

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, October 3, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## US air attack suspected in hospital deaths

By JOSH SMITH

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Apparent U.S. airstrikes hit a Doctors Without Borders hospital in the embattled city of Kunduz early Saturday, killing at least 19 people, aid agency officials said. The strikes continued for more than 30 minutes after staff told American and Afghan military commanders the facility was being hit, they said.

The French-founded non-profit, known by its French initials, MSF, reported that 12 staff members and seven patients from the intensive care unit, including three children, were killed in the aerial attack. More than 37 people were injured, including 19 staff members.

American military officials acknowledged that the hospital may have been struck by a U.S. warplane.

“U.S. forces conducted an airstrike in Kunduz city at 2:15 a.m. (local), 3 October, against individuals threatening the force,” U.S. military spokesman Col. Brian Tribus said in a statement. “The strike may have resulted in collateral damage to a nearby medical facility.”

MSF condemned “in the strongest possible terms the horrific bombing.” The organization said the number of casualties could grow as there were still many patients and staff unaccounted for.

“All indications currently point to the bombing being carried out by international coalition forces,” MSF said in a statement, while calling for “total transparency” from the coalition as well as an independent investigation.

“This attack is abhorrent and a grave violation of International Humanitarian Law,” MSF President Meinie Nicolai added. “We cannot accept that

this horrific loss of life will simply be dismissed as ‘collateral damage.’”

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, called the attack on the hospital tragic and inexcusable, “possibly even criminal.”

Human Rights Watch said in a statement the incident raised “grave concerns about whether U.S. forces took sufficient precautions to identify and avoid striking the facility.”

Precise GPS coordinates for all of MSF’s facilities in Kunduz had been provided to “all parties to the conflict, including in Kabul and Washington,” several times over the past months and, most recently, on Tuesday, MSF said in a statement.

“The bombing in Kunduz continued for more than 30 minutes after American and Afghan military officials in Kabul and Washington were first informed by MSF that its hospital was struck,” the statement said.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter said in a statement that officials were “still trying to determine exactly what happened.”

### Probe underway

“The area has been the scene of intense fighting the last few days. U.S. forces in support of Afghan Security Forces were operating nearby, as were Taliban fighters,” his statement said. He said a full investigation “into the tragic incident” was underway in coordination with the Afghan government.

Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said 10 to 15 “terrorists” hiding in the hospital when it was struck all were killed, The Associated Press reported. Kunduz police spokesman Sayed Sarwar Hussaini also said insurgents were in the facility.

MSF could not confirm the reports of insurgents on the hospital grounds, but staff in the city

disputed the claim, and human rights activists noted that, in any case, hospitals are never to be targeted.

The trauma center, the only one of its kind in the region and centrally located in the city, was “hit several times during sustained bombing and was very badly damaged,” MSF reported.

For more than an hour, the hospital was hit by intervals of incoming fire approximately every 15 minutes, the aid organization said, citing its staff in Kunduz.

### Seeking safety

“The bombs hit and then we heard the plane circle round,” said Heman Nagarathnam, MSF head of programs in northern Afghanistan. “There was a pause, and then more bombs hit. This happened again and again. ... The main hospital building was engulfed in flames. Those people that could had moved quickly to the building’s two bunkers to seek safety. But patients who were unable to escape burned to death as they lay in their beds.”

According to the MSF statement, portions of the hospital that housed the intensive care unit, emergency rooms and physiotherapy ward were hit “very precisely,” while surrounding structures remained unscathed.

MSF said there were 105 patients and their caretakers in the hospital, as well as more than 80 medical staff — both international and Afghan — when it was hit. All the reported casualties were Afghans, the group said. Since fighting broke out Monday when Taliban insurgents stormed the city, the hospital has treated 394 people.

Even as Afghan officials repeatedly declared the city secure, they have continued to struggle to rout Taliban

militants, and U.S. forces have stepped up a bombing campaign in and around Kunduz. The U.S. has launched 12 airstrikes in Kunduz since the Taliban offensive started.

Although President Barack Obama declared America’s combat role in Afghanistan over at the end of 2014, increased violence across the country has thrust U.S. troops back into the battle in increasingly public ways, calling into question plans to extricate the U.S. from the conflict.

As of the end of August, American warplanes had released weapons during at least 282 sorties. U.S. forces conducted some two dozen strikes to aid Afghan troops in desperate fighting in Helmand province in August.

Ground troops have also increasingly been involved, with U.S. Special Forces engaging in at least one firefight with insurgents inside Kunduz city and working with Afghan troops to call in airstrikes.

The Washington Post, citing an unnamed U.S. military official, reported Saturday that U.S. special forces soldiers advising Afghan commandos on the ground in Kunduz detected incoming fire and called for support from an AC-130 gunship overhead. The Post said it returned fire apparently near the hospital. An AC-130 would typically fire heavy guns, not bombs or missiles.

Gen. John Campbell, commander of U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan, reportedly apologized to President Ashraf Ghani over the incident, according to a statement from the president’s office, but a spokesman for the coalition said although they talked, he had no information on the subject of the discussion.

Zubair Babakarhail contributed to this report.  
smith.josh@stripes.com

# Army veteran tried to block Oregon shooter

*The Washington Post*

Thursday was a very special day for Chris Mintz: Oct. 1 was his son's sixth birthday.

Hours later, as the former Army infantryman and Umpqua Community College student confronted a gunman on the rural Oregon campus, his son was on his mind.

Mintz, 30, encountered the gunman as he tried to block the classroom door, his aunt, Wanda Mintz, told *The Washington Post*. He was shot three times, then fell to the ground.

"He hit the ground and looked up at him and said, 'It's my son's birthday. Don't do this,'" Wanda Mintz recounted. "And the guy shot him at least two more times."

"He just tried to do the right thing," Wanda Mintz said. "That's just how he is. If he sees someone who needs help, he just helps. He just tried to

intervene."

Mintz sustained gunshot wounds to his upper back, abdomen, left hand and upper and lower leg, according to a Facebook post by Jayme Skinner, the mother of Mintz's son.

Both of his legs were broken during the shooting, according to a GoFundMe page set up by his family. After spending 6½ hours in surgery, "he is conscious and he understands what is going on," Skinner wrote on Facebook.

Mintz joined the Army and was stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington, Wanda Mintz said.

He has a wrestling and mixed-martial-arts background.

As the story of Mintz's courageous actions became national news, a new post popped up on his Facebook wall:

"This is Chris's friend. Chris asked me to thank everyone for their support, he is grateful and keeping our community and all victims in his thoughts."

# GAO says DOD culture caused Ford problems

*Daily Press (Newport News, Va.)*

The cost overruns and delays that have dogged the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford were entirely predictable, the result of unrealistic assumptions that are "by no means unique" in the Defense Department, a government watchdog official told Congress on Thursday.

The aircraft carrier is symptomatic of how the Pentagon develops and purchases other expensive weapons, Paul L. Francis of the Government Accountability Office told the Senate Armed Services Committee, describing a culture that creates pressure to overpromise performance while low-balling cost estimates.

The GAO raised red flags in 2007 about cost estimates and untested systems on the Ford, which is now about 95 percent complete.

Tests of shipboard systems onboard the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford are taking longer than expected, and it

will delay sea trials by several weeks, the Navy said Tuesday.

Some senators acknowledged the need for Pentagon-wide acquisition reform. Others pressed top Navy officials to name those responsible for the Ford's runaway budget and schedule delays.

And some basic concerns remain, even though it's nearly finished.

J. Michael Gilmore is the director of operational test and evaluation in the defense secretary's office. He is concerned with reliability of the electromagnetic catapults, or EMALS, and the advanced arresting gear — the systems that will launch and recover aircraft.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., the committee's chairman, has been a vocal critic of the Ford carrier program, and he didn't spare any words Thursday. He called the carrier "one of the spectacular acquisition debacles in recent memory — and that's saying something."

# Senator calls on Navy to follow Buy American Act

*The Day (New London, Conn.)*

Sen. Chris Murphy complained to Defense Secretary Ash Carter about military purchasing.

The Connecticut Democrat wrote to Carter about an August 2015 report by the Defense Department's inspector general that looked at the Navy's compliance with Buy American laws.

Naval contracting personnel failed to assess whether suppliers could provide items produced in the U.S., and, in some cases, were unaware of the Buy American Act and the Berry Amendment, the report found.

Buy American requires the government to give preference to American suppliers for bulk purchases of more than \$3,000,

and the Berry Amendment, which applies to purchases of at least \$150,000, prevents the DOD from buying certain products, such as clothing and textiles, outside of the country.

The 2014 National Defense Authorization Act requires periodic audits of contracting practices related to procurement.

The report says naval contracting personnel, civilian and military, did not consistently comply with the Berry Amendment for 11 of 23 contracts.

The report also found that Navy and Marine Corps contracting personnel did not ensure compliance with the Buy American Act for 12 of 32 contracts reviewed for compliance with that law.

# More rain in the forecast for waterlogged East Coast

*Associated Press*

Unrelenting rain across the East Coast showed little sign of let-up early Saturday, with record-setting precipitation expected to prolong the sappy misery.

A flash-flood warning was in effect in parts of South Carolina, where authorities shut down the Charleston peninsula to motorists.

Several feet of water had caused vehicles to stall in downtown Charleston, and water has inundated some homes and buildings in the area.

At least 2 to 4 additional inches of rain was expected by noon.

Coastal flooding remained a threat, particularly in the Virginia Beach area and the Outer

Banks of North Carolina. The weather service issued a warning for residents living along the coast to be alert for rising water. High water and high waves could result in beach erosion and damage to docks and piers.

The rain levels had the potential to be "life threatening and historic," the National Weather Service said on its website.

Once the rain ends, the flooding threat persists because the ground is too saturated to absorb water. High winds could bring down trees. Flood watches and warnings also are in effect in Delaware and parts of New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia.

Meteorologists said the Carolinas will probably get the worst of it, including possible landslides in the mountains.

# Inside Oakland's Black Hole

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Their reputation is notorious, these NFL versions of hooligans, the action on the field often a sidelight to more vicious violence in the stands.

Some of them are downright scary looking, dressed in black, covered with piercings, neck and face tattoos, scowls straight off a mug shot.

But as a buddy and I waded into the depths of Oakland Coliseum's Black Hole, a sense of camaraderie, not fear enveloped us.

"I feel comfortable here," I said.

"These are our people," Peter Elorduy responded.

He nailed it.

As kids, Elorduy and I rode to Raiders games with our dads to watch the Snake, the Ghost and the Mad Stork. We reconnected when Kenny Stabler died and decided to take in a game in case the Raiders do in fact move to Los Angeles.

The Black Hole was the only option.

The south end zone sections of Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum are known to have some of the rowdiest fans in American sports, face painters who dress up in evil costumes, often with spike-covered shoulder pads. They are known for hurling vitriol, sometimes other things.

Friends joked to be safe. We weren't laughing; stabbings and beatings took place down there back in the day.

Black Hole hospitality first hit in the parking lot for the Sept. 20 game against the Baltimore Ravens. That's where a guy in a Ravens jersey made the dubious decision to walk through a narrow tailgating alley, about a half-dozen rough-looking dudes pointing fingers in his face, shouting things unfit for print as he walked.

Inside the stadium, it felt like walking into a bug zapper. Walking through claustrophobia-inducing concourses had a mosh-pit feel, adrenaline building with

each shoulder bump.

Shouts of "Rayyy-derrrs!" echoed out, answered in the distance, a football version of Marco Polo.

The Black Hole's energy sucked us in walking to our seats. The true Black Hole is in the lower half of the section and we sat in the back row — good view, easy escape if things got ugly.

An Al Davis lookalike walked by, complete with the white sweat suit, square-rimmed glasses and gaudy jewelry. Raider Juice, the Black Hole version of Beetlejuice, sported a black-and-white striped suit and an every-direction white wig.

Another face painter added skulls dangling from hooks to his spiked shoulder pads, with the strange addition of a beret. One guy had a silver-and-black luchador mask, though I imagined his head looked like a raisin after being in the hot sun all day.

Ravens kicker Justin Tucker missed on a practice field goal in warm-ups, firing up the Black Hole venom. AC/DC's "Hell's Bells" blared for the first of at least a dozen times during introductions.

The crowd still buzzing, Oakland's Amari Cooper broke off toward us for a long touchdown. Black Hole fans jumped up as if they had been chosen for The Price is Right, high-fiving anyone within reach.

Pandemonium followed when the Ravens lost a fumble on their first play, firing up the high-five windmills again.

A field goal made it 10-0 in the opening 4 minutes. It felt like the Black Hole fans were ready to charge the field right then.

But as the game progressed, it became apparent that Oakland's defense could not stop the Ravens.

The Raider version of "We're No. 1" began to wave throughout the Black Hole.

No matter how bad it got, though, the fans kept their cool — at least toward each other. Could have been the heat. Possibly because it might be the team's last season in Oakland. Maybe the brawl-

ers had the day off.

Whatever it was, the civility was a little surprising.

The Raiders' offense keeping them in the game helped; none of us expected that after their opening debacle against Cincinnati.

But with Oakland leading 30-20 after three quarters, a familiar pall fell over the Black Hole.

The Ravens kicked a field goal, tied the game on a touchdown.

"We've seen this script before," I leaned over and told Elorduy.

Yep. Derek Carr threw an interception, the Ravens kicked a field goal to take the lead.

Raiders fans have been beaten down over the years — this is a team that once lost because its long snapper was hurt — and we all knew there was no way they would march for a tying field goal, much less a winning touchdown.

A big play followed. Then another.

The Black Hole became frenzied, yet there still was the feeling a chicken would run onto the field and scare the Raiders into a fumble. "Just Find a Way to Lose, Baby" had become the team's unofficial catchphrase over the years, so it was hard to blame us.

Then it happened. Receiver Seth Roberts caught a short pass over the middle and fell into the end zone.

Raiders Win!

The Black Hole pulsated. Arms flew in the air. Wild high fives followed, some off the mark in the rush of excitement.

There were even, gulp, hugs in the Hole.

Elorduy and I bailed quickly, racing to beat the crowd. Adrenaline surged as we slapped hands with fans, security guards — anyone who put a hand up.

Walking along an overpass to the BART station, a fan on the platform hung over the rail and let out a bellow: "Rayyy-derrrs!"

Of course, someone answered.

## New book: Louisville hired escorts for recruits

Associated Press

A book by an escort alleging that former Louisville staffer Andre McGee brought escorts into dorm parties, and paid for the women to strip and have sex with the Cardinals' recruits, their fathers and players is available online.

Louisville is investigating allegations by Katina Powell in the upcoming book, "Breaking Cardinal Rules: Basketball and the Escort Queen," from a publishing affiliate of the Indianapolis Business Journal. The 104-page book was available early Saturday, but some details were published on the Journal's web site on Friday.

The escort said during a four-year period many of the activities took place in the players' dormitory.

Louisville officials say they learned of the allegations in late August and immediately notified the NCAA. McGee left Louisville in 2014 to become an assistant at Missouri-Kansas City. That school put McGee on paid leave Friday night and issued a statement saying the allegations were being taken seriously.

The age of consent to have sexual intercourse in Kentucky is 16, though in some instances it could be 18. It is unclear if a criminal investigation has also been launched in light of the allegations.

Louisville Metro police spokeswoman Alicia Smiley said she was unaware of any investigation by the department, saying it was an issue to be handled by campus police.

University police operator Peter Anderson said he was unaware of the allegations and that no staffers were available to comment. Cardinals basketball spokesman Kenny Klein initially notified the compliance office about the allegations, but said he didn't know if police are involved.

Cardinals coach Rick Pitino said that when he first found out he tried to conduct his own investigation before being rebuffed by the school's compliance office.

Pitino said McGee denied the allegations in a brief conversation.

Louisville retained Chuck Smrt of the Compliance Group, which assists schools in NCAA cases, to review the allegations.

"Chuck is the quarterback of this entire project," Louisville athletic director Tom Jurich said. "Chuck knows he's the most well-respected person, probably, within the NCAA and the NCAA has been involved every step of the way. We're an open book."

The Journal's summary of the book said that Powell brought women to 22 parties from 2010 to 2014 at Billy Minardi Hall, which houses Cardinals basketball players.

The woman said that she and three of her daughters, along with other women, danced and stripped for Louisville recruits and players and performed sex acts with them, according to the book. Powell, 43, also said McGee offered recruits alcohol at those parties.

McGee played for Louisville from 2005-09 and started 57 games during his career.

## Cowboys defense must bounce back

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Dallas defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli isn't looking for a turnaround from a unit that crumbled against Atlanta after a strong start the first two weeks of the season.

That's because he never is. Good game or bad, Marinelli still preaches preparation, technique and repetition.

"I know it sounds boring. I am boring," Marinelli said. "But I'm telling you the truth. Hey, correct this, do this right and now get it going and get on the field and make our corrections and improve our executions."

Reinforcements are coming this week and next as the Cowboys (2-1) return to the site of perhaps the worst defensive day in franchise history at New Orleans two years ago. The visit to the Saints (0-3) on Sunday night comes after the Falcons scored three straight touchdowns in the second half behind star receiver Julio

Jones and fill-in running back Devonta Freeman.

The same group that held Chip Kelly's Philadelphia offense to 7 yards rushing in a 20-10 victory gave up 158 yards and couldn't hold three 14-point leads in the 39-28 loss to Atlanta. There was one difference, with defensive end Jeremy Mincey sitting out with a concussion.

Mincey cleared the concussion protocol this week and is expected to play in New Orleans.

"Mentality is everything," he said. "That is one of my gifts, mentality, bring guys with me with the energy. I real do feel like my teammates missed that."

Dallas is going into the last game before linebacker Rolando McClain and defensive end Greg Hardy return from four-game suspensions — McClain for a substance-abuse violation, and Hardy for a domestic violence case.

With Mincey sidelined against Atlanta along with rookie defensive end Randy

Gregory (sprained ankle that will keep him out for the third straight game), the Cowboys didn't have the numbers they were used to with the rotation in the defensive line.

Defensive tackle Nick Hayden said that didn't matter.

"I don't think the focus was there," Hayden said. "We always preach technique, speed, be disciplined in our gaps, and we didn't have any of that."

The Cowboys didn't have much of anything the last time they visited the Saints in 2013. Dallas gave up an NFL-record 40 first downs and a franchise-record 625 yards in a 49-17 loss to Drew Brees' team.

This time, the Cowboys aren't certain Brees will start because he missed last week's 27-22 loss to Carolina with a bruised right rotator cuff. He took first-team snaps this week and was listed as probable on the injury report Friday.



## Ship's Store official new car program

Exclusive Navy at-sea offers:

www.navyauto.com or nasinfo@navyauto.com

# Astros still 1 up in wild card

Associated Press

PHOENIX — A playoff berth tantalizingly close, the Houston Astros sent their ace to the mound seeking his 20th victory.

And broke loose for the highest-scoring game in team history.

Dallas Keuchel became the AL's first 20-game winner and the Astros routed the Arizona Diamondbacks 21-5 Friday night.

"We showed up at the right time," manager A.J. Hinch said.

Hinch had worried about playing without a designated hitter during this final series because he's in an NL park. At least on this night, he needn't have.

"I don't want to play the National League style at the end of the season because I want the DH," he said, "but this game is crazy. Sometimes strange things happen. This is a hitter-friendly park with the roof open, and we came out swinging and did a lot of damage."

The Astros have won five of six and held their one-game edge over the Los Angeles Angels for the second AL wild card. Minnesota fell two behind.

Houston trails AL West leader Texas by two games with two to play.

Keuchel (20-8) gave up two runs and six hits in six innings, becoming the Astros' first 20-game winner since Roy Oswalt went 20-12 in 2005.

The left-hander downplayed the

achievement.

"It's nice to get a win," Keuchel said, "and it's nice to be appreciated, but we've still got a lot of work to do."

The AL wild-card game is scheduled for Tuesday, and the Yankees have already clinched a spot. If Keuchel pitches, it would mark the first time the All-Star lefty has started on three days' rest.

Hinch didn't want to talk about that. Asked if he was comfortable with Keuchel pitching Tuesday, the manager said: "To be honest with you I'm comfortable with (Collin) McHugh pitching tomorrow in a really important game. That's as far as I'll look."

Carlos Correa hit a solo homer, bases-loaded triple and scored four times. George Springer, Colby Rasmus and Luis Valbuena homered as Houston surpassed its previous high of 19 runs set twice, most recently against Pittsburgh in 1999.

Springer and Rasmus also scored four times each as the Astros got a season-high 19 hits.

Keuchel is the 10th Astros pitcher, and second Houston left-hander, to win 20 games. Lefty Mike Hampton was 22-4 in 1999.

Keuchel became the second 20-game winner in the majors. The Chicago Cubs' Jake Arrieta won his 22nd on Friday. Rubby De La Rosa (14-9) lasted three innings.

Arizona committed a season-worst four

errors that led to five unearned runs. The Diamondbacks set a club record for runs allowed, topping the 20 they gave up at Colorado in 2003.

"We just couldn't slow them down," manager Chip Hale said. "Tonight we will take a shower and get rid of this game and have a better one tomorrow."

Peter O'Brien, a top Arizona prospect and a September call-up, hit a 471-foot shot into the picnic area in left field off Keuchel for his first big league home run. "That was one of the few bright spots," Hale said.

Errors by Arizona third baseman Aaron Hill and left fielder Yasmany Tomas cleared the way for five runs in the first two innings. The Astros built a 10-2 lead through six, then entered club-record territory with a seven-run seventh and four-run eighth.

Springer's headfirst slide just beat right fielder Socrates Brito's throw at the plate for a run in the first. Twenty more followed.

Houston improved to 15-3 in interleague games, 7-1 on the road.

**Playoff possibilities:** In case of a tiebreaker game for the wild-card berth, Houston would travel to Minnesota if it's the Twins; the Astros would be home if it's the Angels. Houston last made the postseason in 2005 when the club was still in the National League.

# LA stays between Rangers, AL West

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — With Mike Trout and Albert Pujols leading the way, the Los Angeles Angels are still in the chase for a playoff spot.

Trout hit a leadoff triple in the ninth inning and scored on Pujols' tiebreaking single for a 2-1 victory Friday night in Texas, keeping the Rangers from clinching the AL West title that Los Angeles won last season.

"We can't lose anymore. Plain and simple," Trout said. "We've got to fight to the end ... try to get to the postseason."

Los Angeles remained a game behind Houston in the race for the second AL wild card spot after the Astros won 21-5 at Arizona later Friday night. But the Angels are a game up on Minnesota after the Twins lost at home to AL Central champion Kansas City.

Already assured a playoff spot, the Rangers could have won the division with a win over the Angels on Friday night, or a loss by the Astros.

But the champagne was put back on ice and the Rangers didn't even wait around to see what happened with the Astros. Especially with their game Saturday set for noon local time.

By time the scheduled postgame fireworks show was over, after most of the Rangers players had already left the ballpark, Houston already led 7-2 in the sixth inning at Arizona.

"Turn the page, come back tomorrow and be aggressive," shortstop Elvis Andrus said.

Rangers closer Shawn Tolleson (6-4) appeared in his fourth consecutive game. Trout hit the second pitch deep into the right-center gap, then slid headfirst into third base before emphatically pumping his right arm toward his teammates in the dugout.

"He did a good job of staying back and going the other way," Tolleson said. "They asked me how I felt today and I told them I felt really good. And I did."

Pujols followed with a soft single to left field on the next pitch.

"Anytime Mike's swinging the bat for us it's important," Sciosia said. "We need to get everybody swinging, but particularly Mike."

The Angels have won eight of their last 10 games, but their 5-3 loss Thursday in the opener of the four-game series assured Texas a playoff spot.

Mike Morin (4-2), the fourth Angels pitcher, retired the only batter he faced when Adrian Beltre grounded out to end the eighth.

Joe Smith worked a perfect ninth for his fourth save, including a strikeout of slugger Josh Hamilton, who was traded from Los Angeles back to Texas in April. Smith had faced only one batter since a foot injury Sept. 17 before taking over in the ninth.

Shin-Soo Choo matched his career high with his 22nd homer leading off the Texas fourth to tie the game at 1.

He also had a nice defensive play, catching Trout's slicing fly while running into the right-field corner to start the sixth.

Erick Aybar singled on the first pitch of the game, advancing on Pujols' single before scoring on C.J. Cron's hit for a 1-0 lead off Rangers left-hander Martin Perez. But Perez then retired 19 of the last 21 batters he faced.

# KC deals big blow to Twins' playoff hopes

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Ben Zobrist put a major dent in Minnesota's postseason bid with an RBI double in the eighth inning against struggling All-Star Glen Perkins, and the Kansas City Royals topped the Twins 3-1 on Friday night.

Perkins, hampered by neck and back trouble that led to his removal from the closer role, spoiled a stellar start by Ervin Santana (7-5) with a first-pitch fastball that Zobrist drove off the wall in right-center field. Zobrist then scored when right fielder Torii Hunter fumbled a single by Mike Moustakas, another blemish on an awful second half for Perkins.

The Twins began the day trailing Houston by one game and tied with Los Angeles in the AL wild-card race, and with only two days left to make up ground this was as devastating a defeat as they've had in 2015. The Angels beat Texas, pulling ahead of the Twins, and the Astros routed the Diamondbacks.

Chris Young gave the defending AL champion Royals another reason to consider him for the postseason rotation, allowing an RBI single by Aaron Hicks in the third. The 36-year-old gave up four hits in 6 1/3 innings, retiring 15 out of 16 batters at one point. In three starts against the Twins this season, Young surrendered just two runs and 11 hits in 18 innings.

Louis Coleman (1-0), Ryan Madson and Wade Davis wrapped up the win, with Davis notching his 16th save in 17 attempts.

Santana didn't join the Twins until July 4, due to the positive test for a performance-enhancing drug that made him ineligible for the postseason, but he gave them quite the push down the stretch while most of the rest of the rotation stumbled to the finish.

Over his last seven turns, Santana logged 50 innings with a 1.62 ERA while the Twins went 5-2.

Santana only had more than one man on base in the third, when Jarrod Dyson hit a

leadoff double and eventually scored on a grounder by Eric Hosmer.

**Blue Jays 8, Rays 4:** Troy Tulowitzki doubled and singled in his return to the lineup after missing three weeks with injuries as American League East champion Toronto rallied past host Tampa Bay. Tulowitzki went 2-for-5 and scored a run.

Edwin Encarnacion and Russell Martin homered for the Blue Jays, who started the day tied with Kansas City in the race for the AL's best record and home-field advantage throughout the postseason.

**Cubs 6, Brewers 1:** Jake Arrieta (22-6) struck out seven batters in six strong innings as visiting Chicago tried to keep up with Pittsburgh in the race to host the NL wild card game.

Anthony Rizzo had two hits and three RBIs, including a solo homer into the Cubs' bullpen in right in the fourth off Ariel Pena (2-1).

**Indians 6, Red Sox 2:** Josh Tomlin (7-2) pitched into the seventh inning and Carlos Santana drove in three runs with a bases-loaded double, leading host Cleveland over Boston.

Tomlin made one mistake — a two-run homer by David Ortiz in the fourth — in 6 1/3 innings. The right-hander struck out five and allowed five hits.

**White Sox 2, Tigers 1:** Chris Sale (13-11) allowed one run over seven-plus innings and set a Chicago season strikeout record when he got James McCann looking during the second inning for his 270th strikeout in a victory over visiting Detroit.

Sale began the game with 267 strikeouts and broke the mark set by Hall of Famer Ed Walsh in 1908 when he struck out 269 batters.

**Braves 4, Cardinals 0:** Julio Teheran (11-8) pitched six strong innings and Daniel Castro drove in two runs as host Atlanta beat St. Louis.

The Cardinals, who open the postseason at home next Friday, were coming

off a three-game series win at Pittsburgh that secured their third straight division title.

**Pirates 6, Reds 4 (12):** Starling Marte's two-run homer in the bottom of the 12th inning gave host Pittsburgh the win and extended Cincinnati's losing streak to 13 games.

The Pirates (97-63) maintained a two-game lead over the Chicago Cubs for home-field advantage Wednesday night in the NL wild-card game. Pittsburgh can ensure the game is at PNC Park with a win in either of its two remaining games or one Cubs loss in Milwaukee.

**Dodgers 6, Padres 2:** Corey Seager's two-run single highlighted a five-run third inning as host Los Angeles beat San Diego to take a half-game lead over the Mets for home-field advantage in their upcoming playoff series.

The Dodgers improved to 90-70 — their third straight season with as many wins — after the Mets (89-70) got rained out earlier. New York, however, holds the tiebreaker because it won the season series. The teams will meet in the NL Division Series starting next Friday.

**Athletics 4, Mariners 2:** Danny Valencia hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning, lifting visiting Oakland past Seattle.

Josh Reddick opened the eighth with a single off reliever Danny Farquhar (1-8). Valencia, who had three hits, followed with his career-high 17th homer deep into the left-center field bleachers.

**Rockies 9, Giants 3:** Nolan Arenado hit his NL-leading 42nd home run and broke the major league record for extra-base hits in a season by a third baseman as visiting Colorado ended a three-game losing streak.

Corey Dickerson added his third homer in eight games for the Rockies. Carlos Gonzalez had an RBI single and winning pitcher Kyle Kendrick walked and scored as part of a five-run third inning when Colorado broke the game open.