

STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, May 29, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Marine pilot lauded for efforts in Japan

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — President Barack Obama singled out an MV-22 Osprey pilot who flew relief missions after Japan's recent earthquake for symbolizing the Marines' contributions to a host country and the reconciliation and friendship that two former enemies can nourish.

Also, a Japanese family is so thankful for the pilot's efforts that they're ensuring her name will resonate for another generation.

Obama made a quick stop Friday at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni after attending the G-7 summit and before making a historic visit to Hiroshima. After stepping off Air Force One, he spoke briefly in a hangar to a large crowd of U.S. and Japanese servicemembers, civilian defense workers and family members.

The president praised Capt. Tessa Snow, 27, of Brockport, N.Y., an Osprey pilot with Ma-

rine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, for her work flying aid to Japan's Kumamoto region last month after it was hit by a series of strong earthquakes that killed dozens of people and damaged thousands of homes.

"One Japanese family was so worried about their house collapsing that they spent several nights outside," Obama told the Marines. "Thanks to your efforts, that family and so many others received food, water and other supplies that they needed."

The family is expecting a new baby daughter in June, he said.

"They decided to name their baby after Tessa. They want their daughter to grow up with the same qualities that Tessa has — honor, courage and commitment and willingness to help others. Aren't those the core values of the Marines Corps?" Obama asked to loud cheers from the audience.

The subsequent Hiroshima visit, he said, honors the memory of all those who were lost during World War II and reaffirms America's commitment to

peace and security and a world where nuclear weapons will no longer be necessary.

"Even the most painful divisions can be bridged," he said. "Former adversaries can ... not just become partners but become the best of friends and the strongest of allies. This base is a powerful example of the trust, cooperation and friendship between the United States and Japan."

Obama talked about the U.S. and Japanese militaries working side by side to engage partners in the region and respond to natural disasters in Japan, Thailand, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

"Together, we have saved countless lives across this region and around the world," he said. The president finished by shaking hands with many in the crowd — no selfies, please, he said with a smile — before heading to Hiroshima and a date with history.

Afterward, Snow said the presidential shoutout was an honor.

"I'm just happy to represent

my squadron," she said.

Snow and her crew flew thousands of pounds of supplies to Kumamoto Airport and a nearby sports stadium. From the air, she could see the devastation that the earthquake wrought — massive landslides and blocked roads, she said.

News that a Japanese baby would be named "Tessa" in her honor made her happy to have inspired somebody, said Snow, who joined the Marines five years ago to make a difference and to serve her country.

"I appreciate the team mentality and tightknit aspect of the corps," she added.

Obama's visit was a great way to motivate the Marines in Japan and to raise awareness of their mission, she said.

"The president visiting us after Vietnam shows how important the Pacific is," she said.

His decision to visit Hiroshima was "amazing," she added.

"It's an exciting moment of the country. It shows how far we have come and how close we are working together," she said.

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US, NATO troops honor war dead at Kabul ceremony

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — More than 100 U.S. and NATO troops gathered Saturday at NATO headquarters to mark what Resolute Support Commander Gen. John W. Nicholson called "one of the most sacred traditions for Americans" — Memorial Day.

"One of the greatest strengths of our historic coalition of 41 nations is the opportunity to share and honor our respective traditions," Nicholson said.

Memorial Day, which began

as a tradition after the Civil War when groups decorated the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers, "offers us an opportunity to pay respect to our past, focus on the present and look forward to the future," Nicholson said.

He said the ceremony not only honored all of America's war dead but especially "all of our fallen from this war," including more than 2,300 U.S. servicemembers, 1,100 coalition members and 26,500 members of the Afghan security forces.

Nicholson recalled when

he and Delbert Byers, now the command sergeant major for Resolute Support and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, were serving together in eastern Afghanistan in 2006. He told the story of Lt. Col. Joseph Fenty, who served under him when he commanded the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division.

Fenty could have gone home in April 2006 for the birth of his first child, Nicholson said, but insisted on staying until the mission was done. A month later, Fenty and nine other soldiers from the 10th Moun-

tain Division were killed when their CH-47 Chinook crashed in Kunar province. Nicholson and Byers carried Fenty's body to a helicopter after recovering it from the crash site two days later.

Now the NATO mission's top officer and the senior enlisted leader, Nicholson and Byers embraced after laying a wreath at a memorial to all those killed in Afghanistan.

"We have a duty to remember each of them," Nicholson said.

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Radio show aims to help US Marines reconnect

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

Once a Marine, always a Marine, says retired Marine Maj. Mike “Mac” McNamara. The warrior mystique, the pride, the humor, once drilled in, endures, he says, no matter where life leads.

“We love ourselves,” McNamara said. “We believe our organization is the best. We don’t flinch from that.”

But the few and the proud also fall prey to common afflictions — drinking, drugs, broken relationships, domestic violence, isolation and suicide.

Both the love of the corps and the problems that nonetheless can beset its “tribe,” as McNamara calls it, will be the pillars of his new enterprise: a daily, four-hour talk-radio show.

Starting June 1, All Marine Radio (allmarineradio.com) will be the first streaming radio show about all things Marine Corps, McNamara said.

McNamara, who in civilian life has worked as a broadcaster in North Dakota, came up with the idea along with retired Master Sgt. Paul Gage. The two, who both served more than 20 years, met in Helmand province, Afghanistan, in 2010. McNamara is the talent. Gage and his wife, Danielle, are in charge of marketing and are pursuing a variety of funders.

Another battle buddy, Gen. Robert Neller, commandant of the Marine Corps, is expected to be the first guest. That interview will be taped, but others will be live, and guests will be able to respond to listeners who submit questions via phone, text message or email.

McNamara wants to inspire as well as inform his listeners.

“The mission is postcombat-related mental health,” McNamara said. “To get Marines to reconnect to our tribe so that they don’t go down that road to isolation and suicide.”

General urges Okinawa unity amid US contractor’s arrest

BY DAVE ORNAUER
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The senior U.S. military official on Okinawa urged servicemembers and residents Saturday to overcome their differences as they cope with the slaying of a 20-year-old woman that has been linked to a base contractor.

“We are at our best when we work together in crisis, in unified common cause, when we communicate openly and frankly,” said Lt. Gen. Lawrence D. Nicholson, commanding officer of III Marine Expeditionary Force. “We will be at our best as we grieve together over this senseless and tragic act.”

Commanders and senior enlisted personnel from all services on Okinawa, along with U.S. consular general Joel Ehrenreich and other civilian leaders, attended Nicholson’s news conference at the Marine Corps Base headquarters on Camp Foster, which also sought to address the tightened curfew and liberty restrictions put in place Friday in the wake of the death of Rina Shimabukuro.

Her body was found in a wooded area after being missing for several weeks. Former Marine Kenneth Franklin Gadson, 32, a civilian contractor at

Kadena Air Base, has been arrested in connection with the incident.

“There’s only one way to look at it — a horrific crime in which we are all repulsed, angry and saddened, and we are all grieving together,” a visibly emotional Nicholson said.

Gadson, who goes by the name of his Japanese wife, Shinzato, remains in Japanese custody in accordance with the status of forces agreement, Nicholson said.

The slaying and recent rape of another woman have sparked protests on an island with a history of public outrage over crimes by members of the U.S. community. President Barack Obama dealt with the backlash during his visit here last week for the G-7 economic summit. In a meeting before the summit, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told Obama that the killing was an “unforgivable crime” which shocked “not only the Okinawa people but also all the people of Japan.”

Nicholson said the hour-earlier curfew and other restrictions “are out of respect and reflection.” Some posts on social media have criticized the moves as punishing the masses for the actions of the few. Nicholson said he plans to discuss the reasoning behind the changes with the U.S. military community.

Sailor pleads guilty in Okinawa rape case

NAHA, Okinawa — A U.S. sailor pleaded guilty Friday to raping an intoxicated Japanese woman at a Naha, Okinawa, hotel, an incident that sparked anti-base protests and contributed to the tightened liberty restrictions that took effect earlier in the day.

Seaman Apprentice Justin Castellanos, 24, a corpsman assigned to Camp Schwab, stood before a three-judge panel at Naha District Court and admitted he took the woman — a tourist from the mainland — into his room after finding her passed out in the hallway of the hotel where he was staying on the night of March 13.

Castellanos took advantage of the woman, who had little awareness of what was happening, the prosecutor said. When she woke up and found a stranger next to her in bed, she cried out loudly for help, which awoke her date in a nearby room. Castellanos left the room with his belongings to seek help from a friend but returned to the hotel, where he was arrested, said the prosecutor, who added that the victim’s DNA was detected on Castellanos’ body.

From staff reports

Afghan forces kill 2 top Taliban leaders

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two top Taliban leaders in southern Afghanistan were killed during fighting this past weekend, officials said, a week after airstrikes killed the insurgent group’s supreme leader and a top official in restive Helmand province.

The Taliban “shadow gov-

ernor” for Uruzgan province, identified as Maulavi Jan Agha, and his military commission chief, identified as Asadullah and also known by the nom de guerre Mullah Shakeib, were killed along with nine other insurgent fighters, the Afghan Defense Ministry announced Sunday.

“If we get accurate intelligence information, we won’t wait to eliminate them any-

where in the country,” Gen. Dawlat Waziri, a Defense Ministry spokesman, told Stars and Stripes.

On May 21, U.S. drone strikes killed the supreme Taliban leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, in Pakistan near the border with Afghanistan. The Taliban shadow governor in Helmand also was reported killed in an Afghan airstrike last Monday.

Thompson helps Warriors stay alive, force Game 7

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Stephen Curry turned things over to Klay Thompson, and his Splash Brother delivered.

And when Curry came on late, the Golden State Warriors were assured at least one more game in their record-setting season.

Thompson made a playoff-record 11 three-pointers and scored 41 points, and the defending champions forced a seventh game in the Western Conference finals with a 108-101 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Saturday night.

Curry bounced back from a slow start to finish with 29 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. The Warriors, who set the NBA regular-season record with 73 wins, will host Game 7 on Monday. They'll try to become the 10th team to overcome a 3-1 deficit, which will earn them the right to play Cleveland in the NBA Finals.

"We've got a lot of belief and a lot of heart, and we've given ourselves a chance to win this series," Curry said. "That's all we could ask for. There's obviously a lot of excitement, but we still have one job to do."

Thompson scored 19 points in the fourth quarter to help the Warriors overcome an eight-point deficit.

"Steph told me before I went out in the fourth, 'This is your time,'" Thompson said. "'You know, put on a show out there and have fun.' I took those words to heart, and I just tried to be aggressive."

Oklahoma City dominated Games 3 and 4 at home, but the Warriors made 21 of 44 three-pointers on Saturday, while Oklahoma City was 3 of 23.

Kevin Durant scored 29 points and Russell Westbrook added 28 for the Thunder. But Durant made just 10 of 31 shots and Westbrook was 10 of 27.

The Thunder, who blew a number of fourth-quarter leads during the regular season but had been better in the playoffs, fell apart in the final minutes after Golden State had finally gone ahead for good. The Thunder committed six turnovers in the final 2:55, and Westbrook had three in the last 55 seconds.

"That really wasn't — hasn't been us in the last month and a half," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "I thought we got a little stagnant coming down the stretch."

Thompson's barrage was similar to Curry's performance in Oklahoma City during the regular season. Curry scored 46 points and tied an NBA record with 12 three-pointers to help the Warriors beat the Thunder in overtime.

Thompson kept the Warriors in it with four three-pointers in just over seven minutes to start the fourth quarter. Curry then hit two threes, the second of which tied the game at 99 with 2:47 to play.

Thompson's three with 1:35 remaining put the Warriors up 104-101.

Westbrook lost control of the ball, and after Thompson missed a three, Westbrook turned the ball over again,

leading to a layup by Curry. Westbrook turned it over one more time, and Golden State was in the clear.

"They switched everything and kind of closed the game up, and we missed some shots and they got hot from the three," Durant said.

The Thunder led 23-20 after one quarter, then seized momentum early in the second. Steven Adams' powerful one-handed dunk on Warriors All-Star Draymond Green drew a roar from the crowd and gave Oklahoma City a 37-28 lead. Green, who had hit Adams in the groin area twice during the series, was a constant target for the vocal Thunder fans.

Thompson opened the second half with back-to-back three-pointers to give the Warriors a 54-53 edge, but the Thunder closed the quarter strong and led 83-75 heading into the fourth.

The Warriors held the Thunder to 18 points in the fourth quarter to stay alive. They expect another tough battle in Game 7.

"To be in this situation — people were doubting us," Green said. "It will be the hardest game of our lives. It will be way harder than this game. Going back home, everybody will think, 'Oh, it's done.' It will be way harder. But if we come out and do what we did and stick to the game plan, we'll be fine."

Wawrinka surges into French quarters

Associated Press

PARIS — Hitting sublime backhands, defending champion Stan Wawrinka surged 7-6 (5), 6-7 (7), 6-3, 6-2 into the French Open quarterfinals, so in control against Viktor Troicki on Sunday that he amused himself and the crowd by hitting with a ball boy while the Serb took time out for treatment in the third set.

After lending the lucky lad a racket for their impromptu hit-about, the third-seeded Swiss got back to business, securing his win in cold and humid conditions on Court Philippe Chatrier in just under three hours. Also through to the quarters: second-seeded Andy Murray, in a rain-interrupted 7-6 (9), 6-4, 6-3 victory over big-serving American John Isner.

Garbine Muguruza also advanced to the quarterfinals for a third straight year. The array of shots and maturity the 22-year-old deployed in an intensely fought 6-3, 6-4 win against 2009 champion Svetlana Kuznetsova strengthened the argument that Muguruza could soon be challenging Serena Williams for the top spot in women's tennis.

The fourth-seeded Spanish player started at lightning pace, serving an ace with her first and third balls. In the last game, she stayed cool during five match points to finish off the 13th-seeded Russian.

Standing in the way of her second semifinal at a major tournament is Shelby Rogers. The 108th-ranked American who had never made it out of the third round at one of the Grand Slams beat Irina-Camelia Begu 6-3, 6-4. The Romanian, seeded No. 25, is the third seeded player to fall to Shelby in her march to the quarterfinals.

Albert Ramos-Vinolas, a 55th-ranked Spanish player who had never made it past the second round of 18 previous Grand Slam tournaments, also is on a roll. He ousted Milos Raonic 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 — breaking the eighth-seeded Canadian five times and saving six of seven break points — to play Wawrinka in the quarterfinals.

Cool and cloudy weather appeared to take some bite out of Raonic's serve on the red clay, with new coach John McEnroe among the spectators on Court Suzanne Lenglen before they work together at Wimbledon next month. Raonic, a quarterfinalist at Roland Garros in 2014 and semifinalist at this year's Australian Open, complained of an aching left hip in his previous match but didn't appear to have trouble moving against Ramos-Vinolas and later said it wasn't an issue.

Raonic beckoned over the chair umpire in the last game to inspect a shot that gave Ramos-Vinolas two match points. She ruled it in, pointing that the ball had nicked the line.

The Spaniard couldn't capitalize on those opportunities. But he made no mistake with his third match point, earned with an ace served out wide, sealing the win in 2 hours and 20 minutes with a smash.

Pelicans' Dejean-Jones shot, killed

Associated Press

DALLAS — New Orleans Pelicans guard Bryce Dejean-Jones was fatally shot on his daughter's first birthday after kicking down the door of what he mistakenly thought was his girlfriend's apartment in Dallas, a death that rattled the NBA over Memorial Day weekend.

"We are devastated at the loss of this young man's life," the Pelicans said Saturday in a statement.

Dallas police said Sunday they would not have more information about the shooting until after the holiday and did not answer The Associated Press' question regarding whether the man who shot the 23-year-old Dejean-Jones would face charges. It is legal in Texas for people to use deadly force to protect themselves from intruders.

Dejean-Jones was visiting his girlfriend for his daughter's first birthday and had gone for a walk early Saturday, according to his agent, Scott W. Nichols. His girlfriend lives on the fourth floor, and Dejean-Jones, who was visiting the complex for the first time, went to the third.

A man living at the apartment was

sleeping when he heard his front door kicked open, police Senior Cpl. DeMarquis Black said Saturday in a statement. When Dejean-Jones began kicking at the bedroom door, the man retrieved a handgun and fired. Dejean-Jones collapsed in an outdoor passageway, and he died at a hospital.

Dejean-Jones's father told KCAL-TV that his son was "tenacious."

"He has had so many things that have happened to him along his path," K.C. Jones told the station. "He made up his mind that he wanted to do what he was doing — play pro ball. And whatever it took, he was going to get there. He was going to do it."

In Dejean-Jones' only NBA season, which ended in February because of a broken right wrist, the 6-foot-6 guard started 11 of 14 games and averaged 5.6 points and 3.4 rebounds.

Nichols said Dejean-Jones had nearly completed his rehab and was set to begin shooting with his right hand again next week.

"It's shocking this happened," Nichols said. "Wrong place, wrong time, I think."

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver called

it a "tragic loss" and said Dejean-Jones "had a bright future in our league."

Dejean-Jones was signed by the Pelicans last summer after not being selected in the 2015 draft.

"I just lost my best friend/cousin last night enjoy life because you never know if tomorrow is guaranteed," Shabazz Muhammad of the Minnesota Timberwolves wrote on Twitter.

Dejean-Jones was part of the 2014-15 Iowa State team that went 25-9, captured a Big 12 title and made a fourth consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament. He also played at Southern California and UNLV; he was suspended late in the 2013-14 season from UNLV for conduct detrimental to the team, and announced that he was leaving USC midway through the 2010-11 season.

Former Cyclones coach Fred Hoiberg, now the coach of the NBA's Chicago Bulls, added in a statement that Dejean-Jones was a "passionate and talented player that lived out his dream of playing in the NBA through hard work and perseverance."



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Utley HRs lead rout of Mets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — After the New York Mets missed, Chase Utley connected twice. Utley hit a grand slam and a solo homer after Noah Syndergaard threw a 99 mph fastball behind his back, and the Los Angeles Dodgers went deep a season-high five times in routing New York 9-1 on Saturday night.

In a scene that seemed inevitable since October, Syndergaard was immediately ejected following the third-inning pitch — which certainly appeared to be his shot at retaliation against Utley for the late takeout slide that broke the right leg of then-Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada in last year’s playoffs.

Plate umpire Adam Hamari tossed Syndergaard, sending Mets manager Terry Collins into a rage, but no trouble ensued between the teams. A longtime New York nemesis, Utley raised one hand slightly in the direction of the Dodgers’ bench to keep teammates calm — and later responded by doing all sorts of damage with his bat.

“I think a loud, energizing environment gets the best out of you. I think it’s fun,” said Utley, who has 19 RBIs this season, nine in the first two games of this series. “It kind of gets the adrenaline going a little bit, makes you kind of dig down deeper.”

Asked if he thought Syndergaard delivered a purpose pitch, Utley said: “Possibly, but I understand it.”

Adrian Gonzalez homered and had four

hits for the Dodgers, who spoiled the Mets’ 30th anniversary celebration of their 1986 World Series championship. Howie Kendrick and Corey Seager also connected, all after Syndergaard was gone.

Kenta Maeda (4-3) shook off an early line drive that hit him on the pitching hand and threw five shutout innings. The right-hander yielded two hits, both singles in the first, and stopped his three-game losing streak.

“Pretty impressive. You wouldn’t see too many other pitches staying in the game at that point,” Utley said.

The stoic Utley is playing at Citi Field this weekend for the first time since Tejada was injured. The Mets — and their fans — were incensed by the aggressive slide, which led to a change in baseball rules this season designed to protect infielders in what some call the Utley Rule.

But the Mets had not tried to retaliate until Saturday night; Utley played all four games without incident May 9-12 when the teams split a series in Los Angeles.

With one out and nobody on in the third inning of a scoreless game, Syndergaard’s first pitch to Utley sailed behind the second baseman by a considerable margin.

Hamari immediately ejected Syndergaard, prompting Collins to come storming out of the dugout. Collins also was ejected after screaming at Hamari and pointing in his face during an animated argument. The manager was finally escorted back toward the New York dugout by another umpire.

“The ruling was that he intentionally threw at the batter,” crew chief Tom Hallion told a pool reporter. “We can either warn or eject. And with what happened in that situation, we felt the ejection was warranted.”

Hallion said no warnings were issued before the series.

Collins said he had never before seen a pitcher get ejected without a warning.

“My argument was, nobody got hit,” Collins said. “There was a time when, in this game, where you had a shot and nothing happened, the ball went to the backstop. So that was kind of my argument.”

After waiting near the mound with teammates for some time, Syndergaard walked calmly to the Mets dugout without showing any emotion as the crowd cheered him.

“It was just a pitch that got away from me. That’s all I got,” Syndergaard said. “I can understand why he did what he did. I still think a warning would have been better.”

Collins acknowledged he’s a little concerned Syndergaard might get suspended.

Booed all night, Utley added his sixth career slam off Hansel Robles in the seventh, making it 6-0 with his 38th homer against the Mets.

“We came together as a group,” Utley said. “We battled, and it was a good win.”

Rangers’ Darvish wins 1st start since 2014

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Yu Darvish hit 98 mph in the first inning of his first start in the majors in almost 22 months.

Texas catcher Bobby Wilson is just glad he wasn’t running to the backstop after that pitch, and a few others early in the Rangers’ 5-2 interleague victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates. It was the Japanese right-hander’s return from last year’s Tommy John surgery Saturday night.

“In warmups, he didn’t really let it go. And then warmups in the first inning, he didn’t really let it go,” Wilson said. “Then the first couple of hitters, he started letting it go and that ball jumped on me quick. The sinkers that he threw, there was a couple I’m just happy I got a glove on because they were that firm and that nasty.”

Adrian Beltre had a two-run homer in the first inning off Juan Nicasio (3-3) to become the fourth third baseman with at least 1,500 RBIs, finishing with 1,501.

Mitch Moreland snapped a 1-for-27 skid with a solo home run in the fourth as Texas ended the Pirates’ five-game winning streak.

The “Yuuu” calls from a sellout crowd started early for Darvish, who allowed three hits and a run with seven strikeouts in five strong innings. He came out after 81 pitches, just shy of the target Texas had for him after five rehab outings this month.

Four Texas relievers allowed four hits and a run with four strikeouts in four innings.

“Physically I felt I could go more innings, but mentally I was like ‘I’m done here,’” Darvish said through an interpreter. “Today I was heating it up pretty good so I felt pretty good.”

Darvish last pitched in the big leagues on Aug. 9, 2014. He missed the rest of that season with right elbow inflammation, and ended up needing ligament recon-

struction surgery after his only spring training appearance last year.

John Jaso had a leadoff single on Darvish’s second pitch before Andrew McCutchen struck out. The Pirates didn’t get another hit until Francisco Cervelli’s sinking liner in front of rookie right fielder Nomar Mazara in the fifth.

No. 9 hitter Cole Figueroa ended Darvish’s shutout bid by pulling a hanging slider into right-center field for a single that scored Cervelli.

Darvish, who is 7-1 with a 1.77 ERA in 10 starts against NL teams, finished his outing with his second swinging strikeout of Jaso. The first was on an 82 mph slider and the second on an 89 mph cutter. As usual, Darvish sprinkled in other breaking pitches as well, some as slow as 70 mph.

“He’s looking fresh,” Jaso said. “He was doing his normal thing, like where he throws fastball usually the first time through the lineup and then he starts dropping this in, this in and all that stuff. It looks like he’s his normal, dominant self.”

Royals 8, White Sox 7: Brett Eibner capped host Kansas City’s seven-run ninth inning with a game-ending RBI single.

Jarrold Dyson was walked intentionally before Eibner drove a full-count pitch from Tommy Kahnle (0-1) off first baseman Jose Abreu and into right field. Drew Butera, who replaced Salvador Perez after the All-Star catcher got hurt in a collision, scampered home as Eibner was mobbed by his jubilant teammates near first.

Cardinals 9, Nationals 4: Adam Wainwright pitched seven gritty innings and made an ample contribution at the plate, hitting a two-run double to help St. Louis defeat host Washington.

Giants 10, Rockies 5: Buster Posey hit a pair of three-run homers, including a tiebreaking drive as part of a six-run eighth inning, and visiting San Francisco rallied for

the win.

Blue Jays 10, Red Sox 9: Devon Travis drove in Russell Martin with a game-ending RBI single, helping host Toronto rally.

Rays 9, Yankees 5: Evan Longoria homered and drove in four runs, powering host Tampa Bay to the victory.

Reds 7, Brewers 6: Joey Votto scored the go-ahead run in the ninth after an inning-ending double play was overturned, and visiting Cincinnati snapped its 11-game losing streak.

Cubs 4, Phillies 1: Kyle Hendricks pitched a five-hitter for his second career complete game, leading the host Cubs to their fourth straight win.

Athletics 12, Tigers 3: Billy Butler, Khris Davis and Danny Valencia homered, and host Oakland stopped a three-game losing streak.

Indians 11, Orioles 4: Yan Gomes drove in three runs and Danny Salazar allowed two runs in six innings, leading the host Indians to the victory.

Braves 7, Marlins 2: Gordon Beckham hit a three-run homer, Nick Markakis drove in two runs and host Atlanta secured its first home series win of the season.

Astros 4, Angels 2: Cy Young Award winner Dallas Keuchel pitched seven innings to snap a personal five-game losing streak and Jason Castro hit a go-ahead two-run homer to lift visiting Houston.

Keuchel (3-6) retired the final 18 batters he faced. He had not won a game since April 15 and entered this one with a 5.92 ERA..

Twins 6, Mariners 5: Miguel Sano hit a two-run homer in the first inning and drove in the go-ahead run with an RBI single in the seventh and visiting Minnesota won its third straight.

Diamondbacks 8, Padres 7: Paul Goldschmidt homered during a five-run second inning, Michael Bourn had three hits and host Arizona ended a four-game skid.

Pens vs. Sharks makes for fast final

Associated Press

It will be speed vs. speed in the Stanley Cup final between the San Jose Sharks and Pittsburgh Penguins.

San Jose got through the Western Conference the same way Pittsburgh got through the East: with plenty of depth and speed to kill. The final will feature the three top playoff scorers in the Sharks’ Logan Couture, Joe Pavelski and Brent Burns against Penguins stars Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin.

“It’s going to be fast hockey,” Crosby said after the Penguins beat the Tampa Bay Lightning in Game 7 of the East final Thursday night. “Two teams that want to play the exact same way, that want to get their D involved (and) their power play is really dangerous. ... It’s going to be quite the series.”

The Sharks are in the Cup final for the first time in their 24-season franchise history and in Peter DeBoer’s first year as coach. The Penguins are back for the first time since winning it all in 2009 and made it after Mike Sullivan replaced Mike Johnston as coach in December.

In his first meeting with them, Sullivan challenged his players to be great and told them that’s how they win in the NHL. They’ve won in the playoffs on the strength of scoring from Crosby and speedy wingers Phil Kessel, Carl Hagelin and Game 7 hero Bryan Rust, not to mention the goaltending of 22-year-old rookie Matt Murray.

Kessel is Pittsburgh’s leading scorer with 18 points on nine goals and nine assists after coming over from the Toronto Maple Leafs in a trade last summer.

“I don’t think you could dream about that. You never could expect this,” Kessel said. “This is a huge moment in my career and my life.”

San Jose is also rolling along thanks to a summer pickup in goaltender Martin Jones, who was the Los Angeles Kings’ backup when they won the Cup in 2014. Couture, Pavelski and Burns are piling up the points, but this run is about aging veterans Joe Thornton and Patrick Marleau finally breaking through.

Thornton and Marleau, the top two picks in the 1997 draft, made the playoffs together with the Sharks in nine of 10 previous seasons but had yet to make the Cup final until now.

Crosby and Malkin made it twice, losing in 2008 to the Detroit Red Wings before winning the following season. At the time, it looked like the young core that also featured defenseman Kris Letang would challenge for the Cup every year.

Now they have a chance to add to their legacy, but it won’t be easy even with home-ice advantage in the series that starts Monday night in Pittsburgh. The Sharks are the Penguins’ deepest opponent yet.

“The Penguins should expect a team that’s deeper, quicker than Tampa, and a team that’s playing with a lot of confidence,” NBC Sports analyst Ed Olczyk said.

Confidence isn’t lacking for either team. The Sharks knocked off the Los Angeles Kings, Nashville Predators and St. Louis Blues to get here, while the Penguins beat the New York Rangers, Presidents’ Trophy-winning Capitals and defending East-champion Lightning.