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Navy medical billing system problematic

By ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — For years, no one did much about thousands of civilian medical bills stacking up at U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka.

One hospital employee familiar with the backlog estimated the number of bills that were never sent to patients or insurance companies had reached 20,000 by 2014.

“Oh, we’re working on it,” Beth de la Cruz recalled being told in 2012, after she asked why she hadn’t received any bills in six months.

Over the past 18 months, de la Cruz, a mother of three and spouse of a Navy Criminal Investigative Service special agent, has received bills up to 2 years old, totaling tens of thousands of dollars.

She said she’s lost count of how many midnight calls she has made to the United States, explaining to her insurance company why the bills were so late and were riddled with coding errors.

De la Cruz had to follow up with calls to Centralized Receivables Service, set up by the U.S. Department of the Treasury as a pilot project for bill collection across the government’s myriad agencies. All of the Navy’s 26 hospitals worldwide are now using CRS, according to service officials in Washington — a decision that came after a Defense Department Inspector General report about the Navy’s Portsmouth, N.H., hospital showed lax, often nonexistent collection efforts. The IG found 1,533 accounts that were more than 180 days delinquent, with little action taken to collect.

Millions uncollected?

If that IG report reflects procedures throughout the Navy system, it is likely that its hospitals have been unable or unwilling to collect millions of dollars.

In an era of tightening defense budgets, the uncollected medical debt issue goes beyond the Navy. The IG recently announced a review of Army hospitals after finding \$73.1 million in delinquent debt at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio in 2014.

The Navy began using the CRS system last year as its financial remedy for medical billing and collection issues. Navy officials say the new system makes it easier for hospitals to locate patients, send bills and collect payments.

But the transition hasn’t gone smoothly for overseas patients like de la Cruz.

CRS forwarded her \$2,500 bill — receipts provided to Stars and Stripes show that she paid on time — to FedDebt, the Treasury Department’s more aggressive collection agency. FedDebt immediately added about \$800 in late fees to the balance.

FedDebt’s response to her pleas for a refund? Talk to CRS — which said she should call the hospital.

“It will take an act of God, if at all, to get them to resolve this,” de la Cruz said in February.

De la Cruz did receive a partial refund in April but is still pursuing the full amount.

Stars and Stripes has spoken with a dozen families over the past seven months facing varying degrees of financial hardship in Japan and Okinawa connected to hospital billing errors or difficulties with CRS and FedDebt. Bills have been delayed and medical procedures have been coded incorrectly, causing insurance companies to refuse payment to patients.

7th Fleet affected

The process affects a wide range of civilians, including those who support the Navy’s 7th Fleet — shipyard workers, teachers, criminal investigators, intelligence analysts, entertainment coordinators and family support specialists.

Former Yokosuka hospital employees who spoke with Stars and Stripes attributed some of the problems to obsolete computer systems, persistent staff shortages and a disconnect between the billing and coding departments. A decision in August by Yokosuka to require patients to file their own insurance claims — which was followed by Okinawa and other hospitals in Japan — has added to the burden, patients say.

The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery is the headquarters command for Navy Medicine, which oversees health care for sailors and Marines worldwide, along with families and retirees.

Bureau personnel told Stars and Stripes that for years, Navy hospitals didn’t follow federal billing regulations.

A former Yokosuka hospital employee familiar with operations there said problems had been building up for years.

“It’s a sorry state of affairs,” the former employee said. “It’s been that way for a long time, and they’re just doing something now.

It’s way too late. Around 2011, everything started going bad.”

Staffing shortages were regularly a problem, said the former employee.

Employees from the coding department would pitch in on billing but with little training.

Other times, the billing and coding departments would have different employees enter patient information from the same bill twice — leaving a greater margin for data entry error and increasing the chances that insurance would reject the bill.

Navy Medicine officials acknowledged that hospitals had trouble finding people who had moved multiple times, which often led to unreceived bills and uncollected debt.

The CRS system has given the Navy a better way to locate people, said Bill Condin, Navy Medicine’s uniform business office program officer.

“CRS can find addresses before it goes to FedDebt,” Condin said. “That gives patients more time to keep in a compliant process.”

The Treasury has a built-in incentive to collect debts, getting “some percentage from DOD for providing the service,” Lt. Cmdr. David Bentley, the Okinawa hospital’s comptroller, said at a town hall meeting in December.

CRS improvements for patients include a longer time before bills are considered overdue and a commitment to make sure that patients receive bills within 60 days of hospital visits. Yokosuka also began sending bills electronically on March 1 to patients who provide email addresses, said Lt. Michael Owen, the hospital’s comptroller.

Navy Medicine officials said that last July, CRS began extending the 30-day period to pay bills to a 60-day period following discussions with the hospitals. However, some patients in Japan received bills showing 30-day deadlines even after the July change.

In such cases — or in others where patients find errors — patients should follow the instructions on CRS bills that show them how to file for payment waivers, Condin said.

Condin’s goal is that hospitals meet the 60-day billing standard or get Navy resources to make that happen.

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Another suit accuses VA employee of sexual abuse

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The number of lawsuits accusing a former physician assistant at a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Kansas of sexual abuse has grown to at least five.

Josh Hutchison, 38, who lives in the Kansas City, Mo., area, alleges in a federal lawsuit filed last week that Mark Wisner conducted unnecessary and improper genital examinations at the Leavenworth VA Medical Center. The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted, but Hutchison said he wanted his name used because he believes it will help other soldiers.

"A lot of these guys don't want to come forward because they feel embarrassed and emasculated," Hutchison said Friday. "By somebody taking a lead and stepping forward, I feel like it will help a lot of other soldiers."

The hospital, which is accused of failing to properly supervise Wisner, said in a written statement that it has barred Wisner from seeing patients, and it started investigating after learning of the allegations. Wisner also faces criminal charges of aggravated criminal sodomy, solicitation and sexual battery in Leavenworth County. Wisner surrendered his medical license last year after at least seven patients accused him of abuse.

In a consent order last year with the Kansas Board of Healing Arts, Wisner agreed he violated the law by having inappropriate sexual contact with some patients, as well as making inappropriate sexual comments and overprescribing.

Hutchison served in Afghanistan before leaving the Army in 2013. He said he and some of the other plaintiffs have post-traumatic stress disorder.

Attacks kill 12 in Baghdad area

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Separate attacks in and around the Iraqi capital on Sunday killed at least 12 people and wounded dozens, officials said.

The deadliest was in Baghdad's western suburb of Abu Ghraib when a suicide bomber blew up himself outside a funeral tent for the wife of a local official, killing three policemen and two civilians, a police officer said. At least 16 others were wounded in that attack, he added.

Elsewhere, three civilians

were killed and 10 wounded in a bomb explosion in a commercial area in the town of Madain, about 14 miles southeast of Baghdad, another police officer said. Four other civilians were killed and 17 wounded in two separate bomb attacks on commercial areas in Baghdad, police added.

Medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release information.

While no one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, the

Islamic State group regularly targets public areas and government installations in an effort to destabilize the Shiite-led government in Baghdad. The group controls large swaths of territory in Iraq and neighboring Syria on which they declared an Islamic caliphate in the summer of 2014.

Despite recent progress by the Iraqi army, backed by Shiite and Sunni militia fighters, in retaking some of that territory, Iraq still sees near-daily bombings that are often claimed by the Islamic State group.

West Point looks into 'raised fists' photo

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The U.S. Military Academy has launched an inquiry into a photo showing 16 black, female cadets in uniform with their fists raised, an image that has spurred questions about whether the gesture violates military restrictions on political activity.

West Point is looking into whether the photo broke any rules, spokesman Lt. Col. Christopher Kasker said Saturday. It's unclear how long the inquiry will take and too soon to say what consequences it could have for the cadets, who are poised to graduate May 21.

By campus tradition, groups of cadets often take pictures

in traditional dress uniforms to echo historical portraits of their cadets. Indeed, a different picture of the same women, without the raised fists, was tweeted out by the chairwoman of the academy's Board of Visitors, 1980 graduate Brenda Sue Fulton. But the fists-up image, which circulated online, led some observers to question whether the women were expressing support for the Black Lives Matter movement, which grew out of protests over police killings of unarmed black men.

The Army Times, which first wrote about the photo Thursday, said several readers had written in to say they believed the cadets were breaching a Defense Department policy

that says "members on active duty should not engage in partisan political activity," with exceptions for voting and certain other things.

But Mary Tobin, a West Point graduate and mentor who knows the students, said they were simply celebrating their forthcoming graduation as a shared accomplishment, like a sports team raising helmets after a win.

"It was a sign of unity," Tobin, a 2003 graduate, said. "They weren't trying to imply any allegiance to any movement."

Black women female cadets are rarities at West Point, where about 70 percent of students are white and about 80 percent are men.

Tornadoes hit Colo.; 2 killed on icy roads in Ariz.

Associated Press

A series of tornadoes swept across eastern Colorado, causing several minor injuries and damaging motor homes and buildings.

Another spring storm brought deadly driving conditions to northern Arizona.

The National Weather Service said at least four tornadoes hit in Yuma County on Saturday,

about 100 miles east of Denver near Colorado's borders with Nebraska and Kansas.

One of those twisters struck just north of the town of Wray about 6 p.m. MDT and left five people with minor injuries, according to NWS Science and Operations officer Jeremy Martin.

Meanwhile, two people died and six others were injured in a series of weather-related traffic crashes in northern Arizona.

At about 10 a.m., a vehicle rolled due to icy roads and hail on Interstate 40 near the community of Ash Fork. Two people tried to help the occupants and were struck and killed by a commercial vehicle, authorities said. Those wrecks caused a chain reaction of at least three more crashes. Six people were taken to Flagstaff Medical Center with injuries that weren't life-threatening.

Unbeaten Nyquist wins Kentucky Derby

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The racing world wondered if there was a worthy successor to last year's Triple Crown champion American Pharoah.

Enter Nyquist.
The bay colt who lacks any distinctive markings won the Kentucky Derby by 1 1/4 lengths on Saturday, improving to 8-0 in his career as the fourth consecutive favorite to win the race.

Ridden by Mario Gutierrez, Nyquist ran 1 1/4 miles in 2:01.31. The 3-year-old colt became the eighth unbeaten winner in the race's 142-year history, and the first since Big Brown in 2008. He paid \$6.60, \$4.80 and \$3.60 as the 2-1 favorite in the full field of 20 horses.

"We got a beautiful trip from the start to the end," Gutierrez said.

Nyquist delivered a second Derby win for Gutierrez, trainer Doug O'Neill and owner J. Paul Reddam. The Southern California-based team was behind 2012 Derby and Preakness winner I'll Have Another.

"This is such a special horse," O'Neill said. "You can see it in his eye on a daily basis and he's such a professional. Any human sport, he'd be the top-notch ath-

lete. He's just first class."

Nyquist enjoyed a perfect trip over the Churchill Downs dirt in front of 167,227, the second-largest crowd in Derby history. The colt broke well out of the 13th post and showed some early speed getting away from the gate. Gutierrez eased Nyquist back to let speedster Danzing Candy take the lead going into the chaotic first turn.

"His run was awesome," Reddam said. "Obviously, we were going to take it to 'em. I love the way that we fired out of there and he sat behind Danzing Candy. This horse, he's really something. We're just really lucky to be a part of that."

Nyquist stayed just off the lead and Gutierrez kept him in the clear, steering him to the outside on the final turn. Nyquist and Gun Runner overtook tiring leader Danzing Candy at the top of the stretch.

"I thought I had it for a minute," said Florent Geroux, aboard Gun Runner. "He started pricking his ears back and forth at the top of the stretch."

But Gun Runner was only in front briefly before Nyquist showed a strong finishing kick. He put away his closest rival and sped to the finish line, with Exaggerator

closing but never threatening after coming from well back.

Exaggerator fell to 0-4 against Nyquist, including two runner-up finishes under the brother team of trainer Keith and jockey Kent Desormeaux.

"What a horse," marveled Keith Desormeaux. "I can't respect that horse enough."

All week long, optimism had filled the air in O'Neill's barn. The humans took their cues from the horse. Nyquist settled right in, showing an obvious liking for his surroundings.

"You just felt there was no way you could be nervous because you just felt like you were going in the gym with Kobe Bryant," O'Neill said. "You just knew he was going to figure out a way to pull it out at the end and he did. Mario gets a lot of credit, too. What a ride, what a ride."

Nyquist began Derby day with a visit from the Stanley Cup, which he playfully took a nibble at. Fitting, since he's named for Detroit Red Wings player Gustav Nyquist. Reddam is a fan of the NHL team and O'Neill was born in Michigan.

The bay colt is from the first crop of sire Uncle Mo, who never got the chance to run in the Derby after being the early fa-

vorite for the 2011 race. He was scratched the day before with a stomach illness. Uncle Mo had two other offspring in this year's race: Mo Tom and Outwork.

"Congratulations to Nyquist, he's still undefeated," said Kiaran McLaughlin, who trains Mohaymen. "He's a star. I don't know about the Triple Crown, but we'll have a great year."

Exaggerator returned \$5.40 and \$4.20, while Gun Runner was another 3 1/4 lengths back in third and paid \$6 to show.

Mohaymen finished fourth and Suddenbreakingnews was fifth.

Destin was sixth, followed by Brody's Cause, Mo Tom, Lani and Mor Spirit, trained by Bob Baffert, who guided American Pharoah last year. My Man Sam was 11th, followed by Tom's Ready, Creator, Outwork, Danzing Candy, Trojan Nation, Oscar Nominated, Majesto and Whitmore. Shagaf didn't finish.

American Pharoah became racing's first Triple Crown champion in 37 years. The sport has had only one pair of back-to-back Triple Crown winners, Seattle Slew in 1977 and Affirmed in 1978.

Now Nyquist is the only horse in position to replicate the feat.

Lowry lifts Raptors to 2-1 series edge

Associated Press

MIAMI — Kyle Lowry got his game back at the perfect time for the Toronto Raptors.

And the Miami Heat are in all kinds of trouble.

Shaking off epic playoff struggles, Lowry scored 33 points — including five straight to break a late tie — in a duel with Dwyane Wade to lift the Raptors to a 95-91 victory over the Heat on Saturday night in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference semifinal series.

The Raptors lead the series 2-1. Game 4 is in Miami on Monday.

"I felt like it was just a matter of time," Lowry said. He was a career 34 percent playoff shooter coming into Saturday, and was shooting 31 percent in these playoffs. But he connected on 11 of 19 shots, 5-for-8 from three-point range.

"I've never lost faith in him," Toronto coach Dwane Casey said. "I've said this: He's struggled, but you don't forget how to shoot. And we needed that. We needed him to be Kyle and he was Kyle tonight."

Lowry had 29 points after halftime. So did Wade, who led everybody with 38 points and sparked a Miami comeback from 13 down in the second half.

But the Heat lost a game, and maybe much more given that center Hassan Whiteside will have an MRI on Sunday to determine how much damage he did to his right knee in a second-quarter tumble.

"We'll know more tomorrow," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Toronto center Jonas Valanciunas limped off with a sprained ankle in the third quarter, and he'll be listed as day-to-day. But Whiteside's injury seems far worse, with the free-agent-to-be's status for the rest of the series in major doubt.

"Guys have to step up," Wade said. "Nobody can be Hassan Whiteside. ... We have to figure out a way."

DeMar DeRozan scored 19 points, and Valanciunas had 16 points and 12 rebounds in just 22 minutes for Toronto. Goran Dragic scored 12 points, and Joe Johnson had 10 for Miami.

It was tied at 82 when Lowry hit a three-pointer with 2:07 left, and he followed that with a pair of free throws on the next Toronto possession. Miami answered with four straight, a layup by center Udonis Haslem followed by a nifty Eurostep in the lane by Wade that led to another score.

Blazers hold off Warriors

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Trail Blazers learned their lesson.

After Portland let the previous game slip away, Damian Lillard had a playoff-best 40 points and the Trail Blazers beat Golden State 120-108 on Saturday night to cut the Warriors' advantage in the Western Conference semifinal to 2-1.

"I think we played a lot smarter down the stretch than we did the last game, and we challenged them," Lillard said. "Last game, I think, we played good and then we let up a little bit, and they turned it on — like championship teams do. ... Tonight we didn't allow that to happen, we kept doing what was working for us."

The defending NBA champions were still without Steph Curry, the reigning MVP who sprained his right knee in Game 4 of the first-round series against Houston.

Al-Farouq Aminu had 23 points and 10 rebounds, and CJ McCollum added 22 points for Portland. The Trail Blazers led 58-46 at the half and stretched the lead to as many as 20 points in the fourth quarter.

Draymond Green had 37 points and Klay Thompson added 35 for the Warriors.

Game 4 is Monday night in Portland.

"Now they're feeling like they can do it," Green said about the Blazers. "We know otherwise. You can expect Game 4 to be a battle."

Harrison Barnes' three-pointer and Leandro Barbosa's long jumper closed the gap to 105-92 for the Warriors with 6 minutes left. Lillard's three-pointer with 2:47 made it 114-97, but Green answered with his own three.

McCollum's three-pointer pushed Portland's lead to 120-106 with 1:22 left and the Warriors couldn't catch up.

Avoiding a fourth quarter letdown was key for Portland. The Blazers led 87-76 going into the fourth quarter of Game 2, but were outscored 34-12 in the

final period for a 110-99 Golden State win. Portland managed just six points in the final 5:21.

Lillard battled a chest cold in the first game of the series then was held scoreless in the final quarter of the second.

But Lillard tends to respond to adversity: After he was snubbed for an All-Star bid this season he scored 51 points, including nine three-pointers, in a 137-105 victory over the Warriors on Feb. 19. It was one of just nine losses for the Warriors in a record-setting 73-win season.

"You kind of run out of superlatives," coach Terry Stotts said about Lillard. "He's such a great competitor. There was no question he was going to come in and have a really good game tonight."

The Blazers came back from a 2-0 deficit in the opening round against the Los Angeles Clippers, who were hurt when both Chris Paul and Blake Griffin went down with injuries.

Thompson, who averaged 32 points in the first two games, had three three-pointers as Golden State built an early 16-9 lead despite four turnovers. Another three pushed the lead to 22-16 and Thompson led all scorers after the first quarter with 18 points. He also had 18 points in the first quarter of Game 1 against the Blazers.

Aminu and Lillard each made three-pointers in the final minute and Portland went up 58-46 at the break. Lillard finished off the half with 25 and Thompson had 24 for Golden State.

The Blazers stretched the lead to 63-48 early in the second half, and Golden State's Andrew Bogut got into foul trouble with five. Green hit consecutive three-pointers to close the gap to 63-56. It was the closest the Warriors got in the second half.

Lillard finished with eight three-pointers, also a playoff high for him.

"I didn't think it was on me or anything," Lillard said. "But I did think it was my job to come out and be aggressive from the start. A lot of times the team will go as I go."



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Caps top Pens to stay alive

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Alex Ovechkin's teammates watched him turn his game up to a whole new level. Then the Washington Capitals followed him all the way to Game 6.

With Ovechkin leading the way, the Capitals beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 3-1 on Saturday night in Game 5 to keep their season alive. Ovechkin scored a power-play goal and assisted on T.J. Oshie's and was a force all over the ice with his team on the verge of yet another early playoff exit.

"He's our leader. We look up to him," Oshie said. "When you see a guy like him that can beat you in so many different ways come out and bring that type of energy, you'd better get on board or just stay on the bench."

Behind Ovechkin's two-point game, goals by Oshie and Justin Williams and 30 saves by Braden Holtby, Washington cut its deficit to 3-2 to force Game 6 on Tuesday night in Pittsburgh.

Ovechkin looked like a man determined not to let the Capitals go quietly into the offseason. Washington's captain was

quietly confident and said the belief never wavered inside the locker room.

"We didn't want to give up," Ovechkin said. "When we have pressure, it's kind of our time. The guys responded well."

Turning in a brilliant performance worthy of his status as a Vezina Trophy finalist, Holtby was stellar and at his best when he stopped three in a less than a minute on Evgeni Malkin, Patric Hornqvist and Justin Schultz.

Penguins goalie Matt Murray wasn't at his sharpest, allowing three goals on 19 shots and looking like a rookie for the first time in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

"I got outplayed, and that was the difference in the game," said Murray, who stopped 104 of 109 shots in Games 2-4.

Blues 4, Stars 1: Rookie playoff points leader Robby Fabbri had a goal and assist, Brian Elliott turned away a strong Dallas push in the third period and visiting St. Louis beat the Stars for a 3-2 lead in their second-round series.

Dmitrij Jaskin's first career playoff goal put the Blues ahead for good at 2-1 in the second period, and St. Louis protected a 3-1 lead in the third for a second straight road victory. The Blues surrendered the

same lead before winning in overtime in Game 2 in Dallas.

Elliott had 27 saves to give the Blues a chance to wrap up the series in Game 6 at home on Monday night.

Troy Brouwer scored his fourth goal of the playoffs in a rare early start (noon) just 38 hours after the Stars won in overtime in St. Louis to even the series.

Sharks 5, Predators 1: Joe Pavelski scored two goals as host San Jose bounced back from a triple-overtime loss to beat Nashville for a 3-2 lead in their second-round series.

Patrick Marleau and Logan Couture also scored as part of San Jose's reconfigured second line and the Sharks moved within one win of advancing to the Western Conference final for the fourth time in franchise history.

San Jose will look to secure a spot in its first conference final since 2011 by winning at Nashville in Game 6 on Monday night.

Melker Karlsson added a late goal and Martin Jones made 24 saves to give the home team its fifth straight win in this series.

Kyle Busch finally wins at Kansas

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Kyle Busch has seemingly dozens of reasons to despise Kansas Speedway, from the two times he crashed out of Chase races to the innumerable misfortunes in other series.

Now he has one big reason to speak fondly of it.

Busch sailed away from Kevin Harvick after a late wreck collected several of the leaders Saturday night, and finally won a NASCAR Sprint Cup race at one of three tracks that had eluded him.

Busch won for the third time this season, and gave team owner Joe Gibbs his sixth victory already this season. But this one may have been the sweetest given Busch's history at Kansas.

"This is a place that's been tough on me over the years, and probably almost caused me to go into retirement," Busch said, laughing. "There's been a lot of rough days at Kansas, that's for sure."

Harvick was second after making major changes to his car following a poor qualifying effort. Kurt Busch was third, Matt Kenseth finished fourth and Ryan Blaney wound up fifth.

Martin Truex Jr. won his first pole in two years and looked like he'd be the one to finally get the victory that has eluded him at Kansas, drawing away for big leads on every restart.

He still had a comfortable lead entering the final round of scheduled stops with 54 laps to go, but Truex radioed to his team that he had a loose wheel after leaving his stall. He had to come down pit road again and dropped off the lead lap, another late-race gaffe costing him a chance to win.

Alvarez knocks out Khan in 6th round

LAS VEGAS — Canelo Alvarez got on his knees to check on Amir Khan after knocking him unconscious with a big right hand in the sixth round of their title fight.

Then he went over to check on some future business with fellow middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin, who was watching ringside.

"I invited him to come into the ring," Alvarez said. "Right now I will put the gloves on again."

It's a fight both Golovkin and boxing fans have been waiting for to happen, though the weight could be an issue. Alvarez wants the bout to be less than the 160-pound middleweight limit, while Golovkin, who holds his own piece of the middleweight crown, vows to fight at his best weight.

Against Khan, Alvarez needed only one big right hand to turn a close fight into a smashing knockout that left the British challenger out cold on his back in the middle of the ring.

Struggling with Khan's speed, Alvarez unleashed a long right hand that sent Khan backward on the canvas, where referee Kenny Bayless didn't even bother to count him out at 2:37 of the sixth round.

Alvarez was making the first defense of the WBC title he won from Miguel Cotto in November, though the fight was fought at a catch weight of 155 pounds. The WBC has said it will take the title from Alvarez if he does not begin talks for a fight with Golovkin within 15 days.

From The Associated Press

Cubs earn 6th straight win

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Addison Russell hit a tie-breaking two-run double in the seventh inning to help the Chicago Cubs beat the Washington Nationals 8-5 on Saturday for their sixth straight victory.

Kris Bryant homered and Ben Zobrist had an RBI for the sixth game in a row as the Cubs took the matchup of division leaders. Chicago has won 10 of 11 to improve baseball's best record to 23-6.

Russell finished with three RBIs. It was 5-all when the Cubs loaded the bases with two outs, and Russell hit a fly ball to right that landed barely fair as Bryce Harper ran toward the brick wall in pursuit. A review confirmed the ball was fair.

Adam Warren (3-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. Hector Rondon earned his sixth save.

Washington's Sammy Solis (0-1) got two outs and was charged with two runs and two hits.

Yankees 8, Red Sox 2: Nathan Eovaldi pitched eight effective innings and Didi Gregorius hit a three-run double as host New York handed David Price his first loss with Boston.

Carlos Beltran added a two-run double for the last-place Yankees, who have won three of four following a six-game slide.

Dodgers 6, Blue Jays 2: Clayton Kershaw struck out 10 while Joc Pederson and Justin Turner homered as Los Angeles stopped host Toronto's season-high winning streak at four.

Coming off a three-hit shutout against the Padres and facing the Blue Jays for the first time, Kershaw (4-1) allowed two runs and eight hits in seven innings. The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner has fanned at least 10 in four straight outings.

Brewers 13, Reds 7 (10): Aaron Hill hit a grand slam in Milwaukee's seven-run 10th inning for his third homer of the game as the Brewers snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over host Cincinnati.

Cardinals 6, Pirates 4: Matt Carpenter hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the

ninth inning, lifting host St. Louis to the victory.

Aledmys Diaz sparked the winning rally with a leadoff single. After Jeremy Hazelbaker flied to deep left, Carpenter drove a 1-2 pitch from A.J. Schugel (0-1) over the wall in right for his fourth homer.

Rangers 10, Tigers 5: Adrian Beltre hit two of Texas' five home runs as the Rangers slugged their way to this road win.

Rougned Odor, Nomar Mazara and Mitch Moreland also went deep for the Rangers, who scored five runs in the sixth inning and overcame an injury-shortened start by A.J. Griffin. The right-hander left in the third with stiffness in his throwing shoulder.

Giants 2, Rockies 1 (13): Matt Duffy hit a game-ending RBI double with two out in the 13th inning, sending host San Francisco to the win.

Pinch hitter Conor Gillaspie set up the winning hit with a one-out walk against Justin Miller (1-1). After Denard Span walked and Joe Panik struck out swinging, Duffy lined a 1-0 pitch from Miller past Gerardo Parra in left for his second hit of the day.

Royals 7, Indians 0: Ian Kennedy pitched four-hit ball for seven innings and Kendrys Morales homered and drove in four runs as visiting Kansas City stopped Cleveland's four-game winning streak.

Kennedy (4-2) worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the sixth and retired 14 in a row at one point.

Athletics 8-2, Orioles 4-5: Chris Davis homered, Ubaldo Jimenez pitched eight effective innings and host Baltimore beat Oakland for a doubleheader split.

Marcus Semien homered and drove in three runs in the opener, and the Athletics broke a four-game skid with an 8-4 victory.

The day-night doubleheader was scheduled after rain washed out the first game of the series Friday night.

White Sox 7, Twins 2: Todd Frazier doubled and homered in support of Chris Sale, who survived a rocky start to become the first seven-game winner in the

major leagues as host Chicago rallied to beat Minnesota.

After a two-run, 36-pitch first inning, Sale (7-0) settled down to retire 19 of the next 20 batters. In seven innings, the left-hander allowed three hits and a walk. He struck out nine, five on a called strike three.

Mariners 3, Astros 2 (10): Robinson Cano homered early off Dallas Keuchel, then connected for a tiebreaking shot in the 10th inning that led visiting Seattle over Houston.

Cano got four hits. He leads the majors with 32 RBIs and tops the AL with 11 home runs.

Rays 4, Angels 2: Logan Forsythe hit a broken-bat two-run single with the bases loaded in the ninth inning after Steven Souza Jr. hit a tying two-run homer off Jered Weaver in the sixth as Tampa Bay beat host Los Angeles.

Diamondbacks 4, Braves 2: Shelby Miller's return to Atlanta brought a return to his winning form as he threw six strong innings for his first victory as the Diamondbacks beat the Braves.

The loss left the Atlanta 1-14 in home games. The Braves (7-22) are off to the worst start in franchise history since 1900.

Phillies 4, Marlins 3: Odubel Herrera scored the go-ahead run on first baseman Chris Johnson's error in Philadelphia's three-run eighth inning, sending the Phillies to a win over host Miami.

Brett Oberholtzer (2-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. Jeanmar Gomez tossed a perfect ninth for his 10th save in 11 chances.

Mets 6, Padres 3: New York's Bartolo Colon became the oldest player to hit his first major league home run, connecting Saturday night less than three weeks before his 43rd birthday, to help New York to a victory over host San Diego.

Colon's impressive two-run drive off James Shields into the seats in the left field corner gave the Mets a 4-0 lead with two outs in the second.