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Trump balks over defense of NATO allies

The Washington Post

Presidential candidate Donald Trump set off alarm bells Thursday with a suggestion that a Trump administration would not automatically defend fellow members of NATO from a Russian attack if they haven't lived up to their financial obligations.

Trump, in an interview published in *The New York Times* on Wednesday, went beyond his earlier assertions that he might reconsider the U.S. role as one of 28 nations in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, because many European countries are not spending enough on defense.

When asked if he would provide military aid to the Baltic countries if Russia were to attack, Trump replied, "If they fulfill their obligations to us, the answer is yes."

Trump was more vague when asked what he would do if the answer were no.

"Well, I'm not saying if not," he said. "I'm saying, right now there are many countries that have not fulfilled their obligations to us."

Trump's remarks provoked a swift rebuke from NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

"Solidarity among allies is a key value

for NATO," he said in a statement in which he did not mention Trump by name, saying he will not interfere in U.S. elections. "This is good for European security and good for U.S. security. We defend one another."

Noting the United States has always stood by Europe since it was formed as the bedrock of security after World War II, Stoltenberg added, "Two world wars have shown that peace in Europe is also important for the security of the United States."

Though U.S. administrations for decades have complained that Europe is getting a free ride, Trump's comments were a repudiation of Article 5, the heart of the alliance, that an attack on one is considered an attack on all. Article 5 was first invoked after the terrorist attacks against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, and is the reason why European and Canadian troops were sent to Afghanistan.

"There's no question the NATO allies could be doing more," said James Goldgeier, dean of the school of international service at American University and a Foreign Relations Council fellow.

"But nobody ever said we're going to pick and choose who we're going to defend based on how much they're spending. The

alliance would unravel if everyone did that."

This is not the first time Trump has criticized NATO, formed in 1949 by the United States, Canada and 10 European countries specifically to defend each other against the former Soviet Union. Trump's primary objection has been economic. Washington pays about a fifth of NATO's direct costs, more than any other country, and roughly 75 percent of all military spending, according to a 2015 NATO report.

In an interview with *The Washington Post* editorial page published March 21, Trump called NATO a "good thing to have," but said it was obsolete and no longer affordable in an era of large U.S. deficits.

"I don't want to pull it out," he said of U.S. membership, adding, "NATO was set up when we were a richer country. We're not a rich country. ... NATO is costing us a fortune and yes, we're protecting Europe but we're spending a lot of money. Number one, I think the distribution of costs has to be changed. I think NATO as a concept is good, but it is not as good as it was when it first evolved."

He made a similar argument at a CNN town hall.

Kerry: Islamic State to be a danger after strongholds fall

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Nations allied to defeat the Islamic State group should share more information about potential terrorists and should directly combat underlying issues that foster violent extremism, Secretary of State John Kerry told a gathering of the coalition's top diplomats and defense chiefs Thursday.

Local forces in Iraq and Syria backed by the U.S.-led Operation Inherent Resolve coalition have taken control of massive amounts of the land captured two years ago by the Islamic State group. They are now closing in on the terrorist group's key strongholds of Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria.

But Kerry on Thursday urged his colleagues from more than 30 coalition

nations to commit to the larger goal of ending the Islamic State threat beyond Iraq and Syria, where the group rose to prominence.

"Today we can look forward, without exaggeration, to a time when [the Islamic State group] is driven completely out of Iraq and Syria," Kerry said at the State Department in Washington during the second day of a summit of top coalition leaders. "The day that happens will mark a critical turning point in the fight against [the group], but everyone here knows that [the Islamic State group] is still going to be dangerous."

As Islamic State fighters continue to cede ground to coalition-backed local forces, the group has recommitted itself to its terrorism roots, transforming "into some kind of global network whose only real goal is to kill as many people as it can in as many

places as possible," Kerry said.

Committing to sharing more intelligence about suspected terrorists among partner nations could help stop Islamic State group members from attacking countries across the globe, the secretary said. The United States has these kinds of information-sharing agreements with 55 nations and at least 50 countries provide Interpol with profiles of terrorists.

But there are nearly 70 nations in the Operation Inherent Resolve coalition. More so, attacks directed or inspired by the Islamic State group have occurred in nearly every part of the world. Better information about the individuals who committed such acts, Kerry said, might have stopped them.

The coalition also must agree to "wage a holistic campaign against the root causes of violent extremism," Kerry said.

Photos show N. Korea sub program progress

BY AARON KIDD
Stars and Stripes

North Korea is making significant progress on a project that will enable it to build more advanced ballistic-missile submarines, a Washington-based think tank said.

Satellite images taken July 14 of North Korea's Sinpo Shipyard show external construction is complete on both an expanded launch ramp and a large assembly hall that will allow the communist regime to "build and launch new submarines much larger than the existing Gorae-class, including a new class of ballistic missile submarines," said 38 North, a website run by Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies that monitors North Korean activities.

The status of work inside the building remains unclear, the report said.

The images — taken just days after a July 8 announcement that the U.S. and South Korea would deploy a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system, known as THAAD, on the peninsula — also show evidence of post-test maintenance on the North's Gorae-class submarine "with a heavy-lift crane

and what appears to be a small truck or shipping container present dockside," 38 North said.

Pyongyang fired a missile from a submarine a day after the THAAD announcement. South Korean officials said the launch failed in the early stages of flight.

Two "mother ships," used for intelligence agents and special operations troops on infiltration missions against South Korea and Japan, are also visible in the photos, the report said.

Experts have said Pyongyang's submarine-launched ballistic missiles are not expected to be operational until 2020, but progress on the program is worrisome because the ability to fire missiles from underwater vessels makes them harder to detect and shoot down.

North Korea successfully fired a ballistic missile from a submarine on April 23. Leader Kim Jong Un, who was shown in photos observing the launch, called it an important step in his nuclear weapons program.

The North fired three land-based missiles — two Scuds and a Rodong — on Tuesday in what it said was a rehearsal for attacks against South Korean ports and airports that have U.S. nuclear warheads.

China's calls for sea talks face challenges

Associated Press

BEIJING — Amid China's outrage over an international tribunal that rejected its territorial claims in the South China Sea, the country is using new language that some experts say shows Beijing wants to be more flexible. But is it too late?

ANALYSIS China has been on a public-relations offensive to discredit The Hague-based tribunal that last week handed the Philippines a massive victory in its challenge to Beijing's claims to much of the sea. Buried in the outpouring of statements and diplomats' diatribes, however, is a new stance on cooperating with the Philippines and other claimants in jointly developing the waters' rich fishing stocks and potential wealth of other natural resources.

"China is ready to discuss with countries concerned about provisional arrangements pending final settlement of the dispute," the country's top diplomat, State Councilor Yang Jiechi, said last week. Yang did not describe specifics of the arrangements but said they would

include joint development for "mutual benefits."

For years, China publicly has touted the idea of jointly developing the South China Sea with other claimants, but its insistence that the other parties first recognize Chinese sovereignty over the features in question posed a major stumbling block, analysts said.

Chinese analysts said Beijing is offering such arrangements to demonstrate flexibility and to play down the thorny issue of sovereignty. Other analysts say China is likely under pressure to head off attempts by other countries that claim parts of the South China Sea to replicate the Philippines' legal success.

China's main challenge is that last week's ruling gives other parties little incentive to talk.

"The problem is that according to the ruling, China only enjoys a very small part of the territorial sea, therefore laying a foundation for other claimants not to seek joint development," said Chen Xiangmiao, a researcher at the National Institute for South China Sea Studies.

After 30-year rift, US Navy to return to New Zealand

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The Navy will make a port call in New Zealand for the first time since 1985, when the South Pacific nation banned visits by ships carrying nuclear weapons.

Vice President Joe Biden announced the visit Thursday during a short stop in New Zealand, according to the New Zealand Herald newspaper. The U.S. will send a ship to help celebrate the Royal New Zealand Navy's 75th anniversary in November, officials said.

It has not been announced which vessel will make the historic visit.

The Navy hasn't docked in New Zealand

since a left-wing government in Wellington refused a port-call request by the USS Buchanan three decades ago on grounds that the U.S. would neither confirm nor deny whether the guided-missile destroyer carried nuclear weapons.

The U.S. responded by suspending training with the Kiwis, effectively limiting ANZUS — the Australia, New Zealand, U.S. Security Treaty — to a bilateral defense pact with Australia.

The rift between the allies has been long-lasting — New Zealand was left out of a free-trade agreement between the U.S. and Australia in 2004 — but there have been signs of rapprochement in recent years.

New Zealand, part of the "Five Eyes"

signals intelligence-sharing group with the U.S., Britain, Australia and Canada, hosts U.S. Air Force planes en route to Antarctica. The New Zealand Defence Force has sent troops to Afghanistan, and Kiwi soldiers are in Iraq training locals to take on the Islamic State group.

The U.S. has been normalizing its defense relationship with New Zealand for some time, said Brad Glosserman of the Hawaii-based Pacific Forum think tank.

"There's an understanding that the world has changed and we need to have a better relationships with our friends in Wellington," he said. "Our objective is always to work more closely with like-minded countries."

CAS upholds Russia track and field ban

Associated Press

LONDON — Russia lost its appeal Thursday against the Olympic ban on its track and field athletes, a decision that could add pressure on the IOC to exclude the country entirely from next month's games in Rio de Janeiro.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport rejected the appeal of 68 Russian athletes seeking to overturn the ban imposed by the IAAF following allegations of state-sponsored doping and cover-ups.

"Today's judgment has created a level playing field for athletes," world track and field's governing body said in a statement.

However, the arbitration court ruling did not necessarily settle the matter for good. The court stressed the decision is not binding on the International Olympic Committee, which has the final say as the supreme organizer of the Games.

"The door is open for the IOC to decide, to determine even on a case-by-case principle whether these athletes are eligible or not," CAS general secretary Mattieu Reeb told reporters outside the court headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The IOC said it would "study and analyze the full decision" and make its own final ruling on the participation of Russian athletes "in the coming days." The Olympics open in Rio on Aug. 5.

CAS upheld the "validity" of the IAAF ban, saying a country whose national federation is suspended is ineligible from entering international competitions, including the Olympics.

The three-person panel ruled that the Russian Olympic Committee "is not entitled to nominate Russian track and field athletes to compete at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games considering that they are not eligible to participate under the IAAF competition rules."

The Russians argued against a collective ban of its track athletes, saying it punishes those who have not been accused of wrongdoing.

IAAF President Sebastian Coe said it was "not a day for triumphant statements."

"I didn't come into this sport to stop athletes from competing," he said. "It is our federation's instinctive desire to include, not exclude."

In Russia, two-time Olympic pole vault champion Yelena Isinbayeva — who attended Tuesday's hearing at CAS — said the decision to uphold the ban on the track and field team represents the "funeral" of her sport.

Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko also lashed out at the ruling.

"In my view, it's a subjective decision, somewhat political and one with no legal basis," he was quoted as saying by Tass news agency.

CAS said it had no jurisdiction over whether the IOC can accept or refuse the entry of Russian track and field athletes, either those representing their country or competing as "neutral athletes."

Reeb said the Russians have the right to appeal to the Swiss federal tribunal within 30 days. However, an appeal can be only on "procedural grounds," not the merits of the decision, he said.

The IOC last month accepted the IAAF decision to extend a November ban on the Russian track team. And, in a telephone interview with The Associated Press and two other international news agencies last week, Bach was asked whether the IOC would accept the CAS ruling if it upheld the IAAF ban. Bach replied: "Yes."

The IOC executive board said Tuesday it would "explore the legal options" for a possible total ban on Russia but would wait until after the CAS ruling before making a final decision. The IOC has scheduled another board meeting on Sunday to consider the issue.

The World Anti-Doping Agency and other doping bod-

ies have called on the IOC to consider the unprecedented step of kicking out the entire Russian contingent following new allegations of a vast government-organized doping program.

Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren, who was commissioned by WADA, issued a report Monday that accused Russia's sports ministry of orchestrating a doping system that affected 28 summer and winter Olympic sports.

Reeb said the Russian Olympic Committee has selected the 68 track and field athletes as part of its Olympic team for Rio.

"Now it is for the International Olympic Committee to determine if these athletes can be confirmed or not," he said. "In the opinion of CAS, because the national federation is suspended, normally these athletes should not compete in Rio, but the IOC was not a party in these conversations and our decision is not binding on the IOC."

"According to the Olympic Charter, they could have the last word who could participate in the Olympic Games because the IOC is the main organizer of the Olympic Games," he added.

Reeb said the CAS panel "expressed some concern" over the IAAF rule adopted last month that allowed for Russian athletes who have been subjected to regular anti-doping tests outside Russia to apply for exemptions to compete as "neutral athletes" in Rio.

Two athletes — Yulia Stepanova, an 800-meter runner and key whistleblower in exposing Russian doping, and Florida-based long jumper Darya Klishina — are the only ones who have received IAAF eligibility.

CAS said the rule, adopted on June 17, "left practically no possibility for the athletes to comply with the criteria."

"In one month the timing was very short, so this is a possibility for interpretation by the IOC," Reeb said.

Ex-WADA chief: IOC needs 'clear-cut' ruling

Associated Press

Former World Anti-Doping Agency president John Fahey says a "clear-cut" decision is required: Russia should not be allowed to compete at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Fahey told The Associated Press on Thursday that Russia should "definitely not be going" to Rio and said the integrity of the 2016 Olympics and future games is in jeopardy.

"This is widespread corruption, not individual, not a group, not one sport," Fahey said during a telephone interview. "It's a conspiracy of the state through the ministry of sport, the anti-doping organization and their security service and the previously accredited Moscow lab."

"They have all conspired to bring this about. The only way you can support the clean athletes who will be competing is to make it known that widespread cheating will not be tolerated."

The International Olympic Committee's executive board will meet via teleconference Sunday to consider whether Russia, host of the Winter Games at Sochi in 2014, will compete at the Summer Games next month.

The IOC is examining the legal options of a blanket ban following a report by WADA investigator Richard McLaren that accused Russia's sports ministry of overseeing doping of athletes.

McLaren's report uncovered a state-run doping scheme that implicated 28 sports, both

summer and winter, and ran from 2011 to 2015. The investigation told of 312 positive tests that Russia's deputy minister of sport directed lab workers not to report to WADA. Russia's intelligence service was involved, the report said.

It also provided further details of the swapping of samples to protect Russian dopers, including medalists, at the Sochi Games.

On Thursday, the Switzerland-based Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled against Russia's appeal to overturn an IAAF ban on 68 track and field athletes imposed by the IAAF for the Rio Games. The IOC will likely take that ruling into account before making its own decision on Sunday.

"But really, it never should have gotten that far based on what Russia has been accused of the past two years," Fahey said in the interview before the CAS decision was released.

Tatiana Grigorieva, a Russian-born pole vaulter who won Olympic silver for Australia at the Sydney Games in 2000, told Fox Sports Australia she agreed Russia should be banned, adding "it's obvious by now that the system is rotten."

"The fact that the new findings are saying that (Russia's) secret service are involved in this, it scares me," she said. "It goes a lot deeper than just sport or the Olympic Committee."

Fahey says the public's perception of the Olympic movement is at stake if Russia is not prevented from sending a team to Rio.

Russian athletes angry

Associated Press

ZHUKOVSKY, Russia — Russia's top athletes reacted with anger after the news broke Thursday that their track and field team would remain banned from next month's Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

Two-time Olympic champion pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva, the team's biggest star, wrote on Instagram that without Russia, historically a track superpower, only "pseudo-gold medals" would be on offer at a devalued Rio Olympics.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport's decision — to reject an appeal against an earlier ban — marked the "funeral" for track and field, Isinbayeva told state news agency Tass.

At a competition near Moscow that had been scheduled as a final tune-up before the Games, most athletes saw the ruling as fundamentally unjust, and based on unfair allegations of mass doping and government cover-ups.

"It's a big blow for me personally and for the athletes," said world high jump champion Maria Kuchina, who would have been a strong contender for gold at her first Olympics.

Three hours after news came through that Russia's appeal against the ban by the International Association of Athletics Federations had been rejected, Kuchina leapt 2 meters. The jump would have been good enough to have won the gold medal at the European championships earlier this month — if she and the rest of the Russian team had not been suspended.

Russia's ban contained a bitter irony for former European javelin champion Vera Rebrik, who switched allegiance from Ukraine to Russia in 2014 after her home region of Crimea was annexed by Russia. She will now miss the Olympics because of her new nation's ban.

"I don't know whether to laugh or cry," she told state TV.

As it stands, Russia's once-vaunted track team could be reduced to just a single athlete at the Rio Olympics.

Long jumper Darya Klishina was exempted from the ban by the IAAF because she lives and trains in Florida at an academy run by sports marketing company IMG and has been tested for years by the U.S. anti-doping agency, not Russia's scandal-hit equivalent.

However, some Russian fans have turned on her since she received permission to compete, calling her a traitor and demanding she refuse her Olympic spot in solidarity with banned teammates.



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Marlins' Ichiro chasing 3,000

Associated Press

Still unsure exactly what to expect from the Japanese newcomer, Lou Piniella kept waiting for the rookie to pull a ball. Too many hits sprayed to left field, Sweet Lou thought, too easy for defenses to adjust.

So the veteran Seattle manager summoned the translator and told him to deliver a message to Ichiro Suzuki: "I want to see some bat speed."

Piniella saw them huddle in the dugout and share a laugh. A couple of innings later, Suzuki led off with a home run into the bullpen in right-center.

"He rounds the bases, he steps on home plate, and he says, 'Happy now?' when he shook my hand," Piniella recalled. "I said, 'Yeah, yeah, you can do whatever you want.'"

All these years later, with Suzuki on the verge of joining the 3,000-hit club in the big leagues, his first skipper in the majors is taking a lot of pride in watching the pursuit. As much as Piniella believed in Suzuki from the start and was in awe of those early accomplishments with the Mariners, he never would have guessed the outfielder would still be playing at age 42 and going for such a lofty perch.

Suzuki hit .335 with a .412 on-base percentage in 164 at-bats over the first half with Miami. He sits at 2,994 hits going into Thursday's road game against Philadelphia.

Now gray-haired and no longer a regular in his 16th major league season, Suzuki might have lost a step, but not much. Credit his commitment to an intense regimen that has long included an on-deck routine that features a deep warmup squat, then a one-of-a-kind stance and a sweeping twirl of his bat.

Suzuki was 27 and had 1,278 hits in Japan before he came to the big leagues. Piniella got so excited after Suzuki's two-hit debut in 2001 that he kissed him.

"I was so happy for him, that's why," Piniella said. "It's hard for a player to come here from Japan, especially with the scrutiny that he had. I'm an emotional guy. I got caught up in the moment. I gave him a hug and at the same time I gave him a little peck."

At the time, Suzuki did not come cheaply. Seattle paid \$13 million just to secure his rights, and signed him to a three-year, \$14 million contract. The Mariners got their money's worth and then some.

Suzuki, better known just by his first name, has long prided himself in preparation.

So much so that Piniella had been around no other player like him, with that meticulous stretching before stepping into the batter's box to the foot rubdowns he gave himself at his locker with a small wooden tool before and after games.

"I had never seen it, quite frankly. I was quite amazed by the things that he did, the stretching especially," Piniella said. "Here in the United States, we go through a rigorous spring training, but once the season starts prior to the games we have our stretching exercises and then the kids play."

"He took it to a totally different level. He was fanatical about that and that's probably one of the big reasons that he's playing here at age 42," he said.

That first season was a memorable one for many reasons. The Mariners won an AL-record 116 games, clinching the division shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Yet Seattle failed to reach the World Series, losing in five games of the AL

Championship Series to the Yankees.

Still, Suzuki won AL Rookie of the Year and MVP. Suzuki's ability to beat out infield hits at times left Piniella shaking his head.

"He did have a special year. The team had a special year that year," Piniella said. "We won 116 games and Ichiro was a big part of it. Ichiro was a special player. He had really good speed, he had that uncanny ability to put the ball in play. In the outfield, he played as well as you can expect, great throwing arm. He made the adjustment to American baseball very quickly, became one of the leaders in our clubhouse and was accepted by the players. He had a tremendous impact on our team that year."

"He's going for his 3,000th hit now, and I'm so proud of him. He's had just a wonderful career. I look forward to the time when he'll be inducted into the Hall of Fame," he said.

Some of the most memorable hits by the 10-time All-Star didn't even count.

In 2007, Suzuki hit the first inside-the-park home run in All-Star game history, winning unanimous MVP honors and helping the American League to a 5-4 victory at San Francisco's AT&T Park with a go-ahead, two-run drive that took a crazy bounce off the right-field wall.

He'd never hit an inside-the-park homer during his decorated career in Japan.

"He's an amazing guy," Marlins manager Don Mattingly said. "You just take age out of the equation and if you just looked at him as a player, if you evaluated just what you see, not thinking about age, you see a guy that runs above average, plays all three outfield spots, throws above average, hits lefties and righties."

"His work habits and everything else, for me, just set him apart."

Surgery possible for Dodgers' Kershaw

WASHINGTON — The Los Angeles Dodgers' pitching injury woes aren't likely to go away any time soon.

Manager Dave Roberts said surgery "is more of a possibility" for Clayton Kershaw after a setback with the herniated disk in his back, and left-hander Alex Wood will miss eight weeks after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his elbow.

Kershaw has been out since June 27 because of mild disk herniation and felt discomfort after a throwing session on Saturday. Roberts said no doctors told him that surgery was more likely for the three-time National League Cy Young Award winner but inferred that based on the type of injury.

"With the way it flared up, it's more of an indication that surgery is more of a possibility obviously with the way his back responded," Roberts said Wednesday. "But we're still hopeful that he's going to be back. When you're talking about the back, (surgery is) always an option."

Wood could be back in September after having loose bodies cleaned out of his elbow. Roberts said the calendar makes Wood's return to the starting rotation unlikely but hopes the 25-year-old could come out of the bullpen if healthy.

Cubs bolster bullpen with Montgomery

CHICAGO — The NL Central-leading Chicago Cubs added bullpen help Wednesday by acquiring left-hander Mike Montgomery from the Seattle Mariners for first baseman and designated hitter Dan Vogelbach.

Chicago obtained right-handed prospect Jordan Pries in the deal. Right-hander Paul Blackburn also goes to Seattle.

The 27-year-old Montgomery has a 2.34 ERA in two starts and 30 relief appearances with the Mariners this season. The former first-round pick of Kansas City was traded to Tampa Bay in the 2012 James Shields deal, when the Cubs' Joe Maddon was managing Tampa Bay.

Montgomery said the Cubs told him he would begin in the bullpen.

Vogelbach, 23, was hitting .318 with 16 homers and 64 RBIs in 89 games for Triple-A Iowa. The Cubs selected Vogelbach in the second round of the 2011 amateur draft.

Pries, 26, had a 4.93 ERA in Double-A Jackson and Triple-A Tacoma this season. The 22-year-old Blackburn had a 3.17 ERA in 18 starts with Double-A Tennessee.

Rangers' Fielder faces season-ending surgery

Texas Rangers slugger Prince Fielder is facing the prospect of season-ending neck surgery after an MRI revealed a herniated disk just above an area that was repaired two years ago.

Fielder and outfielder Shin-Soo Choo were placed on the 15-day disabled list Wednesday by the slumping AL West leaders.

Choo got an injection to help relieve lower-back discomfort.

General manager Jon Daniels said Fielder on Monday reported having similar symptoms to those he felt before the 2014 surgery that limited him to 42 games his first season with the Rangers. Fielder was feeling weakness and discomfort in his neck and left arm.

Dr. Robert Watkins, who examined both players in Los Angeles on Wednesday, recommended surgery for Fielder after seeing the herniation between the C4 and C5 disks.

— The Associated Press

Ramirez powers BoSox past Giants

Associated Press

BOSTON — Hanley Ramirez told his Red Sox teammates in the dugout that he wasn't going to swing for the fences in his final at-bat.

It doesn't work for him that way.

"I don't hit homers when I try to hit homers," he explained to reporters after Boston's 11-7 victory over the San Francisco Giants. "They said, 'It doesn't matter. You've got three already.'"

Ramirez homered three times to drive in a career-high six runs and also helped the Red Sox with some nifty fielding on Wednesday night as Boston moved into first place in the AL East. With a chance to tie the major league record of four homers in a game, he grounded out weakly to the pitcher in his last at-bat.

Travis Shaw and Sandy Leon also homered for Boston, and Mookie Betts had three of the 15 Boston hits that made up for a poor outing from starter Drew Pomeranz. Acquired last week from San Diego for Boston's top pitching prospect, Pomeranz struggled to protect an eight-run lead and lasted just three innings in his Red Sox debut.

Ramirez's first career three-homer game gave him 11 for the season. He hit two-run shots in the second, third and sixth inning.

Ramirez also reached base when he was hit by a pitch in the fourth, glowering at Giants reliever Albert Suarez before the umpire quickly warned both benches. The biggest crowd of the season — 38,201 — stood and chanted Ramirez's name for his final at-bat in the eighth.

Rare visit: The game wrapped up a two-game series that was the Giants'

first visit to Fenway Park since 2007 and just their second since the start of interleague play. They have never beaten the Red Sox at the century-old ballpark, with their last win at Fenway coming as the New York Giants against the Boston Braves in the 1912 World Series.

Cardinals 4, 3, Padres 2, 2: Jedd Gyorko homered for the fifth straight game off San Diego pitching, connecting twice and driving in all three RBIs in a victory in the second game to give host St. Louis a doubleheader sweep.

Carlos Martinez (9-6) was dominant after a shaky first inning and a nosebleed in the second, and the Cardinals took the opener 4-2. Gyorko, Matt Holliday and Yadier Molina homered off Colin Rea (5-4).

Nationals 8, Dodgers 1: Bryce Harper led an offensive outburst with a home run into the third deck in right field and host Washington beat Los Angeles.

Harper's 20th home run of the season, a two-run blast, traveled an estimated 451 feet off Bud Norris in the first inning.

Cubs 6, Mets 2: Anthony Rizzo homered twice off Bartolo Colon, Kyle Hendricks pitched 6¹/₃ scoreless innings and host Chicago beat New York to take two of three in the rematch of last year's NL Championship Series.

Indians 11, Royals 4: Tyler Naquin hit two of the Indians' five homers and had a career-high six RBIs, helping visiting Cleveland rout Kansas City.

Blue Jays 10, Diamondbacks 4: Josh Donaldson and Edwin Encarnacion each hit two-run homers and Toronto beat host Arizona.

Twins 4, Tigers 1: Max Kepler and Eddie Rosario homered off Francisco

Rodriguez in the ninth and Minnesota scored three runs in the inning to beat host Detroit.

Yankees 5, Orioles 0: Michael Pineda pitched six innings, Mark Teixeira homered in his return from his latest injury, and host New York beat Baltimore to move two games above .500 for the first time since April.

Mariners 6, White Sox 5 (11): Leonys Martin hit his second home run of the game, a solo shot with one out in the 11th inning that sent Seattle past visiting Chicago.

Reds 6, Braves 3: Tucker Barnhart and Joey Votto hit two-run homers, and host Cincinnati rallied to beat Atlanta to win the season series between the NL's worst teams.

Phillies 4, Marlins 1: Jeremy Hellickson struck out eight in eight innings, Tyler Goeddel hit a two-run homer and host Philadelphia beat Miami.

Astros 7, Athletics 0: Doug Fister pitched seven innings and Jose Altuve continued his torrid hitting to help visiting Houston beat Oakland.

Angels 7, Rangers 4: Jeffry Marte hit a three-run homer and host Los Angeles shut down a late rally by AL West-leading Texas for a win that gave the Angels a three-game sweep.

Rays 11, Rockies 3: Chris Archer struck out 11 over six innings for his first victory since June 6, Tim Beckham had a career-high five hits and visiting Tampa Bay routed Colorado.

Brewers 9, Pirates 5: Jonathan Lucroy had a two-run single in the sixth inning and finished with three RBIs in Milwaukee's victory over host Pittsburgh.