

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Carney gives US missile defense boost

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

ROTA, Spain — The European missile defense shield moved one step closer to completion Friday as a fourth American warship capable of shooting down ballistic missiles pulled into port here for permanent stationing.

Naval officers and family members greeted the crew of the USS Carney, an Aegis missile defense destroyer that left Mayport, Fla., earlier this month for Rota. The ship will make its first missile patrol in November, part of a four-ship rotation based at the nearby U.S. naval base here.

"You are bringing a vital capability in a very challenging, volatile and dynamic time," Navy Adm. Mark Ferguson, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, told sailors. "But we know you are ready."

The ships are a part of the European Phased Adaptive Approach, the Aegis-based ballistic missile defense system intended to defend NATO allies and U.S. bases in Europe against Iranian short- and medium-range ballistic missiles.

Russia opposes the system, saying it threatens its strategic nuclear missiles along its west-

ern border, a claim the U.S. disputes.

The U.S. conducted its first ballistic missile defense patrol in the Mediterranean in 2011, deploying the USS Monterey from the East Coast. It built a high-powered radar in Turkey and won Spanish agreement for basing the four ships in the same year.

Next month, the Navy will open the first of its two ground-based missile interceptor sites, in Deveselu, Romania. A second site, in Redzikowo, Poland, is scheduled to open in 2018. A command center at Ramstein Air Base in Germany will link the system's components.

Ferguson was greeted Friday with a salute by Carney commanding officer Cmdr. Ken Pickard. Sailors with family members who already moved to Rota filed out of the ship to greet them.

"We have the house all set up," said Candace Reed, who waited at the pier for her husband, Chief Petty Officer Eric Reed. "All we needed was him."

More than 1,200 military billets have now moved to Rota from the U.S. East Coast with the arrival of the four destroyers. The first two ships, the USS Donald Cook and the USS Ross, arrived in 2014; the USS Porter

came in April. About 2,100 family members are expected to come with the four ships.

Before the ships' arrival, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa counted only one vessel stationed permanently in the theater. The destroyers expand the command's options at a time of growing threats across the theater, from Russian provocations in the north to militant activity in North Africa.

"These ships are not just for missile defense," Ferguson told reporters at the event. "They can do anti-submarine operations, they can do air defense for high-value units like aircraft carriers for Spain, Italy, France. They operate with our allies and improve our interoperability. So they bring a capability to the theater."

That significance isn't lost on the 300 sailors aboard the Carney, although it often gives way to daily routines. Even as they approached Spain, crewmembers continued the same schedule of meetings, drills and training. During a stop in the Azores, they touched up the hull's paint and washed windows.

They woke early Friday for a final washdown before hanging bunting. Sailors dressed in white crackerjacks and manned the

rails as the ship approached the pier, many laying eyes for the first time on their new home.

The ship's command has worked closely to prepare sailors and families for the change. Some of it is familiar ground — the Carney stopped at Rota in May 2014 after returning from a ballistic missile patrol in the Persian Gulf.

Yet most of Carney's crew left family members in Florida, either because they had too little time left with the ship or because of the quick turnaround between arrival and the first patrol.

"When we left the pier on the sixth of September, a third of the crew is ecstatic because they get to go home to their families in Rota," Command Master Chief Jon Lonsdale said. "(The other) two-thirds of the crew, it's like deployment started Sept. 6."

Rota is on the Atlantic coast in southwest Spain near Cadiz and is home to a major Spanish naval base. The American base opened within the Spanish installation in 1953, hosting both ships and maritime patrol aircraft during the Cold War, before its population shrank in the 2000s.

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## Pope meets with victims of child sexual abuse

*Associated Press*

PHILADELPHIA — Pope Francis met with victims of child sexual abuse Sunday on the final day of his U.S. visit and promised to hold accountable those responsible for the scandal in the church, delivering a powerful warning to American bishops accused of covering up for pedophile priests instead of

reporting them to police.

The pontiff disclosed the gesture of reconciliation at the start of a meeting with American bishops gathered in Philadelphia for a big rally on Catholic families.

But in a move that signaled a new effort by the church to redirect the discussion, the Vatican said not all five of the victims were abused by members of

the clergy; some of the three women and two men had been victimized by family members or educators.

Francis praised the survivors as "true heralds of mercy" who deserve the church's gratitude for helping to bring the truth to light.

"God weeps, for the sexual abuse of children cannot be maintained in secret, and I

commit to a careful oversight to ensure that youth are protected and that all responsible will be held accountable," Francis said in Spanish.

The pope has agreed to create a new Vatican tribunal to prosecute bishops who failed to protect their flock, and he has accepted the resignations of three U.S. bishops accused of mishandling cases.

# France targets militants with Syria strikes

Associated Press

PARIS — Six French jet fighters targeted and destroyed an Islamic State training camp in eastern Syria, President Francois Hollande said Sunday, making good on a promise to go after the group that the president has said is planning attacks against several countries, including France.

The airstrikes were the first in Syria by France as it expands its mission against the Islamic State group.

“The camp was totally destroyed,” Hollande said Sunday after arriving at the United Nations before the start of a major development summit and the U.N. General Assembly bringing together world leaders.

“We’re sure there were no casualties” among civilians, he added.

The French president’s office announced the strikes, without details, in a statement hours

## Iraq to share intel with Russia, Syria, Iran

BAGHDAD — Iraq will begin sharing “security and intelligence” information with Russia, Syria and Iran to help combat the Islamic State group, the Iraqi military said Sunday.

A statement issued by the Joint Operations Command said the countries will “help and cooperate in collecting information about the terrorist Daesh group,” using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

Iraq has long had close ties with neighboring Iran and has coordinated with Tehran in fighting the Islamic State group.

earlier. “Our nation will strike each time our national security is at stake,” the statement said.

Hollande told reporters the strikes on the training camp, and others to come, were aimed at “protecting our territory, cutting short terrorist actions, acting in legitimate defense.”

Hollande said more strikes “could take place in the coming weeks if necessary.” The targets were identified in earlier

French reconnaissance flights and with information provided by the U.S.-led coalition.

The president announced earlier this month a change in French strategy — expanding its airstrikes over Iraq into Syria.

France has carried out 215 airstrikes against Islamic State extremists in Iraq as part of the U.S.-led coalition since last year, the Defense Ministry said ear-

lier this month. But it previously held back on engaging in Syria, citing concern over playing into Assad’s hand and the need for such action to be covered by international law.

Officials now evoke “legitimate defense” as spelled out in the U.N. Charter to support strikes in Syria.

France has already been attacked by extremists claiming ties to Islamic State. Hollande, who has ruled out sending ground troops into Syria, has cited “proof” of plans for attacks on France and the growing danger to Syrian civilians, with a large chunk of the population fleeing in a massive exodus.

The goal of the strikes is to “slow, break, stop if possible the penetration of Daesh,” Gen. Vincent Desportes said on the iTele TV station, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

## Analysts: N. Korea’s Oct. launch unlikely

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea is unlikely to launch a rocket by Oct. 10, despite widespread speculation the communist nation might do so to mark the 70th anniversary of its ruling party, according to some analysts who monitor North Korea’s movements.

Satellite images of the Sohae satellite launch facility taken Sept. 17 do not show launch preparations, and there were no significant activities at related facilities, including fuel and oxidizer storage buildings, that would be typical if a launch were looming, said the U.S.-Korea Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. The institute posted an analysis of the satellite images Thursday on its website, 38 North.

However, Sept. 18 satellite images show new activity at the Punggye-ri nuclear test site,

where the North has conducted its three underground nuclear tests, the institute said.

The purpose of that activity, which included the presence of four large vehicles near a tunnel entrance, was unclear, and “could be related to anything from maintenance work to preparations for another nuclear test.”

The institute also addressed recent construction of an underground rail spur leading to the launch pad and a shed covering the tracks, both of which have fueled speculation the North is planning a long-range missile launch.

“While that remains a possibility, equally or more likely is that these measures were taken to complicate the efforts of outsiders to observe any activities at the Sohae facility, including preparations for satellite launches,” the analysis said.

In a CNN interview aired Wednesday, North Korean

space program officials said a launch is “imminent,” and the country would soon send rockets and satellites into space for peaceful purposes.

However, officials also said it was “very wrong” to “think that we are about to launch a satellite on a particular festival day, on a particular anniversary or on a major holiday,” the 38 North website said.

“There certainly will be a price to be paid” if the North conducts a rocket launch or missile test in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, South Korean President Park Geun-hye told Bloomberg News last week.

An unidentified South Korean government source said Thursday there is no sign of an impending rocket launch at the North’s Dongchang-ri — also known as Sohae — facility, according to Yonhap News.

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## Syria among biggest issues at UN summit

UNITED NATIONS — President Barack Obama and the leaders of some of America’s closest allies are addressing a major United Nations summit on its last day Sunday as Syria’s conflict threatens to push the stated topic, global development, onto the sidelines.

The global meeting is focused on fixing some of the world’s greatest problems through a 15-year road map to eliminate poverty and hunger. Endorsed by the U.N.’s 193 members, the plan includes fighting climate change.

Also speaking Sunday were Prime Minister David Cameron, of Britain, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and President Francois Hollande.

World leaders have already begun a whirlwind series of closed-door meetings on Syria on the U.N. sidelines.

From The Associated Press

# Army snaps skid; Reynolds, Navy roll

Associated Press

YPSILANTI, Mich. — After a season-opening run of “what if?” losses, Army made sure there would be no late drama.

Joe Walker and Aaron Kemper had touchdown runs Saturday night and Army never trailed in ending a season-opening losing streak with a 58-36 victory over Eastern Michigan.

The win was Army's first as a true road team since November 2010 and ended a 21-game string of losses away from home.

“It means a lot,” Kemper said. “This is our first road win in a while, so it's a really good feeling.”

Walker's 63-yard run early in the game gave the Black Knights (1-3) the lead for good and Kemper added a 56-yard scoring run in the second quarter to help Army lead 29-17 at the half.

The Eagles (1-3) closed to 36-30 late in the third quarter but Army answered with two Drue Harris touchdown runs. A.J. Schurr, who stepped in for injured starting quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw, added a pair of keepers for scores.

“We knew we had to answer,” Schurr said of the drive that sealed the win. “All we had to do was keep coming back.”

“We didn't flinch.”

The Eagles struggled against Army's

option offense most of the night and only forced three punts. Eastern Michigan heads to LSU next weekend with the unenviable task of slowing down star running back Leonard Fournette.

Kemper had 147 yards on 13 carries to lead Army, which got a touchdown run from John Trainor. Bradshaw had a 10-yard touchdown pass to Edgar Poe before leaving the game with a leg injury he suffered in the second quarter.

Coach Jeff Monken said the sophomore, who was in a walking boot during the second half, would be evaluated further on Sunday.

Darius Jackson rushed for 141 yards and a pair of touchdowns and Brogan Roback was 28 for 40 for 291 yards and two touchdowns for Eastern Michigan, which lost its second straight.

The Black Knights lost their first three games by a combined 10 points, including a 17-14 loss to Wake Forest a week earlier on a field goal as time expired. Walker scored on the third play from scrimmage and Army got a quirky two-point conversion out of a PAT try when long snapper Connor Farley caught a jump pass from tight end Kelvin White.

Army faked a punt near midfield in the second to set up Trainor's 10-yard touchdown run.

**Navy 28, UConn 18:** Navy quarterback Keenan Reynolds keeps moving up the record books and the Midshipmen keep winning.

The senior ran 28 times for 142 yards and three touchdowns and threw for another score for visiting Navy. The Mids are 3-0 for the first time since 2006.

Reynolds had touchdown runs of 10, 4 and 10 yards to give him 73 rushing TDs for his career, tied for second in NCAA history behind former Wisconsin star Montee Ball, who ran for 77.

“I'm grateful to be mentioned in that category,” he said. “But, when we get in the red zone, I just want to punch it in. I don't care if it's me who punches it in.”

The senior threw the ball just four times, but completed three of those, including a 19-yard touchdown to Jamir Tillman, the team's first passing touchdown this season.

Navy had 343 yards of offense, 303 of them on the ground. Fullback Chris Swain ran 10 times for 58 yards.

The team converted eight of its 12 third-down attempts, including its first seven.

“To be able to convert those third-and-mediums, it's a big deal,” said Reynolds. “We want to be third-and-5. We want to avoid those third and longs.”

Reynolds has rushed for 3,491 yards and is now second on Navy's all-time rushing

list behind former running back Napoleon McCallum, who ran for 4,179 yards from 1981-85.

“What he's done is remarkable,” said coach Ken Niumatalolo. “But he just continues to move on to the next game. And that has to be our team approach.”

The senior had 93 yards rushing by half-time after leading Navy to touchdowns on each of its three first-half possessions.

His 10-yard touchdown run capped their opening 62-yard drive. They went 85 yards on their second, and led 14-3 when Jamir Tillman out-jumped UConn's Jamar Summers in the end zone to pull down a 19-yard touchdown pass. That was the 24th touchdown pass of Reynolds' career and came on just his second pass attempt of the game.

Reynolds also scored on a 4-yard run with 2 seconds remaining in the half, capping a 14-play drive.

“That was huge for us going into the locker room,” Reynolds said. “It was a big deal to do that 2-minute drill.”

His 10-yard touchdown run in the third quarter made it 28-10 and moved him past Texas running back Ricky Williams on the all-time list for rushing TDs. He needs just two more to pass Williams for total touchdowns.

## How the AP college football Top 25 fared

**1 No. 1 Ohio State (4-0) beat Western Michigan 38-12.** At Columbus, Ohio, Cardale Jones threw two touchdown passes early on and Adolphus Washington returned an interception 20 yards for a score for Ohio State. Jones finished 19 of 33 for 288 yards with an interception before J.T. Barrett replaced him late in the game.

**Next:** at Indiana, Saturday.

**2 Michigan State (4-0) beat Central Michigan 30-10.** At East Lansing, Mich., Gerald Holmes ran for two fourth-quarter touchdowns and the Spartans overcame a sluggish performance for the win. The Spartans lost standout tackle Jack Conklin to an apparent knee injury.

**Next:** vs. Purdue, Saturday.

**3 Mississippi (4-0) beat Vanderbilt 27-16.** At Oxford, Miss., Chad Kelly threw for 321 yards and Jaylen Walton ran for a season-high 133 yards for Mississippi.

**Next:** at Florida, Saturday.

**3 TCU (4-0) beat Texas Tech 55-52.** At Lubbock Texas, Aaron Green caught a tipped pass in the back of the end zone with 23 seconds left and TCU held on for the win in the Big 12 opener for both teams. Trevone Boykin threw four touchdown passes and finished with a career-high 509 yards for TCU.

**Next:** vs. Texas, Saturday.

**5 Baylor (3-0) beat Rice 70-17.** At Waco, Texas, Seth Russell matched a school record with six touchdown passes, three of his five in the first half to Corey Coleman.

**Next:** vs. Texas Tech at Arlington, Texas, Saturday.

**6 Notre Dame (4-0) beat UMass 62-27.** At South Bend, Ind., C.J. Sanders scored on a 50-yard punt return to spark Notre Dame

to four straight touchdowns.

**Next:** at No. 11 Clemson, Saturday.

**7 Georgia (4-0) beat Southern U. 48-6.** At Athens, Ga., Nick Chubb ran for 131 yards and two touchdowns and also caught a scoring pass for Georgia.

**Next:** vs. No. 12 Alabama, Saturday.

**8 LSU (3-0) beat Syracuse 34-24.** At Syracuse, N.Y., Heisman Trophy hopeful Leonard Fournette ran for a career-high 244 yards and two touchdowns, and Tre'Davious White returned a punt 69 yards for another score for LSU.

**Next:** vs. Eastern Michigan, Saturday.

**9 UCLA (4-0) beat No. 16 Arizona 56-30.** At Tucson, Ariz., true freshman Josh Rosen was sharp in his first Pac-12 road game, throwing for 284 yards and accounting for three touchdowns for UCLA.

**Next:** vs. Arizona State, Saturday.

**10 Florida State (3-0) did not play.** At Tallahassee, Fla., Florida State spent its bye week focusing on two goals — prepare for the long grind ahead and try to fix an inconsistent offense.

**Next:** at Wake Forest, Saturday.

**11 Clemson (3-0) did not play.** At Clemson, S.C., Clemson looked to clean things up during its bye week before facing No. 6 Notre Dame on Saturday and No. 20 Georgia Tech on Oct. 10, a one-two punch that should go a long way toward determining Clemson's championship hopes.

**Next:** vs. No. 6 Notre Dame, Saturday.

**12 Alabama (3-1) beat Louisiana-Monroe 34-0.** At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Jake Coker threw three touchdown passes and Alabama limited Louisiana-Monroe to 92 total yards.

**Next:** at No. 7 Georgia, Saturday.

**13 Oregon (2-2) lost to No. 18 Utah 62-20.** At Eugene, Ore., Oregon's besieged defense had no solution for Travis Wilson and the Utes, who amassed 530 yards of total offense.

**Next:** at Colorado, Saturday.

**14 Texas A&M (4-0) beat Arkansas 28-21, OT.** At Arlington, Texas, Kyle Allen threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Christian Kirk in overtime to cap Texas A&M's comeback in their Southeastern Conference opener.

**Next:** vs. Mississippi State, Saturday.

**15 Oklahoma (3-0) did not play.** At Norman, Okla., under new offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley's Air Raid offense, the Sooners were ranked sixth nationally in passing offense and 14th in total offense heading into their bye week.

**Next:** vs. West Virginia, Saturday.

**16 Arizona (3-1) lost to No. 9 UCLA 56-30.** At Tucson, Ariz., the Wildcats had trouble stopping the Bruins even with All-America linebacker Scooby Wright back.

**Next:** at No. 21 Stanford, Saturday.

**17 Northwestern (4-0) beat Ball State 24-19.** At Evanston, Ill., Clayton Thorson threw three touchdown passes, Justin Jackson ran for a career-high 184 yards and Northwestern overcame a sluggish first half to rally past Ball State.

**Next:** vs. Minnesota, Saturday.

**18 Utah (4-0) beat No. 13 Oregon 62-20.** At Eugene, Ore., Travis Wilson returned from a shoulder sprain and threw for 227 yards and four touchdowns in the Pac-12 opener for both teams.

**Next:** vs. California, Oct. 10.

**19 Southern Cal (3-1) beat Arizona State 42-14.** At Tempe, Ariz., Cody Kessler threw for 375 yards and five touchdowns

and Southern California took advantage of Arizona State's mistakes.

**Next:** vs. Washington, Oct. 8.

**20 Georgia Tech (2-2) lost to Duke 34-20.** At Durham, N.C., Shaquille Powell ran for three touchdowns and Duke's defense dominated.

**Next:** vs. North Carolina, Saturday.

**21 Stanford (3-1) beat Oregon State 42-24, Friday.** At Corvallis, Ore., Kevin Hogan, a game-time decision because of an ankle sprain, threw for 163 yards and two touchdowns for Stanford.

**Next:** vs. No. 16 Arizona, Saturday.

**22 BYU (2-2) lost to Michigan 31-0.** At Ann Arbor, Mich., Jake Rudock ran for two touchdowns and threw for another score and Michigan scored all of its points in the first half.

**Next:** vs. UConn, Friday.

**22 Wisconsin (3-1) beat Hawaii 28-0.** At Madison, Wis., Taiwan Deal ran for 147 yards and two scores, and Wisconsin held a nonconference opponent without a touchdown for the third straight game.

**Next:** vs. Iowa, Saturday.

**24 Oklahoma State (4-0) beat Texas 30-27.** At Austin, Texas, Ben Grogan kicked a 40-yard field goal with 6 seconds left to give the Cowboys a fourth straight win on the Longhorns' home field.

**Next:** vs. Kansas State, Saturday.

**25 Missouri (3-1) lost to Kentucky 21-13.** At Lexington, Ky., Patrick Towles threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score to lead Kentucky, ending the Wildcats' 18-game losing streak against ranked teams.

**Next:** vs. South Carolina, Saturday.



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# Mets slam Reds, clinch NL East

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Thousands of Mets fans chanted David Wright's name as he wrapped up an on-field interview and headed back toward the sloshy clubhouse. He paused to wave and soak in the moment.

The team captain wasn't sure he'd ever do this again, not with that last playoff appearance nine years ago. Finally, the wait was over.

As Wright's champagne-and-beer-soaked shirt proclaimed: "The East Is Ours."

The Mets are back in the playoffs for the first time since 2006 after clinching their sixth NL East title on Saturday with a 10-2 win over the Cincinnati Reds. Lucas Duda hit a grand slam in the first inning, and Wright put the final touches on it with a three-run homer in the ninth.

"You just can't help but smile," said Wright, who was part of the 2006 team that reached the NL championship series. "For the last few months, I've tried to enjoy this as much as possible, soak this in. This is a surreal feeling."

Surreal and fitting, too. Matt Harvey (13-7) was most appropriate to pitch the clincher. He was the NL's starter for the 2013 All-Star Game at Citi Field, but needed Tommy John surgery that October and missed all of the 2014 season. Harvey gave up a pair of runs in 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

And there was Wright, capping it off after returning from a back injury in late August.

"It's been a long time," Wright said. "Too

long."

After two September collapses, the Bernie Madoff financial scandal and nine years of frustration, thousands of blue-clad NY fans along for the trip chanted "Let's go Mets!" from Duda's first swing — his first career grand slam — until the team returned to the field following a champagne celebration to high-five their supporters.

The players wore hats with "Postseason" written across the crown. New York will likely face the Los Angeles Dodgers in the Division Series.

"This is step one," said Jeff Wilpon, the club's chief operating officer. "Let's get going."

The Mets and Dodgers are neck-and-neck for home field advantage in the playoffs with a week left in the regular season, so there's not a lot of time to celebrate.

"It's worth all the time, all the effort, all the things you do — this is the culmination of it all," said Terry Collins, who is heading into the playoffs as a manager for the first time. "We're going to have a little fun tonight and relax tomorrow. Right now we have to go get home field (advantage), that's next."

Duda sparked a warm-up celebration with his first career slam in the first inning off left-hander John Lamb (1-4). Duda had a pair of three-run homers on Friday night. The slam gave him three homers in five at-bats with 10 RBIs.

Curtis Granderson added a solo shot, and Wright put it away in the ninth with his fourth homer since returning from the back injury.

This title was rather unexpected.

Significant injuries and an inexperienced rotation played into Washington's hands as the NL East favorite. But New York bolstered a struggling offense at midseason and beat the Nationals head-to-head while pulling away.

And finally, a long run of seasonal disappointment has ended for the Mets.

"They did a great job this year and they're doing it," Nationals star Bryce Harper said. "Coming from the East, I hope they win it all."

During their last postseason appearance, they lost Game 7 to St. Louis for the NL pennant. They seemed on their way to a second straight playoff appearance in 2007, but blew a seven-game lead with 17 remaining, allowing the Phillies to ascend as the division's top team.

This season started ominously as starter Zack Wheeler and reliever Josh Edgin had elbow surgery. A young pitching staff led by Harvey, Jacob deGrom and Familia kept the Mets in contention while the offense struggled with Travis d'Arnaud.

Everything changed at midseason when general manager Sandy Alderson traded for Yoenis Cespedes, Juan Uribe and Kelly Johnson. The infusion of hitters transformed the offense into one of the NL's best.

**Streaks:** New York has won a club-record 10 straight games on the road, the longest such streak since the Dodgers won 15 in a row in 2013. ... The Mets have scored at least three runs in each of their last 30 road games, a club record. ... Daniel Murphy extended his hitting streak to nine games. ... Harvey is 5-0 in his last 10 starts.

# Hamilton closing in on an F1 repeat

Associated Press

SUZUKA, Japan — Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton pulled off an aggressive passing move on teammate Nico Rosberg and went on to win the Japanese Grand Prix on Sunday, moving a step closer to claiming his second straight Formula One title.

Hamilton, who had his first retirement of the season at last weekend's Singapore GP, capitalized on a strong start and surged ahead of Rosberg at the first corner. He led the rest of the way, crossing the finish line a comfortable 18.9 seconds ahead. Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel was third, 1.8 seconds behind Rosberg, who started from pole.

With five races left, Hamilton has a 48-point lead over Rosberg.

Hamilton claimed his eighth win of the season. It was his 41st career win, tying him with his childhood hero Ayrton Senna.

"I'm not a teary guy, but I'm full of joy and happiness today," Hamilton said.

With Hamilton comfortably ahead throughout the grand prix, the focus shifted to the tight battle for second place between Rosberg and Vettel.

Ferrari elected to wait until Rosberg pitted before bringing in Vettel, and that proved critical. Even though Vettel's stop was four tenths of a second faster than Rosberg's, the Mercedes driver's lap on fresh rubber was enough to get him just ahead of Vettel, and that's how it stayed.

"I tried everything," Vettel said. "The tires were on the limit — not more that I could have done."

Vettel's Ferrari teammate Kimi Raikkonen was fourth followed by Williams' Valtteri Bottas.

# Angels win, stay in wild-card race

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — David Freese led off the ninth inning with a homer to center, and the Los Angeles Angels kept pace in the AL wild-card race with their fourth straight victory, 3-2 over the Seattle Mariners on Saturday night.

Freese hit his third career walk-off homer in a regular-season game, connecting off Danny Farquhar (1-5). The 2011 World Series MVP — who won Game 6 that year with an extra-innings homer — set off a wild celebration on an eventful night for the Angels (80-74), who stayed a half-game behind Houston for the second wild-card spot.

Mike Trout made a jaw-dropping catch high above the center field wall in the fourth inning, robbing Jesus Montero of a three-run homer.

Angels closer Huston Street then had to be helped off the field in obvious pain after finishing his follow-through on a pitch in the ninth inning.

Rookie Ketel Marte hit his first major league homer for the Mariners, who have lost four straight.

Mariners ace Felix Hernandez yielded eight hits and two runs, but likely lost the chance to win 20 games for the first time in his impressive career when he left a tied game before the seventh. The Seattle ace has 18 victories, but is expected to get only one more start this season.

C.J. Cron homered for the second straight night for Los Angeles, connecting for the tying shot in the sixth inning.

**Astros 9, Rangers 7:** Carlos Correa and Jose Altuve hit two homers apiece as host Houston connected a season-high six times in a win over Texas, cutting the Rangers' lead in the AL West to 3½ games.

The victory breaks an eight-game losing streak to the Rangers and ends a three-game skid overall for Houston.

**Giants 14, Athletics 10:** Rookie Jarrett Parker became the first San Francisco player with at least three homers and seven RBIs in a game since Willie Mays in 1961 in the Giants' win over host Oakland.

Parker hit a tiebreaking grand slam in the eighth for his third home run. Mays, the Hall of Famer, had four homers and eight RBIs on April 30, 1961, at Milwaukee.

**Twins 6, Tigers 2:** Eduardo Escobar homered and drove in three runs as visiting Minnesota kept pace in the AL wild-card race by beating Detroit.

**Yankees 2, White Sox 1:** Chase Headley and Alex Rodriguez hit consecutive run-scoring doubles off John Danks in the sixth inning. Adam Warren combined with his bullpen on a three-hitter and host New York beat Chicago.

New York stayed four games behind AL East-leading Toronto with eight games remaining and maintained a four-game lead over Houston for the top AL wild card.

**Indians 9, Royals 5:** Carlos Santana drove in three runs, Yan Gomes homered and Cleveland beat host Kansas City to move above .500 for the first time since April 9.

The Indians remain three games back in the AL wild-card race.

**Red Sox 8, Orioles 0:** First-time starter Craig Breslow and six relievers combined on a five-hitter and host Boston further dented Baltimore's slim playoff hopes.

The Orioles fell 4½ games behind Houston for the AL's second wild-card spot.

**Cardinals 5, Brewers 1:** Jaime Garcia

worked eight dominant innings after getting a big early cushion, and host St. Louis maintained its three-game lead in the NL Central. The Cardinals shaved their magic number to five for clinching the division.

**Nationals 2, Phillies 1 (12):** A season that started with so many soaring expectations for host Washington crashed with a dreary thud when they were mathematically eliminated from playoff contention despite winning on Bryce Harper's RBI double.

**Rockies 8, Dodgers 6:** Carlos Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning, preventing visiting Los Angeles from moving closer to clinching the NL West title.

The Dodgers' magic number remained at two for closing out San Francisco in the division race.

**Marlins 6, Braves 2:** Justin Bour hit a two-run homer, Justin Nicolino pitched seven solid innings and host Miami beat Atlanta for the sixth straight time, its longest winning streak against the Braves since winning five in a row in 1997.

**Padres 3, Diamondbacks 0:** Robbie Erlin pitched two-hit ball for seven innings, leading host San Diego past Arizona.

**Pirates 4, Cubs 0:** Francisco Liriano pitched four-hit ball into the eighth inning, and visiting Pittsburgh beat playoff-bound Chicago for their eighth straight victory.

**Blue Jays 10, Rays 8:** Jose Bautista hit two home runs, David Price won for the ninth time in 11 starts with Toronto and the Blue Jays beat visiting Tampa Bay.

Toronto wrapped up at least a wild card based on their main competitors' overlapping schedules.

## Blaney captures Xfinity race in Kentucky

SPARTA, Ky. — Ryan Blaney completed a Team Penske season sweep of the NASCAR Xfinity Series races at Kentucky Speedway, beating Ty Dillon in a green-white-checked finish Saturday night.

After the record-tying 10th caution, Dillon led Blaney, Regan Smith, Chase Elliott and defending race winner Brendan Gaughan on the restart.

Blaney was inside of Dillon and got the kind of restart that he didn't a few laps earlier when Dillon passed him. Blaney pulled away to his fourth career Xfinity victory and second this season. He also won at the track in 2013 for his first series victory.

"We were just even with [Dillon] and [Smith] gave us a good push," said Blaney, who led 81 of the 201 laps. "That's all it is now. Who can get a big push. Luckily, we were able to get a good one and just get a little bit of position to kind of ease up the race track to get in front of him. I knew once we were clear we had a really good shot at it."

Team Penske teammate Brad Keselowski also won in the No. 22 Ford in July at Kentucky.

Dillon was second, 0.519 seconds behind Blaney.

"This hurts for our team," said Dillon, who led 43 laps but remains winless this season. "It's nice to be upset with second. ... We've been really, really strong and we've got more races to go. We'll get in victory lane. It just hurts to lose it like that."

Smith was third, followed by Elliott and Brandon Jones. Points leader Chris Buescher finished seventh.