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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Politics not part of Philippines exercise

By Seth Robson

Stars and Stripes

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines — Political acrimony at the top didn't trickle down to the troops in the field as the U.S. and the Philippines held what could be their final joint exercise.

With new President Rodrigo Duterte again taking swipes at U.S. counterpart Barack Obama, handshakes and smiles reflected the goodwill between U.S. Marines and their Filipino counterparts after they stormed a beach Friday as part of the PHIBLEX exercise.

"It would be unfortunate if it was the last," said Maj. Roger Hollenbeck, a 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade spokesman at the beach. "PHIBLEX is in its 33rd iteration, but we have been working together for 70 years side-by-side as partner nations."

Duterte, the firebrand mav-

erick who took office June 30, has bristled at what he sees as interference by Obama and the United Nations in his crackdown on drugs, the signature issue of his election campaign, that has left more than 3,000 dead.

He mentioned during a speech Friday that this would be the last exercise with the U.S. and told Washington, former colonial power here, to stop treating the Philippines as a possession.

"Assess yourselves because if you don't, you will lose the Philippines," the Philippine Inquirer quoted Duterte as saying in Davao City.

The U.S. has awkwardly tried to brush off Duterte's rhetoric, which has included calling Obama "the son of a whore," and clearly hoped that other officials would convince him of the value of the military relationship.

Defense Secretary Delfin

Lorenzana told Filipino reporters Friday that plans for joint U.S.-Philippine patrols and naval exercises in the disputed South China Sea have been put on hold, marking the first concrete break in defense cooperation. It is unclear whether a new agreement — signed last year by Duterte's predecessor, that allows U.S. forces to use several bases here — will survive the rancor.

Marines from 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., worked with their Filipino counterparts for several days before the beach assault Friday. Hundreds of troops landed on the west coast of Luzon, the Philippines' main island, in 13 assault amphibious vehicles launched from the dock landing ship USS Germantown as part of PHIBLEX.

Each of the floating armored vehicles transported six Filipi-

no and six American Marines to the shore. As the personnel carriers emerged from the surf and advanced on their tracks across the sand explosives detonated inland to simulate support fire.

Capt. DeWayne Papandrea, 37, the 2-4's air officer, stood on the beach in driving rain with a radio ready to coordinate simulated air raids during the exercise until the rain and fog convinced commanders to go ahead without planes and helicopters.

Sgt. Jacob Hunter, 25, of Easton, Pa., said he and his buddies have been working closely with the Filipino troops.

Hunter said he wasn't aware of Duterte's recent comments. He described the Philippines Marines as "squared away and fun to talk to," and said the troops aren't talking politics in the field. Instead, the Marines are swapping hats and badges, he said.

US strikes aid Afghan forces in Kunduz

By Chad Garland

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. forces say they have conducted roughly two dozen airstrikes in support of Afghan security forces who have been fighting for a week to clear Taliban insurgents from the embattled northern city of Kunduz.

Afghan security forces were leading the fight in Kunduz, Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, a spokesman for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, said Sunday. "U.S. enablers remain prepared to support" the Afghans, he said, but he would not give U.S. troop numbers, citing operational security.

U.S. officials have said the

term "enablers" can refer to either air support or Special Forces members on the ground directing airstrikes. Since Oct. 3, when the Taliban launched a multipronged offensive on the provincial capital, U.S. forces have conducted about 24 airstrikes in Kunduz province, Cleveland said.

Gen. Mohammad Radmanesh, deputy spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry, said U.S. forces were also helping transport large numbers of Afghan troops to the city where fighting continued in outlying areas.

After a week of fighting, U.S.assisted Afghan forces are still working to clear the country's fifth-largest city of insurgents. The militants briefly flew a flag over a main traffic circle — the same place they had raised it when they briefly seized and held the city a year ago. They have since been repelled from the city center.

"We were able to recapture the 1st, 2nd and 4th police districts (headquarters), and also another area called Khaakani, where the fighting was ongoing for several days," Radmanesh said. "Afghan security forces still maintain the control of the areas that were retaken in the first day of the battle."

Initial reports indicated that about 24,000 people had fled Kunduz for the provincial capitals of neighboring Takhar, Balkh and Baghlan provinces, as well as the national capital Kabul, according to the United Nations.

Shelter and food assistance were being provided for those who fled, but "delivery of aid to Kunduz remains highly challenging given the ongoing fighting," said Danielle Moylan, a spokeswoman for the U.N. Office of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan.

The fall of the city of roughly 300,000 to the Taliban in September 2015 marked the first time the insurgents had controlled a major urban center since their ouster in 2001. They held it for roughly two weeks before U.S.-aided Afghan forces retook it.



Indictment: 6 soldiers stole, sold military equipment

By Corey Dickstein

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Six Fort Campbell, Ky., soldiers were indicted on federal conspiracy charges Wednesday on suspicion of stealing more than \$1 million worth of sensitive military gear that was sold on the internet, in some cases to anonymous buyers in foreign countries.

The U.S. Justice Department revealed the indictment Thursday, announcing the soldiers had stolen sensitive items, including gear restricted from use outside official U.S. military duty, and sold them to two civilians who resold the equipment on eBay.

The gear was stolen between 2013 and 2016, according to the indictment, and included sniper telescopes and rifle accessories, machine gun parts and accessories, grenade launcher sights, flight and combat helmets, communication headsets, body armor and medical supplies.

Some of the items "are extraordinarily and inherently dangerous in the wrong hands and outside of the military or police tactical use," U.S. Attorney David Rivera said Thursday during a news conference in Nashville, Tenn.

Army equipment was purchased by and shipped to anonymous eBay customers in countries including Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Malaysia and Mexico, according to the indictment.

The soldiers charged were Sgt. Michael Barlow, 29; Sgt. Jonathan Wolford, 28; Spc. Kyle Heade, 29; Spc. Alexander Hollibaugh, 25; Spc. Dustin Nelson, 22, and Spc. Aaron Warner, 24. Also charged were civilians John Roberts, 26, and Jason Cory Wilson, 42, both of Clarksville, Tenn.

Each of the suspected conspirators was charged with "conspiring to steal or receive U.S. Army property and to sell or convey U.S. Army property without authority." Each faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Barlow was charged with three conspiracy counts.

The two civilians also face additional charges, according to the indictment.

Roberts was charged with 10 counts of wire fraud and one count of violating the Arms Export Control Act. Wilson was charged with seven counts of wire fraud, one count of money laundering and one count of violating the Arms Export Control Act. They face up to 20 years imprisonment on each of those additional counts.

More US forces head to Iraq ahead of fight

Associated Press

CAMP SWIFT, Iraq — Thirteen years ago, Chase Snow's father was among the American troops who moved into the Iraqi city of Mosul during the U.S.-led invasion. Now Snow, a U.S. Army specialist, is deployed in Iraq to help in the fight to retake the city from the Islamic State group.

The assault on Mosul is bringing American forces into their most significant role in Iraq in years, in terms of numbers and presence on the front lines.

The lead-up to the assault has brought some U.S. forces into combat with the militants. Special operations forces carry out raids alongside Iraqi troops inside Islamic State-held territory around Mosul. As Iraqi forces prepare for the operation to retake the city, those raids have increased in frequency, according to a coalition official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. also has sent Apache helicopters to aid in the fight, according to the Pentagon, a step that was not taken when Iraqi forces retook Ramadi and Fallujah.

The number of U.S. troops in Iraq has steadily grown over the past two years to now nearly 6,000 servicemembers, up from almost none following the 2011 withdrawal from Iraq. The latest group, numbering nearly 600, began to deploy in September to Qayyarah Air Base, the facility that is to be the staging ground for the assault on the city.

Besides the hundreds of special operations forces, most of the American personnel operate back from the front lines, coordinating coalition airstrikes, tracking Iraqi ground troops, sharing intelligence and helping plan operations.

U.S. presence at bases closer to Mosul in the lead up to operation is "essential" to the advise-and-assist mission, said U.S. Army Col. Brett Sylvia, the commanding officer at Camp Swift, a small coalition base outside Makhmour, some 45 miles southeast of Mosul.

As of last week, there were 4,565 U.S. troops in Iraq, according to the Pentagon. That doesn't include another 1,500 troops there "on temporary duty."

USS Tennessee makes port stop at UK base

By John Vandiver

Stars and Stripes

The USS Tennessee, a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, arrived Friday in Scotland for a port visit, the first to the United Kingdom's Faslane naval base in a year, U.S. Strategic Command said.

The arrival of the Tennessee, part of the U.S. nuclear arsenal, demonstrates U.S. security commitment to NATO allies.

"The Navy's nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines support our nation's ability to maintain a strong, credible strategic force and enhance and provide for the security and stability of our regional allies," said Adm. Cecil D. Haney, the U.S. Strategic Command commander, in a release. "This visit highlights our special relationship with the U.K., and complements the many exercises, training, operations, and other military cooperation activities conducted between our two nations.

The visit also will provide a respite for the USS Tennessee crew, "who work 24 hours a day,

seven days a week, deterring strategic threats to our collective security," Haney said.

Submarines like the USS Tennessee patrol continuously, according to STRATCOM, which manages a range of efforts including U.S. strategic nuclear deterrence.

The visit of the Tennessee follows the September 2015 port visit at Faslane of the USS Wyoming.

The deployment comes at a time when U.S. military officials have expressed concern about a greater presence of Russian submarines operating around European waters.

In particular, an area of focus for U.S. European Command has been Russia's increased underwater activity around the so-called Giuk gap, an area around Greenland, Iceland and the United Kingdom, where Russian submarines have been a more common presence. EUCOM has sought more naval assets to counter Russian activities.

vandiver.john@stripes.com



Trump seizes on Clinton sex scandal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hours before a critical presidential debate, a damaged but defiant Donald Trump seized on neverproved sexual assault allegations against Hillary Clinton's husband. It was a dramatic escalation of personal attacks as he sought to deflect fallout from his own sexually aggressive comments.

The Republican presidential nominee tweeted a link Sunday to an interview with Juanita Broaddrick, who Trump says "relives brutal rapes." Broaddrick's lawsuit against Bill Clinton accusing him of rape was dismissed in 2001 and criminal charges were never filed. Clinton has denied the allegations.

Trump's risky move comes as he tries to save a flailing campaign facing unprecedented opposition from within his own party. More than two dozen Republican office holders have declared since Friday that they will not vote for Trump. Many have called on him to step aside

after his vulgar descriptions of sexual advances on women were revealed in a recording.

Trump has long hinted he would raise Bill Clinton's sexual history at debates. In what was billed as a videotaped apology, Trump over the weekend said "Bill Clinton has actually abused women" and Hillary Clinton "bullied, attacked, shamed and intimidated" her husband's "victims."

Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Donna Brazille said Hillary Clinton had suffered because of her husband's infidelities and noted that Bill Clinton, who was impeached, has been held accountable.

"There is no accountability for Donald Trump in the — in the ridiculous and sexist things that he has said and racist things that he has said over the past few years," she said on ABC's "This Week."

Outside Trump's small cadre of advisers, support for the businessman was scarce among prominent Republicans following Friday's release of the 2005 videotape.

Trump's own running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, declared he could neither condone nor defend the remarks. Several other Republicans took the extraordinary step of revoking support for their party's nominee. Among them: Ohio Sen. Rob Portman, New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte — both are running for re-election.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., the party's 2008 presidential nominee, became the most senior Republican to abandon Trump.

"There are no excuses for Donald Trump's offensive and demeaning comments in the just released video; no woman should ever be victimized by this kind of inappropriate behavior. He alone bears the burden of his conduct and alone should suffer the consequences," McCain said in a statement.

Republican leaders have scheduled a rare Monday conference call for House GOP lawmakers, who are out on recess. An email obtained by The Associated Press doesn't specify the topic for the call, but rank-and-file lawmakers believe it's about Trump.

The firestorm was sparked by the video obtained Friday by The Washington Post and NBC News. In the video, Trump, who was married to his current wife at the time, is heard describing attempts to have sex with a married woman. He also says that when you're a star, "you can do anything." Trump adds seconds later: "Grab them by the p----. You can do anything." He said of his impulse to kiss beautiful women: "I don't even wait."

The Republican National Committee is considering how to move forward. One possibility: re-directing its expansive political operation away from Trump and toward helping vulnerable congressional candidates. Such a move would leave Trump with virtually no political infrastructure in swing states to ensure his supporters vote.

Diplomat: US will use all tools against N. Korea

By Kim Gamel

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States will use "all the tools" necessary, including military deterrence, against the growing threat from North Korea, a top U.S. diplomat said Sunday.

Samantha Power, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, expressed confidence that Washington will succeed in passing tougher sanctions and other measures being considered by the U.N. Security Council.

But she said the U.S. also was pursuing other options, including diplomatic pressure on nations to further isolate the North Korean regime.

"While Security Council resolutions are one tool in our toolbox ... we are committed to using all the tools in our toolkit to address this serious threat," she told reporters after visiting the demilitarized zone that divides the peninsula.

"Our tools also include the deterrence offered by the U.S, military, which I saw firsthand today at the DMZ," she added.

The U.S. has about 28,500 servicemembers stationed in South Korea as the peninsula remains technically at war after the 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

Power was making her first trip to South Korea since becoming the U.N. ambassador in 2013. Her three-day visit, which began late Saturday, comes as tensions have been rising on the peninsula over North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

North Korea has carried out two nuclear tests this year, most recently last month, along with a series of missile launches that have tested a variety of capabilities.

There has been speculation that the North is gearing up for another nuclear or missile test in connection with Monday's anniversary of the founding of the ruling Workers' Party. Recent satellite photos have shown activity at all three tunnels at the North's underground test site.

Power said the sanctions need time to work, but she also acknowledged that the North has likely exploited humanitarian loopholes that need to be closed.

China, a traditional ally of the North, has

been criticized for not doing enough to enforce the latest round of sanctions imposed in March. And its support for new measures is in question because of disputes over the South China Sea and U.S. plans to deploy a sophisticated missile defense system in the South.

Power met earlier Sunday with newly arrived North Korean defectors living at a resettlement facility run by the South Korean government to help their transition from life in the communist state.

After meeting with the defectors, she flew in a Black Hawk helicopter to the heavily fortified buffer zone, where she toured the Joint Security Area and the peace village of Panmunjom.

Power rejected the idea that President Barack Obama is seen as a lame duck in the region with U.S. elections less than a month away and his term ending in January.

"If anything we see a flurry of enthusiasm by a lot of different countries on a lot of different issues to see what we can get done together between now and Jan. 20," she said.



Matthew triggers flooding in NC

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. — A deteriorating Matthew triggered severe flooding across North Carolina as it made its exit out to sea Sunday, and hundreds of people had to be rescued from their homes and cars. The death toll in the U.S. climbed to at least 15, seven of them in North Carolina.

The storm was stripped of hurricane status just before daybreak, but the crisis — set off by more than a foot of rain — was far from over.

"As the sun shines in North Carolina and blue sky returns, our state is facing major destruction and, sadly, death," Gov. Pat McCrory said as the effects of the deluge became clearer at daylight.

Rivers and creeks overflowed, driving people from their homes and trapping others as much as 100 miles inland.

The unofficial rainfall totals were staggering: 18 inches in Wilmington, 14 inches in Fayetteville and 8 inches in Raleigh.

Shortly before daybreak, the hurricane was downgraded to a post-tropical cyclone. As of 8 a.m. EDT, the storm was cen-

tered about 60 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., moving out to sea. It still had hurricaneforce winds of 75 mph.

Forecasters said North Carolina and Virginia could get even more rain and warned of the danger of life-threatening flooding through Monday night. The storm also killed three in Florida, four in Georgia, and one in South Carolina.

Matthew killed more than 500 people in Haiti last week as it plowed through the Caribbean.

U.S. military installations in North Carolina also were recovering from the storm.

Fort Bragg, near Fayette-ville, N.C., said in a post on its Facebook page Sunday it was scheduled to resume normal operations at noon, though some facilities would remain closed due to damage, and some roads were closed. Liberal leave was in effect for those unable to get to work because of the storm.

At Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, N.C., first responders were "actively working recovery and damage assessments for the installation," where there was significant flooding, according a post

on its Facebook page Sunday. Urging "extreme caution," the post said there were "reports of downed trees, flooded roads, and power outages," though power had been partially restored. A post from Saturday said there were reports of flooding in housing areas and urged residents where water was rising to evacuate.

Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River in Jacksonville, N.C., were working with local authorities to restore power following widespread power loss, said Nat Fahy, a representative for both bases. Once power is restored, possibly by Sunday afternoon, the bases hope to have community service facilities such as Marine Marts and fitness centers up and running, Fahy said, but it was hard to say when the bases would be back to normal operations.

There were reports of moderate localized flooding, though most major roads were drivable. Fahy said there were no reports of injuries, but there was one report of a tree branch falling onto someone's roof.

Stripes staff contributed to this report.

Jay Z backs series about teen held without trial

Associated Press

Jay Z is helping shine a light on prison reform by co-producing an upcoming TV documentary about a young man who spent three years behind bars without trial for allegedly stealing a backpack.

The rapper teamed up with Harvey Weinstein to produce the six-part "TIME: The Kalief Browder Story," which airs in January on Spike TV. It uses first-person accounts, prison footage and cinematic re-creations to explore what Jay Z called a system that's "broken."

Browder was 16 when he was arrested on suspicion of stealing a backpack and sent to the Rikers Island facility in New York for three years. Browder was kept in solitary confinement for 800 days and, according to his lawyer, beaten by inmates and guards. He was never tried and was released in 2013. He killed himself last year at age 22.

Jay Z, attending a press conference Oct. 6 with Browder's mother, the filmmakers and Weinstein, said he hoped Browder's story "inspires others and saves other lives." "I think it's very clear that solitary confinement for a 16-year-old is wrong to every single person in here," he said. "It's inhumane."

The Spike series comes at a time when America's prisons are under scrutiny. The harsh prison sentences in the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 have been debated in the presidential campaign, and a new documentary by Ava DuVernay, "The 13th," delves into mass incarceration and its deep, historical roots in America.

Jay Z said he came across Browder's story in an article in the New Yorker magazine and reached out to the young man, eventually meeting him. "I just wanted to give him words of encouragement," Jay Z said. He wanted to tell him "I'm proud of him for making it through."

Suspect held in killing of two officers

Associated Press

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Police have apprehended the man who fatally shot two officers and wounded another in Palm Springs, Calif., authorities announced Sunday.

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department said on Twitter early Sunday morning that the "suspect has been taken into custody." No further information was immediately available.

Two officers trying to resolve a family dispute were killed Saturday when a man they had been speaking with suddenly pulled out a gun and opened fire, Palm Springs police Chief Bryan Reyes said at a news conference. A third officer was wounded and remained hospitalized.

The chief identified the slain officers as Jose "Gil" Gilbert Vega and Lesley Zerebny.

Zerebny, 27, had been with the department for about 18 months and only recently returned from maternity leave after giving birth to a now-4-month-old daughter. Vega, the father of eight, was a 35-year veteran who planned to retire in December. He had been working overtime on his day off Saturday. The wounded officer's name was not released.

Riverside County SWAT officers quickly sealed off the normally quiet residential neighborhood in this desert resort town as police evacuated some residents. They told others to stay inside their homes, to keep their doors locked and not to open them for anyone until further notice.

Although Reyes didn't identify the shooting suspect, he indicated police had had previous dealings with him. He declined to elaborate, adding that Riverside County sheriff's deputies were now in charge of the investigation.

As the lockdown continued, scores of police officers gathered at Palm Springs Desert Regional Medical Center to offer a somber salute as the bodies of Zerebny and Vega were loaded into white hearses for transportation to a coroner's office.

Meanwhile, in front of police headquarters, scores of local residents gathered to leave flowers, balloons and cards Saturday night.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teacher faces probes over student's dragging

MS GREENVILLE — A Mississippi teacher faces investigations after a video shows her dragging a student by the hair at Greenville High School.

The Delta Democrat-Times reported Kesha Williams posted the video on Facebook Thursday. A second video appears to show the teacher striking the student on the head with a cup. The dragging video has been viewed by millions.

Williams told the newspaper that her daughter, a Greenville sophomore, received videos of the actions recorded sometime after Sept. 21.

Mississippi Department of Education spokeswoman Jean Cook said the state launched a misconduct investigation, which could lead to the teacher's license being suspended or revoked. Greenville school officials and police said they're also investigating.

State's first treatment court for vets to open

NE OMAHA — Douglas County District Court has announced the establishment of the state's first veterans treatment court.

The veterans treatment court is a judicially supervised court designed to hold military veterans responsible and to address their unique needs. The special court is only for veterans accused of nonviolent crimes and who are deemed in need of mental health or substance abuse treatment.

The Nebraska Legislature approved a measure earlier this year to establish the pilot project court in Douglas County.

A formal ceremony to open the court will take place at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 4 in the Legislative Chamber of the Omaha/ Douglas Civic Center.

Police car painted pink for cancer awareness

CEDAR RAPIDS—The Cedar Rapids Police Department has painted one of its black-and-whites pink to honor October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Cedar Rapids television station KGAN reported that the specially painted police car will be driven throughout the month by a patrol sergeant and a Protect, Assist and Listen — or PAL — officer visiting schools throughout the community.

The car also will lead the Especially for You Race Against Breast Cancer 5K on Sunday.

Also, all of the department's marked cars will have pink ribbon magnets on them throughout the month.

2 men arrested over creepy clown hoax

MA FALLRIVER—Two Massachusetts men have been charged for a suspected "creepy clown" hoax.

Fall River police said Ryun Coleman, 26, and Erik Harrison, 22, are accused of wearing clown masks and waving large knives outside a car window.

Police located the car at Harrison's grandfather house, where they found and confiscated five knives, including two meat cleavers.

Harrison said they purchased the masks for a theme party and denied waving the knives. He told WPRI-TV he works as a chef and that the knives were part of a chef's kit in his trunk. He was issued a summons for disorderly conduct and will appear in court Oct. 18.

Coleman was charged with disturbing the peace while armed and disorderly conduct. He was arraigned Friday and was released.

Man survives tumble into trash compactor

TX WICHITA FALLS
— Fire officials in
Texas say a man who apparently was sleeping in a dumpster survived when he and the
trash in the bin were dumped
into a trash truck, compacted
and then hauled to a transfer
station.

Workers at the transfer station in Wichita Falls saw the man tumble Friday from the truck into a large garbage pit.

Emergency responders had to lower a basket into the pit to retrieve the unidentified man, who appeared to be conscious when rescued and was taken to a hospital for evaluation. Officials said the man is in his 60s.

Had workers not seen him fall into the pit, he could have been placed into another compactor before being loaded onto a truck and hauled to a landfill.

Boy, 4, bitten by stingray at zoo

PHOENIX — A 4-year-old boy is recovering after being bitten by a stingray at a Phoenix-area zoo.

Candace Belvedere, of Goodyear, told Phoenix's KPNX-TV that her son, Lukah Hernandez, was at the Stingray Touch Tank at the Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium in Litchfield Park on Tuesday when he was suddenly bitten.

Belvedere says there was a gash on the boy's finger.

Zoo officials say the stingrays do not carry any poison nor do they carry any dangerous bacteria.

But Belvedere took her son to the hospital as a precaution.

She says zoo director Mickey Ollson has since contacted her and apologized.

Ollson also says the zoo will pay for any medical expenses.

Staff say it is rare for the

stingrays to bite.

Touchdown teen with Down syndrome 'King'

NOVI — A suburban Detroit high school student with Down syndrome who recently ran a 36-yard touchdown has been named homecoming king.

Novi senior Robby Heil was crowned Friday night during halftime of his team's losing game against Plymouth Salem. He's a team manager and water distributor.

Robby wore a crown and a sash that read, "Homecoming King 2016." He earned the title by a vote of his classmates.

Robby ran the touchdown last month while his mother, who has cancer, watched from the sidelines. Coach Jeff Burnside put him into the game for the symbolic run into the end zone.

Hungry pigs chomp residents' lawns

CA SAN JOSE — Wild pigs are eating front yards in at least one Northern California neighborhood.

KNTV reported that the pigs strike in the middle of the night, digging up front lawns in the Evergreen neighborhood in South San Jose.

Resident Rod Murchison said there are about 20 wild boars that have destroyed more than half a dozen lawns in the neighborhood over the past week.

Some pigs also have eaten geranium plants.

Residents said they believe the pigs are coming from nearby ranchland.

One resident put up a device that shines a red light, simulating a pig predator, hoping it will be enough to keep the hungry grub hunters away.

From wire reports

Your objective source for military news updated 24/7 from bases around the world.

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Navy edges No. 6 Houston

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — With every Navy touchdown, No. 6 Houston saw its hope of playing for the national championship become a little more distant.

After the Cougars had their quest for an unbeaten season dashed in a 46-40 loss Saturday, all they could do is shrug.

"This one hurts but we still have everything in front of us," Houston coach Tom Herman said. "Our goal, as it is each and every year, is to win our conference championship and go to a New Year's Six bowl game. We have an opportunity to continue that journey."

Will Worth ran for 115 yards and threw for two touchdowns to help the Midshipmen (4-1, 3-0 American Athletic Conference) pull off the upset. Navy hadn't defeated a Top 10 team since 1984, when it topped No. 2 South Carolina in Annapolis.

When it was over, streams of the Navy Brigade stormed the field to surround the players, most of them jumping for joy.

Navy won behind a precise attack that shredded the nation's top-ranked rushing defense. Coming off a 28-14 loss to Air Force, the Midshipmen came in as a 17-point underdog.

"Sometimes you get your butt whipped and you move on," coach Ken Niumatalolo said. "I'm just so proud of the way our guys responded after such a difficult, heart-wrenching, gut-blowing loss last week."

Navy finished with 306 yards rushing, many of them on pitches from Worth as he sprinted laterally along the line. Houston was allowing only 42 yards on the ground per game.

Navy scored three touchdowns in the third quarter — two of them on passes by Worth, the other on Josiah Powell's 34-yard interception return — to take a 41-27 lead.

"We knew last week that we didn't play our best, and the scoreboard showed that," Worth

Houston committed three turnovers, gave up two points on a poor snap in punt formation and simply couldn't find a way to stop Navy's triple option.

"We didn't play very well in any phase of the game and we still had a chance to win it there in the fourth quarter," Herman said. "You're not going to win very many games against really good teams on the road turning the ball over three times, one for a touchdown, snapping the ball over the punter's head and letting them rush for 300 yards."

Houston's sloppiest performance of the season came in a driving rain. The Cougars (5-1, 2-1) gave up more points than in their previous four games combined.

Though the game was a sellout, thousands of fans failed to show because of the weather. Those who took their seats realized an upset was possible after first half ended tied at 20.

Houston had won 19 of its last 20 games, including a 52-31 blowout of Navy last year. But on this day, the Cougars lost despite compiling a whopping 484 yards in offense.

The Superintendent of the Naval Academy announced there would be no school Tuesday "in honor of the win."

touchdowns in leading the Cowboys over Air Force 35-26 Saturday. Allen completed 15 of 27

passes for 173 yards for Wyoming (4-2, 2-0 Mountain West). He had TD passes of 17 yards to Tanner Gentry, 20 yards to Jake Maulhardt and 32 yards to Jacob Hollister.

Wyoming, Allen top

Air Force

Associated Press

its second Colorado opponent in

as many weeks is big in more

ways than one for a young Wyo-

ming program that won just

Wyoming quarterback Josh

Allen said wins against Air

Force on Saturday and against

Colorado State the previous

week are important not only

to the Cowboys program as a

whole but to the many players

on the Wyoming roster who hail

from neighboring Colorado and

may have not been recruited by

heated tension, I guess, be-

tween us and Colorado teams,"

said Allen, who threw for three

"Obviously there's some

the Colorado teams.

two games last season.

LARAMIE, Wyo. — Beating

After the game, Allen lamented a couple of missed throws to wide-open receivers that would have resulted in big gains.

"We played good enough to win even with those few mistakes that I made," he said.

Allen also rushed for 74 yards, including a 34-yard run to set up a TD that iced the win in the final two minutes.

Falcons safety Weston Steelhammer said Allen is a "very dynamic quarterback both on the ground and through the air."

"He made something out of nothing more than once," he said.

Brian Hill contributed 92 yards and a touchdown on the ground for the Cowboys, who more than tripled the 53 rushing yards Air Force had held its opponents on average in the previous four games.

Blue Devils get past Black Knights

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — As the weather got worse, Corbin McCarthy's smile got bigger. It was going to be a good day for defense, especially Duke's defense.

"It was backyard football," said McCarthy, Duke's senior safety. "Before I even put pads on today, I was a giddy 12-yearold kid. There was barely anyone in the stands, but it didn't matter. It was one of the purest forms of football I've played in a long time, and it felt absolutely great."

Daniel Jones and Parker Boehme each threw a touchdown pass as Duke beat Army 13-6 on Saturday.

The Blue Devils (3-3) jumped out to a 13-0 lead early in the second quarter, and their defense stifled Army's rushing attack to hold on for the victory in pouring rain. Duke caused three turnovers, including a forced fumble by McCarthy to set up his team's first touchdown.

Both teams struggled on offense as Hurricane Matthew made its way through North Carolina. The storm produced stiff wind and driving rain for hours leading up to the game and throughout the contest, making every punt, pass and kick difficult.

The teams combined for 93 passing yards, averaged 3.4 yards per play and had as many punts (17) as first downs.

"Probably the MVP of the day was Matthew, meaning the storm," Duke coach David Cutcliffe said. "He was the baddest dude on the field for both teams. But we got a win when it was not as perfect as you would like."

Andy Davidson rushed for 120 yards, including a 45-yard touchdown run late in the first half, for the Black Knights (3-2).

Army entered the game averaging an FBS-leading 374 rushing yards per game but ran for a season-low 165 yards on 43 attempts against Duke.

Boehme threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to tight end Erich Schneider after Davidson lost a fumble at the Army 9 on the Black Knights' second possession. Jones tossed a 22yard touchdown pass to Aaron Young for Duke's other score.



Texas A&M holds off Volunteers in 20T

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — No. 8 Texas A&M outlasted ninth-ranked Tennessee 45-38 in double overtime Saturday to improve to 6-0 for the first time since 1994 after starting the previous two seasons with five wins before losing.

"It's great," defensive end Myles Garrett said. "We finally got over the hump, the little 5-0 hill that we've been facing every year."

Trevor Knight bulled in for a 1-yard touchdown in the second overtime, and Armani Watts intercepted Joshua Dobbs' pass on the next play for Tennessee's seventh turnover to end the game.

"The big takeaway from this was we were able to withstand some things, not play great but make enough plays to win the game without some of our better players being 100 percent," coach Kevin Sumlin said.

The teams exchanged field goals in the first overtime.

Knight threw for 239 yards and two

touchdowns and ran for 110 yards and three more scores.

The Volunteers (5-1, 2-1 Southeastern Conference) had rallied from double-digit deficits to win four of their last five games, including last week's last-play victory over Georgia. They trailed by 21 points in the third quarter Saturday thanks to six turnovers before tying it on Alvin Kamara's 18-yard touchdown reception with 41 seconds left.

"Proud of the resolve, but the turnovers didn't give us an opportunity," Tennessee coach Butch Jones said.

The seven turnovers were the most A&M had forced since 2005 and their five fumble recoveries were the most since 1997.

Texas A&M (6-0, 4-0) had a chance to win it in regulation, but Daniel LaCamera's 38-yard field goal attempt sailed wide left.

The Aggies could have put this one away with less than 2 minutes remaining, but freshman Trayveon Williams had the ball knocked from his hands and out of the

back of the end zone just before he crossed the goal line on a 71-yard run. Williams finished with 217 yards rushing, a school record for a true freshman.

Texas A&M was facing third-and-2 when Knight dashed 62 yards for a touchdown that pushed the lead to 35-21 with about three minutes left. Kamara's 4-yard run about a minute later made it a one-score game.

The Aggies built a 21-7 lead in the first quarter after three fumbles by Tennessee. Knight threw touchdown passes of 13 and 2 yards and had a 7-yard TD run in the opening frame.

Saturday continued a trend of bad starts for the Volunteers, who have been outscored 62-17 in the first quarter this season.

Dobbs finished with 398 yards passing and a touchdown and Kamara stepped up with leading-rusher Jalen Hurd out, finishing with 161 yards receiving and a touchdown and 127 yards rushing and two more scores.

FSU escapes Miami with win after blocked PAT

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — An unlikely kick a week ago doomed Florida State.

An unlikely blocked kick now might have saved the Seminoles' season.

DeMarcus Walker pushed through the line and blocked Miami kicker Michael Badgley's point-after attempt with 1:38 remaining, and that was the difference as No. 23 Florida State escaped with a 20-19 victory over the 10th-ranked Hurricanes on Saturday night — the Seminoles' seventh straight win over their archrival.

"That's a Florida State-Miami game," Seminoles coach Jimbo Fisher said. "It's great competition. Heck of a game."

Heck of a finish, too.

Walker is from Jacksonville, Fla. — which was hit hard by Hurricane Matthew, and that was on the Florida State star's mind as he lined up for that crucial point-after play.

"I was just so heartbroken with everything that happened," Walker said. "I did it for them."

Dalvin Cook and Kermit

Whitfield had touchdown catches in the third quarter. Deondre Francois, who left in the first half after being shaken up, came back and ended up with 234 yards passing for Florida State (4-2, 1-2 Atlantic Coast Conference).

"My team needed me," Francois said. "The trainers got me right."

The Hurricanes (4-1, 1-1) were in position to tie it after Brad Kaaya connected with Stacy Coley on an 11-yard touchdown pass. But the 6-foot-3 Walker pushed through some blockers and got his arm outstretched just enough to knock away what would have been the tying point from Badgley.

So once again, in a series defined so many times by missed kicks by the Seminoles — like "Wide Right I" in 1991 that wound up helping Miami win the national championship, an accomplishment the Hurricanes celebrated the 25th anniversary of Saturday — there's now a new piece of lore.

"Not being able to protect well enough to kick an extra point is tough," Miami coach Mark Richt said. "Tough for everybody. But, to their credit, somebody cared enough to blast through and get it. It was a great effort on their part."

Florida State saw its 22-game home winning streak end last weekend when North Carolina connected on a 54-yard field goal as time expired. But the streak over Miami lives on.

Cook finished with 150 yards rushing and had a 59-yard scoring catch to spark the Seminoles' second-half surge, and Whitfield's 20-yard catch on his 23rd birthday put Florida State ahead for good.

Coley caught a 21-yard touchdown pass from Kaaya to help Miami take an early 13-0 lead. But for the third straight year, the Hurricanes saw a secondhalf lead slip away. Braxton Berrios set up Coley's second TD catch with a punt return inside the Florida State 20, but it wasn't enough.

"It's a heartbreaker," Kaaya said.

Kaaya lost a molar in the third quarter when he took a helmet-to-helmet hit from Florida State's Matthew Thomas, who was ejected for targeting — the second straight year a Seminoles player was tossed for targeting the Miami quarterback. And in the fourth quarter, Miami's Jamal Carter was thrown out for a targeting hit against Whitfield.

Some Miami fans showered the field with debris at that point, and Richt wasn't happy either

But in the end, it was a kick that decided everything — and the break went Florida State's way.

"This just shows the character and fight these guys have," Cook said. "Hats off to Miami. Great team. They battled."

Poll implications: The second-longest active streak of AP Top 25 poll appearances will live on — since Florida State surely will hold a spot for the 76th straight week after this comeback win. Miami likely would have climbed a spot or two with a victory, though now the Hurricanes will drop several spots when the next installment of the poll comes out Monday.



Cubs one victory from return to NLCS

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Best in the majors during the regular season, the Chicago Cubs are one win from reaching the NL Championship Series for the second straight year.

Travis Wood took over when starter Kyle Hendricks got hurt and became the first relief pitcher since 1924 to hit a post-season home run, helping the Cubs beat the San Francisco Giants 5-2 Saturday night for 2-0 NL Division Series lead.

Madison Bumgarner, coming off a four-hit shutout of the New York Mets in the NL wild card game, tries to save the Giants' season when the series resumes Monday in San Francisco.

Cubs manager Joe Maddon remains wary of the Giants, World Series champions in 2010, '12 and '14.

"You watch how they react to different moments," Maddon said . "They're never panicked. They're never concerned. ... I really believe our guys will come ready to play knowing that they are also. That's just a given."

The Cubs, who start reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Jake Arrieta, are now one win from a matchup with the Los Angeles Dodgers or Washington Nationals. Swept by the New York Mets in last year's NLCS, Chicago led the big leagues with 103 wins during the regular season and is hoping for its first World Series title since 1908.

Ben Zobrist hit a run-scoring single off former Cubs pitcher Jeff Samardzija in the first, and Hendricks added a tworun, bloop single in a three-run second.

The Cubs were leading 4-2 in the fourth when Hendricks left the game with a bruised right forearm after being hit by Angel Pagan's line drive.

Wood struck out Conor Gillaspie to strand Pagan, then sent a one-out offering from George Kontos halfway up the left-field bleachers in the bottom half. The only other reliev-

er to homer in the postseason was the New York Giants' Rosy Ryan in Game 3 of the 1924 World Series.

Given a curtain call by a screaming crowd of 42,392, Wood joined Rick Sutcliffe (1984) and Kerry Wood (2003) as the only Cubs pitchers to go deep in the postseason. Travis Wood has nine regular-season homers in his big league career.

Wood pitched a hitless fifth and was credited with the win. Four more relievers completed Chicago's second straight sixhitter, with Aroldis Chapman throwing 12 of 16 pitches at 100 mph and up for his second consecutive save.

Hendricks, the major league ERA leader, gave up two runs and four hits in $3^2/3$ innings.

"We picked him up tonight, having his injury and stuff and that's what we have done all year long," Wood said. "We pull on each other and end up backing each other up."

Samardzija's first career

playoff start was a short one. The right-hander, who spent his first $6\frac{1}{2}$ seasons with the Cubs, was pinch hit for in the third after allowing four runs and six hits.

Down 4-0, San Francisco scored two in the third when Gregor Blanco doubled in a run and scored on Brandon Belt's sacrifice fly.

"Just can't put your team in that much of a hole early in the game, especially against a good staff like they have over there," Samardzija said. "Like to have that one back, for sure, that one's on me."

Hendricks said his arm "feels pretty good right now" and he hopes to be ready in a few days after X-rays showed no structural damage.

He said he felt pain after a few warmup pitches and exited after a discussion with Maddon.

"He told me if there's anything at all, he didn't want me in there," Hendricks said.

Rosberg extends F1 lead with win in Japan

Associated Press

SUZUKA, Japan — Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg capitalized on a slow start by teammate Lewis Hamilton to win the Japanese Grand Prix on Sunday and widen his lead in the Formula One drivers' championship.

Rosberg, who started from pole position, controlled the race throughout and finished 4.9 seconds ahead of Red Bull driver Max Verstappen, who held off Hamilton in close racing over the final few laps.

"The start went really well," Rosberg said. "Everything went well, and then it was just controlling the pits and the gaps to Max in the race. It was a perfect weekend to win on this legendary track."

With four races remaining Rosberg holds a 33-point lead over Hamilton.

"It's better that way than the other way round but it's still Lewis that's my teammate, so I always need to reckon with him," Rosberg said.

"He's going to be going for it in the last four races. There's still a long way to go."

The result clinched the constructors' championship for Mercedes for the third

year running.

Hamilton, who started second, made another of the poor starts that has been among Mercedes few weak points this season, and dropped back to eighth on the opening lap.

The defending world champion worked his way through the field well. Desperately needing as many points as possible in the championship race, Hamilton attempted a bold passing move on Verstappen on the penultimate lap.

Exiting the Spoon curve just 0.5 seconds back, the Briton tried a move into the chicane but Verstappen blocked his path, and Hamilton was forced up an escape road. Hamilton complained over his team radio that the 19-year-old Dutchman had made his move too late under braking.

"Lewis was pushing really hard," Verstappen said. "He is fighting for the world championship so you are not going to do anything crazy things of course."

Hamilton said his poor start was down to wheel spin, rather than any preoccupation with the damp patch in front of his grid slot due to overnight rain.

I was just working my way up from there

- it was tricky but I did the best I could," Hamilton said. "I'm happy with clawing it back and getting some points, it's good."

It was Rosberg's ninth victory of the season and 23rd in F1, moving the German driver into a tie for 12th place on the all-time list with Nelson Piquet. Rosberg started the previous two races at Suzuka from pole position only to be overtaken by Hamilton.

Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel had an opportunity to pass Hamilton immediately after the second round of pitstops but couldn't do it and finished fourth ahead of teammate Kimi Raikkonen. Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull, who won the previous race in Malaysia, was sixth.

The Force India pair Sergio Perez and Nico Hulkenberg finished seventh and eighth, with the team eking out a 10-point gap over Williams, whose drivers Felipe Massa and Valtteri Bottas finished ninth and 10th on a one-stop strategy.

Every driver finished the race, only the seventh time in 952 world championship races that has happened.

