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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Truman launches strikes vs. Islamic State

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS HARRY S. TRUMAN — The USS Harry S. Truman launched airstrikes against Islamic State targets from the Eastern Mediterranean on Friday, a first in the nearly two-year-long campaign against the group.

The strike group's deployment, which just finished a tour through Central Command's area of operation, has been extended as the warships take part in combat operations from the Mediterranean, U.S. European Command said.

"While the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group is in the 6th Fleet area of operations, they continue to project power ashore against terrorists and violent extremists," Vice Adm. James Foggo III, commander of U.S. 6th Fleet, said in a statement. "This exemplifies our Navy's mobility, flexibility and adaptability, as well as our commitment to execute a full range of military operations in concert with our indispensable European allies and partners."

Friday's strikes mark the first time a carrier group has conducted combat operations from the Mediterranean since 2003, when the Truman deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Beyond opening a new direction of attack against the militant group, which controls a swath of territory between Syria and Iraq, the strikes from the Truman may be seen as an answer to Russia's growing military presence and influence in the region, which has concerned U.S. policymakers.

It also sends a message to Turkey — whose government has complained about U.S. support for Kurdish militias fighting the Islamic State Group — that the U.S. is not dependent exclusively on the Turkish air base at Incir-

lik to prosecute the air war over Syria.

In the past, U.S. and allied pilots launched airstrikes only from carriers in the Persian Gulf or nearby land bases in countries like Bahrain, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, with the Mediterranean serving

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as little more than a transit route for East Coast-based carriers.

The five-ship Truman strike group is returning from an eight-month deployment to the Persian Gulf, where its Carrier Air Wing 7 dropped the most ordnance of any carrier yet in the operation

against the Islamic State group. The Pentagon extended the deployment one month to reduce a gap with its replacement, the carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The Truman began the airstrikes after entering the Mediterranean from the Red Sea. The strike group transited the Suez Canal on Thursday, EUCOM said.

The U.S. had considered conducting airstrikes from the Mediterranean when the Truman was deploying to the Middle East in December, after the November terrorist attack in Paris spurred France to deploy

its own carrier, the Charles de Gaulle. The two carriers instead continued to the Middle East for combined operations.

Russia has used an air base near the Syrian coastal city of Latakia to hit insurgent positions, including rebel groups supported by the U.S.-led coalition. Russia has deployed a sophisticated mobile air-defense battery, the S-400, to Latakia, and it has built up its presence at its naval base in the Syrian port city of Tartus.

The U.S. views those moves, along with recent deployments to the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, as an effort by Russia to carve out a bubble of influence in the region. Their concern is that Russian weapons, by raising the risks to allied ships in the area, may dissuade countries from deploying nearby.

Russia stationed two of its newest Kilo-class diesel submarines to the Black Sea last year, a move seen as extending its reach in the Mediterranean. One of the two subs fired cruise missiles at land targets in Syria in December. The subs also are equipped with anti-ship variants of the same missile, the Kalibr, that could threaten carriers, Navy officials say.

Washington's public position is that it doesn't actually coordinate aerial operations in Syria with Moscow. But Susan Rice, President Barack Obama's national security adviser, has said that the U.S. now talks frequently with Russia to avoid possible incidents. And Syria's government — Russia's ally — has tacitly allowed the U.S. and its allies to conduct airstrikes against Islamic State and other terrorist groups.

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City of Corpus Christi decommissioned after 35 years

Stars and Stripes

The USS City of Corpus Christi, the first Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine to deploy to the Pacific Fleet, has been decommissioned in Hawaii after 35 years of service.

"[The submarine] is the

manifestation of our collective will not only to survive but to thrive as a nation of free people," Cmdr. Travis Petzoldt said during Monday's decommissioning ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. "On behalf of the United States, thank you to all the men and

women who have touched this fine ship, who have designed her, built her, took care of her and sailed in her."

The 362-foot-long sub, which is equipped with Mark-48 advanced-capability torpedoes, was launched in 1981 and received its last refueling over-

haul in 2011, the statement said.

City of Corpus Christi — the second Navy ship to be christened after the Texas city — will sail to the Pacific Northwest, where it will be prepared for inactivation.

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Pentagon probes 'tragic' accident

By TARA COPP
AND COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Investigations into two fatal military training accidents on the same day will focus on how to prevent recurrences, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter said Friday.

Five soldiers from Fort Hood in Texas died, three were rescued and four remained missing after floodwaters swept away their troop carrier during a training mission at about 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

The soldiers were from the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division at the Killeen, Texas, Army base. The soldiers came from a unit that had recently returned from a nine-month deployment in South Korea.

Maj. Gen. John Uberti, the deputy commander of III Corps and Fort Hood, told reporters Friday that the morning inci-

dent was a "tragic accident."

He credited the quick reaction of soldiers in a trailing vehicle with saving three of the soldiers who had been inside the vehicle. Those soldiers were in stable condition at Fort Hood's Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center and were scheduled for release Friday afternoon, Uberti said.

The Army has launched an investigation into the cause of the rollover of the four-wheel-drive personnel carrier, called an M1087 LMTV, which weighs more than 7 tons.

Fort Hood spokesman Chris Haug said that even though there was flooding in the area, there was no reason to believe the convoy would have any problems navigating the terrain.

"They regularly pass through weather conditions like this," Haug said Friday morning. "This is a tactical vehicle. At the time, they were in a proper place for training. This was just an unfortunate incident that occurred quickly."

Fort Hood officials were in

the process of closing roads in the area due to the flooding at about the time the LMTV was caught in the flooding, he said. Portions of Texas have seen large amounts of rain in the last week, forcing more than half the state into flood watches or warnings, including areas around the Army base.

Carter, in Singapore for a security conference, began a news conference Friday with a statement on the Fort Hood deaths and a Navy Blue Angels training accident Thursday near Nashville, Tenn., that killed Marine Capt. Jeff Kuss, 32, who had more than 1,400 flight hours.

"Thursday was a tough day for the U.S. military," Carter said. "Our hearts and thoughts are with the families."

"The fact that both of these losses are safety issues in training — we're going to ensure we learn lessons that we can from the investigations ... and we take actions in the future to prevent such accidents and keep

our people safe," he said.

In another incident Thursday, an Air Force Thunderbird crashed following a flyover at the Air Force Academy graduation in Colorado. That pilot ejected safely and later met with President Barack Obama, who spoke at the ceremony.

At Fort Hood, aircraft, search-and-rescue dogs and watercraft continued to search for the missing soldiers in the 20-mile Owl Creek. The area remained flooded, Haug said, complicating the search.

"Our priority has been, since the first report of this incident and continues to be the search for our four missing teammates," Uberti said. "While that remains our priority ... we are also providing support and counseling for the soldiers, families and friends affected by this tragedy."

The names of the dead and missing soldiers have not been released.

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Thunderbirds pilot meets president

Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — A Thunderbirds pilot ejected safely as his fighter jet crashed into a deserted Colorado area after soaring over the Air Force Academy's commencement ceremony. A rescue helicopter then ferried him to a face-to-face meeting with President Barack Obama.

Maj. Alex Turner, of Chelmsford, Mass., had just flown over the crowd watching Obama's commencement address Thursday afternoon when something went wrong and he was forced to ditch his plane. The jet skidded a few hundred yards across a grassy field, leaving a smudgy, gray mark before coming to rest on its belly.

Turner, who has logged more than 270 combat hours over

Libya and Iraq, parachuted safely and was not seriously injured. Lt. Col. Christopher Hammond, commander of the Thunderbirds, said the pilot maneuvered the plane so it would not crash into a nearby residential neighborhood.

Turner landed about a half-mile from his plane and seemed "pretty calm" when firefighters from the nearby town of Security arrived, said Pete Smith, a member of the Security Fire Department.

"I would have been a little more upset than he was," Smith said.

News of the crash broke while Obama's motorcade was returning to Peterson Air Force Base for his flight back to Washington. Turner ejected about 15 miles south of the Air Force academy near Peterson,

where Air Force One was waiting to take off.

Emergency responders who picked up Turner in the rescue helicopter brought him to a spot that happened to be on the president's motorcade route back to Air Force One.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the pilot met Obama, and the president told him it might be a good time to contact his wife and let her know that he's OK.

It was one of two crashes Thursday for the military's elite fighter jet performance teams. An official in Tennessee said a pilot was killed when his Blue Angels fighter jet crashed, but no civilians were hurt on the ground. The Navy's Blue Angels team was near Nashville practicing for a scheduled performance this weekend.

China dominates Asian security summit

SINGAPORE — China's military buildup in the South China Sea dominated the first day of a key Asian security summit Friday, with U.S. partners trying to strike a balance between challenging the Chinese and working with them in what some see as a new reality in the region.

"I believe that if we look at everything from the standpoint of conflict we will never be able to see a way out," Thailand Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said in the keynote address at the three-day Shangri-La Dialogue.

"If we focus solely on [territorial water] borders, some of which are still in dispute, then again we will never find a way out," he said.

From staff reports

Golden State's bench comes through in Game 1 victory

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Stephen Curry realizes every last man on the bench can mean so much to winning a championship.

As he and Klay Thompson endured rare off nights that even featured Curry tossing his mouthpiece in frustration, the NBA Most Valuable Player's supporting cast made all the timely shots and all the difference for the defending champions in Game 1 of the NBA Finals.

Draymond Green had 16 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists, Shaun Livingston scored a personal postseason best of 20 and Golden State's bench came up big as the Warriors beat LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers 104-89 on Thursday night to move three wins from a repeat title.

Curry and Thompson? They totaled — gasp! — 20 points between them on 8-for-27 shooting, each knocking down a late three-pointer.

"You don't win championships without the entire squad coming in and making an impact on games," Curry said. "That's why we're here."

Golden State's bench outscored the Cavs' reserves 45-10 in the opener of this finals rematch, which the Warriors reached even with Curry missing six games with injuries in the postseason.

Game 2 is Sunday night back at Oracle Arena, and James knows Cleveland must adjust immediately.

"When you get outscored 45-10 on the bench and give up 25 points off 17 turnovers, no matter what someone does or

doesn't do, it's going to be hard to win, especially on the road," James said. "Don't matter what you do with Steph and Klay, don't matter what you do with Draymond."

In a series with so much star power on both sides, this was a night for Livingston and fellow reserves Leandro Barbosa and Andre Iguodala. Barbosa returned from a minor back injury to shoot 5 for 5, while 2015 Finals Most Valuable Player Iguodala had 12 points, seven rebounds, six assists and some stingy defense on James.

"We play a lot of people, and we feel like we have a lot of talent on the bench that can come in and score when we need it," coach Steve Kerr said. "So it's a great sign, obviously, that we can win in the finals without those two guys having big games, but it's not really that surprising to us. This has been our team the last couple of years."

It made for a strong start while surrounded by the yellow "Strength in Numbers" shirts that hung on seats throughout the arena.

"That's our motto. That's what we believe in," Livingston said. "We pick each other up. We believe in each other and we just fight."

James kicked off his sixth straight finals with 23 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists, but cold-shooting Cleveland went 38.1 percent from the floor. Kyrie Irving, lost to a knee injury in Game 1 last year, scored 26 points, 11 on free throws.

Iguodala showed he can handle any role — if Kerr decides to start him or bring him off the bench. Iguodala didn't let

an aggravating, hard hit to the groin by Matthew Dellavedova derail his focus for the final quarter.

Kerr stuck with regular starter Harrison Barnes, and he delivered 13 points. Curry had 11 points, six assists and five rebounds, while Thompson scored nine points.

"I thought our guys did a great job of locking into those guys," Cavs coach Tyronn Lue said. "Their bench played well. So we've got to go back to the drawing board and try to figure out how to take those guys out of the game."

Kevin Love made an impressive finals debut with 17 points and 13 rebounds after missing last year's run with a dislocated shoulder that required surgery. His basket with 3:57 left in the third put the Cavs ahead before Green's dunk moments later.

With 34.1 seconds left in the third, Iguodala took issue with Dellavedova's swat into his groin that after review was ruled a personal foul and no flagrant. Iguodala knocked down a 3-pointer less than 8 seconds later and Golden State took a 74-68 lead into the final 12 minutes.

Livingston, whose remarkable comeback from a potentially career-ending left knee injury nine years ago has so inspired Kerr and many others, made a key follow shot late in the third on the way to his first 20-point performance in the postseason.

James has scored 20 or more points in a career-best 25 straight playoff games, topping his previous mark of 24 in a row from May 12, 2008, to April 25, 2010.

Sources: Ali's stay in hospital serious

Associated Press

Muhammad Ali is hospitalized in the Phoenix area with what two people familiar with his condition say may be more serious problems than his previous hospital stays.

The 74-year-old boxing great is fighting respiratory issues that are complicated by the Parkinson's that he was diagnosed with in the 1980s, the people told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The two spoke separately in describing Ali's condition that they say is concerning to family members. They declined to be identified because they were not speaking on behalf of the family.

A spokesman for Ali said in a statement earlier Thursday that the former heavyweight champion is being treated at an unidentified hospital for a respiratory issue. Spokesman Bob Gunnell said Ali was in fair condition, and a brief hospital stay was expected.

Ali's longtime Parkinson's doctor declined comment when reached by the AP Thursday night.

"I can't really say much more than what's in the papers," said Dr. Abraham Lieberman of the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix.

Ali has been hospitalized several times in recent years, most recently in early 2015 when he was treated for a severe urinary tract infection initially diagnosed as pneumonia.

Ali has looked increasingly frail in public appearances, including April 9 when he wore sunglasses and was hunched over at the annual Celebrity Fight Night dinner in Phoenix, which raises funds for treatment of Parkinson's.

His last formal public appearance before that was in October when he appeared at the Sports Illustrated Tribute to Muhammad Ali at The Muhammad Ali Center in his hometown of Louisville, Ky., along with former opponents George Foreman and Larry Holmes.

Ali has suffered from Parkinson's for three decades, most famously trembling badly while lighting the Olympic torch in 1996 in Atlanta. Despite the disease he kept up a busy appearance schedule until recently, though he has not spoken in public for years.

Doctors say the Parkinson's likely was caused by the thousands of punches Ali took during a career in which he traveled the world for big fights.

An iconic figure who at one point was perhaps the most recognized person in the world, Ali has lived quietly in the Phoenix area with his fourth wife, Lonnie, whom he married in 1986.

News of his hospitalization brought well wishes from boxers and others on Twitter, including Sugar Ray Leonard, who modeled his career after Ali's.

"Prayers & blessings to my idol, my friend, & without question, the Greatest of All Time @MuhammadAli! #GOAT," Leonard wrote.

Williams advances to French Open final

Associated Press

PARIS — Two years ago at the French Open, Serena Williams was stunned in the second round by a 20-year-old opponent participating in only her 13th match at a major tournament.

That 6-2, 6-2 loss to Garbine Muguruza was, and remains to this day, the most lopsided defeat of Williams' 338-match Grand Slam career.

So guess who the No. 1-ranked Williams will face in the final at Roland Garros on Saturday as she attempts to earn her 22nd major championship and equal Steffi Graf's Open-era record?

Muguruza, of course. "I learned so much from that match. I hate to lose, but when I do, I hope it was worth it," Williams said. "That match was definitely one of those that was kind of needed and worth it."

Since that setback, Williams has won 47 of 50 matches at majors, collecting four trophies along the way to boost her total to 21. Only Graf and Margaret Court, with

24, own more.

Williams moved one victory from Slam title No. 22 — including her second in a row at the French Open — by getting past a poor start and beating Kiki Bertens 7-6 (7), 6-4 in the semifinals Friday. The No. 4-seeded Muguruza advanced by eliminating 2011 U.S. Open champion Sam Stosur 6-2, 6-4.

"She and I are players who like dictating the game," Muguruza said about herself and Williams. "There will be moments when she'll be dominating, and maybe at times, I will be dominating. I think I can be a tough opponent, too."

It's also a rematch of last year's Wimbledon final, which Williams won in straight sets.

On Friday, the women's semifinals were played simultaneously in front of similarly empty stadiums, Williams vs. Bertens at Court Philippe Chatrier, Muguruza vs. Stosur at Court Suzanne Lenglen, where tickets were available for 20 euros (\$22). Afterward, in the men's semifinals,

No. 1 Novak Djokovic neared his fourth straight Grand Slam title — and first at the French Open — by topping No. 13 Dominic Thiem 6-2, 6-1, 6-4, and No. 2 Andy Murray defeated defending champion Stan Wawrinka 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 to become the first British man in the final in Paris since 1937.

Because repeated rain sabotaged the schedule and eliminated the usual rest time at a major, Saturday will be Williams' fourth consecutive day on court, and Muguruza's third. Williams also acknowledged having "some issues" with a leg muscle, although would not elaborate.

Under a full cover of clouds and with the temperature in the 50s (teens Celsius), Williams made 22 unforced errors in the first set alone.

"Definitely, I agree 100 percent: If plays like this, she's not going to win," said Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou. "So I don't expect her to play that level tomorrow."



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Rookies contributing for Pens

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — It's easy to get awestruck the first time a new face walks into the Pittsburgh Penguins dressing room.

All those stars. All that talent. Hey, there's Sidney Crosby. Hey, there's Evgeni Malkin. Hey, there's Kris Letang. Coach Mike Sullivan understands it can be a little overwhelming at first.

"When a new player comes to our team, young or old for that matter, I think there's a little bit of a 'wow' factor because some of the players we have," Sullivan said. "Everybody has so much respect for Crosby and Malkin and Letang and those guys. Over time I think that wears off."

If the Penguins wanted to get where they are now — two wins away from the team's fourth Stanley Cup — it had to. Fast.

Fortunately, Conor Sheary, Matt Murray, Bryan Rust and Tom Kuhnhackl are quick studies. The rookies — all of whom spent a significant portion of the season with the team's American Hockey League affiliate on the other side of Pennsylvania in Wilkes-Barre/Scranton — have found their footing alongside their high-profile teammates during Pittsburgh's race through the playoffs and a 2-0 lead over San Jose in the Stanley Cup Final heading into Game 3 in San Jose on Saturday.

There's the seemingly unshakable if impossibly thin 22-year-old Murray, who has for now (and perhaps for good) supplanted Marc-Andre Fleury in net. Murray's 13 postseason victories are a team record for a rookie and two shy of the NHL mark of 15 shared by Hall of Famer Patrick Roy, among others.

There's the undersized (5 feet, 7 inches) and yet redoubtable 23-year-old Sheary,

thrust onto a line with Crosby because of his ability to skate as if he's worried the ice will melt underneath him if he stops. All he's done is pump in four goals during the playoffs, including the overtime winner in Game 2 on Thursday.

There's the 24-year-old Rust, who has a flair for the dramatic. His six goals over 19 playoff games — compared to five in 55 regular-season games — include a pair in a series closeout win over the New York Rangers in April and the game-winning marker in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference finals against Tampa Bay.

There's the responsible Kuhnhackl, an intelligent penalty killer who opts for the smart play instead of the spectacular one.

All four in the midst of their first seasons in the NHL. All four uncowed by the moment.

"I think they've been thrown into a lot of different scenarios," Crosby said. "They're handling it really well and they're coming up big for us."

Thanks in no small part to the leadership of players like Crosby, who have made it a point to make the youngsters feel included, be it for a team meal on the road or a little post practice confab to share tricks of the trade.

It was Crosby who dreamed up the sequence that resulted with Sheary having the puck on his stick and the game in his hands early in overtime on Thursday. Prepping for a faceoff in San Jose's end, Crosby told Sheary to line up on the wall then drift over into open space after Crosby won the draw and dropped it to defenseman Kris Letang at the blue line.

That's exactly how it happened. When Letang faked a shot and drew the Sharks defense to him, Sheary was all alone. There, he followed an order Crosby gave

to him earlier in the season when the captain told him not to worry about trying to look for his own shot.

"He told me I was there for a reason," Sheary said.

And it wasn't just to get it back to Crosby's familiar No. 87 as soon as possible.

"He's really good at hanging on to the puck," Crosby said. "You've seen him use it. The biggest thing is to trust his instincts."

Instincts he stuck to after Sullivan sat him for a game against Tampa Bay over concerns Sheary was wearing down. As Sullivan did with Murray when he briefly went with Fleury for Game 5 against the Lightning, Sullivan was explicit in his instructions so Sheary wouldn't start to doubt himself.

"His competitive advantage is his quickness," Sullivan said. "So if he loses that step, he's not as effective as we know him to be."

The respite worked. Sheary has three points in his last four games, including goals in both Game 1 and Game 2 of the final.

"He's a guy that we try to watch his minutes," Sullivan said. "We think it's important that we monitor his workload so that he can keep his quickness and that competitive advantage that makes him as good as he is."

A player who, like the rest of the Wilkes-Barre crew, is in Pittsburgh with no plans on making the trip back east anytime soon. If ever.

"A lot of us have been together for a long time here, starting in Wilkes and making our way up here," Murray said. "We're all pretty close friends and it's fun to be on this ride with all of them."

Sharks have had long road

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The San Jose Sharks have come a long way from their original home at the Cow Palace with its undersized ice rink and lingering aroma from its use for rodeos and other livestock events.

There were the records for futility in their second season with NHL worsts of 17 straight losses and 71 overall. Then came the two decades of playoff disappointments as the team many expected to be able to compete for the Stanley Cup always seemed to fall short.

The 25-year journey from those early days has finally led to the Stanley Cup. The Sharks will host their first Stanley Cup Final game in team history on Saturday night when they take on the Pittsburgh Penguins in Game 3 of the series. The Sharks trail the series 2-0 but expect a raucous environment Saturday.

"This is a dream of a lifetime," said Dan Rusanowsky, the voice of the Sharks since their debut season in 1991-92. "There's so much to take pride in when you look at where we started. From where the club started, getting to this level was just a dream back then. The fact that we had an NHL team that put its arms around San Jose was enough."

Sharks general manager Doug Wilson, the captain of the original team, fondly recalled those Cow Palace days when the roof sometimes leaked, a wedding was once staged at intermission and a game was once delayed by almost an hour when the Zamboni dragged a goal peg on the ice by accident.

But those years helped build a relationship between hockey and the region.

"What I loved about it was the fans were right there," Wilson said. "We were connected to the fans. We didn't have great teams, but we had great people, we had great character. A lot of one-goal games that for us was like going into a gun fight with a water pistol. But we knew we were going to battle. But the fans were there for us through thick and thin, and the guys that played on that team made sure of giving everything they had."

Penguins coach Mike Sullivan played on the first Sharks team and remembers having to walk upstairs to the locker room between periods. There even needed to be chairs at the bottom so players who were on the ice for the final shift of the period could catch their breath before going up.

Many of those fans who packed the Cow Palace those first two seasons moved to the team's new arena in downtown San Jose in 1993-94 that gave California's third-largest city its first major pro sports team.

Some have kept their tickets for a quarter century, watching the team lose its first three trips to the conference finals, get knocked out as the top seed in the first round in 2009, blow a 3-0 series lead to Los Angeles in 2014 and then miss the playoffs entirely last season.

Those disappointments will be forgotten come Saturday night when the Stanley Cup finally arrives in Silicon Valley.

"They've been through a lot," Sharks center Logan Couture said. "It's been a long time that we've been the favorite. They've had a lot of high hopes and a lot of people have stuck with this franchise and supported over the years. So, a lot of credit to the people that have had season tickets and kept them through these last couple of years. They deserve this."

Cubs top Dodgers for 8th win in 9 games

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Kyle Hendricks dominated over eight innings and the Chicago Cubs backed him with four home runs, beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 7-2 Thursday for their eighth win in nine games.

Javier Baez, Jason Heyward and Kris Bryant connected against 19-year-old Julio Urias (0-1). Anthony Rizzo hit a lead-off homer against J.P. Howell in the eighth as the MLB-leading Cubs took three of four from the Dodgers.

Twins 6, Rays 4: Eduardo Nunez led off the game for Minnesota with an inside-the-park home run, Max Kepler picked up his first two major league RBIs and four relievers combined for five scoreless innings in a win over visiting Tampa Bay.

Byung Ho Park went a career-best 3-for-3 for the Twins, who had a season-most 15 hits and recovered smoothly from a rocky start by Phil Hughes that ended with a two-run homer by Evan Longoria in the fifth that put the Rays up 4-3.

Marlins 4, Pirates 3 (12): Christian Yelich hit a game-winning double in the bottom of the 12th inning and host Miami beat Pittsburgh to take the four-game series.

Yelich doubled to deep right-center off A.J. Schugel (1-2) with two outs to score Martin Prado from first base without a throw.

Mariners 16, Padres 13: Kyle Seager, Dae-Ho Lee and visiting Seattle scored 14 times in two innings to erase a 10-run deficit and stun San Diego, the latest pratfall for a team that was ripped in a radio interview by its executive chairman a day

earlier.

Trailing 12-2 after five, the Mariners benefited from a bullpen meltdown by the Padres and rallied for the biggest comeback in franchise history. Seager hit a two-run single in the sixth to chase starter Colin Rea, followed by Lee's pinch-hit, three-run homer off Brad Hand.

Giants 6, Braves 0: Madison Bumgarner won his sixth straight decision to match a career best and hit a two-run homer in a six-run fifth inning that led San Francisco past host Atlanta.

Bumgarner (7-2) allowed four hits in 7 2/3 innings, struck out 11 and walked two, lowering his ERA to 1.91. The NL West-leading Giants have won 17 of their last 21 games and are unbeaten in Bumgarner's last eight starts.

Diamondbacks 3, Astros 0: Zack Greinke struck out a season-high 11, and visiting Arizona used a three-run seventh inning to beat Houston and Dallas Keuchel in a matchup of AL Cy Young Award winners.

Greinke (7-3), the 2009 winner with Kansas City, allowed a season-low four hits — all singles — over seven innings and walked none.

Yankees 5, Tigers 4: Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman pitched out of his own bases-loaded, no-out jam in the ninth inning, helped by a slick double play and New York held off host Detroit.

After scoring against relievers Dellin Betances (2-2) and Andrew Miller, Detroit was down 5-3 going into the ninth. The Tigers quickly loaded the bases against Chapman on a single, a walk and a bunt single.

Orioles 12, Red Sox 7: Mark Trumbo and Adam Jones each homered twice, Manny Machado delivered a tiebreaking drive in the seventh inning and Baltimore hit a season-high seven long balls in a win over Boston.

Pedro Alvarez and Francisco Pena also connected for the Orioles, who earned a split of the four-game series between the top two teams in the AL East.

Indians 5, Royals 4: Mike Napoli's sacrifice fly scored Francisco Lindor with the winning run to cap a two-run ninth inning and lift host Cleveland.

The Indians rallied against Joakim Soria (2-2), filling in as closer for Wade Davis, who had pitched three of the last four days. Lindor's triple tied the game before Napoli scored the game winner.

Brewers 4, Phillies 1: Chris Carter and Jonathan Villar homered, Chase Anderson pitched effectively into the sixth inning and visiting Milwaukee beat reeling Philadelphia.

Anderson (3-6) allowed one run and three hits, striking out six in 5 2/3 innings to help the Brewers win their eighth straight game in Philadelphia.

Reds 11, Rockies 4: Eugenio Suarez homered twice in a game for the first time in his career and Alfredo Simon pitched seven strong innings for his first win in nearly a month to lead visiting Cincinnati over Colorado.

Zack Cozart and Adam Duvall also homered for the Reds, who almost doubled their total of road wins this season (now seven) by taking three of four in the series. Jay Bruce tripled and doubled to drive in a pair of runs for Cincinnati.