

STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, May 21, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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TOP OF THE WORLD

Marine Corps vet becomes first combat amputee to summit Everest

The Washington Post

For years, the summit seemed out of reach, and not because Charlie Linville hadn't trained hard enough.

A Marine Corps veteran at 30, Staff Sgt. Linville was no stranger to adversity. The Boise, Idaho, native was a high school freshman when his father was diagnosed with stage-four cancer. In 2007, having completed infantry training, he was deployed to Fallujah, Iraq, just two weeks after the birth of his first daughter with his high school sweetheart, Mandi.

Linville charged on, getting promoted to corporal and training in explosive disposal. In 2011, he was in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, working with a new team to disarm IEDs when a buried device blasted him into the air. He landed in the blast crater — alive but severely injured.

In addition to a traumatic brain injury and an amputated finger, the explosion left Linville with a crippled foot. Resistant to more than a dozen surgeries, it plagued him until he decided to have it surgically amputated in 2013.

"Every day was just pain and pain killers," Linville told CBS, "and eventually I made the decision to have it amputated below the knee."

It was this resolve that would catch the attention of Tim Medvetz, a former Hells Angel biker who runs the Heroes Project, a nonprofit that helps injured veterans climb mountains. With Medvetz's help, it was this resolve that on Thursday made Linville the first combat amputee to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

'Unfinished business'

In a news release, the organization announced Linville's triumph as the first person to reach the 29,035-foot summit with a prosthetic. The expedition had been, as Linville's wife, Mandi, put it to the Idaho Statesman, "unfinished business."

Three years ago, Linville joined the Heroes Project after meeting Medvetz, who knew right away that Linville was a climber.

"Out of all of the military branches, he enlists in the Marine Corps," Medvetz

told CBS. "Then he gets out of boot camp and decides, 'I'm going to start defusing bombs, one of the most dangerous jobs in the Marine Corps.' Then he tells the doctor, 'Cut my leg off.' ... I'm like — that's the guy. That's the guy."

"You don't make those decisions in your life," Medvetz said, "without being strong here (in the head) and here (in the heart). And you can ask anybody, interview anybody who's climbed Everest, and they all have that same attitude."

For Linville, taking on an expedition to Everest was about fighting the specters of military combat.

"I was looking for something to completely change myself and really get rid of the demons that were created from war," he told KBOI-TV.

Heroes Project

Members of the Heroes Project undertake grueling physical training, culminating in a climb with Medvetz as their guide. Last year, he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with retired Marine Corps Sgt. Julian Torres, who lost both of his legs to an IED blast in Afghanistan. The journey and its successful conclusion were a testament to human resilience against all odds. This was Medvetz's mission, and these were his people. Linville would be next.

The strength and determination that Medvetz sensed in Linville from the start proved crucial as planned climbs were halted year after year due to circumstances beyond their control.

In 2014, the first year they attempted Everest, the two were 20,000 feet up at Lobuche Peak when they got word that an ice avalanche had swept down the mountain, killing 16 Nepalese Sherpa guides. The attempt was postponed until last year, when an even deadlier disaster struck.

Medvetz and Linville were once again making their way up Everest when a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, causing 8,500 fatalities and ending the climbing season. The earthquake triggered an avalanche that in turn killed more than a dozen Everest climbers and injured more than 50.

With each cataclysm, Mandi grew more worried. "I've been with this guy since I was 15," she told the Statesman. "He's not a person who starts something and doesn't finish it. I knew year one, OK, he's going back. Year two was higher anxiety. I knew it wasn't going to be finished for him until he actually got to try."

Then came year three.

Grueling training

Linville and Medvetz had trained since last spring. They trained for six hours every day, cycling for two hours daily at a simulated altitude of 17,000 feet. In the last two months before they embarked, they slept inside a chamber that emulated oxygen levels at 18,000 feet.

On April 17, Medvetz's team, including Linville, arrived at Everest Base Camp. Briefly delayed by a snowstorm, they reached the Advanced Base Camp on May 2.

This time, the cards fell into place. Favorable weather conditions were drawing climbers to the world's highest peak for the first season in two years.

Last week, Linville, Medvetz and company left for the summit. On Thursday, they arrived.

Back home in Boise, Idaho, Mandi had spent the night anxiously checking the weather on the mountain. At 9:30 a.m., she got the call that her husband made it.

"It's time to go into celebration mode," she told the Statesman. "I'm going to throw him the biggest freaking party."

The Thursday news release from the Heroes Project noted that the team, which was also the first to summit the mountain's north face this season, was "healthy and safe and currently descending the mountain." As of early Friday morning, it was not clear if Linville and the rest of team had, in fact, returned from the summit safely.

It was a coda three years in the making for Linville. The sky was the limit for the combat amputee, and he had reached it.

"Can't get any taller than Everest, you know?" Linville told CBS before he started climbing in April, laughing. "There is nothing else."

Hearing aboard carrier canceled

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers will not have the first congressional hearing aboard an aircraft carrier after all.

The House Armed Services Committee on Friday canceled the upcoming meeting aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower at Norfolk Naval Base, Va., which was planned to underscore the need for more Navy spending using one of the world's most impressive backdrops.

The committee and the Navy did not immediately explain the last-minute cancellation.

Lawmakers occasionally hold field hearings, but plans to listen to testimony from Navy captains aboard the warship appeared to be a first. It was the brainchild of committee members Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Va., who is running for reelection in the district that is home to the Norfolk base, and Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Va.

Up to 42 members of two Armed Services subcommittees were originally invited to go to Norfolk on Monday, but the committee will now hold the hearing on Capitol Hill on Thursday.

Forbes, who has warned that a shrinking Navy fleet is endangering sailors, had told Stars and Stripes that committee members wanted “unvarnished opinions, and the farther we get from Washington, the more candid the views are likely to be.” He helped craft a proposed House defense budget that includes an additional \$2.3 billion into Navy shipbuilding, which he says would be the biggest spending since the end of the Cold War.

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Iraqi security forces use live rounds to push back protesters

The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Security forces used live ammunition and tear gas to push back protesters who broke into the fortified Green Zone on Friday, in a sharp escalation of the unrest that has gripped the Iraqi capital.

Iraq's military imposed a curfew across Baghdad after the protesters breached the secured area, which is home to the parliament and other government buildings. After protesters broke through — reaching the office of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi — security forces could be seen advancing across the bridges that lead out of the Green Zone and firing tear gas as gunshots rang out, though it was unclear whether they were aiming live ammunition directly at the crowd.

Hospital officials said at least 617 people were injured, largely from inhaling tear gas. They did not report any deaths or injuries from gunfire.

The turmoil is destabilizing the capital amid the country's fight with Islamic State militants, stoking fears that the group could try to capitalize on the unrest and launch attacks on Baghdad, where it has carried out a wave of assaults in recent days.

The violence also further undermines the authority of Abadi, who is already politically weak and, therefore, struggling to enact the reforms demanded by protesters. An economic crisis due to a crash in oil prices also is adding to the pressure.

“We were holding roses and flags,” said Haider Hashm, 40, sitting on the curb of a bridge to the Green Zone and struggling to speak because of the effects of tear gas. “But while we were giving them roses, they gave us tear gas and bullets.”

CENTCOM's Votel: Iraqi troops ‘better’

Associated Press

TAJI, Iraq — The top American general for the Middle East said Friday he is confident that Iraq is on course to defeating the Islamic State group, but his words were spare and cautious, his tone notably muted.

Gen. Joseph Votel, the new head of U.S. Central Command, spent the day consulting with U.S. and Iraqi military officials and visiting a base north of Baghdad that is training Iraqi army combat units.

“They are getting better,” he told reporters later, referring to his broad assessment of Iraq's progress after the stunning collapses in 2014-15 that ceded large swaths of territory to the Islamic State in the north and west. “That said, there is still a lot left to do.”

Noting the Iraqis' recent battlefield successes, including the recapture of Ramadi late last year and their retaking last week of Rutba, a strategic crossroads in western Iraq, Votel said he sees momentum developing and Iraqi confidence rising.

“I think their readiness is improving,” he said, adding, “I think they're getting a better handle on the challenges that they face.”

Navy assumes ownership of Zumwalt

Associated Press

BATH, Maine — The stealthy Zumwalt destroyer is now property of the U.S. Navy.

Sailors could begin moving aboard the 610-foot destroyer after the Navy assumed ownership Friday.

Rear Adm. James Downey, program manager, called it “a significant achievement” both for the Navy and the shipbuilding team led by Bath Iron Works. The ship will be commissioned in the fall.

“What we deliver today is more than a tool. It's more than

a capability. It's a promise of protection and an assurance in a long-standing tradition of maritime power,” he said.

The Zumwalt is the largest and most technologically sophisticated destroyer ever built for the U.S. Navy. It's also the most expensive. The Navy's latest budget submission suggests the cost of the first-in-class ship will be at least \$4.5 billion.

The destroyer features an angular shape to minimize its radar signature, new guns to boost the Navy's land attack capability and a hull designed

for sustained operations close to shore.

It's named after the late Adm. Elmo “Bud” Zumwalt, who earned the Bronze Star in World War II and commanded small boats that patrolled the Mekong Delta in Vietnam.

He later earned a reputation as a reformer who fought racism and sexism. He promoted the first female and African-American officers to admirals and opened the door for women to become naval aviators and serve on warships. He died at age 79 in 2000.

Djokovic seeks elusive title

Associated Press

Once again, Novak Djokovic heads to the French Open knowing full well that a title at Roland Garros will complete a career Grand Slam, something only seven other men have done.

He's already come quite close to adding the Coupe des Mousquetaires to his trophy collection, finishing as the runner-up in three of the past four years.

"I know he's looking for that title," Stan Wawrinka said after beating Djokovic in the 2015 final. "I hope he will get one, one day, because he deserves one."

This time, even more is at stake for Djokovic: Owner of a 21-match winning streak at Grand Slam tournaments, the guy nicknamed "Nole" — it's pronounced NO-leh — arrives in Paris with a chance to become the first man in nearly half a century to claim four consecutive major championships.

Roger Federer never did it. Neither did Rafael Nadal, Pete Sampras or Bjorn Borg.

The last man to hold the four most prestigious tennis titles simultaneously was Rod Laver, all the way back in 1969, when he pulled off a true Grand Slam, winning all in the same year.

By winning Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last season and the Australian Open this January, Djokovic is on the verge of what

could be called a "Nole Slam," a four-in-a-row feat à la the self-styled "Serena Slam" that Serena Williams has managed to do twice. Lately, the No. 1-ranked Djokovic has been nearly unbeatable on any surface and in any setting, not just at the Grand Slam events, going 119-9 overall since the start of 2015, a .930 winning percentage, while earning 16 titles.

In 2016, he is 37-3 with a tour-high five titles.

"My confidence level is high because of the matches — many matches — that I have won this year," Djokovic said, "on (red clay) and all the other surfaces."

Still, adding a bit of intrigue, he is coming off a rare loss — and on red clay, no less — when the French Open begins Sunday. That's because Djokovic was beaten by Andy Murray in the Italian Open final, the last tuneup for both before the year's second Grand Slam tournament.

Not that Djokovic sounded too worried by that result. He knew that he was sapped by a couple of lengthy, difficult victories against Nadal and Kei Nishikori.

"I don't feel that I'm doubtful or I'm shaken up by this loss. Of course, you don't like to lose," Djokovic said. "I move on to Paris knowing that I'm going to approach it, hopefully, healthy and refreshed."

A year ago, he beat Nadal in the French Open quarterfinals, only the second loss in 72 career matches at the tournament for the nine-time champion. That was

part of a rough stretch for Nadal, who appears to be inching closer to finding his old "King of Clay" form.

It would surprise no one if he were around in the latter stages at Roland Garros. The same can be said of Murray, suddenly the owner of three titles on the slowest surface after winning his two majors on hard and grass courts.

"I never expected to be having the results I have been having on clay," the second-ranked Murray said after defeating Djokovic in Rome.

Williams joined Murray as a champion in Italy, picking up her first title anywhere in nine months. And she joins Djokovic in hoping to make some history in France.

The 34-year-old American is seeking her 22nd singles title at a Grand Slam tournament to equal Steffi Graf's record for the Open era, which began in 1968. The all-time mark of 24 belongs to Margaret Smith Court.

The French Open is the only major Williams never has won back-to-back: Her titles came in 2002, 2013 and 2015 (the champion in 2012 and 2014, Maria Sharapova, is not eligible to enter this year because her doping case is pending).

"I have tried to defend there once, twice. ... Didn't quite work so well," the No. 1-ranked Williams said. "But this year is different. I'm going to definitely go in there and feel more calm. And I don't feel stress to, like, have to win."

Williams haunted by '15 victory

Associated Press

PARIS — Serena Williams is still haunted by her struggles en route to winning last year's French Open title.

After getting the flu early in the tournament, Williams was in major trouble during her three-set semifinal win over Timea Bacszinszky, wrapping herself in ice towels during changeovers, breathing heavily between points, the strain etched on her face.

"I think about it a lot, and I still don't know how I got through it," Williams said Friday after the draw for this year's tournament. "My eyes were glassy, and I was just not doing well."

After getting through that ordeal, she skipped practice on the eve of the final, preferring to sleep until the afternoon at her Paris apartment. It proved to be good choice as Williams overcame a mid-match slump to beat Lucie Safarova in three sets and clinch her 20th major title.

Bidding for her fourth Roland Garros title this year, the 34-year-old American will open against 76th-ranked Magdalena Rybarikova of Slovakia, then could meet Victoria Azarenka in the quarterfinals and third-seeded Angelique Kerber in the semifinals.

In a bid to avoid similar physical woes this year, Williams has made a firm pledge to take "Vitamin C every night" and to "regulate my temperature."

That's because the weather in Paris has been overcast and somewhat chilly the past few days, and Williams said she put her tracksuit hood up following one practice session because her ears were cold.

Her victory in Paris last year followed successes in 2002 and 2013, and she then followed up with the Wimbledon title in July.

Williams was then surprisingly beaten by Roberta Vinci — an Italian ranked 43rd — in the semifinals of the U.S. Open and lost this year's Australian Open final to Kerber.

It leaves Williams still needing one more major to equal Steffi Graf's record for the Open era, which began in 1968, and three more to match Margaret Smith Court's all-time mark of 24 majors.

The French Open is the only major Williams never has won back-to-back and she enters the tournament following a confidence-boosting win at the Italian Open last weekend.

"I got the match play that I needed in Rome," she said.

Although it was her 70th career title, it was her first anywhere in nine months.

"Four tournaments and three finals is not bad for everyone else, but I'm not everyone else," Williams said. "I want to win more than most people — ever."

Notes: Stan Wawrinka warmed up for his French Open title defense by winning the Geneva Open on Saturday, beating Marin Cilic 6-4, 7-6 (11) in the final.

The top-seeded Swiss took his second match-point chance in a long tiebreaker when the third-seeded Croatian sent a backhand long.

Lightning hold off Pens, even series

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Ninety minutes before the opening faceoff, Jon Cooper talked about what the Tampa Bay Lightning needed to do to get back on track in the Eastern Conference finals.

"We've got to play better," the coach said. "That's it."

Ryan Callahan provided an early spark, Andrei Vasilevskiy made two big saves in the closing minutes to avoid a total third-period collapse, and the resilient Lightning held Friday night for a 4-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals.

Callahan tipped a shot past goalie Matt Murray just 17 seconds into the game. Andrej Sustr, Jonathan Drouin and Tyler Johnson also scored and the Lightning rebounded after being badly outplayed in the previous two games to even the series 2-2 heading back to Pittsburgh for Game 5 on Sunday.

"The one thing on the bench was, it doesn't matter how you get there," Cooper said after the Penguins scored three times in 12 minutes to turn a potential rout into a nail-biter.

"So whether you're up 4-0 and it becomes 4-3, or you're down 3-0 and it becomes 4-3, it doesn't matter. You're still winning, so you've got to play like that," the coach added. "Ultimately, the goal is to win the hockey game, and when you wake up in the morning, it's not how

they came back and made it a game. Ultimately, the series is 2-2."

Vasilevskiy had a 4-0 lead entering the third period, but the Penguins didn't give up. Phil Kessel and Evgeni Malkin scored to give Pittsburgh hope, and Chris Kunitz's power-play goal trimmed the deficit to one with a little less than 7 minutes remaining.

"We were not the more determined team for the first half of the game," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. "They are a good team, and we knew this was going to be a hard game."

Tampa Bay was outshot 16-7 over the final 20 minutes after dominating the first two periods. Malkin and Jason Schultz tested Vasilevskiy in the final 2:10, but Vasilevskiy stopped both efforts to tie the score.

The 21-year-old goaltender, filling in for injured Vezina Trophy finalist Ben Bishop, finished with 35 saves in his fourth career playoff start.

Marc-Andre Fleury replaced Murray in goal for the Penguins at the start of the third, and Kessel's team-leading eighth goal began the rally that just fell short.

The Lightning were outshot 89-49 in the previous two games, a disparity that Cooper called "unacceptable" after the Penguins took a 2-1 series lead.

But the experience of the highs of lows of last year's playoff run to the Stanley Cup final has served the defending conference champions well over the past month.

While acknowledging there was a sense of urgency to play better, Cooper and his players insisted the team was not overly discouraged after being badly outplayed in Games 2 and 3 because they been down in series before and found ways to come back.

Callahan's first goal since Game 3 of the Lightning's second-round win over the New York Islanders got them rolling. Sustr's second career playoff goal — first this postseason — made it 2-0 at 14:28 of the opening period.

Drouin and Johnson — playing with a full cage and later a plastic shield on his helmet after taking a puck to the face during warmups — scored in the second to build the lead to 4-0. Drouin scored with a minute left in a four-minute power play that Penguins were unable kill with defenseman Kris Letang in the penalty box for cross-checking and roughing.

The Penguins, relentless in Game 3 when they took 48 shots en route to a 4-2 victory, were unable to convert a couple of good scoring chances in the first period and had limited opportunities until finally cracking Vasilevskiy in the third.

Kessel scored at 1:18 of the third period, beating Vasilevskiy from above the right circle. The goal was his team-leading eighth of the playoffs, with Nick Bonino and Brian Dumoulin picking up assists.

Malkin scored at 11:13 and the Penguins drew closer when Kunitz added his goal with 6:52 remaining.



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Donovan, Kerr took very different paths to coaching

Associated Press

OAKLAND, California — Billy Donovan is trying to accomplish the improbable and lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to a championship as a first-year NBA coach, just as Steve Kerr did guiding Golden State to its first title in 40 years last June in his rookie season running the Warriors.

These two have become friends along the way during their drastically different journeys to the NBA bench. Their personalities are polar opposites, too, with Kerr cracking jokes and even stopping his press conferences to give writers time to post important Warriors news to their Twitter followers. Donovan is typically straight-faced and serious.

While working as a television analyst for TNT, Kerr enjoyed getting to know Donovan while covering his Florida squad in the NCAA Tournament and made an effort to keep in touch — even as Donovan began the daunting process of leaving the college game for the next level.

Now, their teams are knotted at 1-1 in the best-of-seven Western Conference finals, which resume Sunday at Oklahoma City.

"Billy's a great coach. I got to know him when I was doing NCAA Tournament games at TNT, and I did a few Florida games and had a chance to visit with

him," Kerr said. "We actually stayed in touch before he took that other job in the last couple of years, just on random coaching thoughts. If either one of us had any possible coaching positions that we were looking at, we tended to call each other."

The Thunder hired Donovan after his successful two-decade college coaching career that included two national championships, four trips to the Final Four and 14 NCAA Tournament berths.

Kerr, on the other hand, had never been a head coach at any level when the Warriors grabbed him from his TV gig. He just won Coach of the Year in his second season despite missing the initial 43 games while on a leave of absence recovering from complications after two back surgeries. Defending champion Golden State had an NBA-record 24-0 start and finished with 73 wins to top the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls team that Kerr was on alongside Michael Jordan.

Kerr has shared his experiences with Donovan about working in the front office as general manager of the Phoenix Suns before returning to television and then entering the coaching ranks with no experience. Both former point guards, Kerr won five championships in 15 years as a player. Donovan appeared in 44 career games total with no starts and 105 points

in his one NBA season with the Knicks in 1987-88. He preaches to his players about the importance of a tough-minded approach at this high-stakes stage of the season — especially in a raucous road environment.

"Steve's been a great friend. Someone that I've been able to build a relationship with for a long period of time," Donovan said. "I've always liked Steve. We've talked about different things. Talked about the NBA, and even talked about himself maybe going into coaching and himself being in the front office. ... He's just a great, down-to-earth guy, and just through being in college coaching and him covering and doing games we've just kind of been able to build a relationship over the years."

These two could have long NBA careers, a positive for the league going forward with two young coaching faces.

Well, young, relatively speaking. They're both 50.

"Young? How old are they? They've got gray hairs," Oklahoma City center Steve Adams cracked. "It's always good to see anyone do well, especially if it's a coach on your team. I'm just really happy that all of us have just embraced him and he's come out and helped us out a lot. That's all you can really ask for, really. The NBA definitely appreciates it."

Thunder confident going into Game 3

Associated Press

The Oklahoma City Thunder have experience bouncing back from disaster.

In Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals, the San Antonio Spurs rolled past the Thunder by 32 points. Oklahoma City responded by beating the Spurs in San Antonio 98-97 the next game, and the Thunder eventually took the series 4-2.

The Thunder seized homecourt in the Western Conference Finals against Golden State by winning Game 1 before the Warriors responded by blowing past them 118-91 in Game 2. The Thunder will try to recover again Sunday as the series shifts from Oakland to Oklahoma City.

"Yeah, it helps a little bit with our confidence just knowing that we've been in this position before," Thunder forward Kevin Durant said. "It's not foreign land to us."

The Thunder remain in an ideal position. Hold serve at home, and they will return to the NBA Finals for the first time since 2012.

"We know they're going to come here and try to steal one," Thunder guard Dion Waiters said. "As long as we take care of home court advantage and do what we're supposed to do and leave everything out there, then we'll be fine."

Kluber helps Indians top hard-hitting Red Sox

Associated Press

BOSTON — Corey Kluber sounded as relaxed after the game as he looked on the mound.

Facing the majors' top-scoring club, Kluber held them down for seven innings to lead the Cleveland Indians to a 4-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Friday night.

"I was kind of working both sides of the plate to keep them honest," the soft-spoken rightly said. "They're obviously a very good offensive team. I just tried to make sure we pitched them in enough where they couldn't get their arms extended."

Jason Kipnis hit a three-run homer as the Indians won their fifth straight game.

Kluber (3-5) allowed a run in each of the first two innings, but gave up just one hit over the next five. He allowed five hits, struck out six and walked two.

"That's what your ace is supposed to do, but it's easier said than done," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "That's a heck of a lineup."

Nationals 4, Marlins 1: Tanner Roark finally beat the team that kept beating him, pitching 6²/₃ innings to help visiting Washington get past Miami.

Roark (3-3) came into the game 0-3 in three starts versus the Marlins this season with an ERA of 8.40. Against the rest of the majors he's 2-0 in five starts with an ERA of 0.79. Ryan Zimmerman and Michael Taylor homered to help the Nationals score all their runs in the second inning.

Marcell Ozuna hit his eighth home run for Miami, but Roark had no trouble with slumping slugger Giancarlo Stanton, who finished 0 for 4 with three strikeouts, dropping his average to .214.

Justin Nicolino (2-2) went 5 1/3 in-

nings and has lost all three career starts against Washington. He was hit hard.

Cubs 8, Giants 1: Jake Arrieta continued his impressive pitching and Kris Bryant provided the power as visiting Chicago beat San Francisco.

The Cubs won in Arrieta's 22nd consecutive start going back to last season, with their ace going 19-0 over that stretch. They won on the road for the 24th time in 29 games as they snapped San Francisco's eight-game winning streak.

Cubs outfielder Jason Heyward left the game in the bottom of the first inning after crashing into the wall on a diving catch. Heyward is under evaluation for an injury to his right torso abdominal region, the Cubs said.

Arrieta, who leads the majors with a 1.29 ERA, allowed four hits, struck out eight and walked one in seven innings.

Jake Peavy (1-5) allowed five runs, seven hits and two walks in 1 2/3 innings.

Orioles 9, Angels 4: Chris Davis hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the seventh inning — one of four in the game by the Orioles — and visiting Baltimore defeated the Los Angeles Angels in the series opener after blowing a three-run lead.

Mark Trumbo also hit a two-run blast, and Joey Rickard and Manny Machado added back-to-back solo shots for the AL East leaders who improved to 8-7 away from home. They had played just two road games since April 28 before opening a nine-game West Coast trip in Anaheim.

Mychal Givens (3-0) allowed two hits and no runs in 1 1/3 relief innings. Jose Alvarez (1-2) took the loss.

Royals 4, White Sox 1: Omar Infante, Paulo Orlando and Lorenzo Cain all doubled in a three-run sixth inning off Jose Quintana to lead visiting Kansas City to a win.

Orlando added an RBI single an inning later and Dillon Gee (1-1) allowed a run over five innings for his first victory since 2014. The Royals won for the fifth time in seven games and moved within 3 1/2 games of the AL Central-leading White Sox.

Padres 7, Dodgers 6: Melvin Upton Jr. hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to lead host San Diego past Los Angeles.

After Wil Myers hit a bloop single to shallow center to lead off the ninth against Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen, Upton went the opposite way beyond the right-center field fence for the comeback victory.

Kevin Quackenbush (2-2) pitched a scoreless ninth to earn the win for the Padres, who had lost four straight.

Blue Jays 9, Twins 3: Jose Bautista hit a three-run home run to break open the game in the sixth inning and visiting Toronto slugged its way to a victory.

Josh Donaldson, Michael Saunders and Darwin Barney also went deep for Toronto. Aaron Sanchez (4-1) gave up two runs on eight hits with seven strikeouts in seven innings to give the Blue Jays their second straight win after a five-game losing streak.

Mariners 8, Reds 3: Dae-Ho Lee's bases-loaded single completed visiting Seattle's late rally against the major leagues' worst bullpen, and he later added a solo homer.

Seattle opened a weekend dedicated to Ken Griffey Jr. by getting four runs in the seventh inning against a bullpen that has blown 10 of its 14 save chances.

Pirates 2, Rockies 1: At Pittsburgh, Starling Marte and John Jaso had two hits each and made fine defensive plays to help Gerrit Cole navigate through seven

shaky innings.

Cole (5-3) scattered 10 hits and a walk while not recording a strikeout as he won his second straight start.

Mets 3, Brewers 2: Steven Matz pitched seven sharp innings to win his sixth consecutive start, Michael Conforto hit a two-run homer and host New York beat Milwaukee.

After skipping a turn in the rotation last weekend because of a sore elbow, Matz (6-1) picked up right where he left off in his previous outing May 9 at Dodger Stadium. The rookie left-hander held the Brewers to three hits.

The only real hiccup for Matz came when Chris Carter connected for his 13th home run of the season, a two-run shot in the first inning. After that, Matz retired 15 straight.

Rangers 2, Astros 1: Colby Lewis pitched seven scoreless innings and Prince Fielder provided the offense with a two-run double to lead visiting Texas to a victory.

Rays 7, Tigers 5: Steven Souza and Steve Pearce homered to help Tampa Bay beat host Detroit.

Braves 7, Phillies 1: Freddie Freeman homered twice and drove in four runs and Nick Markakis also hit a home run to lead visiting Atlanta to a victory.

Diamondbacks 11, Cardinals 7: Patrick Corbin (2-3) struck out seven and Chris Herrmann homered with three RBIs for Arizona in a victory over host St. Louis.

Yankees 8, Athletics 3: CC Sabathia came off the disabled list to pitch six innings and become the eighth player in the modern era to win 100 games or more with two teams, and New York beat host Oakland.