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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Female admiral leads joint unit in Italy

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Adm. Michelle Howard took the reins of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa and NATO Allied Force Joint Command here Tuesday, becoming the first woman and black to assume command of the joint billet.

The four-star Navy command covers maritime operations in Europe and most of Africa. The NATO command, one of two operational headquarters in the alliance, with the Netherlands' JFC Brunssum, is responsible

for planning and executing NATO missions. It has operational command of the NATO mission in Kosovo, known as KFOR.

Howard takes command as the U.S. and NATO work to counter a more assertive Russian military and as both wade deeper into the migration crisis in the Mediterranean. She recently finished serving as vice chief of naval operations and has relieved Adm. Mark Ferguson, who is retiring. Ferguson's tenure coincided with Russia's expanded naval operations in the North Atlantic and Mediterra-

nean, deployments the Navy has met with heightened operations of its own submarines, ships and maritime patrol aircraft.

The Navy is preparing to deepen involvement in Europe's migration crisis. It will deploy a vessel to the Aegean Sea in several weeks, joining a NATO mission to help Greece and Turkey stop smugglers between the two countries.

Ferguson reflected on the Navy's June activities, which will see the operation of two U.S. aircraft carriers in Europe — the USS Harry S. Truman and USS Dwight D. Eisenhower — and

a major Navy-led multinational exercise in the Baltic Sea.

"The range of operations in these two commands is breathtaking, and the level of forces we will see in this theater this month reflect the U.S. commitment to European security," he said.

Howard thanked the staffs of both commands.

"I pledge to lead you with the strength, resolve and readiness that you have demonstrated in the past," she said.

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7th Fleet commander: Alcohol ban likely to remain

BY ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The ban on nonessential trips off-base will likely end soon, but rules forbidding alcoholic drinks for sailors in Japan will last longer, 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin said Tuesday.

The Navy announced the restrictions Monday after a "negative trend" of incidents involving alcohol, some of which forced President Barack Obama and other senior officials in recent weeks to divert time from other issues to apologize to Japanese leaders.

The off-base ban will end, Navy officials said, once unit command officials finish remedial training, focusing on incident prevention and how bad behavior can upend U.S. strategic moves in the Asia-Pacific region.

Aucoin and Rear Adm. Matthew Carter, commander of Naval Forces Japan, held an all-hands meeting with sailors Tuesday to discuss the issue.

"I'd like to lift this fairly soon, once I'm confident everyone that's connected with the Navy understands what the ground rules are, and hopefully behaves accordingly," Aucoin told Stars and Stripes after the all-hands call. "And if they don't, they understand the consequences of that. That is why we're doing the remediation ... some of us aren't getting it."

At the all-hands, Aucoin cited several recent examples of arrests to sailors, some of which have garnered national Japanese media coverage and required public apologies. They include a 7 a.m. fight at a Tokyo massage parlor, which resulted in the arrest of an officer's spouse; a DUI arrest where a sailor crashed into a taxi near Sasebo Naval Base; and a sexual assault of a Japanese woman on Okinawa, where the sailor has pleaded guilty.

On Saturday night, Petty Officer 2nd Class Aimee Mejia drove the wrong way down a highway, crashing into two vehicles and injuring local residents. Mejia remains in Japanese custody.

All of the recent incidents involved alcohol, Aucoin noted.

"The alcohol [ban], that one is going to be longer," Aucoin said. "Collectively, our leadership needs to look at it."

A liberty card program — where sailors are issued cards that define their off-base privileges — is a possibility, as is a mandatory buddy system when drinking, Aucoin said.

Aucoin and Carter emphasized that the restrictions aren't meant as a punishment.

However, some sailors at an all-hands meeting of senior enlisted sailors and officers told the admirals that it felt that way, during an hourlong question-and-answer session.

A chief petty officer said he understood the intent of the restrictions, which bans sailors from drinking anywhere, including in their own homes. He then railed against lenient treatment of the small percentage of sailors who break laws.

Both admirals called for civilians and sailors to take preventive measures when they see potential trouble. However, a

chief warrant officer said many sailors don't get involved, because too often they get rounded up with troublemakers if they try to break up an incident at a bar.

Japanese officials have taken a cautious approach to the Navy's recent restrictions.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters Tuesday that he hopes the Navy's focus on recent incidents would change recent trends.

"We will closely watch these efforts by the U.S.," Kishida said.

U.S.-Japan relations have been strained recently — particularly on Okinawa — following a series of crimes involving Americans with ties to the U.S. military. Even though U.S. crime rates on the island are near all-time lows, each incident seems to set off protests by those who want to see a smaller U.S. military presence there.

A large island-wide protest is planned for June 19.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.
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Jury: Death sentence for 'Grim Sleeper'

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A serial killer known as the "Grim Sleeper" should be sentenced to death for murdering nine women and a teenage girl over more than two decades in South Los Angeles, a jury decided Monday.

Lonnie Franklin Jr. stared straight ahead and showed no emotion as a court clerk read 10 death penalty verdicts.

Family members of the victims cried as the verdicts were read. One rocked back and forth, while another whispered to himself, "Thank you."

"We got what we came to get, a just verdict," said Porter Alexander, the father of victim Alicia Alexander, 18. "I'm glad I lived to see it. It's a long time coming."

Franklin, 63, a former city trash collector and garage attendant for the Los Angeles police, was convicted of 10 counts of first-degree murder last month for crimes dating back more than 30 years.

A prosecutor had asked jurors to show Franklin the same compassion he showed his victims and give him the "ultimate penalty."

An emotional defense lawyer asked jurors to sentence him to life without parole to hasten the healing process for the victims' family members.

Franklin's only words during the proceeding Monday were, "Yes, your honor." As he walked into court, family members of the victims whispered, "Dead man walking."

The judge set formal sentencing for Aug. 10.

During the trial, defense lawyers questioned forensic evidence and said DNA from other men was also found on several bodies.

Franklin is unlikely to be executed. Nearly 750 convicted killers sit on California's death row, the largest in the nation.

Vote count is in Clinton's favor

Bloomberg

Hillary Clinton stands on the cusp of history as the first woman to be the presidential nominee of a major U.S. political party, after a drawn-out campaign against Bernie Sanders that exposed her vulnerabilities as a candidate as well as divisions among Democrats.

With Democrats in six states still to make their choices on Tuesday, the Associated Press said that its count shows Clinton had secured the number of pledged delegates and superdelegates required to claim the Democratic nomination. The sudden conclusion of a contest that ran longer than Clinton — or anyone else — anticipated when she started her run will put new pressure on Sanders to end his insurgent campaign.

It also puts a burden on Clinton to find a way to unify her party after a sometimes bitter fight.

Clinton signaled she wouldn't

declare outright victory before voters cast ballots and caucused in California, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota and South Dakota, although her campaign used the AP designation moments after it was released to solicit campaign donations.

"According to the news we are on the brink of an historic, historic, unprecedented moment," Clinton said Monday at a rally in Long Beach, Calif. "But we still have work to do, don't we? We have six elections tomorrow and we're going to fight hard for every single vote, especially right here in California."

Sanders indicated he's still prepared to contest the race through the July nominating convention in the hopes of winning over superdelegates, the more than 700 party officials, members of Congress and others who aren't bound by the results of primaries and caucuses and mostly have rallied to

Clinton.

Clinton, who conceded the Democratic Party's nomination to President Barack Obama exactly eight years ago, had expected to clinch her 2016 bid on Tuesday after adding to her delegate total with victories over the weekend in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. She began Monday 23 delegates shy of the 2,383 she needed. By day's end, the AP's updated survey of superdelegates who hadn't previously announced their allegiance showed she had crossed the threshold.

Clinton, 68, has already engaged the general election battle against presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump, 69. But Sanders' continued fight for the nomination has stirred concerns about whether and how Clinton can bring Sanders' backers into her fold and turn out Democratic voters in battleground states such as Pennsylvania and Ohio in November.

Dual advance on Islamic State hints at joint US-Russia strategy

Associated Press

BEIRUT — A two-pronged advance to capture key urban strongholds of the Islamic State group and its self-styled capital of Raqqa has underlined a quiet convergence of strategy between the U.S. and Russia to defeat the extremists, with Syria's Kurds emerging as the common link.

The dual advance toward Raqqa by the Syrian army from the southwest and the predominantly Kurdish Syria Democratic Forces from the north and west puts further pressure on the militants as they fend off simultaneous attacks on bastions such as Fallujah and, potentially, Mosul in neighboring Iraq.

The Kurdish involvement is proving vital to the interests of Washington and Moscow.

For the U.S., the predominantly Kurdish SDF has proven the most capable actor in northern Syria in defeating the extremist group, a point it made when its predecessor, the Kurdish YPG, held off the militants in Kobani, in 2015. That battle was seen by many as a turning point in the war on the Islamic State group.

For Russia, the SDF advance has drawn Islamic State fighters away from the front with the

Syrian government and allowed the Kremlin's allies in Damascus to advance, showing that Moscow is participating in the battle against the Islamic State group.

While the media has focused on the battles between Iraqi government forces and Islamic State militants in Fallujah, west of Baghdad, the Syrian army on Saturday reached Raqqa province for the first time in almost two years. The Syrian government has had no presence in Raqqa since August 2014, when the Islamic State overran the Tabqa air base and killed scores of government soldiers in a massacre they documented on video. The provincial capital, Raqqa, became the militants' first captive city.

Backed by intense Russian airstrikes, Syrian troops began their advance toward the province Wednesday, the same day that U.S.-backed SDF forces launched an attack on the Islamic State stronghold of Manbij, which lies on a key supply route linking Raqqa with the Turkish border.

"In terms of direct coordination of activities on the ground, that is not happening," Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said. "I know there have been discussions about changing that, but at this point, our position is the same."

Penguins one win from Cup Sharks fail to produce

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Pittsburgh moved within one victory of the NHL's Stanley Cup title by winning 3-1 at San Jose on Monday, with Evgeni Malkin scoring his first goal of the series and goaltender Matt Murray making 23 saves.

The score in the series is the same as the score in Monday's game, 3-1, and the Penguins can clinch their fourth title when they host Game 5 on Thursday.

Malkin had been held pointless in the first three games of the series, but set up Ian Cole's goal to open the scoring, and added a goal of his own on the power play to make it 2-0.

"He's a world-class player," Penguins defenseman Ian Cole said of Malkin. "He's been going through a rough stretch. He's been really contributing in other ways than on the scoresheet. But obviously you saw how good he is today. When he turns it on, obviously what he can do is huge for our team."

Melker Karlsson pulled a goal back for the Sharks, but as they were pushing hard for a tying goal late in the third period, they were caught out by a rapid counter-attack and Eric Fehr sealed the victory.

The Sharks conceded the first goal for the fourth straight game and went more than nine minutes without a shot on goal during the second period.

San Jose has yet to lead at any point in the series other than scoring the overtime winner in Game 3.

"We've been chasing the game the whole series by not scoring first," coach Peter DeBoer said. "That takes you out of your four-line rhythm. It affects all parts of your game. ... That's the biggest thing we have to fix. We have to find a way to get on the board earlier in the game instead of chasing it all night."

The Sharks will now need to win in Pittsburgh to give another home game to their loyal fans who waited 25 years to watch the Stanley Cup Final in the Bay Area. No team has come back from a 3-1 deficit to win the Final since Toronto did it in 1942 against Detroit.

"It's disappointing to lose in front of the home crowd," Sharks center Logan Couture said. "You see them leaving and they're not happy. You feel like you let them down. We hope we're back here, but we have to worry about the next one first."

Malkin was energized from the start, helping setting up the first goal when he caught San Jose on a bad line change and sent Phil Kessel in on a rush. Sharks goalie Martin Jones stopped Kessel's shot, but Cole knocked in the rebound for his first career playoff goal.

Malkin then got his goal when he tapped in a perfect pass from Kessel for Pittsburgh's first power-play goal of the

series.

"I didn't change my game a lot," Malkin said. "I wanted a little bit more to play with the puck."

Murray wasn't tested often early and went nearly the first half of the second period without facing a single shot.

"I'm just trying to have fun through all of this," Murray said. "It's been an absolute blast so far. I'm going to look to keep that same mindset going forward."

The Sharks made a strong late push, and it took a sharp save by Murray to rob Logan Couture of a goal when he was left all alone in the slot after a turnover by Kris Letang, late in the second.

Murray then stopped Patrick Marleau on a breakaway and saved a one-timer by Joe Pavelski early in the third before allowing his first goal. Karlsson beat him on a rebound of Brenden Dillon's point shot with 11:53 to play.

But Murray didn't flinch and again denied Pavelski, keeping the NHL's leading goal scorer this postseason without a point in the Final.

"He's just been great," Crosby said. "You see tonight. They press late. They get one, they keep coming. He gets a big stop on a breakaway, a lot of scrambles there late. He's just showing a lot of poise now, a lot of maturity."

Fehr provided the insurance when he beat Jones on an odd-man rush with 2:02 to play.

Kurt Busch wins postponed Pocono race

Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — Kurt Busch felt like a game show contestant who had to beat the clock to win a prize.

Told his Chevrolet was two laps shy of having enough fuel for the finishing push, Busch did all he could to save, scrimp and stretch over the final five laps to give himself a shot at the win. He coasted, he kept his foot off the gas and he even turned off his engine when he headed into the turns at Pocono Raceway.

"I kept finding ways to think I was saving fuel," he said. "The way the fuel mileage played out, I didn't know if we'd have enough."

With an interim crew chief calling the shots, Busch found enough ways to make his gas last and won the Sprint Cup race Monday, his first victory of the season and a welcome dose of good news for Stewart-Haas Racing.

The 2004 champion, urged by his team to step on it hard for the final lap, somehow made it work on a track with the longest frontstretch in motorsports. There was no pain at the pump: Busch not only had enough fuel left to win, but enough for victory burnouts and a celebratory lap around the track.

"I was like, whoa, how many laps shy are we? They said two," he said. "These are really long straightaways at Pocono and you have to manage saving fuel as well as maintaining lap time. So many thoughts can go through your head, but I just stuck

with the checklist."

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was second, and Brad Keselowski, Chase Elliott, and Joey Logano rounded out the top five in a race postponed one day because of rain.

Busch won with interim crew chief Johnny Klausmeier, the lead engineer, calling the shots as Tony Gibson served a one-race suspension.

"Y'all got this... ?????" Gibson tweeted before the race.

They sure did — a victory that Busch was building toward all season.

He had quietly been having a solid season for SHR, posting four top-five finishes and 11 top 10s in 13 starts entering the race. He had reeled off seven straight top 10s — he graded his season an A-minus — but didn't have the win he needed to earn a spot in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

Busch led 32 laps in winning his 28th career Cup race, moving him into a tie with Hall of Famer Rex White for 25th on NASCAR's career wins list. He also has three wins at Pocono with three different teams. He became the ninth driver to win a race this season.

Without a caution to help conserve fuel, Busch nursed what was left in the tank for the last 30-plus laps of green flag racing to snap a 34-race skid.

Busch and Klausmeier posed arm in arm for a picture in Victory Lane and left just enough space between them to insert a picture of Gibson.

"We just kept him informed on every-

thing that was going on, and he took it and ran with it," Klausmeier said.

Elliott led 51 laps and seemed poised for most of the race to earn his first career win. But the Hendrick Motorsports rookie who replaced Jeff Gordon in the No. 24 Chevy stumbled off late restarts.

"I wish I had been a little more patient and given ourselves a better chance," Elliott said.

It was the first Monday race at Pocono since 2009 and the first postponed Cup race of the season.

Smoke out: Tony Stewart's race ended with 67 laps left when he got loose, came up the track and collided with SHR teammate Danica Patrick. Stewart, who missed the first eight races of the season, finished 34th and remained a long shot at clinching a spot in the top 30 in the points race to qualify for the Chase. Patrick's crew made repairs on pit road and she finished 32nd.

Pit stop mess: Keselowski, the pole sitter, ran into early trouble when he was called back to the pits because of unapproved body modifications on his No. 2 Ford. One of his crew members threw a shoulder block into a side panel, which caused a dent that could have given Keselowski an advantage. Crew members argued with pit officials, to no avail.

NASCAR officials quickly surrounded Keselowski's car after the race.

"It was two NASCAR penalties and I'm not sure I really know what happened there," he said.

Sharks fail to produce

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The Pittsburgh Penguins scored a power-play goal less than three minutes into the second period, opening a two-goal lead. The San Jose Sharks didn't even take their first shot of the period until a little over seven minutes later.

The Sharks' failure to get the puck on the net has them on the brink of elimination from their first-ever appearance in the Stanley Cup Final.

The Penguins regained control of the series with Monday night's 3-1 victory in San Jose, taking a three games to one lead heading into Game 5 in Pittsburgh on Thursday night.

The Sharks outshot and outblocked the Penguins in this one, but were stymied on two power plays while allowing the Penguins to convert on one out of two.

"Got to produce," Sharks captain Joe Pavelski said. "The game needs to be simplified and we have to recognize that. We have to keep putting it to the net."

A hyperactive Penguins defensive effort continued to slow down Pavelski, still the playoff leader with 13 goals, and make things difficult for Logan Couture, Joe Thornton and Brent Burns.

"Something we did in the first three rounds was to jump out early," Pavelski said. "We haven't quite got that yet. Moving forward, scoring first will play a big role in giving us a chance. There's no time for frustration. We have to keep going. The chances are there, we have to find a way."

Pavelski did send five pucks at the net, one more than his total from the first three games combined.

"He's getting chances," Couture said. "The guy has 13 goals in the playoffs. That's pretty ridiculous. It's not easy to score goals. You have to keep believing they'll start going in."

That San Jose foursome tops the playoff points leaders, all with more than 20 points, with a combined six this series. None of them has found the back of the net against Penguins goalie Matt Murray, who turned away 12 shots in the first two periods and 23 total.

The Sharks' power-play ranked third in the NHL during the regular season, and they have 18 man-advantage goals in the playoffs. The Penguins, fifth during the regular season in penalty kill percentage, have shown again and again that a good defense beats a good offense.

"There was tight checking and the refs were letting things go, but make no mistake, they are a good penalty kill team," Couture said. "We need to do a better job of creating shots. We have the extra man, we have to find the guy who's open."

Pavelski and Patrick Marleau had a combined 23 power-play goals during the regular season, but have been unable to create many scoring chances on the rare times they've had a man advantage.



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MMA star Slice dies at 42

Associated Press

Kimbo Slice, the bearded street fighter who parlayed his internet popularity into a mixed martial arts career and worldwide fame, has died. He was 42.

Slice, whose real name was Kevin Ferguson, was taken to a hospital in Margate, Fla., near his home Monday, Coral Springs Police Sgt. Carla Kmiolek said.

Slice's death was confirmed by Mike Imber, his longtime manager.

"We lost our brother today," Imber said in a text message to The Associated Press.

The cause of death was still unclear. Kmiolek said there is no active police investigation, and no foul play is suspected.

Born in the Bahamas and raised in the Miami area, Slice was a strip club bouncer and bodyguard who began competing in unsanctioned street fights in 2003. Videos of his violent knockout victories in those bouts became wildly popular online, both for Slice's raw punching power and his distinctive, intimidating appearance.

After gaining viral internet fame at a time when the phenomenon was still relatively new, Slice studied MMA and eventually competed for several promotions, including the UFC and Bellator, which staged his two most recent fights. While he went only 5-2 and never won a championship belt, the personable Slice became one of MMA's best-known figures, attracting large television audiences and crowds to his growing sport.

Slice's death also was confirmed by Scott Coker, the CEO of Bellator, which

promoted his return to MMA last year after a five-year absence. Slice beat Dhafir "Dada 5000" Harris with a third-round knockout in February at Bellator 149 in Houston, but the result was overturned after Slice tested positive for steroid use.

"We are all shocked and saddened by the devastating and untimely loss of Kimbo Slice," Coker said. "One of the most popular MMA fighters ever, Kimbo was a charismatic, larger-than-life personality that transcended the sport. Outside of the cage he was a friendly, gentle giant and a devoted family man. His loss leaves us all with extremely heavy hearts."

Slice was scheduled to headline the Bellator 158 show in London next month in a bout against James Thompson.

He was the star of the first MMA show broadcast on network television, beating Thompson by third-round knockout in May 2008 on CBS with the defunct EliteXC promotion. With Slice and pioneering featherweight Gina Carano as the top attractions, EliteXC's two CBS shows drew big television ratings and introduced millions of viewers to MMA.

Although Slice never reached the sport's competitive heights, his aura never waned among MMA fans: His bout with Harris four months ago drew the largest television ratings in Bellator's history.

The UFC issued a statement praising Slice, who appeared on a highly rated season of their long-running reality competition show, "The Ultimate Fighter," in 2009. Slice also fought at UFC 113 in Montreal, losing to Matt Mitrione before taking his five-year break from MMA.

"He carried himself as a true professional during his time in our organiza-

tion," the UFC's statement read. "While he will never be forgotten for his fighting style and transcendent image, Slice will also be remembered for his warm personality and commitment to his family and friends."

American Top Team, the prominent South Florida gym where Slice trained for many years, mourned his passing.

"The ATT Family and South Florida community lost a legend today," the team said in a post on its Twitter account.

Slice also had a pro boxing career between stints in the cage, going 7-0 with six knockouts from 2011-13.

For all of his glowering in-cage swagger and outsized fame, Slice was extraordinarily honest about his fighting abilities. He acknowledged being an MMA newcomer with much to learn, never claiming to be anything but a big puncher providing for his family while constantly working to learn the sport's other disciplines.

"The guys who are holding the titles, heavyweight and light heavyweight, these guys are awesome," Slice told the AP in a 2010 interview before his second UFC fight. "I'm really just having happy days in the midst — being among them, fighting on the undercards, just contributing to the UFC and the sport. That's really what I want to do. I'm not looking ahead to winning a title or anything like that. I'm just enjoying each fight as it comes."

Slice is survived by six children, and he credited his MMA career for allowing him to send them to college. One of his three sons, Kevin Ferguson Jr., made his MMA debut in March.

Sooners are 1 win from softball title

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma keeps fighting its way out of trouble.

If the Sooners do it one more time, they'll be softball national champions.

Sydney Romero hit a three-run homer in the third inning and Shay Knighten made a critical defensive play in the seventh, leading Oklahoma to a 3-2 victory on Monday night over Auburn in Game 1 of the best-of-three championship series.

Oklahoma (56-7), which won national titles in 2000 and 2013, extended its school-record winning streak to 31 games.

Game 2 is Tuesday night.

Auburn's Jade Rhodes hit a two-run homer in the top of the seventh to cut Oklahoma's lead to 3-2. With one out and runners on second and third, Auburn's Courtney Shea sent a hard shot down the first-base line, but Knighten threw out pinch runner Casey McCrackin at home.

"I don't know why, but I had a feeling that the ball was going to be hit to the right side, and I knew how they swing, it was going to be hit hard," Knighten said.

"So I just knew if I keep my body in front of it, knock it down, I'll have a play somewhere. I just took it off the chin, and I saw her running, so I just tried to get it as quick as I could but make an accurate throw to Lea (Wodach, the catcher), and she stuck it."

Oklahoma pitcher Paige Parker then forced Tiffany Howard to pop out to end the game.

It was similar to Oklahoma's finish Saturday against Michigan. The Wolverines had trimmed Oklahoma's lead to 7-5 and had the bases loaded with two outs before Parker got a grounder to end the game.

Oklahoma coach Patty Gasso isn't sure how a team full of freshmen and sophomores keeps getting it done in pressure situations.

"I wish I could bottle it up and keep it because it's pretty incredible," Gasso said. "It's just their spirit of competition and refusing to lose, not wanting to get beat, finding ways to make plays, finding things — finding ways to make things happen in their favor."

Romero sent a pitch from Auburn's Lexi Davis into the seats just left of center field with two outs in the third inning to give the Sooners the cushion they needed.

Even with the trouble Parker got into the final inning, she only threw 91 pitches.

"Very important, but also at the same time, when you get into this game, you can't feel — you cannot feel anything," Gasso said. "You cannot feel pain. You cannot feel tired. You cannot feel sore. You can't. You've got to live off of adrenaline. That's what wins championships. So there are no excuses, anyone, no one."

Auburn had won its previous two World Series games by one run, but couldn't find the magic this time. Davis went the distance and got her first loss of the season.

"There was some talk about why she was pitching, and I think you saw why she pitched," Auburn coach Clint Myers said. "She gave up seven hits. Five never left the infield. If we make a play at first base, we win that ballgame. She pitched well enough to win, we just didn't support her defensively or offensively."

Auburn lost its first game to Arizona in the Super Regionals before winning the next two to qualify for the world series.

"It's not over," Auburn's Emily Carosone said. "The season is not over yet. We still have a game to play with and two more to win. We know what we need to do. They have one pitcher, and in the last inning you could see we were on her."

O's rally with 3 homers, beat KC

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Orioles' latest comeback victory featured an intriguing subplot involving a rookie who made the most of his second chance.

Mark Trumbo and Matt Wieters hit solo homers in the seventh inning to back a sparkling pitching performance by Mike Wright, and the Orioles beat Kansas City 4-1 Monday night to extend the Royals' losing streak to five games.

Manny Machado also homered for the Orioles, who have won five of six — all in come-from-behind fashion.

Wright (3-3) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings, striking out four and walking two. Just five days earlier, the right-hander gave up four home runs in 2²/₃ innings against Boston and was optioned to the minor leagues less than 24 hours later. But he was recalled the next day when reliever Darren O'Day was placed on the disabled list.

The 6-foot-6 Wright was inserted back into the rotation for this game. Given a "do-over" — as manager Buck Showalter labeled it — he shut down the defending World Series champions over seven gritty innings.

"He came out here with a vengeance," Machado said.

Wright said: "When you get sent down and recalled the next day, I mean, you've got to come out and perform. So I definitely had a little more focus and, like he said, a vengeance."

Wright and Kansas City left-hander Danny Duffy were locked in a scoreless duel until the Royals pushed across an unearned run in the seventh.

Trumbo led off the bottom half with his

19th home run, and Wieters connected with one out to chase Duffy (1-1). Adam Jones capped the uprising with an RBI double.

And so, as they did twice against Boston and two times against the Yankees within the span of a week, the Orioles turned a deficit into a victory.

"Everybody contributes and everybody steps it up," second baseman Jonathan Schoop said.

Machado homered off Kelvin Herrera in the eighth after striking out three times against Duffy.

Yankees 5, Angels 2: Ideally, Carlos Beltran says, the New York Yankees want to string good at-bats and bunch together some runs.

"The plan isn't to go out and hit homers. It's a terrible plan," he said, adding, "but tonight it worked out for us."

Beltran hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning after Brian McCann and Starlin Castro launched back-to-back shots in the seventh, rallying host New York.

The Yankees returned from a 4-6 road trip by beating the Angels for the sixth straight time at home.

Turned around to the right side, the switch-hitting Beltran went the opposite way for his team-leading 14th homer.

Cubs 6, Phillies 4: Jon Lester pitched eight scoreless innings, Jason Heyward hit a two-run homer and visiting Chicago held off Philadelphia.

Lester (7-3) improved to 6-0 in eight career starts against the Phillies while lowering his ERA against them to 1.46. He struck out nine, walked none and allowed four hits.

Tigers 11, Blue Jays 0: Michael Fulmer

allowed two singles over six innings in another outstanding performance, and Justin Upton and James McCann homered to lift host Detroit over Toronto.

Fulmer (6-1) has won four consecutive starts. The rookie struck out five and walked three in his third straight without allowing a run. Detroit has won four in a row.

Rangers 6, Astros 5: Rougned Odor hit a game-ending double to lift host Texas over Houston.

Odor, who also homered and had a sacrifice fly, drove in the winning run with an opposite-field shot that ricocheted off the left-field wall and past Colby Rasmus. Adrian Beltre scored from first base after reaching on a fielder's choice.

Rays 6, Diamondbacks 4: Desmond Jennings had three hits, including a home run, and Tim Beckham also went deep to power visiting Tampa Bay.

Chris Archer (4-7) struck out 12 over six innings for the Rays, who have won four straight.

Indians 3, Mariners 1: Trevor Bauer pitched 7¹/₃ strong innings and Rajai Davis homered to lead Cleveland over Seattle for its sixth straight victory.

It's the longest winning streak for the Indians since Aug. 25-31.

Padres 7, Braves 2: Yangervis Solarte hit a three-run homer and Matt Kemp drove in two runs as host San Diego beat Atlanta in a matchup of last-place teams.

The Braves lost their fifth straight game and dropped to 16-41, worst in the majors. The Padres improved to 24-35.

Rockies 6, Dodgers 1: Tyler Chatwood pitched eight strong innings, Trevor Story and Gerardo Parra homered, and Colorado held host Los Angeles to one hit.