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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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3 more charged in 'Fat Leonard' case

Scandal reaches new heights as lieutenant commander, 2 retired officers arrested

The Washington Post

A long-running Navy corruption scandal reached new heights Friday as a lieutenant commander and two retired officers were arrested on federal charges of feeding inside information to a Singapore-based defense contractor in return for sex, vacations and other favors.

All three defendants are accused of acting as paid moles for the contractor, Glenn Defense Marine Asia, by leaking intelligence about criminal investigations into the company or other information to give the firm an unfair advantage over competitors.

The new cases bring the number of people charged in the mushrooming scandal to 14. Prosecutors have said that as many as 200 people are under investigation. According to Navy officials, about 30 admirals are under scrutiny for possible criminal or ethical violations.

Lt. Cmdr. Gentry DeBord, a supply and logistics officer, was charged in federal court in San Diego with conspiracy to commit bribery. An affidavit filed by federal investigators describes him as a sex-starved officer who routinely beseeched Glenn Defense executives to

arrange prostitutes for him during port visits in Asia.

According to the affidavit, DeBord would email the executives in code, referring to prostitutes as "bodyguards" or "cheesecake," or sometimes more obliquely as "food."

"Double checking to see if I will have my security," DeBord emailed a Glenn Defense executive prior to a 2008 port visit to Manila. "I however do not want anyone to know I have a bodyguard."

Neil Peterson, a Glenn Defense vice president, replied: "Bodyguards are standing by."

A few months later, as he prepared to visit a port in Thailand, DeBord emailed: "Is it possible to send me a list of food items you have available (luxury items) like cheesecake, etc, so we can possibly add to our order?" On another occasion, he emailed photos of a woman with the message, "This is the cheesecake I want. ..."

According to an indictment in a second case, Michael George Brooks, a retired captain who served as U.S. naval attache in Manila, also had a strong sexual appetite. He allegedly used a different code to request prostitutes from Glenn Defense, referring to the women as "shakes," "chocolate shakes,"

"mocha shakes" or "high tea," court papers show.

Brooks, of Fairfax Station, Va., is charged with granting diplomatic clearance to Glenn Defense so it could bring armed guards into the Philippines, avoid inspections and dodge customs duties, according to the indictment.

According to the indictment, Brooks also allowed Glenn Defense executives to "ghost-write" official Navy documents and correspondence as part of an elaborate scheme to protect the company's contracts and win it more business.

Brooks served as the U.S. naval attache in Manila from 2006 to 2008 and worked on Francis's behalf until he retired from the Navy in November 2011, according to the indictment.

Since then, he has been employed as a contractor for the Pentagon's Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

A second former officer, Bobby R. Pitts, a retired commander from Chesapeake, Va., was charged in a separate indictment with leaking Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) files to Glenn Defense to help the firm thwart fraud inquiries.

In return, he received meals, entertainment and — on "at least" one occasion — the services of a prostitute while he headed a Navy contracting office in Singapore between 2009 and 2011.

The three defendants separately made initial appearances Friday in federal court in California and Virginia after the charges against them were unsealed. All were released on bond. Efforts to reach them or their attorneys for comment were unsuccessful.

The scandal became public in September 2013 when federal agents lured the president of Glenn Defense, Leonard Glenn Francis, from Asia to San Diego in a sting operation. He has since pleaded guilty to bribing "scores" of Navy officials with prostitutes, cash, gifts, expensive meals and other temptations over a decade.

Francis, a large man known in maritime circles as "Fat Leonard," and his company held more than \$200 million worth of contracts to resupply and refuel Navy vessels across Asia.

He has admitted to cheating the Navy out of at least \$35 million by forging invoices, running kickback schemes and gouging for basic services.

Sailor pleads guilty to keeping sub photos of classified areas

Associated Press

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — A Navy sailor has pleaded guilty to charges alleging he illegally retained photos he took with his cellphone of classified areas and equipment inside a nuclear

attack submarine based in Connecticut.

Federal prosecutors say Kristian Saucier, 29, of Arlington, Vt., pleaded guilty Friday in federal court in Bridgeport to unauthorized possession and retention of national defense

information. He faces up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The photos were on a phone that was found at a waste transfer station in Connecticut.

Authorities say Saucier was a machinist's mate from 2007

to 2012 aboard the USS Alexandria at the Navy submarine base in Groton.

He's currently assigned to a Navy facility in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and is awaiting an administrative separation board hearing.

DOD: Kurdish group's patches off-limits

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. special operators serving inside Syria should not have been wearing patches representing an armed Kurdish group as the two forces fight Islamic State militants, a Pentagon spokesman said Friday.

Wearing patches of partner units or nations while forward deployed is not authorized for U.S. servicemembers, Army Col. Steve Warren, the Baghdad-based spokesman for the U.S.-led anti-Islamic State group coalition, told reporters Friday. At least two U.S. special operators were photographed Thursday by Agence France-Presse

wearing the green, yellow and red patches of the Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG.

Though American commanders have a long-held tradition of wearing such patches from units or nations while partnered with or training them, the YPG patches should not have been worn because of NATO ally Turkey's views of the group, Warren said.

On Friday, a Turkish official publicly expressed dismay that the American troops were photographed wearing the YPG patches. Turkey considers the group an extension of the Kurdish Workers' Party, or PKK, an organization recognized by Turkey and the United States as involved in terrorism. The YPG

is not considered a terrorist organization by the United States, which has leaned heavily on the group in its fight against the Islamic State group in Syria.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu called the U.S. position on the YPG a "double standard," according to The Associated Press.

Warren said the Special Forces operators had been told to remove any YPG patches from their uniforms. "The correction's been made," he said.

The photographs published Thursday raised questions about whether the roughly 300 American troops in Syria are on the front lines in the fight against the Islamic State group.

Pentagon and White House

officials have routinely said American troops are not involved in ground combat and remain behind the forward line of troops in Iraq and Syria. The photographs showed the camouflage-clad troops moving in vehicles with YPG fighters, sporting an assortment of weaponry including an American MK47 automatic grenade launcher.

Warren said Friday that the American troops in Syria are primarily there to provide advice and assistance to Syrian Arab fighters who've vowed to fight the militants under the umbrella group called Syrian Democratic Forces.

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Many hands keep carriers fit to fight

By CHRIS CHURCH

Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS HARRY S. TRUMAN — Behind each bomb dropped by a carrier's warplanes on Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq, thousands of sailors — including aviation ordnancemen — are involved in resupplying the ship at sea and assembling the bombs aboard the flattop.

The Harry S. Truman strike group last month surpassed the highest number of ordnance dropped against the militants by any strike group in the campaign that started in August 2014. But in order to keep up that pace of operations, the Truman must receive regular weekly deliveries of between 350 and 550 pallets filled with spare parts, aviation fuel, food for the crew and other provisions.

A complete resupply of munitions is done about every other week.

While the ship is underway, these arrive in pieces, said magazine Supervisor Petty Officer 2nd Class Matt Malone, an aviation ordnanceman onboard USS Harry S. Truman. It's the

job of the AOs to put the bombs together and get them onto the jets.

There's a lot that goes into the process of making sure a bomb is ready for use, said Truman's weapons officer, Cmdr. Jim McDonald. Parts have to be moved throughout the ship, tested, put together, inspected and loaded onto the aircraft.

To accomplish all of the tasks required, there are five different divisions with specific roles to prepare munitions for airstrikes, said Malone. "Without each and every part of each division, that weapon is not going to be built."

During this deployment, the strike group has been using joint direct attack munitions, or JDAMS, also known as smart bombs.

"At the beginning of deployment, it took us maybe 45 minutes to build one 500-pounder," said Malone. "Right now, with this trained crew, I'd say it takes 8 to 15 minutes. "If we get an order of 30 500-pounders in a night, that could take us roughly two hours."

After the JDAMS are put together and their guidance kits

are bolted on, they have to go from the magazines to the hangar bay and then to the flight deck. From there, they are inspected and placed onto aircraft for their mission.

Ordnance is normally prepared a day in advance, said McDonald. The air plan comes out for the next day explaining what the mission sets are going to be and what needs to be loaded onto the aircraft. Then the weapons department builds to those specifications.

During this deployment, that has meant a lot of building for these AOs.

Malone said his focus has been ensuring his junior personnel, who are the ones actually building the bombs, have been in a good state of mind and doing everything safely and to standards. "There's a sense of accomplishment every day that we get off work and we see our bombs go up to the roof (flight deck) and they don't come back," said Malone. "I think the younger sailors enjoy that a lot. They get a kick out of it."

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Dangers of cellphones revisited

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A new federal study of the potential dangers of cellphone radiation, conducted in rats, found a slight increase in brain tumors in males and raised long-dormant concerns about the safety of spending so much time with cellphones glued to our ears.

But the study had enough strange findings that it has spurred other federal scientists to highlight flaws in the research, and experts said these findings and those from other studies continue to suggest the potential risk from cellphone radiation is very small.

The National Institutes of Health study bombarded rats with cellphone radiation from the womb through the first two years of life for nine hours per day. It found tumors in 2 percent to 3 percent of male rats. But females weren't affected at all, and the rats not exposed to the cellphone radiation died much faster than those that were.

Cavs move on to NBA Finals

Associated Press

TORONTO — For LeBron James, it's six straight trips to the NBA Finals.

Maybe this one will end Cleveland's long wait for a championship.

James scored 33 points, Kevin Love had 20 points and 12 rebounds, and the Cavaliers advanced to their second straight finals by beating the Toronto Raptors 113-87 in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals Friday night.

The Cavs will be seeking to end Cleveland's 52-year championship drought, the longest by any city with at least three professional teams. No Cleveland team has won it all since the Browns blanked Baltimore 27-0 to win the NFL championship in 1964.

"This city has been craving a championship," coach Tyronn Lue said. "We have the right team and we have the right talent."

James, who grew up in nearby Akron, is well aware of what a championship would mean to Cleveland.

"I know our city deserves it, our fans deserve it," James said. "But that gives us no sense of entitlement. We've still got to go out and get it. We've still got to go out and prove ourselves."

Kyrie Irving had 30 points and J.R. Smith added 15 for the Cavaliers, who will face the winner of the Golden State-Oklahoma City series on Thursday.

Cleveland would open at home against the Thunder but would be on the road against the 73-win Warriors, who trail 3-2 against Oklahoma City heading into Saturday's Game 6.

"We're still not satisfied at all," Irving said. "There's still a goal at hand that we have to accomplish and I know these guys are going to be ready for it."

It's the third finals appearance in team history for the Cavaliers. Cleveland lost to Golden State in six games last year and got swept by San Antonio in 2007.

James broke the 30-point barrier for the first time this postseason and finished with 11 rebounds and six assists.

"We needed LeBron to set the tone for us early and I thought he did that," Lue said.

James played in four straight finals with Miami before returning to Cleveland. He will be the eighth player in NBA history to appear in six consecutive Finals and the first who didn't play for the Boston Celtics.

"He's just a great player," Lue said. "He's a proven winner. He's always won over the course of his career. To go to six straight finals is unbelievable."

James got there by taking down a Toronto team that set a franchise record with 56 wins and reached the conference finals for the first time in 21 seasons.

After a second-quarter dunk, James shared some verbal barbs with rapper Drake, the Raptors' global ambassador and the man who popularized the nickname 'Six' for Toronto.

Kyle Lowry scored 35 points and DeMar DeRozan had 20 as the deepest play-off run in Raptors team history ended, much to the disappointment of a sellout crowd of 20,605 dressed in red and white T-shirts that formed a maple leaf pattern on either side of the court. Fans stood and cheered "Let's go, Raptors! Let's go, Raptors!" throughout most of the final three minutes.

Raptors coach Dwane Casey said reaching the conference finals was "a tremendous learning experience" for his young team, one that's "a step ahead" in its process of becoming a championship contender.

"We're learning," Casey said. "We're not where (the Cavaliers) are right now. We're going to be."

A dejected Lowry said it was hard to see the positive side of Toronto's best season ever.

"Of course you're going to look back at some point but right now I'm disappointed," he said. "Simple as that, I'm disappointed."

Toronto prolonged the series with back-to-back home wins in Games 3 and 4 but never mounted much of a challenge to the conference champions in Game 6, falling behind by 21 in the third quarter.

The Cavaliers came in 0-4 at Air Canada Centre counting the regular season and playoffs, but looked much more like the team that handed the Raptors a trio of lopsided losses in Cleveland this series.

The Raptors trailed 88-78 on a jumper by DeRozan with 10:23 remaining but James scored six points in a 14-3 run that gave the Cavs a 102-81 lead with about 6 minutes left.

James scored 14 in the first and five of Cleveland's nine field goals were from long range as the Cavaliers led 31-25 after one.

After video review, the officials waved off a basket by Biyombo with 3:18 left in the period and gave him a flagrant foul for knocking down Love.

Tempers flared again early in the second when Richard Jefferson reacted angrily to catching an elbow from Jonas Valanciunas as the two battled for a rebound. Patrick Patterson came over and shoved Jefferson out of the way. Both Patterson and Jefferson were given technical fouls.

The Cavaliers made 10 of 15 three-point attempts in the first half, while Toronto was 2 of 12.

8 more Russians fail tests

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's Olympic Committee said Saturday that eight of the country's athletes have registered positive in doping retests for the 2012 London Games.

The brief statement from the ROC did not give names or what disciplines the athletes were in, but said they came from three different sports.

It said further information would not be released until so-called "B samples" were tested that would confirm or contradict the retests. The International Olympic Committee stores Olympic doping samples for 10 years to reanalyze them when newer methods become available.

The announcement came amid heightened attention to the doping of Russian athletes.

The international track and field federation suspended Russia's team from global competition, including the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in August, after a World Anti-Doping Agency commission report detailed state-sponsored doping. The IAAF is set to decide on June 17 whether to maintain or lift its suspension.

Earlier this week, Russian state television reported that 10 medalists from the 2008 Beijing Games, including 2012 Olympic high jump champion Anna Chicherova, were among 14 Russians that tested positive in the reanalysis of their doping samples. Chicherova, who won bronze in Beijing, expressed "shock" at the result.

Reynolds can play

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Keenan Reynolds will get his chance to play in the NFL this season.

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter announced Friday that the record-setting Navy quarterback Reynolds and fullback Chris Swain can defer their military service to play in the NFL.

Carter made the announcement during his graduation speech to the academy in Annapolis. As students cheered the news about their graduating classmates, Carter said: "Go get 'em."

Reynolds was drafted in the sixth round by the Baltimore Ravens. He is the NCAA's career leader in touchdowns with 88. He had 31 touchdown passes while leading Navy's triple-option offense. The Ravens plan to use him as a running back, receiver and kick returner.

Swain has signed with San Diego. Reynolds said in a statement released by the team that it was a "blessing" to hear the news from Carter.

"I am truly excited to proudly serve my country while having the ability fulfill my dream of playing for the best organization in the NFL," he said. "I would like to thank the Navy for allowing me to represent them while taking advantage of this unique opportunity."

He also thanked Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti.

From The Associated Press

100 years later, Indy 500 still a spectacle

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis 500 has outlasted two world wars, the decline of the automobile industry, a bitter split in open-wheel racing and more death than anyone cares to recall.

The Greatest Spectacle in Racing might as well be called the Greatest Survivor in Sports.

Through it all, though, this iconic event in America's heartland has endured. And after another round of pageantry, another rendition of "Back Home Again in Indiana," it will run Sunday for the 100th time.

"I know football fans and everyone says the Super Bowl is the biggest thing around, but by the same token, we're 100 years this year," three-time champion Bobby Unser said. "One hundred! And it's still at the top of the heap."

Those closest to it have fond memories.

As a kid, NASCAR star Tony Stewart would rush home from school every day in May to watch the field turn laps on TV. Fellow NASCAR champion Jeff Gordon stood in line at the Indianapolis Motor

Speedway for Rick Mears' autograph. Sam Hornish Jr. made the trek from Ohio each year with his family to sit in the grandstands and watch the spectacle unfold.

"My parents were working really hard at that time trying to establish a business," Hornish said. "I always knew where my parents were at night, but there were not a whole lot of days spent with them. So it was really exciting to be able to go and spend a day at the race track with them, getting up early in the morning and driving to Indy, getting a bucket of fried chicken and eating it cold in the grandstands."

His own Indy 500 victory a decade ago is a blur, but Hornish's early days as a fan are crystal clear.

They were as American as apple pie.

Indianapolis is where A.J. Foyt, Rick Mears and Al Unser became household names. The trio represents the only four-time winners, and Unser, his brother Bobby and son Al Jr. are the only multi-generational winners.

Mario Andretti, despite his gripping duels with Foyt, won only once. His heartbreak in the race has been passed down

to his son, Michael, and grandson, Marco. Between five Andrettis, they have just that 1969 win, though Marco will look once more to break the family curse Sunday. So big is this centennial event, IMS officials have announced it is sold out for the first time in 100 years and the race will be shown live on TV in central Indiana for just the third time. The last time it was aired live was in the 1950s.

"This race is a jewel. It's arguably the best known motorsport race in the world," Mario Andretti said. "When I won this in '69, I got fan mail from Tibet and Egypt. To be a part in something like this instills a lot of pride in you. And then to have your family involved is just an incredible feeling."

Indianapolis is where Formula One world champion Emerson Fittipaldi landed, winning twice. Nigel Mansell left F1 as the reigning world champion and came to Indy, only to fall short in two starts. Jacques Villeneuve used his 1995 victory to launch his F1 career and was world champ within two years. Juan Pablo Montoya parlayed his 2000 victory into an F1 job, then won Indy again last year.



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Cardinals rough up Nationals' Scherzer

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Stephen Piscotty hit a grand slam off Max Scherzer during a five-run third inning and Jaime Garcia quieted the Washington Nationals lineup as the St. Louis Cardinals won 6-2 on Friday night.

Coming off consecutive ineffective starts, Garcia (4-4) held Washington to two runs and seven hits over seven innings.

Scherzer (5-4) allowed two earned runs in each of his previous three starts including his 20-strikeout gem on May 11 in a victory over Detroit. That version didn't show early against St. Louis. He walked four batters and allowed five runs, all by the third inning.

Danny Espinosa's second home run in as many games broke up Garcia's shut-out bid in the fifth. Bryce Harper went 1-for-4 after hitting the go-ahead home run in Washington's 2-1 series-opening win Thursday.

Greg Garcia also homered for St. Louis.

Mets 6, Dodgers 5: Curtis Granderson homered leading off the bottom of the ninth to give host New York the victory.

Chase Utley, who was booed all night in his return to Citi Field, hit a tying three-run double off Jeurys Familia with two outs in a four-run ninth inning for the Dodgers.

New York took a 3-0 lead in the first against Julio Urias and chased the 19-year-old after 22/3 innings in his major league debut.

But in a non-save situation, Familia (2-0) failed to hold a 5-1 lead.

New York moved back into the NL East lead, by percentage points over Washington.

Blue Jays 7, Red Sox 5: Josh Donaldson hit two home runs and drove in five runs as host Toronto snapped a five-game home losing streak by beating Boston.

The reigning AL MVP was 4-for-5, starting the scoring with a first-inning solo shot, and then providing the winning margin with a two-run drive, his 13th of the year in the eighth.

Justin Smoak added a solo shot in the fifth inning. Joe Biagini (2-1) got four outs

and Roberto Osuna pitched the ninth for his 11th save.

Koji Uehara (2-2) worked the eighth inning for the Red Sox, allowing Ezequiel Carrera — starting for the suspended Jose Bautista — to reach on a bunt before surrendering the home run to Donaldson.

Royals 7, White Sox 5: Eric Hosmer had three hits, including a home run, and drove in four runs as host Kansas City rallied.

The White Sox used five pitchers in the Royals' four-run seventh with Matt Albers (1-4) taking the loss. The inning included Brett Eibner's double, his first major league hit, and Whit Merrifield's two-run single.

Royals starter Danny Duffy retired the first 16 batters he faced on 59 pitches before giving up five runs on his next 17 pitches.

Peter Moylan (2-0) picked up the victory with a scoreless seventh.

Angels 7, Astros 2: Mike Trout had a three-run double and Albert Pujols hit a two-run homer in a big third inning to help host Los Angeles beat Houston.

The home run was the 570th of Pujols' career, moving him past Rafael Palmeiro and alone into 12th on baseball's all-time list. Pujols is now three behind Harmon Killebrew for 11th.

Matt Shoemaker (3-5) struck out 11 without walking a batter, holding the Astros to seven hits, all singles. He left after allowing two hits with one out in the ninth. Cam Bedrosian gave up a two-run single to Colin Moran.

Right-hander Matt Fiers (3-3) took the loss.

Pirates 9, Rangers 1: Jonathon Niese (5-2) outpitched Cole Hamels (5-1) with six strong innings, ending the left-hander's career-best winning streak at 12 games in Pittsburgh's interleague victory over host Texas.

Andrew McCutchen had one of four home runs for the Pirates, who won their fifth straight and spoiled Jeff Banister's first game against the organization he spent his first 29 years in pro baseball with before becoming Texas manager last season.

Hamels gave up eight hits and six runs

— five earned — in 42/3 innings, his shortest outing since the start before throwing a no-hitter in his final appearance for Philadelphia last July 25. He came to the Rangers in a trading deadline deal six days later.

Cubs 6, Phillies 2: Jorge Soler, David Ross and Kris Bryant hit long home runs to back Jon Lester (5-3) and lead host Chicago to a victory over Philadelphia on a rainy afternoon.

The big drives helped the Cubs win their third straight after dropping eight of 12, and they came before two late delays — for 56 minutes in the top of the seventh inning and for 37 minutes at the start of the ninth.

Lester rebounded from his shortest start of the season by giving up two runs — one earned — and six hits while pitching into the seventh.

Braves 4, Marlins 2: Nick Markakis hit a tie-breaking, two-run single off third baseman Martin Prado's glove with two outs and the bases loaded in the eighth inning to give host Atlanta a rare home win, over Miami.

The Braves snapped a four-game losing streak and improved to only 3-20 in home games. They began the day tied with Minnesota for the majors' worst record.

Brewers 9, Reds 5: Aaron Hill hit two solo homers, Jonathan Lucroy added a solo shot and drove in three runs, and host Milwaukee handed Cincinnati its 11th straight loss.

The Brewers chipped away at an early three-run deficit before surging ahead with a four-run fourth. Hill homered to left off John Lamb (0-3) to lead off the inning, and Lucroy capped the scoring with an RBI ground-rule double.

Yankees 4, Rays 1: Alex Rodriguez homered for the first time since coming off the disabled list and Masahiro Tanaka (3-0) pitched seven shutout innings in visiting New York's victory over Tampa Bay.

Rodriguez returned Thursday after missing three weeks with a strained right hamstring. His sixth homer of the season and 693rd overall came off Chris Archer during a three-run sixth.

Tanaka scattered two hits and struck out four to run his career-best unbeaten

streak to 11 consecutive starts, dating to last season.

Orioles 6, Indians 4: Chris Davis' RBI double broke a seventh-inning tie, Manny Machado went 4-for-5 and visiting Baltimore ended a four-game losing streak by beating Cleveland.

Mark Trumbo followed Davis' clutch hit with a two-run homer, his AL-leading 15th of the season, and a lineup tweak by Orioles manager Buck Showalter woke up a slumbering offense that scored nine runs in its losing streak.

Dylan Bundy (1-1) pitched 11/3 innings for his first major league win. Zach Britton pitched a perfect ninth for 13th save.

Rockies 5, Giants 2: Tyler Chatwood (6-3) threw seven masterful innings, Charlie Blackmon had one of his team's three ru-scoring doubles and host Colorado ended San Francisco's 10-game winning streak against NL West teams.

It was San Francisco's longest streak versus the division since capturing 10 straight in August 1982.

Padres 10, Diamondbacks 3: Yangervis Solarte homered from both sides of the plate and visiting San Diego used 18 hits to rout Arizona and snap a four-game losing streak.

Matt Kemp and Derek Norris each hit a home run and drove in three, and Wil Myers added an RBI double for the Padres, who won for just the third time in their past 11 games.

Tigers 4, Athletics 1: Nick Castellanos homered and Cameron Maybin doubled in a run, giving rookie Michael Fulmer (4-1) more than enough support in visiting Detroit's victory over Oakland.

James McCann and J.D. Martinez also drove in runs for the Tigers, who have won nine of 11. Ian Kinsler was a home run shy of the cycle.

Twins 7, Mariners 2: Robbie Grossman's bases-loaded double keyed a five-run third inning and Pat Dean (1-1) pitched effectively for seven innings for his first major league victory to pace visiting Minnesota past Seattle.

Seattle ace Felix Hernandez (4-4), who entered with a 2.21 ERA, was tagged for six runs on eight hits in six innings.

Williams holds off Mladenovic at French Open

Associated Press

PARIS — Defending champion Serena Williams needed five match points after waiting out a rain delay of more than 2½ hours, but she eventually moved into the fourth round of the French Open with a 6-4, 7-6 (10) victory over 26th-seeded Kristina Mladenovic of France.

In a tight, well-played match at Court Philippe Chatrier, action was suspended Saturday when a thunderstorm arrived right before Williams and Mladenovic began the second-set tiebreaker.

Once they resumed, Williams erased one set point for Mladenovic at 9-8 with a swinging forehand volley winner. Four times, Williams was a point from victory in the tiebreaker — at 6-5, 7-6, 8-7 and 10-9 — and couldn't close it out. But on the fifth opportunity for Williams, Mladenovic pushed a forehand wide to end the match.

"She played really, really well and forced me to bring out my best tennis," Williams said. "I'm happy I got through that."

Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou, called the tiebreaker "the only moment that I think was her good tennis."

"Serena was really aggressive, went for her shots and took risks," he said. "That's her game."

Williams, the No. 1 seed, is trying to become the first woman to win consecutive titles at Roland Garros since Henin took three in a row from 2005-07.

Next up against the American will be Elina Svitolina, who defeated former champion Ana Ivanovic 6-4, 6-4.

In her seven previous matches with Ivanovic, the 18th-seeded Ukrainian had only managed to win a set. Svitolina had also lost twice at Roland Garros against the 2008 champion.

"First win against Ana, it's huge for me," said Svitolina, whose best result at the French Open is a quarterfinal spot last year, when she lost to Ivanovic.

The 21-year-old Svitolina, who had won just one match on clay this season before starting her campaign in Paris, said she played with a "better mentality" than during her previous matches against the Serb.

"I was really confident today," Svitolina said. "I don't know. Just everything was right. Today I was doing (the) right things. Even missing bad shots, I was trying to

stay positive and to play my tennis."

Svitolina, who made her debut on the tour four years ago, has added three-time French Open champion Justine Henin to her coaching team this year, hoping that the former top-ranked player would help her reach a new level.

Although an injury hampered her quick progression this season, Svitolina said Henin's experience has helped her mentally.

The Belgian's knowledge of Williams' game may be a strong asset too. The now retired Henin beat Williams twice at the French Open in 2003 and 2007.

"It's going to be a big challenge for me," said Svitolina, who has lost her three previous matches with Williams. "I think mentally I need to stay strong, stay positive, and no more junior mentality and junior tennis."

The 14th-seeded Ivanovic managed to hold just three times when serving and got broken seven times by Svitolina. She also hit 29 unforced errors.

"My forehand wasn't really working today," Ivanovic said. "I was making a lot of errors. I managed to get back into (the) match and then few disappointing errors

always came in the wrong time. I felt like that was sort of throughout the match."

Also advancing to the fourth round Saturday were No. 8 seed Tímea Babcsinszky, who beat Pauline Parmentier 6-4, 6-2, and No. 12 Carla Suarez Navarro.

In the men's draw, Dominic Thiem prevailed in the duel of rising tennis stars, downing teenager Alexander Zverev 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

The 13th-seeded Thiem equaled his best result at a major tournament after reaching the round of 16 at the U.S. Open in 2014. It was the third time that Thiem and Zverev faced each other in four weeks, with Thiem extending his winning record to 3-0.

Thiem's next opponent will be Marcel Granollers, who advanced without playing thanks to Rafael Nadal's withdrawal with a wrist injury.

Former French Open runner-up David Ferrer also reached the fourth round, for a sixth consecutive year.

The 11th-seeded Ferrer came out on top from an all-Spanish match with Feliciano Lopez, winning 6-4, 7-6 (6), 6-1. He'll next face either seventh-seeded Tomas Berdych or Pablo Cuevas.