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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Senators: Claims of war progress ignore reality

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The commander of U.S. Central Command told the Senate on Wednesday that only a handful of U.S.-trained Syrian rebels remain in the fight against the Islamic State — drawing harsh criticism from lawmakers who called the program a “total failure.”

Armed Services Committee members took issue with Gen. Lloyd Austin’s claims that the U.S. was making progress, with Republican lawmakers challenging what they said were overly optimistic war assess-

ments from Austin and Christine Wormuth, the Defense Department’s undersecretary for policy.

“It is a small number,” Austin said when questioned about the Syrian fighters, acknowledging a “slow start” to the program, which is almost a year old. “The ones that are in the fight, we are talking four or five.”

In July, Defense Secretary Ash Carter raised concerns in Congress when he acknowledged just 60 fighters had been trained since the \$500 million program was approved in December. Most of those fighters have been killed or captured after entering the battle.

Pentagon says F-35 tests fell short despite claims

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — When the Marine Corps put its version of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter through a series of tests aboard an amphibious assault ship in the spring, officials said the aircraft performed so well that the service soon declared it ready for combat.

But the Pentagon’s top weapons tester said in a report in July that the exercise was so flawed that it “was not an operational test ... in either a formal or informal sense of the term.” Furthermore, the test “did not — and could not — demonstrate” that the version of the F-35 that was evaluated “is ready for real-world operational deployments, given the way the event was structured.”

For the test, which happened in late May aboard the USS Wasp, to be “bona fide,” it would have had to be under

“conditions that were much more representative of real-world operations than those that were used during this deployment,” Michael Gilmore, director of the Pentagon’s Operational Test and Evaluation Office, wrote in a memo.

The memo, on which Bloomberg had previously reported, was released Monday by the Project on Government Oversight, which said it obtained the document through the Freedom of Information Act.

Among the problems Gilmore cited were the lack of other types of aircraft in the test, which would share space on the flight deck and ground support equipment. He also noted that “key combat mission systems were not installed in the aircraft or were not cleared for use.”

The Marine Corps did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

DOD mulls canceling USS Lyndon Johnson

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Pentagon officials are weighing whether to cancel the last of three ships in General Dynamics Corp.’s \$22 billion program to build new destroyers even though the vessel is already under construction.

Canceling the USS Lyndon B. Johnson, a Zumwalt-class destroyer, is a topic that’s “to be reviewed in the next few weeks” by teams formed by the Pentagon’s independent cost-assessment office, according to a Defense Department briefing document dated Aug. 25. Two officials familiar with the issue confirmed that cancellation discussions are underway although no decision has been made.

The Zumwalt-class destroyer is designed as a multimission land-attack vessel that will use electricity generated by gas turbines to power all of its systems, including weapons. The cancellation discussions, part of planning for the fiscal 2017 budget, are the latest twist for a program that’s been buffeted by delays, rising costs and changing plans.

From an initial 32, the quantity planned was reduced over the years to seven and then three. The estimated procurement cost for all three vessels has increased by 37 percent since 2009 to \$12.3 billion, according to the Congressional Research Service.

The estimated construction cost for the third destroyer, designated DDG-1002, is about \$3.5 billion. A key question is how much of that could be saved by canceling a ship that’s about

41 percent complete, according to the officials, who asked not to be identified discussing internal deliberations.

A practical consideration for Defense Department officials is whether they can get away with canceling the ship considering the program’s strong support in Congress. Lawmakers rejected a Navy plan in 2008 to limit the Zumwalt class to two ships.

The ships are built at General Dynamics’ Bath Iron Works shipyard in Maine. Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the state’s other senator, Republican Susan Collins, heads a Senate Appropriations subcommittee and serves on its defense panel.

Asked about discussions of a potential cancellation, Commander Thurraya Kent, a Navy spokeswoman, said “it would be inappropriate to discuss business-sensitive information or speculate on budget deliberations.”

The ship was reviewed last month as part of a regularly scheduled meeting, and “the internal discussions of this meeting are not publicly releasable,” Kent said in an email.

Lucy Ryan, a General Dynamics spokeswoman, said in an email, “We’re not going to speculate” on any future Navy budget action. “This decision is entirely up to the Navy.”

Maine’s Bangor Daily News reported that defense analysts expect the Pentagon will not cancel the construction — particularly because Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus reportedly committed to building the ship last week.

Navy deal to limit sonar use is OK'd

Associated Press

HONOLULU — The U.S. Navy agreed to limit its use of sonar and other training that inadvertently harms whales, dolphins and other marine mammals off Hawaii and California in a settlement with environmental groups approved Monday.

A centerpiece of the agreement signed by a federal judge in Honolulu includes limits or bans on mid-frequency active sonar and explosives in specified areas around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California, Earthjustice attorney David Henkin said. Some of the training will continue.

Sonar at a great distance can disrupt feeding and communication of marine mammals, and it can cause deafness or death at a closer distance, Henkin said. Four dolphins died in 2011 in San Diego when they got too close to an explosives training exercise, he said.

Lt. Cmdr. Matt Knight, a U.S. Pacific Fleet spokesman, said the settlement preserves key testing and training.

"Recognizing our environmental responsibilities, the Navy has been, and will continue to be, good environmental stewards as we prepare for and conduct missions in support of our national security," Knight said.

Navy pins chief petty officers

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Standing at attention before hundreds of her peers on the most important day of her career, Chief Petty Officer-select Desiree Wade remained calm as her husband fixed two golden anchors to her lapel. The tears would have to wait.

"It was everything that I hoped for, everything that I imagined," she said after the ceremony. "It was perfect."

Wade was just one part of a Navy tradition carried out across the fleet on Wednesday, when thousands of first-class petty officers became newly minted chief petty officers, one of the military's most storied

noncommissioned ranks and a career highlight for those who make the cut. This year, a Navy board reviewed the records of more than 17,600 active-duty E-6s: Less than 25 percent of them — roughly 4,200 sailors — made the cut.

Pinning ceremonies were held Wednesday at overseas bases from Naples to Bahrain and Yokosuka, Japan. Others were conducted at sea, including one held Tuesday on the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, which is conducting airstrikes in Syria and Iraq from the Persian Gulf.

The ceremonies mark the official end of Chief Season, a six-week period of education, mentorship and bonding for the first-class petty officers select-

ed for pinning. Although the Navy has standardized much of the process over the years — and pushed to end extreme hazing that occasionally crops up — traditions persist.

Each chief select still builds a wooden box to carry the charge book, a collection of advice and instructions from other chiefs that once served as the primary source of a petty officer's education before pinning.

The Navy established the chief petty officer rank in 1893 as a middle manager for commands, a link between the officers who give instructions and the enlisted ranks that execute them. Chief petty officers boast the Navy is run through them; "Ask the Chief" is a favorite motto of the rank.

Facebook working on 'dislike' button

The Washington Post

After years of requests from its users, Facebook has confirmed it's working on a "dislike" button.

"People have asked about the dislike button for many years. Today is a special day, because today is the day I can say we're working on it and shipping it," Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said during a live Q&A session Tuesday.

You've long been able to "like" something on Facebook

with the click of a button. But for some content, that doesn't work so well, Zuckerberg acknowledged.

"Not every moment is a good moment," he said. "If you share something that's sad, like a refugee crisis that touches you or a family member passes away — it may not be comfortable to like that post."

The answer to that problem might casually be referred to as a dislike button. But Zuckerberg wanted to avoid creating a

system of Reddit-style up and down votes. And with good reason: Unlike Reddit, Facebook's feed is the product of a sophisticated algorithm, which means it would need to be taught how to handle the new button. Would a torrent of dislikes serve to bury a post in your news feed? Or elevate it?

Facebook's answer seems to be "neither." What the service appears to prefer is something that allows you to express "empathy" with "more options."

'100-year event' flash flood kills 16 at Utah-Ariz. border

Associated Press

HILDALE, Utah — A van and SUV carrying three women and 13 children sat near the widening stream, waiting for the water to recede so they could cross back to their homes in a small, polygamous town on the Utah-Arizona border.

In an instant, floodwaters engulfed them and the vehicles were sucked downstream, bobbing in the turbulent water

before they tumbled over an embankment. Three children survived. Twelve of the 16 are dead and one is missing.

Virginia Black watched in horror from her house as she made a video of the once-in-a-century flash flood. "There goes the van!" Black said in a high-pitched voice. "It went over the thing. Oh dear."

Downstream, people rushed to where the vehicles came to

a stop. One witness described a gruesome scene of body parts, twisted metal and a young boy who somehow survived.

"The little boy was standing there," Yvonne Holm recalled. "He said, 'Are you guys going to help me?'"

Twenty miles north at Zion National Park, the same storms sent flash floods coursing through a narrow canyon, killing four people and leaving

three missing.

Flash floods are not uncommon in the area, but the volume and pace of Monday's rain was a "100-year event" in Hildale, said Brian McInerney, hydrologist with the National Weather Service in Salt Lake City.

The height of the storm lasted about 30 minutes, pouring 1½ inches of rain into a desert-like landscape with little vegetation and steep slopes.

NFL long snappers short on respect

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As the family legend goes, Tanner Purdum was about 3 when he reached down and grabbed a football, crouched and launched it between his legs for the first time.

The ball didn't travel very far, but a long snapper was born.

"For me, I could do that before I could even throw," said Purdum, entering his sixth season with the New York Jets. "Whenever I could do it without falling on my head."

Purdum has followed in a long line of long snappers. His father, a football coach, did it in college. So did his grandfather. His uncles can snap, and so can his sisters.

"It's one of those things," Purdum said with a smile, "that we can all just bring out of the bag of tricks that we can do that other people can't."

Sure, snapping a football looks simple enough, with videos of players zipping footballs through tires and into trash cans or other targets all over the Internet. Long snapping camps have also cropped up around the country, run by current and former pros. But the amount of speed and precision that goes into being a good long snapper might be one of the most underrated and pressure-packed gigs in all of sports.

Some call it a skill, while others consider it an absolute art.

"It's about 50-50," said Tennessee's Beau

Brinkley, entering his fourth NFL season. "I look at it as an art just because of the complexity as well as the simplicity."

NFL teams frequently had players pull double-duty in the past, using an offensive lineman, linebacker or tight end. Today, the role is considered so highly specialized that every team dedicates a roster spot to a player whose primary job is to solely snap the football and help on punt coverage.

"Sometimes guys will look over and say: 'What did you do at practice today?'" said the Giants' Zak DeOssie, in his ninth season. "Then they turn on the film and see me turn around like a crazed animal on punts."

The job requirements include being able to fire a spiral to the punter 15 yards away — 7 or 8 yards to the holder on field goals — between 0.7 and 0.8 seconds.

A long snapper stands with his feet wider than his shoulders, with one of his hands on the laces of the football as if he's going to throw a pass between his legs. The other hand helps guide the ball.

"In college, if you didn't have the laces right, if it wasn't perfect, it was OK as long as the ball is on the spot," said Minnesota's Kevin McDermott, who beat out 12-year veteran Cullen Loeffler for the job this summer. "In the pros, if the ball is an inch too low or high or to the side, you're going to get someone telling you that needs to be better."

A snapper's body weight rests on the balls of his feet, giving him balance and

power. He looks back through his legs at the punter or field-goal holder and straightens his legs as he jumps back to launch the football.

"You've got to do the exact same thing every time," Buffalo's Garrison Sanborn said. "I always use the pendulum theory. You throw that thing this way, and everything's going to scatter. It's got to be in line every single time. Finish with your hands straight through."

Oh, and then you need to block, especially on a field goal, when a long snapper has big, snarling defensive linemen across from him.

"Basically, take a 300-pound bat and slap it across your head and shoulders as soon as you snap the ball," Purdum said. "That's what it's like."

Long snappers are among the lower-paid players in the league, but it's not too shabby a living, either. Brinkley signed a 5-year, \$5.75 million deal with the Titans during the offseason, making him one of 14 long snappers in the league with an average annual salary of at least \$1 million. Three of the 32 snappers are rookies — Cleveland's Charley Hughlett, Kansas City's James Winchester and New England's Joe Cardona — and their average salaries are about \$522,000.

Long snappers are rarely recognized in public.

"I don't think anybody cares to know about long snappers," said Miami's John Denney, entering his 11th NFL season. "There's no glory in long snapping."

DeOssie, whose father Steve was also a long-time NFL long snapper, says he could write a book on the subject.

"No one would read it except for the 31 other guys out there," he joked. "Maybe, not even that."

The job is one of the most tenuous in sports because each snap needs to be perfect. One mistake can make a player infamous.

Trey Junkin spent a 19-year NFL career as a reliable snapper. He was signed out of retirement by the Giants. A botched snap on a field goal that could have won a 2003 wild-card playoff game against San Francisco changed Junkin's reputation forever.

"If you don't know who I am, I've done a really good job," Purdum said. "If you know who I am, it's been a bad day for me."

Long snappers are used to all the jokes that come with playing the position, the wisecracks about having it easier.

"I just say I'm sorry I picked a position a little bit easier than yours," Purdum said. "I thought about it a little longer and I thought the benefits were a little bit better. Until you can come out and do my job, you don't get to say anything."

Denney is 36 and Miami's longest-tenured player, and has no plans on snapping that streak anytime soon.

"The secret is out: It's the best job in sports," Denney said. "I'll milk this cow as long as I can."

Meyer wants more from OSU Clemson coping with roster hits

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Cardale Jones will start. J.T. Barrett will play.

That has not changed at Ohio State after neither quarterback was particularly impressive during one of the more uninspiring 38-point victories a team can have.

"We just weren't — we didn't play very well," coach Urban Meyer said Monday.

This is the world in which No. 1 Ohio State lives: a 38-0 victory against Hawaii just a few days after a rousing Monday night road win at Virginia Tech gets the locals jumpy. And the focus inevitably ends up on the quarterbacks.

Jones went 12-for-18 for 111 yards against the Rainbow Warriors on Saturday. Barrett went 8-for-15 for 70 yards. Neither threw a touchdown pass. So fans online and on talk radio already are wondering if the right player is starting.

"The approach I've taken is Cardale started," Meyer said. "He's the starting quarterback. I met with him yesterday. J.T. has not beat him out yet. He's going to continue to have opportunities to do that because J.T. is a very good player and Cardale's got to perform."

The Buckeyes (2-0) face defending Mid-American Conference champion Northern Illinois (2-0) on Saturday at Ohio Stadium.

While Meyer was not thrilled with his quarterbacks, he seemed more perturbed by the play of his offensive line. The Buckeyes were billed as having one of the top lines in college football, led by tackle Taylor Decker and guard Pat Elflein, two of the nation's best at their positions.

"We are an offensive line driven — absolute offensive line driven program," Meyer said. "Our success over the

last three years and two games is because of our offensive line, and with that comes a lot of responsibility. We expect them to play much better."

Decker said Hawaii's defensive fronts and blitzes gave the line problems. Having a short week to prepare and going from playing Virginia Tech's 4-3 to the Rainbow Warriors' 3-4 alignment did not help.

"There's all the excuses there you could use. We're not going to use those. We expect a high level of execution regardless of a short work week and a quick turnaround from a Bear defense to an odd defense," Decker said. "We just got to get better. I didn't necessarily expect it to be a finished product this early in the season. I did think we played a lot better against Virginia Tech than against Hawaii."

Meyer said he refused to allow his players to get down after a victory, but it was apparent the Buckeyes can use the sluggish outing as a teachable moment.

Meyer made it clear last week after getting back to Columbus in the wee hours of last Tuesday morning, he was not happy about having to get his team ready for a Saturday afternoon game. Getting back to a normal routine should help the Buckeyes.

There was also plenty to be pleased about from the Hawaii game. The defense dominated, especially the secondary. Meyer liked the way Ezekiel Elliott ran.

Still, after eight months of talking about Ohio State's quarterbacks, that conversation is not going to just go away.

"I think we have two excellent quarterbacks, and I expect them to play very well," Meyer said. "Neither of them played very well Saturday. Disappointment, I don't like that word. We've just got to better prepare them."

Clemson coping with roster hits

Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Next man up is more than just coach speak at Clemson, it's the 11th-ranked Tigers' way of life so far this season.

Wide receiver Mike Williams is out indefinitely with a fractured bone in his neck, the latest starter out of the lineup. Clemson has lost at least five expected first-teamers since June to injuries, suspensions or their own choice to leave, a talent drain that's thinned the Tigers depth chart — along with Dabo Swinney's patience.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to grow some guys up," the coach said.

Things started in June with kicker Ammon Lakip's drug arrest. Swinney suspended Lakip for fall camp and the first three games of the season. Soon after, senior left tackle Isaiah Battle entered the NFL supplemental draft.

The Tigers lost experienced linebacker/safety Korrin Wiggins to a torn ACL in August before starting defensive tackle D.J. Reader took an indefinite leave of absence to deal with personal issues.

Add in Williams' loss and Clemson's projected team from spring practice is not the one on the field.

Quarterback Deshaun Watson acknowledged the struggle in losing teammates.

"There are times where you can get frustrated with it, but next man step up," Watson said. "Coach Swinney's motto is that and that's what we've got to do."

Backup defensive end Ebenezzer Ogundeko was dismissed from the team in May because of his arrest for financial transactional fraud. Rising redshirt freshman Korie Rogers left the team in August.



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Rangers take AL West lead

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Adrian Beltre and Prince Fielder teamed up again in a tense Texas showdown, and this time the Rangers overtook the Houston Astros for first place in the AL West.

Beltre's fourth hit Tuesday put the Rangers in position to win in the bottom of the ninth inning a night after Fielder pulled them within a half-game of the Astros with a tiebreaking two-run home run with Beltre aboard in the eighth.

Mitch Moreland's sacrifice fly finished the 6-5 victory Tuesday night.

Eight games back and in third place in the division after losing on Aug. 1, the Rangers have gone 27-14 since. They've won five straight over the Astros, who had been in first place since July 28. Texas won the first two of this four-game series.

"They have fought, scratched, clawed all ways imaginable to get to this point," first-year manager Jeff Banister said. "We're not done done yet. Still got a long ways to go."

Fielder opened the ninth with a single to left off Oliver Perez (0-2), and pinch-run-

ner Drew Stubbs went to third on a single from Beltre, who drove in two runs with a single in the first and a tying double in the fourth.

Moreland sent a 1-0 pitch from Will Harris to Colby Rasmus in shallow center field, but Rasmus' throw was off target and bounced, allowing Stubbs to score easily.

"If I make the absolute perfect throw, I might have a chance at Stubbs," said Rasmus, who had moved over from left field in the eighth. "He can fly. I might have tried too hard to make the perfect throw instead of just throwing it."

Texas closer Shawn Tolleson (6-3) pitched a scoreless ninth as the Rangers (77-67) moved into sole possession of first place for the first time this year, at a season-high 10 games over .500.

The team, citing Elias, said the Rangers joined five teams since 1969 to take the first division lead this late in the season. The most recent was Oakland in 2012 when the A's finished a three-game sweep of the Rangers on the final day of the regular season to win the AL West.

"We're not going to look at us being in first or wherever we're at right now,"

Moreland said. "We've still got a couple of weeks left in the regular season and we're going to continue to focus on each game."

Houston (77-68) holds the second AL wild card, 1 1/2 games ahead of Minnesota after the Twins lost to Detroit 5-4. The Astros have lost six of eight on the road trip and have one of the worst road records in the AL at 29-44.

"This is really intense baseball," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. "It's fun to do it; it's not fun to lose. I felt we deserved a little better fate."

Holland falters: Texas starter Derek Holland couldn't hold a 4-0 lead after the first, immediately allowing the first four hitters to reach in the second before Jake Marisnick's sacrifice squeeze bunt scored Jonathan Villar to get the Astros to 4-3.

Evan Gattis finished the rally in the fourth with a two-out, two-run single for a 5-4 lead. His soft two-strike liner over leaping shortstop Elvis Andrus kept Holland from escaping after the Astros put runners at the corners with nobody out.

NCAA investigates San Diego St. basketball

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — San Diego State's basketball program is under investigation by the NCAA for potential rules violations, according to a report by CBS Sports.

Citing unidentified sources, CBS Sports says the potential violations include possible improper benefits to recruits.

The school said in a statement that "members of the NCAA staff confirmed for the university that they have not commenced a formal investigation. ... San Diego State takes all potential NCAA issues seriously and will cooperate fully with the NCAA."

The NCAA said it couldn't comment on current, pending or potential investigations.

Fisher was hired by SDSU in 1999, two years after he was fired by Michigan because of the program's involvement with booster Ed Martin. Following an NCAA investigation, the school vacated its participation in the Final Four in 1992 and 1993.

Fisher coached Michigan to the 1989 national title.

Lester holds Pirates in complete game

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — J.A. Happ has spent most of the last six weeks doing a pretty solid Jon Lester impersonation.

Pitted against the real thing on Tuesday night, Happ wasn't quite crisp enough on the mound — and his Pittsburgh Pirates teammates not nearly crisp enough at the plate — to produce a doubleheader sweep of Lester and the Chicago Cubs.

Lester limited the Pirates to five hits in a 2-1 win that earned Chicago a needed split if it wants to have any shot at catching the Pirates for the top spot in the NL wild-card chase. Pittsburgh took the opener 5-4 when Pedro Florimon scored on Starling Marte's sacrifice fly in the eighth, but Lester's first complete game for Chicago drew the Cubs back within four games.

"[Lester's] an ace for a reason," Pittsburgh first baseman Michael Morse said. "Guys say they saw him well but he was able to keep it off the barrel."

Lester (10-10) walked one and struck out nine while picking up his 12th career complete game. David Ross and Javier Baez had two hits each for the Cubs.

Happ (9-8) had his five-game winning streak end. Happ pitched in and out of trouble, allowing two runs on eight hits in 5 2/3 innings. Aramis Ramirez had two hits but Pittsburgh's rejiggered lineup mustered little.

The Pirates' best chance came in the seventh. Ramirez led off with a single and moved to third on a single by Francisco Cervelli. Morse worked the count to 3-1 before hitting a sharp grounder to Chicago shortstop Addison Russell, who turned a double play. Lester then hit Sean Rodriguez to put the tying run on first. With the crowd chanting his name, Lester struck out pinch-hitter Jung Ho Kang with catcher David Ross pumping his fist in celebration.

Lester retired the final seven batters he faced, needing only six pitches to navigate the heart of Pittsburgh's order in the ninth.

"Any time you try to see a guy on his game, it's tough," Happ said. "He was tough tonight and just a little bit better

than us."

Nationals 4, Phillies 0: Stephen Strasburg gave up one hit and tied a career-best with 14 strikeouts in eight dominant innings, Bryce Harper hit two homers for visiting Washington.

Strasburg (9-7) allowed only a single to Cody Asche leading off the bottom of the fifth — a hard grounder to right field. He has 27 strikeouts in his last two starts.

The hard-throwing righty struck out the side twice and fanned eight of the last 12 batters he faced. He was still firing 96 mph fastballs in the eighth. Blake Treinen tossed a 1-2-3 ninth to complete the shutout.

Marlins 9, Mets 3: Jacob deGrom was hit hard during a rare dud at home against one of his favorite opponents, and Miami stopped New York's eight-game winning streak.

Royals 2, Indians 0: Kris Medlen pitched five-hit ball over 6 1/3 innings and Alex Rios hit a home run, leading host Kansas City to a win.

Rays 6, Yankees 3: Nick Franklin hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the sixth inning and host Tampa Bay beat AL wild-card leading New York.

Rodriguez hit his 32nd homer this season and 686th of his career off Jake Odorizzi (8-8) in the first hours after the team learned he is playing with a bruised left knee. Rodriguez moved past Craig Biggio into sole possession of 21st place all-time with his 3,061st hit.

Braves 3, Blue Jays 2: Andrelton Simmons' tiebreaking RBI single in the ninth inning snapped a 12-game home losing streak and host Atlanta beat AL East-leading Toronto.

Tigers 5, Twins 4: Victor Martinez had three hits and two RBIs, and visiting Detroit beat Phil Hughes and Minnesota.

James McCann also had three hits for Detroit, and Alfredo Simon (13-9) pitched into the seventh inning. Bruce Rondon allowed a run in the ninth before finishing for his fifth save.

Athletics 17, White Sox 6: Josh Reddick homered and drove in

four runs during a 10-run fourth inning to power visiting Oakland to a rout of Chicago.

Orioles 6, Red Sox 5 (13): Chris Davis singled in the winning run in the 13th inning, and host Baltimore got home runs from Manny Machado and Steve Pearce.

The Orioles have won six of seven to keep alive their narrow shot of earning the second AL wild-card spot.

Cardinals 3, Brewers 1: Jason Heyward hit a line drive two-run homer in the 10th inning to lead visiting St. Louis.

Kevin Siegrist (7-1) pitched the ninth and Trevor Rosenthal the 10th for his 44th save.

Angels 4, Mariners 3: David Murphy hit a three-run homer and Mike Trout added a solo shot to power Los Angeles to a victory over Felix Hernandez and host Seattle.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 4: A.J. Pollock's three-run homer led host Arizona to a victory over San Diego.

Pollock drove the first pitch from reliever Kevin Quackenbush into the left-field seats. Quackenbush had just entered the game for losing pitcher Bud Norris (1-2).

Reds 9, Giants (10): Todd Frazier hit his 34th home run leading off the 10th to make up for a costly throwing error an inning earlier, and visiting Cincinnati held on for a wild victory that snapped San Francisco's four-game winning streak.

Defending World Series champion San Francisco lost for the first time in five games on this key nine-game homestand. The Giants began the night 7 1/2 games behind the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers and 6 1/2 games back of the Cubs for the second wild card.

Rockies 5, Dodgers 4 (16): Nolan Arenado hit his NL-leading 39th home run and visiting Colorado capitalized on a throwing error by rookie shortstop Corey Seager to score three runs in the fourth en route to a victory over Los Angeles.

LA among 5 cities in running for '24 Olympics

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — It's official: five cities are in the running to host the 2024 Olympics.

The IOC announced the final list of bidders Wednesday: Budapest, Hamburg, Los Angeles, Paris and Rome.

There were no surprises as the five previously declared bid cities were on the list.

Toronto decided against a last-minute bid, as did the Azerbaijan capital of Baku.

The IOC will select the host city in September 2017.

Ex-Flyer Gagne retires from NHL with 601 points

PHILADELPHIA — Former Philadelphia Flyers left wing Simon Gagne retired Tuesday after a 14-year career in the NHL.

Gagne, 35, was a four-time All-Star who scored 291 goals and had 310 assists for 601 points. He played 11 seasons with the Flyers, won a Stanley Cup with the Los Angeles Kings in 2012 and also played for Tampa Bay and Boston.

In other NHL news:

■ Montreal Canadiens defenseman P.K. Subban and his foundation donated \$10 million to the Montreal Children's Hospital.

Subban, 26, was drafted by the Canadiens in 2007 and won the Norris Trophy as the NHL's best defenseman in 2013. He is entering his sixth full season with the team.

■ The Chicago Blackhawks have put Patrick Kane on their training camp roster as the star awaits the results of a sexual-assault investigation in Buffalo, N.Y.

Training camp begins Sept. 18 on the Notre Dame campus in South Bend, Ind.

Kane is accused of sexually assaulting a woman last month at his offseason home, a person familiar with the investigation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because police have not revealed details of the case. He has not been charged.