

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Taliban allegedly behead 2 hostages

By CHAD GARLAND

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Afghan government is investigating reports that the Taliban beheaded two hostages being held in northern Kunduz province Wednesday, hours after several of the hostages gained their freedom.

The Taliban had taken responsibility for a separate attack earlier in the day in which men disguised in women's burqas and wearing military uniforms underneath stormed a courthouse in Ghazni province, southwest of Kabul.

Sediq Sediqqi, spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said the government could not confirm reports of the beheadings.

Several of the people who had been taken hostage early Tues-

day morning had gained their freedom by late Tuesday night, officials said, and operations were underway to rescue several still held by the Taliban.

"We are trying to rescue the rest of the people as soon as we can," said Hijratullah Akbari, a police spokesman.

The insurgents had initially detained nearly 200 passengers at highway checkpoints as they were traveling from Kabul to the northeastern Takhar and Badakhshan provinces early Tuesday morning.

Later, all but about two dozen who the Taliban have claimed were military commandos and army officials were released. At least 10 were killed, according to a local official in Kunduz.

Accounts of the hostage rescue varied. Akbari said 10 hostages were rescued during a

night raid Tuesday. But the acting provincial police chief, Col. Masumi Hashimi, told Pajhwok Afghan News that eight hostages, not 10, were released through the mediation of tribal elders.

Kunduz has been the site of heavy fighting this spring as the Taliban seek to overrun the provincial capital. They briefly held the city last fall.

In Ghazni province, four gunmen wearing suicide vests stormed a courthouse in the provincial capital Wednesday morning, killing one guard and five civilians, said Sediqqi. A judge and 12 others, including civilians and police, were wounded in the attack.

The attackers wore burqas — a traditional head-to-toe blue garment — to conceal themselves, he said. They were also

wearing Afghan government uniforms underneath.

The raid occurred about 10 a.m., when one attacker detonated his suicide vest on the road outside the courthouse, said Aminullah Amarkhail, the Ghazni province police chief. One of the gunmen shot and killed a courthouse guard and was then killed by rooftop snipers. Two insurgents were killed in a fire inside the building.

The Taliban said in an internet statement that several court officials were killed or wounded.

The Taliban also claimed responsibility for a deadly roadside bomb attack in the northern Balkh province Wednesday, which killed Sholgara district police chief Bismullah Khan.

## 5th Fleet eases Ramadan limits on clothing

By CHRIS CHURCH

*Stars and Stripes*

MANAMA, Bahrain — Personnel of the U.S. 5th Fleet and their families may have to tweak their daily routines during the holy month of Ramadan but will have more liberal clothing policies than in years past.

During Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, which is slated to begin on or about Monday, Muslims don't eat, drink or smoke from dawn to sunset. The holiday lasts about 30 days and is slated to end about July 5.

U.S. personnel will be restricted from eating, drinking and smoking in public, including while driving, during daylight hours. However, those restrictions will not apply on base or in their private residences. Some restaurants in international hotels catering to foreigners may have certain areas where eating and drinking is allowed during the day.

"One of the myths out there is we are trying to impose religion on our service-

members," said U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Force and Fleet Chaplain Capt. Steven Moses. "We are not trying to impose a religious view, but we are trying to be respectful of their [host nations'] religious views. We do it because we support religious freedom, it is a local law, and we do it because we want to be good neighbors and good ambassadors."

In the past, U.S. personnel were required to wear long-sleeved shirts and trousers or skirts below the knee.

This year, Defense Department personnel working in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility, including Bahrain, and their dependents will be allowed to wear shorts and short-sleeved shirts during Ramadan.

Changes to the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command liberty and clothing policies make regulations for clothing consistent year-round, with no additional rules during Ramadan. The clothing policy states civilian clothing should be neat and conservative.

"The emphasis needs to be on our conduct and our behavior, and our respect and tolerance of the Ramadan period," said Fifth Fleet Master Chief Jim Honea. "It doesn't need to be on changing our clothing during that time."

DOD employees and dependents are expected to respect local laws and customs, a 5th Fleet official said, as they are wherever the military operates. Personnel could be fined or possibly detained by local authorities for eating, drinking, chewing gum or smoking in public during daylight hours.

Many restaurants will be closed during the day. Most will open after sunset, and some will also serve buffets for Iftar — the evening meal that breaks the fast. It's customary during the holy month to say "Ramadan Kareem," which can be translated as "Generous Ramadan" or "Blessed Ramadan." A man walks down "American Alley" in Juffair, Bahrain, wearing shorts and a short-sleeved shirt on Wednesday.

# Is N. Korea resuming plutonium production?

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — New satellite images suggest that North Korea is resuming the process of separating plutonium to make more nuclear weapons at its main atomic facility, a Washington-based think tank says.

“Recent commercial satellite imagery shows new evidence that North Korea is preparing to commence or has already

begun conducting a reprocessing campaign to separate more plutonium for nuclear weapons at the Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center,” said 38 North, a website run by Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies that monitors North Korean activities.

Images taken of the complex on May 22 show two railroad flatcars loaded with casks or tanks near the radiochemical laboratory, a small exhaust

plume at the facility’s thermal plant and the replenishing of the coal stockpile for that plant. Similar flatcars were associated with reprocessing campaigns in the early 2000s, the website said Tuesday.

North Korea shut down the plutonium reactor at Yongbyon in 2007 as part of international nuclear disarmament talks that later stalled; however, it vowed to refurbish and restart the facility after its third nuclear test in 2013.

Tensions with the international community spiked this year after North Korea staged a fourth nuclear test followed by a long-range rocket launch, prompting tougher U.N. sanctions. Pyongyang has persisted with its efforts to build a nuclear-tipped missile that can reach the United States.

On Tuesday, it tried but failed for a fourth time to fire a powerful mid-range ballistic missile from its eastern coast.

## Signals from EgyptAir’s black boxes picked up

*Associated Press*

CAIRO — Egypt said Wednesday that a French ship has picked up signals from deep under the Mediterranean Sea, presumed to be from black boxes of the EgyptAir plane that crashed last month, killing all 66 people on board.

The Civil Aviation Ministry cited a statement from the committee investigating the crash as saying the vessel Laplace was the one that received the signals. It did not say when the signals were detected but the French Navy confirmed the Laplace arrived on Tuesday in the search area. Laplace’s equipment picked up the “signals from the seabed of the wreckage search area, assumed to be from one of the data recorders,” the statement read. Locator pings emitted by flight data and cockpit voice recorders, known as the black boxes, can be picked up from deep underwater.

The Airbus A320 had been cruising in clear skies on a nighttime flight from Paris to Cairo on May 19 when it lurched left, then right, spinning all the way around and plummeting 38,000 feet into the sea.

## 8th Army probes use of Bible at event

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The 8th Army is looking into a complaint that the use of a Bible during a military ball violated a soldier’s religious freedom.

The soldier wrote to the Military Religious Freedom Foundation after a Bible was included in a POW/MIA table display at the Adjutant General’s Corps Ball sponsored by the Morning Calm chapter on May 13.

An 8th Army spokesman stressed that the ball was a voluntary social event and not a command-sponsored or an official unit function.

The soldier also expressed frustration over a description of the significance of the Bible and

other objects on the table during a ceremony.

“I was completely taken aback by this,” the soldier said in the letter, which the advocacy group emailed to news organizations and posted on its website. “Placing the Christian label on all uniformed personnel is a gross violation of religious freedom, and a warning shot to ‘fit in, or be ostracized.’”

The soldier, who feared retaliation and was not identified by the foundation, said that as a secular humanist atheist “there is no way that I felt part of the team after this transgression.”

In an email to the 8th Army commander, MRFF founder Mikey Weinstein called the actions “deliberate and despicable violations of bedrock Constitu-

tional law” as well as military directives aimed at promoting religious freedom. He demanded that those responsible be investigated and appropriately punished.

Eighth Army spokesman Col. David Patterson said the command was looking into the matter. He said the Bible was included and mentioned during the “missing man table” ceremony, with a script stating “the Bible, placed on the table represents the strength gained through faith to find peace and sustain those lost and missing.”

The presentation also included a single red rose, a lighted candle, lemon slices, salt and an inverted glass, according to a picture provided by the soldier.

## Battle of Midway remembered in ceremony

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

PEARL HARBOR VISITORS CENTER, Hawaii — Navy officials on Tuesday commemorated the 74th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, the sea clash that came to define modern U.S. naval power and turned the tide of the Pacific theater during World War II.

“It’s the fighting spirit we’re

here to celebrate,” Rear Adm. John Fuller, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, said during a ceremony at the popular tourist site. “It’s the risk that they took that turned the tide of the war.”

During the battle, which lasted from June 3-7, 1942, Japan lost nearly 300 planes, a cruiser and four aircraft carriers, which had been among the six used in the surprise attack

on Pearl Harbor a half-year earlier. Japan was never able to replace those lost vessels, while the industrialized United States moved into high gear building every manner of warship possible.

“It was truly the undisputed turning point in the war in the Pacific,” Capt. Stanley Keeve, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, said during the ceremony.



# Cavaliers get another shot

Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio — LeBron James has already felt the stinging spray from the Splash Brothers in the NBA Finals.

When league MVP Stephen Curry and trigger-happy Golden State teammate Klay Thompson are knocking down three-pointers from 30 feet, swishing contested jumpers over taller players and destroying defenses designed to stop them, the only option is to pray they miss.

"Some of those shots," James said. "There's nothing you can do about it."

As the Cavaliers, considerably healthier than they were a year ago, prepare to take on the 73-win Warriors in the finals again, they know their chances of ending Cleveland's 52-year championship drought hinge on how well they defend Curry, Thompson & Co.

Stopping the Warriors is impossible. Slowing them isn't.

"They shoot the ball extremely well," James said before the team left for California and Game 1 on Thursday. "Klay and Steph are probably the two greatest shooters that we've probably ever seen. Better offense beats great defense any day. So we have to be able to do other things to stop them, but it's hard to contain them."

"We all know that. The whole league knows that. Our team knows that. But we have a game plan and we have to follow it and be true to it."

Although they won't admit it publicly, the Cavs have been eyeing a rematch with the Warriors since losing to them in six games last year.

James back then was virtually on his

own after Kevin Love separated his left shoulder in the first round and Kyrie Irving shattered his left kneecap in Game 1 of the finals. James did everything possible, averaging 35.8 points, 13.3 rebounds and 8.8 assists — an unprecedented finals stat line — but it wasn't enough. The Warriors had too much ball movement, athleticism and depth.

While fans, the league office and TV executives clamored for a Curry-James rematch, the Cavs claim they were ready for any opponent.

"It didn't matter," said James, appearing in his sixth straight finals. "Like Coach (Tyronn) Lue said, we're just waiting on the winner. We're fortunate to be here and we look forward to the challenge. It's an unbelievable team that we're going against. Hats off."

This time around, the Cavs have comparable talent.

That won't matter, though, if they don't defend.

Curry appears back to normal after dealing with a knee injury earlier in the postseason, and Thompson made a post-season-record 11 threes and scored 41 in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals. The Warriors erased a 3-1 deficit to end Oklahoma City's season and set up Golden State vs. Cleveland, the sequel.

Irving will likely be matched up with Curry. But it won't fall solely on him to check the game's purest shooter.

J.R. Smith has been Cleveland's best defender all season, and at 6-foot-6, his size could give Curry (generously listed as 6-3) some trouble. Matthew Dellavedova tenaciously hounded Curry in last year's Finals until he exhausted himself and

wound up hospitalized. James, too, will guard Curry in certain situations.

One of Cleveland's primary challenges will be the way it deals with Golden State's pick and rolls designed to get Curry mismatches. Thunder center Serge Ibaka found himself isolated on Curry late in Monday's Game 7 and committed a costly foul trying to block a three.

The Warriors expose weaknesses.

"It's tough," Lue said of combating Golden State's screens. "It's one of two things: either you can switch and have a big (man) on Curry and have him take the shots over your big or you can double-team Steph and throw it back to Draymond (Green), who's probably the best playmaker at that position in the league and now you have a four-on-three or a three-on-two. So you got to pick your poison."

Golden State shot its way back against Oklahoma City, draining a league record 90 three-pointers to complete a comeback Lue feels only heightens the aura around these modern-day Western gunslingers.

The Cavs learned in last year's finals they can't leave Curry and Thompson for a millisecond.

"You always have to have your antennas up," Lue said. "You can never relax because they're always moving. We got to be sharp and stick to our principles and know what we're supposed to do."

The Cavs will study scouting reports and break down film to be ready.

And, even then, James knows that may not be enough.

"You still gotta try to stop them," he said. "And that's a tall task."

# Harbaugh fires back at Saban

Associated Press

DESTIN, Fla. — Alabama coach Nick Saban said Tuesday he wasn't going to talk about satellite camps — and then he ranted about them.

And he clearly got Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh's attention.

"I don't know how much it benefits anybody because all the people that say this is creating opportunities for kids, this is all about recruiting," Saban said at the Southeastern Conference's annual meeting. "That's what it's about. ... What's amazing to me is somebody didn't stand up and say here's going to be the unintended consequences of what you all are doing."

Saban's words didn't take long to reach Ann Arbor.

Harbaugh responded on Twitter, saying, "'Amazing' to me — Alabama broke NCAA rules & now their HC is lecturing us on the possibility of rules being broken at camps. Truly 'amazing.'"

The SEC was at the forefront of wanting satellite camps banned. Harbaugh has been front and center on using the camps to boost recruiting outside Michigan, even hosting a high-profile one in Florida earlier this year.

The Division I Council approved a proposal last month requiring Football Bowl Subdivision schools "to conduct camps and clinics at their school's facilities or at facilities regularly used for practice or competition." The measure, which was endorsed by the SEC, also said "FBS coaches and non-coaching staff members with responsibilities specific to football may be employed only at their school's camps or clinics."

But the NCAA Division I Board of Directors rescinded that ban in early May. With the ban lifted, SEC coaches reluctantly started taking part in satellite camps.

"Now we do have prospects in those camps and we do see how they do, but that's not what the camp is for," Saban said. "Not from our standpoint. So why would we be promoting somebody else's camp anywhere? Because it's the same thing I said before: This is the only sport where the high school still mattered. What they did at the high school mattered. All you're doing is allowing all these other people that we spend all of our time at the NCAA saying, 'You can't recruit through a third party.' You can't be involved with third-party people and that's exactly what you're doing, creating all these third parties that are going to get involved with the prospects and all that."

"And who gets exposed on that? I go to a camp and I'm talking to some guy I don't know from Adam's house cat and he's representing some kid because he put the camp on, and then I'm in trouble for talking to this guy? And who even knows if the guy paid to go to the camp. Is the NCAA going to do that? I mean, we do that at our camp. We have people responsible. They're called compliance folks."

# IOC has long list of troubling issues

Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — With the Opening Ceremony in Rio de Janeiro just over two months away, Olympic leaders have plenty of troubling issues to deal with this week.

The Zika virus, unfinished venues and political chaos in Brazil. A flood of positive drug tests from the past two Summer Games. Fresh accusations of state-sponsored doping in Russia. Vote-buying allegations involving Tokyo's winning 2020 bid.

All these challenges and more will be on the table when the International Olympic Committee executive board holds a three-day meeting starting Wednesday in Lausanne. It's the last meeting before the IOC gathers in Rio on the eve of South America's first Olympics.

The policy-making board will also name the team of Olympic refugee athletes for Rio, consider the proposed five additional sports for the Tokyo Games, review the bidding for the 2024 Olympics and nominate several new IOC members.

"I can't recall an executive board meeting with so many issues on the agenda," IOC vice president Craig Reedie told The Associated Press. "There is a whole range

of difficult issues facing the Olympic movement, led by Rio."

A look at what's keeping the IOC busy:

**Rio: Ready or not?:** Rio organizing committee president Carlos Nuzman will give his latest update Thursday on preparations for the games, which open on Aug. 5. The buildup has been dogged by political, economic and public health crises.

Last week, a group of 150 scientists suggested the Olympics should be postponed or moved because of the outbreak of Zika, which has been linked to severe birth defects. But the World Health Organization said there was "no public health justification" for scrapping the Games, and Olympic officials have repeatedly said they will go ahead.

Some leading athletes have expressed concerns about going to Rio. Spanish NBA star Pau Gasol said Monday he may skip the games because of the Zika threat and that other Spanish athletes were also considering staying away.

Meanwhile, Dilma Rousseff has been suspended as Brazil's president pending a Senate impeachment trial, with Michel Temer taking over as acting president. A final vote on removing Rousseff could come on Aug. 2 — three days before the

opening of the Games.

Brazil is dealing with its worst economic recession since the 1930s, leading to the slashing of Olympic budgets.

Some sports venues are behind schedule. UCI President Brian Cookson said he remains "very, very concerned" about delays to the velodrome, and the city said Monday it is changing contractors to take over the construction. ITF President David Haggerty said "an awful lot of work" is needed to get the tennis venue ready for the games.

Water pollution remains a concern for Olympic sailing, rowing and open water swimming events. Crime is a worry: Three Spanish sailors were recently robbed at gunpoint in broad daylight while training in Rio.

**Doping, doping, doping:** Reedie, president of the World Anti-Doping Agency, will deliver a report that will include an update on the agency's independent probe into allegations by Moscow's former drug-testing lab director, Grigory Rodchenkov, that he operated a state-backed doping scheme for Russian athletes that involved switching tainted urine samples for clean ones during the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi.



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# Cron powers Angels' victory

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — C.J. Cron's second homer of the night soared over the left field fence and ended a remarkable power display in a ballpark that doesn't set off these types of fireworks very often.

Although the Los Angeles Angels and the Detroit Tigers combined to hit nine homers, Cron's last blast was the biggest.

Cron also hit a first-inning homer while driving in five runs, and the Angels blew a seven-run lead before rallying for an 11-9 victory over the Tigers on Tuesday night.

"It seemed like everybody at the plate just wanted to crush the ball," Cron said.

Cron's two-run shot to left against Mark Lowe (1-3) put an exclamation point on a crazy game in Anaheim, where the marine layer and the spacious outfield typically make homers much more precious.

Mike Trout also hit a three-run homer during the Angels' 17-hit performance in their ninth consecutive home victory over the Tigers. Jefry Marte homered and had a career-high four hits against his former Detroit teammates.

"We got some good looks and drove the ball well," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "But the ball was carrying well, and they showed that, too."

Los Angeles led 9-2 after five innings,

but the Tigers were just getting started. After J.D. Martinez hit a two-run homer off starter Hector Santiago in the sixth, Ian Kinsler followed up three walks with his first career grand slam in the seventh off Cam Bedrosian.

Victor Martinez added the tying shot in the eighth off Fernando Salas.

The Tigers have lost 15 of their last 16 games in Anaheim and 21 of their last 25 meetings with the Angels overall. Detroit has lost four straight on its California trip.

Huston Street (2-0) pitched a perfect ninth in his first appearance for the Angels since April 23.

# Murray reaches French semifinals

Associated Press

PARIS — Yelling at his entourage and muttering to himself, Andy Murray alternated between brilliant and bad for the better part of two sets before righting things to reach his fourth French Open semifinal.

The No. 2-seeded Murray overcame his own frustration as much as his French opponent and a partisan crowd Wednesday, beating No. 9 Richard Gasquet 5-7, 7-6 (3), 6-0, 6-2 at Court Philippe Chatrier.

Murray will take on defending champion Stan Wawrinka, who easily eliminated 55th-ranked Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (7).

Murray ran his winning streak to 10 matches, all on clay. This one did not come easily, though. He led 5-2 in each of the first two sets before letting those leads slip away, getting broken while serving for both at 5-3. And he trailed 3-1 in the second-set tiebreaker, a critical moment.

"It was a very physical match, up to that point," Murray said, "and it would have been very difficult to come back if I'd lost the second."

He didn't, seizing control by taking the last six points of the tiebreaker, then grabbing 12 of the final 14 games.

Wawrinka's victory was over quickly — it lasted less than 2 hours; Murray's went nearly 3½ hours.

What was truly ideal for the French Open as a whole was that there was so much action and nary a rain delay. Because of showers, zero points were played Monday, and only about 2 hours' worth were contested Tuesday.

The quarterfinals in the top half of the men's draw were finally established: No. 1 Novak Djokovic against No. 7 Tomas Berdych, and No. 12 David Goffin against No. 13 Dominic Thiem. All the rain tightened the schedule to the point that players could have to compete several days in a row to get to the final, instead of enjoying a major's usual off-days.

With more wet weather in the forecast, the prospect of completing the tournament by Sunday is iffy.

Earlier, in women's fourth-round matches originally slated for Monday, No. 9 Venus Williams lost, while her sister, No. 1 Serena, won.

Venus came up short in a bid to get to the quarterfinals at Roland Garros for the first time in a decade, dropping eight games in a row during a 6-2, 6-4 loss to No. 8 Timea Bacsinszky.

Bacsinszky will play 58th-ranked Kiki Bertens, whose first Grand Slam quarterfinal came via a 7-6 (4), 6-3 victory over No. 15 Madison Keys.

Defending champion Serena defeated 18th-seeded Elina Svitolina 6-1, 6-1.

# Betts' 3 taters boost Red Sox

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Mookie Betts hit a career-high three homers and drove in five runs, and the Boston Red Sox cruised past the Baltimore Orioles 6-2 on Tuesday night to open a three-game lead in the AL East.

Betts led off the game with a shot to center and added a three-run drive to left in the second inning. After lining out to second base in the fourth, Betts hit a bases-empty homer to right in the seventh.

"This is probably the best night," Betts said. "It's the first time I've ever done that [at any level]."

Batting in the ninth inning with a chance to tie the major league record of four homers in a game, Betts grounded out to second against rookie Ashur Tolliver.

"A home run would have been nice," he said, "but I was just trying to get another hit."

Still, he's the first Boston player to hit three homers in a game since Will Middlebrooks against Toronto on April 7, 2013. Betts' 12 home runs rank second on the team behind David Ortiz, who has 14.

Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts stretched his career-best hitting streak to 24 games with a single in the seventh inning.

**Dodgers 5, Cubs 0:** Scott Kazmir and two relievers combined on a one-hitter, matching zeros with Chicago ace Jake Arrieta before visiting Los Angeles got to the Cubs' bullpen for a victory.

Arrieta went seven scoreless innings but was denied his 21st consecutive victory. The Cubs had won in Arrieta's last

23 starts.

**White Sox 6, Mets 4:** Tyler Saladino hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning and visiting Chicago rallied from an early four-run deficit, stopping a seven-game losing streak with a victory over New York.

**Nationals 5, Phillies 1:** Daniel Murphy hit one of four Washington home runs, Joe Ross allowed three hits in seven innings and visiting Washington beat Philadelphia for its third straight win.

NL MVP Bryce Harper missed the game, a day after he was hit by a pitch.

**Royals 10, Rays 5:** Lorenzo Cain homered and drove in four runs as host Kansas City beat Tampa Bay, extending its winning streak to a season-best five games.

**Rockies 17, Reds 4:** At Denver, Nolan Arenado and Charlie Blackmon each hit two of Colorado's team record-tying seven homers in a rout of Cincinnati.

**Giants 4, Braves 0:** Jake Peavy faced the minimum 21 batters through seven innings, Denard Span drove in two runs with three hits and visiting San Francisco beat Atlanta.

**Rangers 7, Indians 3:** Colby Lewis allowed two hits in six shutout innings, leading visiting Texas over Cleveland and improving to 5-0 for the first time in his major league career.

**Blue Jays 4, Yankees 1:** Kevin Pillar singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and made a highlight-reel diving catch in center field to help host Toronto hand New York its fifth loss in seven games.

Justin Smoak homered and Darwin Barney hit a two-run single as the Blue Jays won for the 12th time in 16 meetings with the Yankees.

**Marlins 3, Pirates 1:** Jose Fernandez pitched seven scoreless innings to help host Miami beat Gerrit Cole and Pittsburgh.

Miami's Ichiro Suzuki had two hits to tie Sam Crawford for 31st on MLB's all-time hit list with 2,963.

**Cardinals 10, Brewers 3:** Matt Carpenter tied his season high with four hits for the second straight game, scored four times and drove in two runs to lead visiting St. Louis over Milwaukee.

Jedd Gyorko hit a three-run homer, and Mike Leake (4-4) allowed five hits, walked one and struck out four in six innings for his fourth win in the past five starts.

**Astros 8, Diamondbacks 5:** George Springer finished a triple shy of the cycle and had four RBIs to spark Houston past host Arizona.

Springer doubled on the first pitch of the game, hit a three-run homer off Patrick Corbin (2-5) in the second inning and added a run-scoring single off the left-hander in the fourth.

**Mariners 16, Padres 4:** Seth Smith hit two of host Seattle's five home runs and finished with four RBIs, Adam Lind and Kyle Seager both hit three-run homers and the Mariners pummeled San Diego.

**Athletics 7, Twins 4:** Danny Valencia homered and drove in three runs, Stephen Vogt had three hits and drove in two and host Oakland won its fourth straight by beating Minnesota.

# Maturing Crosby on top of his game

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Sidney Crosby does not have an off switch. If there was one, Patric Hornqvist believes he would have found it by now.

Not once over the last two years while playing alongside one of the NHL's most popular players has Hornqvist seen an exasperated sigh, a roll of the eyes or so much as a smirk from the superstar who has dutifully served as one of the faces from the league from the moment the Pittsburgh Penguins drafted him No. 1 overall in 2005 and he became tasked with restoring the languishing franchise to glory.

"It's crazy how well-prepared he is for everything," Hornqvist said.

Of course it's easy to say now, with the

Penguins holding a 1-0 lead over San Jose heading into Wednesday night's Game 2 of the Stanley Cup Final. Their captain and two-time MVP seems restored to his place among the game's elite after ending a seven-year drought between appearances in the NHL's marquee event.

It's a gap few saw coming when the 21-year-old Crosby held the Cup aloft in joy in Detroit back in 2009 after beating the Red Wings in seven taut games.

"Everybody thought (we'd) win 5-6-7 in the next 10 years," said recently retired Pittsburgh forward Pascal Dupuis.

"You just have to be able to put it all together at the right time," Crosby said. "I don't think we necessarily lacked those things in years we didn't win. I think you just have to be able to put it together and come up with those big plays at timely

times."

And in some ways, Crosby had to grow up, too. For all his talent — he's never finished outside the top 10 in points per game in any season in which he's played enough games to qualify — he can occasionally be too unselfish with the puck on his stick, sometimes trading wide-open shots for difficult passes in search of a teammate who may or may not be ready for them.

"I think he's always been more mature than his age," Dupuis said.

"You take that and you take the stuff that he's gone through and you add to it while he's 28 right now, he's probably the most mature 28-year-old you'll see on the planet."