

STARS AND STRIPES®

Monday, July 25, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Islamic State group claims Ansbach attack

BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Security on U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach was stepped up Monday following a suicide attack in the city during the weekend, with authorities saying the attacker had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

U.S. officials said no Americans were among the injured when a 27-year-old Syrian asylum-seeker blew himself up after being denied entry to a music festival because he didn't have a ticket.

The Bavarian interior minister, Joachim Herrmann, said a video was found on the man's cellphone in which he professed allegiance to the leader

of the Islamic State group, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and pledged to take revenge on Germans for killing Muslims.

The Associated Press reported from Beirut on Monday that the militant group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Fifteen people were injured, four of them seriously, officials said. Casualties could have been higher if the attacker had been admitted to the venue, where there were about 2,000 people, police said. There were pieces of metal packed in the explosive that were strewn over a wide area.

Prosecutor Michael Schrotberger said the bomb was constructed to kill "as many people as possible." It wasn't yet clear, he said, if there was a network involved in the attack.

The federal prosecutor's office said in a statement Monday evening that it was suspected the bomber acted as a member of the Islamic State group. The prosecutor's office was investigating whether there were others involved in or behind the attack.

The bombing was the first of several recent attacks in Germany to target a town with a large American military population.

A 100 percent accountability check was issued for the roughly 7,000 military and civilian personnel in the U.S. military community scattered throughout Ansbach, Katterbach and Illesheim in the southeastern state of Bavaria.

"As of right now, we have no knowledge of any Ameri-

can personnel being injured," said Connie Summers, spokeswoman for U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach. Capt. Jaymon Bell, spokesman for the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, operating out of nearby Illesheim and Katterbach, said the same.

In a post on the garrison Facebook page, officials said some access points on base were being closed and people should expect delays getting onto the facility.

"In light of last night's incident, to reinforce the security of our community members, force protection measures will be modified at U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach," the garrison said.

The U.S. military also offered assistance to German authorities after the attack.

Army accepts first female Green Beret candidates

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two female Army officers have been approved for initial Special Forces training, the first step in the long process to earn the coveted Green Beret, an Army spokeswoman said Monday.

The women are the first female soldiers to be accepted into the Special Forces Assessment and Selection and could report to the three-week program at Fort Bragg, N.C., as early as October, said Maj. Melody Faulkenberry, a spokeswoman for the Army's John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter's order last year to drop all restrictions on women serving in front-line combat jobs and units paved the way for women to attempt the rigorous training that soldiers must com-

plete before entering Special Forces. The earliest the women could earn the Green Beret and the Special Forces tab and be assigned to an Operational Detachment-Alpha would be in 2018, although they have not yet been officially assigned to an SFAS class, Faulkenberry said.

The Army declined to name the women and did not provide information about their service backgrounds.

Faulkenberry said it would be unfair to publicly identify the soldiers.

"We want to allow the soldiers the same opportunities everyone else has to attend Special Forces Assessment and Selection," she said. "If their names came out, it could possibly change the way they are treated ... or add undue pressure on them in a course that is

already very demanding."

The women selected to attend SFAS likely were commissioned in 2013 and are either first lieutenants or captains, according to an Army document describing the requirements for acceptance into Special Forces Assessment and Selection.

The two officers accepted into Special Forces training were among nine female active-duty Army officers who applied. A total of 340 soldiers — men and women — applied for the program and 220 were accepted. Some of the soldiers who were not selected for SFAS — including five of the women — potentially could be chosen for other special operations jobs in civil affairs or psychological operations.

To be accepted in SFAS, according to the Army documents, officers must have

been promoted to first lieutenant between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015, be cleared for worldwide deployment, possess a secret clearance and score at least a 240 on the Army Physical Fitness Test.

To earn the Green Beret, officers must complete a strenuous physical assessment, SFAS, the Army's Airborne School, the Maneuver Captain's Career Course or the Special Operations Captain's Career Course, and the Special Forces Qualification Course. The culminating "Q" course lasts 64 weeks.

Generally, one-third of soldiers accepted for Special Forces Assessment and Selection graduate to the "Q" course, Faulkenberry said. Roughly 50 percent of soldiers who begin the Qualification Course graduate and earn the Green Beret, she added.

Dems roiled as convention opens

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Angry Democrats heckled outgoing party chief Debbie Wasserman Schultz with boos and cries of “shame!” on Monday as the party tried to recover from an embarrassing email hack that ripped open primary wounds just hours before they planned to mount a four-day showcase of unity.

Hours before she was to gavel in the Democratic National Convention, the Florida congresswoman was met by raucous activists who accused her of favoring Hillary Clinton over vanquished rival Bernie Sanders. Activists jeered and waved signs reading, “Thanks for the ‘help,’ Debbie,” and more simply, “E-mail.” Her supporters shouted them down, as Wasserman Schultz appealed for comity.

“We have to make sure that we move together in a unified way,” she said.

For Democrats who spent last week throwing stones at Republicans’ troubled convention in Cleveland, the scene was

a painful reminder of their own glass house. On the eve of the four-day spectacle, the 19,000 hacked emails published by WikiLeaks appeared to show top officials at the supposedly neutral Democratic National Committee working to tip the scales toward Clinton, even suggesting reporters should question Sanders’ faith. Wasserman Schultz denied the accusation, but was forced out as chief Sunday.

It wasn’t immediately clear how WikiLeaks received copies of the internal Democratic emails. Party officials learned in late April that their systems had been attacked after they discovered malicious software on their computers.

A cybersecurity firm they employed found traces of at least two sophisticated hacking groups on their network — both of which have ties to the Russian government. Those hackers took at least a year’s worth of detailed chats, emails and research on Trump, according to a person knowledgeable of the breach who wasn’t authorized to speak publicly about

the matter.

The emails re-emphasized a rift that threatens to undermine the Democrats’ attempt to display four days of focus on putting Clinton in the White House.

The party announced Monday it would kick off its convention with a lineup of speakers aimed at easing the tensions. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a progressive favorite, will deliver the convention keynote. Sanders and first lady Michelle Obama also will take the stage.

Republicans relished Democrats’ pre-convention tumult, just days after they bumped and bumbled through their own gathering. Trump declared on Twitter: “The Dems Convention is cracking up.”

Resistance to Clinton was on display during a demonstration Sunday as many thronged to a main thoroughfare and chanted, “Hell no, DNC, we won’t vote for Hillary.” Still, many delegates, and Sanders, himself, said they planned to fall in line, mindful of the Republican alternative.

Warrants out for Turkish journalists

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkish authorities issued warrants on Monday for the detention of 42 journalists and detained 31 academics, official media reported, as the government pressed ahead with a crackdown against people allegedly linked to a U.S.-based Muslim cleric following a failed coup.

The state-run Anadolu news agency said the list of journalists wanted for questioning included prominent writer Nazli Ilıcak, who is critical of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Ilıcak has opposed the government clampdown on a movement led by Fethullah Gulen, the cleric accused by Turkey of directing the July 15 coup attempt. Gulen has denied any involvement in the failed insurrection that left about 290 people dead and was put down by loyalist forces and pro-government protesters.

So far, five journalists have been detained for questioning, Anadolu reported.

Obama aide Rice meets with Xi

Associated Press

BEIJING — China and the U.S. should deal with their differences candidly, U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice told Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday, as ties were set to be tested after a tribunal invalidated Beijing’s vast claims in the South China Sea.

Rice is the highest-level White House official to visit China since the July 12 ruling by an international tribunal delivered a victory to the Philippines, a U.S. ally, in its dispute with China.

Meeting Xi, Rice said the U.S. and China’s interdependence meant that China’s success was also in America’s interest, and said the two nations have dem-

onstrated that they can work together on major global issues such as climate change.

“At the same time, we are confronting our differences with candor and clarity and we believe that clarity produces predictability, and predictability produces stability,” Rice said.

Xi told Rice that he was committed to building a good bilateral relationship on “the basis of no conflict, no confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation.”

The South China Sea received no mention in any of the opening remarks Rice and Chinese leaders made in front of reporters Monday. Officials repeatedly acknowledged the importance of managing their

disagreements.

Beijing has reacted angrily to the ruling by the Hague-based tribunal, decrying the panel as unfair and accusing Washington of interfering in the region. The U.S., whose navy patrols the waters, has called on China to abide by the ruling while also urging calm.

Rice met earlier with top general Fan Changlong, who told her the sides still faced “obstacles and challenges.”

“If we don’t properly handle these factors, it will very likely disturb and undermine this steady momentum of our military-to-military relationship,” said Fan, who serves as vice chairman of the ruling Communist Party’s Central Military Commission.

Afghanistan civilian casualties increase

KABUL, Afghanistan — The war in Afghanistan caused more civilian casualties in the first six months of this year than during the same period in any of the past six years, the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said in a report Monday.

In the first six months of this year, 5,166 civilians were injured or killed in the conflict, an increase of 4 percent over the same period a year ago, the UNAMA found. Of that total, the number of injured rose by 6 percent, to 3,565, and the number killed fell by 1 percent, to 1,601.

More civilian casualties — 11,002 — were recorded by the UNAMA in 2015 than in any other year since the mission began systematically documenting them in 2009.

From staff reports

Piazza, Griffey took different paths to Hall

Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Two players who began their careers at opposite ends of the spectrum nearly three decades ago ended up in the same place on Sunday — with their names etched on plaques at the Baseball Hall of Fame.

For Ken Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza, the culmination of their long journeys was tinged with tears all around.

"I stand up here humbled and overwhelmed," Griffey said, staring out at his family and tens of thousands of fans. "I can't describe how it feels."

The two became a piece of history on their special day. Griffey, the first pick of the 1987 amateur draft, became the highest pick ever inducted. Piazza, a 62nd-round pick the next year — No. 1,390 — is the lowest pick to enter the Hall of Fame.

Griffey played 22 big-league seasons with the Mariners, Reds and White Sox and was selected on a record 99.32 percent of ballots cast, an affirmation of sorts for his clean performance during baseball's so-called Steroids Era.

A 13-time All-Star and 10-time Gold Glove Award winner in center field, Griffey hit 630 home runs, sixth all-time, and drove in 1,836 runs. He also was the American League MVP in 1997, drove in at least 100 runs in eight seasons, and won seven Silver Slugger Awards.

Griffey, who fell just three votes shy of being the first unanimous selection, hit 417 of his 630 homers and won all 10 of his

Gold Gloves with the Seattle Mariners. He played the first 11 seasons of his career with the Mariners and led them to the playoffs for the first two times in franchise history.

"Thirteen years with the Seattle Mariners, from the day I got drafted, Seattle, Washington, has been a big part of my life," Griffey said, punctuating the end of his speech by putting a baseball cap on backward as he did throughout his career.

"I'm going to leave you with one thing. In 22 years I learned that one team will treat you the best, and that's your first team. I'm damn proud to be a Seattle Mariner."

Dubbed "The Natural" for his effortless excellence at the plate and in center field, Griffey avoided the Hall of Fame until his special weekend because he wanted his first walk through the front doors of the stately building on Main Street to be with his kids, whom he singled out one by one in his 20-minute speech.

"There are two misconceptions about me — I didn't work hard and everything I did I made look easy," Griffey said. "Just because I made it look easy doesn't mean that it was. You don't become a Hall of Famer by not working, but working day in and day out."

Griffey's mom, Birdie, and his father, former Cincinnati Reds star Ken Sr., both cancer survivors and integral to his rise to stardom, were front and center in the first row.

"To my dad, who taught me how to play

this game and to my mom, the strongest woman I know," Junior said. "To have to be mom and dad, she was our biggest fan and our biggest critic. She's the only woman I know that lives in one house and runs five others."

Selected in the draft by the Dodgers after Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda, a close friend of Piazza's father, Vince, put in a good word, Piazza struggled.

He briefly quit the game while in the minor leagues, returned and persevered despite a heavy workload as he switched from first base to catcher and teammates criticized his erratic play.

Mom and dad were foremost on his mind, too.

"Dad always dreamed of playing in the major leagues," said Piazza, just the second Hall of Famer depicted on his plaque wearing a Mets cap, after Tom Seaver in 1992.

"He could not follow that dream because of the realities of life. My father's faith in me, often greater than my own, is the single most important factor of me being inducted into this Hall of Fame. Thank you dad. We made it, dad. The race is over. Now it's time to smell the roses."

Piazza played 16 years with the Dodgers, Marlins, Mets, Padres and Athletics and hit 427 home runs, including a major league record 396 as a catcher. A 12-time All-Star, Piazza won 10 Silver Slugger Awards and finished in the top five of his league's MVP voting four times.

Perhaps even more impressive, Piazza,

a .308 career hitter, posted six seasons with at least 30 home runs, 100 RBIs and a .300 batting average (all other catchers in baseball history combined have posted nine such seasons).

Though the Dodgers gave him his start, Piazza found a home in New York when he was traded to the Mets in May 1998.

Three years later, he became a hero to the hometown fans with perhaps the most notable home run of his career. His two-run shot in the eighth inning at Shea Stadium lifted the Mets to a 3-2 victory over the Atlanta Braves in the first sporting event played in New York after the 9/11 terror attacks.

Piazza paid tribute to that moment.

"To witness the darkest evil of the human heart ... will be forever burned in my soul," Piazza said. "But from tragedy and sorrow came bravery, love, compassion, character and eventual healing."

"Many of you give me praise for the two-run home run in the first game back on Sept. 21st, but the true praise belongs to police, firefighters, first responders that knew that they were going to die, but went forward anyway. I pray that we never forget their sacrifice."

Attendance was estimated at around 50,000 by the Hall of Fame, tying 1999 for second-most all time.

BoSox's Porcello remains unbeaten at Fenway

Associated Press

BOSTON — A year ago, Rick Porcello was hearing nearly as many boos as cheers in Fenway Park.

Now, he's piling up wins in front of the home fans.

Porcello became the first Boston pitcher in 55 years to open a season 10-0 in Fenway, and Hanley Ramirez and Travis Shaw both hit a three-run homer as the Red Sox beat the Minnesota Twins 8-7 Sunday to earn a split of a four-game series.

"I just feel good here," Porcello said. "I feel comfortable pitching in front of our crowd."

Last year, the 27-year-old Porcello was expected to be an ace for the staff after the club acquired him from Detroit before the season, but he lost six of his first 11 starts at home and ended the year just 9-15 overall with a 4.92 ERA.

"Rick is in a very good place here in Fenway," Red Sox manager John Farrell said. "You talk about dependable and reliable, he embodies that. He epitomizes that."

Porcello (13-2) allowed five runs with eight strikeouts in 6²/₃ innings, becoming the first since Don Schwall in 1961 to win his first 10 Fenway decisions in a season.

Dustin Pedroia hit a tiebreaking solo homer and Xander Bogaerts had three singles for Boston, which won its 10th time in 13 games.

Juan Centeno had three hits and drove in three runs for the Twins, who completed a seven-game road trip 4-3 but gave up four unearned runs in a key inning.

The Red Sox surged ahead with five runs — four unearned — and chased Tommy Milone (3-3) in the fifth.

Pedroia homered over the Green Monster. Third baseman Miguel Sano had a grounder go through his legs for an error that scored a run before Shaw belted his homer into Boston's bullpen, making it 8-3.

"The one to Shaw was just a curveball that hung over the middle of the plate," Milone said. "He was waiting for it. They capitalized hard on the mistakes."

Milone gave up eight runs — four earned — in 4²/₃ innings, snapping a personal three-game winning streak.

Ramirez's homer — his fifth in five games — went into the first row of Monster seats, with a fan making a nice standing, two-handed grab, to make it 3-2.

Rangers 2, Royals 1: Delino DeShields is known for his speed, stealing 101 bases in 2012 in the minors, not for his power.

DeShields homered in the seventh inning to break a tie and visiting Texas defeated Kansas City.

The loss dropped the Royals to 48-49, the first time the World Series champions have been below .500 since May 15 when they were 18-19. The Royals have lost 13 of 19 games in July.

White Sox 5, Tigers 4: Melky Cabrera drove in Adam Eaton with a game-ending

single in the ninth inning after closer David Robertson gave up three home runs in the top half to lead host Chicago to a victory over Detroit hours after it suspended ace Chris Sale for five days on Sunday.

The White Sox beat the Tigers 4-3 earlier in the day on a single by Eaton in the ninth after play was suspended because of rain the previous night.

Padres 10, Nationals 6: Alex Dickerson and Ryan Schimpf hit back-to-back homers off Shawn Kelley in the eighth inning and San Diego scored four runs off Jonathan Papelbon in the ninth to beat host Washington.

Orioles 5, Indians 3: Pinch-hitter Nolan Reimold hit a game-winning, two-out homer in the ninth inning after Pedro Alvarez reached on a strikeout, and Baltimore completed a three-game sweep of visiting Cleveland.

Dodgers 9, Cardinals 6: Adrian Gonzalez hit a grand slam and Howie Kendrick added a two-run homer, helping visiting Los Angeles spoil Mike Mayers' major league debut.

Yankees 5, Giants 2: Nathan Eovaldi pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning, Carlos Beltran and Mark Teixeira hit early solo home runs and New York completed a 6-4 homestand.

Cubs 6, Brewers 5: At Milwaukee, Anthony Rizzo hit a three-run double in the seventh inning and Joe Nathan got the win in his first game in the majors since April 2015.

Nathan was activated off the 60-day disabled list earlier in the day, completing his comeback from Tommy John surgery.

Mets 3, Marlins 0: Steven Matz pitched six innings for his first win since May, and New York took the rubber game of a series against host Miami.

Blue Jays 2, Mariners 0: J.A. Happ and three relievers combined on a one-hitter, Edwin Encarnacion hit a solo home run and host Toronto averted a three-game sweep.

Athletics 3, Rays 2: Billy Butler hit a tiebreaking home run off Erasmo Ramirez with one out in the eighth inning and host Oakland held on.

Pirates 5, Phillies 4: Adam Frazier's pinch-hit home run in the seventh inning powered Pittsburgh over visiting Philadelphia.

Astros 13, Angels 3: Jose Altuve hit two of host Houston's season-high five homers and had a career-high six RBIs to help complete a three-game sweep.

Rockies 7, Braves 2: Trevor Story lined his fourth homer in three games, Tyler Chatwood allowed one hit over five erratic innings and Colorado swept visiting Atlanta.

Diamondbacks 9, Reds 8: Paul Goldschmidt's solo home run in the fifth inning gave visiting Arizona the lead for good, and the Diamondbacks finished with four homers.



Ship's Store official new car program

Exclusive Navy at-sea offers:

www.navyauto.com or nasinfo@navyauto.com

7 swimmers among Russians to miss Rio

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Seven Russian swimmers have been barred from the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, including three linked to recent allegations of a major doping cover-up by Russian authorities, world swimming's governing body FINA said Monday.

Reigning world 100-meter breaststroke champion Yulia Efimova is among four Russian swimmers withdrawn by the Russian swimming federation because they previously served doping bans, FINA said. The others are Natalya Lovtsova, Anastasia Krapivina and Mikhail Dovgalyuk.

The International Olympic Committee on Sunday said Russian athletes with previous doping bans would be banned from the Rio Games. That followed the IOC's decision not to ban the entire Russian team over allegations of state-sponsored doping.

FINA said three more swimmers were identified by World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren when he examined evidence that Russian government officials ordered the cover-up of hundreds of doping tests.

They are 2008 Olympic silver and 2012 bronze medalist Nikita Lobintsev, bronze medalist Vladimir Morozov and world junior record holder Daria Ustinova.

Russia's top Olympic official, Alexander Zhukov, told Russian agency R-Sport that he now believed a total of 13 Russians would be ineligible due to previous dop-

ing bans. They would be withdrawn from the team, he added.

The 13 are likely to include athletes in swimming, cycling, weightlifting, wrestling and rowing.

On Sunday, the IOC's executive board asked individual global sports federations to decide on the entry of Russian athletes, and announced new eligibility criteria.

The rules prohibit Russia from sending to the Rio Games any athletes who have previously served doping bans. Sports federations can also reject Russian entries if they have not undergone enough international drug testing. Results of Russian tests will not be accepted following allegations of routine cover-ups at Moscow's anti-doping laboratory.

It remains unclear whether there could be legal challenges to the IOC criteria. A similar IOC measure, known as the Osaka Rule, which would have prohibited any athletes who had received doping bans from competing in the subsequent Olympics, was declared invalid by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Zhukov said the IOC's latest criteria violated the "principle of equality" because they only applied to Russia, although he has previously ruled out legal action.

However, Russian Swimming Federation president Vladimir Salnikov told the state Tass agency that the four swimmers cut from its team because of previous bans, "have the chance to appeal to CAS." Efimova's agent, Andrei Mitkov, told Russia's Sportbox website that she

intended to file an appeal if she was not allowed to compete.

Russia's track and field athletes remain barred from the Games by the IAAF, a decision upheld last week by CAS and accepted by the IOC.

Now, with the Aug. 5 opening ceremony approaching, it is up to the remaining 27 international sports federations to vet Russian athletes on an individual basis.

The archery federation said Monday it had approved the entry of three Russian archers after determining they have no links to doping.

World Archery said it was satisfied that the three female Russian archers nominated for the Games had been tested "extensively" and have never been sanctioned for doping. They were listed as Tuiana Dashidorzhiyeva, Ksenia Perova and Inna Stepanova.

Archery was not implicated in the WADA report by McLaren released last week, which accused Russia of covering up doping in 20 Summer Olympic sports.

Russian archers have been targeted for additional testing, both in and out of competition, since the report was released, the federation said.

"No Russian archery athlete has received an adverse analytical finding," it said, adding that it would submit its findings to the IOC.

The International Tennis Federation said Sunday it expects Russia's eight-player Olympic tennis team to be eligible for the games. The ITF said the players "have been subject to a rigorous anti-doping

testing program outside Russia."

The International Equestrian Federation said there was no indication of doping within Russia's five-rider team.

Russian cyclist Ilnur Zakarin, who won a stage during the Tour de France which ended Sunday, could be ruled out because he served a two-year ban after testing positive for a steroid in 2009.

The International Judo Federation, whose honorary president is Russia's President Vladimir Putin, said it has already tested 84 percent of the 389 athletes from 136 countries who are qualified to compete in Rio. It made no mention of the 11 Russian judo athletes entered.

The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) said it "has taken note" of the IOC ruling and "shall fully adhere to it." It said it would establish a "pool of Russian eligible athletes." Gymnastics was not mentioned in the McLaren report.

Boxing's governing body, AIBA, said it was examining Russia's entrants. Eleven Russian boxers have boxers for Rio, including reigning world champions Vitaly Dunaytsev and Evgeny Tishchenko.

"We are reviewing and analyzing, on a case by case basis, the anti-doping record of the 11 Russian boxers currently qualified for Rio 2016," AIBA said. "This information and the decision of AIBA in respect of the athlete's eligibility will be submitted to the IOC for confirmation in due course."

NFL clears Manning in HGH investigation

Associated Press

The NFL said it found no credible evidence that Peyton Manning was provided with human growth hormone or other prohibited substances as alleged in a documentary by Al-Jazeera America last year.

The league said the quarterback and his wife, Ashley, fully cooperated in the seven-month investigation, providing interviews and access to all records sought by investigators.

The NFL is continuing its investigation into allegations made against other NFL players in the documentary, which the league said involves "different lines of inquiry and witnesses." Those other players — all of them linebackers — provided the league with sworn affidavits, but the NFL wants to interview them in person.

In stark contrast, Manning, who retired a month after Denver's 24-10 win over Carolina in Super Bowl 50, welcomed the probe.

In December, Al-Jazeera reported that an intern at an Indianapolis anti-aging clinic was secretly recorded suggesting that Manning's wife received deliveries of HGH in 2011 while the quarterback was recovering from neck fusion surgery. The intern, Charles Sly, recanted his statements, which were recorded without his knowledge. He said they were fabricated in an attempt to impress a potential business partner.

Manning angrily denounced the report, calling it "completely fabricated, complete trash, garbage," and insist-

ing he never took shortcuts in his return to football after missing 2011 with neck problems.

At the time the allegations were levied, both the Broncos and the Colts, whom Manning played for from 1998-2011, issued statements in support of the five-time MVP.

Manning said he sought holistic treatments such as hyperbaric oxygen and nutrient therapy at the Guyer Institute of Molecular Medicine with knowledge and consent of the Colts training and medical staff following his four neck surgeries. He insisted he never used performance-enhancing substances and never took anything sent to his wife.

HGH is banned by professional sports leagues and is only legal to prescribe in a few specific medical conditions.

The NFL and players union added human growth hormone testing to the collective bargaining agreement signed in 2011, but the sides didn't agree to testing terms until 2014. Nobody has tested positive, which would trigger a four-game suspension.

The Al-Jazeera report alleged other high-profile athletes obtained PEDs, including baseball stars Ryan Howard of the Philadelphia Phillies and Ryan Zimmerman of the Washington Nationals.

The report also named four other prominent NFL players: Clay Matthews and Julius Peppers of the Green Bay Packers, James Harrison of the Pittsburgh Steelers and free agent Mike Neal.

Unlike Manning, those four players don't want to talk to NFL investigators.

Kyle Busch repeats sweep of Brickyard

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Kyle Busch used his first Brickyard 400 victory as a springboard to his first Sprint Cup title.

He's trying to make sure it happens again.

Another dominant weekend at Indianapolis sent Busch home with a historic sweep, a reputation for having tamed Indianapolis' tricky 2.5-mile oval and plenty of momentum heading into the chase.

Busch led a record 149 of 170 laps and beat teammate Matt Kenseth to the finish line in a second overtime to win his second straight Brickyard 400. Coupled with an Xfinity Series victory a day earlier, Busch became the first NASCAR driver to win both poles and both races on the same weekend.

The impressive feat even overshadowed two other major story lines — Jeff Gordon's comeback and Tony Stewart's farewell.

Stewart finished 11th in his final race at Indianapolis, while Gordon was 13th. Gordon came out of retirement to replace Dale Earnhardt Jr., who has battled concussion-like symptoms and has missed two consecutive races and will also sit out next week at Pocono. Gordon will replace him there, as well.

Afterward, the two drivers who grew up in Indiana drove side-by-side around the 2.5-mile oval one last time.

Busch, the reigning Sprint Cup Series champion who used last year's win at the Brickyard to jumpstart his title campaign, joined third-place finisher Jimmie

Johnson as the only back-to-back winners of NASCAR's race at Indy. Johnson won in 2008 and 2009.

Busch surrendered the lead for 14 laps after his first pit stop, regained it when Brad Keselowski pitted, then gave it up again for only five laps when he made his second pit stop.

Everyone else spent their day chasing Busch.

The Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota was so strong that Roger Penske's drivers started with a strategy of trying to stretch their runs long enough to make one fewer pit stop. It didn't work — Joey Logano finished seventh and Keselowski wound up 17th.

The only real challenge for Busch came with a series of late crashes that delayed his inevitable trip to victory lane.

The crashes began when Carl Edwards' car wiggled in the first turn on a restart with seven laps to go. His car slid up the track, hitting Keselowski, as well as Ryan Blaney, Ryan Newman and Danica Patrick. The wreck brought out a red flag for almost eight minutes.

On the ensuing restart, with three to go, Busch again pulled away only to have a collision between Trevor Bayne and Clint Bowyer behind him to send the race into its first overtime.

It happened again when Jamie McMurray slid through the first turn and into the wall on the next restart, but Busch pulled away one more time for a historic win in a race that actually took 425 miles.