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Cyberattacks, sea dispute top Xi agenda

BY ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — When Chinese President Xi Jinping visits the United States beginning Monday, two security issues are likely to be at the forefront: cyberattacks and tensions over disputed territory in the South China Sea.

The Chinese military and government are suspected of involvement in cyberattacks on U.S. interests, ranging from industrial espionage to the Office of Personnel Management hacks that captured information from millions of people who applied for U.S. security clearances.

Although Beijing has denied any state-sponsorship of cyberattacks, President Barack Obama told servicemembers during a Sept. 11 town hall meeting that China should change its ways.

“We’ve made very clear to the Chinese that there are certain practices that they’re engaging in that we know are emanating from China and are not accept-

able,” Obama said.

“And we can choose to make this an area of competition — which I guarantee you we’ll win if we have to — or, alternatively, we can come to an agreement in which we say, this isn’t helping anybody; let’s instead try to have some basic rules of the road in terms of how we operate.”

What the president didn’t say is what aspects of cyberattacks were ripe for a potential accord, said Graham Webster, senior fellow at Yale Law School’s The China Center.

The U.S., China and other nuclear nations are all developing cyberwarfare capabilities that could be used to undermine nuclear facilities, though such cyberattacks are inherently destabilizing, Webster said.

“Here is something where the two sides, purely out of a mutual self-interest, could sit down and develop a norm,” Webster said.

The two nations could also come to an agreement on commercial espionage, which has targeted defense contractors and technology companies in

recent years.

Politburo member Meng Jizhu met with U.S. officials Sept. 9-12 and achieved an “important consensus” on commercial hacks, according to Chinese media. At the same time, a top Justice Department official postponed a speech on possible sanctions against China, Webster noted.

Webster said it’s very unlikely that any agreements will be forged to prevent incidents like the OPM hack, which compromised the personal information of millions of past and former servicemembers, as well as any character references they listed in their clearance applications.

There isn’t even a consensus within Washington that the OPM data was an illegitimate intelligence target, assuming the Chinese government was involved.

The blame was not on China, but on the U.S. for not playing better defense, retired Air Force Gen. Michael Hayden, who also headed the NSA and the CIA, said at a Wall Street

Journal-sponsored event earlier this year.

“If I as director of CIA or NSA would have had the opportunity to grab the equivalent from the Chinese system, I would not have thought twice,” Hayden said. “I would not have asked permission, I’d have launched the Starfleet and we’d have brought those suckers home at the speed of light.”

Little progress is expected on lingering tensions in the South China Sea, where China is rapidly constructing artificial islands on top of reefs claimed by several other nations, while adding weapons, harbors and military-capable runways.

China holds an ambiguous claim to about 90 percent of the sea and has attempted to regulate its airspace and waterways.

The U.S. and its allies in the region contend that sovereignty of the sea’s many islands must not be decided through the use of force, and that most of the sea must remain free to international navigation and surveillance.

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Former base employee jailed for selling fake USFK jobs

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A former Camp Stanley employee has been sentenced to five years in prison for fraud and related charges after selling nonexistent base jobs to more than two dozen South Koreans.

The employee, surnamed Gang, worked for more than 20 years at the Uijeongbu-area base, most recently as an ambulance driver, before being fired in March over the allegations.

Gang used a U.S. soldier who was unaware of the scam to interview Koreans by phone to test

their English, South Korean police said. More than 30 victims paid him a total of \$750,000 for the fake jobs over six and a half years, according to sentencing documents from the Anyang branch of the Suwon District Court.

He was also convicted of counterfeiting documents and circulating forged documents. He wrote 11 false letters of employment, using a computer at a U.S. military medical facility in Uijeongbu to produce at least one of the letters.

Among his victims was a woman who paid Gang nearly \$21,500 in 2013, believing she

was securing a civilian job for her son with U.S. Forces Korea. Another woman, police said, paid Gang 100 million won (about \$86,000) for administrative jobs for her husband, son and daughter. Gang promised some of his victims he would pay the human resources manager at an Army hospital, and their jobs would be guaranteed until retirement at age 68.

Gang also borrowed about \$2,600 in April 2013, telling his victim he needed the money to settle issues related to a traffic accident caused by a junior staffer. However, no accident had taken place.

The court said it levied a harsh sentence because Gang did not reach financial settlements with his victims, as is customary in South Korea. Some victims experienced economic hardship because they quit their jobs in expectation of employment with the U.S. military, and Gang squandered much of the fraudulently obtained money at a casino.

Competition among South Koreans for civilian jobs with the U.S. military is fierce, with professionals vying for even entry-level positions.

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Calif. fires destroy over 1,000 homes

Associated Press

MIDDLETOWN, Calif. — The tally of homes destroyed by two massive Northern California wildfires topped 1,000 Saturday after authorities doing damage assessments in the Sierra Nevada foothills counted another 250 houses destroyed by flames still threatening thousands of more structures.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Daniel Berlant said the count of 511 homes destroyed by the blaze burning for more than a week in Amador and Calaveras counties comes as firefighters make progress and damage-inspection teams have access to affected areas. Cal Fire had reported 252 homes destroyed as of Friday night by

the fire that has charred 110 square miles.

“Some of the homes are tucked back in rural areas, so it’s taken time to reach them,” Berlant said.

The fire, which killed at least two people, was 67 percent contained but still threatening another 6,400 structures.

A separate blaze in Lake County, about 170 miles northwest, has destroyed 888 structures, at least 585 of them homes. It has killed three people.

Residents of Middletown, the area hardest hit by the fire, were allowed to return home Saturday afternoon.

The Lake County blaze had charred 116 square miles and was 50 percent contained Saturday.

Ariz. freeway shooting suspect says ‘the wrong guy’ in custody

Associated Press

PHOENIX — A landscaper arrested in a series of Phoenix freeway shootings told a judge that authorities have “the wrong guy” as investigators stood by their detective work that traced the gun to the suspect after he took it to a pawn shop.

Leslie Allen Merritt Jr., 21, was charged Saturday with counts including aggravated assault, criminal damage, disorderly conduct, carrying out a drive-by shooting and intentional acts of terrorism.

In a court appearance, a prosecutor said Merritt should face a high bail after drivers spent the last three weeks on edge.

“The suspect presents a dramatic and profound threat to the community,” said Ed Leiter of the Maricopa County attorney’s office.

Superior Court Commissioner Lisa Roberts set bail at \$1 million, and Merritt, who had remained quiet during the proceedings, asked in a soft-spoken voice to address the court.

“All I have to say is I’m the wrong guy. I tried telling the detectives that. My gun’s been in the pawn shop the last two months. I haven’t even had access to a weapon,” he said.

But a charging document released late Saturday night by Maricopa Superior Court said that investigators determined Merritt had not pawned his gun at the time of the incidents.

Merritt was arrested Friday evening after a SWAT team swarmed him at a Wal-Mart in the suburb of Glendale.

Arizona Department of Public Safety spokesman Bart Graves said the break in the case was the result of exhaustive investigative work in which weapons from local pawn shops were test-fired at the state crime lab.

Graves said evidence from shell casings and bullet fragments determined that a gun Merritt pawned was used in four of the shootings on Aug. 29 and 30.

Japan seeks bigger global security role

By ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — In the eyes of opponents, Japan on Saturday tossed away a uniquely pacifist vision in favor of “The War Law.”

To supporters, Japan’s passage of 11 security-related bills marked the moment when Japan took a look around its neighborhood, saw nuclear weapons in North Korea and ballooning military budgets in China, and acted to preserve the region’s security balance.

“The passage of the bills will further ensure the safety of our nation and enable Japan to steadily contribute to international accords and world peace,” Junichi Ishii, a lawmaker with the dominant Liberal Democratic Party, told reporters following the 148-90 upper house Diet vote that enacted the bills into law in the wee hours of the morning Saturday, following a long day of acrimonious debate.

Many in the ruling party stated that the legal changes are actually modest compared with the security laws of other nations.

For example, Japan’s forces may be able to defend a U.S. or other close ally’s ship under attack, but they can’t legally shoot

and kill terrorists overseas without facing criminal charges at home, according to multiple legal scholars.

Even Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who justified the new laws by reinterpreting, rather than amending a constitution that explicitly prohibits “war as a sovereign right of the nation,” made no attempt at legalizing an offensive capability for Japan.

Despite the restrictions, many Japanese expressed fear regarding where Abe’s latest steps may take the country.

A Sept. 14 poll by the Asahi newspaper showed 54 percent opposed the security bills, with 29 percent in favor and the remainder undecided.

President Barack Obama and other U.S. officials have distanced themselves from the domestic debate, but they’ve voiced support for the substance of the laws.

The new security laws allow Japan to defend U.S. forces and weapons platforms, or those of other close allies, if not doing so would threaten Japan’s security. They also allow the Self-Defense Forces to join the U.S. and other allies in peacekeeping operations far beyond Japan’s shores.

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Poll: Americans widely admire Pope Francis

Pope Francis is adored by American Catholics and non-Catholics, who have embraced his optimism, humility and more inclusive tone. But as the 78-year-old pontiff arrives in the United States for his first-ever visit, the public’s view of the Catholic Church is not nearly as favorable, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll.

That gap will be masked by the huge throngs of Catholics

greeting Francis in Washington, New York and Philadelphia. Many of them see him as an agent of change, with a majority of Catholics believing the church is in touch with them.

But in a country moving steadily away from organized religion and with the denomination still haunted by a clergy sexual-abuse scandal, there is no evidence that Francis’s likability has boosted Catholic identification, worship attendance or prayer.

From The Washington Post

Some power teams off to rough start

Associated Press

Take heart, Alabama and Southern California. There is plenty of time to recover.

Auburn, however, might be too far gone.

The second-ranked Crimson Tide and No. 6 Trojans both lost home games to conference rivals Saturday night that certainly won't end their College Football Playoff hopes. But the path to a national championship for two of college football's most storied programs just got a lot tougher.

No. 15 Mississippi went into Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and held on for a 43-37 victory against the sloppy Tide, which turned it over five times.

"I don't know if there's anyone we can beat if we give away 31 points," Alabama coach Nick Saban said.

That makes it two in a row for the Rebels against 'Bama. Last October, the Rebels upset the Tide in Oxford, Mississippi, and Alabama did not lose again in the regular season, winning the Southeastern Conference and making the College Football Playoff.

This felt worse for Alabama because it was at home. Still, it would not be wise to count out the Tide.

Same goes for USC after a 41-31 loss to Stanford that was even more surprising than what happened in Tuscaloosa. Stanford started the season with an ugly offensive performance in a loss at Northwestern, but Kevin Hogan and the Cardinal picked apart the Trojans.

"We've got to grow up," USC linebacker Su'a Cravens said.

The USC fans that have been skeptical about coach Steve Sarkisian's ability to return the Trojans to the top of the Pac-12 have a lot more to complain about.

Both Alabama and USC could still take the Ohio State path to the national championship. The Buckeyes looked done after losing to Virginia Tech at home last season and still raised the national championship trophy.

So just don't lose again. It could be much worse for Alabama and USC. They could be Auburn.

No. 18 Auburn was beaten down 45-21 by No. 13 LSU and tailback Leonard Fournette. Auburn (2-1) was No. 6 to start the season and one of the favorites to

win the Southeastern Conference, even though the Tigers went 8-5 last season.

The conventional wisdom was that new defensive coordinator Will Muschamp would improve the defense and new starting quarterback Jeremy Johnson would take coach Gus Malzahn's spread offense to new heights.

Wrong and wrong.

Auburn looks very much like the team that tanked at the end of last season. Johnson threw for 100 yards and his sixth interception of the season. LSU ran for 411 yards, including 228 on 19 carries by the spectacular Fournette.

"We are going to evaluate everything — at every position," Malzahn said.

Backup plan: No. 8 Notre Dame (3-0) seemed to have big problems after quarterback Malik Zaire was lost to a broken ankle last week. DeShone Kizer saved the day last week against Virginia and looks as though he might just be able to save the season for the Fighting Irish.

Kizer threw for 242 yards and a touchdown and got a lot of help from C.J. Prosise (198 yards rushing and three touchdowns) in a 30-22 victory against No. 14 Georgia Tech (2-1). The Notre Dame

defense also came up big against the Yellow Jackets' triple-option, surrendering 337 yards in all.

Last season, it was Ohio State that made a playoff run with backup quarterbacks leading the way. The Irish look as if they might be able to do the same thing.

As for the top-ranked Buckeyes, they could use either of their star quarterbacks to start playing like star quarterbacks.

Ohio State (3-0) sputtered to a 20-13 victory at home against Northern Illinois. Cardale Jones threw two first-half interceptions and J.T. Barrett finished the game, throwing another pick and directing one touchdown drive. A dominant defensive performance and linebacker Darron Lee's interception return for a touchdown bailed out the Buckeyes.

"It's been a while since we've looked like this," Ohio State coach Urban Meyer said. "So we've got to get it fixed."

With another Mid-American Conference team, Western Michigan, coming to Ohio Stadium next week and a road trip to Indiana after that, Ohio State has some time to improve. Still, it was ugly at the Horseshoe.

How the AP Top 25 college football teams fared

1 No. 1 Ohio State (3-0) beat Northern Illinois 20-13. At Columbus, Ohio, Darron Lee returned an interception 41 yards for a touchdown as top-ranked Ohio State's defense bailed out its struggling, two-quarterback offense. Cardale Jones started for the Buckeyes (3-0) and J.T. Barrett finished, but for the second straight week neither was particularly effective.

Next: vs. Western Michigan, Saturday.

2 Alabama (2-1) lost to No. 15 Mississippi 43-37. At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Jake Coker came up with big plays, and big mistakes in Alabama's loss.

Next: vs. Louisiana-Monroe, Saturday.

3 TCU (3-0) beat SMU 56-37. At Fort Worth, Texas, Trevone Boykin threw for 454 yards and five touchdowns for TCU, and added a highlight scoring run when he ducked out of a sack.

Next: at Texas Tech, Saturday.

4 Michigan State (3-0) beat Air Force 35-21. At East Lansing, Mich., Connor Cook threw for 247 yards and four touchdowns, and Aaron Burbridge caught eight passes for 156 yards and three TDs.

Next: vs. Central Michigan, Saturday.

5 Baylor (2-0) did not play. At Dallas, unhappy with the Bears' first halves in the opening games, Coach Art Briles has the team focusing on turnovers, defensive lapses and penalties during the off week.

Next: vs. Rice, Saturday.

6 Southern Cal (2-1) lost to Stanford 41-31. At Los Angeles, Kevin Hogan passed for 279 yards and two touchdowns, Remound Wright rushed for three more scores and Stanford opened Pac-12 play with a victory.

Next: at Arizona State, Saturday.

7 Georgia (3-0) beat South Carolina 52-20. At Athens, Ga., Greyson Lambert threw for 330 yards, three touchdowns and set

an NCAA record by completing all but one of his 25 passes to lead the Bulldogs.

Next: vs. Southern U., Saturday.

8 Notre Dame (3-0) beat No. 14 Georgia Tech 30-22. At South Bend, Ind., C.J. Prosise ran for 198 yards and three touchdowns, including one for 91 yards, and Notre Dame shut down Georgia Tech's high-powered offense.

Next: vs. UMass, Saturday.

9 Florida State (3-0) beat Boston College 14-0, Friday. At Boston, cornerback Jalen Ramsey returned a fourth-quarter fumble 36 yards for a touchdown to help Florida State to a win.

Next: at Wake Forest, Oct. 3.

10 UCLA (3-0) beat No. 19 BYU 24-23. At Pasadena, Calif., Nate Starks scored on a 3-yard run with 3:25 remaining, Paul Perkins rushed for 219 yards and a touchdown, and UCLA rallied to beat BYU.

Next: at No. 20 Arizona, Saturday.

11 Clemson (3-0) beat Louisville 20-17, Thursday. At Louisville, Ky., Deshaun Watson threw two touchdown passes, Wayne Gallman ran for 139 yards and Clemson held off Louisville in the Atlantic Coast Conference opener for both schools.

Next: vs. No. 8 Notre Dame, Oct. 3.

12 Oregon (2-1) beat Georgia State 61-28. At Eugene, Ore., Jeff Lockie threw for 228 yards and two touchdowns in his first start for Oregon. Lockie replaced Vernon Adams, who was rested with a broken index finger on his throwing hand.

Next: vs. No. 21 Utah, Saturday.

13 LSU (2-0) beat No. 18 Auburn 45-21. At Baton Rouge, La., Leonard Fournette ran for a career-high 228 yards and three touchdowns, and LSU steamrolled Auburn.

Next: at Syracuse, Saturday.

14 Georgia Tech (2-1) lost to No. 8 Notre Dame 30-22. At South Bend, Ind., Patrick Skov scored on catches of 24 and 15 yards in the final minute after the Yellow Jackets recovered an onside kick, but Notre Dame's Torii Hunter Jr. recovered a second onside kick with 21 seconds left to clinch the win.

Next: at Duke, Saturday.

15 Mississippi (3-0) beat No. 2 Alabama 43-37. At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Chad Kelly completed a deflected 66-yard touchdown pass and added two more long ones in the fourth quarter to help Mississippi beat Alabama.

Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Saturday.

16 Oklahoma (3-0) beat Tulsa 52-38. At Norman, Okla., Baker Mayfield threw for 487 yards and four touchdowns and ran for another 85 yards and two scores to power Oklahoma. Mayfield set a school record with 572 total yards.

Next: vs. West Virginia, Oct. 3.

17 Texas A&M (3-0) beat Nevada 44-27. At College Station, Texas, Kyle Allen threw four touchdown passes and ran for a score to lead the Aggies to their 19th straight nonconference victory.

Next: vs. Arkansas at Arlington, Texas, Saturday.

18 Auburn (2-1) lost to No. 13 LSU 45-21. At Baton Rouge, La., Jeremy Johnson passed for 100 yards and two touchdowns, but also threw his sixth interception this season and set up an LSU TD when he fumbled deep in Auburn territory. He was also sacked five times.

Next: vs. Mississippi State, Saturday.

19 BYU (2-1) lost to No. 10 UCLA 24-23. At Pasadena, Calif., Tanner Mangum drove the Cougars to the Bruins 42-yard line, but his fourth-down pass was intercepted by Myles Jack.

Next: at Michigan, Saturday.

20 Arizona (3-0) beat Northern Arizona 77-13. At Tucson, Ariz., Anu Solomon completed 25 of 35 passes for 285 yards and four touchdowns in a little more than a half of play, and Arizona set school records for points and total yards in a rout of Northern Arizona.

Next: vs. No. 10 UCLA, Saturday.

21 Utah (3-0) beat Fresno State 45-24. At Fresno, Calif., Devontae Booker ran for 156 yards and two touchdowns, and Utah had two scores on special teams and one on defense.

Next: at No. 12 Oregon, Saturday.

22 Missouri (3-0) beat UConn 9-6. At Columbia, Mo., Anthony Sherrills' last-minute interception allowed Missouri to hold on against Connecticut in a game that featured four turnovers, two missed field goals and a blocked extra point.

Next: at Kentucky, Saturday.

23 Northwestern (3-0) beat Duke 19-10. At At Durham, N.C., Warren Long ran 55 yards for a touchdown and recovered a fumbled punt return late to help Northwestern beat Duke.

Next: vs. Ball State, Saturday.

24 Wisconsin (2-1) beat Troy 28-3. At Madison, Wis., two-way player Tanner McEvoy had one of Wisconsin's three touchdown runs in a game where two Badgers defenders were ejected for targeting and play was delayed briefly in the fourth quarter because of an errant fire alarm.

Next: vs. Hawaii, Saturday.

25 Oklahoma State (3-0) beat UTSA 69-14. At Stillwater, Okla., Devante Averette scored on a 6-yard fumble return only 45 seconds in, and Oklahoma State forced seven turnovers — all of them leading to points.

Next: at Texas, Saturday.



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Reynolds adds to records

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — It was only fitting that on a momentous day for Navy football, the Midshipmen's record-setting quarterback Keenan Reynolds continued to etch his name in the history books.

Reynolds ran for five touchdowns and 142 yards as Navy dominated East Carolina in its American Athletic Conference debut with a 45-21 victory on Saturday.

Reynolds already owns the NCAA record for rushing touchdowns by a quarterback with 70 and is now fourth overall for the most by any player.

Reynolds has scored three touchdowns or more in 13 games — the most in NCAA history. His five rushing touchdowns is also an AAC record.

"He's so business-like and gets things done," Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said about Reynolds. "There are so many things that happen over the course of the game and he makes it look easy. We're going to be a hard team to defend with Keenan be-

cause he has seen everything."

East Carolina (1-2, 0-1 AAC) had held seven of its past 15 opponents to less than 100 rushing yards. Navy (2-0, 1-0 AAC) had 415 on the ground. Fullback Chris Swain went over 100 yards for the second straight game, finishing with 123 on a career-high 29 carries and a touchdown.

Pirates quarterback Blake Kemp completed 36 of his 49 passes for 325 yards with three touchdowns and an interception. Isaiah Jones caught 10 passes for 130 yards.

In the first half, Navy scored on all of its four possessions on drives of 68, 56, 70 and 85 yards for a 28-14 lead.

"It's just good to get off to a good start in the conference," Reynolds said. "It's just one game and we have another one next week against a tough UConn team."

The Pirates tried to keep Navy off-balance with a no-huddle offense. However, it was the Midshipmen who took the lead on their first possession, helped by runs of 23 and 11 yards by slotback Dishan

Romine. Reynolds capped the drive with a sneak from the one.

East Carolina responded with a 2-yard pass from Kemp to Jimmy Williams with 2:45 left in the first quarter.

The Midshipmen relied on their bruising fullbacks, led by Swain and Quentin Ezell, to control the ground attack. This helped setup Reynolds' second touchdown on a 2-yard dive to open the second quarter.

After East Carolina's Davis Plowman missed a 48-yard field goal attempt, Navy responded with two more touchdowns on 2-yard sneaks by Reynolds and another 4-yard run by Swain.

"Keenan is a fine quarterback and the fullbacks gave us problems," East Carolina coach Ruffin McNeill said. "Keenan has been running this offense for four years, his 33rd straight start. You can tell he's been there and he's tough as all get out."

Navy linebacker Daniel Gonzales was ejected late in the second quarter for targeting. That set up a 17-yard touchdown pass from Kemp to Bryce Williams.

Creamer caps US Solheim Cup victory

ST. LEON-ROT, Germany — Paula Creamer defeated Germany's Sandra Gal to complete a remarkable comeback as United States won the Solheim Cup with a 14½-13½ victory over Europe on Sunday.

Creamer made five birdies in 15 holes to win the final singles match 4 and 3 and give the U.S. its first title since 2009.

Europe led 10-6 going into the 12 singles but could only win three and draw another as the Americans — inspired by a controversial call in the fourballs — claimed 8½ points to deny the Europeans a third straight title.

Caroline Masson of Germany missed the chance to retain the cup for Europe, before Gerina Pillier made her more difficult 9-foot putt to win her match by one hole and keep American hopes alive.

The U.S. extended its series lead to 9-5.

In other golf news:

■ Jason Day shot a 2-under 69 at the BMW Championship in Lake Forest, Ill., good enough to take a six-stroke lead into the final round.

Day made his first bogey in 20 holes at the sixth, then piled on three more to offset a half-dozen birdies.

■ Rikard Karlberg of Sweden beat Martin Kaymer in a sudden death playoff to win the Italian Open on Sunday in Monza, Italy, for his first European Tour victory.

Cardinals clinch despite loss to Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Kris Bryant got another Chicago Cubs rookie record.

Meanwhile, it looks like the Cubs and Cardinals might just want to just get at each other.

Jorge Soler and Bryant hit back-to-back homers, and tempers flared for the second straight game as Chicago beat St. Louis 5-4 on Saturday for its fifth straight win to tighten the NL Central race.

The Cardinals clinched a fifth consecutive postseason berth when the San Francisco Giants lost to the Arizona Diamondbacks 6-0 later in the day.

Chicago is five games behind first-place St. Louis, which got a two-run homer from Matt Carpenter in the ninth. The Cubs entered the contest one game behind Pittsburgh for the top NL wild-card spot.

Cubs pitchers hit St. Louis batters three times. After closer Hector Rondon plunked pinch-hitter Greg Garcia to lead off the ninth with Chicago leading 5-1, both he and manager Joe Maddon were ejected.

"Obviously, we're not trying to do that right there," Maddon said.

After St. Louis' Kolten Wong was hit for a second time in the eighth, plate umpire Bruce Dreckman issued a warning.

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"Obviously, we're not trying to do that right there," Maddon said.

Bryant's drive against the wind and into the last row of the left field bleachers gave him 25 homers and tied the Cubs record for a rookie set by Billy Williams in 1961. Bryant, who sparkled at third base, also drove in a run with a double and scored in the first as he went 2-for-3 with a walk.

"He's been outstanding," Maddon said. "Great defense, wonderful hitting, one of the best baserunners in the National League already. He is the rookie of the

year."

Soler went deep for the first time since missing 23 games with a left oblique strain. Starlin Castro, who had six RBIs on Friday, and Tommy La Stella also drove in runs for Chicago.

Yankees 5, Mets 0: Carlos Beltran hit a three-run homer off a 100 mph (161 kph) fastball from Noah Syndergaard in the first inning and Michael Pineda pitched his best game in two months as the New York Yankees beat the Mets to rebound from an opening loss in the Subway Series.

Brian McCann added a two-run drive in the sixth, the Yankees' 200th home run this season, to quiet the sellout crowd of 43,630 at Citi Field.

Hoping to reach the postseason for the first time since 2006, the Mets have a seven-game lead in the NL East over Washington.

Trying to make the playoffs after their first two-year absence since the early 1990s, the Yankees moved within 3 1/2 games of first-place Toronto in the AL East. The Yankees also lead the wild-card race.

Pineda (11-8) allowed four singles in 5 1-3 innings to win for just the second time since the All-Star break.

Syndergaard (8-7) gave up five runs in six innings.

Nationals 5, Marlins 2: Bryce Harper tied the game with a sacrifice fly, then added insurance with his 41st homer — a two-run shot into the second deck in right field that earned "M-V-P!" chants — as host Washington came back to beat Miami.

Harper entered the day leading the NL in homers, batting average and runs. His three RBIs raised his total to 95, putting him 17 behind Colorado's Nolan Arenado.

Astros 10, Athletics 6: Evan Gattis hit a three-run homer to put host Houston ahead in the seventh inning, as the Astros snapped a five-game losing streak.

Houston leads the race for the second AL wild card by 1 1/2 games over the Los Angeles Angels, who swept a doubleheader at Minnesota. The Astros began the night 2 1/2 games behind first-place Texas in the AL West.

Red Sox 7, Blue Jays 6: David Ortiz singled home the go-ahead run in a five-run ninth inning and visiting Boston rallied.

Angels 4, Twins 3 (12); Angels 5, Twins 2: Albert Pujols had two hits and two RBIs, and Garrett Richards was one out away from his second complete game this season as visiting Los Angeles swept the day-night doubleheader and pulled a game ahead of Minnesota (75-73) in the AL wild-card race.

Diamondbacks 6, Giants 0: Patrick Corbin pitched seven sharp innings and helped his own cause with an RBI single as Arizona blanked host San Francisco.

Orioles 2, Rays 1: Chen Wei-yin pitched seven effective innings and Adam Jones drove in two runs as Baltimore beat host Tampa Bay.

Braves 2, Phillies 1: Freddie Freeman hit a two-run double in the eighth inning and host Atlanta won consecutive games for the first time since winning three straight in early August.

White Sox 4, Indians 3: Carlos Rodon allowed one run while pitching into the eighth inning as Chicago defeated sloppy host Cleveland.

Reds 9, Brewers 7: Todd Frazier homered to become just the second Reds player with at least 40 doubles and 35 home runs in a season, helping rally Cincinnati past host Milwaukee.

Rangers 10, Mariners 1: Cole Hamels struck out 12 over seven innings, and Adrian Beltre had three hits and three RBIs to lead host Texas.

Rockies 10, Padres 2: Tom Murphy had an RBI single and a home run — his first major league hits — as host Colorado overcame the loss of starting pitcher Yohan Flande after he was struck in the left leg by a line drive.

Tigers 6, Royals 5 (11): Ian Kinsler homered in the 11th inning to give host Detroit the win.

Pirates 3, Dodgers 2: Aramis Ramirez hit a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning, and Andrew McCutchen doubled home two runs, as visiting Pittsburgh ended a four-game skid.

Kyle Busch gives JGR Xfinity series win

JOLIET, Ill. — Joe Gibbs Racing grabbed its first victory of the weekend on Saturday night when Kyle Busch won the Xfinity Series race at Chicagoland Speedway.

The race was a rout for JGR as drivers Busch and Matt Kenseth combined to lead 186 of the 200 laps.

The two then duelled over the closing laps, with Kenseth sliding past Busch for the lead with two laps remaining. Kenseth had to race his way around Chase Elliott and John Wes Townley to make the sweeping pass of his teammate.

But Busch immediately answered, snatched the lead back, and sailed off to his record 74th career Xfinity Series victory. Kenseth was stuck behind Townley over the final lap, which held him up and prevented him from making another attempt at the win.

In other auto racing news:

■ Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel won the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday and runaway championship leader Lewis Hamilton retired mid-race, injecting new life into the fight for the Formula One title.

Vettel led from start to finish in a race that was temporarily interrupted by a fan wandering on the track.

Vettel's third win of the season came by 1.4 seconds over Red Bull driver Daniel Ricciardo.

Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen was third, as all three finished in the positions they started at the Marina Bay street circuit.

Former NHL enforcer Todd Ewen dies at 49

ST. LOUIS — Todd Ewen, the former NHL enforcer called "The Animal" for his rugged play and fighting ability, died Saturday. He was 49.

The St. Louis Blues confirmed Ewen's death on their Twitter account without providing details.

Ewen had 36 goals, 40 assists and 1,911 penalty minutes in 518 career games in 11 seasons with St. Louis, Montreal, Anaheim and San Jose. He helped Montreal win the 1993 Stanley Cup.

The 6-foot-3, 230-pound forward last played in the NHL with San Jose in 1996-97.

— Associated Press