

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Debates blocked, Senate OKs defense bill

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Tuesday approved an annual defense policy bill despite widespread frustration that no debates were held on Afghan interpreters, military sexual assault prosecutions, women in the draft and the elimination of a troop fertility program.

Votes on adding those issues to the massive National Defense Authorization Act were blocked by Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, who wanted a debate on the indefinite detention of U.S. citizens. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., called the move to block the votes “shameful” and said it would lead to the assassination of interpreters in Afghanistan.

“It is either their way or the highway,” McCain said. “I say to my colleagues that is not the way the Senate should work.”

Still, an overwhelming majority of senators supported the \$602 billion bill, which offers a frugal vision for the military during the coming year. The Senate backed a drawdown in Army end strength and another low annual pay raise for service-members in order to stay within budget caps imposed by law.

The bill sets up a political battle with the House, where lawmakers voted in May to boost military spending by a budget-busting \$18 billion.

The increase would come from the Islamic State war fund and would leave downrange U.S. troops without money beginning in April.

Senators had hoped to add a variety of measures to the defense policy bill. McCain’s proposal would have increased the number of special immigrant visas available to Afghans who worked as interpreters helping the U.S. war effort and now face threats and retribution from the Taliban.

“If we don’t give them an out, an exit, they are going to get killed, and it is going to be hard to get anybody to help us in the future,” said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who took to the Senate floor to back McCain’s amendment.

Lee contends that a prior year’s NDAA leaves open the possibility that the president could order the indefinite detention of citizens within the United States. He was attempting to close the loophole but was blocked from a vote by objections from Graham, according to his staff.

The fight forced most other debates off

the Senate floor.

A long-fought proposal by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., to overhaul how military sexual assaults are prosecuted was among hundreds of amendments filed but never voted on.

Her amendment would have taken away commanders’ authority to decide whether sexual assault cases are tried in courts-martial and instead would give the responsibility to military prosecutors. Proponents, who included Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said command influence has led to unfair treatment of sexual assault victims and light punishments for perpetrators, but the military has argued commanders can make prosecutions a higher priority.

The Senate also missed a chance to debate whether women should be included in the military draft.

The bill passed Tuesday requires women who are between the ages of 18 and 25 to register with the Selective Service beginning in 2018.

On Tuesday, the Senate also voted to cut — without debate — a fertility program that ensures troops will be able to have children despite severe battlefield injuries.

## Apaches strike Islamic State in Iraq for first time

BY TARA COPP

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — U.S. Apache attack helicopters destroyed a bomb-laden Islamic State vehicle Monday, the first time the aircraft have been used in Iraq against the terrorist group, two defense officials confirmed.

The airstrike, conducted by U.S. crews, occurred in al-Qayyarah, one of many villages south of Mosul, Iraq’s second-largest city and the Islamic State group’s de facto capital in the country since 2014.

The Iraq government approved the Apache airstrike as U.S. and Iraqi forces set the stage for the battle to recapture Mosul, said a defense official who spoke on the condition that he not be named.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced the airstrike Monday in Brussels. This is the first strike by Apache helicop-

ters in the fight against the Islamic State group in Iraq since Carter offered them during an April trip to Baghdad. The Iraqis chose to wait for the battle for Mosul to permit the use of the Apaches.

The vehicle targeted Monday in the airstrike was in open terrain, a defense official said; that’s why Apaches were used to destroy it. The helicopters have not been used in the battle for Fallujah because the fighting is happening in a more dense urban environment, the official said.

Al-Qayyarah is about 20 miles west of Makhmour, where U.S. forces are still operating out of Kara Soar Counter-Fire Complex, formerly known as Fire Base Bell. The base was the site of the Islamic State group rocket attack that killed Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Louis Cardin on March 19.

Cardin’s unit from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit was replaced earlier in the spring by 200 soldiers with the 1st

Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment from the 101st Airborne Division.

The regiment is still operating out of Kara Soar and is using M777 lightweight 155mm howitzers to provide support to Iraqi forces attacking villages between Makhmour and Mosul.

Eight Apaches were part of a package of assistance that Carter offered Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in April to help Iraqi Security Forces defeat the Islamic State group in Mosul. Other elements included sending another 217 troops to Iraq, bringing the number of authorized U.S. forces in the country to 4,087.

The additional U.S. forces included helicopter maintenance crews, logistics experts to help Iraqi supply lines and Special Forces advisers who would be embedded with Iraqi Security Forces as they advance on Mosul.

## Cash-back halted over card flaw

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has deactivated cash-back options at its stores because of a problem for MasterCard users with new “chip and PIN” equipment.

“Rather than be inconsistent and have some customers able to get cash back while others cannot, we’ve temporarily deactivated the cash-back option until MasterCard solves the issue, which we anticipate will be in the next 30 days,” AAFES spokesman Chris Ward said in an email Monday.

The equipment, which reads credit and debit cards that include electronic chips and personal identification numbers, is being installed in on-base stores worldwide at the behest of banks.

“The Exchange had no choice but to make the switch,” Ward said.

The equipment includes a front slot where customers can insert chip-and-PIN cards, which provide better security than older cards that rely on magnetic strips or mechanical imprints and signatures for verification. Chip-and-PIN cards are less vulnerable to fraud than the old-style cards, a Forbes magazine report said.

Criminals steal card numbers, forge signatures and can read and clone a card’s magnetic strip.

The United Kingdom, which introduced chip-and-PIN technology more than a decade ago, has seen fraud cut by nearly 60 percent, the Forbes story said.

Including a personal identification number can make a transaction up to seven times more secure, according to the U.S. Federal Reserve.

“The Exchange has currently converted 200-300 stores worldwide to the new system with more being converted daily and there have been very few complaints,” Ward said.

## FBI probing killer’s ties to club

*Associated Press*

ORLANDO, Fla. — The FBI is investigating reports that Orlando gunman Omar Mateen had been a regular at the gay nightclub he attacked and had used gay dating apps, a U.S. official briefed on the case said Tuesday.

A number of possible explanations and motives for the bloodbath that left 49 victims dead have emerged, with Mateen professing allegiance to the Islamic State, his ex-wife saying he was mentally ill and his father suggesting he was driven by hatred of gays.

The picture grew more complex as patrons of the Pulse came forward to say that they had seen the 29-year-old, American-born Muslim there a number of times or that he had been using gay dating apps.

Jim Van Horn, 71, said Mateen was a regular at the club. “He was trying to pick up people. Men,” Van Horn told The Associated Press. While acknowledging he didn’t know Mateen well, Van Horn said, “I think it’s possible that he was trying to deal with his inner demons, of trying to get rid of his anger of homosexuality.”

The official who said the FBI is looking into those reports was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Wielding a semi-automatic AR-15 rifle and a handgun, Mateen opened fire at the club early Sunday in a three-hour shooting rampage and hostage siege that ended with a SWAT team killing him. It was the deadliest mass shooting

in modern U.S. history. During the attack, he called 911 to profess allegiance to the Islamic State group.

Six of the more than 50 wounded were listed in critical condition Tuesday and five others were in guarded condition, Dr. Michael Cheatham of Orlando Regional Medical Center said at a hospital news conference in which doctors recalled victims arriving in “truckloads” and “ambulance-loads” the night of the rampage.

President Barack Obama will visit Orlando on Thursday to pay his respects to the victims and to stand in solidarity with the community, the White House said.

The Orlando Sentinel and other news organizations quoted other regulars from Pulse as saying they, too, had seen Mateen at the club repeatedly.

“Sometimes he would go over in the corner and sit and drink by himself, and other times he would get so drunk he was loud and belligerent,” Ty Smith told the Sentinel. He said he saw Mateen inside at least a dozen times.

On Monday, the White House and the FBI said Mateen appears to be a “homegrown” extremist who had expressed support not just for the Islamic State, but for other radical groups that are its enemies.

“So far, we see no indication that this was a plot directed from outside the United States, and we see no indication that he was part of any kind of network,” FBI Director James Comey said Monday.

## Army Reserve officer slain in shooting

BY ALEX HORTON  
*Stars and Stripes*

SAN ANTONIO — Capt. Antonio Brown earned his commission as an Army officer before he earned the right to be openly gay.

Brown was the kind of person to put the mission and others first, said Dana White, 30, who trained with Brown as a cadet at Florida A&M University. That meant the constant pressure of facing expulsion from the military for his orientation mattered less than helping train the cadets around him, including White.

“It was one of those things where we all knew [his sexuality], but we all respected him,” she told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday. “He worked really hard and he served honorably.”

Brown, 29, was one of 49 peo-

ple killed in Orlando during the weekend in the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. The Pentagon confirmed his military service on Monday.

More than 50 others were wounded when Omar Mateen, 29, pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group and wielding an AR-15 rifle and two handguns, opened fire in Pulse, a popular nightclub.

Imran Yousuf, 24, an Afghanistan War veteran and bouncer at the bar, acted quickly to open a door to allow others to flee, according to a CBS News. His friends, many of them fellow Marines, offered support and gratitude on Facebook.

“A marine brother and a good friend of mine,” said Stacey Smith. “Just got out of the Marine Corps recently and still risking his life for others. Love

ya Bro. You inspire me Imran Yousuf.”

Yousuf, who did not immediately respond to requests for an interview, wrote on his Facebook page that he’s been getting calls from people who said they were alive because he was able to get to the door in time.

“I wish I could have saved more, to be honest,” he told CBS News. “There are a lot of people that are dead.”

Brown was commissioned in 2008 as a human resources officer in the adjutant general corps, three years before President Barack Obama’s repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell.” The policy forbade gays and lesbians from revealing their sexual orientation. Brown later deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn in 2010.



# Cavs survive, force Game 6

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Booed every time he touched the ball, LeBron James cut through Golden State's defense and made layups look easy. Dunks and three-pointers, so smooth, too.

And Kyrie Irving also completely had his way with the Warriors.

King James and Irving thoroughly overpowered the defending champions from every spot on the floor, and the Cavaliers are still alive to chase that elusive championship.

The unflappable, determined-as-ever James had 41 points, 16 rebounds and seven assists, Irving also scored 41 points and Cleveland capitalized on the absence of suspended star Draymond Green, staving off NBA Finals elimination with a 112-97 victory in Game 5 on Monday night.

"We had a mindset that we wanted to come here and just extend our period and have another opportunity to fight for another day," James said. "That was our main concern, and we were able to do that."

James and Irving became the first teammates to score 40 points in an NBA Finals game as the Cavaliers pulled within 3-2 and sent the best-of-seven series back to Ohio.

Afterward, sitting side by side on the podium, they offered back-and-forth shoutouts, with James noting of Irving, "It's probably one of the greatest performances I've ever seen live."

Take that, haters. James has much more to say about these playoffs before he's done — and not with his mouth, even as the criticism came from all directions

following his Game 4 tussle with Green and reaction to what he considered the Golden State forward's inappropriate words. James was booed again as the Cavs left the court for their locker room, but thousands of fans had already made for the exits minutes earlier.

"Now, mind you, to repeat a performance like this would definitely be tough, but whatever it takes to win," Irving said.

Cleveland handed Golden State just its fourth defeat all season at sold-out Oracle Arena, denying MVP Stephen Curry and the Warriors a chance to celebrate another championship with their golden-clad "Strength In Numbers" supporters. Now, Curry and Co. must try to win on the road, just the way the Warriors did last year and also in their only other championship season out West in 1975.

The Warriors will get Green back Thursday as they try again for that repeat title.

"I kind of like our position," coach Steve Kerr said. "... I like our position a lot better than theirs."

Banned from the arena, Green watched from a baseball suite in the Oakland Coliseum next door, joined by Golden State general manager Bob Myers.

The All-Star forward was suspended Sunday for his fourth flagrant point of the postseason. He was assessed a retroactive Flagrant-1 for his swipe at James in the fourth quarter of Friday's Game 4.

Tied 61-all at halftime Monday, the Warriors missed 14 of their first 20 shots out of intermission and shot 7-for-24 in the third as James and the Cavs grabbed command by doing all of the little things on both ends of the floor — the very intangibles Golden State desperately missed

without Green's high-energy presence on both ends. James jumped in the passing lanes to create defensive havoc, flipped passes around and got open.

Klay Thompson scored 37 points with six three-pointers and Curry added 25 points with five threes, seven rebounds, four assists and two blocked shots. But as the game wore on, the Splash Brothers shot airballs and clanked three-point tries off the front rim. The Warriors often failed to get a hand in the face of Cleveland's shooters.

"We weren't very good defensively," Kerr said. "We obviously knew we were without Draymond, so there's no point in harping on that. We had to play better, and we didn't."

James and Irving combined to shoot 33-for-54, while the Warriors went cold and finished 36.4 percent from the field. James also had three steals and three blocked shots.

Andre Iguodala had 15 points, 11 rebounds and six assists starting in place of Green, but Oakland must hold off in planning another victory parade for now.

"We like our chances going forward and continuing to just try to be us, the best we can, and get one more win," Curry said.

Warriors center Andrew Bogut went down early in the third, grabbing his left knee and writhing in pain. He was scheduled to have an MRI exam on his sprained knee Tuesday.

Irving's three-point play with 7:30 remaining put Cleveland ahead 102-92, and the Cavs kept pushing. They answered on offense and made all the key stops on defense.

"It obviously stings real bad," Thompson said. "We'll come back stronger."

# Euro 2016: Russia faces DQ

Associated Press

PARIS — Russia will be disqualified from the European Championship if there is more violence by their fans inside stadiums in France.

UEFA sent the message Tuesday in a disciplinary panel ruling to punish assaults by Russians who charged a section of England supporters after the teams' opening match in Marseille.

Russia will be expelled if its fans attack rival fans or stadium security staff at its two remaining Group B matches, or later at Euro 2016 if the team advances.

Russia's "disqualification is suspended until the end of the tournament," UEFA said. "Such suspension will be lifted if incidents of a similar nature (crowd disturbances) happen inside the stadium at any of the remaining matches of the Russian team during the tournament."

The incidents have shown Russia's problem with hooligans before it hosts the 2018 World Cup in 11 cities.

A spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned the "rampages in Marseille," while noting that fans from other countries were involved in disorder in France.

"It's absolutely unacceptable, and we certainly expect our citizens to respect the country's laws," spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in a conference call on Tuesday.

UEFA also fined the Russian soccer federation \$169,000. The charges were for crowd disturbances, fans aiming racial insults at black England players and setting off fireworks during the game.

UEFA can punish soccer bodies only for the actions of their ticketed fans in and around stadiums.

Russia and England played a 1-1 draw amid rising tension after several days of clashes between rival fans, French youths and local police.

Though England fans were at the center of the first skirmishes, the violence levels increased when Russian fans arrived closer to the matchday.

Russian fans have caused the worst violence inside stadiums for the second straight European Championship.

Among the incidents back in Euro 2012, stadium security staff in Wroclaw, Poland, were assaulted by Russian fans at Russia's opening 4-1 victory over the Czech Republic.

Four years ago, UEFA deferred a punishment of ordering Russia to play three home Euro 2016 qualifying games in empty stadiums. The stadium ban would have been activated if fan violence during qualifying matches was repeated.

UEFA had initially threatened Russia with a six-point deduction in Euro 2016 qualifying but that was removed when the Russian Football Union appealed to UEFA. A fine of \$150,000 was maintained.

Also in 2012, UEFA fined the Russian soccer body \$37,500 for fans making monkey noise as racial insults aimed at Czech Republic defender Theodor Gebre Selassie, who is black.

# Warriors miss suspended teammate

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Like everyone else, Draymond Green could only watch as LeBron James and Kyrie Irving sent the NBA Finals back to Cleveland.

And it became abundantly clear just how much the Golden State Warriors need their fiery forward after they were buried by Cleveland's dynamic duo.

James had 41 points, 16 rebounds and seven assists to go with Irving's 41 points in the Cavaliers' 112-97 victory over the Warriors on Monday night.

Klay Thompson scored 37 points and Stephen Curry had 25 for the Warriors, who lead the best-of-seven series 3-2. But the Warriors sorely missed Green, who was suspended after striking James in the groin in Game 4.

"Draymond does a little bit of everything," Thompson said. "Obviously his playmaking, his communication and his heart and soul. It's not an excuse, though."

With Green next door in Oakland Coliseum, the Cavaliers shot 53 percent, hit 10 of 24 three-pointers and handed the Warriors their fourth home loss this season.

"It's too simple to say that" the Warriors lost because of Green's absence, Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "We weren't very good defensively. We knew we were without Draymond, so there's no point in harping on that. We had to play better and we didn't."

Green was suspended after the NBA retroactively charged him with a flagrant-1 foul for the incident with James during Game 4. The foul triggered an automatic suspension and left the Warriors and their fans fuming at the decision.

Green watched the game sitting with general manager Bob Myers while his teammates tried to pick up their exiled comrade. But it was clear from the start that they missed him badly, especially on the defensive end.

Even though he stands only 6-foot-8, Green is a ferocious interior presence for the Warriors and allows the rest of their versatile group to switch liberally and make it hard on the Cavaliers to get open looks from the perimeter. But Cleveland had little trouble getting to the basket on Monday night, with James and Irving plowing into the paint without fear against Andrew Bogut, Festus Ezeli, Anderson Varejao and James Michael

McAdoo.

Kerr went with Andre Iguodala in the starting lineup in place of Green to matchup with James, but struggled to find suitable help at center.

"He's our center fielder in the back when he's able to see the whole floor," Curry said. "Tonight it was obviously different rotations and we tried to adjust on the fly with different matchups. But we just didn't execute as well."

Golden State's most effective lineup all season long — the "Death Lineup" with Green at center, Harrison Barnes at power forward, Iguodala at small forward and the Splash Brothers in the backcourt — made life miserable for its opponents with its ability to switch on defense and get out in transition on offense. Green often would lead those fast breaks, playing a point forward while Curry and Thompson spread out on the wings for threes.

The threes were still there in Game 5 — the Warriors made 14 of 42 from long range. But the defense that helped them surge to a 3-1 lead in the series was nowhere to be found, and Bogut had to be helped off the court two minutes into the third quarter with an injured left knee.



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# Scherzer leads Nats past Cubs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Max Scherzer was so sharp, it was easy to imagine him throwing another no-hitter. Or striking out 20 again.

Or both.

Scherzer retired the first 16 batters he faced and threw seven innings of two-hit ball, striking out 11 in a pitching masterpiece that carried the Washington Nationals past the Chicago Cubs 4-1 Monday night.

As Scherzer mowed down one hitter after another, manager Dusty Baker began to wonder if the right-hander was on his way to accomplishing something historic.

"If he's done it once, you know he can do it again," Baker said. "You allow yourself to think it. You don't talk about it, but you think it. He was awesome to start the game. He just made one mistake."

Scherzer's bid for his third career no-hitter ended with one out in the sixth when Addison Russell hit a 3-2 pitch into the left-field seats. The only other batter to reach against Scherzer (8-4) was Anthony Rizzo, who doubled in the seventh.

Facing the team with the best record in the majors, Scherzer became the 26th pitcher in baseball history to have 40 games with at least 10 strikeouts. He has won three straight starts, allowing only three runs over 22 innings.

Scherzer struck out 20 in a win over Detroit last month. In this one, he fanned nine of the first 10 batters and victimized Dexter Fowler three times.

Cubs manager Joe Maddon was asked what he was thinking after Scherzer zipped through three innings with eight strikeouts.

"That he may strike out 20," Maddon replied. "He had such good stuff and he was throwing it exactly where he wanted."

Scherzer wasn't going to seriously consider the possibility of throwing a no-hitter until he got past the sixth inning. Unfortunately, the No. 8 hitter in the Cubs lineup ended his shot.

"It was a matter of trying to get through Russell there to get to the pitcher," he said. "Unfortunately, I hung a slider and that didn't happen."

Shawn Kelley got five outs for his first save. Counting Kelley's four strikeouts, Washington finished with 16 Ks.

Wilson Ramos hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth inning for the NL East-leading Nationals, who have won four straight and seven of eight.

Russell's fifth home run was the lone highlight for the Cubs, who committed two errors to up their total to nine over the past three games.

# Five players crushed by Open failure

Associated Press

OAKMONT, Pa. — Tom Lehman placed both hands over his cap in disbelief when his shot into the 17th green at Congressional, bounded off the side of the green and into the water in 1997, ending his hopes at a U.S. Open he never won.

A year later, Lehman became the first player since Bobby Jones to play in the final group at a U.S. Open for four consecutive years. The difference was that Jones wound up a winner. In addition to the long list of U.S. Open champions, there is a healthy list of players who left heartbroken and who, like Lehman, never won a U.S. Open. Here are five to consider:

**5. Roland Hancock:** Roland Hancock was an obscure, 21-year-old pro from North Carolina on the verge of becoming a surprise winner of the 1928 U.S. Open at Olympia Fields. He led by two shots with two holes to play and needed only a pair of 5s to win. But Hancock fell apart. He drove into mud behind a tree, topped his next shot into deep rough, took two more to get to the green and made double bogey. On the par-5 18th, he hit into the rough, chipped out, hit a spectator in the head and missed a 20-foot par putt to finish one shot out of a playoff between Bobby Jones and Johnny Farrell.

**4. Colin Montgomerie:** Colin Montgomerie lost in a three-way playoff at Oakmont in 1994, and two years later he missed a 5-foot par putt on the 17th hole at Congressional and finished one behind Ernie Els. But nothing stung quite like Winged Foot in 2006. He was in the 18th fairway with a 7-iron in his hand, but chunked it so badly that he exclaimed, "What the hell was that?" He three-putted for a double bogey and finished one behind Geoff Ogilvy.

**3. Sam Snead:** The U.S. Open was the only major Sam Snead never won. Perhaps the most memorable was in 1939 at Philadelphia Country Club when Snead needed a par 5 on the closing hole to win, thought he needed a birdie and chopped his way to an 8 to miss the play-off. Even more crushing was in 1947 at St. Louis Country Club when he faced Lew Worsham in a playoff. Tied on the 18th hole, Snead lagged to just over 2 feet and was about to tap in when Worsham asked for a measurement to see who was away. It was Snead, by a half-inch. Snead missed and Worsham tapped in for the win.

**2. Dustin Johnson:** If Dustin Johnson thought it was painful to shoot 82 in the final round of the U.S. Open with a three-shot lead at Pebble Beach, that didn't compare with Chambers Bay last year. Johnson had a two-shot lead at the turn until he started missing putts on the dead, bumpy greens. But he hit his tee shot to 4 feet on the par-3 17th for birdie and, needing a birdie to force a playoff, he crushed a perfect drive and hit 5-iron into the par-5 18th to 12 feet above the hole. Make it and he wins. Two putts for a play-off. He three-putted for a bogey to lose to Jordan Spieth by one shot.

**1. Phil Mickelson:** No one has suffered more at the U.S. Open than Phil Mickelson, who holds the record with six runner-up finishes and lacks only this title to complete the career Grand Slam. What haunts him is Winged Foot in 2006, when Mickelson had a one-shot lead going to the 18th hole. He sliced his tee shot off a corporate tent. That was OK. Instead of hitting back to the fairway, Mickelson went for the green. It hit a tree and dropped down. His third shot plugged in a bunker. His fourth shot went across the green against the collar. Two putts later he had a double bogey, and Geoff Ogilvy had the U.S. Open trophy.

# Marlins' Ichiro closes in on Rose

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Record or not, Ichiro Suzuki is closing in on a big name and a famous number.

Suzuki had three of Miami's season-high 19 hits and the Marlins trounced the San Diego Padres 13-4 on Monday night.

Adeiny Hechavarria drove in four runs, Martin Prado homered and Miami broke loose despite resting sore slugger Giancarlo Stanton.

Suzuki moved within one hit of equaling Pete Rose's total of 4,256 — the big league record. The 42-year-old outfielder has 2,977 hits in the majors after compiling 1,278 during his nine seasons in Japan.

"It's really cool to be a part of this and what he has done this year," Marlins manager Don Mattingly said.

The Marlins built an 8-1 cushion by the third inning and eased to their third win in five games.

Wei-Yin Chen (4-2), who had never faced the Padres, allowed four solo homers and seven hits in six innings. He struck out seven and won for just the second time in eight starts.

Colin Rea (3-3) was battered in the shortest start of his career, giving up eight runs and nine hits in 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

The Marlins, who scored their most runs this season, seized control with a seven-run third, sending 12 batters to the plate in chasing Rea.

The big blow was a bases-loaded triple by Adeiny Hechavarria over Jon Jay's head in center.

The outburst also included Prado's two-run shot to left, his second homer of the season.

**Royals 2, Indians 1:** Whit Merrifield hit his first career homer, Edinson Volquez tossed seven scoreless innings of two-hit ball and host Kansas City beat Cleveland to end a five-game skid against the Indians.

**White Sox 10, Tigers 9 (12):** Adam Eaton singled home the winning run in the 12th inning for his fourth hit of the night, and Chicago rallied from seven runs down in a wild victory over visiting Detroit.

J.B. Shuck led off the 12th with a double down the first-base line and advanced on Tim Anderson's sacrifice. With the infield playing in, Eaton bounced a grounder up the middle against Anibal Sanchez (3-7).

**Diamondbacks 3, Dodgers 2:** Zack Greinke won his sixth consecutive start, aided by three defensive gems in his first game against his former team since leav-

ing, and host Arizona got home runs from Paul Goldschmidt and Jake Lamb to beat Los Angeles.

**Phillies 7, Blue Jays 0:** Ryan Howard and Odubel Herrera homered, Jerad Eickhoff pitched six spotless innings to win consecutive starts for the first time this season, and Philadelphia snapped a four-game losing streak by beating host Toronto.

**Reds 9, Braves 8:** Tyler Holt drew a bases-loaded walk from Arodys Vizcaino to force home the tiebreaking run in the ninth inning, and visiting Cincinnati edged Atlanta in a matchup of teams with the worst records in the National League.

**Athletics 14, Rangers 5:** Khris Davis homered and drove in five runs, Marcus Semien and Jake Smolinski each had three hits and host Oakland pounded first-place Texas, hours after pitcher Yu Darvish was put on the disabled list.

**Twins 9, Angels 4:** Trevor Plouffe hit a three-run homer, Byron Buxton and Robbie Grossman also went deep and visiting Minnesota beat slumping Los Angeles.

**Giants 11, Brewers 5:** Brandon Crawford drove in three runs and Denard Span hit a leadoff homer to help host San Francisco beat Milwaukee.

# Gators top Seminoles, advance to CWS

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Widely regarded as the best team in the country all season, Florida will get a chance to prove it on college baseball's biggest stage.

JJ Schwarz broke out of a two-week hitting slump by driving in five runs — most of them on a grand slam — and the Gators beat rival Florida State 7-0 on Monday night to secure the last spot in the College World Series.

Florida (52-14) won the final two games in the best-of-three super regional to earn its fifth trip to Omaha, Neb., in the past seven years. The Gators, the overall No. 1 seed in the tournament, will play Coastal Carolina on Sunday night.

And they will be looking for redemption after losing two one-run games to eventual national champion Virginia in Omaha last season.

"We've got a lot of unfinished business we've got to take care of," centerfielder Buddy Reed said.

The Gators can only hope Schwarz keeps swinging as he did against the Seminoles (41-22). With the bases loaded, the sophomore hammered Jim Voyles' hanging slider over the left-field bleachers to put the Gators up 6-0 in the fifth inning. He added an RBI double in the sixth.

Those hits snapped a 4-for-27 (.148) stretch over the past eight games for Schwarz and provided his latest highlight against Florida State. Schwarz improved to 19-for-44 (.432), with seven homers and 20 RBIs in 11 career games against FSU.

Schwarz provided plenty of cushion for right-hander Dane Dunning (6-3), the 29th overall pick in the baseball draft. Dunning replaced fellow first-rounder A.J. Puk in the fourth inning and tossed 41/3 scoreless innings.

Puk's next start should come in Omaha,

where Florida endured two gut-wrenching losses in 2015.

"We wanted to go back so bad," Schwarz said. "We were so close to playing in the championship series. We wanted to get back and see what we could do."

The Gators believe they have a decent shot at winning the program's first national championship this time around. They have the deepest pitching staff in the country and have started swelling the bats better since Peter Alonso returned to the lineup. Alonso missed nearly a month with a broken bone in his left hand.

He returned for the tournament and has been on a tear since.

He homered for the fourth time in six games in the third inning, driving starter Cole Sands' belt-high fastball to left. That got the Gators going and Schwarz opened the game up, propelling Florida to its 11th win in its past 14 games against FSU.