

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## IG: Rape whistleblower saw retaliation

BY DIANNA CAHN

*Stars and Stripes*

After reporting in 2012 that she'd been raped by a more senior officer in the West Virginia National Guard, Lt. Col. Teresa James suffered retaliation from a brigadier general for bringing the rape to light, the Defense Department Inspector General said in a new report.

The report found that after James reported the rape, Army Brig. Gen. Charles Veit, the assistant adjutant general for the West Virginia National Guard, issued her an unfavorable and career-damaging officer evaluation report in an act of reprisal.

The IG finding is unprecedented. Until now, not one case

of whistleblower reprisal for reporting sexual assault had ever been substantiated by the inspector general.

James, who was commander of the 151st military police battalion, medically retired from the National Guard in June. Her assailant also was forced to retire. But after withstanding three years of pressure while her allegations of rape and then of retaliation were investigated, she says the finding offers at least a partial vindication.

"It's in some ways a small victory, I think, for survivors of sexual assault, and gives some sort of hope ... that perhaps our system can work," James said Monday.

"There's a lack of trust and

confidence in our system because so many claims (of whistleblowing) are not substantiated," she said. "It's a victory in some sense, even though it is not justice by any means."

The IG called for the secretary of the Army to "take appropriate action against Veit" for his reprisal. It also recommended the Army secretary remove the bad evaluation from James' record, give her a military service award for her time as commander and convene a board to consider whether James should be promoted to colonel.

Not all of James' allegations were substantiated. The IG did not find reprisal in a decision not to give her a meritorious service award or to send her for mental

health and medical evaluations. She was later diagnosed with delayed onset post-traumatic stress disorder, she said.

Still, the IG's substantiation of any reprisal allegations is surprising. In its most recent report tracking military whistleblower reprisals, the IG recorded 149 investigations between April and September 2015, and only 19 were substantiated.

Of those, the IG gave examples of 12 cases in which some "corrective actions" were ultimately taken. Most involved verbal or written reprimand, with one or two cases in which the officer was removed from the position. None of them involved reports of sexual assault.

cahn.dianna@stripes.com

## US-supported Syrians begin fight for Raqqa

BY TARA COPP

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Syrian fighters aided by U.S. airstrikes and advisers have begun their assault to take back Raqqa from the Islamic State group, the Pentagon confirmed Tuesday.

Several thousand fighters from the Syrian Democratic Forces, the umbrella group that also includes fighters from the Syrian Arab Coalition and the Kurdish People's Protection Forces, or YPG, are massed about 30 to 40 miles north of Raqqa, two senior defense officials told Stars and Stripes on the condition that they not be named.

On Tuesday, those forces began to advance toward Raqqa, which is the Islamic State group's primary headquarters in Syria.

"They're moving on Raqqa now," said Col. Steve Warren,

who is the Baghdad-based spokesman for Operation Inherent Resolve.

The Syrian Democratic Forces announced the launch of the operation through its official Twitter account. "With the participation of all (Syrian Democratic Forces) units, we start this operation to liberate northern [Raqqa]," the group said. "[Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve] forces will accompany [Syrian Democratic Forces] during the campaign."

Since Friday, U.S. and coalition aircraft have conducted 10 airstrikes against Islamic State group positions in Raqqa and hit tactical units, an Islamic State garrison and oil infrastructure, according to Defense Department news releases on the airstrikes.

The two defense officials confirmed Syrian forces are being resupplied and support-

ed by U.S. advisers who are located behind the forward line of troops.

The Islamic State group is estimated to have several thousand fighters defending Raqqa, Warren said.

In the last week, U.S. and coalition jets have dropped leaflets urging civilians to flee, warning of the coming fight for the city.

On Friday, the Islamic State group allowed civilians in the city to leave, according to The Associated Press.

The effort to retake Raqqa is occurring as Iraqi forces, also aided by U.S. and coalition airpower, are advancing on Fallujah, an Islamic State group-controlled city west of Baghdad. It is believed Islamic State fighters in Fallujah are responsible for a recent string of deadly bombings in Baghdad, Warren said last week.

copp.tara@stripes.com

## Obama, Abe to talk Okinawa slaying case

TOKYO — President Barack Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will discuss the case of a U.S. civilian suspected of murder on Okinawa prior to the G7 economic summit in the Ise-shima region, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday.

The two leaders will hold a bilateral meeting sometime before the economic summit begins Thursday. The case is "certainly going to be one of the important issues taken up in the bilateral meeting," said the Foreign Ministry official, who spoke during a background briefing with reporters Tuesday.

Kenneth Franklin Gadson, who goes by his Japanese wife's surname, Shinzato, was arrested last week and charged with dumping the body of Rina Shimabukuro, 20. More charges could come after an autopsy is completed, Okinawa police said.

From staff reports

# Bill Cosby ordered to stand trial

Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Bill Cosby was ordered Tuesday to stand trial on sexual assault charges after a hearing that hinged on a decade-old police report in which a woman said the comedian gave her three blue pills that put her in a stupor, unable to stop his advances.

District Judge Elizabeth McHugh ruled that prosecutors had sufficient evidence to bring Cosby to trial in the lone criminal case brought against him out of the barrage of allegations that he drugged and

molested dozens of women. No immediate trial date was set.

Cosby, 78, could get 10 years in prison if convicted.

“Mr. Cosby, good luck to you, sir,” the judge said.

“Thank you,” said the former TV star, who stood up briskly after the ruling and seemed chipper and unsurprised. He hugged one of his lawyers.

The judge set an arraignment for July 20, at which time he could enter a plea. But Cosby waived his right to appear at that proceeding. That sets the case on a trajectory for trial.

The hearing was not the face-to-face confrontation be-

tween accuser and accused that some had anticipated. Andrea Constand, the former Temple University employee who said Cosby violated her at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004, was not in the courtroom, and the judge ruled that she would not have to testify.

Instead, prosecutors had portions of her 2005 statement to police read into the record.

While authorities in recent months have paraphrased her account and quoted fragments, this was apparently the first time that large sections of her statement — or Cosby’s, for that matter — were made public.

# Thailand, US in joint exercise

BY AARON KIDD

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. and Thailand navies are focusing on “anti-submarine warfare and maritime domain awareness” during drills that began Monday off the Asian country’s west coast.

Exercise Guardian Sea, which runs through Friday in the Andaman Sea, includes personnel from the U.S. 7th Fleet’s Task Force 73 and Destroyer Squadron 7 and features the guided-missile destroyer USS Stethem, a P-8A Poseidon aircraft and a Los Angeles-class submarine operating alongside Thai ships and aircraft, a Navy statement said.

Capt. H.B. Le, commodore of Destroyer Squadron 7, called this year’s exercise “the most complex to date.”

“Guardian Sea provides our navies the opportunity and challenge of detecting and tracking submarines, and to practice procedures related to anti-submarine warfare,” Le said in the statement.

The exercise will include a short shore phase featuring seminars and exchanges between subject-matter experts from both navies.

“Guardian Sea is an excellent opportunity to operate at sea in a realistic training environment with our friends and partners in the Royal Thai Navy,” said Cmdr. Doug Pegher, the Stethem’s commanding officer. “Our sailors gain valuable experiences from these engagements, and we build important maritime relationships that endure beyond the exercise.”

The U.S. trained with the Thai military in February during a scaled-down version of Cobra Gold, an annual exercise it has co-hosted with Thailand for more than three decades.

kidd.aaron@stripes.com  
Twitter: @kiddaaron

# Sanders: Convention may be ‘messy’

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., said the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia and his push to make the party more inclusive could get “messy,” but he said in an interview with The Associated Press, “Democracy is not always nice and quiet and gentle.”

Campaigning Monday ahead of California’s primary against Hillary Clinton, Sanders said his supporters hope the party will adopt a platform at the summer convention that reflects the needs of working families, the poor and young people, not Wall

Street and corporate America.

Sanders said he will “condemn any and all forms of violence,” but his campaign was welcoming political newcomers and first-time attendees of party conventions. He said the Democratic Party faces a choice of becoming more inclusive or maintaining the status quo.

“I think if they make the right choice and open the doors to working-class people and young people and create the kind of dynamism that the Democratic Party needs, it’s going to be messy,” Sanders said. “Democracy is not always nice and quiet and gentle, but that is where the Democratic Party should go.”

Asked if the convention could

be problematic, Sanders said: “So what? Democracy is messy. Every day, my life is messy. But if you want everything to be quiet and orderly and allow, you know, just things to proceed without vigorous debate, that is not what democracy is about.”

Sanders is vying for support in California on June 7, a day that includes contests in Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota and South Dakota. Clinton has 271 more pledged delegates than Sanders and is just 90 delegates shy of clinching the nomination when the total includes superdelegates — the party officials and elected leaders who can support the candidate of their choice.

# US: Sea of Japan flight was ‘safe, lawful’

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. says an Air Force reconnaissance flight over the Sea of Japan that triggered a Russian protest was conducted safely and according to international law.

Russia’s Defense Ministry protested the Sunday flight by

the U.S. RC-135, saying it jeopardized air safety. The ministry summoned the U.S. military attache to complain about the incident.

Moscow says the aircraft was flying with its transponder switched off and was at an altitude used by civilian flights in that area.

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Dave Ben-

ham, a spokesman for U.S. Pacific Command, said the plane flew a routine reconnaissance mission with due regard for the safety of navigation of all aircraft, and the flight was professional and completed without incident.

The U.S. says the flight posed no risk to aircraft at any time.



# Raptors tie series with Cavs

Associated Press

TORONTO — A series that once looked lopsided is now even.

Kyle Lowry scored 35 points, including a driving layup in the final minute, and DeMar DeRozan had 32 as the Toronto Raptors evened the Eastern Conference Finals by beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 105-99 in Game 4 on Monday night.

DeMarre Carroll scored 11 points and Bismack Biyombo had 14 rebounds as Toronto improved to 8-2 at home this postseason and got back on level terms after big losses in Games 1 and 2.

"We've been counted out, and we like that challenge," DeRozan said.

The next challenge for Toronto? Game 5 on Wednesday night in Cleveland, where the Raptors are 0-3 this season, losing by a combined 72 points.

"We have to continue to make sure that when they punch, we punch back," Lowry said. "And if they punch three times, we punch four times."

The Raptors are 2-6 on the road in the playoffs.

After a 10-0 start to these playoffs, the Cavaliers are counting on home-court advantage to help them reach their second straight Finals.

"Going back home we have to play a lot better and I think we will," LeBron James said.

Cleveland lost consecutive playoff games to an Eastern Conference opponent for the first time since dropping the final three games of the conference semifinals to Boston in 2010.

"We had a few defensive breakdowns

that you can't have down the stretch of a game, especially in the playoffs," Cavs coach Tyrone Lue said. "They executed every time we made a mistake."

James scored 29 points and Kyrie Irving had 26 for the Cavaliers, who trailed by as many as 18 points. Channing Frye scored nine of his 12 points in the fourth quarter.

Lowry scored nine in the fourth and DeRozan had 12, connecting on five of six shots.

"It's a cakewalk for me when [Lowry] gets going," DeRozan said. "It opens up everything."

The Raptors led 78-69 to begin the fourth but Frye made consecutive three-pointers as Cleveland opened the final quarter with an 8-0 run, cutting it to 78-77. The Cavaliers made their first 11 shots of the fourth quarter.

"It wasn't enough because we got off to a horrible first half once again in this building and you're playing catch up the whole game," James said.

Frye's errant three-point attempt at 4:12 was Cleveland's first miss of the fourth. DeRozan made two free throws at the other end and, after another miss by Frye, Carroll made one of two to put Toronto up 99-96 with 3:23 to go.

A long three by Irving made it 101-99 with 2:00 left, but DeRozan answered with a driving bank shot at 1:33. Toronto got the ball back after Biyombo blocked J.R. Smith's three, and Biyombo kept the offensive possession alive by rebounding Lowry's missed shot. After a timeout, Lowry let the shot clock wind down before driving for the decisive layup, making it 105-99 with 22 seconds to go.

Toronto jumped out to a 13-5 lead as Cleveland missed eight of its first 10 shots. Following a timeout, the Cavs made five of their next six to cut the deficit but the Raptors led 27-24 after one quarter.

Lowry scored 15 points in the second, making three of Toronto's four three-pointers, as the Raptors opened a 57-41 halftime lead despite not shooting a single free throw in the first two quarters. It marked the first time a team led by 15 or more at halftime in a conference finals game without shooting a free throw since Game 2 of the 2001 East Finals between Milwaukee and Philadelphia. The Bucks made two of six from the line, the fewest ever made in an NBA playoff game at the time.

DeRozan shot Toronto's first free throws at 6:13 of the third after being tackled by Smith on a drive. The foul drought came after Raptors coach Dwane Casey was fined \$25,000 for criticizing the officials following Toronto's Game 3 win.

Fans cheered derisively when Matthew Dellavedova was called for Cleveland's first foul of the game at 8:56 of the second.

**Not much to love:** After shooting 3-for-19 in Game 3, Kevin Love shot 4-for-14 in Game 4. He finished with 10 points. Love did not play in the fourth after appearing to injure his left ankle when he stepped on referee David Guthrie late in the third. "It didn't feel too great," Love said. Lue said Love's health was "no concern."

**Fair and foul:** Cleveland didn't shoot any free throws in the third quarter and had just two in the fourth. Twelve of Toronto's 19 free throws came in the fourth.

# Thunder, Warriors trade jabs

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Draymond Green knows who is responsible for his kick to the groin of Thunder center Steven Adams: Russell Westbrook and the rest of the NBA stars who get to the foul line with a whole lot of salesmanship.

Green's kick felled the 7-foot, 255-pound Adams during the second quarter of Golden State's Game 3 loss to Oklahoma City in the Western Conference finals on Sunday night. Westbrook later said Green kicked Adams intentionally — and that didn't go over well with the Warriors' standout.

"There are multiple plays where I did it later in the game when I got fouled and my right leg went up," Green said Monday. "I always do it. Russell said I did it on purpose, but he's part of the superstar group that started all this acting in the NBA."

Green even pointed to a play at the end of the second quarter, when Green fouled Westbrook on a long three-pointer.

"Russell Westbrook kicked me at the end of the half," Green said. "He just didn't happen to catch me where I caught Steven Adams."

Westbrook wasn't thrilled with Green's comments, calling Green's foul on the three-pointer a "dumb play on his part."

"I've never been fined for one flop since I've been playing in the NBA," Westbrook said. "I don't know about no flopping or nothing. I don't know how to flop. But it seems like he was the one that was flailing, kicking his legs out and stuff yesterday. It wasn't me."

Green was called for a flagrant 1 foul and Adams later noted that Green had kneed him in the same spot during Game 2. Green was fined \$25,000 by the NBA on Monday and the foul was upgraded to a flagrant 2, but he was not suspended and will be in uniform when the defending champion Warriors try to even the series at 2-2.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr said he needs Green at his best.

"He needs to refocus a little bit," Kerr said. "He'll admit it. It was not one of his best games — in fact, it was one of his worst. The great thing with Draymond is he always turns it around. He's one of the great competitors that we have in the league, that we have on our team. When things aren't looking great, he usually plays his best."

Kerr knows Green might have made himself a target for the officials.

"Does he have to be careful? I guess," Kerr said. "Now, people are watching for him or whatever. He's just going to play, he's going to be himself, and we'll see what happens."

Green insists the hit to Adams to the floor wasn't that big a deal.

"I can see how somebody can think it was intentional, but yet nobody can go in my head and say, 'Draymond was thinking about kicking him and he kicked him,'" Green said.

# Djokovic wins opener, charms crowd

Associated Press

PARIS — Novak Djokovic treated the Roland Garros crowd with some great tennis shots on Tuesday. His charm offensive continued after the match.

Interviewed on court by former Wimbledon champion Marion Bartoli, the top-ranked Serb pleased the fans on Court Philippe Chatrier with a few words in French.

Djokovic is craving a career Grand Slam at the French Open after losing in the final three times over the past four years. A fans' favorite in Paris, he has dramatically improved his level of French in recent years.

"These two weeks might be the most important in the whole season (for me)," Djokovic said after defeating 95th-ranked Yen-hsun Lu of Taiwan 6-4, 6-1, 6-1.

Djokovic was in complete control, broke his opponent seven times, and closed the match with a drop shot. He joined his main rivals Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray in the second round.

Seeded No. 2 in Paris for the first time, Murray rallied to win from two sets down for the ninth time, and beat Czech qualifier Radek Stepanek 3-6, 3-6, 6-0, 6-3, 7-5.

While Murray needed two days to progress, nine-time champion Nadal had a

much easier time, easing past Sam Groth 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.

In the women's draw, Australian Open champion Angelique Kerber lost in the first round. Hampered by a left shoulder injury, the third-seeded Kerber was upset by 58th-ranked Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Francesca Schiavone, the 2010 French Open champion, was also eliminated, losing to Kristina Mladenovic 6-2, 6-4.

Stepanek, the oldest man in the field at 37, hit 57 winners in his suspenseful encounter on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Murray was leading 4-2 in the fourth set when play was suspended on Monday because of darkness. He was twice two points from losing while serving and trailing 5-4 in the fifth. But he held there, then broke Stepanek, and served out after wasting his first match point with a double-fault.

"It's unbelievable what he is doing," Murray said. "At 37 years old, coming out and fighting like that. I don't expect to be doing that myself at that age."

Murray, who will be 37 in eight years, progressed with Aljaz Bedene and Kyle Edmund to ensure three British men in the second round at Roland Garros for the first time since 1975.

Also advancing were seventh-seeded

Tomas Berdych, No. 13 Dominic Thiem, No. 15 John Isner and No. 20 Bernard Tomic.

Kerber received treatment on her shoulder during a changeover while trailing 3-0 in the deciding set. The left-handed Kerber briefly left the court and returned to win her service game but could not break again and lost.

She arrived in Paris following early losses in Madrid and Rome. Last week, she pulled out of the Nuremberg tournament because of her shoulder injury.

"It's getting worse and worse, but I hope it's not too bad," Kerber said.

Kerber is the fifth Australian Open women's champion to lose in the first round at Roland Garros, after Chris O'Neil (1978), Barbara Jordan (1979), Lindsey Davenport (2000), and Li Na (2014).

Schiavone was surprised to receive a standing ovation after her loss, and was annoyed at tournament organizers for prematurely announcing this was her last French Open.

"Roland Garros announced my retirement but I didn't," Schiavone said. "So you can stand up all of you and go back to work in the office because I didn't say that."

Later, Serena Williams faced 77th-ranked Magdalena Rybarikova to start the defense of her title.



## Ship's Store official new car program

Exclusive Navy at-sea offers:

[www.navyauto.com](http://www.navyauto.com) or [nasinfo@navyauto.com](mailto:nasinfo@navyauto.com)

# Walk-off homer lifts Cards

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Randal Grichuk told reporters Monday afternoon that his sore back was OK. A few hours later, Grichuk proved it with his first career walk-off home run.

Grichuk's solo homer in the bottom of the ninth lifted the St. Louis Cardinals to a 4-3 win over the Chicago Cubs.

"I was trying to battle and get a pitch in the zone and put good wood on it and get on," Grichuk said. "Luckily, I was able to get a homer."

Matt Adams tied the score with a two-run homer in the seventh for St. Louis' major league-leading ninth pinch-hit homer of the season. It also ended a streak of 13 innings of one-run pitching by Chicago starter John Lackey against his former team.

"This is a team that can do damage in a hurry," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said. "That's something we haven't had in the past as much, the ability for quite a few guys in that lineup that feel good about getting the ball over the fence and create instant offense."

Grichuk drove a 2-2 pitch off of Adam Warren (3-1) for the win.

Adams drove a high change-up to straight-away center to revive what was a stagnant offense against Lackey. It was Adams' second pinch-hit homer this season and he's hitting .500 off the bench.

"It's no secret," Adams said. "I just make sure I'm ready to go when my name's called."

Trevor Rosenthal (2-1) pitched a scoreless ninth.

The Cubs' Ben Zobrist had three singles and a walk, extending his streak to 29 starts with reaching safely. He is hitting .387 during that span.

St. Louis starter Adam Wainwright pitched in and out of trouble throughout his six innings, scattering seven hits and stranding eight runners, while throwing 68 of his 108 pitches for strikes.

**Dodgers 1, Reds 0:** Clayton Kershaw tossed a two-hitter for his third shutout of the season, pitching host Los Angeles past Cincinnati for their eighth straight win over the Reds.

Kershaw (7-1) struck out seven, ending his franchise-record streak of six starts in a row with at least 10 strikeouts. He gave the bullpen some much-needed rest

after the Dodgers used a combined 13 relievers in consecutive extra-inning games at San Diego last weekend.

The left-hander retired his final 17 batters after issuing just his fifth walk of the season to Joey Votto leading off the fourth. Kershaw threw 102 pitches.

The Dodgers won back-to-back games for the first time since taking three in a row May 12-14. They needed just 2 hours, 11 minutes, to beat the Reds after outlasting San Diego in 5:47 on Sunday.

Brandon Finnegan (1-3) allowed five hits in his first career complete game for Cincinnati. The left-hander, who struck out two and walked four, hasn't won since April 16.

**Giants 1, Padres 0:** Brandon Belt scored from first base when pinch-hitter Hunter Pence's bloop double to short right field fell between two San Diego players with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to give host San Francisco the win.

Johnny Cueto (7-1) allowed two hits in his third complete-game win over the Padres this season. The right-hander struck out six and didn't walk a batter while becoming the first Giants pitcher since Jason Schmidt in 2004 to win seven times in his first 10 starts.

**Mets 7, Nationals 1:** David Wright, Yoenis Cespedes and Neil Walker homered on the day teammate Lucas Duda went on the disabled list, leading host New York past Washington.

Pitching on the eve of his 43rd birthday, Bartolo Colon (4-3) allowed one run and five hits in seven efficient innings. Baseball's oldest player struck out two and walked two.

**Marlins 7, Rays 6:** Ichiro Suzuki had four hits, including a single in his team's two-run eighth inning, and host Miami rallied past Tampa Bay.

The 42-year-old Suzuki has 10 hits in the past three games to raise his average to .417 and increase his career hit total to 2,960.

**Angels 2, Rangers 0:** Albert Pujols hit a two-run home run, the 569th of his career, and Nick Tropeano (3-2) threw 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> strong innings to help Los Angeles beat Texas.

The Angels have won eight of their last 11 games.

**Tigers 5, Phillies 4:** Miguel Cabrera

hit two of his team's four solo homers, then scored the tiebreaking run on Victor Martinez's seventh-inning single to lift host Detroit past Philadelphia.

J.D. Martinez and Nick Castellanos also homered for Detroit, which has won seven of eight.

**White Sox 7-1; Indians 6-5:** Rajai Davis' two-run homer in the fifth inning of the second game put his team ahead to stay, Jose Ramirez hit his second long ball of the day and Juan Uribe also went deep and visiting Cleveland earned a split of its doubleheader with Chicago.

In the opener, Brett Lawrie broke a fifth-inning tie with a three-run homer, Todd Frazier hit his 14th of the season and the White Sox held on for the victory.

**Pirates 6, Rockies 3:** Pittsburgh starter Ryan Vogelsong was carted off the field after getting struck in the head by a pitch in the second inning of his team's win over visiting Colorado.

With the bases loaded and Pittsburgh leading 1-0, Rockies starter Jordan Lyles (1-2) hit Vogelsong in the left cheek with a 92 mph fastball. Vogelsong was making his second start of the season, filling in because of a rainout Sunday.

**Royals 10, Twins 4:** Salvador Perez had a career-high five hits, including a double, a triple and an RBI, to lead visiting Kansas City past Minnesota.

Paulo Orlando added three hits and two RBIs in the rain-delayed game for the Royals, who put All-Star outfielder Alex Gordon on the disabled list earlier in the day with a fractured right wrist.

**Athletics 5, Mariners 0:** Rich Hill pitched eight innings to win his fourth straight start, Stephen Vogt hit a lead-off homer in the seventh inning to snap a scoreless tie and visiting Oakland ended a four-game skid.

Taijuan Walker (2-4) held the A's to two hits through six innings, but then Vogt opened the seventh by driving a 3-1 pitch deep over the right field wall for his fourth homer.

# Sharks top Blues to take series lead

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — All the time Joe Pavelski has spent practicing his stick work has paid off big for the San Jose Sharks.

And the Sharks captain has his team on the brink of their first trip to the Stanley Cup Final.

"You think back to some of the best scorers ever, his ability to get his stick on pucks in front of the net from different angles is as good as anybody I've ever seen," coach Peter DeBoer said. "His biggest asset is he works at it."

With the Sharks trailing by a goal, Pavelski tied the game late in the second period and then scored the go-ahead goal in the opening minute of the third period in the Sharks' 6-3 victory over the St. Louis Blues for a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference finals on Monday night.

"You play a good game like that, you want to ride that," Pavelski said. "Everyone's played a key role so far and it's going to have to continue."

Joel Ward also scored twice, including one of two empty-netters, in the final minute for San Jose, which can close out the series at home on Wednesday night. Joe Thornton had three assists.

"We just keep coming. We're not going to give up and they're not going to give up," Thornton said. "Both teams, we're here for a reason."

The Sharks had a strong response after losing 6-3 in Game 4 in San Jose.

Pavelski leads all players in the playoffs with 12 goals and has three two-goal games, one in each series. The Sharks' captain added an assist and is tied with forward Logan Couture for the postseason points lead, each with a franchise-record 21 points.

Rookie Robby Fabbri scored and David Backes had an assist for St. Louis. Both were questionable coming off injuries in Game 4.

But star forward Vladimir Tarasenko was silent again. Tarasenko was minus-2 with one shot and is scoreless in the series after getting seven goals and 13 points in the first two rounds.

"He's struggled this series," coach Ken Hitchcock said. "He hasn't gotten the looks that he normally gets. But he's one shift away from breaking it open."

The Blues are just 4-6 at home in the postseason, and failed to hold leads of 2-1 and 3-2 in Game 5. They're 6-3 on the road and need another win to bring the series home for Game 7.

"We did it in Game 4," Backes said. "Now, we've got to go in there and do it again."

The Sharks are 6-2 at home in the postseason and need one more win to reach the Cup Final.

Troy Brouwer batted in a rebound from midair for St. Louis and Ward scored a similar goal for San Jose with his first of the game.

Brouwer leads St. Louis with eight goals in 19 games this postseason after totaling seven in his first 78 playoff games.

Pavelski was left alone in the slot on a power play at 18:33 of the second and beat Jake Allen to tie it at 3-3. He redirected Brent Burns' drive from the point 16 seconds into the third to put the Sharks in front to stay.

San Jose goalie Martin Jones allowed three goals on the Blues' first 13 shots, but stopped all seven shots in the third period.

# Ill Nyquist won't run in Belmont

Associated Press

NEW YORK — So much for a rematch in the Belmont Stakes.

Kentucky Derby winner Nyquist won't run in the final leg of the Triple Crown after developing a fever and having an elevated white blood cell count, trainer Doug O'Neill said Tuesday.

"He's out because of sickness," O'Neill said.

Any thoughts of a second straight Triple Crown were wiped in the Preakness last Saturday when Exaggerator finally defeated Nyquist after four previous losses.

A rematch in the Belmont on June 11 would have been the next best thing to a Triple Crown attempt. Last year, American Pharoah became the first horse in 37 years to sweep the Derby, Preakness and Belmont.

"He's fine, but he's got an elevated white blood cell count," O'Neill's assistant Jack Sistrone said from Pimlico Race Course

in Baltimore, where Nyquist is recovering. "We just want to do right by him and get him 100 percent."

Nyquist came into the Preakness unbeaten in eight races, including a 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-length win over Exaggerator in the Derby. Exaggerator turned the tables in the Preakness, winning by 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> lengths over a sloppy track with Nyquist finishing third.

On Monday, Nyquist had a temperature of 102 and blood work was done. The fever had dropped at some point but was back up again Tuesday, when results of the blood work came back.

"Sometimes it happens when a horse runs back quick," Sistrone said, referring to the short two-week turnaround between the Derby and Preakness. "For races like these, horses have to be on top of their game. Unfortunately, there'll be no Belmont."

Once Nyquist recovers, he will be shipped back home to California, with a plan that could include a trip to Saratoga for the Travers Stakes.

This is not the first time Nyquist has been sidetracked. After winning the Florida Derby on April 2, the colt owned by J. Paul Reddam was shipped to Keeneland in Lexington, Ky. His return to training was delayed by an elevated white blood cell count. At that time, he had no fever, was back on the track in a few days and went on to win the Derby on May 7.

In 2012, O'Neill's Derby and Preakness winner I'll Have Another was retired the day before the Belmont with a tendon injury and missed a Triple Crown chance.

Without Nyquist, the 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-mile Belmont loses some of its luster, but Exaggerator can expect to take on a number of rivals from the Derby and Preakness. Among them are Preakness runner-up Cherry Wine and fifth-place finisher Lani, Suddenbreakingnews (fifth in the Derby), Destin (sixth, Derby) and Brody's Cause (seventh, Derby). Governor Malibu, runner-up in the Peter Pan at Belmont on May 14, also is Belmont bound.