

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## 101st Airborne lost 3 in Afghan attack

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The three American soldiers killed by an Afghan soldier in an apparent insider attack Saturday in eastern Afghanistan belonged to the Fort Campbell, Ky.-based 101st Airborne Division, the Pentagon announced Monday.

Sgt. Eric M. Houck, Sgt. William M. Bays and Cpl. Dillon C. Baldrige died of gunshot wounds in the Peka Valley in Nangarhar province, according to the Defense Department. One other soldier was wounded in the attack, but that soldier's condition was not available Monday.

The soldiers were conducting an operation partnered with Afghan soldiers in the area when they were shot, according to U.S. Forces-Afghanistan. Afghan officials said over

the weekend that an Afghan commando opened fire on the soldiers in what has become

**‘He always inspired me to be better every day. He was the best of all of us.’**

**Jessie Baldrige**  
Cpl. Dillon C. Baldrige's stepmother

known as a green-on-blue or insider attack. They said the shooter was killed after the attack. The Pentagon has declined to identify the shooter, but said the incident was under investigation.

The Taliban said the attack was conducted by a member of their insurgency that infiltrated the

Afghan forces. They claimed four Americans were killed in the attack.

The soldiers killed in the attack belonged to 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment and 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, both of the 101st Airborne Division, according to the Pentagon.

Houck, 25, was from Baltimore. He and his wife, Samantha, have two children, according to her Facebook profile. In a public post on the social media website, Samantha Houck called her husband a “hero” and an “angel.”

“I promise I will do all I can for our babies, and I will make you proud!” she wrote.

Bays, 29, was from Barstow, Calif. He leaves behind a wife, Jasmin, and three children, according to his Facebook profile.

Baldrige, 22, was an in-

fantryman from Youngsville, N.C. He was a 2012 graduate of Franklinton High School where he was a wrestler, according to the school.

In his last public Facebook post on May 5, Baldrige shared a video showing a bird and former basketball star Shaquille O’Neal dancing with the caption, “How I feel knowing deployment is almost over.”

His unit was due to return to Fort Campbell by August.

“He always inspired me to be better every day,” Jessie Baldrige, his stepmother, wrote in a public Facebook post. “He was the best of all of us.”

The soldiers’ unit deployed to Afghanistan last fall and was supporting the U.S. counterterrorism mission to target al-Qaida and Islamic State fighters as well as to train, advise and assist Afghan forces, according to the Army.

## Fighting in Daraa intensifies despite ‘de-escalation’ deal

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian government forces and rebels traded fire across Daraa on Monday as opposition activists warned the government was preparing to try and retake the remainder of the southern city in spite of a “de-escalation agreement” that came into force a month ago.

The activist-run Nabaa Media outlet released footage of thick black smoke rising over the city following a string of blasts. It alleged the government was using napalm-like weapons. The footage was filmed Sunday.

A Syrian army general in Damascus did not immediately respond to a request for

comment.

Daraa is an important link on the highway connecting Damascus to Jordan and was once an important source of customs revenue. It has been contested between the government and the opposition since 2011.

Nabaa contributor Mohammad Abazeid said the city’s opposition-held areas are “nearly empty” and have been heavily damaged by the bombardment. A “de-escalation agreement” brokered by Iran, Russia and Turkey in May has not brought any relief, activists said. The agreement covers four zones in Syria where the rebels are fighting pro-government forces.

## Afghan official: GIs killed 3 civilians after attack

By PHILLIP WALTER  
WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — American troops opened fire after a roadside bomb hit their convoy in Afghanistan’s Nangarhar province on Monday, killing three civilians, a spokesman for the provincial government claimed.

“After the explosion, the foreign forces started shooting and killed a man and his two sons,” Attaullah Khogyani said.

U.S. Forces-Afghanistan confirmed that a convoy of American and Afghan personnel had been struck by a bomb and small-arms fire in the

area before it returned fire in self-defense.

However, a statement said it had not received any “official allegations” of civilian casualties, and that an investigation into the incident had been launched.

“We take civilian casualties very seriously and all allegations are thoroughly investigated,” the statement said.

The incident came two days after three U.S. soldiers were killed in Nangarhar’s Achin district in an apparent insider attack. American forces have been helping Afghan troops battle the Taliban and a local branch of Islamic State in Nangarhar.

# Sub officer convicted of sex abuse charges involving teen

*The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot*

NORFOLK, Va. — A high-ranking submarine officer has been sent to prison for eight years after being convicted of sexual abuse charges over repeatedly trying to get together with a teenage girl he met at her summer job on a U.S. Navy base in Italy, the Navy said Friday.

During a court-martial last week at Naval Station Norfolk, Capt. Alan Dorrbecker was found guilty of multiple counts of sexual abuse and assault of a child, violating orders and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

Dorrbecker also will forfeit his pay and will be dismissed from the Navy, marking the end of an otherwise distinguished career that included commanding the attack submarine USS Greeneville and serving two years in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon.

The charges stem from Dorrbecker's efforts to arrange a meeting with the girl for sexual purposes while he was stationed in Naples, Italy, with Naval Forces Europe. The Virginian-Pilot generally does not identify victims of sexual assault.

Charge sheets say Dorrbecker sexually abused and assaulted the girl beginning in August 2015 when he sent her several lewd emails and later attempted to meet with her in November and December of that year.

"I want to hold you close, feel your skin, gently caress your cheek, smell the fragrance of your hair," Dorrbecker wrote, according to the documents. "My thoughts have more akin to our

embrace, imagining what you smell like, the fragrance of your hair, feeling the supple curves of your body melding next to mine, feeling the warmth in your breathing, and the moistness of your lips."

The documents do not identify the girl's age but say she was younger than 16.

A Naval Criminal Investigative Service agent who testified at a May hearing described Dorrbecker's actions in the final weeks of the case.

According to the agent, Kelly Cichon, Dorrbecker met the girl at her part-time summer job working on the naval base and the two exchanged email addresses. What Dorrbecker apparently did not know was that the girl's parents, who work for the Navy, became concerned about the communications. NCIS agents intervened, posing as the teen online and in text messages.

The sexual abuse charges relate to two occasions in which NCIS agents set up meetings in which Dorrbecker believed he was meeting with the girl, Cichon said. The first, scheduled on or about Nov. 20, 2015, was canceled at the last minute by text message by agents posing as the girl.

Dorrbecker was arrested following a second meeting attempt on Dec. 2, 2015, in which agents posing as the teen lured him to a townhouse on base after concocting a story about the girl dog-sitting for out-of-town residents.

Dorrbecker arrived with bags packed with clothing, wine, food, condoms and personal lubricant, Cichon said in May.

## Navy kids raise money for disaster victims

BY TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Children of Navy personnel in Japan tried on kimonos Sunday to help raise money for earthquake and tsunami victims.

The kimono-wearing event at Yokosuka City's Sogo Fukushima Kaikan building was run by Helping Hands for Tohoku, a charity that supports victims of last year's Kumamoto earthquakes and 2011's earthquake and tsunami in northeast Japan.

Parents paid about \$18 — about a third of what it costs to rent a kimono in Tokyo — to dress their children in the traditional garb with the help of Japanese volunteers.

More than 80 children participated.

Volunteers exclaimed "kawaii!" — Japanese for "cute" — as the kids posed in the colorful clothing. Both boys and girls were able to try on full kimonos and shoes. Girls were given traditional hairstyles.

Some of the kimonos worn by the kids are almost 100 years old, volunteers said.

Event organizer and Navy spouse Masako Sullivan said the event raised \$1,400, which will be used to buy items such as toothbrushes and rice for tsunami survivors living in temporary housing. Some of the cash will support an earthquake-damaged day care center in Kumamoto, she said.

Helping Hands for Tohoku was formed by Navy personnel in the aftermath of the 2011 disaster. Its 280 members have provided disaster victims with food and water, playground equipment and scooters, Sullivan said.

Navy spouse Karen Fahrney, who was been with the group since its founding, said relief efforts for victims are still needed, even six years after the earthquake.

## US cruiser aids relief efforts on Sri Lanka

BY MARCUS FICHTL  
*Stars and Stripes*

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — The USS Lake Erie has arrived on Sri Lanka to provide humanitarian assistance to victims of last month's deadly floods and mudslides.

The Sri Lankan government estimates more than 200 have died and tens of thousands have been forced out of their homes by the floods and mudslides after heavy monsoon rain hit the island nation just south of India.

The Lake Erie arrived in the nation's capital of Colombo on Sunday, a Navy statement said.

The deployment of the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser and its complement of helicopters will add to the \$2.3 million in U.S. aid that the State Department announced June 4 in response to the disaster.

"U.S. forces will coordinate with our Sri Lankan counterparts to support recovery efforts," Adm. Harry Harris, head of U.S. Pacific Command, said in a statement.

"We will work closely with our interagency partners from the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, and others to ensure continued, timely and

swift responses to requests from the Government of Sri Lanka," he added.

U.S. military personnel were on the island as recently as March. The visit was part of Pacific Partnership, a series of disaster-response drills that have been ongoing throughout the Pacific since the 2004 Indonesian tsunami that killed hundreds of thousands of people.

The Lake Erie left its homeport of San Diego in May on an independent deployment to the Western Pacific with a detachment from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 49, the Navy statement said.

# Defense: Accuser, Cosby were lovers

Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Bill Cosby's trial raced toward a close Monday, with his lawyer telling the jury that the comedian and the woman who accuses him of drugging and molesting her were lovers who had enjoyed secret "romantic interludes."

Declining to take the stand in his own defense, the 79-year-old TV star left it to his attorney to argue that Cosby's 2004 sexual encounter with Andrea Constand was consensual. Lawyer Brian McMonagle said in his closing argument that while Cosby had been unfaithful to his wife, he didn't commit a crime.

McMonagle pointed out that Constand telephoned Cosby dozens of times after the alleged assault. Constand told the jury she was merely returning his calls about the women's basketball squad at Temple University, where she worked as director of team operations and he was a member of the

board of trustees.

"This isn't talking to a trustee. This is talking to a lover," McMonagle said of one call that lasted 49 minutes. "Why are we running from the truth of this case — this relationship? Why? I don't understand it."

Cosby's wife of 53 years, Camille — in the courtroom for the first time in the 6-day-old trial — was stoic during the defense argument. She sat in the front row, across the aisle from Constand, who didn't react to McMonagle's two-hour closing but smiled at the end of it.

Cosby could spend the rest of his life in prison if convicted.

Constand, 44, testified last week that Cosby gave her three blue pills and then penetrated her with her fingers against her will as she lay paralyzed and half-conscious. She sued Cosby after prosecutors in 2005 declined to press charges.

Cosby testified over a decade ago as part of her lawsuit, eventually settling the case for an undisclosed sum.

# Victims of Pulse nightclub massacre honored in Fla.

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Scores of people gathered outside the perimeter of the Pulse nightclub Monday in Orlando, Fla., to pay their respects; inside the site's fences, the names of the 49 victims of the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history were read out loud in a private service.

The early-morning service was closed to the public and was held for survivors, victims' families, club employees and local officials. It overlapped the time that gunman Omar Mateen started shooting inside the nightclub on "Latin Night" at a little after 2 a.m. on June 12, 2016.

"I realize that gathering here in this place, at this hour, is be-

yond difficult," Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer said during the service. "But I also know that the strength you've shown over the past year will carry you through today and in the future."

The private service was the start of what would be almost 24 hours of observations to remember the victims who died, as well as the dozens of Pulse patrons who were wounded during the shooting. It would be followed by another midday service at the nightclub, an evening gathering in the heart of downtown Orlando and a final, music-filled late-night service at the nightclub.

Later in the day, church bells throughout the Orlando area were set to ring 49 times at noon.

# Sessions' testimony to be open to public

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Jeff Sessions' testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee on Tuesday will be open to the public. Sessions is expected to face sharp questioning from his former Senate colleagues about his role in the investigation into contacts between Trump campaign associates and Russia during the 2016 election.

The Justice Department said Monday that Sessions requested that Tuesday's committee hearing be open because he "believes it is important for the American people to hear the truth directly from him."

His testimony follows fired FBI Director James Comey's riveting session before the same Senate panel last week. Comey spoke of receiving pressure from President Donald Trump to drop a probe into former na-

tional security adviser Michael Flynn's contacts with Russia.

Comey's remarks drew an angry response from the president on Friday accusing Comey of lying.

Trump's aides have dodged questions about whether conversations relevant to the Russia investigation have been recorded, and so has the president. Republicans have pressed Trump to say whether he has tapes of private conversations with Comey and to provide them to Congress if he does — or possibly face a subpoena.

"I don't understand why the president just doesn't clear this matter up once and for all," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, a member of the intelligence committee, referring to the existence of any recordings. She described Comey's testimony as "candid" and "thorough" and said she would support a subpoena of any tapes if needed.

# Md., DC attorneys general file suit against Trump

Associated Press

The attorneys general of Maryland and the District of Columbia said Monday they are suing Donald Trump, alleging he has violated the Constitution by taking payments from foreign governments as president.

Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh outlined details of the lawsuit in an interview with The Associated Press. Much of it is focused on suspected violations of the emoluments clause of the Constitution, based on Trump's real estate holdings. The clause prohibits the president and other government employees from accepting foreign gifts and payments without congressional approval.

The Trump Hotel in the nation's capital affects business in the Washington area and is

part of the reason the lawsuit was filed by officials in the District of Columbia and Maryland, Frosh said.

"We have economic interests that are impacted, but the most salient factor is that when the president is subject to foreign influence, we have to be concerned about whether the actions he's taking — both at home and abroad — are the result of payments that he is receiving at the Trump Hotel, payments that he is receiving at Mar-a-Lago, payments that he is receiving at Trump Tower, payments that he is receiving in all of his other far-flung enterprises, and he brags about it," Frosh said.

Frosh and District of Columbia Attorney General Karl Racine announced the lawsuit at a news conference Monday.

## Putin's rule protested in Russia

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Thousands of anti-government activists challenging President Vladimir Putin's rule were protesting across Russia on Monday, with police arresting main opposition leader Alexei Navalny outside his Moscow home before he could reach the main demonstration and scores of others.

Navalny's wife, Yulia, said on his Twitter feed that he was arrested about a half-hour before the Moscow demonstration was to begin. Police later confirmed the arrest, saying he could get up to 15 days in jail on charges of failing to follow police orders and violating public order.

Although city authorities had agreed to a location for the Moscow protest, Navalny called for it to be moved to Tverskaya Street, one of Moscow's main thoroughfares. He said contractors hired to build a stage at the agreed-upon venue could not do their work after apparently coming under official pressure.

Tverskaya, known in Soviet times as Gorky Street, was closed to traffic on Monday for an extensive commemoration of the national holiday Russia Day, including people dressed in historical Russian costumes.

Moscow police blocked part of the street with big dump trucks in a bid to block the movement of protesters. Associated Press journalists witnessed at least 50 arrests in the St. Petersburg, Russia's second-largest city, with Russian media reporting at least 150 arrested in the city. AP reporters also saw at least 10 arrests in Moscow, with reports saying there were up to 100 so far in the capital.

After the change, Moscow police warned that "any provocative actions from the protesters' side will be considered a threat to public order and will be immediately suppressed."

The protesters, some carrying Russian flags, were chanting loudly as Moscow riot police stood watch.

## Japan seeking to increase sales of military equipment

Associated Press

CHIBA, Japan — A defense official said Monday that Japan is seeking to increase its sales of military equipment to Southeast Asian nations amid growing tensions with China and North Korea.

The move is part of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's push to bolster Japan's military role and its sales of military equipment, especially in Southeast Asia, where China has expanded its own arms sales.

Hideaki Watanabe, head of the Defense Ministry's Acquisition Technology and Logistics Agency, said Japan will host a meeting Thursday with defense officials from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to discuss the sharing of equipment and technology.

He spoke Monday at an international arms exhibit near Tokyo that was attended by hundreds of defense officials and industry leaders from around the world.

Watanabe said there have been aggressive attempts by nations in recent years to change the status quo, an apparent reference to China's building of artificial islands in disputed areas of the South China Sea.

"It is essential to maintain the open and stable sea under the rule of law," he said. "Ensuring safety of navigation and flight contributes to the peace and prosperity of Japan and international society. Japan's research and development of high-quality defense equipment contributes to the defense of Japan and elsewhere."

Japan's defense industry at home is worth about \$16 billion annually, a fraction of the country's \$470 billion auto industry.

Japan had restricted arms exports under its post-World War II war-renouncing constitution limiting joint research and development to the U.S. under a bilateral security pact. Since an easing of the rules in 2014, Japan now has joint research deals with Britain, Australia and France.

In order to scale up the defense industry, Japan's government has bolstered research funding to more than \$90 million this year.

Japan has been promoting the transfer of military equipment to Southeast Asian countries to help their maritime security capabilities amid China's growing presence in the South China Sea, but deals have been limited to the sale of TC-90 surveillance aircraft to the Philippines.

China already exports mostly low-cost military equipment to many Southeast Asian countries.

The arms exhibit, sponsored by the Japanese defense, foreign and industry ministries, included panel discussions focused on missile defense. North Korea has conducted several missile tests this year.

U.S. defense giant Lockheed Martin and Japanese contractors Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Kawasaki Heavy Industries were among dozens of exhibitors from around the world who had booths at this year's MAST Asia exhibit just east of Tokyo.

Japanese manufacturers are still cautious about the prospects of military sales.

Mitsubishi Industries, a maker of Aegis destroyers and fighter jets, is not expecting booming business right away, as Japan's defense equipment sales are more focused on disaster prevention and international peace.

## US refuses to sign G-7 climate pledge

Associated Press

BOLOGNA, Italy — The U.S. refused Monday to sign onto a Group of Seven pledge that calls the Paris climate accord the "irreversible" global tool to address climate change.

The G-7 environment ministers issued a final communique Monday after their two-day meeting, the first since the U.S. announced it was withdrawing from the Paris climate pact. In a footnote to the communique, the U.S. said it wouldn't join with the other six countries in

reaffirming their Paris commitments, but said it was taking action on its own to reduce its carbon footprint.

"The United States will continue to engage with key international partners in a manner that is consistent with our domestic priorities, preserving both a strong economy and a healthy environment," the footnote read.

As a result, the U.S. said it would not join those sections of the communique on climate and multilateral development banks.

The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, had attended the first few hours of the summit Sunday, but left to attend a Cabinet meeting in Washington.

Presenting the communique Monday, Italy's environment minister, Gian Luca Galletti, called the Paris accord "irreversible, non-negotiable and the only instrument possible to combat climate change." He said the other G-7 countries hoped to continue "constructive dialogue" with the U.S., but insisted on the Paris parameters.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Surfers honor East Coast 'Godfather'

**FL** MELBOURNE BEACH — Dozens of surfers along Florida's Space Coast are honoring the man who has been called "the Godfather of East Coast Surfing."

Surfers held what's known as a "paddle out" Saturday for Dick Catri in the waters off the Sebastian Inlet State Park along Florida's Space Coast. A "paddle out" is a time-honored tradition that is basically a floating memorial service for a surfer.

Catri died last month at 79.

As a representative for a surfboard manufacturer in the 1960s, Catri established a team of surfers who won competitions along the Eastern Seaboard. He also promoted surfing contests.

## Man held over punch of man with cerebral palsy

**PA** WEST CHESTER — Pennsylvania authorities have arrested a man accused of sucker punching another man outside a convenience store after making fun of him because he showed symptoms of cerebral palsy.

The Chester County Sheriff's Office said Barry Baker Jr., 29, was arrested June 5 in Uwchlan Township. The court docket lists Baker's hometown as Georgetown, Del. He is charged with simple assault against a man with cerebral palsy in the May 10 attack in West Chester. He also faces harassment and disorderly conduct charges.

## Firefighters build ramp to help amputee

**NH** CONCORD — Firefighters have come to the rescue of an amputee who was struggling to get into and

out of his house.

Earlier this month, 15 firefighters from the New Hampshire town of Rochester came together to build a ramp for Raymond Olson, who had lost part of his right leg. With lumber donated from a local company, they built the ramp in less than a day. Olson's fiancée, Carolyn Hyde, had called the fire department looking for a contact of an organization that might help with the ramp for Olsen because it wasn't covered by her insurance. A few hours later, she got a call back from the fire department offering to do the job themselves.

## University OKs design for slave memorial

**VA** CHARLOTTESVILLE — The University of Virginia's Board of Visitors has unanimously approved the design for a memorial honoring the contributions of slaves who helped build and maintain the school.

The board approved the design Friday.

The memorial will be about 80 feet in diameter, rising at its highest point to about 8 feet. The names of nearly 1,000 enslaved workers now known to have worked there between 1817 and 1865 will be inscribed.

Private fundraising is to begin immediately. Officials hope the memorial will be complete in 2019, when the school celebrates its bicentennial.

## Driver flees crash with hydrant stuck to car

**NJ** PARSIPPANY — New Jersey authorities said a driver fled the scene of an accident with a fire hydrant stuck to his car and then tossed it into the trash.

Parsippany police said the motorist drove off after his car struck the hydrant and a mail-

box June 6. Police followed a trail of water from the scene to a home, where they found the car and the hydrant. The driver was found in a nearby diner. Police said Domingo Moreno, 27, was charged with criminal mischief, hindering apprehension and tampering with evidence, and was turned over to federal immigration officials.

## Lawmaker's document has porn references

**RI** PROVIDENCE — A Rhode Island lawmaker acknowledged he mistakenly gave his colleagues a handout that showed open web browser tabs referencing pornographic content.

State Rep. Ramon Perez took printouts of a Wikipedia article Wednesday to give to House Finance Committee members as part of his testimony in favor of a bill. The screenshot reportedly showed multiple open browser tabs with titles referencing pornographic material.

A House spokesman confirmed Perez gave the document to the clerk, who made copies and distributed them. The clerk collected the handouts when the tabs were discovered.

Perez said the handout was provided by a friend he'd asked to research the information.

## Job done, Dozer the walrus leaving zoo

**WA** TACOMA — A 3,100-pound walrus named Dozer who enthralled visitors the last seven months at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Washington state is leaving at the end of this month.

Officials at the zoo in Tacoma say Dozer mated with three female walrus and is being sent to another zoo for the same duties as part of the Walrus Conservation Consortium's plan to aid the species in aquariums

and the Arctic.

Zoo spokeswoman Kris Sherman said a walrus has never been born at the zoo but that could change. Officials won't know if Joan, Basilla or Kulu are pregnant until this fall.

## City to host replicas of Columbus ships

**RI** NEWPORT — Replicas of two of the ships Christopher Columbus used to explore the New World will be coming to Newport.

The replicas of the Pinta and the Nina will arrive in the city Thursday and will be open to the public starting Friday. They will be docked at Fort Adams State Park until June 26. The ships, owned by the Columbus Foundation, based in the British Virgin Islands, serve as a sailing museum to educate the public about the Portuguese ship called the caravel, which was used by many explorers in the 15th and 16th centuries.

## Fleeing DUI suspect jumps off of bridge

**AL** HOOVER — Police said a DUI suspect jumped from an interstate bridge in central Alabama attempting to elude police after he was found passed out in his car.

Hoover Police Lt. Keith Czeskleba told Al.com an officer tried to wake up the 27-year-old man who appeared to be intoxicated on Interstate 459 early Sunday. Czeskleba said the man became agitated and ignored the officer's request to put his hands behind his back. He then darted toward the concrete bridge railing, jumped over it and fell about 25 feet to the ground. Czeskleba said officers gave the man first aid before he was taken to a hospital with life-threatening injuries.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Penguins top Preds for 2nd straight title

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Even Sidney Crosby and the Pittsburgh Penguins are going to be challenged trying to top this.

Crosby won his second consecutive Conn Smythe Trophy as the MVP of the Stanley Cup playoffs, and goalie Matt Murray made 27 saves for his second straight shutout as the Penguins became the first team to repeat as champion in nearly two decades with a 2-0 win over the Nashville Predators in Game 6.

That doesn't include Crosby also winning the World Cup of Hockey title before this season started, along with tournament MVP. He followed that up by leading the NHL with 44 goals, and Crosby was at his best in this Cup Final leading all scorers with seven points — one goal and six assists, including three in a 6-0 win in Game 5 that put the Penguins on the verge of their latest title.

Crosby also became only the third man to win back-to-back Conn Smythe trophies. All within a calendar year.

"You have a small window to play and to have a career, and I feel fortunate, but

I also understand how difficult it is, so you just want to try to make the best of it," Crosby said.

The Penguins won their fifth title — all of them clinched on the road — to tie the Wayne Gretzky-Mark Messier-era Edmonton Oilers for sixth on the all-time list and the most by any non-Original Six franchise. The Detroit Red Wings in 1997 and '98 were the last champion to defend their title. The Penguins are the first to do it in the salary-cap era.

"It starts with Sid, our captain," coach Mike Sullivan said. "He's just such a terrific person and has such an appetite to win, and I think it's really contagious amongst our group."

Crosby did have some help. Murray is the first goaltender in NHL history to win the clinching game for the Stanley Cup in each of his first two seasons.

The Penguins also needed the second-latest clinching goal in regulation to finish off the Predators, who had played their way to their first Stanley Cup Final after being the last team into the playoffs. Patric Hornqvist, the last pick of the 2005 draft (by the Predators), scored the game-win-

ner for Pittsburgh with 1:35 left by banking the puck off Nashville goalie Pekka Rinne's left elbow. Carl Hagelin added an empty-net goal.

"There's been a lot of guys telling us we can't do it, and now we're standing here," Hornqvist said. "We've battled through a lot."

Nashville lost for just the first time in regulation on home ice this postseason, and this one had some hard luck. Colton Sissons had a goal erased by a whistle 67 seconds into the second period. The Predators went 0-for-4 with the man advantage, including 32 seconds of a 5-on-3 in the third. Sissons and Filip Forsberg each hit the post in the third period.

"It's going to sting, it's going to hurt for a while," said Nashville's P.K. Subban.

The Penguins capped their 50th season in the NHL's centennial year with the third championship for Crosby, surpassing the two won by the Penguins teams led by current owner Mario Lemieux in the 1990s.

**Notes:** Lemieux won the Conn Smythe in 1992 and 1992, and Bernie Parent was the first to win the MVP trophy in consecutive years in 1974 and 1975.

# Bradley's early goal helps US tie at Mexico

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Michael Bradley watched Hector Moreno's pass to Javier Hernandez in the center circle and thought back to the videos he had seen of the star pushing the ball back. So even before Chicharito tapped the ball toward Hector Herrera, Bradley stepped up.

The U.S. captain knocked the ball toward Mexico's goal, sprinted to catch up and lofted a chip from about 40 yards over goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa's outstretched arm and under the crossbar.

The crowd of 81,000 at Estadio Azteca was stunned. The United States had taken the lead six minutes into Sunday night's World Cup qualifier.

"Here you know that if you catch a ball right, that with the thin air the ball's going to really fly," Bradley said.

U.S. coach Bruce Arena changed seven of 11 starters and employed a five-man defense to overcome the 7,820-

foot altitude and short recovery time. His team did not quite soar all night, but Bradley's goal set the tone. Carlos Vela tied it in the 23rd minute on a counterattack with a 23-yard shot that beat goalkeeper Brad Guzan to the near post, but the Americans hung on for a 1-1 tie to gain only their third point at Azteca.

"The bad start in the hex meant that every point now is worth its weight in gold," Bradley said.

Mexico leads the final round of the North and Central American and Caribbean region with 14 points, followed by Costa Rica and the U.S. (eight each), Panama (six), Honduras (four) and Trinidad and Tobago (three).

Quite a turnaround since November, when a 2-1 home loss to Mexico and a 4-0 wipeout in Costa Rica caused the U.S. Soccer Federation to fire coach Jurgen Klinsmann and bring back Arena, the U.S. coach from 1998-2006.

"It's going to be very challenging right to the end, but I feel good about where we are," Arena said. "We've made up some lost ground, so I feel good about that."

Herrera nearly put El Tri ahead in the 71st with a 30-yard free kick that rebounded off the crossbar. Three minutes later, Bradley sent a 30-yard shot off a post.

Mexico had only a modest 10-7 advantage in shots at a venue where it usually dominates. Speaking shortly after a downpour began in stoppage time, Arena said a key was exploiting his roster's depth and revealed he divulged to players when training camp opened on May 29 that he planned different lineups and formations for the upcoming qualifiers.

"To repeat the lineup we played on Thursday, we would have struggled big-time in the altitude," Arena said. "We told the team on day one we were going to make seven-to-11 changes for this game. We went

with seven. I was close to nine yesterday."

While he employed a standard 4-4-2 formation in the 2-0 home win over Trinidad, Arena decided as far back as January to start five defenders at Mexico.

"We tossed it around in our office with our coaches and they were probably not real supportive of the idea since they maybe don't have enough experience in that formation," Arena said. "I was pretty confident we could implement that. We have very good center backs, and that's the key to that system."

DeAndre Yedlin remained on the right, with Tim Ream and Omar Gonzalez joining Geoff Cameron in the center and 35-year-old DaMarcus Beasley on the left.

"Mexico does an unbelievable job in their spacing," Arena said. "They like to open you up and attack the gaps between your back line if you're playing a back four, and we protected all those spaces."

## Super regional roundup

# Four CWS spots claimed

Associated Press

Cal State Fullerton, TCU, Florida State and LSU wrapped up their NCAA baseball super regionals on Sunday and clinched spots in the College World Series.

The Titans, Horned Frogs, Seminoles and Tigers will join No. 1 national seed Oregon State, No. 7 Louisville and Texas A&M in the CWS, which starts Saturday in Omaha, Neb. Wake Forest or Florida will fill the last spot on Monday.

Fullerton locked up an 18th CWS appearance, and second in three years, with a 2-1 win over Long Beach State in Game 3. Sixth-seeded TCU reached Omaha for the fourth straight year and fifth time since 2010 with an 8-1 victory over Missouri State in Game 2.

Florida State beat Sam Houston State 19-0, the largest margin of victory in a super regional, to complete a sweep. The Seminoles are in the CWS for the 22nd time and first since 2012.

Fourth-seeded LSU swept Mississippi State with a 14-4 win in a game that had three rain delays totaling more than an hour. The Tigers, who have won 16 straight games, are heading to Omaha for the second time in three years and 18th overall.

The second game of the Wake Forest-Florida super regional in Gainesville, Fla., was suspended in the bottom of the fifth inning because of rain. The game was to resume Monday afternoon with the Demon Deacons leading 5-4. Third-seeded Florida won the series opener Saturday.

In Long Beach, Calif., Fullerton's Colton Eastman pitched one-hit shutout ball for seven innings with eight strikeouts and four walks. The Titans managed only two hits against four pitchers. They scored their runs in the fourth inning when John Sheaks hit the first two batters with pitches and after and a sacrifice by

Timmy Richards moved the runners over, Hank LoForte singled both of them in. The Dirtbags' only run was unearned, coming on a passed ball in the sixth.

Long Beach State, which won five of six against Fullerton in the regular season, was held without an earned run for the last 26 innings of the series.

TCU's Evan Skoug, who hit the go-ahead two-run homer in a 3-2 victory in Game 1 on Saturday, and Elliott Barzilli went deep in the Horned Frogs' win in Fort Worth, Texas. Brian Howard struck out 11 and limited the Bears to four hits in 7 1/3 innings.

The Frogs have won all five of their games in the national tournament. They're the fifth program in 30 years to make four straight trips to the CWS.

Taylor Walls homered twice and Quincy Nieporte and Kyle Cavanaugh also went deep in the Seminoles' rout of Sam Houston State in Tallahassee, Fla. Drew Parrish, Cole Sands and Andrew Karp combined to strike out 15 and hold the Bearkats to four hits.

The Seminoles' 19-run margin of victory broke the super-regional record set when Louisville beat Oklahoma State 20-2 in 2007.

Sam Houston State issued 12 walks and committed three errors.

"If you lose the battle of the freebies with them, it can be a miserable night, and that's what happened tonight," Bearkats coach Matt Deggs said. "Those guys did a great job of capitalizing."

LSU scored six runs in the fifth inning to erase a 4-3 deficit against the Bulldogs. Caleb Gilbert relieved struggling LSU starter Jared Poche' in the third inning. Gilbert gave up singles to the first two batters he faced, then retired 17 of the next 18 before Hunter Newman came on to pitch the bottom of the ninth.

## Auto racing roundup

# Blaney earns first Cup win

Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — Ryan Blaney was stationed in Victory Lane with a headset on as a guest pit reporter just the day before at Pocono Raceway. But to get there again, on his own in the No. 21 Ford, he'd have to zip past a pair of hardened NASCAR champions with just 10 laps left.

Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch may not be ready yet to officially pass the torch to the next generation of drivers. So it's up to young 20-somethings like Blaney to yank that torch — that checkered flag — and knock 'em off their perch.

Driving for owners with roots steeped in NASCAR history, Blaney blazed his way down the stretch past Busch, held off a hard-charging Harvick, and won his first career NASCAR Cup race Sunday at the raceway.

That's career win No. 99 for the Wood Brothers.

No. 1 for Blaney, well, that felt pretty good.

Blaney, a "Star Wars" nut, was tongue tied when he met actress Daisy Ridley in March. An hour or so after confetti fluttered on him in Victory Lane, he offered an open invitation to Ridley to join the post-race party.

The bash might last as long as a "Star Wars" marathon.

"Maybe she watched the race today," Blaney said. "She better get on a plane right now. It'll actually be going on all night, so she's got plenty of time to get here."

The 23-year-old Blaney, son of NASCAR driver Dave Blaney, grandson of dirt track star Lou Blaney, won for the first time in 68 career starts. He was a guest reporter for Fox during the Xfinity race.

Blaney interviewed Xfinity winner Brad Keselowski in Victory Lane on Saturday as part of an all-driver broadcast by Fox. Keselowski finished fifth on Sunday and returned the favor by crashing the broadcast and interviewed Blaney.

"What was going through

your mind? You're in Victory Lane, man!" Keselowski said.

"I just didn't want to make a mistake," Blaney told Keselowski. "That would have been the worst thing we could do."

He was near flawless over those final 10 laps.

"He outran two guys today that are champions," Eddie Wood said.

**Winless Junior:** Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s winless season stretched into Pocono when he was forced out of the race because of mechanical issues. Earnhardt, who swept Pocono in 2015, was already forced to start at the rear of the field. He said the problem in the No. 88 Chevrolet was shifting issues; he tried to go from third to fourth gear but the car went to second.

"We don't really have an answer to it other than me just having to pay more attention," he said.

Earnhardt, who will retire at the end of the season, has finished 30th or worse six times this season.

In other auto racing news:

■ At Montreal, Lewis Hamilton is still finding novel ways to win the Canadian Grand Prix.

The three-time Formula One champion earned his sixth victory — and third in a row — on the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve on Sunday, taking a clear path from the pole to the checkered flag to win by almost 20 seconds.

The new twist: Valtteri Bottas was second, the first 1-2 finish for the Mercedes teammates since they joined forces this season.

"I think experiencing it with Valtteri is definitely different," said Hamilton, who was paired with Nico Rosberg for the previous four years. "I think the chemistry Valtteri and I have is different. I think the working environment we've both experienced this year is on a complete other level, on a professional level that's been above any other year that I have experienced."

# Judge hits longest HR of season in win

Associated Press

NEW YORK — His day done, Aaron Judge put on a “Great Hambino” shirt — yellow and short-sleeved, loaded with images of a young boy pointing his finger and resting a bat over his shoulder, just like Babe Ruth.

How fitting.

Judge hit two more home runs, including a drive nearly 500 feet that cleared the distant bleachers at Yankee Stadium and sent New York romping past Baltimore 14-3 Sunday for its fifth straight win.

Still, the rookie sensation with the shirt referencing a character from the movie “The Sandlot” didn’t sound too impressed. Unlike his teammates and a sellout crowd of 46,348, who were awed by Judge’s latest achievements.

“If I know it’s going over the fence, I am going to start jogging and just get around the bases and get back in the dugout,” he said.

Yet even by his lofty feats, it was quite a power show by the 6-foot-7 Judge. He leads the majors with 21 homers and tops the AL with 47 RBIs and a .344 batting average.

In the sixth, Judge launched a mammoth shot to left-center field that was estimated

at 495 feet, the longest homer in the majors this season, according to Statcast. The ball bounced off the bare hands of a fan standing behind a fence beyond the back row of the bleachers.

Then again, out that far, who could expect to need a glove for a souvenir?

The Yankees on the bench had their mouths wide open in amazement, pointing to where the ball traveled. Shortstop Didi Gregorius lifted up diminutive infielder Ronald Torreyes for a high-five with Judge.

Judge sent a shot into the right-center seats in his next at-bat, and also doubled earlier.

“He hit a line drive to right field. It was just a line drive,” Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. “Most guys, they’re hoping it gets in the gap. It just went out. I mean his power is incredible.”

The 25-year-old Judge has done enough to lead all American League players in fan voting for starting spots in the All-Star Game. The outfielder enhanced his credentials by going 4-for-4 with a walk, scoring four times and driving in three.

Starlin Castro homered and drove in five runs for the AL East leaders. Gary Sanchez also connected, capping a five-run first inning off Kevin Gausman (3-5).

“I think they swung at the first four pitches I threw, so obviously they’re all feeling pretty hot right now, feeling comfortable,” Gausman said.

The Yankees scored at least eight runs for the fifth straight game, matching the team’s best streak since 1939. New York swept the three-game series, and outscored the Orioles and Boston 55-9 during this five-game run.

“I know these three days up here, last four days, actually, have been frustrating,” Orioles outfielder Adam Jones said. “But let’s get the hell out of New York, let’s go to Chicago, redeem ourselves and just flip the script.”

Adam Warren (2-1) got credited with the win, pitching 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> scoreless innings.

Gausman gave up eight hits, seven runs and walked six in 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings. He walked Matt Holliday with one out to load the bases in the first and Castro began his big offensive day with a two-run single. Sanchez followed with his 10th homer.

The Orioles, playing without injured All-Star third baseman Manny Machado (strained left wrist) for the fourth straight game, chased New York starter Chad Green in the third with back-to-back doubles that made it 5-1.

## Roundup

# Seager’s slam caps Dodgers’ six-run rally in 8th

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Dodgers got back in the game with a little patience, and then Corey Seager finished the rally with one big swing.

Seager capped Los Angeles’ six-run eighth inning with his first career grand slam, helping the Dodgers sweep the Cincinnati Reds with a 9-7 victory on Sunday.

Rookie Cody Bellinger sparked Los Angeles’ rally with one-out drive against Austin Brice. Rasiel Iglesias (2-1) replaced Brice with a runner on first and walked three straight batters to force in a run, trimming Cincinnati’s lead to 7-5. Seager then hit a drive to center for his ninth homer.

“You just kind of got to slow it down,” Seager said. “Just try to get to the next guy, keep the

line moving and try to get a win.”

**Cubs 7, Rockies 5:** Addison Russell had a go-ahead home run for his first big contribution since an absence in the wake of a MLB investigation into domestic abuse allegations, and the host Cubs stopped the Rockies’ seven-game winning streak.

**Rangers 5, Nationals 1:** Max Scherzer struck out 10 to move past 2,000 for his career, but was outpitched by Austin Bibens-Dirkx as the visiting Rangers completed the sweep of the weekend series.

**Cardinals 6, Phillies 5:** Dexter Fowler hit a three-run homer for host St. Louis, and Adam Wainwright tossed five solid innings.

**Angels 12, Astros 6:** Albert Pujols homered in the first inning and Eric Young Jr. had a

career-high four RBIs, helping the visiting Angels rally for the win.

**Mets 2, Braves 1:** Seth Lugo pitched seven crisp innings in his season debut, leading the visiting Mets to the road win.

**Blue Jays 4, Mariners 0:** Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer for visiting Toronto, and J.A. Happ struck out eight in six innings.

**Giants 13, Twins 8:** Buster Posey had three hits and four RBIs, Hunter Pence added three doubles and scored three times, and the hoar Giants avoided a three-game sweep.

**Indians 4, White Sox 2:** Carlos Carrasco took a shutout into the sixth and three relievers combined for 3<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> scoreless innings, leading host Cleveland to the victory.

**Pirates 3, Marlins 1:** Ivan Nova pitched six shutout in-

nings, Elias Diaz drove in two runs and the host Pirates beat Jeff Locke.

**Diamondbacks 11, Brewers 1:** Robbie Ray struck out 12 in 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> shutout innings, Paul Goldschmidt hit a grand slam and the Diamondbacks pulled away for the win.

**Rays 5, Athletics 4:** Mallex Smith had three hits and used his speed to set up the go-ahead run, helping the host Rays take three of four from the Athletics.

**Royals 8, Padres 3:** Mike Moustakas homered twice for visiting Kansas City, and Jake Junis pitched seven-plus solid innings.

**Tigers 8, Red Sox 3:** Justin Upton hit a grand slam off the right-field foul pole and Nicholas Castellanos hit a two-run homer as visiting Detroit averted a sweep.