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Trump's disdain for NATO puts allies on edge

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Growing doubt about President Donald Trump's commitment to the U.S.-led NATO alliance and concerns that a looming summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin could weaken the security pact are clouding an upcoming summit of world leaders in Brussels next week, former U.S. military commanders in Europe said.

Similar to Trump, prior U.S. administrations have called on NATO members to spend more on defense. But Trump's personal criticisms of heads of state and his willingness to link security matters to trade have the transatlantic alliance on edge like never before in its 70-year history.

"The alliance is at a moment of high tension. ... Something is new and dangerous," retired U.S. Adm. Jim Stavridis, who served for four years as NATO's supreme allied commander in Europe, said in an interview with Stars and Stripes. "What

is different now is the obvious antipathy, which feels deeply personal, on the part of the U.S. president toward the alliance in general and some of the key leaders in particular."

Trump's biggest complaint is that much of the 29-nation alliance isn't doing enough to increase defense spending to 2 percent of gross domestic product, as agreed upon in 2014. Although Germany agreed to increase defense spending 80 percent by 2025, that would equal about 1.5 percent of its GDP.

Retired Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, who commanded U.S. Army Europe until late 2017, said the issue of money is tearing at the alliance.

"Germany is our essential ally, our most important ally, but it seems like we are kicking them in the ass all the time," Hodges said. "I don't think it is the right approach. Certainly, they need to do more, but I think we need to be more sophisticated in how we incentivize burden-sharing."

A major challenge for NATO in Europe

is moving its forces with greater speed, and Germany could play a role in building up infrastructure to support troop movements — which may be more politically doable in Berlin, Hodges said.

"We need more German trains, not German tanks," he said.

Stavridis said the across-the-board defense spending increases in NATO in recent years were long overdue and should be viewed as progress. "But it will not go fast enough to satisfy Donald Trump, and the anger and petulance will probably increase," he said.

Allies "will correctly fear a terrible NATO summit followed by a very warm Trump-Putin meeting," Stavridis added, regarding the July 16 summit in Helsinki. "They should be particularly concerned about a Trump giveaway — withdrawing troops from Europe, cutting defense funds to U.S. European Command, stopping 'provocative' exercises. If Trump follows the script he is executing with North Korea, their fears would appear very justified."

Families, US seek \$66.5M in McCain collision lawsuit

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The U.S. government, Navy sailors and victims' families are seeking more than \$66.5 million in damages from the owners of an oil tanker involved in a fatal collision with an American warship last year.

Ten sailors aboard the Yokosuka-based USS John S. McCain were killed and others injured in the Aug. 21 collision with the Alnic MC oil tanker off the coast of Singapore.

Energetic Tank Inc., which owns the tanker, filed suit in February asking a federal court in New York to relieve it of liability in lawsuits resulting from the crash.

Citing a Navy report and the discipline and prosecution of several Navy leaders for the

crash, the Liberian company stated in its claim that the accident was "not due to any fault, neglect or want of care" of the Alnic.

Now, 42 parties, including the families of the 10 McCain sailors killed, have filed counter claims against the company for personal injury, wrongful death and property damage. The deadline to file casualty-related claims was June 15.

The parties argue that Energetic Tank is liable for the accident, which happened when the McCain sailed into the path of the Alnic in waters east of the Strait of Malacca.

After confusion over shifting speed and steering control, the destroyer veered left and crossed in front of the tanker, which ran into the McCain, according to a Navy report.

At issue in the lawsuits is

the claim that the McCain had turned on lights signaling that the vessel was "not under command" as soon as crew perceived a steering loss, yet the Alnic remained in autopilot mode and did not respond to the signal, according to court documents.

While Energetic Tank's suit alleges that the McCain's turn into the Alnic's path was "sudden, unannounced and unexpected," the government argues that the McCain's crew displayed the light signal communicating that the warship was "unable to keep out of the way of other vessels" about three minutes before the collision.

Further, the government argues the tanker was undermanned with a bridge team of "no more than three persons, rather than the five[person] crew required by law," docu-

ments state.

Energetic Tank filed a countersuit to the claim, alleging that the collision was solely caused by the McCain's "unseaworthiness" and the "negligence" or "recklessness" of those in charge of the ship and that the government should be held liable.

Some of Energetic Tank's claims reflect findings reported in the Navy's published overview of the collision, which called it "avoidable" and cited inadequate training, failure to comply with International Rules of the Nautical Road and insufficient leadership as contributing factors.

The Navy has since taken steps — such as implementing new training — to address the problems, and several sailors and leaders have been prosecuted.

Kim's actions belie words after summit

BY KIM TONG-HYUNG
AND HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Three weeks after the U.S.-North Korea summit and ahead of an impending trip to North Korea by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a leaked U.S. intelligence report and an analysis of satellite data suggest the North may be continuing its nuclear and missile activities despite a pledge to denuclearize.

North Korea has been showering the United States and South Korea with goodwill gestures in recent months, including the shutdown of its main nuclear testing site and the release of three American detainees. But many experts say nothing it has done is consequential enough to be seen as a sign that the country is willing to fully surrender its nuclear weapons.

The State Department said Pompeo is to arrive in North Korea on Friday — his third visit to the country in three months. President Donald Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, said Sunday that Pompeo and North Korean

officials will discuss a U.S. plan that would lead to the dismantling of the North's nuclear and missile programs in a year.

It's unclear whether Pyongyang would agree to that. Many also question if Trump has the persistence to see through a lengthy and expensive process to eliminate the North Korean nuclear threat.

Here's a look at the latest developments in the nuclear diplomacy:

Nuclear activities. After his June 12 summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore, Trump tweeted that "there is no longer a nuclear threat from North Korea." Recently disclosed information has contradicted that claim.

The Washington Post on Saturday cited unidentified U.S. intelligence officials as concluding that North Korea does not intend to fully surrender its nuclear stockpile. Evidence collected since the Singapore summit points to preparations to deceive the U.S. about the number of nuclear warheads in North Korea's arsenal as well as the existence of undisclosed facilities used to make fissile material for nuclear bombs, according to the report.

A U.S. official told The Associated Press that the Post's report was accurate and that the assessment reflected the consistent view across U.S. government agencies. The official was not authorized to comment publicly.

An analysis of recent satellite photos also indicated that North Korea is completing a major expansion of a factory in the northeast that produces key parts of nuclear-capable missiles, two researchers at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, Calif., said in a joint post Monday.

"The expansion suggests that, despite hopes for denuclearization, Kim Jong Un is committed to increasing North Korea's stockpile of nuclear-armed missiles," Jeffrey Lewis and Dave Schmerler said.

Nam Sung-wook, a professor at Korea University in South Korea, said the U.S. officials or academics speaking out likely aimed to put pressure on both North Korea and Trump.

Analyst Hong Min at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification downplayed the significance of the new disclosures, saying Pyongyang and

Washington haven't yet agreed on detailed disarmament steps the North is obliged to take.

Pompeo's mission. During the Singapore summit, Kim repeated his vague pledge to work toward the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." In return, Trump promised to give Kim security assurances and announced the suspension of military drills with South Korea, drawing criticism that he made too many concessions.

The result has left much of the hard work to Pompeo. In each of his two previous trips, he met with Kim.

Experts say Pompeo will have to coax significant reciprocal steps from North Korea that would firmly lock the country into a process of disarmament to justify the suspension of the U.S.-South Korea war games.

Kim's steps. It remains to be seen how far Kim would go in rolling back his nuclear program, which he may see as a stronger guarantee of his survival than whatever security assurances Washington could provide.

Americans, Aussies mark 100 years in trenches together

BY JAMES BOLINGER

Stars and Stripes

U.S. and Australian troops have wrapped up a two-week exercise Down Under honoring the centenary of the first time the Pacific allies fought alongside each other.

In the Battle of Hamel during World War I around the town of Le Hamel, France, on July 4, 1918, "two brigades of Australian infantry assisted by American troops, British Mark V tanks and exceedingly accurate artillery barrages, quickly overran German positions and took 1,000 prisoners," according to the Australian War Memorial website.

In the decades that followed, American and Australian troops fought shoulder-to-shoulder on battlefields from New Guinea to Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

A century later, 800 Americans and 6,000 Aussies participated in Exercise Hamel between June 18 and Sunday at Australia's Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area.

The drill involved Australian soldiers preparing for deployment to Afghanistan and U.S. troops from as far afield as Indiana, Hawaii and Okinawa, Japan.

In any major contingency, American and Australian

forces will work side by side, Australian defense expert Ross Babbage said in a phone interview Tuesday.

"It's important to have not only an understanding of joint tactics and doctrine but to develop personal relationships all the way down to the platoon level," he said.

Exercise Hamel was a chance for the Australians to test new unmanned aerial vehicles, C-27J Spartan cargo aircraft and LAND 121 protected mobility vehicles, according to the Department of Defense.

The Spartans, which replace Vietnam-era C-7 Caribous, can deliver platoon-sized units and small vehicles to remote air

strips, Babbage said.

The new planes are able to get into places where a C-130 Hercules can't go and will be important for operations in the Pacific in places like Papa New Guinea, he said.

Exercise Hamel began with an amphibious landing and included complex urban operations; chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive response; and large-scale battles.

In the final battle of the exercise, Australian and U.S. forces took on a near-peer adversary played by troops from 3rd Brigade, Australian Army.

Trump interviews 4 prospective justices

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has interviewed four prospective Supreme Court justices and had plans to meet with a few more as his White House aggressively mobilizes to select a replacement for retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Eager to build suspense, Trump wouldn't divulge whom he's talking to in advance of his big announcement, set for Monday. But he promised that "they are outstanding people. They are really incredible people in so many different ways, academically and in every other way. I had a very, very interesting morning."

Spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump met with four people for 45 minutes each Monday and will continue meetings through the rest of the week.

The interviews were with federal appeals judges Raymond Kethledge, Amul Thapar, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett, said a person with knowledge of the meetings who was not authorized to

speak publicly about them. The Washington Post first reported the identities of the candidates with whom Trump spoke.

The president spent the weekend at his Bedminster golf club, consulting with advisers, including White House counsel Don McGahn, as he considered his options to fill the vacancy with a justice who has the potential to be part of precedent-shattering court decisions on abortion, health care, gay marriage and other issues.

McGahn will lead the overall selection and confirmation process, the White House said Monday, repeating the role he played in the successful confirmation of Justice Neil Gorsuch last year.

McGahn will be supported by a White House team that includes spokesman Raj Shah, taking a leave from the press office to work full time on "communications, strategy and messaging coordination with Capitol Hill allies." Justin Clark, director of the Office of Public Liaison, will oversee White House coordination with outside groups.

Trump's push came as the Senate's top

Democrat tried to rally public opposition to any Supreme Court pick who would oppose abortion rights. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, of New York, issued a campaign-season call to action for voters to prevent such a nominee by putting "pressure on the Senate," which confirms judicial nominees.

With Trump committed to picking from a list of 25 potential nominees that he compiled with guidance from conservatives, Schumer said any of them would be "virtually certain" to favor overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 case that affirmed women's right to abortion. They would also be "very likely" to back weakening President Barack Obama's 2010 law that expanded health care coverage to millions of Americans, he said.

Schumer said that while Democrats don't control the Senate, most senators back abortion rights. In an unusually direct appeal to voters, he said that to block "an ideological nominee," people should "tell your senators" to oppose anyone from Trump's list.

Weinstein indicted in third sex crime case

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Harvey Weinstein was charged Monday with a sex crime against a third woman as New York prosecutors continue building cases against the former Hollywood studio boss whose downfall ushered in the #MeToo movement.

Manhattan's district attorney announced the charges in an updated indictment, saying Weinstein performed a forcible sex act on the woman in 2006.

"A Manhattan grand jury has now indicted Harvey Weinstein on some of the most serious sexual offenses that exist under New York's penal law," District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said in a statement. "Our investigation continues. If you are a survivor of the predatory abuse with which Mr. Weinstein is charged, there is still time to pursue justice."

Vance said Weinstein was charged with another count of criminal sexual act and two

counts of predatory sexual assault. The latter carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Weinstein is scheduled for arraignment on the new charges Monday. A lawyer for Weinstein said the 66-year-old former movie mogul will plead not guilty.

A grand jury previously indicted Weinstein on charges involving two women. One of the alleged victims in the criminal case, who has not been identified publicly, told investigators that Weinstein cornered her in a hotel room and raped her in 2013. The other accuser, former actress Lucia Evans, has gone public with her account of Weinstein forcing her to perform oral sex at his office in 2004.

The Associated Press does not identify alleged victims of sexual assaults unless they come forward publicly.

More than 75 women have accused Weinstein of wrongdoing.

Trump to urge schools to ignore race in admissions

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is moving to rescind Obama-era guidance to colleges and universities on how they can use race in admissions decisions to promote diversity, according to an administration official.

The action, expected Tuesday afternoon, is likely to signal a shift toward advocacy of race-neutral admissions. The Supreme Court has upheld race-conscious admission practices as recently as 2016, but affirmative action in higher education remains a contentious issue.

In 2011 and 2016, the Obama administration's Justice and Education departments jointly spelled out for colleges their view of the law on the voluntary use of race in admissions.

The 2011 statement said the departments "recognize the compelling interest that post-secondary institutions have in

obtaining the benefits that flow from achieving a diverse student body."

It went on to assert that schools have flexibility "to take proactive steps, in a manner consistent with principles articulated in Supreme Court opinions, to meet this compelling interest."

The Obama-era documents replaced a 2008 letter on the subject from the Bush administration. Now it appears that the Trump administration is about to assert its own views.

A Justice Department spokesman said an announcement was imminent.

Former Obama officials criticized the move.

"Once again, the Trump administration works to create confusion where none exists, needlessly muddying civil rights practices in schools," said Catherine E. Lhamon, assistant education secretary for civil rights under President Barack Obama.

Thai official: Boys may dive out of cave

Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand — A top Thai official said Tuesday that heavy rains forecast for the coming days could worsen floods in the mountain cave where 12 boys and their soccer coach were located after being missing for more than a week, forcing authorities to speed up their extraction.

Thai navy SEAL divers said all 13 people trapped in a flooded cave in northern Thailand are healthy and being looked after by medics.

SEALs Commander Rear Adm. Arpakorn Yookongkaew said that seven members of his unit — including a doctor and a nurse — are now with the 12 boys and their coach in the cave where they took shelter.

He told a news conference that his team members “have given the boys food, starting from easily digested and high-powered

food with enough minerals.”

He said that having the rescued people dive out of the cave was one of several options being considered. If it were employed, he said they “have to be certain that it will work and have to have a drill to make sure that it’s 100 percent safe.”

The 13 were located by rescue divers late Monday night in the cave in northern Chiang Rai province during a desperate search that drew international help and captivated the nation.

Interior Minister Anupong Paojinda, a member of the country’s ruling military junta, said Tuesday that the boys may need to swim out using diving equipment ahead of bad weather forecast for later in the week. He said the boys would be brought out via the same complicated route through which their rescuers entered.

While efforts to pump out the floodwaters would continue, Anupong said it’s clear some areas of the sprawling cave cannot be drained and that in order to get out, the boys may need to use diving gear while being guided by two professional divers each. He conceded that if something went awry, it could be disastrous.

“Diving is not easy. For people who have never done it, it will be difficult, unlike diving in a swimming pool, because the cave’s features have small channels,” he said. “If something happens midway, it could be life-threatening.”

Video released early Tuesday by the Thai navy showed the boys in their soccer uniforms sitting on a dry area inside the Tham Luang Nang Non cave above the water as a spotlight from a rescuer illuminated their faces.

New Mexican leader, Trump discuss range of issues

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Fresh off a landslide victory, Mexico’s newly elected leftist President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador pledged Monday to “reach an understanding” with Donald Trump amid uncertain times for two countries that must seek consensus on everything from contentious trade talks to cooperation on security and migration.

During a half-hour telephone conversation, Trump said the two leaders discussed topics including border security, trade and the North American Free Trade Agreement, adding that “I think the relationship will be a very good one.”

In an interview with the Televisa news network, Lopez Obrador did not provide specifics on what an “understanding” with the Trump administration might look like except to emphasize the need for mutual respect and cooperation between the two neighbors.

“We are conscious of the need to maintain good relations with the United States. We have a border of more than 3,000 kilometers (about 1,865 miles). More than 12 million Mexicans live in the United States. It is our main economic-commercial partner,” he said.

“We are not going to fight. We are always going to seek for there to be an agreement. ... We are going to extend our frank hand

to seek a relation of friendship, I repeat, of cooperation with the United States.”

Meanwhile, members of the business and political elite who fiercely opposed Lopez Obrador’s populist candidacy pledged to support his presidency in loyal opposition, and the largely orderly vote in which his rivals conceded defeat gracefully — and quickly — was hailed as a win for democracy in the country.

With nearly three-quarters of the ballots counted, Lopez Obrador had about 53 percent of the vote — the most for any presidential candidate since 1982, a time when the Institutional Revolutionary Party had dominated Mexican politics for 71 years and ruling party victories were a given.

Wind spreads Calif. fire as other states battle blazes

Associated Press

GUINDA, Calif. — A massive wildfire in rural Northern California has exploded in size and forced evacuations in hot, dry weather that is sweeping through several western states where blazes are threatening thousands of homes.

The fast-moving fire that started over the weekend northwest of Sacramento grew dramatically to about 94 square miles by Monday night, largely burning out of control in rugged terrain with a few cattle and horse ranches and sending smoke and ash as far south as San Francisco.

State fire officials said 700 homes and

other buildings were threatened but none had burned.

The fire that started Saturday about 100 miles northeast of San Francisco spread as strong winds pushed smoke south, dusting cars and homes with a thin layer of gray ash. About 300 people were told to flee their homes. No injuries were reported.

The flames were chewing through tinder-dry grass, oak and brush in the hills outside the tiny town of Guinda, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Gabe Lauderbale said.

“This fire is absolutely, extremely fast-moving,” he said.

The hot, windy conditions fueling the fire

and others across the West were expected to persist through the end of July in Utah and parts of California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, U.S. fire officials said. The Southwest, which has been struggling with drought, should get enough rain in early July to reduce the risk of major blazes in Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico, the National Interagency Fire Center said Sunday.

In Colorado, more than 2,500 homes were under evacuation orders as firefighters battled more than a half-dozen wildfires. Most of the evacuations were tied to an 89-square-mile wildfire in southern Colorado that led to the arrest of a Danish man on arson charges.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Dog praised for saving owner from snakebite

AZ ANTHEM — A golden retriever in Arizona is earning praise for saving his owner from a rattlesnake attack.

KPHO-TV in Phoenix reported that Todd the dog leaped between Paula Godwin and the deadly snake last week after she nearly stepped on the venomous reptile during a morning hike.

Instead of the snake striking Godwin, she said, it bit Todd on his snout. Godwin said she rushed her dog to an animal hospital in Anthem, where he was treated for the bite.

Todd is expected to make a full recovery.

Great-grandmother skydives for birthday

RI MIDDLETOWN — A Massachusetts great-grandmother celebrated her 90th birthday in death-defying fashion by skydiving.

The Newport Daily News reported that Yvonne Mair completed her third skydiving trip Saturday with Skydive Newport in Middletown.

The North Attleborough resident jumped from about 10,000 feet. She landed without a hitch and was greeted with champagne.

The great-grandmother enjoys gardening and volunteering at a nursing facility when she's not jumping out of planes.

Woman was living with daughter's corpse

MI DETROIT — A 65-year-old woman was found living with the body of her adult daughter in a house on Detroit's west side.

Detroit police Officer Dan Donakowski said Monday that the mother went to a police precinct Sunday and told officers that her daughter had died. Officers went to the home on Seebaldt Street and found the 47-year-old woman's body.

Donakowski said a medical examiner must determine when and how she died. No one has been arrested.

WJBK-TV and WXYZ-TV reported that the woman's body may have been in the home for months.

Police say nude man broke into 2 homes

CT SOUTHBURY — Connecticut police said two people awoke to find a naked man standing over their beds. He fled after they scared him off.

State police said the separate incidents occurred within 30 minutes of one another early Saturday, the first occurring in Southbury and the second nearby in Roxbury.

Both victims were elderly, and both described the man as a bald man in his 30s or 40s with a thin build.

Both victims awoke to the nude man standing in their bedrooms. He fled after they confronted him or screamed.

Officials: Fair visitor likely got flu from pig

IN INDIANAPOLIS — Officials said a visitor at an Indiana county fair caught the flu from an animal, probably a pig.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it's the first human case of the H3N2 flu in Indiana since 2013 and the first in the U.S. this year.

The victim is recovering. No other details were released.

State health officials said humans can get the flu if they're too close to an infected pig. It can't be transmitted by eating pork.

Move incentive gets 1,800 inquiries

VT BURLINGTON — Vermont's plan to pay people up to \$10,000 to move to the state and work remotely might be working a little too well.

A spokeswoman with the Department of Economic Development told the Burlington Free Press the state has received 1,800 inquiries so far, including 500 from international senders.

Michael Schirling, secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, said they haven't determined how the program will operate or its eligibility requirements.

Vermont Gov. Phil Scott signed a bill establishing the program into law in May as part of an effort to attract younger people to the state.

The program takes effect Jan. 1.

Volunteers reunite cats lost in wildfires

CA SANTA ROSA — Volunteers have reunited about 300 cats that were left behind when wildfires burned through Northern California wine country in October.

The Santa Rosa Press Democrat reported the Sonoma & Napa Fires Pet Rescue and Reunification group was trapping about 20 so-called fire cats each week in the months following the blazes that killed dozens of people and destroyed thousands of homes.

Most of the reunited fire cats were caught near the sites of

their homes.

The group has reunited the animals through Facebook groups.

State set to host rafting championships

WV FAYETTEVILLE — An organizer said the U.S. Rafting Association's national whitewater championships will be held this fall on the New and Gauley rivers in West Virginia.

Event director Mike Cassidy told news outlets the five-day championships will start Sept. 4. Winners from each category will represent the United States in the 2019 world championships in Australia.

Teams of six participants will compete in eight categories.

Guards wait for inmate to pass earrings

FL LEESBURG — Guards at a Florida jail are taking on an unusual duty. They're monitoring the bathroom habits of an inmate charged with stealing and swallowing diamond earrings.

Leesburg Police said Ryan Penman and his girlfriend tried on a pair of \$700 earrings at a jewelry store recently.

According to an arrest report, Penman tried to pay for the earrings with a credit card in a different name. When it was declined, he handed back the earrings, but the clerk said they had been replaced with fakes.

Both were taken to the hospital. An X-ray revealed the earrings were in Penman's stomach. The Daily Commercial reported Penman was taken to a jail cell without a toilet as guards wait for him to pass the evidence.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Cousins joining champ Golden State

Associated Press

DeMarcus Cousins will be ready to play at some point this season. And when he is, the two-time defending NBA champions will be waiting.

Cousins tore his Achilles in late January and underwent surgery. He has posted regular updates on social media with the hash tags “The Resurgence” and “0 Doubt.”

Adding a fifth All-Star to their already glitzy lineup, the Golden State Warriors have come to terms with Cousins on a one-year, \$5.3 million deal — not the biggest money move on Day 2 of the NBA free agency period, but the most intriguing. The low-risk, high-reward deal was confirmed by two people who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because nothing can yet be signed.

“5 All-Stars on 1 team... wow,” Charlotte’s Frank Kaminsky wrote on Twitter.

Indeed, that is the case for the Warriors, who will be adding Cousins to a lineup that includes All-Stars Kevin Durant, Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green, as well

as a former NBA Finals MVP in Andre Iguodala.

According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the Warriors would be the first team since Boston in 1975-76 to play five All-Stars from the previous season at the same time. That group was Jo Jo White, Charlie Scott, Dave Cowens, Paul Silas and John Havlicek.

The Warriors, predictably, were thrilled by a move that gives them a player who averaged 25.2 points last season before getting hurt and has averaged 21.5 points and 11 rebounds for his career.

“The 3rd splash Brother,” Curry tweeted.

The rest of the league didn’t seem so thrilled.

Philadelphia’s Richaun Holmes mused on Twitter if the NBA could veto the signing, much in the way then-Commissioner David Stern blocked a Chris Paul trade to the Los Angeles Lakers in 2011. And New York’s Enes Kanter couldn’t resist poking some fun at the league’s current commissioner.

“Adam Silver has agreed to a Mid Level Extension with the Golden State, league sources tell ME,” Kanter wrote.

The Warriors lost center Javale McGee to LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday as part of the flurry of moves on Day 1 of free agency, and it took general manager Bob Myers less than a full day to replace McGee with Cousins.

To help replace the Cousins void, the Pelicans agreed to a two-year deal worth about \$18 million with former Lakers big man Julius Randle, who will now pair with his fellow Kentucky product Anthony Davis in the New Orleans frontcourt.

After just over \$1 billion in new contracts were agreed upon starting late Saturday night and through the official first day of free agency Sunday — with James going to the Lakers, Durant staying in Golden State, Chris Paul staying in Houston and Paul George staying in Oklahoma City, among other news — the dollar figures cooled off a bit for Day 2.

The intrigue didn’t stop, especially when the Warriors landed Cousins — basically with the money that Durant didn’t take by structuring his deal as a two-year deal with an option year.

“Got to Love the NBA,” Or-

lando’s Wesley Iwundu tweeted.

Also Monday, Derrick Favors agreed on a \$36 million, two-year deal to stay with the Utah Jazz. Upon hearing that news, his teammates Donovan Mitchell and Rudy Gobert reacted by quickly posting similar requests on Twitter — that being that Favors finally grabs a dinner check.

Avery Bradley is staying with the Los Angeles Clippers.

Bradley has agreed to sign a two-year contract with the Clippers after free agents can begin making deals official on Friday, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Yahoo Sports, which first reported the agreement, said the contract will be worth \$25 million.

Bradley played in 46 games last season between the Detroit Pistons and the Clippers. He was traded to the Clippers in January as part of the Blake Griffin deal, then made only six appearances with Los Angeles before being shut down with a hernia.

For his career, Bradley has averaged 12.3 points in 459 NBA games.

Sweden tops Switzerland to make quarters

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — The heir to Zlatan Ibrahimovic finally delivered for Sweden at the World Cup.

Emil Forsberg scored a deflected goal in the 66th minute to give the Swedes a 1-0 victory over Switzerland on Tuesday and a place in the World Cup quarterfinals for the first time in 24 years.

Shy and understated, the 26-year-old Forsberg couldn’t be more different than the larger-than-life Ibrahimovic, who ruled the Sweden team for more than a decade and was the greatest player the country ever produced.

But Forsberg arrived in Russia shouldering the creative burden left by Ibrahimovic following his retirement two years ago, and the attacking midfielder’s skills and slick movement stood out at St. Petersburg Stadium.

His goal was scruffy, though. After getting past Granit Xhaka, Forsberg didn’t get much power behind his shot from the edge of the area and it was likely heading straight for Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer. However, it took a deflection off the foot of center back Manuel Akanji and bounced up and into the net.

It was enough to make Sweden the fifth European team to reach the quarterfinals. The Swedes will next play either England or Colombia on Saturday in Samara.

The last time Sweden made it this far at the World Cup was in 1994, when the team reached the semifinals.

This was another opportunity spurned by the Swiss, who have reached the last 16 in four of the last five World Cups only to be eliminated without scoring a goal. They haven’t scored in a knockout game in soccer’s biggest tournament in 64 years, when they last reached in the quarterfinals at

home in 1954.

They finished the game with 10 men after right back Michael Lang was sent off in stoppage time for a foul on Sweden substitute Martin Olsson. The referee initially awarded a penalty kick but later gave a free kick on the edge of the area after a video review.

Switzerland was fortunate to still be alive at that point.

Ibrahimovic, 36 and now playing out his illustrious career in the United States, would surely have put away some of the first-half chances created by his countrymen against a fragile Switzerland defense which was missing the suspended Fabian Schaer and Stephan Lichtsteiner.

Striker Marcus Berg was the biggest culprit, spurning two openings in quick succession, while Albin Ekdal volleyed over with the goal at his mercy.

Muguruza breezes in Wimbledon opener

Associated Press

LONDON — After losing just one set on her way to the Wimbledon title a year ago, Garbine Muguruza picked up exactly where she left off at the All England Club.

The No. 3-seeded Muguruza was hardly troubled in beating British wild card Naomi Broady 6-2, 7-5 on Tuesday.

Muguruza saved the only break point she faced and could have ended the encounter more swiftly had she been more clinical with her own chances.

“I’m pretty happy with my serve and controlling the emotions,” Muguruza said. “You know, to be back in a Grand Slam is always difficult, so I’m excited with the way I’m playing.”

Two-time champion Rafael Nadal moved into the second round with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 win

over Dudi Sela of Israel.

The second-seeded Nadal hadn’t played a match since claiming his 11th French Open title last month, but showed little sign of rust as he cruised to victory against Sela.

Nadal is seeking a first Wimbledon title since 2010, which would also make him just the second man to do the French Open-Wimbledon double three times.

Two-time champion Petra Kvitova was stunned by 50th-ranked Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus 6-4, 4-6, 6-0.

Kvitova was seeded eighth and among the leading favorites. She was coming off a grass-court title at Birmingham, England, last month and entered Tuesday with a tour-leading 38 victories this season.

Sasnovich came in with a 2-3 career record at Wimbledon,

including a first-round loss a year ago, and a 9-13 Grand Slam mark.

The usual adulation afforded to the reigning champion fulfilling the honor of opening proceedings on Centre Court on Day 2 of the tournament was tempered by the nationality of Muguruza’s opponent. Muguruza was duly honored but the British crowd backed Broady.

However, the 2016 French Open champion quickly dispelled any thoughts of an upset by breaking Broady’s opening service game, and did it again to take the first set 6-2.

Top-ranked Simona Halep eased into the second round with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Kurumi Nara of Japan.

The French Open champion was playing her first match since winning her first Grand Slam title at Roland Garros but showed no signs of rust as she

broke Nara four times to wrap up the win in 78 minutes.

Johanna Konta, who knocked out Halep en route to the semifinals a year ago, made it through to the second round by defeating Natalia Vikhlyantseva of Russia 7-5, 7-6 (7).

On the men’s side, Juan Martin del Potro maintained his record of never losing in the first round at Wimbledon with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 win over Peter Gojowczyk of Germany.

The fifth-seeded Argentine will next face Feliciano Lopez, who broke Roger Federer’s record by appearing in a 66th consecutive Grand Slam singles tournament as he defeated Federico Delbonis of Argentina 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

Fourth-seeded Alexander Zverev was also through after defeating James Duckworth of Australia 7-5, 6-2, 6-0.

Several moves shift balance of power around NHL

Associated Press

Several signings and one big trade drastically shifted the balance of power across the NHL in a matter of days.

With John Tavares going home to Toronto, Paul Stastny leaving Winnipeg for Vegas, St. Louis signing three free agents and trading for Ryan O’Reilly, the landscape of the league has changed. The Washington Capitals are bringing back a vast majority of their team, the Western Conference is loaded and yet the Maple Leafs now appear to be Stanley Cup favorites.

Tavares’ decision to leave the New York Islanders knocks them out of contender status and puts a whole lot of pressure on coach Mike Babcock’s Maple Leafs to make a deep playoff run. Losing out on Tavares despite reportedly offering more money than the Maple Leafs’ \$77 million over 11 years kept the Sharks from moving into front-runner status in the West — but they may not be done yet.

The Sharks, who extended Logan Couture and re-signed Joe Thornton and Tomas Hertl to keep their core together, have plenty of tradable assets and will keep swinging for a difference-maker. One is off the market following the Blues’ trade for O’Reilly that now gives them a potent 1-2-3 punch down the middle with Brayden Schenn and free agent signee Tyler Bozak.

Here’s a look at where a few more teams stand early in the preparations for the 2018-19 season:

Got what they need

Lightning: Signing Tavares would have been a luxury and might have necessitated a roster makeover just to fit him under the salary cap. Tampa Bay signed restricted free agent forward J.T. Miller to a long-term deal, extended defenseman Ryan McDonagh, got a deal done with Slater Koekkoek and should have much of the same team that won the Atlantic Division last season.

Flames: Inking Neal to a \$28.75 million, five-year contract would be

a nice capper to the Flames’ offseason that began with acquiring center Elias Lindholm and defenseman Noah Hanifin from Carolina. New coach Bill Peters could put Neal or Lindholm on right wing with Johnny Gaudreau and Sean Monahan.

GM Brad Treliving’s final tasks this offseason are to find a backup goaltender to Mike Smith and sign restricted free agents Lindholm and Hanifin to new contracts.

Kings: Long term, signing franchise defenseman Drew Doughty to an \$88 million, eight-year extension is the most important thing Los Angeles did. In the shorter term, it also won the competition for returning Russian winger Ilya Kovalchuk, who GM Rob Blake believes can play with either top-six center, Anze Kopitar or Jeff Carter, and produce at age 35.

Work left to do

Senators: They traded Mike Hoffman, bought out Alexandre Burrows but still have at least one big problem with the future of Norris Trophy-winning defenseman Erik Karlsson. The Senators have reportedly given Karlsson’s camp permission to speak with other teams about

a contract — which is expected to look a whole lot like Doughty’s deal — which would open the door to Ottawa trading its captain rather than losing him for nothing like the Islanders did when Tavares wouldn’t sign early.

Oilers: Connor McDavid won the scoring title and the Ted Lindsay award as the players’ choice for most outstanding player, and yet Edmonton missed the playoffs by 17 points. GM Peter Chiarelli publicly dangled the 10th pick in the draft to try to get an offensive defenseman and hasn’t been able to acquire one yet.

Meanwhile, left wing Milan Lucic is 30, coming off a 34-point dud of a season and still has five years left on his contract at a \$6 million annual cap hit. Lucic’s name has come up in trade talks, but moving him now won’t be easy.

Islanders: Without Tavares, New York is chock full of cap space with nothing to do with it. Ownership signaled the need for change by hiring Lou Lamoriello as president of hockey operations, and he in turn fired Garth Snow and Doug Weight, hired Barry Trotz and put on a full neutral-zone trap to keep Tavares.

Porcello's double helps Red Sox top Nats

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Just stepping into the batter's box to face good friend and former teammate Max Scherzer was a special occasion for Rick Porcello.

A career American League pitcher with 35 plate appearances on his résumé going up against a three-time Cy Young Award winner had mismatch written all over it. Instead, Porcello hit a three-run double off Scherzer that set the stage for the Boston Red Sox beating the Washington Nationals 4-3 in the opener of their three-game interleague series Monday night.

"I got lucky," Porcello said. "He got to the top of his windup and I told myself, 'Start swinging.' Then I hit it."

Porcello's first major league

extra-base hit came in the second inning on an 0-2 pitch after the Nationals intentionally walked Jackie Bradley Jr. to pitch to him. His .156 batting average and limited hitting experience made it appear to be the right calculation, but Porcello drove Scherzer's 96 mph fastball over the head of Juan Soto in left center for his first RBIs since 2009.

"You don't hit for an entire year," said Porcello, who came in with five hits and two RBIs in his career. "You don't even know what it's going to look like once you step in there. I was thinking swing the bat and be competitive up there. You just never know what's going to happen because you don't do it very often."

Scherzer and Porcello were

teammates for five seasons with the Detroit Tigers and are still close. Because of that, Scherzer wasn't surprised by Porcello's hitting stroke.

"I know he can hit," Scherzer said. "Give him a couple sliders to keep him off balance and then was trying to get a fastball up and away and it ran back middle-in. Anybody can hit middle-in. He can do that. I've seen him do it."

On the mound, Porcello (10-3) struck out five and limited the damage to solo home runs by Anthony Rendon and Daniel Murphy. Scherzer (10-5) struck out nine and kept the Red Sox off the board except for Porcello's bases-clearing double and became the 11th pitcher to reach 1,000 strikeouts with two different teams.

When Scherzer exited the game after 108 pitches, Mookie Betts provided the Red Sox with their insurance run with a solo shot off Brandon Kintzler in the seventh, his 21st home run of the season. Bryce Harper hit his 21st in the eighth, but Boston's bullpen held on to hand the Nationals their 16th loss in 24 one-run games.

"Go out there and try to win ballgames and they all feel the same to me," Harper said as Washington fell to 42-41, seven games back of NL East-leading Atlanta. "I mean we lose the game, you're a loser. Win the game, you're a winner."

Craig Kimbrel got into some trouble but picked up four outs for his 25th save in 27 chances.

MLB roundup

Acuna's home run lifts Braves over Yankees in 11th

Associated Press

NEW YORK — This time, the short porch at Yankee Stadium ended up hurting the home team.

Even with one of baseball's tallest players posted at the wall.

Ronald Acuna Jr. hit a two-run homer in the 11th inning that nicked the glove of a leaping Aaron Judge in right field, and the Atlanta Braves beat the New York Yankees 5-3 on Monday in a matchup between the top teams in each league entering the night.

"It should give us a lot of confidence," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "It's good for our young guys that come into a place like this against a team like this, as good as they are, and play well."

Johan Camargo homered early and Jesse Biddle pitched out of a late jam for the NL East leaders, who followed up a three-game sweep in St. Louis with their fourth consecutive victory. Atlanta (49-34) is 15 games over .500 for the first

time since the conclusion of the 2013 season.

New York (54-28) fell a game behind first-place Boston in the AL East.

The 20-year-old Acuna also doubled and drove in three runs, four years to the day after the touted rookie signed with the Braves.

"First time here at Yankee Stadium," he said through a translator. "First home run at Yankee Stadium is very special to me."

Judge hit his 23rd homer and second in two nights. Gleyber Torres had three hits and scored twice, but the rookie second baseman's 10th error since he was called up April 22 helped Atlanta get started in the 11th.

Playing on the outfield grass, Torres booted Nick Markakis' leadoff grounder. One out later, Acuna lofted a 1-2 pitch from David Robertson (5-3) the other way. Judge, all 6-foot-7 of him, got in good position at the auxiliary scoreboard and jumped, but the ball glanced off the tip

of his webbing and cleared the fence.

"Tough play. I want to make that play for D-Rob and I wasn't able to come through," Judge said. "That's all it is, just a little timing. If I time it up right I make that play. On that one, I was just a little late."

Robertson slumped near the mound as an excited Acuna circled the bases with his seventh home run — third in the past six games.

Indians 9, Royals 3: Francisco Lindor homered twice and drove in a career-high seven runs, powering Cleveland to the road win over Kansas City.

Cardinals 6, Diamondbacks 3: Yadier Molina homered, Carlos Martinez (5-4) pitched six effective innings and visiting St. Louis ended a four-game losing streak by beating Arizona.

Rockies 5, Giants 2: Kyle Freeland (8-6) turned in another sizzling start at Coors Field and host Colorado scored the go-ahead run in the seventh on

a throwing error by shortstop Brandon Crawford.

Brewers 6, Twins 5 (10): Brad Miller drew a bases-loaded walk in the 10th inning, sending host Milwaukee to the win over Minnesota.

Marlins 3, Rays 2 (10): Yadiel Rivera's infield hit in the 10th inning scored Brian Anderson, lifting host Miami over Tampa Bay.

Reds 5, White Sox 3: Alex Blandino's double in the eighth inning completed host Cincinnati's four-run rally against Chicago.

Tigers 3, Blue Jays 2: Jose Iglesias hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, and visiting Detroit earned its second straight victory following a season-long 11-game losing streak.

Dodgers 17, Pirates 1: Matt Kemp tied a career high with five hits, Joc Pederson and Max Muncy hit back-to-back homers to highlight a six-run fourth inning, and host Los Angeles routed Pittsburgh.