak.

Cabrera lined his ninth home run of the season just over the wall in left field off Seattle starter Wade Miley (6-7) to snap a 1-1 tie.

**Twins 6, Tigers 2:** Tommy Milone held host Detroit scoreless until the ninth inning, and Minnesota broke through with five runs in the seventh.

Brian Dozier hit a two-run homer and Eduardo Nunez had three RBIs.

Milone (3-2) left in the ninth. Down 6-0 at the start of the inning, Detroit scored twice and loaded the bases with one out. Brandon Kintzler struck out James McCann and Jose Iglesias to end it.

Anibal Sanchez (5-11) struck out 10 in six-plus innings.

**Rays 10, Rockies 1:** Blake Snell held Colorado to one hit over six strong innings, Evan Longoria homered and drove in three runs and Tampa Bay ended an 11-game road losing streak.

Snell (2-4) struck out nine and Matt Andriese pitched the final three innings for his first save. Steve Pearce also homered in his return from the disabled list for the Rays, who ended the third longest road losing streak in club history.

They broke out against Rockies starter Tyler Chatwood (8-6).

**Braves 5, Reds 4 (11):** Visiting Atlanta's bullpen blew a two-run lead in the ninth inning, but Ender Inciarte hit a sacrifice fly in the 11th that evened a series between the NL's worst teams. Nick Markakis started the winning rally with a single off Tony Cingrani (2-3) and took third on Jeff Francoeur's single off Blake Wood. Inciarte's fly to deep center broke the tie.

Mauricio Cabrera (1-0) got the last five outs for his first career win.

## Earnhardt will miss two more races

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Dale Earnhardt Jr. will miss two more races with concussion-like symptoms and Jeff Gordon will come out of retirement to drive the No. 88 car for at least the next two weekends.

Hendrick Motorsports announced Wednesday that NASCAR's most popular driver will not compete at this weekend's Brickyard 400 in Indianapolis and the next race, at Pocono, as he continues to recover from balance issues and nausea.

Earnhardt took himself out of the car last weekend in New Hampshire and was replaced by Alex Bowman. The team said he was evaluated Tuesday by doctors in Pittsburgh but he was not cleared to drive.

"Our focus is giving Dale all the time he needs to recover," team owner Rick Hendrick said. "There's nothing we want more than to see him back in the race car, but we'll continue to listen to the doctors and follow their lead. What's best for Dale is what's best for Hendrick Motorsports and everyone involved with the team. We're all proud of him and looking forward to having him racing soon."

While retirement talk for the 41-year-old Earnhardt might be premature, his history of concussions is clearly a concern. He had two concussions in a six-week span in 2012 and missed two races, and this season he was involved in a 22-car wreck in Daytona and another wreck at Michigan International Speedway. He felt steadily worse, thinking it was allergies at first, and his head injury was confirmed after

meeting with a neurological specialist.

Gordon, the four-time series champ and only five-time winner of the Brickyard 400, will make his season debut just a short drive away from his boyhood home in Pittsboro, Ind. He has not competed since retiring after last year's season finale and has spent this season primarily as a commentator on Fox Sports' NASCAR coverage.

Brickyard organizers had billed last year's race as Gordon's "last ride" on his home track.

But now the 44-year-old Gordon will get one more chance to become the first driver to reach Victory Lane six times at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. He's also the only Cup driver to win six times at Pocono and has 93 career wins and 797 career starts with Hendrick's team.

## Woods won't play in PGA

Associated Press

Tiger Woods withdrew from the PGA Championship, the first time he will go an entire year without playing a major.

The decision, while not a surprise, also means he will go an entire PGA Tour season without playing.

His agent, Mark Steinberg of Excel Sports Management, said in a text to The Associated Press on Tuesday that Woods will not play the remainder of the tour season as he continues to rehab following back surgeries. Woods now has gone eight years since winning his 14th major championship at the 2008 U.S. Open.