

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Carter urges changes to promotion system

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military must modernize its antiquated officer promotion system to give leadership greater flexibility to retain top performers, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Thursday as he unveiled his most groundbreaking proposals to the Pentagon's personnel policies to date.

Carter, surrounded by all four service chiefs and the three civilian service secretaries in the Pentagon's courtyard Thursday, announced four proposed amendments to the long-standing law that strictly governs military officer promotions.

The proposals would relax time-in-rank restrictions that

officers face, weigh promotions more heavily on merit than seniority, allow civilian experts in some specialized fields to commission at an advanced grade, and end the long-standing "up-or-out" promotion system for some officers serving in high-tech or in-demand specialties.

The proposals to amend the 1980 Defense Officer Personnel Management Act, or DOPMA, would require approval from Congress.

After announcing the new proposals Thursday, Carter told Stars and Stripes that he saw no reason the plan should be nixed by lawmakers and that it should be included in the upcoming defense authorization bill.

The plans revealed Thursday would allow officers more

time at a rank if they have not completed all the requirements for promotion, such as needed education. In the past, those officers likely would have been separated from the service.

It also proposes expanding specialties, allowing civilian experts to commission as an officer at a higher rank than a second lieutenant or ensign. That will permit the service to compete with the private sector.

Some specialties, such as doctors, already allow for this, but Carter wants to see it expanded to other areas including in the cyber domain.

Those changes, Carter said, would likely never exist for front-line combat officers, who can achieve the expertise to move forward only in leadership

roles through military service.

He said he has leaned heavily on senior military leaders including the uniformed service chiefs to shape his "Force of the Future" goals.

"I trusted them to give me their best recommendations, which these are," Carter said. "And then I trust them to implement them, because the essence is to give them latitude, not to set rules, but to create flexibility where the existing rules are too narrow and too rigid."

The Pentagon will continue to seek other changes under Carter's leadership, he said, but those announced to date largely cover his vision when he first took office.

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## Admiral to plead guilty in bribery scandal

*The Washington Post*

A one-star Navy admiral was expected to plead guilty Thursday to lying to federal investigators about the "Fat Leonard" corruption scandal, his attorney said, which would make him the highest-ranking officer so far to be convicted in the case.

Rear Adm. Robert Gilbeau, a special assistant to the chief of the Navy Supply Corps, was scheduled to appear in U.S. District Court in San Diego late Thursday afternoon, court records show. He will plead guilty to one count of making a false statement to investigators, said David Benowitz, his defense attorney.

In the modern history of the Navy, only a handful of admirals have faced criminal prosecution. Just one admiral has been court-martialed since the end of World War II. A few others have been charged with crimes by

civilian authorities shortly after they retired from the service.

Several individuals familiar with the investigation told the Post last month that Gilbeau was under scrutiny by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service for his ties to Leonard Glenn Francis, a Singapore-based defense contractor who pleaded guilty last year to bribing scores of Navy officials.

Gilbeau, 55, came to know Francis — known in maritime circles as "Fat Leonard" for his girth — during several deployments to Asia and was also under investigation for his relationships with other contractors when he served in Afghanistan in 2012 and 2013, according to the individuals familiar with the investigation.

Gilbeau departed Afghanistan shortly after Francis, 51, was arrested in an international sting operation in San Diego

in September 2013.

Francis has since admitted to bribing Navy officials with cash, sex and gifts worth millions of dollars so he could win more defense contracts. His company, Glenn Defense Marine Asia, provided critical support for the Navy's 7th Fleet for a quarter-century by resupplying and refueling submarines and ships in ports throughout Asia.

The investigation has become perhaps the biggest corruption scandal to strike the Navy. A federal prosecutor said last year that 200 individuals were under investigation. Of those, about 30 are admirals.

Including Gilbeau, 14 people have been charged so far in federal court; all but one have pleaded guilty. In addition, a former Navy contracting official has been charged with corruption by Singapore authorities.

Gilbeau, a 1983 graduate of

the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his service in Iraq in 2007.

In a statement, Adm. John Richardson, chief of naval operations, said Gilbeau's "behavior is inconsistent with our standards and the expectations the nation has for us as military professionals. It damages the trust that the nation places in us, and is an embarrassment to the Navy."

He said the Navy is fully cooperating with the Justice Department. But in strongly worded comments, he also indicated that the Navy's leaders needed to do more to police themselves.

"We must go further," he added. "We must hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards of behavior, and work tirelessly to restore any damage that has been done to these crucial relationships."

## Eisenhower strike group enters Mediterranean

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — The USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group moved into the Mediterranean Sea on Wednesday, marking a rare display of high-powered Navy force as two aircraft carrier groups simultaneously patrol European waters.

The arrival of the Eisenhower, which comes on the heels of last week's entrance of the USS Truman Strike Carrier Group in the Mediterranean, adds additional combat options in the fight against the Islamic State group, U.S. European Command said. The deployment also delivers a message of U.S. commitment to Europe, where a new security environment has sparked a series of enhanced U.S. military efforts to signal a message of deterrence to a more assertive Russia.

"The presence of two carrier strike groups in the Mediterranean Sea demonstrates our commitment to safety and security in the region," Lt. Col. Dave Westover, a EUCOM spokesman, said in a statement.

"These forces further serve to support European allies and partners, deter potential threats and are capable of conducting operations in support of the counter-ISIL mission," he said, using an acronym for the Islamic State group.

On Friday, the Truman group entered the Mediterranean and

began conducting airstrikes against the Islamic State group, which is entrenched in Syria and Iraq. The deployment of carriers in the eastern Mediterranean puts Naval assets in closer proximity to Islamic State strongholds in Syria.

While it remains unclear whether the Eisenhower will join that fight, the deployment will serve as a showcase of the Navy combat reach as part of the service's "Green Fleet Initiative," EUCOM said.

"This initiative emphasizes the use of energy conservation measures as a key combat enabler to allow ships to go farther, stay longer and deliver more firepower," EUCOM said.

Green Fleet operations in Europe will involve a multi-day passing exercise with units from Italy and will showcase energy-conservation operations. In addition, the mission will involve a refueling at sea during which an Italian oiler will refuel the strike group ships with advanced alternative fuel, EUCOM said.

The deployment of the Eisenhower comes amid a surge of military activity in Europe, including large-scale exercises such as BALTOPS in the Baltics and Anakonda 16 in Poland. More than 30,000 U.S. and other western troops are deployed to Anakonda 16 in one of the largest troop movements in Europe since the end of the Cold War.

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## US aircraft assists UK navy in drug seizure

MANAMA, Bahrain — The British navy seized more than a ton of high-grade hashish off the south coast of Oman on Tuesday, the Royal Navy said in a release.

A U.S. P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft assisted in the seizure by helping the British destroyer HMS Defender identify the suspect vessel from among fishing and other

vessels, a Combined Maritime Forces release said.

A boarding team searched the dhow and found 51 bales of hashish, each weighing 44 pounds. The value is estimated to have a street value in Western Europe of about \$8.1 million.

The Defender was participating in counternarcotics and counterterrorist operations for the Combined Maritime Forces.

From staff reports

## Ex-detainees linked to attacks on Americans

*The Washington Post*

President Barack Obama's administration believes that about 12 detainees released from the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have launched attacks against U.S. or allied forces in Afghanistan, killing about a half-dozen Americans, according to current and former U.S. officials.

In March, a senior Pentagon official made a startling admission to lawmakers when he acknowledged that former Guantanamo inmates were responsible for the deaths of Americans overseas.

The official, Paul Lewis, who oversees Guantanamo issues at the Defense Department, provided no details, and the Obama administration has since declined to elaborate publicly on his statement because the intelligence behind it is classified.

Lewis' statement had drawn

scrutiny on Capitol Hill, where some lawmakers see the violence against Americans as further evidence that the president's plans for closing the prison are misguided and dangerous. They also describe the administration's unwillingness to release information about the attacks as another instance of its use of high levels of classification to avoid discussion of a politically charged issue that could heighten opposition to its plans.

One U.S. official familiar with the intelligence said that nine of the detainees suspected in the attacks are now dead or in foreign government custody. The official would not specify the exact number of detainees involved but said it was fewer than 15. All of them were released from Guantanamo Bay under the administration of George W. Bush.

## Police urge murder, rape charges in Okinawa case

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Police on Thursday recommended a murder charge for a U.S. base contractor who they say went cruising in his car to look for a total stranger to attack and killed a 20-year-old Okinawan woman making her nightly walk.

Kenneth Franklin Gadson, a former Marine who works at Kadena Air Base, has been held since May 19 on suspicion of illegally disposing of Rina Shimabukuro's body. Prosecutors on Thursday made that charge official, and police recommended additional charges of murder and rape resulting in death.

The moves appear to be aimed at keeping Gadson in custody for another 20 days, in

line with Japanese legal procedures, while they continue to investigate the case that has inflamed anti-U.S. military sentiment on Okinawa, led to tightened alcohol and liberty restrictions for U.S. troops and tainted President Barack Obama's recent visit to Japan.

Police told a news conference that Gadson, armed with a stick and a knife, struck the victim "with murderous intent" on the head from behind just before midnight on April 29, pulled her into bushes, then strangled and stabbed her while attempting to rape her. She died before he could finish the sexual assault, the report says.

Kenryo Tomari, chief of the police Crime Investigations department, called the attack "premeditated."



# James, Cavs cut Warriors' Finals lead

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Crawling on the floor after a loose ball, LeBron James gathered himself and quickly got to his feet. He stood tall, and so did the Cavaliers. James had 32 points and 11 rebounds and Kyrie Irving added 30 points as Cleveland, pushed for 48 minutes by a delirious, championship-starved crowd, beat the Golden State Warriors 120-90 in Game 3 on Wednesday night to pull within 2-1 in the NBA Finals.

On their home floor, where they have been dominant all postseason, the Cavs yanked their season back from the brink following back-to-back blowout losses in the Bay Area.

The Cavs did it without starting forward Kevin Love, with little help from their bench and by keeping Stephen Curry penned in.

The league's MVP was mostly MIA, scoring 19 points — two in the first half — on 6-for-13 shooting. Harrison Barnes scored 18 and Klay Thompson 10 for the Warriors, who had won seven straight over Cleveland — the first two Finals games by a combined 48 points — and came back to the birthplace of rock and roll looking to party like they did after winning the title in Quicken Loans Arena last year.

The Cavs, though, have made this a competitive series after it appeared the Warriors were on the fast track to another crown.

"We've got to give the same effort on Friday," James said. "It started defensively and it trickled down to the offensive side."

The Warriors didn't look anything like the team that won a record 73 games during the regular season or the one that overcame a 3-1 deficit in the Western

Conference finals.

"We were soft," said coach Steve Kerr. "When you're soft, you get beat on the glass and turn the ball over."

Curry didn't offer any excuses.

"I've got to play 100 times better than this," he said, dismissing any notion he's slowed by injuries. "I'm fine. Not the way we wanted the night to go."

Irving bounced back from two rough games out West, J.R. Smith made five three-pointers and Tristan Thompson did the dirty work inside, getting 13 rebounds for the Cavs, who improved to 8-0 at home and can level the series with a win in Game 4 on Friday night.

The Cavs hardly missed Love, still suffering from a concussion sustained in Game 2. He wanted to play, but is still in the NBA's concussion protocol and has not yet been cleared to return by league and team doctors.

Coach Tyronn Lue started veteran Richard Jefferson and moved James into Love's power forward spot, giving the Cavs a smaller lineup better equipped to run with the Warriors.

The 35-year-old Jefferson gave the Cavs a huge boost in 33 minutes, scoring nine points with eight rebounds.

Leading by eight at halftime, Cleveland took control in the third quarter when James and Irving combined on a play that symbolized the Cavs' resurrection.

Scrambling on his hands and knees after a loose ball near midcourt, James got to his feet and whipped a pass to Irving on the left side. Irving returned a lob to James, who leaped high and flushed it with his right hand, a basket that seemed to erase all that went wrong for the Cavs in California.

## Exaggerator 9-5 Belmont favorite

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The post position worked out well for Hall of Fame jockey Kent Desormeaux, leaving him hopeful for a clear path to sweep to victory aboard Exaggerator in the Belmont Stakes on Saturday.

Exaggerator, the Preakness winner, drew an outside No. 11 post in a 13-horse field on Wednesday and was made the 9-5 morning-line favorite for the final leg of the Triple Crown, a 1½-mile lap around cavernous Belmont Park.

"It's a wonderful, wonderful position," Desormeaux said. "I can't see any horse that would cross over on him. I'd like to establish position preferably without him getting a grain of sand in his face."

And if that happens, and "if I could have a dream run ... I dream him forwardly placed and just being able, dreamingly, to decide when to pull the trigger."

In the Preakness, Exaggerator stormed into the lead at the head of stretch and splashed his way to a 3½-length win, handing Kentucky Derby winner Nyquist the first loss of his career.

With no Triple Crown on the line and Nyquist sitting out the Belmont after recently recovering from a fever, there's little buzz surrounding the race. That doesn't bother Desormeaux, or his brother, Keith, Exaggerator's trainer.

"I'm truly very excited for Exaggerator, more thrilled that I'm here with my brother Keith," Kent said. "I just hope the story continues and we write another chapter."

Challengers are lined up, with four trainers who have two horses each in the field: Todd Pletcher, Dale Romans, Steve Asmussen and Dallas Stewart.

Pletcher could be the most formidable foe with 5-1 second choice Stradivari and 6-1 third-choice Destin. Romans will send out Preakness runner-up Cherry Wine (8-1) and Derby also-ran Brody's Cause (20-1), winner of the Blue Grass Stakes. Asmussen trains 10-1 shot Creator and last-minute entry Gettysburg, a 30-1 long shot likely to set the pace in a field loaded with closers. Stewart has a pair of 30-1 long shots in Forever d'Oro and Seeking the Soul.

"I think it's a wide open field and I think Exaggerator is a deserving favorite," two-time Belmont winner Pletcher said, adding that his two colts have "both shown that on their days they're capable of running with the best of this crop."

1. GOVERNOR MALIBU (Christophe Clement, Joel Rosario): Peter Pan runner-up should not be forgotten ... Colt has finished in top 3 in all seven starts ... Odds: 12-1.

2. DESTIN (Todd Pletcher, Javier Castellano): A respectable sixth in Derby, skipped Preakness ... One of few who could be near lead early on if top rider Castellano chooses ... Pletcher seeking third Belmont win. ... Odds: 6-1.

3. CHERRY WINE (Dale Romans, Corey Lanerie): Made impressive stretch run to nip Derby winner Nyquist for second in Preakness ... Odds: 8-1.

4. SUDDENBREAKINGNEWS (Donnie Von Hemel, Mike Smith): Could be on verge of breakthrough win ... Trainer believes longer distance is asset for closer who ran fifth in the 1 1/4-mile Derby, and second in the 1 1/8-mile Arkansas Derby ... Odds: 10-1.

5. STRADIVARI (Todd Pletcher, John Velazquez): Rugged start in Preakness in stakes debut, but otherwise ran well in finishing fourth ... Could be an early pacesetter, and dictate strategy ... Odds: 5-1.

6. GETTYSBURG (Steve Asmussen, Paco Lopez): Speedy colt was late entry by WinStar Farm to help pick up early slow pace that could work against closers such as Creator and Exaggerator. ... Entry should ensure quicker pace in 1 (-mile race, but little chance to win ... Odds: 30-1.

7. SEEKING THE SOUL (Dallas Stewart, Florent Geroux): With this maiden winner owner Charles Fipke searching for diamond in rough ... Odds: 30-1.

8. FOREVER D'ORO (Dallas Stewart, Jose Ortiz): Broke maiden in third career start at Belmont on May 29 ... If nothing else, there's distance pedigree that could be on his side ... Odds: 30-1.

9. TROJAN NATION (Paddy Gallagher, Aaron Gryder): Why not? Despite finishing nearly 27 lengths behind Nyquist in Derby, he did finish second in Wood at odds of 81-1 ... Next win would be his first ... Odds: 30-1.

10. LANI (Mikio Matsunaga, Yutaka Take): 11th in Derby, sixth in Preakness, is there a top 3 finish for colt before heading back to Japan? ... Trainer says colt is as relaxed and training as well as possible at Belmont ... Odds: 20-1.

11. EXAGGERATOR (Keith Desormeaux, Kent Desormeaux): Won Preakness with strong stretch run in the slop after running second to Nyquist in Derby ... Wet track would be an advantage ... Odds: 9-5.

12. BRODY'S CAUSE (Dale Romans, Luis Saez): If slow pace develops, look for come-from-behind colt to be closer to lead than usual ... beat Exaggerator in Breeders' Futurity last year ... Odds: 20-1.

13. CREATOR (Steve Asmussen, Irad Ortiz, Jr.): Jockey change to one of nation's top riders also familiar with Belmont could help. ... Yet another closer who could make this finish an interesting one... Odds: 10-1.

## Nadal out of Wimbledon

Associated Press

LONDON — Rafael Nadal pulled out of Wimbledon on Thursday, citing the left wrist injury that forced him out of the French Open.

The two-time Wimbledon champion said on his Facebook page that he made the decision after consulting with his doctor and receiving his latest medical results.

"I won't be able to play at Wimbledon this year," the fourth-ranked Spaniard said. "As you can all imagine, it's a very tough decision, but the injury I suffered at Roland Garros needs time to heal."

Nadal had already pulled out of next week's Wimbledon grass-court warm-up at Queen's Club. Wimbledon, the third Grand Slam tournament of the year, starts on June 27.

Nadal's spokesman, Benito Perez-Barbadillo, said the player's wrist will be in a cast for another two weeks. After that, Nadal will begin anti-inflammatory treatments and physiotherapy.

Wearing a brace on his wrist, Nadal pulled out of the French Open before his third-round match in Paris. He said then that he expected to be ready for Wimbledon.

Nadal, winner of 14 Grand Slam titles, won Wimbledon in 2008 and 2010. He was unable to defend his title in 2009 after withdrawing with a knee injury. He was runner-up in 2006, 2007 and 2011.

Nadal has only once made it as far as the fourth round since 2011, including a first-round loss in 2013, along with second-round exits in 2012 and last year.

It's unclear whether Nadal will be able to play at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in August. He has been chosen as Spain's flag carrier for the opening ceremony. Nadal missed the 2012 London Olympics because of an injury.

The Wimbledon referee's office confirmed Nadal's withdrawal. He will be replaced in the main draw by another Spaniard, Albert Montanes.

Wimbledon also announced withdrawals of Spain's Tommy Robredo (elbow) and Australia's Thanasi Kokkinakis (shoulder). They will be replaced by Portugal's Gastao Elias and Facundo Bagnis of Argentina.



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# Astros finally beat Rangers on 9th try

*The Associated Press*

ARLINGTON, Texas — Jose Altuve called his tiebreaking two-run double lucky and Houston Astros manager A.J. Hinch used the term crazy when describing all the games against their instate AL West rival.

Colby Rasmus talked about a sigh of relief after the Astros finally got a win this season over the Texas Rangers — in their ninth try.

Altuve had the game-winning hit on a hard chopper past third base and down the left-field line in the seventh inning and Houston won another game started by Doug Fister, 3-1 on Wednesday night in a game from which Rangers starter Yu Darvish made an early exit.

"It feels good. It can give some momentum to keep winning games against them," Altuve said.

"These games here, they're crazy. Obviously, we know it can be done now in this ballpark," Hinch said. "So, it's a good win for us. A lot of guys did well, from the first hitter all the way to Will Harris at the end closing the door. It was a good team win. ... But there's no reason to celebrate unless we can start to back it up a little bit more. Certainly, it's such a relief to get a win after a couple of tough losses."

The Rangers said Darvish's early exit with the game tied 1-1 was a precaution and that an examination by team physician Dr. Keith Meister revealed no issues.

Houston had been 0-8 this season against the Rangers, and had lost 12 straight in Arlington — matching the club record for most consecutive losses in an opposing ballpark. That changed after Altuve's double off Tom Wilhelmsen (2-3).

**Mets 6, Pirates 5 (10):** Pinch-hitter Wilmer Flores' bloop single with the bases loaded in the 10th inning drove in the go-ahead run for visiting New York.

Yoenis Cespedes and Neil Walker opened the 10th with consecutive singles off Cory Luebke (0-1), and James Loney sacrificed. Asdrubal Cabrera was intentionally walked, and Flores hit a flare into center field.

Addison Reed (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings, and Jeurys Familia pitching a shaky ninth to convert his 35th straight save chance, including 19 this season. He walked three batters around Sean Rodriguez's double-play grounder, then threw a called third strike past David Freese to end the game with runners at the corners.

Cespedes had three hits, and Michael Conforto drove in three runs.

**Mariners 5, Indians 0:** Taijuan Walker returned to his early season form by throwing eight innings and tying a career high with 11 strikeouts, and Chris Iannetta provided the offense with two home runs in host Seattle's victory over

Cleveland.

Walker (3-6) was dominant, allowing three hits and winning for the first time since April 25.

Iannetta hit a two-run homer in the third inning, added a solo shot in the fifth off Cleveland starter Carlos Carrasco (2-1) and had an RBI double in the seventh.

**Orioles 4, Royals 0:** Chris Tillman pitched effectively into the eighth inning to earn his seventh consecutive win, Ryan Flaherty drove in two runs and host Baltimore extended Kansas City's losing streak to seven games.

Tillman (8-1) allowed eight hits over 7 1/3 innings, matched his career high with nine strikeouts and walked none. The right-hander is unbeaten in 10 starts since April 14, 6-0 at home and tied for second in the AL in wins.

Brad Brach got the final five outs to earn his second save and help the Orioles complete their first three-game sweep of Kansas City since May 2011.

The Orioles took control with a four-run fifth inning against Edinson Volquez (5-6).

**Cubs 8, Phillies 1:** John Lackey struck out eight in seven dominant innings, Kris Bryant and Ben Zobrist hit homers and Chicago beat host Philadelphia.

Lackey (7-2) gave up three hits and extended his scoreless streak to 132 1/3 innings.

Phillies starter Vince Velasquez left the game after getting one out because of right biceps soreness. Velasquez threw two pitches and quickly left the mound when a trainer came out.

Brett Oberholtzer (2-1) replaced him and allowed one unearned run following his throwing error in four innings.

**Cardinals 12, Reds 7:** Brandon Moss homered in consecutive at-bats, Matt Adams and Jhonny Peralta added three-run drives and visiting St. Louis rolled over Cincinnati.

Moss broke a 4-4, fifth-inning tie with a two-run drive into the right-field seats, then lined a solo homer that barely cleared the right-field wall in the seventh for his eighth career multihomer game.

Matt Bowman (1-1) got his first major league win by striking out his only batter, Zack Cozart, for the final out of the fifth with the potential tying run on second base.

Alfredo Simon (2-6) walked a season-high five, allowing six runs and seven hits in five innings.

**Yankees 12, Angels 6:** Chris Parmelee homered twice in his first start for the host Yankees, Carlos Beltran added two more big hits to his huge series and New York's bats broke loose late in a victory over Los Angeles.

Jacoby Ellsbury homered and scored three times, Brett Gardner had three hits and two RBIs, and the Yankees extended

their home winning streak against the Angels to eight games. New York, which has won 15 of the past 20 meetings overall, will go for a four-game sweep Thursday night.

Mike Trout and Albert Pujols smacked consecutive doubles in the fifth to give Los Angeles a 5-4 lead that got away from Jered Weaver (5-5) and an ineffective bullpen.

Anthony Swarzak (1-0) was the winner in his Yankees debut, tossing 1 2/3 scoreless innings in relief of a shaky Nathan Eovaldi.

**Rockies 1, Dodgers 0:** Chris Rusin combined with four relievers on a four-hitter as Colorado beat host Los Angeles in the rubber match of their three-game series.

Rusin (2-4) allowed three hits in six innings for his first win since April 13.

Jake McGee pitched a perfect ninth for his 15th save.

Kenta Maeda (5-4) took the loss for the Dodgers despite a career-high nine strikeouts in 6 2/3 innings.

**Blue Jays 7, Tigers 2:** Josh Donaldson had three hits, including a three-run homer and a triple, and R.A. Dickey won consecutive starts for the first time since last summer, helping Toronto beat host Detroit to avoid a three-game sweep.

Justin Smoak hit a two-run homer and Kevin Pillar added a two-run triple as Toronto stopped Detroit's five-game winning streak.

Dickey (4-6) allowed two runs and nine hits in 5 1/3 innings. Combined with Friday's victory at Boston, he won back-to-back outings for the first time since Aug. 28 against Detroit and Sept. 2 versus Cleveland.

Jordan Zimmermann (8-3) gave up seven runs and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings — including two triples and two homers.

**Rays 6, Diamondbacks 3:** Corey Dickerson homered twice and Tampa Bay completed a 10-game trip with a victory over host Arizona.

Desmond Jennings also homered for the Rays. Rickie Weeks Jr. hit a home run for the Diamondbacks.

Jake Odorizzi (3-3) went five innings and got the victory, thanks to a two-run Tampa Bay sixth that put the Rays up 4-3.

Archie Bradley (2-2) allowed four runs and five hits in 5 2/3 innings.

**Brewers 4, Athletics 0:** Chase Anderson pitched 6 2/3 strong innings, Scooter Gennett drove in three runs and host Milwaukee beat Oakland.

Anderson (4-6) improved to 3-1 with a 2.03 ERA in his last five starts,

Gennett keyed the offense off Jesse Hahn (2-4) with a run-scoring single in the first and a two-run base hit in the fourth.

**Twins 7, Marlins 5:** Trevor Plouffe hit a two-run homer and drove in the go-ahead run with a double off the right-field wall

to help host Minnesota keep up its power binge.

Taylor Rogers (2-0) pitched one inning, and six relievers combined for 31 1/3 scoreless innings. Brandon Kintzler earned his first career save in place of struggling closer Kevin Jepsen.

Ichiro Suzuki had three hits for Miami to come within 29 of 3,000 for his major league career.

Nick Wittgren (1-1) gave up two runs on four hits in 11 1/3 innings.

**Braves 4, Padres 2:** Ender Inciarte finished a home run shy of the cycle and scored twice, Julio Teheran pitched eight innings and had an RBI single, and Atlanta beat host San Diego to stop a six-game losing streak.

Wil Myers homered twice for the Padres, last in the NL West at 25-36. Teheran (2-6) allowed two runs and five hits, struck out eight and walked one. Arodys Vizcaino pitched the ninth for his seventh save in nine chances.

Drew Pomeranz (5-6) allowed three runs and nine hits in five innings, struck out six and walked one.

**Giants 2, Red Sox 1:** Mac Williamson hit a go-ahead home run leading off the eighth inning for his first career long ball, Brandon Belt also connected and host San Francisco beat David Price and Boston to split the quick two-game series.

Price (7-3) struck out seven over eight innings, allowing three hits and two runs with two walks.

He and Madison Bumgarner opposed each other in a rare matchup between two of baseball's top left-handers representing each league.

Both surrendered only a home run before Williamson sent the first pitch deep into the bleachers in left field.

Cory Gearrin (2-0) struck out two in a 1-2 1/3 eighth for the win.

**Nationals 11, White Sox 4:** Ryan Zimmerman hit one of three home runs off James Shields in his miserable debut with his new team, Max Scherzer threw seven scoreless innings and visiting Washington routed reeling Chicago.

Zimmerman's two-run shot in a four-run first inning was followed by consecutive shots by Stephen Drew and Danny Espinosa to lead off the second.

Everyone in the Nationals lineup reached base safely at least once in two-plus innings off Shields (2-8), who was booed while giving up seven runs and eight hits three days after being acquired from San Diego.

Instead of jump-starting a club once 23-10, Shields failed to get out of the third inning for the second straight start. The White Sox lost for the 20th time in 26 games to fall under .500.

Scherzer (7-4) allowed five hits for the Nationals, who have scored at least 10 runs in three straight games.

## Oklahoma edges Auburn, wins 3rd national softball title

*Associated Press*

OKLAHOMA CITY — After two losses to start the season, Oklahoma coach Patty Gasso wasn't sure about her team full of freshmen and sophomores.

By the end, those youngsters were in a dogpile in the pitcher's circle with "Boomer Sooner" blaring from the speakers and thousands of crimson-clad fans celebrating.

Sophomore Paige Parker pitched a complete game to help Oklahoma defeat Auburn 2-1 on Wednesday night for its third national softball title.

The Sooners won the championship at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium, about 25 miles from campus, creating a unique scene.

"It was one of the most fantastic feelings that I've ever had in my whole life," Parker said. "Our fans this year have been so vital to all of the things that we've done. They've supported us so much, and to have all of them here and to have all of our families here as well just meant so much to us."

Parker retired the final 12 batters and put the Tigers down in order in the seventh to improve to 5-0 at the Women's College World Series. She was selected

as the most outstanding player.

Gasso was questioned about the decision to rest Parker during Game 2, when Auburn rallied from an early 7-0 deficit to beat the Sooners 11-7 in eight innings. Parker was the winner in Game 1, a 3-2 decision, and Gasso felt it would have been unfair to Parker to start her on Tuesday.

Parker came back refreshed. She threw 107 pitches, struck out five and walked one.

Gasso said Parker told her Wednesday morning that she was at about 75 percent.

"When you add adrenaline in that, you

probably get to 85 to 90 percent, and that would give us a chance to win a championship," Gasso said.

Oklahoma won its first two titles in 2000 and 2013.

Auburn's Emily Carosone, the star of Tuesday's comeback win with a grand slam in the bottom of the eighth, couldn't follow it up. In the bottom of the first, she committed an error on a grounder by Shay Knighten, and Caleigh Clifton scored for the Sooners (57-8) when Carosone lost control of a throw to first.

Knighten then scored on a slow-bouncing infield single by Fale Aviu.