

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Fanning is asked to review case for medal

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A year after a Special Forces soldier was denied the Medal of Honor, the nation's top award for valor in combat, a congressman has appealed to the new Army secretary to review the case.

Army Secretary Eric Fanning was sworn in as the service's top civilian leader last week and almost immediately received a letter from Rep. Duncan Hunter, R.-Calif., asking if he would review the case of Sgt. 1st Class Earl D. Plumlee.

The Green Beret soldier was nominated for the Medal of Honor for his role in repelling a brutal ambush in Afghanistan in 2013 and received recommendations for the prestigious award from several of the military's most powerful officers. He was ultimately denied last year by then-Army Secretary John McHugh. Plumlee instead received the Silver Star, which is two levels below the Medal of Honor in recognizing combat heroism.

The case has been investigated by the Defense Department inspector general's office and pressed by Hunter, who became a vociferous critic of McHugh in his last year in office. Hunter is looking to resurrect Plumlee's case now in part by noting that McHugh chose to approve the lower award after learning that Plumlee faced a criminal investigation in the Army for allegedly selling a rifle scope online illegally. That raised questions about whether the service wants only recipients of its top awards who have a sparkling overall record. Plumlee has since been cleared of any charges.

Taliban name new leader

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban have confirmed the death of their supreme leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, and announced the appointment of his successor.

In a statement issued Wednesday, the insurgent group named Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, one of Mansour's two deputies, as its new leader "after long discussions by the leadership council, jihadi leaders, political experts and tribal leaders."

Meanwhile in Kabul on Wednesday, a suicide bombing targeting a bus carrying Afghan court workers reportedly killed at least 11 people and wounded 10 others. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the bombing, the first major attack in the Afghan capital since Mansour's death.

Mansour was killed in a remote area of Pakistan's Baluchistan province on Saturday when a car in which he was traveling was targeted by a U.S. drone strike. Western intelligence agencies have long believed that Pakistani authorities have harbored Taliban leaders since the group's ouster from Afghanistan in 2001 and that many remain in the Pakistani border town of Quetta and the port city of Karachi.

In their statement, the Taliban praised Mansour's rejection of the peace talks, initiated by a four-country group comprising Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and the United States.

"During his leadership in a very difficult time and situation ... [Mansour] didn't accept anyone's imposed request about a fake process and the internal and foreign pressures didn't change his mind."

President Barack Obama has said that Mansour was involved in plots targeting U.S. and coalition forces and that he was an obstacle to the faltering peace process.

The Taliban have been fighting to overthrow the Kabul government since 2001. Mansour formally assumed leadership of the group last summer, after it was revealed Taliban founder and longtime leader Mullah Muhammad Omar had died in a Karachi hospital in 2013. Mansour had concealed this fact while leading the group covertly for two years.

The Islamist militant group said Mansour's deputy, Sirajuddin Haqqani, leader of the deadly Haqqani network, and Maulavi Mohammad Yaqub, Taliban founder Omar's son, had been appointed as Akhundzada's deputies.

Military spouses struggling to find work

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Military spouses struggle to find jobs and are more likely to work for less pay or in positions below their education level, spurring unemployment and other costs of as much as \$1 billion a year, according to a study.

Wrestling with frequent moves, deployments and erratic schedules of their servicemember mates, military spouses have an unemployment rate of up to 18 percent, compared with last month's national jobless rate of 5 percent.

The problem is not new to the Pentagon, and in recent years has triggered a flood of new programs aimed at encouraging companies to hire military veterans and spouses.

The latest study was commis-

sioned by Blue Star Families, a group that coordinates services for families with a loved one who is currently serving or has served in the military. It found that up to 42 percent of military spouses — or as many as 95,000 — are jobless, compared with about 25 percent of a comparable civilian spouse population. In addition, it estimated that military spouses with a bachelor's degree earn 40 percent less than their civilian counterparts.

The report noted that various groups have done studies on military spouse unemployment that yielded varying statistics. But there was broad agreement on the overall conclusion that they face higher unemployment rates than civilians, especially those of comparable age.

"The math is shocking, but it

also shows the way forward," said Kathy Roth-Douquet, Blue Star Families founder and chief executive officer. "If we work together to reverse the crippling employment trends facing military spouses, we will add money back to our economy."

She called on the government and private companies to do more to battle spouse unemployment in the same way they did to beef up the hiring of veterans. The Joining Forces initiative launched by first lady Michelle Obama and Jill Biden in 2011 has helped more than 1.2 million veterans and spouses get hired or trained, according to numbers announced earlier this month. Of those, Marine Lt. Col. Gabrielle Hermes, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said that about 95,000 were military spouses.

Trump protesters clash with cops

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — In one of the presidential campaign year's more grisly spectacles, protesters in New Mexico opposing Donald Trump's candidacy threw burning T-shirts, plastic bottles and other items at police officers, injuring several, and toppled trash cans and barricades.

Police responded by firing pepper spray and smoke grenades into the crowd outside the Albuquerque Convention Center.

During the rally, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee was interrupted repeatedly by protesters, who shouted, held up banners and resisted removal by security officers.

The banners included the messages "Trump is Fascist" and "We've heard enough."

Trump lashed back at protesters, tweeting Wednesday: "The protesters in New Mexico were thugs who were flying the Mexican flag. The rally inside was big and beautiful, but outside, criminals!"

At one point, a female protester was physically dragged

from the stands by security. Other protesters scuffled with security as they resisted removal from the convention center, which was packed with thousands of loud and cheering Trump supporters.

Trump responded with his usual bluster, instructing security to remove the protesters and mocking their actions by telling them to "Go home to Mommy."

Trump's supporters responded with chants of "Build that wall!"

The altercations left glass at the entrance of the convention center smashed.

Albuquerque attorney Doug Antoon said rocks were flying through the convention center windows as he was leaving Tuesday night. Glass was breaking and landing near his feet.

Albuquerque police said several officers were treated for injuries after getting hit by rocks thrown by protesters. At least one person was arrested, police said.

During the rally, protesters outside overran barricades and clashed with police in riot gear. They also burned T-shirts

and other items labeled with Trump's catchphrase, "Make America Great Again."

Tuesday marked Trump's first stop in New Mexico, the nation's most Hispanic state. Gov. Susana Martinez, head of the Republican Governors Association and the nation's only Latina governor, has harshly criticized his remarks on immigrants and has attacked his proposal to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The governor did not attend the rally and has yet to make an endorsement.

Trump read off a series of negative statistics about the state, including an increase in the number of people on food stamps.

"We have to get your governor to get going. She's got to do a better job, OK?" he said, adding: "Hey, maybe I'll run for governor of New Mexico. I'll get this place going."

The governor's office fired back, saying Martinez has fought for welfare reform.

"The potshots weren't about policy, they were about politics," said spokesman Michael Loneragan.

Petition calls for VA chief's resignation

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Former presidential candidate Ted Cruz began a petition Wednesday calling on Bob McDonald to resign despite a public apology from the Department of Veterans Affairs secretary for comparing the wait for veterans' health care to the lines for Disney amusement-park rides.

The Republican senator from Texas, who put the petition on his election campaign website, said McDonald's comments show a "fundamental lack of respect" for the millions of veterans who seek care at the department's nationwide network of hospitals and clinics.

The VA secretary drew a firestorm of criticism on Capitol Hill and was forced to apologize late Tuesday after downplaying the VA's need to focus on how long veterans must wait to receive treatment. He cited Disney's focus on overall visitor satisfaction as a better model for the problem-plagued department.

The petition titled "Demand VA Secretary Robert McDonald's Resignation" was posted Wednesday to the tedcruz.org website, used by the Cruz election campaign. The site also gives the option of contributing to Cruz's senate re-election campaign.

On Tuesday, other lawmakers demanded that McDonald resign, including Sens. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, and Roy Blunt, R-Mo., and Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla.

Many more lawmakers, including the House Republican leadership and chairmen of the House and Senate veteran affairs committees, said they expected an apology from the secretary.

McDonald appeared defiant Tuesday afternoon during an appearance on a cable news program, but as the outrage grew, he issued a statement a few hours later saying he regretted the Disney comments.

Clinton, others faulted for cyber risks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton disregarded various State Department guidelines for avoiding cybersecurity risks, an internal audit found Wednesday, faulting her and past secretaries of state for weak information management.

The inspector general's 78-page analysis, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, cites "longstanding, systemic weaknesses" related to the agency's communications. Those started before Clinton's appointment as secretary of state, but her failures were singled out as more serious.

Despite guidelines to the contrary and never seeking approv-

al, Clinton used mobile devices to conduct official business on her personal email account and private server. She never sought approval from senior information officers, who would have refused the request because of security risks, the audit said.

"By Secretary Clinton's tenure, the department's guidance was considerably more detailed and more sophisticated," it concluded. "Secretary Clinton's cybersecurity practices accordingly must be evaluated in light of these more comprehensive directives."

The review was prompted by the revelations of Clinton's email use, which has affected her campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Nevertheless, the review also encompassed the email and information practices of the last five secretaries.

The report said the department and its secretaries were "slow to recognize and to manage effectively the legal requirements and cybersecurity risks associated with electronic data communications, particularly as those risks pertain to its most senior leadership."

Clinton has been dogged by questions about her email practices for more than a year, since the AP revealed that the clintonemail.com server was in the basement of Clinton's New York home while she served as the nation's top diplomat from 2009 to 2013.

OKC puts Warriors on brink

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Suddenly, these Golden State Warriors who have been compared all season to the Chicago Bulls dynasty of the 1990s are on the brink of elimination.

Russell Westbrook had 36 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Warriors 118-94 on Tuesday night to take a 3-1 lead in the Western Conference finals. Golden State, which won a league-record 73 games in the regular season, lost consecutive games for the first time this season.

The Warriors must win Game 5 on Thursday in Oakland, Calif., to keep their season alive.

"We all have to bounce back," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "The good news is, we go home. Obviously we play well at home. The idea now is to go home and get one win. Do that, and we put some pressure on them and we'll see what happens."

Klay Thompson led Golden State with 26 points, but two-time league MVP Stephen Curry was limited to 19 points on 6-for-20 shooting.

Curry's shooting performance was so uncharacteristic that reporters asked if

he was hurt.

"He's not injured," Kerr said. "He's coming back from the knee, but he's not injured. He just had a lousy night. It happens, even to the best players in the world."

The Warriors lost consecutive playoff games by at least 20 points for the first time since Games 2 and 3 of the 1972 Western Conference semifinals against the Milwaukee Bucks. Golden State's Draymond Green, who was fined for kicking Steven Adams in the groin in Game 3, finished with six points, 11 rebounds and six turnovers.

Meanwhile, Oklahoma City got a boost from an unlikely source. Andre Roberson, a player the Warriors have ignored at times during the series, scored a career-high 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

Kevin Durant added 26 points and 11 rebounds and Serge Ibaka added 17 points and seven rebounds.

As for Westbrook, it was his first triple-double of the playoffs after posting 18 in the regular season. It was his fifth career playoff triple-double.

The Thunder know they have to close. Nine teams have rallied from 3-1 deficits to win.

"I think we're in a good place, but like I

said, this game is over," Westbrook said. "We've got to move on to the next game. Every game is different."

The Thunder led 30-26 at the end of the first quarter, then gained control in the second. In the most unlikely of connections, Adams threw a bullet pass to Roberson near the basket for a dunk that gave the Thunder a 56-43 lead with just over four minutes left in the first half.

Oklahoma City finished with a flurry and led 72-53 at halftime. The Thunder matched the most points they have scored in a first half in franchise play-off history, a mark they set the previous game against the Warriors. It also matched the most points Golden State has allowed in a half this season for the second straight game.

Westbrook had 21 points, nine assists and five rebounds in the first half, and Durant had 18 points and six boards.

Thompson tried to keep the Warriors in it, scoring 19 points in just over seven minutes to start the third quarter. But the Thunder maintained their composure, led 94-82 at the end of the period and remained in control in the fourth.

"This is a tough situation to be in, but the series isn't over," Curry said.

Atlanta, LA awarded Super Bowls

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — If you spend billions of dollars to build it, they will come. Three times over.

The NFL awarded Super Bowls to Atlanta, Miami and Los Angeles, three cities that made significant financial investments in new stadiums or recently upgraded an existing one. Atlanta will host the game in 2019, followed by Miami (2020) and Los Angeles (2021), it was announced Tuesday at the NFL owners meetings.

"I think if they find guys like me that are willing to do it, I think they want to show them that it is worthwhile," Rams owner Stan Kroenke said.

Atlanta will host its third Super Bowl, but the first at its new \$1.4 billion stadium which opens in 2017. The previous two were at the Georgia Dome.

Miami will have its record-setting 11th Super Bowl following a \$450 million stadium renovation.

Los Angeles, which gets the relocated Rams this season, has not had a Super Bowl in the area since 1993 in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. The game will be played at the new \$2.6 billion stadium in Inglewood, Calif., which opens in 2019.

Tampa Bay and New Orleans were also in the running to host a Super Bowl.

The selection of Atlanta, Miami and Los Angeles maintains the recent cycle of the league's owners rewarding cities that have built new stadiums or renovated existing facilities with the lucrative financial reward of hosting a Super Bowl in return.

Last year's Super Bowl was played in Santa Clara, Calif., after the 49ers built a stadium. Minneapolis will host a Super Bowl in 2018 with a new stadium that opens this season.

New York-New Jersey, Indianapolis, Dallas and Detroit all received Super Bowl bids in the past after spending millions on new stadiums.

"It shows that the communities and the owners who are willing to make these investments and stick their necks out, if you will, that it is worthwhile and they believe in them long term," Kroenke said.

Atlanta will host its first Super Bowl since 2000, when an untimely ice storm in the Southeast crippled festivities by forcing cancellation of some hospitality events and making travel treacherous. Atlanta subsequently lost bids to host the game in 2009 and 2010, with some owners saying at the time the ice storm was one of the reasons. But Falcons owner Arthur Blank's new stadium put Atlanta back in the picture.

Blank said he was "screaming joy for the city of Atlanta and our fans" when he learned of the owners' decision.

"We feel like downtown Atlanta is very unique and the stadium is unique," Blank said.

Tired Murray advances in Paris

Associated Press

PARIS — Priority No. 1 now for Andy Murray at the French Open: Putting his feet up. After 10 sets of tennis in his first two rounds, he sorely needs the rest.

The Scot, seeded second, came through 6-2, 2-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 on Wednesday against Mathias Bourgue, a 22-year-old French player ranked 164th with a wild card to play his first Grand Slam tournament. The second-round win came just a day after Murray completed another five-setter in the first round.

"I need to go and rest. It's been a tough, tough few days," the 2013 Wimbledon champion said. "If I'm to go far in this tournament, you can't play too many matches like this."

The last champion at Roland Garros to win rounds one and two in five sets was Gaston Gaudio, in 2004.

One small consolation: Defending champion Stan Wawrinka isn't firing on all cylinders, either.

Following a five-set win in the first round, Wawrinka again wasn't convincing in the second round, with a 7-6 (7), 6-3, 6-4 victory over Taro Daniel of Japan.

Most notable were the break points which the third-seeded Swiss player failed to convert against a player 89 spots below him in the rankings. Daniel had stalled in the first round last year, when Wawrinka rode his sublime backhand to the final and won in his now infamous shorts against Novak Djokovic.

Wawrinka had 17 opportunities to break the Japanese right-hander, and seized

only four of them.

"I created a lot of chances. I can't remember how many break points I had, but far too many if you look at what I did with them. The most important is to win, even more in three sets," Wawrinka said. "Hopefully I will play better and better to go as far as possible. Today there were many ups and downs, but I have my tennis and I'm ready to step it up."

Fifth-seeded Kei Nishikori is already in gear. The 2014 U.S. Open finalist broke Andrey Kuznetsov of Russia six times and saved seven break points in a 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 win.

Nishikori has spent less than four hours in two straight-set wins on the tiring red-clay courts to advance to the third round; Wawrinka has accumulated more than five hours, and Murray more than seven.

"Of course it's preferable to win a match in three sets, but when I enter the court, it's not the one thing I'm obsessed about, winning three sets to save energy," Wawrinka said. "Matches are difficult. I'm there to win."

Another Japanese player also is impressing. Still 18 and playing in only her second major tournament, Naomi Osaka also has yet to drop a set. After beating 32nd-seeded Jelena Ostapenko in the first round, she advanced to the third round by beating Mirjana Lucic-Baroni 6-3, 6-3.

Osaka also reached the third round in her first Grand Slam tournament, this year's Australian Open. She next plays 2014 French Open finalist Simona Halep. The sixth-seeded Romanian rallied from 4-1 down in the first set to beat Zarina Diyas 7-6 (5), 6-2.

Halep, who struggled with her serve, is bracing for a tough test from Osaka.

"She's a young player and she has nothing to lose," she said.

With third-ranked Angelique Kerber and fifth-ranked Victoria Azarenka both falling in the first round, Garbine Muguruza has a path through the women's draw.

Ranked fourth, the 2015 Wimbledon finalist won 6-2, 6-0 against Myrtille Georges, a French wild-card entry. Her next opponent, 54th-ranked Yanina Wickmayer, failed to advance beyond the third round in two previous attempts.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova and 2009 French Open winner Svetlana Kuznetsova also advanced in straight sets.

"It's interesting, because when you look at the recent tournaments, things have been very erratic and unpredictable," Muguruza said. "I don't think it's like the men where when you play Djokovic you know you're going to lose. It's not the same thing in women's singles at all."

One of a Grand Slam-record 51 players age 30 and over who started in the men's main draw, Ivo Karlovic became — at 37 — the oldest man to reach the third round at a major since Jimmy Connors at the 1991 U.S. Open.

"It's the only time when being old is OK," Karlovic said.

The 27th-seeded Croatian served 41 aces in a 6-7 (2), 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-7 (4), 12-10 win over Australian wild-card entry Jordan Thompson.

They played for 4 hours, 31 minutes.



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Puig yanked in Dodgers' win

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Yasiel Puig's failure to run out a single in the sixth inning drew the ire of Dodgers manager Dave Roberts and got him pulled from the game.

Puig was hitless in his first two at-bats before singling during the Dodgers' two-run sixth on their way to an 8-2 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday night.

"I thought it was a home run and I didn't run out the ball," Puig said through a translator. "It was a bad decision on my part. It was a good decision on my manager's part. I should have run out the ball."

Roberts was visibly upset in the dugout before replacing Puig with pinch-hitter Carl Crawford in the eighth.

"We talk about playing the game the right way. Mental mistakes you can live with, but he should have been on second base," Roberts said. "I think Yasiel feels bad about it. It's a continued learning process for everyone."

Roberts insisted there was no carry over from Puig's base-running gaffe in Sunday's 17-inning win at San Diego. The Cuban hit a leadoff single in the ninth, took second on a wild pitch, but didn't take third on A.J. Ellis' bunt even though it was open. Puig said he didn't run because

he was confused.

"This was an isolated incident," Roberts said of the outfielder's latest mistake.

Joc Pederson doubled in the tying run and then scored the go-ahead run on a throwing error in the fourth for the Dodgers, who extended their winning streak over the Reds to eight games. The victory moved the Dodgers back above .500 and evened their home record at 12-12.

Mike Bolsinger (1-1) allowed two runs and three hits in 5²/₃ innings of a spot start, having been brought back from Triple-A Oklahoma City on Monday in place of injured Chin-hui Tsao, who went on the 15-day disabled list. Bolsinger struck out six and walked one.

The Reds lost their season-high ninth in a row.

"At this point in time I am at a loss for words," manager Bryan Price said. "Sloppy defensive game and we didn't hit, that is a bad combination."

Daniel Wright (0-1) made his major league debut, giving up four runs and seven hits in 5¹/₃ innings. The right-hander struck out four and walked one after coming up from Triple A-Louisville to start in place of Tim Adleman, who strained his left oblique against Cleveland last week. He gave up three straight singles to open the game.

The Reds have been outscored 69-25 during their losing streak. They have managed just five hits in the series' first two games, having gotten two in a 1-0 loss on Monday. They committed three errors, giving them six so far in the series, including three by catcher Austin Barnhart.

Joey Votto went 1-for-4 with a strikeout for the Reds.

"Everybody wants to get out of the rut as quickly as we can and sometimes it just takes a little longer than we would like," Barnhart said.

Trayce Thompson singled leading off the fourth and scored on Pederson's double to tie the game 2-all. Pederson stole third base and scored on Barnhart's throwing error after the ball sailed into left field.

"I think everyone is pressing more than is necessary," Price said.

The Dodgers added two runs in the sixth, the first coming on Puig's RBI single off the wall in right field against Dayan Diaz. Pinch-hitter Howie Kendrick was safe at first base on an error by Votto and Puig came sliding home on his belly, getting his left hand around the bat that was blocking the plate and barely touching safe ahead of Barnhart's tag.

Pens top Lightning to force Game 7

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The Pittsburgh Penguins made good on Evgeni Malkin's pledge to force Game 7 in the Eastern Conference finals.

Sidney Crosby had a goal and an assist, and Phil Kessel, Kris Letang, Bryan Rust and Nick Bonino also scored Tuesday night in a 5-2 victory that evened the best-of-seven series with the Tampa Bay Lightning at 3-3.

Game 7 is Thursday night, with the Penguins hoping to reach the Stanley Cup Final for the first time since 2009 and the Lightning looking to advance to the Cup Final for the second straight year.

"I just told them to embrace the moment. It's a great opportunity for us. These are the type of circumstances to where you have an opportunity to write your own story," Pittsburgh coach Mike Sullivan.

"They had a certain mindset going into this tonight: 'We're going to leave it all out there and do everything we can to bring this back to Pittsburgh,'" Sullivan added. "And, certainly that's what they did."

Malkin was the most demonstrative of the players expressing confidence the Penguins could take the series back to Pittsburgh, saying he believed in himself, his teammates and that they could return home for a seventh game "for sure."

Crosby stepped up with his third game-winning goal of the series. The Penguins captain assisted on Kessel's 5-on-3 power-play goal in the opening period and later skated around Tampa Bay defenseman Anton Stralman into the clear before sending a wrist shot between goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy's legs for a 3-0 lead in the final minute of the second period.

Rookie goaltender Matt Murray returned to the lineup after being replaced as the starter for Game 5 by Marc-Andre Fleury, but his 10th playoff victory did not come without a bit of suspense.

Brian Boyle scored twice in the third period for Tampa Bay, with one of the goals bouncing off Kessel before getting past Murray, who finished with 28 saves. The second score drew the Lightning within one goal with 7:17 remaining.

Instead of flinching, the young goalie, who turned 22 on Wednesday, retained his composure down the stretch to help the Penguins avoid relinquishing a third-period lead for the second straight game.

"I just think it's part of his DNA. He has a calming influence. He doesn't get rattled if he lets a goal in. He continues to compete," Sullivan said.

"That's usually an attribute that takes years to acquire. And to have it at such a young age is impressive. I think one of his biggest strengths is just his ability to stay in the moment."

Kessel's goal was his team-leading ninth of the playoffs. Crosby had the primary assist, his first point since delivering game-winners in Games 2 and 3, and Malkin also had an assist to extend his point streak to four games after a slow start in the series.

Nats' Strasburg stays perfect

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As an unbeaten pitcher for a first-place team, Stephen Strasburg is at the top of his game.

Given where he was a year ago, perhaps the Nationals' star can serve as a positive example for struggling Matt Harvey of the New York Mets.

Strasburg struck out 11, and Washington hit three of its season-high five home runs off Harvey in a 7-4 victory Tuesday night.

Strasburg (8-0) gave up two runs and four hits in 6²/₃ innings in defeating Harvey and the Mets for the second time in six days. Strasburg has five games this season with at least 10 strikeouts and 26 in his seven-year career.

Last season, Strasburg spent two stints on the disabled list and was 3-5 before bouncing back.

"There were definitely a lot of lows for me last year," he said. "I am definitely trying to learn from that, to try to ride the roller coaster and stay consistent."

Harvey (3-7) can relate. After going 13-8 with a 2.71 ERA last season, the right-hander is in danger of losing his spot in the rotation after a third straight miserable outing.

"We've got to think what's not just best for Matt, but what's best for us moving forward at the moment," Mets manager Terry Collins said. "There are a lot of things to consider. We're not going to make any rash judgments tonight. We're going to sleep on it."

Harvey bolted from the clubhouse before talking to reporters.

His early departure from the scene mirrored his performance on the mound. Harvey allowed five runs and eight hits in five rocky innings and has yielded 16 earned runs and 31 hits in his last three starts.

"I'm really surprised," Collins said. "This guy is way too good to continue like this. But the guy tonight he faced was in a similar spot last year."

Strasburg is the third starter in fran-

chise history to start 8-0.

"It means he's one of the best out there and he's pitching like it," manager Dusty Baker said. "A lot of people say the wins don't matter, but they matter to the guys on the team and matter to the person getting the wins."

Ryan Zimmerman and Anthony Rendon hit successive solo shots to put Washington ahead in the fourth inning, and Daniel Murphy added a two-run drive off his former teammate in the fifth for a 5-1 lead.

The three homers allowed by Harvey tied a career high. The former first-round draft pick hasn't lasted more than six innings in any of his 10 starts and has an unsightly 6.08 ERA.

Yankees 6, Blue Jays 0: A resurgent Nathan Eovaldi combined with his bullpen on a two-hitter to win his fifth straight decision, and host New York extended its winning streak to six games.

Carlos Beltran homered off knuckleballer R.A. Dickey (2-6) and drove in New York's first two runs. The Yankees (22-22) won for the 13th time in 18 games and evened their record for the first time since they were 4-4 on the morning of April 15.

Astros 3, Orioles 2 (13): Carlos Correa's RBI single in the 13th inning lifted host Houston past Baltimore.

Rookie Tony Kemp hit his first career triple off Dylan Bundy (0-1) with no outs to start the 13th. The Orioles then intentionally walked George Springer and Jose Altuve to bring last year's rookie of the year Correa to the plate.

Rays 4, Marlins 3: Jake Odorizzi allowed two hits in five shutout innings, Hank Conger hit a two-run single and visiting Tampa Bay held on to beat Miami.

Indians 6, White Sox 2: Josh Tomlin beat Chris Sale in a one-sided matchup of unbeaten pitchers and Francisco Lindor had three hits to lead visiting Cleveland.

It was baseball's first matchup of 6-0 or better pitchers since 1988, and only the fourth time in major league history, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Tigers 3, Phillies 1: Justin Verlander struck out 10 in eight scoreless innings, and Francisco Rodriguez held on for his 400th save as host Detroit beat Philadelphia.

Rangers 4, Angels 1: Martin Perez finally got a win after another strong May start and rookie Nomar Mazara homered in his home park for the first time, leading host Texas past Los Angeles.

Red Sox 8, Rockies 3: David Price scattered five hits over seven innings and Jackie Bradley Jr. had two hits to extend his streak to 28 games in host Boston's win over Colorado.

Brewers 2, Braves 1: Scooter Gennett's tiebreaking single in the eighth inning helped Milwaukee spoil Brian Snitker's home debut as host Atlanta's interim manager.

Royals 7, Twins 4: Salvador Perez hit a two-run homer, Lorenzo Cain had four hits and two RBIs, and visiting Kansas City picked up where its bats left off the night before.

Mariners 6, Athletics 5: Leonys Martin hit a game-winning, two-run homer in the ninth inning to rally host Seattle.

The Mariners trailed 5-2 after seven innings but got a two-run homer from Robinson Cano in the eighth inning.

Giants 8, Padres 2: Brandon Crawford drove in four runs and Jarrett Parker homered to lead Jeff Samardzija and streaking host San Francisco.

Buster Posey and Denard Span each knocked in a run for the Giants, who have won four straight and 12 of 13.

Cubs 12, Cardinals 3: Jason Hammel pitched 7¹/₃ stingy innings and had a two-run double in Chicago's six-run first as the Cubs went on to rout host St. Louis.

Pirates 12, Diamondbacks 1: Gregory Polanco hit a three-run homer and drove in a career-best five runs as host Pittsburgh rolled past Arizona.