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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Growler shows how jamming can send a message

BY CHRIS CHURCH
Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS HARRY S. TRUMAN — One of the most effective weapons in the Navy's impressive arsenal isn't designed to drop bombs or launch missiles. Instead, it keeps the enemy from being able to communicate.

The Boeing EA-18G Growler — the electronic warfare version of the F/A 18 Super Hornet multirole fighter — is designed to jam radio and cellphone communications that could be used to coordinate ambushes or other forms of attack. It also can disrupt electronics used to set off improvised explosive devices.

"Anything that can make a signal, that's what we are there for," said electronic warfare officer Lt. Chris Long, who is deployed with the "Patriots" of Electronic Attack Squadron 140. "If you talk on it, we go after it."

The squadron is currently embarked aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman in the Persian Gulf.

The Growlers have been used primarily to ensure the freedom of movement for coalition partners in Iraq and Syria by disrupting the Islamic State group's communications and, thus, affecting its ability to coordinate and conduct attacks.

The use of this type of aircraft against an asymmetrical threat like the Islamic State group showcases the evolving battlefield and the importance of electronic warfare, Long said.

The Growler is a relatively new piece of the Navy's aircraft inventory. Its first deployment occurred in 2011.

church.chris@stripes.com
Twitter: @CChurchStripes

Navy officer charged with espionage pleads not guilty

The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — A Navy officer pleaded not guilty to espionage Tuesday during a hearing at Norfolk Naval Station.

No trial date has been set for Lt. Cmdr. Edward C. Lin, a naval flight officer who faces two counts of espionage, three counts of attempted espionage and five counts of communicating defense information.

Espionage is punishable under certain circumstances by death.

New charge sheets in the case show military prosecutors be-

lieve Lin committed espionage from 2012 to 2014 in the Washington area.

At the time, Lin was serving as a staff aide at the Pentagon to Vice Adm. Joseph Mulloy. Mulloy was serving as the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for budget and the director of the fiscal management division.

Mulloy is now the deputy chief of naval operations for integration of capabilities and resources.

The Navy has not publicly said what classified information

it accuses Lin of providing or to which government, although Lin's attorneys have said it is Taiwan.

Lin was born in Taiwan and he and his family moved to the United States when he was 14. He became a naturalized citizen in 1998 and joined the Navy in 1999.

Lin was assigned to a secretive patrol squadron in Hawaii at the time of his Sept. 11 arrest at the Honolulu airport, and his prosecution has been designated a "national security case" by the Navy.

USNS Mercy bound for disaster drill

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The hospital ship USNS Mercy will stop off at Pearl Harbor on Wednesday on its way to lead the region's largest annual multilateral disaster-relief preparation mission.

Now in its 11th year, Pacific Partnership will take place over a 4½-month period. This year's deployment — which includes more than 600 military and civilian personnel from the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and Japan — will be led from aboard the Mercy by Capt. Tom Williams, commander of the San Diego-based Destroyer Squadron 23.

Unlike in previous years, Pacific Partnership 2016 will have a multinational command-and-control structure, which will include a deputy mission com-

mander from the Australian Defense Force and a mission chief of staff from the New Zealand Defense Force.

Teams specializing in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and civil engineering will partner with host nations East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, Palau, the Philippines and Vietnam to conduct community health exchanges, medical symposiums, infrastructure projects and disaster-relief drills.

Pacific Partnership missions increase the host nations' capabilities and provide an opportunity for the U.S. military to forge relationships with an extended presence during a non-crisis period, Williams said in a Navy statement.

The Mercy's visit to Vietnam will coincide with the 21st anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Vietnam. The relationship between the former

adversaries has deepened in recent years as Vietnam faces a more assertive China to the north. The neighbors are locked in a dispute over ownership of small islands in the South China Sea. Sovereignty over that land means control of possible minerals and petroleum beneath the sea floor, as well as dominion over shipping routes.

This year's Pacific Partnership will also incorporate more precepts of the Women, Peace and Security initiative.

The White House released a plan of action for the initiative in 2011 which aims to ensure that women have a greater say in preventing conflict and building peace in countries threatened and affected by war, violence and insecurity.

Pacific Partnership was conceived after the U.S. military led disaster relief for 2004's devastating Southeast Asian tsunami.

SC approves bill to restrict abortions

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The South Carolina Legislature passed a bill Tuesday prohibiting abortion after 19 weeks, becoming the 17th state to pass the restrictive ban.

The legislation will now head to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. The Republican said in March she will almost certainly sign it but wants to look at the details once it reaches her.

Similar laws are in effect in 12 states. They've been blocked

by court challenges in three others, and the U.S. Supreme Court has yet to rule on the ban's constitutionality. A South Dakota law signed in March takes effect this summer.

In Utah, a related law, also signed in March, requires doctors to provide anesthesia to a fetus at least 20 weeks in the womb.

The South Carolina bill is among several fronts abortion rights supporters say make having the procedure tougher. Abortion opponents have also

passed laws in other states requiring clinics to get admitting privileges for doctors and banning a procedure commonly used in the second trimester, called the dilation and evacuation method.

The sponsor of South Carolina's bill, Rep. Wendy Nanney, said she's hopeful the law will be a step to eventually "get rid of abortion altogether."

"I firmly believe life begins at conception and anything we can do to protect human life, I'm all for," said Nanney,

R-Greenville.

The South Carolina House approved the compromise 79-29. The Senate approved it 36-9 in March.

The ban allows exceptions only if the mother's life is in jeopardy or a doctor determines the fetus can't survive outside the womb. The measure's limited definition of "fetal anomaly" means it would be illegal to abort a fetus with a severe disability if the child could live. Such anomalies are generally detected around 20 weeks.

3-star general fired over suggestive emails allowed to retire with rank

The Washington Post

A three-star general who was fired in March after an Air Force investigation found that he had exchanged sexually suggestive emails with a female officer when both were married to other people will be allowed to keep his rank as he retires, saving him thousands of dollars each month.

Air Force Secretary Deborah James recommended that Lt. Gen. John Hesterman be allowed to retire as a three-star general, and Defense Secretary Ash Carter approved, according to Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook and Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek.

Hesterman, who retired May 1, was removed as Air Force assistant vice chief of staff after an Air Force inspector general investigation found that he engaged in an unprofessional relationship with a subordinate officer and demonstrated conduct unbecoming of an officer.

Hesterman's dismissal derailed the career of a seasoned combat veteran who flew on the opening night of operations in the Persian Gulf War and went on to serve as the three-star commander of Air Forces Central, leading the early days of the U.S. air war against the Islamic State group from July 2013 through last June.

Gen. David L. Goldfein, the Air Force's vice chief of staff and incoming top officer, launched an "officer grade determination" for Hesterman after removing him from his job, and it determined that Hesterman should not lose a star.

The decision will be lucrative for Hesterman. According to the Defense Department's online pension calculator, an officer with his 33 years of service receives at least \$156,578 per year in pension. A two-star general with the same amount of time in service receives at least \$138,491.

Hesterman could not be reached for comment.

Sanders and Trump prevail in Oregon

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bernie Sanders has won Oregon's presidential primary and battled Hillary Clinton to a razor-thin margin in Kentucky, vowing to stay in the race until the end as Clinton aimed to blunt his momentum and prepare for a fall campaign against Republican Donald Trump.

Tuesday's primary in Kentucky was too close to call with Clinton leading Sanders by less than one-half of 1 percent. Closing in on the Democratic nomination, Clinton declared victory in Kentucky nonetheless, telling her supporters on Twitter, "We're always stronger united."

Trump won the GOP's Oregon primary, the only Republican contest on Tuesday. In a sign of his pivot into the general election, his campaign announced that it had signed a joint fundraising agreement with the Republican National Committee that will allow it to raise cash for both his campaign and other Republican efforts.

Hundreds feared buried in Sri Lankan landslides

Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Massive landslides triggered by torrential rains crashed down onto three villages in the central hills of Sri Lanka, and more than 200 families were missing Wednesday and feared buried under the mud and debris, the Sri Lankan Red Cross said.

Sixteen bodies have been recovered and about 180 people

have been rescued from the enormous piles of mud unleashed around 5 p.m. Tuesday, according to military spokesman Brig. Jayanath Jayaweera.

Villagers recalled hearing and seeing the torrents of muddy water, tree branches and debris crashing down around their homes.

"I heard a huge sound like a plane crashing into the earth," said A.G. Kamala, 52, who had

just returned to her house in Siripura village when the landslides hit. "I opened my door. I could not believe my eyes, as I saw something like a huge fireball rolling down the mountain and again a huge sound."

Some 220 families were reported missing, the Sri Lankan Red Cross said in a statement. Officials could not give the village populations, but such villages typically include about 1,000-1,500 residents each.

Point guards drive playoffs

Associated Press

MIAMI — LeBron James is fond of saying that today's NBA is driven by point guards.

Looks like he's right.

A superstar foursome of All-Star point guards are left in the NBA playoffs. In the Eastern Conference finals, it's Toronto's Kyle Lowry versus Cleveland's Kyrie Irving. Out in the Western Conference finals, it's Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook versus Golden State's Stephen Curry.

And in about a month, one of them will be holding the Larry O'Brien Trophy in a championship celebration.

"It's no surprise at all," said James, the Cleveland star looking for his sixth consecutive trip to the Finals. "It's arguably, probably, the four best point guards we have in our league, obviously missing, outside of, Chris Paul. Lowry, Steph, Russ and Ky — I'll take those four guys."

An average night this season for Lowry, Irving, Westbrook and Curry: 23.9 points, 7.3 assists. They've combined for 94 double-doubles and 21 triple-doubles (18 of those from Westbrook alone). And the Warriors are 75-9 when Curry plays, the Cavaliers are 45-16 when Irving plays, the Raptors are 62-29 with Lowry and the Thunder are 64-28 with Westbrook — who helped Oklahoma City steal Game 1 from Golden State on Monday — in the lineup.

Add up those records, and those four point guards are leading teams to wins in exactly three out of every four games

they play this season.

"It's a perfect match of what I've been saying," James said.

Lowry led Toronto into its first East finals by leading the Raptors past Miami in a seven-game semifinal slugfest. He had a total of 25 points in the first two games of that series, then went off for 139 in the final five contests.

Irving is 18-3 as a starter in the post-season, 8-0 this year for the steamrolling Cavaliers. Westbrook might be the fastest and most explosive point guard, a matchup nightmare who helped engineer the Thunder's ouster of San Antonio. And Curry is only the two-time reigning MVP, the game's most prolific shooter who connected on a record-by-a-mile 402 threes this season and is seeking a second straight NBA title.

"He's redefining how this game is being played right now, not only league-wide but at the youth level," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said of Curry after the unanimous MVP vote was revealed earlier this month. "It's so much different now, the way he plays, than when any of us were growing up. ... The passing and all of that, I think that's his greatness — the impact of change that he's making on the game. It's exciting for the game."

This lineup of point guards takes Raptors coach Dwane Casey back a generation, when it seemed to him like a John Stockton or Magic Johnson or Kevin Johnson would find their way into just about every big game.

"It's fun to see. I think it's great for the league to have guys like Kyle and Kyrie and Westbrook and those guys performing at such a high level," Casey said Monday. "Your team is as good as your point guard is."

It bears noting that none of those point guards, as great as they are, have had to go it alone in these playoffs. They've all got All-Star, superstar-caliber teammates — DeMar DeRozan in Toronto, James and Kevin Love in Cleveland, Kevin Durant in Oklahoma City and Klay Thompson and Draymond Green alongside Curry in Golden State.

What they also have are coaches who know exactly what a point guard is supposed to be doing.

Casey was a point guard at Kentucky. Thunder coach Billy Donovan went to the Final Four — the college version, that is — as a point guard for Rick Pitino at Providence. Cavaliers coach Tyrone Lue played point in the NBA, and Warriors coach Steve Kerr was best known for his shooting ability but also was a proven ballhandler on his way to being part of five championship teams as a player.

"More guards go into coaching, it seems like, and get opportunities as head coaches," former NBA coach and current ESPN analyst Jeff Van Gundy said Monday. "Other than that, I can't really explain it. But great players like Curry and Westbrook and Lowry and Kyrie Irving, they help you coach well, I'll tell you that."

San Jose shuts out St. Louis

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The San Jose Sharks got their power play revved up. Martin Jones took care of everything on the other end, cementing the victory that evened the Western Conference finals at a game apiece.

"Guys came out with a good sense of urgency and got after it," said San Jose captain Joe Pavelski, who had an assist in a 4-0 victory over the St. Louis Blues that silenced another big home turnout Tuesday night. "It's good to see the power play strike a little bit."

Brent Burns scored San Jose's first two power-play goals of the Western Conference finals and Jones stopped 26 shots for his second shutout of the postseason.

Jones wasn't happy about giving up the go-ahead goal in Game 1 to Jori Lehtera on a shot that slipped through his left armpit.

"Obviously, Game 1 you don't like to lose on a goal like that," Jones said. "But I thought I played well other than that and wasn't about to change anything. We got the bounces tonight."

Tommy Wingels and Dainius Zubrus also scored and Logan Couture had two assists to help the Sharks bounce back from a tight loss. Couture leads the post-season with 19 points.

Game 3 is Thursday night in San Jose.

Brian Elliott made 20 saves for St. Louis, which is 4-5 at home and 5-2 on the road in the postseason. Elliott wasn't as sharp as he's been throughout the Blues' run to their first conference final since 2001, nor were players who leaned on him heavily in Game 1.

"[The Sharks] have got their 'A' game going right now and it's our job to catch up," coach Ken Hitchcock said. "We have played two 'B' games. We'll take 1-1 right now with the way we've played."

Burns' fifth and sixth goals of the post-season both came on one-timers with Troy Brouwer in the penalty box, and were his only shots of the game. The 6-foot-5, 230-pound defenseman made it 2-0 in the second off a nice setup from Pavelski just 16 seconds after Brouwer went off for slashing, and made it a three-goal gap about 12 minutes into the third off a feed from Patrick Marleau 24 seconds after Brouwer was whistled for high sticking.

Coach Peter DeBoer said Burns' shot is the "best I've ever seen."

"I think just how he can get it off from every angle, how he can get it to the net off balance, in bad spots. He finds a way to get it there," DeBoer added. "If it's in the right spot, it's going in."

Jones also blanked Nashville in San Jose's second-round clinching victory.

Zubrus assisted on Wingels' goal early in the first and added an empty-netter in the final minute.

Vladimir Tarasenko led all players with six shots at the end of a long day — his wife, Yana, gave birth to their son earlier Tuesday.

Cavs blow out Raptors in series opener

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Still unbeaten, still undeniable.

The Cavaliers are rolling through the East with ease.

LeBron James hardly missed and scored 24 points in three quarters, Kyrie Irving scored 27 and Cleveland picked up where it left off before a long layoff by thumping the Toronto Raptors 115-84 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals on Tuesday night.

James made his first nine shots — one an arena-rattling powerhouse dunk — and the Cavs, healthy and hungry after losing in the Finals a year ago, shot 67 percent from the field in the first half while improving to 9-0 this postseason. Cleveland is the first team to start the playoffs with nine straight wins since San Antonio reeled off 10 in a row in 2012.

But although the Cavs are more than halfway to winning a title — and ending the city's 52-year championship drought — James isn't satisfied.

"I don't think we have complacency in our minds," he said. "We have a goal and our goal is not nine wins. I've won nine games before. I've won 14 games before. We will face some adversity."

The 31-point win is the most lopsided in Cleveland's postseason history.

Unlike their second-round series when they made 77 three-pointers and swept

Atlanta, the Cavs did most of their damage from close range. Cleveland made just 7 of 20 three-point attempts.

DeMar DeRozan scored 18 points and Bismack Biyombo added 12 for Toronto, which had just one day to prepare for the Cavs after going to seven games with Miami.

"I thought they were the fresher team, the quicker team," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said.

Kyle Lowry, who scored 35 points in the Raptors' series-clinching win over Miami, was held to just eight as he and the Raptors were roughed up in their first appearance in the conference finals.

Unless Toronto figures some things out quickly, these Raptors will be extinct, too.

Game 2 is Thursday night.

Cleveland figured to have some rust following a nine-day break since ousting the Hawks. But not only did the Cavs look refreshed, they looked better than before, taking their game to another level.

And James, as is almost always the case, led the charge. He finished 11 of 13 from the field and added six rebounds and four assists in just 28 minutes. James spent the final quarter on the bench cheering on Cleveland's reserves.

These are the Cavs at full force, not the version missing Love and Irving in last year's Finals.

"They waited a full regular season to get

back to this moment," James said of his teammates. "They trained their bodies all season long to get back to this point and those guys have been spectacular."

The Cavs outscored the Raptors 33-16 in the second quarter when James personally welcomed Canada's NBA franchise to the East's final round with a devastating dunk.

Driving baseline past DeMarre Carroll, James cut across the lane and hammered home a right-handed windmill. He celebrated the slam by tilting his head, backpedaling and letting out a primal scream along with 20,000 fans.

The impressive bucket capped a 20-2 spurt for the Cavs, whose swarming defense was making life miserable for Lowry and his teammates. Toronto didn't get its first field goal until 6:28 remained in the quarter. The Raptors regrouped for a moment and closed within 12 before the Cavs decided enough was enough and closed the half with a 12-4 flurry to go up 66-44.

The Raptors came in as overwhelming underdogs, but Casey wasn't worried about the stage being too big or his team fearing the Cavs.

He's still confident his group will bounce back.

"This score is embarrassing," he said. "But it's just one game."

And that might be the scariest thing of all.



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Odor suspended eight games for brawl

Associated Press

TORONTO — Texas second baseman Rougned Odor was suspended for eight games and fined \$5,000 by Major League Baseball on Tuesday for punching Toronto's Jose Bautista in the jaw.

Major League Baseball disciplined 14 players and staff for their roles during Sunday's brawl at Arlington, Texas.

"I knew I was going to be suspended," Odor said before Texas' game at Oakland. "I have to follow the rules, and I'm just waiting for the appeal. I want to be with my team all year. I don't want to be out eight games."

Blue Jays pitcher Jesse Chavez was suspended three games for hitting Prince Fielder with a pitch. Manager John Gibbons, who returned to the field for the fight following his ejection five innings earlier, was penalized three games for inciting additional fighting.

Bautista, who made a hard takeout slide at second base on Odor, was suspended for one game by MLB senior vice president Joe Garagiola Jr. for his actions and postgame comments.

Rangers shortstop Elvis Andrus was suspended for one game for aggressive

actions and Blue Jays first base coach Tim Lincecum for one game for returning to the dugout following his ejection.

"The rules are fair for punishment," Rangers manager Jeff Banister said. "They are in place for a reason. We'll live by them and move on."

Odor, Bautista and Chavez appealed their discipline, which will be held in abeyance pending a resolution. Andrus was to serve his penalty Tuesday at Oakland.

Bautista homered for Toronto's only runs in a 12-2 loss to the Tampa Bay Rays on Tuesday night. Afterward, the slugger said he was "confident" in his appeal.

"I think there's precedents set in the past and they should be respected," Bautista said.

"I think I have good enough reasons. I'm not just appealing it for the sake of appealing it."

The amount of Odor's fine was disclosed by a person familiar with the discipline who spoke on condition of anonymity because the figure was not announced.

Texas pitchers Matt Bush (intentionally throwing at Bautista), Sam Dyson (aggressive actions) and A.J. Griffin (being on the field while on the disabled list) were fined along with catcher Robinson

Chirinos (being on the field while on the DL) and bench coach Steve Buechele (aggressive actions).

"I wish I struck out [outfielder Kevin] Pillar and not given up a run," said Bush, who made his big league debut last week. "Other than that, I think I handled the situation very well. I'm having fun."

Toronto third baseman Josh Donaldson, the reigning AL MVP, was fined for aggressive actions along with Pillar.

Bench coach DeMarlo Hale, who was acting manager following Gibbons' ejection, was fined for Chavez's intentional actions after teams had been warned by umpires.

Hale will manage the Blue Jays while Gibbons serves his suspension, beginning with Tuesday night's loss to Tampa Bay. Assistant hitting coach Eric Owens coached first base Tuesday in Lincecum's place.

Gibbons, who was suspended one game last August for returning to the field during an altercation with Kansas City after being ejected earlier that game, said he was surprised by the length of his suspension this time around.

"That was a little excessive," Gibbons said. "But what are you going to do? I've

got enough issues to worry about.

"That's your team out there," he said. "It makes sense to me that you should go out there and try to keep things under control, but that's not the rules so you've got to live with that."

Tensions between the Blue Jays and Rangers stemmed from last season, when Bautista hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in Game 5 of the AL Division Series, admired the shot and then dramatically flipped his bat — a breach of baseball etiquette that requires batters to immediately and undemonstratively start running the bases after hitting a homer.

In Sunday's game, Bautista slid hard and late into the right leg of Odor and 8 feet past second base. Odor shoved Bautista with both hands, then threw a punch to the jaw that made Bautista's head snap back, causing his sunglasses and helmet to fly off.

Dugouts and bullpens emptied.

"It was pretty cowardly of them to wait until my last at-bat to do that in the whole series," Bautista said after the game. "They could have come out and done it, if they wanted to send a message. Again, it shows a little bit more of their colors."

Mets' Syndergaard outduels Nats' Scherzer

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Noah Syndergaard readily admits he had no chance at the plate against Max Scherzer. On the mound, though, the young Mets ace more than held his own.

Syndergaard brought his 100 mph heat and struck out 10, Curtis Granderson homered on Scherzer's first pitch, and New York beat the Washington Nationals 2-0 Tuesday night to stop a four-game skid.

"I think he rises to the challenge," Mets manager Terry Collins said.

Syndergaard shows little emotion on or off the field, but was pumped up to face a former Cy Young Award winner who threw two no-hitters last year and fanned a record-tying 20 in his last start.

"It just adds that much more," Syndergaard said.

Daniel Murphy returned to Citi Field with a major league-best .400 batting average and drew two early standing ovations, then got booed. The former Mets postseason star got one of five hits Syndergaard (4-2) gave up in seven innings.

"Very nice of them," Murphy said of the cheers.

Michael Conforto also homered as the Mets sent the NL East leaders to their third straight loss. Jeurys Familia worked the ninth for his 13th save in as many chances.

Scherzer (4-3) also struck out 10 in his first start since fanning a record-tying 20 against Detroit in his last outing. Kerry Wood set the modern mark of 33 strikeouts in consecutive starts in 1998.

"It's just one of those outings where, when you lose, it's always frustrating, because you go back and think how you can pitch better," Scherzer said. "At the end of the day, I did pitch well, just not well enough."

This was the first game in the majors this season in which both starters fanned at least 10.

Syndergaard, who hit two home runs at Dodger Stadium in his previous start, struck out both times against Scherzer.

"I couldn't see anything he was throwing up there," Syndergaard said. "I don't know how anybody hits that guy."

Scherzer allowed just three hits in 6¹/₃ innings but two of them left the ballpark.

Granderson led off with a high fly that kept carrying and landed beyond the right-field wall. It was some late revenge for him — last October, Granderson popped up for the final out when Scherzer pitched a no-hitter and fanned 17 at this stadium.

"First time that's ever happened to me, giving up the first pitch as a home run," Scherzer said.

Syndergaard came out blazing, exactly a year after he earned his first career win. Now the hardest thrower among big league starters, the 23-year-old righty hit 100 mph with seven of his pitches in the first inning. He was under control, too, walking none.

Nationals slugger Bryce Harper hit an easy comebacker and struck out twice against Syndergaard. Earlier in the day, they ran into each other at an ESPN presentation at the midtown theatre where "The Lion King" is playing, and Harper joked that it was a bit awkward.

Harper had walked in 10 straight games, tying a franchise record, but went 0-for-4.

Asked whether he ever considered pitching around Harper, Syndergaard simply said: "No, not at all."

Murphy homered in a postseason-record six straight games last October, and got a standing ovation when the Mets played a one-minute video montage of his highlights on the scoreboard before the game. He waved his hat to acknowledge the cheers.

Murphy got another ovation when he batted for the first time, but got booed his next time up. Murphy became a free agent after helping the Mets reach the World Series, and the second baseman signed a \$37.5 million, three-year deal with the Nationals.

Athletics 8, Rangers 5: Khris Davis surprised himself with his first career grand slam, putting the finishing touches on his sensational performance at the plate and a wild ninth inning against Texas.

Davis hit a game-ending slam with two outs in the bottom of the ninth for his third homer of the night.

"The adrenaline was pumping so fast;

it was an amazing feeling," Davis said. "It was pretty extraordinary to see the fans go off the way they did. It was a rush."

With his excited teammates waiting at home plate, Davis stopped along the third base line and mimicked a pull-up jumper with his helmet as if he were Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry next door in the NBA playoffs.

"It was a swish," Davis said. "I can dunk, too."

Dodgers 5, Angels 1: Clayton Kershaw improved to 4-0 in May, Joc Pederson hit two solo homers and host Los Angeles beat the Angels in the Freeway Series.

Kershaw (6-1) allowed one run and four hits in eight innings, struck out 11 and walked none. The left-hander retired his final 13 batters in lowering his ERA to 1.67.

Giants 5, Padres 1: Madison Bumgarner threw a five-hitter and struck out 11 for his first complete game this season and Brandon Crawford homered and drove in all five runs to lead NL West-leading San Francisco to a victory against host San Diego.

The benches cleared after Bumgarner struck out Wil Myers to end the third. Bumgarner stared at Myers as he walked off the field, and the two exchanged words. They had to be separated, but no punches were thrown. Bumgarner and Myers, the Padres' first baseman, appeared to laugh off their differences when the pitcher walked leading off the ninth.

Astros 6, White Sox 5 (11): Evan Gattis celebrated his return to the majors with a two-run homer in the 11th inning that lifted Houston over host Chicago.

Diamondbacks 5, Yankees 3: Zack Greinke pitched effectively into the eighth inning and host Arizona clinched its first regular-season series over New York.

Arizona blew out the Yankees 12-2 in the series opener and withstood a late rally Tuesday to win a regular-season series against the Bronx Bombers for the first time in six tries.

Brewers 4, Cubs 2: Chase Anderson took a no-hitter into the eighth inning and finished with 8²/₃ strong innings to lift host Milwaukee over Chicago.

The Cubs entered averaging 5.94 runs per game, but Anderson (2-5) stopped them almost cold to snap a personal five-game skid.

Rockies 3, Cardinals 1: Chad Bettis took a shutout into the seventh inning and drove in a run to lead Colorado to a victory.

Nolan Arrenado and Dustin Garneau had RBI singles, and Bettis added a run-scoring grounder as the Rockies got their season-high fifth straight win and won for only the fifth time in 22 games at Busch Stadium since 2010.

Pirates 12, Braves 9: Gregory Polanco doubled three times and host Pittsburgh ruined Brian Snitker's debut as interim manager of Atlanta.

John Jaso, Andrew McCutchen and Francisco Cervelli had three hits each for the Pirates, who led by nine runs early then held on after an extended rally by the Braves.

Royals 8, Red Sox 4: Paulo Orlando hit a two-run homer, Eric Hosmer also went deep and host Kansas City beat hot-hitting Boston.

Mariners 10, Orioles 0: Nelson Cruz homered and drove in five runs, Kyle Seager hit a three-run drive and Seattle cruised past host Baltimore.

Robinson Cano had three hits, two RBIs and scored three runs for the Mariners.

Rays 12, Blue Jays 2: Chris Archer pitched six innings to win his third straight decision, Brad Miller had three hits and three RBIs and Tampa Bay routed host Toronto again.

Indians 13, Reds 1: Rajai Davis had three hits, drove in three runs and scored four, and host Cleveland benefited from four straight bases-loaded walks from reliever Steve Delabar to rout Cincinnati.

Phillies 3, Marlins 1: Tommy Joseph hit his first major league homer as part of three-hit game to lead host Philadelphia.

Six Phillies pitchers combined to strike out 17 Marlins.

Tigers 7, Twins 2: Ian Kinsler and J.D. Martinez hit consecutive homers during a seven-run seventh inning, and host Detroit beat Minnesota despite manager Brad Ausmus serving a one-game suspension.