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Britain votes to leave EU; Cameron to resign

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain voted to leave the European Union after a divisive referendum campaign, toppling the prime minister Friday, sending global markets plunging and shattering the stability of a project designed half a century ago to prevent World War III.

The decision launches a years-long process to renegotiate trade, business and political links between the United Kingdom and what would become a 27-nation bloc.

Prime Minister David Cameron, who had led the campaign to keep Britain in the EU, said he would resign by October and left it to his successor to decide when to invoke Article 50, which triggers a departure from the

European Union.

Polls ahead of the vote had shown a close race, and the momentum had increasingly appeared to be on the “remain” side over the last week. But in an election Thursday marked by notably high turnout — 72 percent of the more than 46 million registered voters — “leave” won with 52 percent of the votes.

The result shocked investors, and stock markets plummeted around the world, with key indexes dropping 10 percent in Germany and about 8 percent in Japan and Britain.

The euro fell against the dollar and the pound dropped to its lowest level since 1985, plunging more than 10 percent from about \$1.50 to \$1.35 before a slight recovery.

Also seeking to calm frayed

nerves was the most prominent “leave” campaigner, Boris Johnson. Taking a somber tone unusual for the flamboyant former London mayor, he described the EU as a noble idea which was no longer right for Britain. He said the result in no way means the United Kingdom will be “less united” or “less European.”

Scotland’s First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said a second Scottish referendum on independence from the United Kingdom is now “highly likely.” Scotland voted in 2014 to remain a part of the U.K., but that decision was seen by many as being conditional on the U.K. remaining in the EU.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan felt it necessary to reach out to the 1 million Europeans in the capital to underscore they were

still “very welcome here.”

Britain would be the first major country to leave the EU, which was born from the ashes of World War II as European leaders sought to build links and avert future hostility.

Cameron called the referendum largely to silence voices to his right. Johnson, the former London mayor and “leave” proponent, is from the same party and becomes a leading contender to replace Cameron.

After winning a majority in Parliament in the last election, Cameron negotiated a package of reforms that he said would protect Britain’s sovereignty and prevent EU migrants from moving to the U.K. to claim generous public benefits.

Critics charged that those reforms were hollow.

Navy commander in Iran incident relieved of duty

By TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Another commander responsible for two Navy patrol boats that were detained by Iran in January has been relieved of duty, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command said Friday.

Capt. Kyle S. Moses, commander of Task Force 56, was “relieved due to a loss of confidence in his ability to command,” the Navy said in a statement.

Moses is the second commander to be relieved as a result of the Jan. 12 incident in which two patrol boats from Coastal Riverine Squadron 3 drifted into Iranian waters near Farsi Island in the Persian Gulf. Ten U.S. sailors were detained overnight by Iran in a

highly publicized international incident. Iran released numerous propaganda videos about the incident.

Prior to Moses, the Navy relieved Cmdr. Eric Rasch, of Coastal Riverine Squadron 3, in May also due to a “loss of confidence in his ability to command.”

Capt. Richard M. Meyer, who was serving as the chief of staff for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, replaces Moses as commander of Task Force 56, a unit whose missions include explosive ordnance disposal, diving, construction riverine operations and military intelligence collection.

The findings of the Navy’s investigation are expected to be released by Chief of Naval Operations John Richardson next week.

Ex-Navy official pleads guilty in ‘Fat Leonard’ scandal

The Washington Post

A retired Navy contracting official admitted Thursday in federal court that he took more than \$300,000 in bribes from a Singapore company that resupplied U.S. warships in Asia, making him the 11th person to plead guilty in what is emerging as the biggest corruption scandal in the Navy’s history.

Paul Simpkins, 62, an Air Force veteran who worked as a civilian contracting official for two decades for the Pentagon and the Justice Department, pleaded guilty to two bribery-related charges in U.S. District Court in San Diego.

According to federal investigators, Simpkins was working as a supervisor for the Navy’s regional contracting office in Singapore in 2006 when he held a series of surreptitious meetings with Leonard Glenn Francis,

the owner of a local maritime firm that provided food, fuel, water, security and other port services to Navy ships.

Francis, a charismatic figure known in Navy circles as “Fat Leonard,” offered Simpkins \$50,000 to rig the bidding, according to an indictment.

Simpkins ultimately received \$450,000 in cash and payments wired to a foreign bank account, prosecutors have alleged. In addition, he intervened on Francis’s behalf when other Navy officials raised flags about his company’s billing practices.

According to terms of his plea agreement with prosecutors, Simpkins has agreed to pay back \$450,000 to the Navy. The Justice Department has already seized \$150,000 from a credit union account held by Simpkins, who lives in Haymarket, Virginia, court records show.

Donovan takes reins of 5th MEB

By CHRIS CHURCH
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Brig. Gen. Francis L. Donovan took over command of the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Commander Task Force 51 on Thursday from Maj. Gen. Carl E. Mundy III.

Mundy took control of two distinct commands, Marine Corps Forces Central Command Forward and Commander Task Force 51, in September 2014.

While MARCENT FWD provided a service component in the Middle East, it was decided to have a tactical headquarters in the region, Mundy said. That decision led in 2015 to the redesignation of MARCENT FWD to the 5th MEB.

Since then, 5th MEB has begun merging Commander Task Force 51, the Navy unit responsible for amphibious ships and their attached Marine Expeditionary Units in the Middle East, into its command. This allowed for the brigade to operate with a single force in the air, on land and at sea.

"The organizations are both tailored to be crisis-response organizations," Mundy said. "It allowed me to take both of those similar organizations and blend them together."

Fifth MEB and CTF 51 have proved this concept during security operations off the coast of Yemen this spring and in exercises such as PHIBLEX 16, off the coast of Kuwait, and Eager Lion in Jordan.

"And that will be Gen. Mundy's legacy," Donovan said. "Our responsibility is to continue what he started."

The future is to continue integrating CTF 51 into 5th MEB and to reach full operational capability at the end of this year.

Donovan recently completed a tour in the Pentagon.

US hits Taliban under new rules

USA Today

WASHINGTON — U.S. warplanes in Afghanistan have launched airstrikes against Taliban targets in recent days under new authority granted to the top commander there to help Afghan forces achieve "catastrophic success," Department of Defense officials said.

The expanded authorities allow Army Gen. John Nicholson to bolster Afghan offensives with U.S. combat advisers, airstrikes, surveillance aircraft and pilots to fly alongside the fledgling Afghan air force, according to a DOD official who

spoke on condition of anonymity because officials were not authorized to speak publicly about the new missions.

Nicholson, alone, has the authority to order the new missions, the Defense official said. The four-star Army officer took command in March and has been assessing the security situation there. Expanding the U.S. combat role grew out of that assessment.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced the expanded U.S. role in Afghanistan last week at a meeting with NATO defense ministers in Brussels. Within days, the first missions

were flown, said Col. Michael Lawhorn, a military spokesman in Kabul. Since there have been only a few airstrikes, it's too early to assess their effects, he said.

The expanding U.S. combat role comes as the Taliban insurgency has bounced back three years after the Afghan troops took the lead for providing security in their country. "Increased insurgent fighting in urban areas has also contributed to record-high civilian casualties, primarily caused by insurgent and extremist groups," according to a Pentagon report released this week.

Clinton's calendar lacking many entries

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Television cameras rolled when Hillary Clinton appeared on the central balcony of the New York Stock Exchange to ring the opening bell — just minutes after she attended a private breakfast in September 2009 with influential Wall Street and business leaders.

But the identities of her breakfast guests would be left off of her official State Department calendar — omissions that are among scores of names and events missing from Clinton's

historical record of her daily activities as secretary of state, an Associated Press review found.

Now the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, Clinton met that morning with a dozen chief executives, most of whose firms had lobbied the government and had donated to her family's global charity, the Clinton Foundation. The event was closed to the press and merited only a brief mention in her official calendar, which omitted the names of all her guests — among them

Blackstone Group Chairman Steven Schwarzman, PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi and then-New York Bank of Mellon CEO Robert Kelly.

The AP review of Clinton's calendar — her after-the-fact, official chronology of the events of her four-year term — identified at least 75 meetings with longtime political donors and loyalists, Clinton Foundation contributors and corporate and other outside interests that either were not recorded or were listed with identifying details scrubbed.

Trump links own campaign, Brexit vote

Associated Press

AYRSHIRE, Scotland — Donald Trump, in a visit to Scotland on Friday, hailed Britain's vote to leave the European Union, drawing parallels to the anger driving his own presidential campaign.

"I love to see people take their country back," he told reporters at a news conference at one of his golf courses in Scotland. "And that's really what's happening in the United States"

and other parts of the world.

The campaign leading to Thursday's stunning vote for Britain to leave the European Union shared some of the populist themes driving the Trump campaign, including a wariness of immigration, concern about borders and skepticism of the value of multinational organizations.

"People want to see borders. They don't necessarily want people pouring into their country that they don't know who

they are and where they come from," Trump said.

Trump, whose visit to Scotland is his first international trip since sealing sufficient delegate support to be the GOP standard-bearer this fall, also predicted that other nations will follow the United Kingdom's lead.

"This will not be the last," he said earlier at a ceremony to mark the reopening of a golf resort he owns on Scotland's west coast. "They're angry about many, many things."

Sixers choose Simmons No .1

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ben Simmons went from Down Under to the top of the NBA Draft, and a record number of international players followed.

The Philadelphia 76ers took the Australian with the No. 1 pick on Thursday night, making him the first of a record 14 international players chosen in the first round.

Nearly half the selections in the 30-pick round were international players, topping the 12 international players chosen in the first round in 2013.

Simmons climbed on stage to the sound of cheers from a Philly-filled crowd hoping he could turn around the 76ers.

Not long after, the same crowd was largely quiet as the draft filled with unfamiliar names.

The picks included the first Austrian (Utah center Jakob Poeltl, No. 9 to Toronto), the highest Greek player ever drafted (Georgios Papagiannis, No. 13, Phoenix, rights dealt to Sacramento), two Croatians (Dragan Bender, No. 4 to Phoenix and Ante Zizic, No. 23, Boston), and two players from the Caribbean (Buddy Hield, Bahamas, No. 6 to New Orleans; and Skal Labissiere, Haiti, No. 28, picked by Phoenix but dealt to Sacramento).

The NBA said there were 26 international players selected, surpassing the record of 21 set in 2003.

Some of the international players won't come to the NBA next season, and perhaps never will.

Simmons might be ready to star now.

Philadelphia grabbed the versatile 6-foot-10 forward from LSU who averaged 19.2 points, 11.8 rebounds and 4.8 assists to become the only player in Southeastern Conference history to finish in the top five in all three categories.

He comes with some questions — he made only one 3-pointer — but too much potential for the 76ers to pass up with their first No. 1 pick since taking Allen Iverson 20 years ago.

"It feels amazing, honestly," Simmons said. "I can't even — my legs were shaking when I was on stage."

Philadelphia fans who made the trip to Brooklyn's Barclays Center loudly cheered the selection in hopes that Simmons can help them move forward after three straight dismal seasons, including a 10-72 finish in 2015-16 that was just a game better than the worst ever in the 82-game schedule.

The last No. 1 pick from LSU was Shaquille O'Neal — who will be enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame along with Iverson in September.

The Los Angeles Lakers, picking second for the second consecutive year, took Duke's Brandon Ingram, who averaged 17.3 points as the ACC freshman of the year. He is the latest young player on a team that will begin life without the retired Kobe Bryant next season.

"I'm just going to be myself," Ingram said. "Whatever I can do to impact the game, whatever the coach needs me to do, I'm going to do it."

The Boston Celtics then began a busy night by picking California forward Jaylen

Brown. Boston has eight picks in the two-round draft, starting with one it acquired from Brooklyn in 2013 in the deal that sent Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce to the Nets.

Bender ended the run of three straight freshmen when the Suns selected the 7-1 forward who has been playing professionally for Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Milwaukee rounded out the top 10 with Thon Maker, originally from South Sudan, and Orlando followed with Domantas Sabonis, whose rights were quickly dealt to Oklahoma City along with Victor Oladipo and Ersan Ilyasova for forward Serge Ibaka.

The Minnesota Timberwolves used the No. 5 pick on Providence junior Kris Dunn, a two-time Defensive Player of the Year in the Big East who should fit nicely for new coach Tom Thibodeau.

A couple of the draft's best shooters went next, with New Orleans grabbing All-American Hield from Oklahoma, and Denver picking Kentucky freshman Jamal Murray at No. 7.

Michigan State's Denzel Valentine, the Associated Press Player of the Year, went 14th to Chicago to close the lottery. But that was a rare well-known name to the crowd at the time, as Papagiannis went 13th to Phoenix — climbing out of a crowd in the stands near the concourse level surrounded by Greek flags — with Spain's Juan Hernangomez going 15th to Denver, and Boston selecting Guerschon Yabusele of France at No. 16.

James to sit out Rio Olympics

Associated Press

NEW YORK — With LeBron James taking a pass, Carmelo Anthony alone will have a chance to become the most-decorated Olympian in men's basketball history.

The New York Knicks forward has agreed to chase a fourth Olympic medal, a person with knowledge of the details said Thursday.

He and James both have two gold medals and a bronze, but James informed USA Basketball that he has withdrawn from consideration, agent Rich Paul told The Associated Press on Thursday night.

James had told the Americans he wouldn't make his decision until after the NBA Finals, which ended with the All-Star forward leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to the championship on Sunday. His loss is the biggest yet for a U.S. team that has suffered a number of player withdrawals, as James ranks as the team's career leader in points and assists in the Olympics, while ranking second in rebounds.

Without him, the Americans still have two spots to fill on their 12-man roster that will be named Monday.

Toronto teammates Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan will be on it, the person told AP, speaking on condition of anonymity because the roster discussions were to remain private.

Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant, Indiana's Paul George, Golden State's Draymond Green and Klay Thompson, Sacramento's DeMarcus Cousins, Chicago's Jimmy Butler and the Clippers' DeAndre Jordan are also committed to play for the two-time defending champions in Rio de Janeiro.

The Americans are also holding a spot for Kyrie Irving, James' Cavaliers teammate.

Kawhi Leonard passed on the opportunity to play, with the San Antonio Spurs announcing his withdrawal in a news release.

"This was a very difficult decision. It's an honor to have been considered for the team and I hope that in the future I will have the chance to represent my country by playing for USA Basketball," Leonard said.

Anthony won gold medals in the 2008 and 2012 Olympics and a bronze in 2004. He, James and Hall of Famer David Robinson are the only Americans to play in three Olympics.

Anthony previously said he planned to play, telling AP recently: "Listen, I've been with USA Basketball since I was 16, 17 years old. Can't stop now."

DeRozan played for the Americans when they won the gold medal at the Basketball World Cup in 2014, but Lowry's inclusion on the roster was a surprise, since he wasn't even in the Americans' roster pool of 31 players.

But with Stephen Curry, Chris Paul and Russell Westbrook all withdrawing, USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo said earlier this month he wouldn't rule out adding another guard.

Thunder trade forward Ibaka to Magic

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The long wait to find out which NBA team would be in his future was over in a hurry for Domantas Sabonis.

The sophomore forward from Gonzaga was chosen 11th in the NBA Draft Thursday night by the Orlando Magic and by the time he did his first interview a minute or two later, he let the world know he wouldn't be headed to Florida.

Sabonis, the son of Hall of Fame big man Arvydas Sabonis, told ESPN that his rights were traded to the Oklahoma City Thunder and the NBA made the trade official about two hours later.

In addition to Sabonis, the Magic sent guard Victor Oladipo and forward Ersan Ilyasova to the Thunder for forward Serge Ibaka, Oklahoma City's third star behind Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook. With Durant a free agent, Westbrook could find himself without much offensive help in Oklahoma City.

In other trades the NBA officially announced:

■ The Sacramento Kings traded the rights to freshman forward Marquese Chriss of Washington, the eighth overall pick, to the Phoenix Suns for the rights to center Georgios Papagiannis of Greece, the No. 13 pick, the rights to freshman Skal Labissiere of Kentucky, the 28th pick,

a 2020 second-round draft pick and the rights to guard Bogdan Bogdanovic.

■ The Los Angeles Clippers traded the rights to freshman center Cheick Diallo of Kansas, the 33rd pick, to the New Orleans Pelicans for the rights to guard David Michineau of France, the 39th pick, and freshman center Diamond Stone of Maryland, the 40th pick.

■ The Milwaukee Bucks traded the rights to guard Patrick McCaw of UNLV to the Golden State Warriors for financial considerations.

■ The Utah Jazz traded the rights to guard Isaiah Whitehead, the 42nd pick, to the Brooklyn Nets for guard Marcus Paige, the No. 55 pick, and cash considerations.

■ The Atlanta Hawks traded the rights to guard Kay Felder, the No. 54 pick, to the Cleveland Cavaliers for cash considerations.

■ The Boston Celtics traded the rights to freshman forward Deyonta Davis of Michigan State, the 31st pick, and forward Rade Zagorac of Serbia, the 35th pick, to the Memphis Grizzlies for a 2019 first-round draft pick.

■ The Orlando Magic traded the rights to senior forward Jake Layman of Maryland, the No. 47 pick, to Portland for a future second-round pick and cash considerations.

■ The Denver Nuggets traded the rights to sophomore forward Daniel

Hamilton of Connecticut, the No. 56 pick, to the Oklahoma City Thunder for cash considerations.

■ The Los Angeles Clippers traded the rights to freshman forward Cheick Diallo of Kansas, the No. 33 pick, to the New Orleans Pelicans for the rights to guard David Michineau of France, the No. 39 pick, and forward Diamond Stone of Maryland, the No. 40 pick.

In other trades, none of which were officially announced:

■ The Indiana Pacers traded guard George Hill to the Utah Jazz in a three-way trade with the Atlanta Hawks. Atlanta sent guard Jeff Teague to Indiana and acquired Utah's 2016 first-round, which was forward Taurean Prince of Baylor, the 12th pick in the first round.

■ The Brooklyn Nets traded forward Thaddeus Young to Indiana for the rights to guard Caris LeVert of Michigan, the 20th pick, and a future second-round draft pick.

■ The Charlotte Hornets traded the rights to freshman guard Malachi Richardson of Syracuse, the 22nd pick, to Sacramento for guard Marco Belinelli.

■ The Boston Celtics traded the rights to freshman forward Deyonta Davis of Michigan State, the 31st pick, and forward Rade Zagorac of Serbia, the 35th pick, to the Memphis Grizzlies for a 2019 first-round draft pick.



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Giants continue hot streak

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Joe Panik hit a bases-loaded triple, Mac Williamson launched a 446-foot home run and the San Francisco Giants beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 5-3 Thursday for their 12th win in 14 games.

The Giants took three of four at PNC Park.

After hitting a key double late in Wednesday night's win, Panik put the Giants ahead 3-1 with his triple in the third inning. Williamson followed with an RBI single.

Williamson connected for his second home run of the season in the sixth.

Albert Suarez (3-1) gave up two earned runs in five innings. Santiago Casilla struck out three in the ninth for his 16th save.

Jonathon Niese (6-5) was tagged for five runs in six innings.

Phillies 7, Twins 3: Struggling Freddy Galvis homered and drove in a career-high five runs to help visiting Philadelphia end a nine-game losing streak.

Cesar Hernandez tied a career-high with four hits and slumping Ryan Howard homered as part of his first multiple-hit game since April 29.

The Phillies won for just the second time in 15 games.

Jerad Eickhoff (5-9) gave up one earned run and five hits in six innings. In winning three of his past four starts, Eickhoff has allowed five earned runs in 242/3 innings. The last three Philadelphia wins over a 17-game span were all Eickhoff victories.

Looking to become the Twins first pitcher with four wins, Ricky Nolasco (3-5) allowed 10 hits and four earned runs in 6 2/3 innings.

Tigers 5, Mariners 4 (10): Pinch runner Cameron Maybin easily scored on a bases-loaded wild pitch by Steve Cishek with two outs in the 10th inning, giving host Detroit a four-game sweep.

The Mariners, who missed a chance when Robinson Cano struck out with a runner on third to end the 10th, lost their sixth in a row.

Steven Moya drew a one-out walk from Cishek (2-4) and Maybin pinch ran. Pinch hitter Victor Martinez singled, with an

error by left fielder Seth Smith on the play putting runners on second and third. After an intentional walk to load the bases, Andrew Romine struck out.

Cishek then threw a pitch that catcher Chris Iannetta couldn't corral, allowing Maybin to run home.

Kyle Ryan (3-2), who worked out of a bases-loaded jam Wednesday night, earned the win by escaping a jam of his own making in the 10th.

Red Sox 8, White Sox 7 (10): Xander Bogaerts singled in the game-winning run in the 10th inning as host Boston avoided a four-game sweep.

Chicago led 3-0, 4-1 and 7-5 before Boston sent it into extra innings with a run in the seventh and another in the eighth. The White Sox loaded the bases with nobody out in the 10th, but Craig Kimbrel (1-3) got J.B. Shuck on an infield popup and then struck out Tim Anderson and Adam Eaton.

In the bottom half, Matt Purke (0-1) walked two before Bogaerts lined one up the middle and Mookie Betts scored easily from second.

James Shields pitched his best outing since being acquired by the White Sox on June 4. Jose Abreu hit a three-run homer and Alex Avila had four hits for Chicago.

Athletics 5, Angels 4: At Anaheim, Calif., Marcus Semien and Khris Davis homered to help Kendall Graveman get the first win by an Oakland starter in more than three weeks.

Graveman (3-6) gave up two runs and eight hits in 62/3 innings to get the first win for an A's starter since June 1 after the rotation had combined to go 0-9 in the previous 17 games. Semien hit a three-run shot off Tim Lincecum (1-1) in Oakland's four-run second. Davis' solo shot in the fifth made it 5-2.

Sean Doolittle gave up a two-run homer to Jeff Bandy in the ninth but held on for his fourth save.

Home plate umpire Paul Emmel was hit in the head by Jefry Marte's bat with two outs in the ninth when the pinch-hitter lost control of it on a follow-through. Emmel fell to his knees before leaving the field with a towel held to his head

Marlins 4, Cubs 2: Giancarlo Stanton

homered in the fourth inning and singled home the go-ahead run with two outs in the eighth, sending visiting Chicago to its fourth consecutive defeat.

Christian Yelich started Miami's rally in the bottom of the eighth with a one-out walk against Pedro Strop (1-2). He advanced on a wild pitch and scored standing up on Stanton's opposite-field single. J.T. Realmuto followed with an RBI double.

Kyle Barraclough (4-2) pitched a scoreless eighth.

Braves 4, Mets 3: Adonis Garcia hit a go-ahead, two-run homer off Addison Reed in the eighth inning and host Atlanta beat New York for the fourth straight time in a week.

The Braves trailed 3-2 when Freddie Freeman opened the eighth with a single off Jerry Blevins. Reed (1-2) relieved with one out and, with catcher Travis d'Arnaud calling for a chest-high fastball on an 0-2 count, Garcia connected on a pitch that badly missed the target for his fourth home run.

Jim Johnson (1-4) won in relief.

Arodys Vizcaino converted his 18th save in 21 chances.

Diamondbacks 7, Rockies 6: Nick Ahmed had a two-out RBI single in the ninth inning and visiting Arizona recovered after blowing a late lead.

Diamondbacks closer Brad Ziegler (2-2) ended his streak of 43 consecutive successful save attempts dating back to May 29, 2015, a club record and the seventh longest ever. He allowed an inherited runner to score while the Rockies overcame a 6-3 deficit to tie it in the eighth inning.

Arizona regained the lead in the ninth off reliever Carlos Estevez (1-4).

Padres 7, Reds 4: Derek Norris hit a three-run homer that completed visiting San Diego's sixth-inning comeback, and the NL's highest-scoring team in June rallied to win a matchup of last-place teams.

J.C. Ramirez (1-3) gave up Norris' 10th home run for a 6-4 lead.

Christian Friedrich (4-2) allowed four runs in five innings, including Adam Duvall's two-run homer. Fernando Rodney remained perfect in 16 save chances.

Baylor releases 5 signees

Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Baylor is releasing five incoming freshman players from their national letters of intent and allowing them to attend other schools without losing eligibility.

The players were not identified in Baylor's news release Thursday, but all requested release prior to May 31, according to the school. The requests came after the Baylor board of regents fired coach Art Briles following the release of a report commissioned by the school that found he and other university leaders inappropriately handled sexual assault allegations by female students.

Without a release from Baylor, the players could have had to sit out their freshman seasons and lose a year of eligibility if they chose to attend another school. The signees could have requested a waiver from the NCAA to allow them to play immediately and retain full eligibility.

"I wanted the opportunity to talk with our signees and their families before providing any releases," Baylor acting head coach Jim Grobe said in a statement. "This has never been about whether or not we would ultimately provide individuals with a release; we simply asked that we go through the process outlined by the NLI, take some time and have the chance to speak with the student-athletes and their parents. I've enjoyed those opportunities to meet with these families and wish each individual success in all that they do in life."

Baylor signed 22 players in February in what was one of the highest-rated recruiting classes in the history of the program.

Baylor said several members of the 2016 class are enrolled in summer school and participating in the Bears' strength and conditioning program. Additional class members are expected to join the program in July.

"I am very impressed with the young men who are here at Baylor and on our team," Grobe said. "We have great student-athletes who are working hard, committed to success and being a part of something special. I am committed to each one in their pursuit of academic and athletic excellence."

Several top-rated players from Baylor's class are reportedly bailing on the Bears, including a highly touted wide receiver who did not need a release from his letter of intent.

Baylor failed to submit paperwork on time to the Big 12 on Devin Duvernay from Sachse, Texas, and he officially signed with Texas on Thursday.

ESPN has reported that Patrick Hudson, J.P. Urquidez, Jared Atkinson, Kameron Martin, Parrish Cobb and Donovan Duvernay, Devin's brother, also requested a release.

In other college football news:

■ Former NFL executive and player Merton Hanks has been named senior associate commissioner of Conference USA.

Commissioner Judy MacLeod announced the hiring Thursday. Hanks will be responsible for managing all of the league's operations for football and baseball.

Hanks worked for the NFL for 13 seasons. He served as vice president of football operations and compliance since 2011.

Coastal Carolina eliminates Texas Tech

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Coastal Carolina's incredible postseason run will continue for at least another day.

The Chanticleers got a big boost offensively from an unlikely source, and they capitalized on Texas Tech's struggles in the field to beat the Red Raiders 7-5 on Thursday night in a College World Series elimination game.

The Raiders, at No. 5, were the third and final national seed knocked out of the NCAA Tournament, and the second by Coastal Carolina. The Chanticleers swept No. 8 LSU on the road in super regionals, and they beat No. 1 Florida in their CWS opener.

"If you had told me we would be where we're at right now four months ago, two months ago, maybe three weeks ago, I'm not sure I would have laid a whole lot of money on it by any means," coach Gary Gilmore said.

The Chanticleers (51-17) now move to the Bracket 2 final on Friday night against TCU.

Light-hitting David Parrett played a huge role in getting them there, driving in three runs in his first CWS start.

"The mindset for today was that it's a

one-game season. That's what it came down to," Parrett said. "This group of guys, we don't want to say goodbye to each other yet. Tomorrow's another one-game season, so we're excited about that."

Coastal Carolina converted three Texas Tech errors into six unearned runs. The Red Raiders (47-20) committed seven errors in three CWS games, and seven of the 12 runs against them were unearned.

"Kind of shocked over some of that stuff," Tech coach Tim Tadlock said. "We hadn't done that in a long time. It was uncharacteristic of our team. Throughout the year, we played pretty good defense and pitched it pretty well, and we really probably just gave them too many of what you call unearned runs."

Mike Morrison (8-1) pitched a season-high 41/3 innings of relief for the win, and Bobby Holmes earned his fourth save. Erikson Lanning (3-4) took the loss.

Morrison, who relieved freshman Jason Bilous with one out in the third inning, is usually the Chanticleers' closer. He didn't give up a run until Hunter Hargrove's sacrifice fly and Michael Davis' RBI single pulled the Raiders to 7-5 in the seventh.

Holmes struck out pinch hitter Ryan Long to end the seventh and got out of the eighth when, with two men on,

he knocked down Tyler Neslony's hard comebacker and got the ball to first just in time. He pitched a perfect ninth.

Morrison said he and Holmes were willing to pitch as much as necessary to keep the season alive.

"I gave everything I had, and Bobby picked me up like he did all year," Morrison said. "That's kind of been our thing, where whether it's him before me or me before him. We'll pick each other up."

Parrett, a senior who played his junior-college ball 10 minutes away from TD Ameritrade Park at Iowa Western in Council Bluffs, came into the game batting .130 with 10 RBIs. With the left-handed Lanning starting for Texas Tech, the right-handed batting Parrett drew the start at catcher in place of Matt Beaird.

Parrett singled in a run in the second inning off Lanning and two more in the fifth off lefty Parker Mushinski.

Last season, Parrett started 46 games and hit 10 home runs.

"He's had one of those seasons up until today you kind of want to forget about, compared to what he did last year," Gilmore said. "If there's a way that the game events itself out over a season or whatever, he's had a couple moments here and there down the stretch. And today was the crowning moment."