Battle for White House a war of words over Vietnam service Page 11

STARS AND STRIPES®

Tiny champ swallows lots of lobster

Page 10

Sonya Thomas

Fighting in Iraq claims lives of 5 more troops

Page 3

Takeshi Kitano

Japanese director juggles dual career

Page 19

Volume 2, No. 135 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2004

GOP senators explore changes at CIA, DOD

Proposal would put intelligence under national director

Page 9

Popped out

Devers hardly gets out of the blocks when injury ends bid for gold in 100 hurdles

Page 28

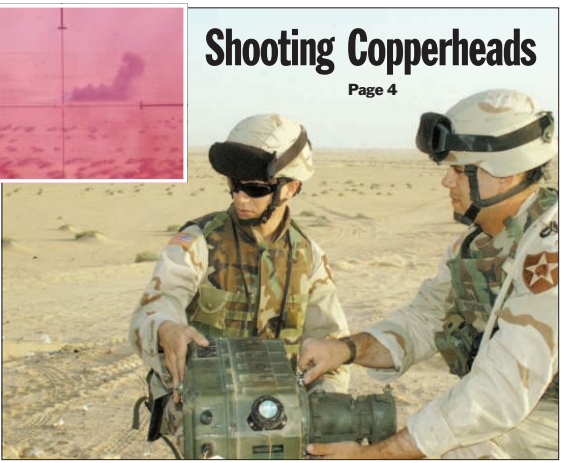
Right on target

Army Maj. Michael Anti shoots to silver on teammate's last-shot error

Back page

Shooting Copperheads

Page 4



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Reba Matthew, left, 24, of Venice, Fla., and Sgt. Jesse Osborne, 25, of Athens, Ohio, prepare to fire a laser designator at targets at Udairi Range, Kuwait. Matthew and Osborne are members of the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment fire support team. Above left: The view through a laser-designator shows a derelict truck disappearing in smoke after being hit by a Copperhead round at Udairi Range.

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STARS AND STRIPES
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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Funeral for contractor: Family and friends of an American contractor kidnapped and beheaded in Saudi Arabia gathered for a funeral Saturday in Port St. John, Fla., more than two months after the engineer disappeared.

About 100 people attended services for Paul M. Johnson Jr., who once lived in Florida and had worked in Saudi Arabia for Lockheed Martin for more than a decade.

Johnson was kidnapped June 12 by militants in Riyadh who demanded the release of al-Qaida prisoners in exchange for the 49-year-old's life. Photographs and a video of the beheading were later posted on the Internet.

Blake trial: Robert Blake was afraid his wife-to-be would expose their child to a life of drugs and crime — so he plotted a year before her murder to gain custody, a private investigator testified.

William Jordan said Friday he was trying to get Bonny Lee Bakley to leave her infant daughter in California in a plan hatched with Blake four years ago.

Blake, 70, is charged with killing 44-year-old Bakley on May 4, 2001.

Washington state wildfire: A two-week-old forest fire in central Washington was about 45 percent contained Saturday, but evacuation orders remained in place for hundreds of homes.

Crews worked to strengthen fire lines in preparation for winds of 30 to 40 mph that were expected to push the 16,400-acre blaze toward the northeast, fire information officer Robin DeMario said.

The fire, 20 miles northwest of Wenatchee, destroyed one house and damaged another house and a shed.

World

Sudan crisis: Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw is scheduled to fly to Sudan on Monday to press the government to end the humanitarian crisis engulfing the western region of Darfur.

Officials say Straw will urge Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir to rein in and bring to justice Arab militias accused of killing and raping black African farmers and destroying their villages.

The United Nations Security Council has given Khartoum until Aug. 30 to disarm the militias or face diplomatic and economic penalties.

Putin visits Chechnya: Russian President Vladimir Putin made an unannounced visit to Chechnya on Sunday, laying flowers at the grave of the war-ravaged region's assassinated president a week before a vote to replace him.

Putin arrived in slain Chechen president Akhmad Kadyrov's home village of Tsentoroi early in the morning and placed red carnations at his grave. In televised footage, he stood solemnly with Kadyrov's son Ramzan and the Kremlin's favored candidate in the Aug. 29 election, Chechen Interior Minister Alu Alkhanov.

Putin

Putin's visit followed heavy fighting Saturday night in the Chechen capital Grozny, where authorities said rebels attacked a police station near a central square as well a police patrols and polling stations for next week's vote.

Belgium gas blast: A 55-year-old Belgian man has died from burns received in a gas pipeline explosion last month, bringing the death toll to 21, news reports said.

Fifty-three people remain under treatment for injuries from the July 30 blast, about 30 of whom are listed in a serious condition.

Flag Day celebration: A tiny group of people gathered outside government headquarters Sunday in Moscow for a march and rally marking State Flag Day, which celebrates the defeat of the 1991 coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

NTV television reported that just over 50 people showed up outside the White House, the focus of opposition to the coup attempt — a turnout that reflected widespread ambivalence about the collapse of the Communist-led Soviet Union and the path Russia has taken since.

Human cloning: Pope John Paul II warned in a statement released Sunday from Italy that humanity's speedy progress in science and technology risks overlooking moral values, citing with particular concern experiments in human cloning.

The pontiff — in a message written Aug. 6 but released Sunday for the start of a Church-organized meeting on the theme of progress — insisted that advanced research must not become an end in itself.

Sri Lanka peace talks: Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tiger rebels are unlikely to resume peace talks soon, as escalating violence revives fears that the country could slide back to war, officials said Sunday.

Norwegian peace brokers have set no timetable to return to the island, with the government and rebels in deep disagreement over an agenda for talks that have been on hold for nearly 18 months, said senior officials involved in the peace process, on condition of anonymity.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Anti-Semitism in France: French police officers stand outside a damaged Jewish community center Sunday in Paris. A fire destroyed the Jewish center, but no one was hurt. Authorities immediately suspected the fire was deliberately set, as anti-Semitic graffiti was found scrawled at the site. France has suffered a long wave of anti-Semitic violence since 2000, coinciding with worsening tensions in the Middle East between Israel and the Palestinians.

Correction

A story in Saturday's editions about the Excalibur competition at RAF Lakenheath, England, the F-16 Falcon fighter jet was incorrectly identified.

Comics, horoscope and advice every day in Stars and Stripes

Stars and Stripes Messages of Support

★ C. A. Thayendanegea Komondy: Sago, Veterans and values such as freedon, family, spirituality, tradition, honor, peace, the children and Turtle Island are all intertwined when we honor you and the other Warriors that you are with. We honor you and your Ship Mates! You are in our hearts and we are with you in Spirit always. We Love You, Mom, Dad, Brandy Shay, Stephanie Fawn, Scooby Doo, Gaylord, Evon, Native American Family and the Coffee Family! MI

★ TO ALL OF YOU, YOU ARE CONSTANTLY IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS. Thank you for putting your life in jeopardy for our nation. You all mean so much to allof us."WE ARE SO PROUD OF ALL OF YOU! Please come home safe and soon . God bless you . AND GOD BLESS AMERICA! LOVE THE DESANO'S

5 servicemembers killed throughout Iraq

U.S. bombs Najaf's Old City, clashes with militia

BY ABDUL HUSSEIN AL-OBEIDI
The Associated Press

On Sunday, five U.S. troops were reported dead in separate incidents throughout Iraq while explosions and gunfire shook Najaf's Old City in a fierce battle between U.S. forces and Shiite militants, as negotiations dragged on for the handover of the revered shrine that the fighters have used for their stronghold.

Also Sunday, American journalist held hostage for more than a week and threatened with death if U.S. forces did not leave Najaf was released by his captors.

The violence in Najaf on Sunday appeared more intense than in recent days. U.S. forces sealed off Najaf's Old City and bombed the militants with warplanes. But Iraqi government officials counseled patience, saying they intended to resolve the crisis without raiding the Imam Ali Shrine, one of Shia Islam's holiest sites.

"The government will leave no stone unturned to reach a peaceful settlement," Iraqi National Security adviser Mouaffaq al-Rubaie said.

Senior government officials said last week an Iraqi force was preparing to raid the shrine within hours to expel the militants loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, but interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi quickly backed off that threat.

Such an operation would anger Shiites across the country and could turn them against the new government as it tries to gain legitimacy and tackle a 16-month-old insurgency.

In the Anbar province, the heart of the Sunni insurgency, four U.S. Marines with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force were killed in separate incidents, the military announced Sunday.

One Marine was killed in action Saturday and two others died Saturday of wounds received while conducting "security and stability operations" in the province, the military said. Another Marine was killed Saturday when his Humvee flipped after running into a tank, the military said.

A roadside bomb attack Sunday targeting a U.S. military convoy outside the northern city of Mosul killed one U.S. soldier assigned to Task Force Olympia and wounded another, the military said. The injured soldier was in stable condition.

Late Sunday, U.S. journalist Micah Garen, who was kidnapped Aug. 13 in the southern city of Nasiriyah, was released along with his Iraqi translator at al-Sadr's offices there after the cleric's aides appealed for his freedom.

Garen and his translator, Amir Doushi, were walking through a market when two armed men in civilian clothes seized them, police said. Insurgents later released a video of Garen and threatened to kill him if U.S. troops did not leave Najaf.

In a brief interview with the pan-Arab television station Al-Jazeera after his release, Garen thanked al-Sadr's representatives for their work, which included an appeal to the kidnappers during Friday prayers.

In Najaf, U.S. tanks rumbled down deserted streets Sunday, while sporadic gunfire filled the air. The roads leading to the shrine were muddied and filled with chunks of concrete ripped from the streets. Black smoke trailed from a building, as the clatter of automatic gunfire rang out.

In the afternoon a fierce battle between the military and al-Sadr's militants broke out when insurgents launched a mortar barrage at U.S. troops, witnesses said. Calm returned to the city after about half an hour.

U.S. forces sealed off the Old City, the center of the more than two weeks of fighting here, restoring a cordon that had been loosened in recent days.

Several mortar attacks targeted police offices in the city, but no one was injured, officials said.

Early Sunday, U.S. warplanes bombed the Old City and the sounds of shelling could be heard in the streets, witnesses said. The U.S. military could not confirm the bombing.

At least three people were killed and 18 injured during overnight fighting, said Tawfiq Mohammed of Najaf General Hospital.

Fighting in the nearby city of Kufa on Saturday killed 40 militants, according to the Interior Ministry. However, Mahmoud al-Soudani, an al-Sadr aide, called the claim "government propaganda" and said only one militant had been killed.

Al-Sadr himself has not been seen in public in days, but al-Soudani said the cleric was in good health and remained in Najaf.

AP

U.S. Army soldiers search an alley Sunday while moving forward into a position closer to the Imam Ali Shrine in Najaf, Iraq.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 949 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 708 died as a result of hostile action and 241 died of nonhostile causes. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

The British military has reported 64 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, 10; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 811 U.S. servicemembers have died — 599 as a result of hostile action and 212 of nonhostile causes, according to Friday's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ A soldier was killed Saturday by a rocket-propelled grenade in southern Baghdad.

■ Two soldiers were killed Friday by an explosive near Samarra.

The latest identification reported by the Department of Defense:

■ Marine Cpl. Brad P. McCormick, 23, Allons, Tenn.; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar Province; assigned to the Marine Corps Reserves 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Nashville, Tenn.

U.S. forces kill 3 Afghans at checkpoint

BY PAUL HAVEN
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. soldiers opened fire on a pickup truck that failed to stop at a checkpoint in central Ghazni province, killing a man and two women and critically injuring two other people, the military said Sunday.

The deaths, the latest in a string of civilian casualties at the hands of U.S. forces in the past year, were likely to spark anger in a population that often views American soldiers as heavy-handed and over agressive.

The deaths occurred on a road in Ghazni province Saturday night when the pickup truck ran through a joint U.S.-Afghan military checkpoint, the military said in a statement Sunday. Soldiers searched the pickup but did not find any weapons.

Ghazni Gov. Haji Asadullah Khalid said the pickup was driving over the flat Afghan desert when it happened upon a checkpoint on the main road. He said the soldiers first fired into the air, then opened fire on the truck.

"These deaths were a tragedy. It is very very sad news," Khalid said. He said he sent his deputy governor to the site to investigate, and an Interior Ministry delegation was also headed to the area from the capital, Kabul, 75 miles to the north.

The U.S. military said the incident was under investigation, though it gave no indication any of the soldiers involved were believed to have acted improperly.

"Vehicle checkpoints play an important role in maintaining security in the area, providing security forces the opportunity to find wanted people and contraband, such as weapons, bombs and drugs," the statement said. "Vehicle occupants approaching checkpoints should stop and follow security personnel's instructions."

A critically injured man and woman and an uninjured infant were evacuated for medical treatment to Bagram Air Base, the U.S. military's main base in Afghanistan, the statement said.

Jawed Ludin, a spokesman for President Hamid Karzai, said the government was looking into the deaths and would have a statement later in the day. The U.S. military could not immediately be reached for comment to further explain the incident.

On Aug. 9, Lt. Gen. David Barno, the top U.S. commander, agreed to a 15-point plan to improve relations with Afghan civilians and officials after Karzai called him in for talks, a military spokesman said.

Local leaders have repeatedly complained of heavy-handed tactics by the U.S.-dominated coalition, especially during searches that sometimes involve air power and take place in the dead of night.

Rights groups warn that the muscular approach may have caused unnecessary deaths and stoked sympathy for Taliban rebels who continue to defy the currently 18,000-strong force under Barno's command.

The military says its critics forget that, more than two years after the hard-line Islamic regime's ouster, Afghanistan remains a war zone. Taliban insurgents routinely target civilians, election workers and international aid groups.

A U.S. air raid in Uruzgan province in January killed 11 villagers, including four children, Afghan officials charged. The U.S. military has maintained that five militants were killed in the raid On Dec. 5, six children died when a wall fell on them during a nighttime assault on a complex in eastern Paktia province where the U.S. military seized hidden weapons caches.

The next day, nine children were found dead in a field after an attack by an A-10 ground attack on a village in neighboring Ghazni province.

Both attacks were aimed at wanted militants, but neither target was killed or detained.

American commanders vowed to review their procedures after the raids.

1st ID troops nab 19 in raids

Stars and Stripes

Task Force Danger troops from the 1st Infantry Division rounded up 19 suspected insurgents and numerous weapons in roundups north of Baghdad between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, according to the task force's daily briefing report.

Troops from the Schweinfurt, Germany-based 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment arrested nine men after an Iraqi citizen led them to a weapons cache near Balad about 4 p.m. Thursday. They seized seven AK-47 assault rifles, two rocket-propelled grenade launchers and grenades, ammunition, bayonets and safes.

The men, who were picked up during a search of nearby houses, said they were guests in the houses and knew nothing about the weapons. The report said they were taken to a jail at a nearby base for questioning.

In Ad Duluiyah, soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, netted 10 suspects about 2:30 a.m. during a sweep code-named Operation Wolverine. They also seized three rifles, a shotgun, a pistol, an AK-47 and some spools of copper wire. These men also were taken to a coalition jail for questioning.

Troops get desert training on Copperheads

Safety factors limit chances to practice laser-guided rounds

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

UDAIRI RANGE, Kuwait — If it is possible for one part of a desert to be more desertlike than another, then the artillery training area at Udairi Range is such a place.

Training there last week, soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment dubbed the vast expanse of rolling sand dunes "Tattooine" after the desert planet from the "Star Wars" film series.

During downtime, soldiers amused themselves with impersonations of "Star Wars" characters, such as the Tuscan Raiders, by putting on their goggles and wrapping their faces in scarves, shielding themselves from the fierce sandstorms that whip up from time to time.

But it wasn't just the impersonations that gave the range a "Star Wars" feel on Thursday. It was also the 24 Copperhead laser-guided rounds that 2-17 soldiers fired from their Paladin Howitzers that lent an air of science fiction excitement to the desert.

For Sgt. Jonathan Humphries, the atmosphere was right on target.

Humphries, one of the 2-17 soldiers helping "paint" targets using a laser designator, is a big "Star Wars" fan. In South Korea, where 2-17 was based before the Middle East deployment, the young soldier spent his free time playing Star Wars Galaxies, an online game based on the film series, he said.

"Star Wars" aside, for Sgt. 1st Class James Gray, 36, from Fort Knox, Ky., it was just an unusual training opportunity.

"It is a great opportunity because you don't get to shoot Copperheads that often, even in the States," said Gray, of the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Manchus," who also used the laser designators. "It is a once-in-a-lifetime chance. We don't do it that often because of the cost of the ammo and the safety factors involved."

Copperhead rounds cost several thousand dollars, said the 2-17 commander, Lt. Col John Fant, who observed the training.

That's not the only issue that restricts live-fire training with the Copperhead rounds. The Army doesn't shoot Copperheads in South Korea because of safety concerns, he said.

The Udairi Range artillery impact area is about 7 miles by 5½ miles. At the Saint Barbara Training Area where 2-17 trained in South Korea, the impact area is about about 837 square yards, soldiers said.

South Korea is the only place in the world where U.S. artillery fires directly over people's houses during training. That means it is too dangerous to fire Copperheads there, Fant said.

"Because this is a fin-stabilized munition, if the fins fail, the round will become unstable and tumble into some place you don't want it to go. But when you are out here in the desert it is an ideal situation," Fant said.

However, even in the desert shooting artillery can be dangerous for the locals. Udairi Range is home to nomadic Bedouin shepherds and camel herders who wander among the guns with their flocks, seemingly oblivious to the risk. And the targets — a group of wrecked vehicles — attracted people, apparently scavengers, which delayed the shooting.

But whatever the concerns about safety, the Copperhead is extremely accurate, Fant said.

"It gives the artillery a laser-guided precision munition to defeat hardened targets. Its primary purpose is to kill tanks and armor and other hardened targets," he said.

The Copperhead is accurate to within a couple of feet, soldiers said.

Fant said it could decrease collateral damage — that is damage to private property and injuries to civilians — in certain situations in Iraq.

Once the scavengers moved on, the 2-17 soldiers "painted" a target — a wrecked truck about a mile away — by aiming the laser at it.

The information was relayed to the Paladins, which were spread out in the desert another mile away, and a Copperhead was fired. Moments later there was an explosion and smoke rose from the truck, which was split asunder by the blast, while the soldier who painted the target whooped with joy.

A short time later, Sgt. George Yakop, 25, of Elizabeth, N.J., prepared to shoot another Copperhead.

His crew unpacked the round from its box and carefully loaded it into the barrel, taking care not to damage the large, clear "eyeball" at the front that allowed it to lock onto the laser fired by the designator.

The Copperhead, just over a yard long, was at least twice as big as the other artillery rounds packed inside the Paladin.

A set of fins was visible at the tail of the round, set into its body so it would fit in the gun tube. There is also a series of dials that allow gunners to lock it onto a particular laser designator's beam or cause it to explode before hitting its target.

When they received the command, Yakop and his crew fired the gun, filling their compartment with the smell of sulphur as the missile sped on its way.

Training in the desert brought back childhood memories for the young soldier, whose parents are Egyptian.

"There are a lot of reminders of Egypt here," said Yakop, who went there as a youngster.

Shooting the Copperhead is a rare experience for a gunner, he said.

"There are probably a couple of times in your career that you get to shoot a Copperhead. You feel the adrenalin pumping hard when you see a bigger round coming out of the tube," he said.

E-mail Seth Robson at: robsons@pstripes.osd.mil

PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Above: Sgt. George Yakop, left, and Sgt. Jeremy Gabriel, both with the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, take care not to bump the see-through nose of a Copperhead round as they load it into their Paladin Howitzer. Left: The Paladin fires a laser-guided round at Udairi Range, Kuwait.

Polish official visits Iraq

WARSAW, Poland — Poland's defense minister paid a morale-boosting visit to his troops in Iraq on Sunday, vowing they will not be intimidated by growing attacks and the deaths of three Polish soldiers in recent days.

During his surprise visit, Jerzy Szmajdzinski was also meeting U.S. military commanders and Iraqi government leaders in Baghdad and visited injured Polish soldiers in Karbala, military spokesman Lt. Col. Artur Domanski said by telephone from Iraq.

Earlier, Szmajdzinski attended a memorial Mass at the Polish-led multinational force's headquarters for Pfc. Krystian Andrzejczak, 24, killed in a car bomb blast in Hillah on Saturday. His death raised the Polish contingent's death toll to 10.

Poland sent troops last year to support U.S.-led invasion and commands some 6,200 international troops in south-central Iraq.

Intel officer's body found

BASRA, Iraq — An Iraqi intelligence officer kidnapped nearly a week ago was found dead in the southern city of Basra, his body riddled with bullets, Iraqi police said Sunday.

The operative, identified as Osama Abdul Jawad, was captured by an armed group protesting the fighting in the holy city of Najaf.

According to a video shown last Tuesday on the pan-Arab Al-Jazeera television station, the group, calling itself the Defense of the Holy Sites Brigades, said it would kill Abdul Jawad if U.S. and Iraqi military operations continued in Najaf.

Abdul Jawad's body was found in a deserted area on Saturday, said Basra police commander Brig. Gen. Mohammed Radhim al-Ali. It wasn't clear if the group was behind Abdul Jawad's slaying.

From The Associated Press

Iraq's air force launches recon flights, first since U.S. invasion

BY TODD PITMAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's new air force took to the skies this week for the first time since the U.S. invaded last year and disbanded the country's armed forces, the U.S. military said.

Iraqi pilots on Wednesday flew two Seabird Seeker SB7L-360 reconnaissance aircraft on what the U.S. military described as "limited operations missions intended to protect infrastructure facilities and Iraq's borders."

The two light reconnaissance planes are fitted with surveillance systems that can transmit live video images to ground forces. They are the first of a fleet that will eventually number 10 light aircraft of "similar capability," the statement said.

Coalition forces and neighboring Jordan have been training Iraq's 162-member air force, which is expected to grow to about 500 by December.

Former President Saddam Hussein invested a huge portion of the country's oil wealth to equip his air force during the 1980-88 war with Iran. At its height in the late 1980s, it listed nearly 750 combat aircraft, including Soviet MiGs and Sukhois and French Mirage fighters.

In the 1990s, Iraq's air force fell apart due to two wars with the United States and a dozen years of international sanctions.

British military officials helping form the new force are focusing on map-reading and navigation.

"The old air force had previously placed more of an emphasis on getting airborne before receiving direction from the ground on operational details and destinations," the statement said.

Guantanamo panel rules in 10 more detention cases

The Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — U.S. military review panels have decided not to release 10 Guantanamo Bay detainees, concluding they were properly classified as "enemy combatants," a military official said Saturday.

The decision brought to 14 the number of cases decided by the panels, said Navy Cmdr. Katy Wright, a spokeswoman at the Pentagon.

The panels decided to hold all 14.

The military so far has reviewed the cases of 31 detainees, including that of a 30-year-old prisoner on Saturday who allegedly served as a bodyguard for Osama bin Laden.

All 585 Guantanamo detainees are accused of links to al-Qaida or Afghanistan's former Taliban regime.

The military would not release details of the concluded cases, including when the detainees went before the review panels, their names, nationalities or the circumstances surrounding their capture.

In Saturday's case, the prisoner, whose name and nationality were not released, received training in explosives at al-Qaida's al-Farouq training camp in Afghanistan, Wright said.

He allegedly participated in military operations against U.S.-led coalition forces and was caught trying to cross into Pakistan. The prisoner, who has been held at Guantanamo for 33 months, called no witnesses, Wright said.

The military so far has reviewed the cases of 31 detainees, including that of a 30-year-old prisoner who allegedly served as a bodyguard for Osama bin Laden.

Human rights lawyers have criticized the review hearings, saying they fail to satisfy a recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that prisoners may contest their detention in U.S. civilian courts. Some have been held since the detention mission began in January 2002.

The review tribunals are separate from military commissions, where some prisoners will be tried on war crimes conspiracy and other charges. Pretrial hearings for the commissions are to begin Tuesday.

12 arrested in bomb plot on U.S. Embassy in Pakistan

Al-Qaida suspects also targeted Pakistani government leaders

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan revealed that it has arrested a dozen al-Qaida-linked terrorists, led by an Egyptian, who planned to launch simultaneous suicide attacks on government leaders and the U.S. Embassy earlier this month.

Officials said Sunday the plot could have killed hundreds of people, underscoring the deadly stakes in President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's aggressive push to defeat violent extremists enraged by his support of the U.S.-led war on terrorism.

Security agencies are hunting for other suspects, including a prominent cleric based in Islamabad, whose car was allegedly used to transport weapons to a safehouse that would have been the attackers' base.

"We have infiltrated their network and that is why we have made these arrests," Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayyat told The Associated Press.

"They wanted to destabilize Pakistan, they wanted to create unrest and they wanted to weaken this government."

Musharraf, who abandoned Pakistan's support of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in America, has been targeted by al-Qaida before. He narrowly escaped two bombings just 10 days apart in December 2003 that left 17 people dead.

He has since stepped up the fight against terrorists, and over the past five weeks Pakistan says it has captured more than 60 suspects, including some key al-Qaida operatives. Among them was a Pakistani computer expert and a Tanzanian national who is wanted for the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in East Africa that killed more than 200 people.

Those two key arrests also unearthed computer files storing al-Qaida surveillance of potential targets in the United States and Britain, and led to a dozen additional arrests in Britain.

Last weekend, Pakistan said it had cracked a plot at home to sabotage its Independence Day celebrations on Aug. 14, and this weekend officials revealed some details of what the attackers had planned.

Officials said the suspects were arrested in the cities of Islamabad, Hyderabad and Lahore Aug. 10-15. Hayyat said they were linked to al-Qaida and wanted to kill "important personalities" including Musharraf and government ministers.

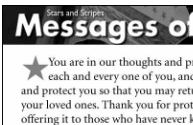
Security agencies seized a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including dozens of bombs, grenades, rocket launchers and detonators and electronic surveillance devices. They also found belts used to strap explosives to a suicide attacker's body.

Among the targets were Musharraf's official residence, the prime minister's house, a convention center, Parliament, the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and the headquarters of the army in the neighboring city of Rawalpindi.

All but one of 11 or 12 suspects arrested so far were Pakistani.

The other was the alleged Egyptian mastermind, Sheikh Isa alias Qari Ismail, whose identity was being checked by intelligence agencies.

Associated Press writers Munir Ahmad and Sadaqat Jan in Islamabad contributed to this report.



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Messages of Support

★ You are in our thoughts and prayers constantly. God bless each and every one of you, and may the Lord guide you, and protect you so that you may return home safely to rejoin your loved ones. Thank you for protecting our freedom, and for offering it to those who have never known it. Thank you for being brave and honorable. The Spence Family. Sevierville, TN

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Experts raise questions over lack of medical ethics in Abu Ghraib abuse

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Suspected of having condoned the torture of Iraqi prisoners, some American military doctors now face ugly comparisons to soldier-physicians who conspired in abuses by Saddam Hussein, Adolf Hitler and other dictators.

Although the Americans' alleged misconduct is far less severe, some say it is made worse because they did not have to fear being killed if they didn't cooperate.

"I don't think there are shades of gray," said Dr. Vincent Iacopino, director of research for Physicians for Human Rights. "If they did not have the immediate threat of harm, they had the obligation if they witnessed abuses to say something about them."

The Defense Department issued a statement Friday taking "strong exception" to allegations made last week in the British medical journal The Lancet. An article by an American professor said doctors at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison falsified death certificates to hide killings, hid evidence of beatings and revived a prisoner so he could be tortured more.

The Defense Department says there is "no evidence" of that and objects to what it calls the "wholesale indictment" of U.S. medical personnel and care in Iraq. The statement says that if an ongoing investigation finds guilt, "those responsible will be held accountable."

Medical ethicists say that being silent while patients are harmed is a profound breach of ethics and the oath that doctors take. They have called for reforms of military medicine, more training for doctors to recognize signs of torture, and an independent, non-military-led investigation of the scandal.

The Lancet article was written by Steven Miles, a University of Minnesota professor who has researched human rights issues for 20 years. It was based on media reports, congressional testimony, sworn statements of detainees and soldiers, and medical journal accounts — not events he witnessed firsthand.

Miles, who unsuccessfully ran for a U.S. Senate nomination in 2000 as a Democrat in Minnesota, does not shed light on how many doctors were involved or how widespread the problem of medical complicity was, aspects he says he is now investigating.

The Lancet report follows an essay in the July 29 New England Journal of Medicine by Dr. Robert Jay Lifton, a Harvard Medical School psychiatrist, noting mounting reports of abuses and urging military doctors to come forward with what they know. He alluded to incidents in the past where doctors had roles in torture or abuse, including the brutal experiments by Joseph Mengele and other Nazi doctors during World War II.Being a doctor and being a soldier are not conflicting duties, said Martha Huggins, an author, sociologist and longtime torture researcher from Tulane University.

Even if officers or other military personnel were abusing prisoners and detainees, it doesn't mean the system expects a doctor to be complicit, she said.

"They put you in that position. They have validated that they want you to be a doctor," and that means doing no harm, Huggins said.

The American Medical Association has long had a policy against doctors joining in abuse "in any form," said Dr. Michael Goldrich, chairman of its council on ethical and judicial affairs.

"Participation in torture by physicians is the most egregious concern, but there are other levels that can range from physicians caring for patients to facilitate their return to interrogation and torture, or just awareness of the ongoing presence of torture," he said. But written policies against abuse often fall away under the pressure of the kind of counterinsurgency war going on in Iraq, Lifton said. It's especially dangerous when the enemy is unclear and elusive and the war is on foreign and hostile territory, he said.

"In that kind of situation, you're likely to get atrocities that can include doctors," he said. The messages doctors get from their leaders is important, Lifton said. "It's one thing to have principles. It's another to be in a particular situation where the command environment powerfully either endorses, promotes or at least does little to discourage torture or abuse of prisoners," he said.

At 50, C-130 still an important USAF prop

BY MARNI MCENTEE
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany

She's turning 50 Monday, and by all accounts she's still got the moves.

The C-130 Hercules was born Aug. 23, 1954, entered the Air Force inventory three years later and seems destined to sashay through the skies for years to come.

Tactical airlifter. Special operations gunship. Reconnaissance platform. Refueler. Medevac. This gray lady can do it all.

"It's the greatest propeller-drive aircraft ever built."

Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Mars
superintendent of the 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany

"This is the plane that helped win the Cold War and it's still out there winning other wars, providing humanitarian relief and doing anything that's asked of it," said Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Mars, superintendent of the 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Lockheed built the first Hercules, a YC-130A, in Burbank, Calif., and it made its maiden flight from Burbank to California's Edwards Air Force Base 50 years ago Monday, said Master Sgt. Randy Bergeron, senior military historian for U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

USAFE used its first C-130 in 1957 during an exercise in France. It has been a key weapon in the theater since then, he said.

Renowned for its versatility, the Hercules can handle 42,000-to-44,000-pound maximum payloads and land on dirt strips, ice fields and muddy backwaters.

From the jungles of Vietnam to the steppes of Central Asia to the deserts of Africa and the Middle East, the Hercules — named for the Greek god with legendary strength — goes anywhere.

"It has such a rich history," Bergeron said.

In all, Lockheed built 2,200 C-130s. And despite her age, the Hercules still woos warriors the world over. Today, 60 nations use the aircraft in 70 variations, according to the company's Web site.

"They grow a personality," Mars said.

It's no wonder. Ramstein's two Hercules squadrons use some of the oldest C-130s in the inventory. Maintainers keep them in the air, sometimes building replacement parts from scratch.

Mars jokingly calls the job "vintage aircraft restoration."

"They sweat in it, they bump their heads in it, they bleed in it," he said of the maintainers. "They put in 12 [to] 16 hours a day and sometimes more in it. When it takes off, there's no other sense of accomplishment you can compare it to," Mars said.

And, it invariably takes off.

"After you've flown it for a while, there's a comfort to it," said Lt. Col. J.R. Reid, commander of Ramstein's 37th Airlift Squadron. Maybe it's the dull roar of the props. Maybe it's the skill of the crew. Maybe it's the stability and versatility of the aircraft. Reid couldn't put his finger on it.

"It doesn't matter if you're flying into a hostile area of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) or to Timbuktu, Africa — which we have done — or to Balad, Iraq. It instills the confidence to do the mission," Reid said.

Lockheed Martin continues to roll out the newest model — the C-130 J. The Air Force regularly retrofits older models with the latest technology.

Thousands of airmen and airmen's children have cut their teeth on the C-130 Hercules. Thousands more have sunk into its trademark web seats, blocked its roar with yellow earplugs, and held on for an E-ticket, corkscrew tactical landing in a war zone.

"This is an airplane that wins your affection," Mars said. "It's the greatest propeller-drive aircraft ever built."

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JUSTIN D. PYLE/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A C-130 Hercules loaded with Marines with the Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team lands in Lungi, Sierra Leone, in July 2003.

C-130's history

Here are just a few key events in the history of the C-130 Hercules, which turns 50 Monday.

■ Aug. 23, 1954: The first of two YC-130A test aircraft makes its maiden flight from Burbank, Calif., to Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Only two prototypes were assembled at Lockheed's plant in California, while more than 2,200 aircraft have been built in Marietta, Ga.

■ September 1957: The 317th Troop Carrier Wing flies the first C-130 into U.S. Air Forces in Europe's theater during an exercise held in France.

■ July 1958: The C-130 carries its first redeployment of troops from USAFE back to the United States from Lebanon.

■ October 1963: A C-130 lands on the deck of a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier.

■ 1964: C-130s play a key role in dropping paratroops into the Congo to free hostages held by Congolese rebels.

■ 1968: The first C-130 lands at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

■ 1960s-present: Heavily involved in humanitarian missions, the plane takes part in Operation Provide Relief in Somalia in 1992 and Operation Restore Hope in Rwanda in 1994.

■ 1980s-present: Although an older plane, it is involved in recent missions including Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Desert Storm (the loss of an AC-130 during the Persian Gulf War was the single largest air loss of the war — a crew of 14 people), and Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan.

Source: USAFE historian

Japan doubts copter's safety

TOKYO — The U.S. military said Sunday a tail rotor problem caused one of its helicopters to crash earlier this month and announced that flights by similar aircraft would resume, prompting a protest from the Japanese government.

The Japanese government called the resumption "extremely regrettable," saying the U.S. military had not done enough to address the question of safety.

The U.S. military helicopter crashed near Futenma Air Station on Japan's southern Okinawa island Aug. 13, injuring the three crew members.

The accident reignited calls for Futenma base to be moved from a congested residential neighborhood in Ginowan city on Okinawa, which hosts a large portion of the 50,000 U.S. military personnel stationed in Japan.

An investigation revealed a component in the helicopter's tail rotor assembly was missing, leading to a loss of control, said the United States Forces, Japan in a statement.

It said the problem was specific to that particular helicopter.

Other helicopters of the same model, CH-53D, did not pose a threat and would resume flights Sunday, it said.

From wire reports

Aviano fire chief calls team effective

No repeat of Burger King blaze foreseen, Donan says

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Seven months and seven days after his department was unable to save the Burger King restaurant on base from burning down, Chief Master Sgt. David Donan said Friday that he's confident a similar incident won't happen again.

That's good news for parents, who are just a few weeks from sending their children back to the school that's located on the same base. And for those undergoing procedures at the nearby medical clinic.

"I've had a long time to go back and consider everything," said Donan, the base fire chief at Aviano. "I cannot think of anything from the firefighting operation that I would have done differently."

No one has publicly laid any blame on the fire department for being unable to put out the fire until all that remained of the structure was smoking embers. Firefighters responded to the blaze quickly and started to apply water. They couldn't fully operate the jets on two trucks at the same time, however, because they didn't have enough water pressure. So it took about four hours for the fire to be put out.

Donan said part of the problem was that pumps weren't working because electricity had mistakenly been shut down on the base. That power outage either contributed to or caused the fire, according to a page released from the safety investigation. The other problem was a system of old pipes that simply couldn't supply enough water.

The majority of the safety investigation won't be released to the public, so it's not known if there were recommendations for changes or if any such changes have been made.

Donan, who hasn't seen the safety report himself, said the situation should improve soon when a new water station opens nearby on Area 2. That station will supply a greater amount of water (1,100 gallons per minute) at stronger pressure to pipes that have already been laid. It also has backup generators in case power fails.

"Yeah, we wish the new system was already on line," Donan said, referring to delays in opening the water station. It was supposed to open during the summer, but like many projects in the Aviano 2000 construction program, it fell behind schedule.

Still, recent tests have shown a gallons-per-minute rate of 990 on the existing system. That's enough to meet firefighting needs, Donan said: "It's not bad for an older system."

He said newer construction — like that used in building the school, medical center and other new buildings around base — is flame resistant and has multiple systems designed to help put fires out.

That wasn't the case with the Burger King building, which was built in 1986.

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Volunteering brings out MP's softer side

BY WARD SANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany — In his job as Missouri prison SWAT team sergeant, Troy Green has experienced things that film director Quentin Tarantino would see as good, gritty material.

Green sees it as sick reality.

"I've been knocked out," he said. "I've seen guys use their wives, mother, their kids to smuggle drugs in. Stabbings. It's a pretty negative place."

An inmate in solitary confinement once kicked a food tray through a slot and into Green's groin, sending him lights out from the pain. He's been called in to emergency duty when prisoners mounted padlocks to belt buckles and opened up guards' heads.

"It makes you see people in a different way," Green said dryly.

But the 33-year-old specialist in the Missouri National Guard, called up last year to work as a military policeman in Darmstadt, seems a sunny character around post. His buddies don't associate him with batons so much as with toy drives or the Special Olympics.

Before 1999, it wasn't that way.

Green said that back in the day, he was a hard guy.

"I was mean," he admitted.

His special tactics and response team at Crossroads Correctional Center in Cameron, Mo., specializes in riots, hostage stand-offs and manhunts. Hostage situations are Green's turf. The maximum security, all-male prison was the first in Missouri to put up a lethal electric fence.

Then five years ago, the Missouri Department of Corrections decreed that he and his colleagues would carry the Special Olympics torch in a law enforcement relay from Cameron to St. Joseph, about 36 miles. There would be corrections officers like him, sheriff's deputies, highway patrolmen, city cops, too. The race would end in the parking lot of a Wal-Mart.

Green did the run because he had to.

"When we got to Wal-Mart — I don't know anything about Special Olympics," he said. "I didn't really care."

Then the kids swarmed around the cops at the finish. They waved a welcome banner. They wanted to hold up the polished brass Olympic torch. They treated Green like a rock star. There was a whole other world out there, a world where people didn't respond to bad breaks by breaking the law, but by reaching for gold.

His hard heart went soft.

"If you give the kid a Coke or shake his hand, it's a big deal," Green realized. "They don't get the breaks you or I do."

Green has done the torch run ever since. And he's twice done the Missouri Polar Bear Plunge, a February dip in the Lake of the Ozarks to raise money for Special Olympics.

"You've got to run in," Green said. "They don't let you plunge in, because of shock."

When he moved to Darmstadt in January, he immediately looked up the 233rd Base Support Battalion Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer, Sgt. Joseph Ward, to volunteer. Green has dressed up as McGruff the Crime Dog. Now, Ward is pushing to have Green nationally certified as a DARE officer himself.

"He's definitely one of the livelier McGruffs I've seen," Ward said.

"If you can not be the severe MP, as a lot of people see us sometimes, kids will come up to you," Ward said.

In May, Green volunteered as a morale-boosting "buddy" for Special Olympics athletes competing in Kaiserslautern.

"A lot of these kids, if they didn't hit a ball or whatever they're doing, it can crush their day," Green said.

He was also the point man in a toy drive for Iraqi children. The Darmstadt community donated more than 300 pounds of toys. They're trying to get more now.

"He's been really good with that," said Green's platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Charley Ramsey.

All the good deeds can be tough on the scheduling, Ramsey admitted.

"But as far as the people in the community, they see him out there, and usually he takes one of his squad members with him, and they get to see my MPs out of uniform, not just pulling people over."

One of the squad members is Sgt. Billy Bunch, himself a former sheriff's deputy from Springfield, Mo.

"I think it's a positive role model for younger troops as well," Bunch said. "It's their first time away from home. There's more to do than just party."

Back home in Missouri, Green has a wife and three kids. The oldest, Madison, is taking tough-girl lessons from Dad. Last year, she took fourth in her division of the tae kwon do world championship tournament in Little Rock, Ark. The 7-year-old keeps her little brother in check. But Green wants to instill a respect for gentler things, too.

"My wife and I try to teach our kids strong family values and basically being a good person and helping people," Green said.

And you can learn that from what may seem the most unlikely of sources. Such as the Army officer's preschooler who brought her bike to Green to give to a kid in Iraq. She struggled to give up the sentimental wheels, but did so without a tear.

Or from the Special Olympics kids that day at the Wal-Mart five years ago, happy despite life's hard knocks, shouting and smiling and waving at a tough guy named Troy Green.

E-mail Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@mail.estripes.osd.mil

RAY CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Troy Green, a member of the Missouri National Guard called up to work as a military policeman in Darmstadt, Germany, shows his softer side as he goes through a box of toys to be donated to needy children.

Stripes Spotlight

Spc. Troy Green

Green's work with children gives him a break from the rough life of a prison security worker and makes him a positive role model for fellow troops looking to make a difference in their community.

Job: Military policeman in Darmstadt, Germany

Age: 33

Family: Wife, Audrey, and three children

Hometown: St. Joseph, Mo.

Hobbies: Volunteering, and the occasional spin at freestyle BMX (bicycle motocross)

Stars and Stripes

IN THE STATES

GOP senators propose major intel changes

Plan would put CIA, military operations under new director

BY MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Intelligence Committee Republicans proposed removing the nation's largest intelligence gathering operations from the CIA and the Pentagon and putting them directly under a new national intelligence director.

Republican Sen. Pat Roberts, the committee chairman, unveiled on Sunday the most sweeping intelligence reorganization proposal offered by anyone since the Sept. 11 commission called for major changes. In an appearance on CBS' "Face the Nation," Roberts acknowledged that full details had yet to be shared with either the White House or with Senate Democrats.

"We didn't pay attention to turf or agencies or boxes" but rather to "what are the national security threats that face this country today," Roberts said of the bill endorsed by eight Republican members of the intelligence committee. "I'm trying to build a consensus around something that's very different and very bold."

But he immediately ran into some resistance from a Democrat on his own committee. Democratic Sen. Carl Levin said before appearing with Roberts on the CBS show neither he nor the committee's ranking Democrat, Jay Rockefeller, had seen the full proposal.

"I think it would be better to start on a bipartisan basis," Levin said. "I think it's a mistake to begin with a partisan bill no matter what is in it."

AP

Senate Intelligence Committee chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., talk about the reform of the intelligence community on CBS's "Face the Nation" Sunday in Washington.

The commission that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks called for a powerful national intelligence director who could force the nation's many agencies to cooperate.

Up to now the debate has focused on how much power to give that official rather than on retooling agencies. Most Democrats have supported the commission's proposal that the new director have authority over hiring and spending by the intelligence agencies.

Roberts said his aides had spoken with White House officials and would share the details of his proposal with them on Monday.

Roberts' bill would take the CIA's three main directorates — Operations, which runs intelligence collection and covert actions; Intelligence, which analyzes intelligence reports; and Science and Technology — and put them into new, separate and renamed agencies, each reporting to a separate assistant national intelligence director. It also would remove three of the largest intelligence agencies from the Pentagon.

Although the measure would essentially dismantle the CIA, Roberts said in a paper he released: "We are not abolishing the CIA. We are reordering and renaming its three major elements."

Equally drastic changes were proposed at the Pentagon.

The nation's largest spy agency, the National Security Agency, which intercepts electronic signals around the world, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, which analyzes satellite pictures, would be removed from the Pentagon and put under direct control of an assistant national intelligence director for collection.

The Defense Intelligence Agency's human intelligence collection activity would become a separate agency, like the former CIA directorate of operations.

Both would report to the same assistant national intelligence director for collection. This official also would have direct line control over the FBI's counterintelligence and counterterrorism units, although they would continue to operate within the FBI administratively and would still be subject to attorney general guidelines.

The Pentagon's huge National Reconnaissance Office, which operates spy satellites, would work under an assistant national intelligence director for Research, Development and Acquisition.

That same assistant would also run the CIA's former directorate of science and technology as an independent agency called the Office of Technical Support.

In a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing last week, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld advised moving cautiously in restructuring the intelligence community.

Perhaps mindful of that warning, Roberts' plan would create a separate assistant national intelligence director for military support and a four-star director of military intelligence who would run Defense Department tactical intelligence units and report directly to the defense secretary.

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U.S. cautions citizens in Middle East, Africa

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — On the heels of a U.S. indictment of Hamas leaders, the State Department on Saturday issued an updated warning that Americans in the Middle East and North Africa could be targets of terrorist attacks.

"Anti-American violence could include possible terrorist actions against aviation, ground transportation and maritime interests, specifically in the Middle East, including the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, the Arabian peninsula and North Africa," the department said.

Abu Marzook

The federal indictment unsealed Friday in Chicago against a senior political leader of the militant Hamas group and two others "may be used as an excuse to target American citizens or American interests throughout the region," the alert said.

The indictment alleged that Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, deputy chief of the Hamas political bureau who now lives in Syria, and two others, who were arrested in the United States, used U.S. bank accounts to launder millions of dollars to support Hamas and pay for attacks against Israel over 15 years. The U.S. government designated Hamas a terrorist organization in 1995.

The State Department said credible information indicates terrorist groups seek to continue attacks against U.S. interests in the Middle East, including Westerners and oil workers in the Gulf region. It said increased security at embassies and consular offices had led terrorists to seek easier targets like public transportation, residential areas and public places where people congregate.

"Suicide operations, bombings, hijackings, kidnappings and targeted attacks resulting in death" are possible, the warning said. And while conventional explosives are the most immediate threat, "chemical or biological agents must be considered a possible threat."

N.J. governor defends delaying his resignation

Alleged former lover claims threat of deportation

The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — In a newspaper opinion piece published Sunday, New Jersey's embattled governor says his decision not to leave office immediately because of a sex scandal was "difficult" to make but one he will not change.

Democratic Gov. James E. McGreevey used The New York Times to defend his Nov. 15 resignation date, which has been criticized roundly by both Republicans and members of his own party. McGreevey announced Aug. 12 he is leaving his post because he had an extramarital affair with a man.

"While I see the merits of both sides of the debate, I stand firm with my decision," McGreevey wrote in the Times. "My obligation is to complete the important work already started and to achieve an effective transition of state government."

Meanwhile, an attorney for Golan Cipel — who has been identified as the man with whom McGreevey had an extramarital affair — said the governor's associates told Cipel not to go public about his relationship with the governor or face deportation.

Rachel Yosevitz, told The Philadelphia Inquirer for a story in Sunday's editions that associates of the governor visited Cipel at his home.

"They made it clear that the governor would do as he pleased and that if he wanted to have him deported, he would have him deported," Yosevitz told the newspaper.

McGreevey

McGreevey's lawyer, William Lawler, denied the new allegations: "That is not true," he said.

Cipel's attorneys have maintained that he is not gay, and that McGreevey harassed the former homeland security aide. Sources close to McGreevey have said the Israeli demanded millions of dollars to stay quiet.

In his opinion piece, McGreevey identified two specific reasons for remaining in office: to address several policy matters, including plans for a stem cell research center, and to make use of personal privilege set forth in the state Constitution.

"I acknowledge that the constitution would permit a special election to occur if I were to resign at or about the first week of September. .... While the constitution does provide the mechanism for an election, the decision of when to make that resignation effective is a personal one."

Since New Jersey does not have a lieutenant governor, state Sen. President Richard J. Codey will become acting governor and will serve out McGreevey's term, which expires in January 2006.

"An acting governor is more inclined by title to finish the good work that has been started," McGreevey said, adding that holding a special election would not be in the state's best interest.

"There is a great cost to staging an election hastily; even a statewide race could get lost in a national election year and the momentum and the investment made in still developing initiatives would most likely be diminished," he said.

AP

Sonya Thomas, of Alexandria, Va., eats lobster on her way to winning the World Lobster Eating Championship on Saturday in Kennebunk, Maine.

Top speed-eater wins lobster eating contest

BY SARA LEITCH
The Associated Press

KENNEBUNK, Maine — America's top speed-eater wolfed down 38 lobsters in 12 minutes Saturday to win the World Lobster Eating Contest.

Sonya Thomas, of Alexandria, Va., won $500 and a trophy belt for her efforts, consuming 9.76 pounds of lobster meat.

Each contestant had a partner cracking the shells and pulling out the meat. Eleven competitors ate as many lobsters as they could in a 12-minute period, devouring a total of 300 pounds of the unshelled crustaceans.

"I have a natural ability because of my stomach capacity," said Thomas, who weighs a mere 105 pounds. "I could eat more, but something else — not a lobster."

The competition, only in its second year, sought to elevate Maine into the big leagues of competitive eating, alongside New York's Coney Island with its Nathan's Famous hot dogs and New Orleans with its oysters.

This year's competition at the Pilot House Grill & Boatyard was sanctioned by the International Federation of Competitive Eating, which ranked Thomas the country's top speed-eater.

Thomas was coming off a baked bean victory days before in Indiana, where she consumed 8.4 pounds of beans with pork in 2 minutes and 47 seconds.

Suspected drug death

LOWELL, Mass. — A man apparently on a cocaine binge died after he stripped naked, ran through a restaurant stabbing himself with a pen and tried to electrocute himself during a violent struggle with police.

Richard Wheeler, 33, of Lowell, went into the DoubleTree Hotel early Friday, grabbed a pen from the front desk and ran into the restaurant, said Verdell Ekberg, spokesman for DoubleTree's parent company, Procacciantti Group of Providence.

When police arrived, Wheeler — who had stripped naked — attacked the officers.

During a struggle in the restaurant kitchen, Wheeler tried to grab the officers' guns, threw a coffee carafe at an officer and urged police to shoot him. He also tried to stick his fingers in electrical sockets, police said.

Murder charge in fire

PHILADELPHIA — A house blaze that killed two firefighters started in a tangle of wires and lamps that were installed to grow marijuana in a basement closet, authorities said.

The man who police say was responsible for the drug operation was charged with third-degree murder.

Fire Capt. John Taylor, 53, and firefighter Rey Rubio, 42, died Friday when they became trapped in the basement of the row house by quick-moving flames.

Officials said the two were trying to find the source of the fire when Taylor triggered a distress button on his radio. But rescuers could not get to them in time.

New cybercafe laws

LOS ANGELES — A new city law designed to prevent violence at cybercafes quietly took effect Saturday, but authorities had no inspections planned to check for compliance with the tighter rules.

The ordinance requires 30 parlors in Los Angeles to enforce a curfew for minors and install surveillance cameras. Police did not plan any immediate inspections, and one business owner said permits were not available yet.

"They said check back in a couple of months," said Lisa Woo-Rogers of Blue Screen Gaming.

Los Angeles is the largest of several Southern California cities to enact restrictions on Internet gaming parlors. The ordinance was proposed after several shootings in 2002 near cybercafes, two of them fatal.

A police analysis found that most of the people arrested at cybercafes were minors who violated curfew or truancy rules.

From The Associated Press

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Kerry calls on Bush to speak out on attack

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
The Associated Press

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry on Saturday night urged President Bush to "stand up and stop" what he called personal attacks on him over his combat record in Vietnam.

At a fundraiser, attended by about 750 people, Kerry said the attacks by a group of Vietnam veterans and former Swift Boat commanders have intensified "because in the last months they have seen me climbing in America's understanding that I know how to fight a smarter and more effective war" against terrorists.

"That's why they're attacking my credibility. That's why they've personally gone after me. The president needs to stand up and stop that. The president needs to have the courage to talk about it."

Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, a group funded in part by a top GOP donor in Texas, has been running ads featuring veterans who served in Vietnam at the same time as Kerry and question his wartime record.

The White House and the Bush campaign have denied any direct connection with the Swift Boat group. "The president has made it repeatedly clear that he wants to see an end to all" advertising from outside groups, said Brian Jones, a Bush campaign spokesman.

But on Saturday, a former POW, retired Col. Ken Cordier, resigned as a volunteer from the Bush campaign's veterans' steering committee after it was learned that he participated in an anti-Kerry ad sponsored by the Swift Boat group. The ad criticizes Kerry's congressional anti-war testimony in the 1970s alleging U.S. troops engaged in atrocities in Vietnam.

"Because of his involvement [with the group] Col. Cordier will no longer participate as a volunteer for Bush-Cheney '04," the campaign said in a statement.

LEFT: KERRY-EDWARDS 2004; RIGHT: GEORGE BUSH PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY/AP

A recent attack on the war record of Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., in a commercial by the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, has heated the presidential politics surrounding the military records of both Kerry and President Bush. Left: Kerry walks with Sen. Ted Kennedy in Washington. Right: Bush is shown during his time in the Texas Air National Guard.

What did you do in the war, candidate?

Vietnam-era actions hang over campaigns as Kerry comes under attack

BY DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press

Analysis

WASHINGTON — John Kerry's Vietnam War service records run to multiple medal commendations and a notation of "conspicuous gallantry" in combat. President Bush's file tracks the stateside career of a National Guard test pilot.

Yet the combat veteran is the one under attack as a wartime pretender in the race for the White House. It's a controversy — Democrats call it a smear — stirred by the president's allies and aimed at undermining Kerry's truthfulness, personal character and fitness for office as much as his claim to the medals he came home with.

Smear or not, the charges are spreading at the speed of talk radio, cable TV and the Internet, and affecting the campaign in unpredictable ways.

"He's lying about his record," said one Vietnam veteran in a commercial by the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth that aired recently in three battleground states.

"Lying about his first Purple Heart," said a second. "He lied to get the Bronze Star," added a third.

"He dishonored his country, he most certainly did," said another, as the attack takes on a slightly different tone.

"John Kerry cannot be trusted," another vet concluded.

Challenged on trust, truth and credibility, Kerry fought back Thursday, adopting the language of his detractors.

They are spreading "lies about my record," he said; Bush, he said, was allowing front groups to "do his dirty work."

White House spokesman Scott McClellan seized on that to accuse Kerry of "losing his cool" — presumably not a trait the voters seek in a commander in chief.

Democrats concede privately the Massachusetts senator has been slow to recognize the damage being done to his political standing by the attacks of a group of men who hold Kerry's post-combat anti-war activities in contempt. There were hints of it in polling, and a tacit acknowledgment in the strongly worded rejection of the claims and in the decisions of both the Kerry campaign and the Democratic party to air new ads on the subject.

In a University of Pennsylvania National Annenberg Survey, more than half of those surveyed said they had either seen the ad aired by Kerry's detractors or heard of it. "Unfit for Command," a book detailing the Swift Boat Veterans' accusations, was No. 1 Saturday on Amazon.com's best seller list. A CBS poll said independent voters were split on whether the allegations were believable, and noted a shift in veterans toward Bush.

Like Kerry, the president faces continuing questions about his service during the Vietnam era.

So far, though, the president's critics haven't elevated it as a campaign issue, preferring to stress domestic concerns such as the economy, health care and education. In his speech Thursday, though, Kerry said he was more than willing to take up the issue with Bush personally. "Well, if he wants to have a debate about our service in Vietnam, here is my answer: 'Bring it on.' "

It's unlikely the president will. There are lingering questions about whether Bush reported for National Guard duty over a three-month period in 1972. He was in Alabama at the time, having left Texas to work on a political campaign. The most recent batch of records, released on the eve of Kerry's nominating convention this summer, were inconclusive.

Kerry used his four-day Democratic National Convention to establish an identity as a war-wounded veteran who is now ready to take command in an era of terrorism. Oft-repeated charges to the contrary — true or not — may erode his claim and weaken his challenge to the president at a time when polls show a tight race.

"John Kerry has showed he's earned the trust of the nation to be commander in chief coming out of the [Democratic] convention," says spokesman Michael Meehan. "Republicans don't know what to do with themselves, so they will do anything, including a smear book, smear television ads paid for by Republicans filled with anything they can to stop him."

A decision to air counter-commercials in Ohio, Wisconsin and West Virginia was public evidence of concern, a shift in strategy for a campaign that had hoped to husband its advertising money until after Labor Day.

"All these Viet Cong were shooting at me," former Green Beret Jim Rassmann said in Kerry's commercial, recounting the day he recalls being thrown out of Kerry's boat by a blast. "I expected I'd be shot. When he pulled me out of the river, he risked his life to save mine."

SEE WAR ON PAGE 12

THE RIGHT PEOPLE • THE RIGHT TOOLS • THE RIGHT TIME • THE RIGHT ANSWER

"USAREUR RAPID TOOL PROGRAM"

Since the summer of 2001, Snap-On Tools Government Business Unit has fielded tool trucks to sell and replace tools on Army installations throughout USAREUR. Trucks carry 100 NSN's of the most demanded tools, visiting units twice a month. Warranted items are replaced at once and new items can be bought by IMPAC card or cash payments as well as through the local Contracting Offices. Items out of stock from TOP 300 at the time of visit will be shipped within 48 hours at no additional cost.

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IMPACT CARDS ACCEPTED

Campaign spending passes $1 billion in '04 despite new laws

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There's still more than two months to go before Election Day and despite new campaign finance laws money is being spent at a dizzying pace.

The spending tops mid-election year levels in 2002 and 2000, when national party committees could still raise corporate, union and unlimited donations known as soft money.

The presidential and congressional candidates and the national party committees that support them have already laid out more than $1 billion for the 2004 election cycle.

President Bush alone devoted $209 million to his re-election effort through July, a campaign finance report he filed Friday shows.

His Democratic rival, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, reported to the Federal Election Commission that he spent $36.4 million in July, on top of nearly $150 million through June.

In addition, Senate and House candidates spent $487 million from January 2003 through last June, and national party committees burned through more than $400 million, their reports covering the 18-month period show.

Under a law that took effect starting with this election cycle, the biggest contribution party committees can collect is $25,000 from an individual — limited donations known as hard money — and corporate and union contributions are banned. Individuals can give up to $2,000 to a presidential or congressional candidate under the law, which doubled that limit.

"The parties and the presidential campaigns have just been hard-money machines," said Bob Biersack, a spokesman for the FEC who tracks campaign fund raising and spending. "On the presidential side it's both ends: money in those $2,000 increments, but it's also a lot of small contributions for Bush and Kerry. And I think the same is true for the parties."

In addition, nonparty groups that can still collect soft money are spending tens of millions on ads and get-out-the-vote efforts.

In the presidential race, advertising has been the single biggest expense, accounting for at least $116 million of Bush's spending and at least $93 million of Kerry's.

KERRY-EDWARDS 2004/AP

John Kerry poses with crewmates during the Vietnam War. Despite lingering questions about whether President Bush reported for National Guard duty over a three-month period in 1972, it is Kerry, a combat veteran, who is the one under attack as a wartime pretender in the race for the White House.

War: Back and forth on Vietnam

WAR, FROM PAGE 11

The 30-second ad also says Swift Boat Veterans for Truth is funded by Bush's "big money supporters." The group is financed in part by Houston homebuilder Bob J. Perry, a GOP donor.

The Democratic Party began airing a new commercial in 21 states Friday, a straightforward testimonial to Kerry's qualifications that featured retired Gen. Merrill A. McPeak, former Air Force chief of staff.

On Saturday, the Kerry campaign was releasing a Web video comparing the Swift Boat Veterans campaign to the bitter Republican primary battle between Bush and Sen. John McCain in 2000. The video, to be sent via e-mail to supporters, says, "George Bush is up to his old tricks."

The commercials created by Kerry's critics have spawned a continuing campaign back-and-forth as impenetrable as any fog of war.

Military records say that despite claims made by Larry Thurlow, one of the men in the anti-Kerry ad, Kerry's boat and several others came under fire on March 13, 1969, the day Rassmann was pulled from the river.

In reply, Thurlow issued a statement. "There was no hostile enemy fire directed at my boat or any of the five boats operating on the river that day," it said, adding that the evidence for the citation was drawn from a report that Kerry had filed.

In a story for Sunday editions, the Washington Post said its investigation could not substantiate that Kerry, in fact, had authored the report..

The paper said the initials "KJW" on the bottom of the report had been cited by critics as evidence Kerry had written it. But Kerry's initials are JFK and a review of other Swift Boat after-action reports by the newspaper also contained the "KJW" initials, describing incidents where Kerry was not present, according to the Post.

Another conflict involves George Elliott, who said in a sworn statement last month that Kerry was "not forthright" in Vietnam, including about the circumstances for which he earned his Silver Star.

Eight years ago, though, when Kerry's claim to the medal had been challenged, the same man stood at the senator's side at a news conference.

Md. company fires man who heckled president at rally

BY JOHN RABY
The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A man who heckled President Bush at a political rally was fired from his job at an advertising and design company for offending a client who provided tickets to the event.

The fired graphic designer said Saturday he won't try to get his job back.

"I'm mad less about losing the job — I'm more mad about the reasons," said Glen Hiller, 35, of Berkeley Springs. "All I did was show up and voice my opinion."

> *"All I did was show up and voice my opinion."*
> **Glen Hiller**

Hiller was ushered out of Hedgesville High School on Tuesday after shouting his disagreement with Bush's comments about the war in Iraq war and the search for weapons of mass destruction. The crowd had easily drowned out Hiller with its chant: "Four more years."

When he showed up for work at Octavo Designs of Frederick, Md., the following morning, he said he was told he'd embarrassed and offended a client who provided tickets to the event — and that he was fired.

The client was a public relations worker who represents the Berkeley County school district, he said. "It's just bizarre that you disagree with them and it all turns evil," Hiller said.

Messages left with Octavo Designs were not immediately returned Saturday.

The father of two young girls had worked at the design firm for five months, doesn't plan to appeal the firing, and holds no grudge against his boss.

"To some degree I can see her point of view," Hiller said.

"Advertising is all about having the perfect tan and driving a cool car. It's all about image."

Hiller said he now plans to pursue work as a registered nurse, a field in which he worked for 10 years before landing the design job.

IN THE WORLD

Palestinians accuse U.S. of harming peace

Leaders denounce agreement for building West Bank Jewish settlements

BY MARK LAVIE
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Palestinian leaders reacted angrily on Sunday to Washington's apparent readiness to allow construction inside Israeli settlements in the West Bank, warning that it would destroy the peace process.

U.S. officials in Israel confirmed to The Associated Press that though there has been no formal decision, the American government is not objecting to construction in the main settlement blocs, as long as the settlements themselves are not expanded — while an internal administration debate over the issue continues.

Such a shift would run counter to the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan, presented by President Bush in June 2003. The plan's initial stage mandates a complete freeze in construction in the settlements.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia refused to accept the possibility that U.S. policy has changed.

"I can't believe that America is now saying that settlement expansion is all right," he said. "This will destroy the peace process."

Nabil Abu Rdeneh, a top aide to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, called on the White House to "clarify" its position, fearing it would "encourage the Israeli government to continue and escalate its war against the Palestinian people."

The U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said an American team will visit Israel next month to discuss where construction would be permitted.

In Washington, administration officials insisted they are not signaling any major change in policy. "We continue to work with the Israelis on progress toward the settlement freeze," Jim Wilkinson, deputy national security adviser, said Sunday.

In a related development, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office announced Sunday that the administration providing compensation to settlers who leave Gaza and four West Bank settlements is officially in operation.

According to Sharon's "unilateral disengagement" plan, Israel is to evacuate all 21 Gaza settlements and the four in the West Bank by late next year. However, the plan has triggered widespread opposition in Sharon's own party.

Sharon has said one of the indirect goals of the plan is to allow reinforcement of the main West Bank settlement blocs.

Since taking control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war, Israel has built more than 150 settlements, where about 235,000 Israelis live, but only abut 8,000 of them in Gaza.

Palestinians claim the territories for a state and demand that all of the settlements be removed. Israel counters that there is no permanent border between the West Bank and Israel, and the settlements question should be answered as part of peace negotiations.

Iran to build nuke reactors with Russian help

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Brushing aside U.S. accusations that it wants to build atomic weapons, Iran said Sunday it has contracted Russia to build more nuclear power plants, while claiming two unnamed European countries have also expressed interest in helping construct similar facilities.

Russia is currently rebuilding Iran's first nuclear reactor, which was begun by West Germany but interrupted during the 1979 Islamic revolution. Damage caused to the facility in Bushehr, a coastal town in southern Iran, during the 1980-88 war with Iraq has also led to its inauguration being postponed from 2003 to August 2006.

Sabouri

Despite the delays and the project's $800 million cost, Iranian nuclear officials say they want Russia to build more nuclear reactors to help generate greater amounts of electricity.

"We have contracts with Russia to build more nuclear reactors.

No number has been specified but definitely our contract with Russia is to build more than one nuclear power plant," Asadollah Sabouri, deputy head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran in charge of nuclear power plants, told reporters Sunday.

The spokesman for Russia's Federal Atomic Energy Agency, Nikolai Shingaryov, told The Associated Press by telephone that he is unaware of contracts for Russia to help build any reactors other than the one being built now at Bushehr.

He said the original agreement signed between Moscow and Tehran during the 1990s called for Russia to help build two reactors at Bushehr, and that there have been discussions on the second one, but that an actual contract would be needed to begin construction.

Sabouri said later that Russia will build a second reactor in Bushehr and that Iran is studying other sites here for more possible reactors. Most areas in Iran are prone to earthquakes, restricting choices for setting up nuclear facilities.

Somalia swears in Parliament members

BY TOM MALITI
The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Members of a new transitional Parliament were sworn in Sunday, a key step toward establishing Somalia's first national government since 1991. But a dispute within one of the country's main clans over its delegates threatened to scuttle the peace process, mediators said.

The new Parliament is the product of nearly two years of talks in Kenya among clan leaders, religious leaders and warlords.

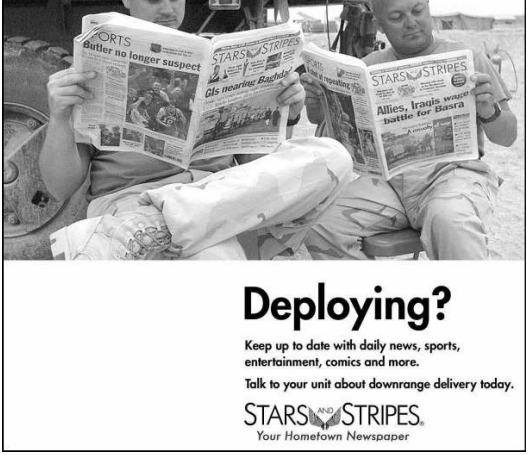
While foreign officials at the ceremony hailed the Parliament's creation, they pressed for a speedy resolution to one key hurdle — a dispute within the Darod clan over who will choose the clan's lawmakers.

"This is not an easy moment for me, as I stand before you seeing that the light at the end of the tunnel we have been going through is not far from us," said Kenyan diplomat Bethuel Kiplagat, the chief mediator at the talks, the latest of numerous attempts to bring peace to Somalia.

"If we have gone this far, for God's sake, let's finish the race," Kiplagat told the Somali clan leaders, warlords and religious leaders who attended the ceremony at the United Nation's sprawling campus on the edge of Nairobi.

Somalia descended into chaos after clan-based factions ousted dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991 and then turned on each other, transforming the country of 7 million people into a patchwork of fiefdoms.

An attempt in 2000 by Somali elders, businessmen and religious leaders to form a government failed largely because warlords refused to recognize the administration and relinquish their weapons.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GI's sentence disappointing

It is with great disappointment that I read about the conviction of Pfc. Edward L. Richmond Jr. on involuntary manslaughter charges of an Iraqi civilian. He was sentenced to three years in prison, a reduction in rank and will be dishonorably discharged from the Army.

I was left wondering what if the roles were reversed? What if a handcuffed American soldier were shot in the head from 6 feet away and killed by an Iraqi "insurgent" because he mistakenly thought the American posed a threat after stumbling. Would we be satisfied with the explanation or punishment if the Iraqi received a similar sentence in an Iraqi military court? I suspect not. We would be outraged — and appropriately so.

Is the life of an Iraqi cow herder inherently less valuable than that of an American soldier?

Spc. Robert Ortiz Jr.
Friedberg, Germany

Air Force overstrength?

I have been closely following the stories on the downsizing of the Air Force and Navy. Of all the stories I've read, not a single one mentions that there are numerous National Guard units working security for the Air Force.

I am in the Army and my wife is in the Oklahoma National Guard. Because the Air Force is short of people to fill its security forces role, it has called up her unit to work security at Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

How is it possible that they are overstrength and cutting slots when there are obviously holes that need patching? Because of this call up that has lasted two years, I had to transfer to Germany without my wife. We barely get to see each other every few months because of leave issues and the cost of travel between Germany and the States. I don't mind a little sacrifice in light of all the things the services are called upon to do recently. I do mind that I have spent less than two months with my wife in the last two years.

In February, I transfer back to the States and will be getting there just as the next rotation to Iraq will be starting. Since I have not been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan I expect to be heading that way. I don't mind going, that's just pulling my weight, but I want someone to recognize the fact that people are suffering due to needless call-ups.

Sgt. James C. Steiner Jr.
Vilseck, Germany

Church, state separation

To the writer of "Sodom and Gomorrah" (Aug. 2), and anyone else that thinks legislating religion is constitutional:

The framers of the Constitution wanted to avoid the continual wars motivated by religious hatred that had decimated many countries within Europe. They decided that a church/state separation was their best assurance that the United States would remain relatively free of inter-religious strife. In 1789, the Bill of Rights was written. The First Amendment reads:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

The first phrase is called the establishment clause and has been interpreted by the courts as requiring a separation between church and state. That is, the government may not promote one religion or faith group over any other, a religiously based life over a secularly based life, a secularly based life over a religiously based life.

Three tests have been developed to decide the constitutionality of laws that have a religious component:

■ The Lemon Test: This was defined in a Supreme Court ruling in 1971. To be constitutional, a law must have a secular purpose, be neutral toward religion — neither hindering nor advancing it, not result in excessive entanglements between the government and religion.

■ The Endorsement Test: A law is unconstitutional if it favors one religion over another in a way that makes some people feel like outsiders and others feel like insiders.

■ The Coercion Test: A law is constitutional even if it recognizes or accommodates a religion, as long as its demonstration of support does not appear to coerce individuals to support or participate in a religion.

You obviously feel very strongly about this issue, and would like to influence the powers that be. You will win many more allies by using logic and common sense, and staying away from the Bible-thumping and self-serving, shallow interpretations of the Constitution.

Jim Murray
Vicenza, Italy

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Stripes let Kerry preen

Regarding the Aug. 8 Stars and Stripes article "Kerry discusses his vision for military": This was a pretty good article, right up to the end when the senator said the country needs a candidate who understands "what it means to be deployed." I guess Stripes is not aware of the awesome four months Sen. John Kerry spent in Vietnam; he calls this "two tours" and brags about three Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star Medal and a Silver Star Medal, which he then pretended to throw away as a publicity stunt to undermine the very veterans whom he calls he "Band of Brothers." This is an amazing record for a Swift boat operator who was in country for less than five months.

Even the great Gen. George Patton could not compete with a war hero such as John Kerry. What has happened to the great Stars and Stripes?

Molly Vail
Lexington, Mich.

Writer cut corners with views

In response to "Don't follow leaders blindly" (Aug. 5), I suggest the letter writer stop reading revisionist history and grow up.

As a lifelong Democrat and member of the military, I am deeply disillusioned by the hypocritical, moral highhandedness of liberal Democrats during the tenure of the Bush administration.

The letter exemplifies their more well-honed and shrill contradictions. For example, despite the letter writer's position, more than a few people were critical of slavery in the United States, it was called the abolitionist movement; the genocide of American Indians he cites was actually a series of Indian wars that spanned more than 300 years, and involved atrocities on both sides; and what the letter writer advocates the German people and world should have done with Adolf Hitler he condemns in our military doing in Iraq with Saddam Hussein.

George W. Bush is our president after a close election because the institutions of law and government actually worked. That's not true in many other nations, and across much of history, precisely because of malcontents such as the letter writer.

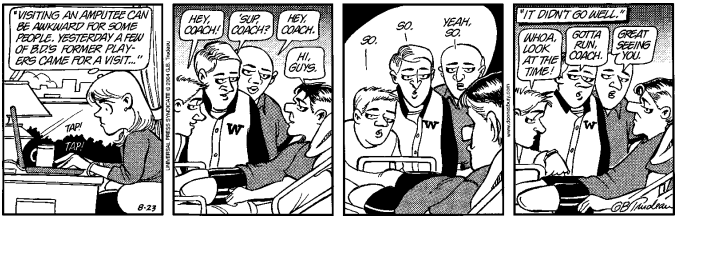
He should get his facts straight: Ben Franklin was a patriot, and also said, "Don't throw stones at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass." One cannot "love" the military, then condemn service-members' duty and moral obligation to obey the president. The only lie being told is the paranoid conspiracy theory the liberal Democrats are selling as broadcloth this election year.

Please give it a rest and get back to the issues. To oppose the war is the letter writer's right, but to foment sedition and disobedience in our military because of his personal view is treacherous.

Lt. Phil King
Okinawa

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

Government interference only fuels oil woes

By Sheldon Richman

If the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates were forbidden to offer proposals based on collectivist economic thinking, they would have to keep mum the entire campaign.

We are in for three months of unrelenting nonsense from President Bush and Sen. John F. Kerry. That wouldn't be so bad if most people recognized it as nonsense. But since education these days is intended more to create quiescent "good citizens" than skeptical thinkers, most people will be taken in by these charlatans.

Last week Kerry did what presidential candidates love to do: promise "energy independence." Run like the wind when you hear that term. It is a euphemism for the central planning of our economic activities. Kerry has not yet learned why socialism failed.

Kerry's energy plan differs from Bush's in only minor ways. In response to rising oil prices and instability in the Middle East, Kerry proposes that the government lead an effort to de-emphasize foreign oil, lower gasoline prices (and oil company profits), increase efficiency and stimulate the development of alternative fuels.

According to a campaign news release, "The Kerry-Edwards energy plan will harness the full force of American ingenuity to create the energy of the future and make America independent of Middle East oil. While taking a series of short-term steps to help families and businesses by bringing down energy prices, their plan will undertake a comprehensive, long-term strategy for energy independence that also creates new, good-paying jobs in the process." What will he do on Jan. 21, create a perpetual-motion machine? What is not said is that even attempting this would require massive government power to manipulate private economic activities. Kerry assumes that his nationalistic appeals, oil-company bashing, and promises of low prices and high-paying jobs will distract us, much as an infant can be distracted by the sound of a rattle. Close examination of his plan should cause concern to anyone who understands freedom and the virtues of free enterprise.

For example, Kerry promises to set up a $20 billion trust fund, financed from existing offshore oil and gas royalties, to increase the fuel efficiency of vehicles and promote the development of alternative fuels. He apparently learned nothing from economics and history. As long as energy is scarce, the free market will contain the right incentives for personal conservation, increased efficiency, and entrepreneurship aimed at more secure and alternative sources of energy. To propose that government should direct these activities is to believe that bureaucrats know more and will make wiser decisions than hundreds of millions of people with intimate knowledge of their own needs and capacities in the decentralized marketplace. In other words, it's like believing in Santa Claus.

Where was Kerry during the late 1970s when the Carter administration poured millions of dollars into synthetic-fuel programs with nothing to show for it? Has he bothered to look at the results of mandated fuel-efficiency for cars? When the cost of driving goes down, people drive more, so no gasoline is saved. But when cars are made lighter and smaller, which is partly how efficiency has been achieved, they become less crash-worthy and highway deaths increase.

Regardless of what Kerry says, government does not know best. Its economic record is dismal. Bush has no edge here. His energy plan also puts government at the center, handing out subsidies and tax incentives to those who pursue the administration's objectives. Both are big-government men.

In a sense, we do need an energy policy — to undo the pervasive government control that exists today. The military presence in the Middle East is a subsidy from the taxpayers to the oil companies. If they want that oil, let them pay the full price for it, including security. Of course that will mean consumers will pay, but that's as it should be. If the price is too high, consumers will conserve and entrepreneurs will be motivated to produce more-efficient products and find cheaper sources of energy, oil and otherwise. For this to happen, however, all energy regulations should be repealed.

A rational energy policy would consist of six words: Government, get out of the way.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.fff.org), author of "Tethered Citizens: Time to Repeal the Welfare State," and editor of The Freeman magazine. Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

Electoral college holds key to elections, again

BY JOHN BAER
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Want a good picture of where the race for president stands today? Might surprise you.

Forget about the many national polls showing a close up-and-down John Kerry/George Bush contest.

State polls are fun, including two new ones in Pennsylvania, the Keystone Poll and the Quinnipiac Poll. But, heck, that's just one state.

No sirree, what you need is a look at all the states, but state-by-state, so you can figure out electoral votes.

You might recall from the last election the Electoral College determines the president.

Al Gore beat Bush by half-a-million votes (543,895 to be exact), but Bush won the presidency by winning more electoral votes — the number of votes apportioned each state on the basis of population.

And this number, when projected from polls done within each state, shows a race very different from numbers in national samples.

Two Web sites, one pro-Kerry, one pro-Bush, are tracking state polls, then assigning corresponding electoral votes and showing results on color-coded maps.

Both show Kerry way ahead.

On the pro-Kerry site, **www.electoral-vote.com**, for example, Kerry has 317 electoral votes (270 are needed to win) and Bush 202.

On **www.electionprojection.com**, the pro-Bush site, Kerry has 327 and Bush 211.

This is based on strong Kerry leads in large states such as New York, Illinois and California, which together total 107 electoral votes, and weak Kerry leads in key states such as Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida, which count for another 68 electoral votes.

Kerry also holds slim leads in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Missouri, which offer a combined 48 electoral votes.

Solace, I'd suggest, for the Kerry camp.

Especially when contrasted to national polls offering solace for either camp.

This month, a Zogby Poll has Kerry up 7 percent; Gallup has Bush up 3; Time has Kerry up 7; and CNN/USA Today has Bush up 4.

How do pollsters like tracking the electoral count? "Oh, it's a rip," says Pennsylvania Keystone Poll director G. Terry Madonna. "They use real numbers from real polls" and get a "more valid" measure of the race than national polling.

Clay Richards of the Quinnipiac Poll is concerned that not all polling in all states is solid, but says, "The idea is sound."

Predictably, the campaigns aren't sold.

Pennsylvania Kerry director Tony Podesta says, "It's graphically interesting, clever, well-done ... it's August and too early to order inauguration tickets."

Kevin Madden of the Bush campaign says, "It's an interesting snapshot analysis but it fluctuates, too, and the most important poll is on Election Day ... we're more concerned with getting our grass-roots voting-day efforts in place."

Does this stuff mean much at this point? Probably not. Things happen. Things change.

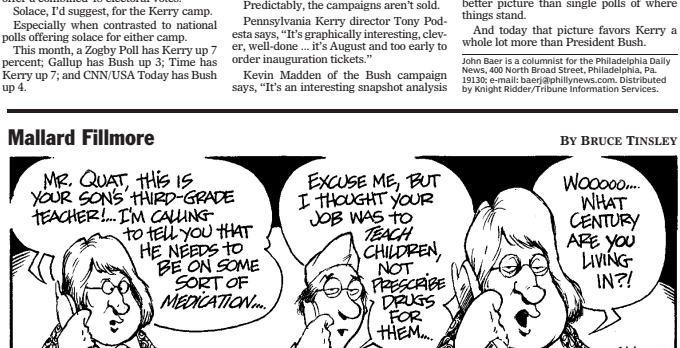
But a look at the only numbers that count, electoral votes in key states, gives a better picture than single polls of where things stand.

And today that picture favors Kerry a whole lot more than President Bush.

John Baer is a columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News, 400 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19130; e-mail: baerj@phillynews.com. Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Rabbit finds home

CA CONCORD — Lucky, the rabbit who was tossed into a lake with an explosive attached, has found a new home.

The animal is now staying permanently with a 42-year-old woman who has experience taking care of rabbits, especially abandoned ones.

"She's a very sweet little rabbit," said Rachel, who did not want her last name used. "She seems to be able to exhibit not only unconditional love, but unconditional forgiveness, too. She seems to be getting past her bad experience and allowing other people to get to know her."

Choosing mom over job

FL LARGO — When James Gesicki heard that Hurricane Charley was heading for Tampa Bay, he had one thing in mind: getting his 81-year-old mother, who lived in a mandatory evacuation zone, to safety.

The 30-year Largo public-works employee told two of his supervisors he planned to bring his mother, Catherine, to his home. Fine, they said. But make sure you show up for work Friday — the day the hurricane was expected to hit — or lose your job.

Gesicki, 61, and a year from retiring, chose to stay with his mother and was fired.

"I had to make a decision. There was only one decision to make and because of it, I lost my job," Gesicki said.

Assistant City Manager Henry Schubert said public-works employees such as Gesicki must be on site to prepare and fuel equipment before disasters hit. "When we call you in to work, if you refuse to come to work, we will terminate you."

Towed, then robbed

AK ANCHORAGE — A towing company the police department contracts with to haul and store confiscated cars had as many as 82 vehicles broken into, Anchorage police said.

Most of the vehicles at the Aurora Transportation Services tow yard had radios stolen, police spokesman Ron McGee said. It is too early to tell if the break-ins will affect any ongoing investigations that might have involved the vehicles, he said.

The cars kept at the lot included those confiscated from drivers charged with driving without a license, driving without insurance or soliciting a prostitute.

Bison crushes woman

NY CLARENCE — A 53-year-old woman may have been looking for a wandering tortoise when she was apparently killed by bison on her family's western New York farm, authorities said.

Erie County sheriff's deputies said Jane Gilmore died at her farm in the town of Clarence northeast of Buffalo.

Family members told police that Gilmore was apparently looking for a large tortoise when she entered the fenced-in field where three bison and a cow grazed.

Hours later, a family member spotted her body in the field and called police. Because the bison were being aggressive, a helicopter was brought in to retrieve her body.

Procrastination U

GA ALBANY — Albany State University was overwhelmed by students who waited until the last minute to apply for financial aid, officials said. Several hundred students lined up before dawn on the first day of classes to finish the process for student loans, grants and scholarships. University officials told the students to go to class and complete the applications later.

Bad injection

TX HOUSTON — A judge has fined a cosmetologist who treated women's wrinkles by injecting their faces with silicone.

Mariela Carattini pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault and was fined $300. Harris County Criminal Court-at-Law Judge Michael Peters also ordered Carattini to pay $700 in restitution to cover the cost of a plastic surgeon hired by the victim to repair her facial deformity.

In January, one of Carattini's clients complained after several silicone treatments left her with formations resembling small balls under the skin around her mouth, said Assistant District Attorney Inger Hampton.

Honoring one more

Randy Zaideman adds a memorial cross in honor of Sgt. David M. Heath, 30, of La Porte, Ind., in Heritage Park in Junction City, Kan. Heath was killed Aug. 16, near Sadr City in Iraq, when his patrol came under a small arms and rocket-propelled grenade attack.

Condor setback

CA SANTA BARBARA — A California condor chick that was part of an ambitious breeding program has died, while another was found with a broken wing and gobs of trash in its gullet.

Rescuers found more than half a pound of trash in the injured chick, including 35 bottle caps and a pop-top ring, said Mike Wallace, team leader for the California Condor Recovery Program.

Wallace said he's unsure what killed the other chick, which was found 20 feet below its nest in the Los Padres National Forest.

"We're upset because we don't like looking at dead chicks, but overall we're on the right track," Wallace said, referring to the overall results of the program.

DNA key to cold case

NY MONTICELLO — A 41-year-old California man has admitted bludgeoning and stabbing to death an upstate New York restaurant owner almost 18 years ago.

Rommal Bennett, 41, of San Francisco, had been a cook at the Bloomingburg diner owned by John Roe.

Roe was found dead Nov. 3, 1986, outside his home in Bloomingburg, 66 miles north of New York City. He was known for opening the diner on Christmas Eve and feeding the crowd for free.

The key to the case was a cigarette butt found in a beer bottle in Roe's house, police said. DNA taken from that butt this year led authorities to Bennett, who had a 1994 criminal conviction in Minnesota.

"This was a defendant who would have gotten away with murder but for the DNA databanks that are in place nationwide," District Attorney Steve Lungen said.

In return for the guilty plea, Bennett will face 15 years to life in prison.

Prison upgrades

AZ TUCSON — State officials hope to have problems corrected at youth prisons within a few weeks to stave off a possible federal lawsuit, Gov. Janet Napolitano said. State corrections officials have to rebuild trust with the public and with Juvenile Court judges, she said. A federal report released in January said Arizona's youth corrections centers had inadequate security measures and faulty suicide-prevention programs.

Oak disease detected

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The first appearance in San Francisco of the killer botanical disease called "sudden oak death" was confirmed after two coast live oaks growing in Golden Gate Park's AIDS Memorial Grove were found to be infected.

DNA help on the way

MD BALTIMORE — A $1.9 million federal grant is paying for 12 new employees of the city police crime lab. They're charged with helping Baltimore catch up on a backlog of more than 3,000 unsolved rape and homicide cases. The new hires will select cases they believe could be helped by DNA testing at a private lab.

Sky-high salute

Sgt. Paul McAlpin of the Army's Golden Knights sky diving jump team salutes as he jumps out of an airplane 12,000 ft. above Offutt Air Base near Omaha, Neb.

Rockin' the rim

Vincent Brooks, 19, of Buena, N.J., goes for a slam dunk during an open run contest for new players of a team sponsored by basketball footwear and apparel company And 1 in Philadelphia.

Settin' stone

Bill Dan makes a sculpture from rocks on the surf at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco on a warm, sunny afternoon.

Nice bull

Trevor Hunt from Carey, Idaho, runs from the bull he was bucked off of at the Caldwell Night Rodeo in Caldwell, Idaho.

Filling up

A customer fills up his sport utility vehicle at a gas station in Washington. Amid soaring crude oil prices, gasoline costs have been dropping.

Go play in the mud

Moriah Arabas, 11, of Middletown, Conn., soaks in the mud at Zoars Pond in Middletown between matches at the 18th Annual Mud Volleyball Tournament to benefit the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut.

Not taking any risks

AZ TUCSON — The state Game and Fish Department has ordered wildlife rehabilitation centers not to accept deer or elks because of the risk of spreading chronic wasting disease.

Officials say the incurable and fatal disorder is already present in surrounding states.

About 2,000 deer and elk from Arizona have been tested in recent years for chronic wasting syndrome and none has turned up positive.

Still, Game and Fish officials said the department must be extremely cautious since the disorder is related to "mad cow" disease and could devastate Arizona's deer and elk.

Chronic wasting disease attacks the brains of infected animals, causing them to display abnormal behavior and eventually become emaciated and die. There is no evidence the disease can spread to people.

Doctor reports confession

PA HARRISBURG — A judge ruled the state can suspend the driver's license of a man who lost his driving privileges after his doctor reported to police that he drank a six-pack of beer a day.

But the judge also said Keith Emerich may obtain restricted driving privileges as long as he uses a device that tests his blood-alcohol content before starting his car.

Emerich, 44, was notified in April he would lose his license, about two months after he disclosed his drinking habit to doctors treating him for an irregular heartbeat.

A Pennsylvania law from the 1960s requires doctors to report any impairments in patients that could compromise their ability to drive safely.

Emerich has said he does not drive drunk and argued that he has reduced his beer drinking to weekends and has a clean driving record apart from a drunken-driving conviction when he was 21.

State Department of Transportation spokesman Anthony Haubert said the department was pleased Emerich's license suspension was upheld.

Sentence for drug lab

TN CHATTANOOGA — A man arrested after burns on his daughter's foot led drug agents to a methamphetamine lab in his house apologized as a federal judge sentenced and scolded him.

U.S. District Judge Curtis L. Collier told Robert Tracy Prince, 33, of Cleveland, that his case — exposing a daughter and a son to hazardous drug making — shows how the addictive stimulant hurts more than just users.

Collier approved a plea agreement and sentenced Prince to 122 months, more than 10 years, in prison.

The judge said the investigation showed that Prince and his wife, both in custody since October, forced their 12-year-old daughter to shoplift pills used to make methamphetamine.

Collier told Prince that he and his wife were "not fit parents."

The judge told Prince that his daughter said he and his wife would not take her to the doctor but instead had her "stand in the Ocoee River to cool off."

Tire slasher sent to jail

VT BRATTLEBORO — A local man who went on a tire-slashing rampage was ordered to serve four to six years in prison after he admitted to assaulting a police officer.

Christopher James, 32, pleaded guilty to aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest and unlawful mischief.

Brattleboro Police received a report that a man was slashing tires on South Main Street. Upon arrival, Officer David Manch saw James removing a folding knife with 3-inch blade from a vehicle's tire.

James attempted to flee by climbing over a nearby fence, Manch said in an affidavit. When Manch tried to grab his arm, James spun around and hit Manch in the face.

In a statement, James apologized to all the people that had been affected by his actions.

Wardens get M-16s

TX BROWNSVILLE — Texas game wardens are about to get some new weapons — surplus M-16s from the military.

Col. James Stinebaugh, director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said the federal government decided to donate the surplus rifles to law enforcement agencies. The state will have to pay for training for the game wardens. All of the more than 400 game wardens in the state are expected to receive the rifles within the next few weeks.

The M-16s will replace mini M-14 rifles game wardens now have.

A TPWD official in the Rio Grande Valley said the weapons will help game wardens along the coast who encounter people who are well armed.

Family found dead

TX TEMPLE — Firefighters found a woman and her three sons dead in a house after a police officer responding to a welfare call saw charring around the front door, authorities said.

A neighbor had called police, advising that the residents had not been seen all day, were not answering the phone or the door, and there appeared to be a fire in the residence, police Lt. Lyn Salvany said in a statement. Firefighters also responded to the call.

Police identified the victims as Kathy Ramirez, 35, and her three sons — Eric Ramirez, 14, and 5-year-old twins Devin and Isaiah Blackmon.

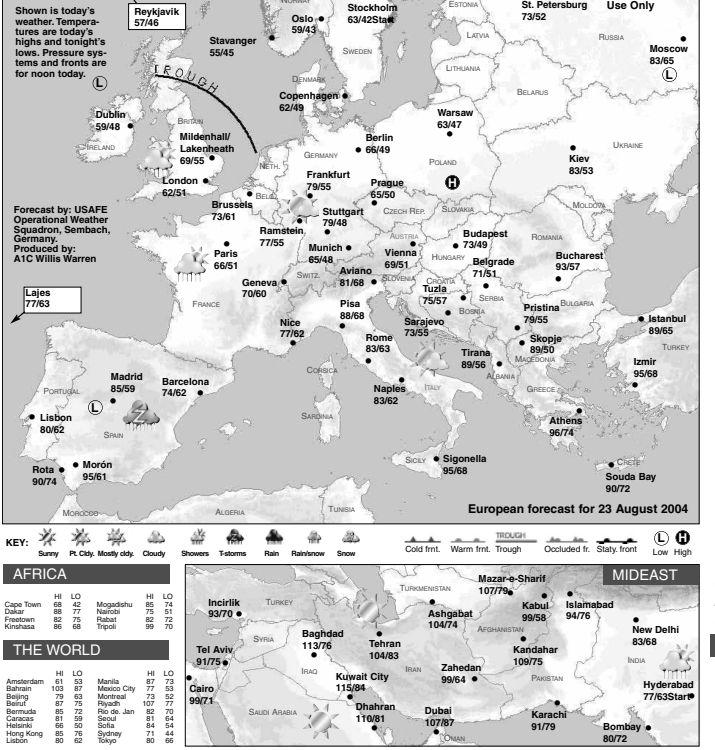
Temple Police Commander Edward Best said investigators will not comment on whether the fire was an accident or arson.

Soccer play kills boy

CA MILL VALLEY — A 9-year-old boy died after colliding with another player on a soccer field.

Authorities said that Connor Bell was struck on the head when another player accidentally ran into him — a common enough injury in many sports — but this one was fatal. His skull was pushed against his spine and his brain stem was ruptured. He was put on life support and pronounced dead the next day.

Photos and stories from wire services



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy. High temperatures will be in the low to mid 70's with lows in the low 60's.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms. Expect high temperatures in the upper 50's to upper 60's with lows in the upper 40's to mid 50's.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy. High temperatures will be in the mid 70's and lows in the mid 50's.

France: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms. High temperatures in the mid 60's to mid 70's with lows in the low 50's to low 60's.

Northern Germany: Partly cloudy. High temperatures will be in the mid 60's to upper 70's with lows in the upper 40's to mid 50's.

Southern Germany: Partly cloudy. High temperatures will be in the mid 60's to upper 70's with lows in the upper 40's.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. High temperatures will be in the low 70's with lows in the upper 40's.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. High temperature will be in the low to upper 80's with lows in the upper 60's.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80's to low 90's with lows in the low 60's.

Kosovo: Partly to mostly cloudy. High temperatures in the upper 70's and lows in the mid 50's.

Norway: Partly cloudy. Expect high temps in the mid to upper 50's and lows in the mid 40's.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. High temperatures in the mid 70's to mid 90's with lows in the upper 50's to mid 70's.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. High temperature will be in the upper 80's to mid 90's with lows in the mid 60's to lower 70's.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home page at:
https://ows.sembach.af.mil
http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

AFRICA

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	68	42	Mogadishu	85	74
Dakar	88	77	Nairobi	75	51
Freetown	82	75	Rabat	82	72
Kinshasa	86	68	Tripoli	99	70

THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	61	53	Manila	87	73
Bahrain	103	87	Mexico City	77	53
Beijing	79	63	Montreal	73	52
Beirut	87	75	Riyadh	107	77
Bermuda	85	72	Rio de. Jan	82	70
Caracas	81	59	Seoul	81	64
Helsinki	66	50	Sofia	84	54
Hong Kong	85	76	Sydney	71	44
Lisbon	80	62	Tokyo	80	66

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:31	6:32
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	6:26	6:29
Sunset (Baghdad)	7:39	7:38
Sunset (Frankfurt)	8:28	8:26

New moon Sept 14 · First qtr. Aug 23 · Full moon Aug 30 · Last qtr. Sept 6

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

	Hi	Lo	Otlk
Abilene,Tex.	92	73	Cldy
Akron,Ohio	82	63	PCldy
Albany,N.Y.	79	54	PCldy
Albuquerque	86	62	PCldy
Allentown,Pa.	83	63	Clr
Amarillo	92	64	PCldy
Anchorage	72	54	PCldy
Asheville	83	63	PCldy
Atlanta	88	70	Cldy
Atlantic City	82	63	Clr
Austin	95	74	PCldy
Baltimore	84	63	Clr
Baton Rouge	92	74	PCldy
Billings	77	53	PCldy
Birmingham	87	70	Cldy
Bismarck	79	56	Cldy
Boise	72	53	Cldy
Boston	82	61	Clr
Bridgeport	82	64	Clr
Brownsville	97	79	Clr
Buffalo	79	57	Cldy
Burlington,Vt.	77	48	PCldy
Caribou,Maine	72	44	PCldy
Casper	78	50	PCldy
Charleston,S.C.	88	74	PCldy
Charleston,W.Va.	87	63	Cldy
Charlotte,N.C.	86	67	PCldy
Chattanooga	88	69	PCldy
Cheyenne	82	52	Clr
Chicago	77	64	PCldy
Cincinnati	87	65	Clr
Cleveland	82	63	PCldy
Colorado Springs	84	53	PCldy
Columbia,S.C.	86	70	PCldy
Columbus,Ga.	90	71	Cldy
Columbus,Ohio	84	64	Clr
Concord,N.H.	82	53	Clr
Corpus Christi	95	78	PCldy
Dallas-Ft Worth	92	74	Clr
Dayton	85	65	Clr
Daytona Beach	89	73	Rain
Denver	87	57	Clr
Des Moines	84	67	PCldy
Detroit	82	61	Cldy
Duluth	69	55	PCldy
El Paso	95	68	Clr
Elkins	82	55	Cldy
Erie	80	61	PCldy
Eugene	73	50	Rain
Evansville	88	67	Cldy
Fairbanks	73	54	Cldy
Fargo	71	59	Rain
Flagstaff	76	48	Clr
Flint	77	59	Cldy
Fort Smith	89	71	Cldy
Fort Wayne	85	64	PCldy
Fresno	88	62	Clr
Goodland	88	59	Clr
Grand Junction	87	58	PCldy
Grand Rapids	77	59	Cldy
Great Falls	68	45	Cldy
Green Bay	71	57	Cldy
Greensboro,N.C.	84	65	PCldy
Harrisburg	85	65	Clr
Hartford Spgfld	84	58	Clr
Helena	70	48	PCldy
Honolulu	90	78	PCldy
Houston	93	77	PCldy
Huntsville	88	68	PCldy
Indianapolis	85	66	PCldy
Jackson,Miss.	89	73	Rain
Jacksonville	90	73	Rain
Juneau	70	44	Clr
Kansas City	89	69	PCldy
Key West	90	80	PCldy
Knoxville	88	68	PCldy
Lake Charles	90	76	Rain
Lansing	76	55	Cldy
Las Vegas	96	73	Clr
Lexington	87	66	PCldy
Lincoln	90	67	PCldy
Little Rock	87	71	Cldy
Los Angeles	76	63	PCldy
Louisville	88	69	PCldy
Lubbock	93	67	PCldy
Macon	90	70	Cldy
Madison	75	62	Cldy
Medford	73	58	Rain
Memphis	88	74	Cldy
Miami Beach	89	79	Rain
Midland-Odessa	95	72	PCldy
Milwaukee	70	62	Cldy
Mpls-St Paul	75	64	PCldy
Mobile	89	74	Rain
Montgomery	89	72	Rain
Nashville	86	69	PCldy
New Orleans	93	77	PCldy
New York City	85	68	Clr
Newark	88	67	Clr
Norfolk,Va.	88	69	Clr
North Platte	93	57	Clr
Oklahoma City	92	72	PCldy
Omaha	87	68	PCldy
Orlando	90	74	Rain
Paducah	87	69	Cldy
Pendleton	72	52	PCldy
Peoria	86	66	PCldy
Philadelphia	84	67	Clr
Phoenix	99	79	Clr
Pittsburgh	83	60	Clr
Pocatello	68	48	PCldy
Portland,Maine	79	53	Clr
Portland,Ore.	70	57	Rain
Providence	81	60	Clr
Pueblo	94	56	PCldy
Raleigh-Durham	84	66	PCldy
Rapid City	87	57	PCldy
Reno	81	52	PCldy
Richmond	86	63	Clr
Roanoke	84	62	PCldy
Rochester	79	55	Cldy
Rockford	81	63	PCldy
Sacramento	83	55	Clr
St Louis	85	70	Rain
St Thomas	90	78	Clr
Salem,Ore.	72	54	Rain
Salt Lake City	78	58	Cldy
San Angelo	92	73	Cldy
San Antonio	94	76	PCldy
San Diego	72	66	PCldy
San Francisco	69	57	PCldy
San Jose	76	57	PCldy
San Juan,P.R.	89	78	Clr
Santa Fe	83	52	PCldy
St Ste Marie	66	47	PCldy
Savannah	89	72	PCldy
Seattle	67	56	Rain
Shreveport	93	74	Cldy
Sioux City	86	67	PCldy
Sioux Falls	83	68	PCldy
South Bend	84	63	PCldy
Spokane	66	50	PCldy
Springfield,Ill.	88	67	PCldy
Springfield,Mo.	91	68	PCldy
Syracuse	79	56	PCldy
Tallahassee	90	71	Rain
Tampa-St Pmbrg	89	76	Rain
Toledo	84	64	PCldy
Topeka	88	69	PCldy
Tucson	94	71	Clr
Tulsa	88	73	Cldy
Tupelo	88	71	Cldy
Waco	92	75	PCldy
Washington,D.C.	84	67	Clr
W.Palm Beach	90	76	Rain
Wichita	88	69	PCldy
Wichita Falls	94	74	PCldy
Wilkes-Barre	83	58	Clr
Wilmington,Del.	84	64	Clr
Yakima	73	53	PCldy

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

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FACES 'N' PLACES

Japanese director lives a double life

Talented Takeshi Kitano says multifaceted career comes naturally

AP

Takeshi Kitano, sitting in front of a poster for his latest movie "Zatoichi, the Blind Swordsman" at a Tokyo hotel, isn't taken very seriously in Japan.

BY ERIC TALMADGE
The Associated Press

TOKYO

Sure, he's won some fancy international awards and has a worldwide reputation as a gifted auteur for such films as "Hana-Bi" and now "Zatoichi, the Blind Swordsman."

But in Japan, few people here think of Takeshi Kitano as a director. Or, in fact, as Takeshi Kitano.

Instead, he's "Beat" Takeshi. Standup comedian. Variety show host. Professional weirdo.

"It's like riding a bicycle," he said of how he balances his two careers. "It just comes naturally. If you think about it too much, you fall over."

Balancing off his everpresent position as one of Japan's most eccentric and sought-after television personalities, Kitano's latest project is a bold remake — though he would probably choke on that word — of one of Japan's most popular dramas set in the times of the samurai.

And in this effort, he has again won critical acclaim.

The film, which opened July 23 in the United States, won five Japanese academy awards last year and garnered two best director awards for Kitano, at the Toronto and Marrakech international film festivals. It grossed more than $25 million in Japan, one of the biggest earners in 2003.

The story, set sometime before 1868, follows the exploits of an outcast blind masseur who is prone to gambling on dice and happens to be a master swordsman.

It's well-worn ground — Zatoichi is a bona fide Japanese icon.

His fictitious story has been the subject of 26 feature films, from 1963 to 1989, and a TV series that ran for more than 100 episodes. To most Japanese over age 30, the character is synonymous with the late actor Shintaro Katsu, who played Zatoichi throughout his flamboyant career.

"The Zatoichi image here is really tied up with the image of the actor Katsu," Kitano said. "So my idea in making this movie was to go out and demolish that image."

> *"People say my films are violent, but that's because when I portray someone being injured I do it in a realistic way — I make the audience cringe. Is that worse than Hollywood films in which dozens of people are gunned down and the audience comfortably applauds?"*
>
> **Takeshi Kitano**
> Director, actor, standup comedian and variety show host

Kitano's first move was visual.

He dressed the characters in brightly colored clothing, gave the star a blood-red cane and a green sash and — really pushing the idea of artistic license — made Zatoichi, whom he plays himself, a blonde.

"I suppose you could say he was an albino, or maybe part Dutch," Kitano said in a recent interview. "But I really did it just to enhance his visual impact."

Kitano also concentrated on developing the film's rhythm, and threw out much of the stylized swordplay that has become so integral to other movies of the genre.

"There is instead a lot of simple slashing," he said. "I did away with much of the tradition for this movie."

He didn't do away with the violence, however. The film is rated "R" in the United States for its "strong, stylized bloody violence."

Kitano sees that as ironic.

"People say my films are violent, but that's because when I portray someone being injured I do it in a realistic way — I make the audience cringe," he said. "Is that worse than Hollywood films in which dozens of people are gunned down and the audience comfortably applauds?"

He also scoffs when asked if he has seen "The Last Samurai," Hollywood's most recent jaunt into Japan's feudal mists.

"I haven't," he said. "I don't need to. I have a good idea of what it's like. They are always the same."

Kitano isn't necessarily anti-Hollywood, however.

Though many Japanese directors share the fear of their counterparts in France and elsewhere that they cannot compete with the big budgets and big scale of Hollywood projects, Kitano said audiences continue to appreciate diversity.

"Hollywood movies are like Ford cars, they flood the marketplace," he said. "But when you start to worry that they are going to take over everything, other trends start to develop. In Japan we are seeing a boom in Korean films and TV. A movie need not be an international hit. It can be just a small slice of life, enjoyed just by a few."

Kitano harbors few pretenses about his own greatness.

"People go to the zoo to see the pandas and the lions," he said. "But if the dogs and the monkeys can do funny tricks, they will watch them, too," he said. "I try not to work too hard at creating a great work of art. The more you think about that as your goal, the harder it becomes to attain."

Getting out the Latino vote

Of 32 million voting-age Latinos, only 8 million voted in the 2000 election. Actress **Rosario Dawson** is trying to change that.

Dawson

Dawson, 25, and Latino youth advocate **Phil Colon** have founded Voto Latino, a nonpartisan, nonprofit activist group that seeks to motivate young Latino voters.

A series of public service announcements will begin airing on MTV Networks beginning Aug. 30, with additional distribution on major English- and Spanish-language networks.

The initiative is being supported by MTV's "Choose or Lose" voting campaign.

Dawson, whose films include "Men in Black II," "The Rundown" and the upcoming "Alexander," appears in a spot that she concludes with the group's catch phrase: "It's your country, represent."

Musicians pitch in for hurricane aid

Radio giant Clear Channel Communications will raise money for Hurricane Charley victims by auctioning guitars autographed by musical stars, among them **Britney Spears**, **Tom Petty** and **Kenny Rogers**.

Petty

The online auction of 43 guitars signed by celebrities started Thursday afternoon and will end Sept. 20, the **San Antonio**-based company said.

John Hogan, who heads Clear Channel's radio division, said the company's radio outlets in **Florida** and elsewhere also have been active in raising relief funds for victims of the hurricane, which killed at least 23 people and caused some $7.4 billion in damage to homes, businesses and other property.

The company says all proceeds will be split among displaced families and the American Red Cross.

The autographed guitars are being offered on Clear Channel's **StormAid.com** Web site. **Stone Temple Pilots**, **Linkin Park**, **Nickelback**, **ZZ Top**, **Tim McGraw** and **Shakira** are among the other musical acts participating.

Rocking Hollywood in Connecticut

Hollywood collided with rock 'n' roll in the unlikeliest of places: a **Connecticut** casino.

Jada Pinkett Smith, **Juliette Lewis** and their respective bands — Pinkett's **Wicked Wisdom** and Lewis' **Juliette and the Licks** — brought hard rock to the opening of the Hard Rock Cafe inside Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Mashantucket on Thursday.

Pinkett Smith

"I'm about to unleash some serious energy," Lewis told The Associated Press as she descended into the cafe via the massive stairway entrance.

The actresses and their newborn rock ensembles performed — Jada first, Juliette second — for hundreds of invitees and a handful of Hollywood celebs.

"I'm surprised," actress **Chloe Sevigny** ("Boys Don't Cry," "The Brown Bunny") said of Pinkett Smith's performance. "She's quite good. I like her hair."

Honored for artistic achievement

Andie MacDowell is among this year's recipients of Winthrop University's Medal of Honor in the Arts.

MacDowell

The award "annually recognizes the unique contributions to the cultural life of the university in **Rock Hill, S.C.**, the community and to the nation of a select group of artists and supporters of the arts," said **Andrew Svedlow**, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

MacDowell, who lives in nearby **Asheville, N.C.**, will join five other Medal of Honor recipients at an Oct. 22 fund-raiser. Proceeds will go to arts scholarships for students from **North Carolina** and **South Carolina**.

The 46-year-old actress, a native of **Gaffney**, attended the school in the 1970s.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Horoscope

Joyce Jillson

With the sun newly exploring Virgo, it's an atypical Monday.

Instead of dread, we feel mostly excitement about getting to work. If all is handled well, the rewards for our efforts seem glorious, even if they are the same benefits we've been getting all along. The Sagittarius moon helps out like a double shot of espresso — we start in high gear.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (August 23). It's a sensational year for breaking out of your shell and showing the world your best you. Share your dreams with everyone in the next five weeks. Help comes from crazy places. In business, the brilliant innovation you show will put you in front. You'll make great money because you're so ahead of the curve! Lucky love signs are Pisces and Taurus.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your heart is on your sleeve, which attracts all kinds of emotional appeals for sympathy and help. You will probably hear more than one sob story and will wonder if you're getting the full truth. Guard your resources.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It would be lovely to live in a world where you could take everything at face value, but you've been around the block a few times and are far too wise for that — some might even say you're skeptical. Test, assess and analyze.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're in a unique position to help others. If it looks like it will only take an hour, just say "yes." Your rewards are fabulous — an increased self-esteem and the radiant confidence that comes from knowing you're useful and generous.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's a super-active day, and you're right on top of it. You may go so far as to wonder what good patience serves. While one person stands quietly by, enduring the wait, the squeaky wheel is getting greased.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll come to a fork in the road of a relationship and wonder whether or not you can really trust someone.

Past experience tells you one thing, but Pollyanna wishing paints an alternate picture. Somewhere in the middle is the truth.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Rise to the occasion in every respect, though it will be no easy task. Those who show they're made of true grit will be rewarded. You don't want to look back on this day and wish you had been more gracious.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Take care of your body, and your body takes care of you. Friends are in the know about improvements in health, nutrition and fitness, from which you can benefit. Also, activities involving an Aries or Gemini will give you a boost.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The key to your success is in the preparation stage. Anticipating the obstacles you'll be faced with is key. Besides thinking things through, though, actually rehearse what you'll say and do should the situation dictate it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are so many things to contemplate that you could spend the day in the clouds and get nothing accomplished. Home in on one particular task that needs to get done, and finish it as early in the day as possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If it looks like hard work, don't back off. There are definite benefits that will far outweigh a momentary muscle ache. Making a competition out of things could be the key to motivating yourself — and everyone else.

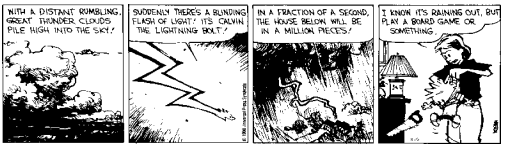
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're masterful! You'll be stretching time and speeding it up at your will — it's like an experiment in quantum physics The seconds feel like minutes, or the day goes by in a moment as you fit desired events into your schedule.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Usually a modest person, you find it embarrassing to have to sell yourself. The trouble is, you may not be doing business with folks who are as intelligent and sensitive as you are, so tooting your own horn will likely be necessary.

Creators Syndicate

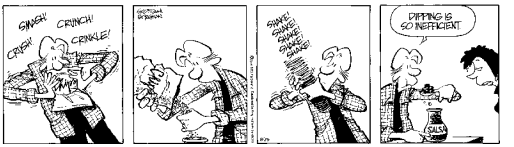
Peanuts

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start

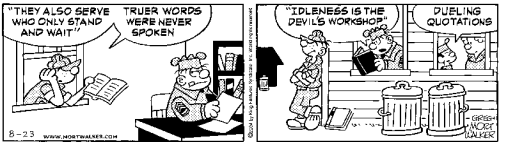
Zits



Cathy

Hi and Lois

Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover

Better or Worse

Foxtrot

B.C.

Baby Blues

Spider Man

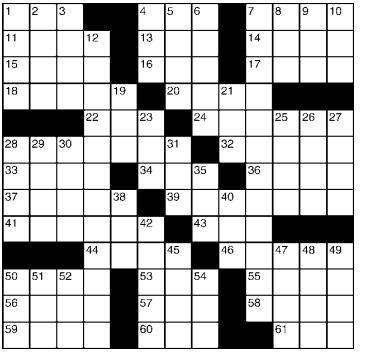
Blondie

Dilbert

Hagar

Garfield

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Muppet eagle
4 Little devil
7 Banshee's cry
11 Dickens' Uriah
13 Somewhere out there
14 Bush's NSA
15 "Rule, Britannia" composer
16 — Paulo
17 Notion
18 Get on
20 Castle protector
22 Corn eater's castoff
24 Plaster art
28 Cupboard
32 Folklore dwarf
33 Pitch
34 Pooch
36 Tater
37 Burst forth
39 Their hands move in circles
41 Character
43 Standard
44 Simultaneity
46 A to Z
50 Sitcom set in Korea
53 "Godfather" title
55 Mimicking bird
56 Sheltered
57 Inseparable
58 Prudish
59 Celebrity
60 Drenched
61 Broke a fast

Down

1 Counterfeit
2 Plane-related
3 Options list
4 Conditions
5 Sir's counterpart
6 Irrefutable evidence
7 Early version of carpal tunnel syndrome?
8 Help
9 Lemieux milieu
10 Meadow
12 One engaged in much paperwork
19 Great weight
21 Illustrations
23 Foundation
25 Former frosh
26 Mrs. Peacock's game
27 Silhouette maker
28 "Big Brother" host Julie
29 Emanation
30 Very dry (of champagne)
31 AAA job
35 Hiatus
38 Take a whack at
40 Playground game
42 Provide income for
45 Scoop holder
47 "— Breckinridge"
48 Troop group
49 Domesticate
50 Barker and Bell
51 Elev.
52 Baltic —
54 Bottom line

Answer to Previous Puzzle

	B	L	I	S	S		M	A	J	O	R	
P	L	A	N	T	E		I	N	A	R	E	A
L	A	M	O	U	R		S	A	Y	E	R	S
U	R	I		B	U	R	S	T		G	A	S
M	E	N	S		M	O	I		M	O	T	E
P	S	A	L	M		C	O	R	O	N	E	T
			O	A	R		N	O	M			
E	S	C	A	P	E	D		E	M	B	E	R
I	M	O	N		C	O	S		Y	O	R	E
G	E	M		F	A	C	E	D		D	N	A
H	A	M	I	L	L		P	A	R	K	E	R
T	R	O	W	E	L		T	R	U	I	S	M
	S	N	O	W	S		A	N	E	N	T	

8-23 CRYPTOQUIP

O U X G E P A T Z Q A K T C C X M O Y M H X G U X G E K S T O H O W Y, O K T S Q G W X G E ' K T A K Z O P O W Y C M T K G G U.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE A CAT'S DEFINITION OF "UTOPIA" WOULD PROBABLY BE "A PURRFECT WORLD."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

Mom's presence makes 3 a crowd

Dear Abby: Owen and I have been married for 30 years. My mother has lived with us for 27 of them. We moved in with Mom to help her with expenses after Dad passed away. Five years later, we bought our own house and invited her to come with us. She has always been helpful. Other than a lack of privacy, the arrangement has worked out well. Somewhere in the back of my mind, I always thought she would remarry.

Owen lost his job of 28 years a year ago, and I recently was laid off from the place I had worked for 15 years. I recently took a part-time job to pay for groceries.

My two sisters and brothers have done nothing to help in the support of our mother. I feel that Owen and I have been cheated out of a normal marriage. Our children are grown now, so when is it OUR time? Mom is in her mid-70s. I would never tell her how I feel because it would hurt her terribly. When she finally passes away, I don't think I'll ever speak to my siblings again because the older I get the angrier I become.

The only reason I see them now is because Mom wouldn't understand my disgust with them. What should I do?

— Bitter Up North

Dear Abby

Dear Bitter: Your mother has been living with you for so long that your siblings probably have no idea that you feel the frustration you have described. They may need to be reminded that your financial situation has changed and that you need their monetary help, or just a break from your mother and some private time with your spouse.

You are a devoted daughter, but please do not continue to suffer in silence. I'm not suggesting that you talk about this to your mother, but a conversation with your siblings is long overdue.

Dear Abby: I don't know what to do. My friend and I were told by someone that stealing is just borrowing without asking and it's OK. So we "borrowed" candy from a vendor and ate it.

We now know this is wrong. What should we do — apologize? We don't want to get caught.

— Misled in California

Dear Misled: For the record, "borrowing" is taking something with the lender's permission and then returning it.

In your case, you and your friend ate the vendor's candy and the person suffered a loss. That's stealing.

You owe the vendor an apology and payment for the candy you stole. Ideally, it should be done in person. However, if you are afraid or ashamed to face the vendor, write him or her an anonymous note of apology and include payment for what you took.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at **http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby**

Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MAROA

ORPEN

BRUMEN

MEBBUN

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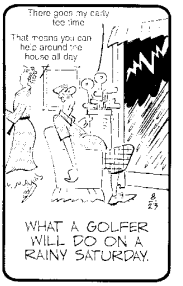
www.jumble.com

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: _____ THE _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: AZURE FLUID MUSTER SMUDGE
Answer: How he felt when a sudden wind blew a tree down on his car — "DIS-GUSTED"

Clear the air with smoking visitor

Dear Annie: My father-in-law, "Steve," and his wife, "Sally," live several states away and visit us once or twice a year. They are both wonderful people, but Sally is a chain smoker. When Steve first brought Sally to our home, we were incredulous that she lit up inside without first asking if it was OK. (She carries her own ashtray with her.) In fact, she likes to light up at the dinner table, ruining the meal for the rest of us, so we have to eat quickly when she's here.

Other than the cigarettes, Sally is a lovely person, and our kids adore her. She and Steve never stay more than a few days, and we air out the house after they leave. However, we recently built a new home and would rather not have Sally smoke like a chimney during the entire visit.

I am fairly certain that if we ask her not to smoke in the house, neither Steve nor Sally will visit anymore, which would sadden all of us. Having them stay at a hotel is irrelevant because Sally still smokes when she comes to the house. We've also noticed Steve has been having some respiratory illnesses, and although we told him the smoke is probably making it worse, nothing changed.

Annie's Mailbox

Do you think we should say something or just continue as we have been? I hate that our decision could affect how much time our children get to spend with their grandfather.

— Smoker's D-I-L

Dear D-I-L: Sally is quite addicted. Try approaching her with love.

Tell her you think she is a wonderful person and your children adore her. Explain that you know how important smoking is to her and you have no intention of asking her to give it up, but you are trying to maintain a better environment in your new home and it would be healthier for the children if she could smoke outside. We hope she'll have enough respect for you that she will make the effort.

Dear Annie: I am 14 years old and think I should get a bra. The problem is, I don't know how to tell my mother. The first time I had my period, it took me five hours before I worked up the nerve to tell her.

I've given Mom hints that I need some "support," but she doesn't get it. Should I just save up some money and purchase one myself?

— Too Embarrassed to Ask

Dear Too Embarrassed: Do you have a sister or a close friend who can help you out? Your mom sounds oblivious, so you need to be more direct with her. Say, "Mom, can you help me pick out a bra?" If you cannot do this, or if Mom ignores you, it's OK to select one on your own.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to **annies-mailbox@comcast.net**, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus

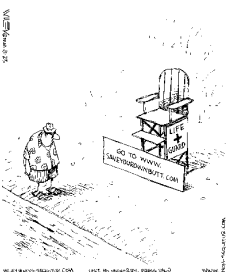
"Is that medal all gold or does it have chocolate inside?"

GRAFFITI

Dennis the Menace

The Far Side ©Gary Larson

Non Sequitur



Bills RB Henry leaves game with injured ribs

The Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Bills running back Travis Henry bruised his ribs in Saturday night's preseason game against Tennessee.

Henry was still feeling sore after Buffalo's 16-15 loss, and said he isn't sure whether he'll practice when the team resumes training camp on Monday.

"It's not good, but it couldn't have happened at a better time considering it's still the preseason," Henry said.

Henry was hurt 10 minutes into the second quarter as he was preparing to catch a pass. He took a hard hit and was knocked over by Titans linebacker Keith Bulluck. In breaking up the play at the Titans 20, Bulluck hit Henry high under his left arm, sending him tumbling.

Henry slowly walked off and was escorted to a cart on the sideline and was then driven to the locker room. X-rays were negative.

Backup Willis McGahee took over, finishing with 11 carries for 28 yards, including a 3-yard touchdown.

The injury comes at a time when there is plenty of attention on the Bills' running backs. The Associated Press, citing a source close to McGahee, reported Friday that the player has asked to be traded if he is not the starter on opening day.

Henry said the pain is in the same spot as where he tore rib cartilage in the third week of last season. Henry missed only one game, electing to play through the pain.

"It's not nearly as bad," Henry said. "I'm breathing a lot better and moving around a lot better."

Henry was having a strong game, with seven carries for 27 yards and a 3-yard reception.

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Bears get DE Ogunleye, send Booker to Dolphins

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Pro Bowl defensive end Adewale Ogunleye finally found a team willing to give him the contract he sought.

The Chicago Bears acquired Ogunleye from the Miami Dolphins on Saturday for receiver Marty Booker and a third-round draft choice in 2005. The trade was contingent on Ogunleye reaching a contract agreement with the Bears, and he accepted a six-year, $33.4 million deal, agent Drew Rosenhaus said.

Ogunleye, who led the AFC with 15 sacks last season and made the Pro Bowl for the first time, had been unsigned and at a stalemate in negotiations with Miami since May.

NFL roundup

"He's going to be a hard guy to replace," Dolphins linebacker Zach Thomas said. "I hate to lose a great player like Wale, but I like Wale, and I know he got what he wanted. They wouldn't give it to him here."

For the Dolphins, the deal shores up a receiving corps depleted by injuries, including David Boston's season-ending knee injury.

The Bears have been seeking to upgrade their pass rush, and starting end Alex Brown has been sidelined this summer by a sprained calf muscle.

"You know how important those pass rushers are," Bears General Manager Jerry Angelo said. "We'd much rather have to address the receiver situation than the pass rusher, and we like our young receivers."

Ogunleye's deal includes a $15 million signing bonus — $10 million initially, and $5 million at the end of the season, Rosenhaus said. The agent said the Dolphins offered only a $1 million signing bonus.

Booker wasn't in uniform for the Bears' exhibition game Saturday night against San Francisco. A possession receiver, he had 100 catches for 1,071 yards in 2001, and 97 for 1,189 yards in 2002, when he made Pro Bowl. He missed three games with ankle injury last season and was limited to 52 receptions for 715 yards.

"Obviously to get an end like that you have to give up a Pro Bowl player. You can't just give anybody for him," Bears center Olin Kreutz said of the trade. "We gave them a great guy in Marty Booker. Hopefully it helps our team."

"We have a core of guys who can pick it up and replace him, but Marty Booker was a special player," Chicago quarterback Rex Grossman said after the Bears' 20-13 win over the 49ers.

AP

Browns running back Lee Suggs runs away from Lions linebacker Teddy Lehman on his way to a second-quarter touchdown on Saturday.

Suggs, Jones shine

CLEVELAND — Former college teammates Lee Suggs and Kevin Jones are showing why they should be starting running backs in the NFL.

Suggs ran in untouched for two scores in the Cleveland Browns' 17-10 victory Saturday night over Jones and the Detroit Lions.

Suggs, who shared carries with Jones in Virginia Tech's backfield in 2002, said he wasn't looking to show up his former teammate.

"I want to outshow every back on the field — I don't care who it is," Suggs said.

He rushed for 63 yards on six carries, including touchdown runs of 8 and 15 yards to the wide open right side. Suggs is competing for the starting job with William Green, who averaged four yards a carry and recovered his own fumble.

Browns coach Butch Davis would not declare a winner.

"They're still in competition," he said.

Jones was one of the few bright spots for the Lions. He gained 29 yards on six carries in his first action this preseason. The rookie, out last week because of a hamstring injury, outplayed Artose Pinner and Shawn Bryson.

Brees still looking cool

TEMPE, Ariz. — The way Drew Brees is playing, San Diego's inability to sign Philip Rivers might not be a controversy much longer.

Brees continued his strong exhibition season, passing the Chargers to a big halftime lead and a 38-13 victory over the Arizona Cardinals on Saturday night.

Brees, who completed 11 of 14 passes for 156 yards and a touchdown in the exhibition opener, was 13-for-21 for 172 yards, a TD and an interception in one half of play.

"I thought he played reasonably well," said Schottenheimer, who was concerned about the failure to get in the end zone early.

"Once again, I think he managed the game well."

Gannon's passes don't measure up

OAKLAND, Calif. — Rich Gannon is already getting sick of the questions about downfield throws.

But after Kerry Collins' one completion covered almost as many yards as Rich Gannon's seven, the questions about which quarterback is better suited in the Oakland Raiders' new offense are bound to keep coming.

Collins' 89-yard scoring strike to Doug Gabriel in the third quarter was the biggest play of the game before the Dallas Cowboys rallied to beat Oakland 21-20 on Tony Romo's 1-yard keeper with six seconds left Saturday night.

Gannon did have one good deep ball, a 41-yard pass to Jerry Porter, but five of his completions went for under 10 yards.

Saints' Brooks reinjures leg

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks aggravated his strained right thigh muscle while scrambling to the sideline in the second quarter and was replaced by Todd Bouman.

Brooks, who sat out the Saints' preseason opener, completed 7 of 13 passes for 44 yards.

Palmer shows explosiveness

CINCINNATI — Carson Palmer gave Cincinnati fans more reason to believe this could be a turnaround season for the Bengals.

"We can be very explosive. I think we showed that tonight," Palmer said. "If we stick with our game plan, and guys execute, that's what happens — you put up 30 points."

Palmer passed for three touchdowns and set up another with a 48-yard completion to Chad Johnson as the Bengals scored on their first three possessions and beat the New England Patriots 31-3.

Bettis gets rewed up

PITTSBURGH — Jerome Bettis showed that his 32-year-old legs can still deliver for the Steelers.

The running back had 10 carries for 48 yards and a touchdown in Pittsburgh's 38-3 exhibition win over the Houston Texans on Saturday night.

After a 26-yard pass from Tommy Maddox to Plaxico Burress, Bettis took over at Houston's 42-yard-line with runs of 14, 10 and 5 yards on the Steelers' second possession. He then scored from 1-yard out.

SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

(All times central European. AFN-A: AFN-Atlantic; PAC: AFN-Pacific/Korea; SPT: AFN-Sports; dld: delayed. Listings are based available from AFRTS and subject to change without notice.)

Television

Baseball — Boston at Chicago White Sox, 9 a.m. Monday (dld), SPT; Minnesota at Texas, 9 a.m. Tuesday (dld), SPT; Milwaukee at Texas, 2 a.m. Wednesday, SPT; Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs, 8 p.m. Wednesday, SPT.

Boxing — Tuesday Night Fights, Clarence Vinson (14-1-0, 6 KOs) vs. Jose Nieves (10-0-2, 7 KOs), super bantamweights, 10 a.m. Wednesday, (dld) SPT.

Golf — U.S. Amateur, championship round, 9 p.m. Monday (dld), SPT.

Motor racing — IRL Honda Indy 225, 6:30 p.m. Monday (dld), SPT; NHRA Midsouth Nationals, 6 a.m. Tuesday (dld), SPT.

Olympics (Note: Telecasts listed as "live" at Athens feet frequently are live feeds of NBC's tape-delayed coverage of events which could occur after that time, tuned to local TV outlets for real-time coverage):

Day 9

2 a.m. Monday (AFN-A and PAC) — Gymnastics: individual event finals; Track and field: men's 100m final, men's high jump final, men's triple jump final; Diving: women's platform final; Women's beach volleyball: USA quarterfinal.

6:35 a.m. Monday (AFN-A and PAC) — Track and field: men's hammer throw final, women's 400m hurdles semifinal; Women's volleyball: quarterfinal; Cycling: track finals.

Day 10

1 p.m. Monday (SPT) — Men's basketball: USA vs. Angola (live); Softball: final; Canoeing.

6:30 p.m. Monday (AFN-A and PAC) — Track and field: Diving: men's springboard; Beach volleyball: semifinal (live); Men's water polo: USA vs. Serbia and Montenegro (live).

2 a.m. Tuesday (AFN-A and PAC) — Gymnastics: individual event finals; Track and field: men's 400m final, men's discus final, women's 800m final, decathlon Day 1.

6:35 a.m. Tuesday (AFN-A and PAC) — Men's volleyball: USA vs. Brazil; Track and field: women's 5,000m final, women's triple jump final; Beach volleyball: semifinal.

Day 11

1 p.m. Tuesday (SPT) — Equestrian: team jumping final (live).

6:30 p.m. Tuesday (AFN-A and PAC) Track and field: Diving: men's springboard semifinal; Women's beach volleyball: bronze medal match (live).

2 a.m. Wednesday (AFN-A and PAC) — Track and field: women's 100m hurdles final, women's 400m final, men's 1,500m final, women's pole vault final, decathlon final; Diving: men's springboard final; Women's beach volleyball: gold medal match, (live); Gymnastics: challenges judge's rulings: super heavyweight Greco-Roman competition.

Pro football — NFL preseason: St. Louis at Kansas City, 6 p.m. Monday (dld) SPT; Tuesday, SPT, and noon, Tuesday (dld), PAC.

Radio

(Listings are feeds from AFN in California. Some might not air in all areas)

Baseball — Los Angeles at Montreal, 1 a.m. Tuesday.

Olympics — Men's basketball, USA vs. Angola, 12:30 p.m. Monday; women's basketball, quarterfinal game, 9 a.m. Wednesday.

AFN-Europe can be reached at DSN 329-4444 or Denmark (0) 65-50-70-44. Commercial callers from outside Germany must drop the initial zero after dialing country code (049). AFN-Atlantic Web site is **www.afneurope.net**. Click on "television" or "radio" for latest schedules. AFRS parent organization, AFRTS at March Reserve AFB, Calif., can be reached at (909) 394-7311 or 3419 or commercial (909) 413-2319. Its Web site is **www.myafn.net**.

Pro football

NFL preseason

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	1	0	0	.500	44	30
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	.500	44	30
Buffalo	1	1	0	.500	37	37
New England	1	0	0	.500	27	37
South						
Tennessee	1	0	0	1.000	40	18
Indianapolis	1	1	0	.500	30	30
Houston	1	1	0	.500	21	38
Jacksonville	1	1	0	.500	19	22
North						
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	20	34
Cincinnati	1	1	0	.500	37	23
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	41	26
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	26	41
West						
Oakland	1	1	0	.500	53	51
San Diego	1	1	0	.500	55	34
Denver	1	1	0	.500	33	30
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	24	34

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	2	0	0	.667	57	40
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	21	38
N.Y. Giants	1	1	0	.500	51	45
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	32	41
South						
Carolina	2	0	0	1.000	50	40
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	33	28
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	37	32
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	.500	26	20
North						
Chicago	2	0	0	1.000	33	23
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	37	38
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	41	26
Minnesota	1	1	0	.500	47	33
West						
Seattle	1	0	1	.500	24	22
St. Louis	0	0	1	.000	10	13
Arizona	0	2	0	.000	19	61
San Francisco	0	2	0	.000	43	53

Thursday's game

Carolina 27, N.Y. Giants 20

Friday's games

Atlanta 27, Minnesota 24

Jacksonville 14, Tampa Bay 6

Philadelphia 26, Baltimore 17

Golf

NEC Invitational

Saturday
At Firestone Country Club
Akron, Ohio
Purse: $7 million
Yardage: 7,360; Par: 70
Third Round

Stewart Cink	63-68-68—199	-11
Chris DiMarco	68-69-67—204	-6
David Toms	69-66-69—204	-6
Tiger Woods	68-66-70—204	-6
Scott Verplank	69-69-67—205	-5
Rod Pampling	68-67-70—205	-5
Rory Sabbatini	68-66-71—205	-5
Luke Donald	71-70-65—206	-4
Jerry Kelly	69-73-64—206	-4
Angel Cabrera	69-70-67—206	-4
Charles Howell III	71-67-68—206	-4
Bob Tway	67-73-67—207	-3
Lee Westwood	69-68-70—207	-3
Robert Allenby	71-67-69—207	-3
Todd Hamilton	69-67-71—207	-3
Stephen Leaney	73-67-68—208	-2
Stuart Appleby	69-70-69—208	-2
Stephen Ames	69-70-69—208	-2
Sergio Garcia	68-70-70—208	-2
Davis Love III	68-68-72—208	-2
Fredrik Jacobson	69-72-68—209	-1
Darren Clarke	71-70-68—209	-1
Fred Couples	72-68-69—209	-1
Shigeki Maruyama	69-68-72—209	-1
Paul Casey	72-70-68—210	E
Jay Haas	70-69-71—210	E
Alex Cejka	72-67-71—210	E
Mike Weir	70-67-73—210	E
S.K. Ho	70-67-73—210	E
Jesper Parnevik	69-72-70—211	+1
Thomas Level	68-73-70—211	+1
Jim Furyk	69-71-71—211	+1
Joey Sindelar	70-70-71—211	+1
Zach Johnson	65-73-73—211	+1
Chris Riley	72-69-71—212	+2
Tim Clark	71-70-71—212	+2
Miguel A. Jimenez	70-70-72—212	+2
Niclas Fasth	75-68-70—213	+3
K.J. Choi	71-73-69—213	+3
Brett Rumford	71-73-69—213	+3
Paul Goydos	73-72-68—213	+3
Phil Mickelson	70-75-68—213	+3
Adam Scott	71-67-75—213	+3
Vijay Singh	73-73-67—213	+3
Rich Beem	69-73-71—213	+3
Trevor Immelman	73-69-72—214	+4
John Daly	72-71-71—214	+4
Paul McGinley	73-72-69—214	+4
John Montgomerie	69-71-74—214	+4
Fred Funk	69-75-71—215	+5
Phillip Price	72-70-73—215	+5
Shaun Michael	71-72-73—216	+6
Peter Lonard	71-69-76—216	+6
Justin Leonard	73-71-72—216	+6
Steve Flesch	75-70-71—216	+6
Kenny Perry	72-75-69—216	+6
Carlos Franco	69-75-72—216	+6
Scott Drummond	69-75-73—217	+7
J.L. Lewis	73-71-73—217	+7
Paul Azinger	67-77-73—217	+7
Thorgichai Jaidee	71-71-76—218	+8
Bernhard Langer	74-69-75—218	+8
Jonathan Kaye	71-75-72—218	+8
Ricardo Gonzalez	73-75-70—218	+8
Tommy Armour III	76-72-70—218	+8
Mark Hensby	71-70-77—218	+8
Kirk Triplett	73-67-79—219	+9
Chad Campbell	74-74-71—219	+9
Craig Parry	79-69-71—219	+9
Mark O'Meara	71-72-77—220	+10
Peter Senior	69-77-74—220	+10
Pete Dye	72-77-72—221	+11
Padraig Harrington	77-74-70—221	+11
Andrew McLardy	73-83-65—221	+11
Pierre Fulke	73-77-78—228	+18

Reno-Tahoe Open

Saturday
At Montreux Golf and Country Club
Reno, Nev.
Purse: $3 million
Yardage: 7,472; Par: 72
Third Round

Roland Thatcher	66-68-68—202	-14
Vaughn Taylor	67-67-69—203	-13
Steve Allan	68-68-69—205	-11
Hunter Mahan	69-67-68—204	-12
Bill Haas	71-68-67—206	-10
Mark Wilson	67-71-69—207	-9
Scott McCarron	69-67-71—207	-9
Woody Austin	71-67-70—208	-8
Joe Ogilvie	72-64-72—208	-8
Scott Sinigan	69-71-70—210	-6
Corey Pavin	68-69-73—210	-6
Craig Barlow	72-66-72—210	-6
Steve Elkington	71-69-70—210	-6
Brian Wilson	74-69-67—210	-6
Daniel Chopra	67-70-73—210	-6
Carl Pettersson	69-67-74—210	-6
Grant Waite	70-69-72—211	-5
John Senden	73-65-73—211	-5
Ken Duke	71-67-73—211	-5
Olin Browne	70-67-74—211	-5
Hidemichi Tanaka	68-68-75—211	-5

Wendy's Championship for Children

Sunday
At Tartan Fields Golf Club
Dublin, Ohio
Yardage: 6,515; Par: 72
Purse: $1.1 million
Completed Third Round
a-amateur

Hee-Won Han	66-70-72—208	-8
Laura Diaz	70-72-66—208	-8
Catriona Matthew	72-67-71—210	-6
Mi Hyun Kim	71-68-71—210	-6
Marilyn Lovander	70-69-71—210	-6
Suzann Pettersen	67-68-75—210	-6
Marisa Baena	74-68-69—211	-5
Wendy Ward	70-71-70—211	-5
Nancy Scranton	69-72-70—211	-5
Brandie Burton	72-66-73—211	-5
Reilley Rankin	71-65-75—211	-5
Kim Williams	73-72-67—212	-4
Rosie Jones	71-73-68—212	-4
Lorena Ochoa	70-67-75—212	-4
Meg Mallon	73-68-71—212	-4
Lorie Kane	69-70-73—212	-4
a-Michelle Wie	72-70-71—213	-3
Kelli Kuehne	72-70-71—213	-3
Patricia Meunier-Lebouc	69-72-72—213	-3
Kristi Albers	67-70-76—213	-3
Jiyeon Lee	69-75-70—214	-2
Soo-Yun Kang	70-73-71—214	-2
Jeong Jang	71-71-72—214	-2
Natalie Gulbis	71-70-73—214	-2
Tonya Gill	74-71-70—215	-1
Candie Kung	74-71-70—215	-1
Rachel Teske	70-75-70—215	-1
Eva Dahllof	75-69-71—215	-1
Nanci Bowen	73-74-69—216	E
Michelle Estill	75-71-70—216	E
Tina Barrett	72-74-70—216	E
Donna Andrews	71-73-72—216	E
Michele Redman	70-71-75—216	E

U.S. Amateur Championship

Saturday
At Winged Foot Golf Club, West Course
Mamaroneck, N.Y.
Yardage: 7,264; Par: 70
Semifinals

Ryan Moore, Puyallup, Wash. (139), def. Jeff Overton, Evansville, Ind. (146), 2 and 1.

Luke List, Ringgold, Ga. (142), def. Chris Nallen, Hackettstown, N.J. (144), 19 holes.

Greater Hickory Classic

Saturday
At Rock Barn Golf & Spa, Jones Course
Conover, N.C.
Purse: $1.6 million
Yardages: 7,046; Par: 72 (36-36)
Second Round

Bruce Fleisher	70-65—135	-9
Doug Tewell	69-69—138	-6
Mark Lye	69-69—138	-6
Jerry Pate	72-67—139	-5
Larry Nelson	70-69—139	-5
Joe Inman	73-67—140	-4
Morris Hatalsky	73-67—140	-4
Bob Charles	71-69—140	-4
Jay Haas	70-70—140	-4
Jim Thorpe	69-71—140	-4
Bobby Wadkins	68-72—140	-4
Sammy Rachels	74-67—141	-3
Eduardo Romero	72-69—141	-3
Gil Morgan	71-70—141	-3
Tom Jenkins	74-68—142	-2
R.W. Eaks	74-68—142	-2
Lonnie Nielsen	72-70—142	-2
Bob Ralston	72-70—142	-2
Jack Spradlin	69-73—142	-2
Allen Doyle	69-73—142	-2
James Mason	74-69—143	-1
Don Pooley	73-70—143	-1
Leonard Thompson	73-70—143	-1
A.D. Weibring	73-70—143	-1
Hugh Baiocchi	72-71—143	-1
Larry Ziegler	72-71—143	-1

Auto racing

Cabela's 250

NASCAR Busch Series
Saturday
At Michigan International Speedway
Brooklyn, Mich.
Lap length: 2 miles
(Starting positions in parentheses)

(1) 2 Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 125, 357.280.
(2) 43 Mark Martin, Ford, 125, 351.600.
(3) 1 Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 125, 349.333.
(4) 21 Casey Mears, Dodge, 125, $20,450.
(5) 5 Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 125, $18,175.
(6) 42 Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 125, $17,075.
(7) 4 Jason Leffler, Chevrolet, 125, $11,455.
(8) 55 Greg Biffle, Ford, 125, $17,295.
(9) 22 Mike Wallace, Ford, 125, $28,100.
(10) 11 Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 125, $22,650.
(11) 12 Ashton Lewis Jr., Chevrolet, 125, $21,205.
(12) 23 Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 125, $15,925.
(13) 12 Ashton Lewis Jr., Chevrolet, 125, $15,550.
(14) 37 Justin Labonte, Dodge, 125, $15,550.
(15) 19 Johnny Sauter, Pontiac, 125, $21,175.
(16) 9 Jason Keller, Ford, 125, $26,000.
(17) 41 Tracy Hines, Dodge, 125, $15,320.
(18) 77 Ron Hornaday Jr., Chevrolet, 125, $25,900.
(19) 16 Kenny Wallace, Chevrolet, 125, $19,175.
(20) 40 Stanton Barrett, Chevrolet, 125, $15,950.
(21) 24 Hermie Sadler, Chevrolet, 125, $20,545.
(22) 131 Travis Geisler, Chevrolet, 125, $16,975.
(23) 14 Tim Fedewa, Chevrolet, 125, $19,275.
(24) 15 Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 125, $14,875.
(25) 17 Casey Atwood, Chevrolet, 125, $18,845.
(26) 27 Gus Wasson, Chevrolet, 125, $14,370.
(27) 33 Jimmy Kitchens, Ford, 125, $14,700.
(28) 20 Robert Pressley, Ford, 125, $18,670.
(29) 42 Bobby Hamilton Jr., Ford, 125, $26,120.
(30) 3 Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 125, $14,550.
(31) 13 Stacy Compton, Ford, 125, $18,630.
(32) 16 David Green, Pontiac, 124, $24,995.
(33) 39 Eric McClure, Chevrolet, 124, $14,440.
(34) 28 Derrike Cope, Ford, 123, $18,440.
(35) 29 Tony Raines, Chevrolet, 60, accident, $16,405.
(36) 025 Joel Nemechek, Chevrolet, 54, engine failure, $14,385.
(37) 26 Bill Elliott, Chevrolet, 51, too slow, $16,365.
(38) 134 Kim Crosby, Chevrolet, 46, too slow, $14,320.
(39) 030 Tina Gordon, Ford, 40, too slow, $16,285.
(40) 38 Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 35, engine failure, $14,265.
(41) 026 Jeff Fuller, Chevrolet, 9, overheating, $13,745.
(42) 135 Matt Kenseth, Ford, 5, accident, $14,195.
(43) 32 Steve Grissom, Chevrolet, 0, oil leak, $16,167.

Winner's average speed: 122.166 mph.
Time of race: 2 hours, 2 minutes, 47 seconds.
Margin of victory: 3.861 seconds.
Caution flags: 8 for 33 laps.
Lead changes: 8 among 7 drivers.
Lap leaders: M.Truex Jr. 1-22; C.Atwood 23; K.Kahne 24-26; K.Busch 27-44; J.Nemechek 45-48; K.Busch 49-82; C.Mears 87-91; K.Wallace 92-94; K.Busch 95-125.

Series driver standings: 1. M.Truex Jr. 3,488. 2. K.Busch 3,391. 3. J.Leffler 3,290. 4. G.Biffle 3,052. 5. R.Hornaday Jr. 2,952. 6. D.Green 2,938. 7. J.Keller 2,924. 8. B.Hamilton Jr. 2,896. 9. M.Bliss 2,729. 10. A.Lewis Jr. 2,588.

Tennis

Legg Mason Classic

Washington, D.C.
A William H.G. Fitzgerald Tennis Center
Washington, D.C.
Purse: $500,000 (Intl. Series)
Surface: Hard/Outdoor
Singles
Championship

Lleyton Hewitt (2), Australia, def. Gilles Muller, Luxembourg, 6-3, 6-4.

Saturday
Doubles
Semifinals

Lleyton Hewitt (2), Australia, def. Robby Ginepri (4), United States, 6-3, 6-4.

Gilles Muller, Luxembourg, def. Andre Agassi (1), United States, 6-4, 7-5.

Western & Southern Open

Sunday
At The ATP Tennis Center
Mason, Ohio
Purse: $170,000 (Tier III)
Surface: Hard/Outdoor
Singles
Championship

Lindsay Davenport (1), United States, def. Vera Zvonareva (2), Russia, 6-3, 6-4.

Saturday
Doubles
Semifinals

Lindsay Davenport (1), United States, def. Marion Bartoli (4), France, walkover.

Vera Zvonareva (2), Russia, def. Amy Frazier (3), United States, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1.

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
MetroStars	9	8	7	34	36	30
Columbus	7	5	9	30	24	23
D.C. United	6	6	8	26	26	25
Chicago	5	9	8	23	22	29
New England	5	9	8	23	30	34
Western Conference						
Kansas City	10	3	7	37	32	23
Los Angeles	9	6	8	35	36	31
Colorado	8	7	8	32	21	21
San Jose	8	7	6	30	36	28
Dallas	8	9	5	29	25	31

TANK McNAMARA

Youth baseball

Little League World Series

At South Williamsport, Pa.
UNITED STATES

Pool A — WEST, Washington Valley, Thousand Oaks, Calif.; NEW ENGLAND, Lincoln (R.I.); SOUTHEAST, Morganton, (N.C.); MIDWEST, Davenport (Iowa), Northwest.

Pool B — MID-ATLANTIC, South Caroline, Preston, Md.; NORTHWEST, Redmond (Wash.); NORTH, GREAT LAKES, Owensboro (Ky.) Southern; SOUTHWEST, Lamar National, Richmond, Texas.

INTERNATIONAL

Pool C — LATIN AMERICA, Corundu, Panama; CANADA, East Nepean, Ottawa; ASIA, Taichung, Taiwan; EUROPE, Kutno, Poland.

Pool D — PACIFIC, Saipan; TRANSATLANTIC, Curacao; EUROPE, Parma, Italia; MEXICO, Guadalupe Linda Vista, Nuevo Leon; CARIBBEAN, Pabao, Curacao.

Friday, Aug. 20

Morganton, N.C. 10, Davenport, Iowa 4
Corundu, Panama 12, East Nepean, Ottawa 2, 5 innings
Lincoln, R.I. vs. Thousand Oaks, Calif., ppd., rain

Saturday, Aug. 21

Preston, Md. 7, Owensboro, Ky. 2
Pabao, Curacao 3, Monterrey, Mexico 2
Richmond, Texas 18, Redmond, Wash. 7
Saudi Arabia 5, Saipan 1, 7 innings
Shou-Tien, Taiwan 18, Kutno, Poland 0, 4 innings
Lincoln, R.I. 3, Davenport, Iowa 2

Sunday, Aug. 22

Richmond, Texas vs. Owensboro, Ky.
Morganton, N.C. vs. Thousand Oaks, Calif.
Corundu, Panama vs. Kutno, Poland
Saudi Arabia vs. Guadalupe, Mexico
Redmond, Wash. vs. Preston, Md.

Monday, Aug. 23

Saipan vs. Nuevo Leon, Mexico
Davenport, Iowa vs. Thousand Oaks, Calif.
Pabao, Curacao vs. Saudi Arabia
Lincoln, R.I. vs. Morganton, N.C.
East Nepean, Ottawa, vs. Shou-Tien, Taiwan

Tuesday, Aug. 24

Lincoln, R.I. vs. Thousand Oaks, Calif.
Pabao, Curacao vs. Saipan
East Nepean, Ottawa vs. Kutno, Poland
Richmond, Texas vs. Nuevo Leon, Mexico
Corundu, Panama vs. Shou-Tien, Taiwan
Redmond, Wash. vs. Owensboro, Ky.

SEMIFINALS

Wednesday, Aug. 25
At Lamade Stadium
International

Pool D No. 1 vs. Pool C No. 2
United States
Pool B No. 1 vs. Pool A No. 2

Thursday, Aug. 26
International
Pool C No. 1 vs. Pool D No. 2
United States
Pool A No. 1 vs. Pool B No. 2

Friday, Aug. 27

Rain Day, no game scheduled.

Saturday, Aug. 28

International championship
U.S. championship

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
Sunday, Aug. 29
Third place
International runner-up vs. U.S. runner-up
Championship
International champion vs. U.S. champion

Deals

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League

KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Activated LHP Jeremy Affeldt from the 15-day DL. Optioned RHP Jorge Vasquez to Wichita of the Texas League.

National League

MONTREAL EXPOS—Placed 1B Nick Johnson on the 15-day DL. Called up OF Ryan Church from Edmonton of the PCL.

Northern League

RANGOR LIGHTHOUSE BANDITS—Released C Hideo Miawa.

BROCKTON BOX—Released RHP Miguel Baez and RHP Dominicio Polanco.

SOUTHSHORE RAILCATS—Signed INF Tom Syska.

JOLIET JACKHAMMERS—Signed LHP Luis Villarroel.

LINCOLN SALTDOGS—Signed OF Darren Truly to the St. Paul Saints to complete an earlier trade. Signed INF Pichi Balet.

NEW HAVEN COUNTY CUTTERS—Signed INF Luis Santiago.

ST. PAUL SAINTS—Acquired INF Marc Mirizzi from the Sioux Falls Canaries for two players to be named later or future cash and player to be named.

SIOUX FALLS CANARIES—Acquired INF Joe Rhomberg from Windy City of the Frontier League for future considerations.

WINNIPEG GOLDEYES—Purchased the contract of LHP Dustin Ross from the Sioux City Explorers. Released LHP Will Rodriguez.

Central League

AMARILLO DILLAS—Released C Beau Craig.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Announced the Utah Jazz will not match the three-year offer sheet to G Mo Williams.

FOOTBALL

Canadian Football League

TORONTO ARGONAUTS—Signed WR Andre Rison.

COLLEGE

DAYTON—Named Dave Wojcik men's assistant basketball coach.

PENN STATE—Named Robbie Wine baseball coach.

Cink takes five-shot lead into final round of NEC

The Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — Stewart Cink watched his 50-foot chip track to the hole, then thrust his arms in the air when it fell in for a birdie Saturday at the NEC Invitational.

The real surprise came when he looked up at the leaderboard behind the 18th green.

Just two holes earlier, Cink was clinging to a two-shot lead over David Toms in the group ahead, with Tiger Woods another shot back and standing next to him on the 17th tee. All it took was a double bogey by Toms and a near-shank by Woods for Cink to suddenly look like a shoo-in at Firestone South.

Golf roundup

"I didn't expect anything like that to happen," Cink said after a 2-under 68. "I thought, 'That's pretty cool.' That chip-in just got me a five-shot lead."

Now all he has to do is protect it against a trio of Ryder Cup teammates.

Five days after becoming a wild-card pick for the U.S. team, Cink made captain Hal Sutton's decision look better than ever by seizing control at the NEC Invitational. He was at 11-under 199 and had the largest 54-hole lead at this World Golf Championship since Woods led by nine shots in 2000.

Woods hit one shot 40 yards over the gallery, grazed a boy's head off the eighth tee and nearly shanked an iron that bounced off the corporate tents on the 17th, but still managed a 70 to join Toms (69) and Chris DiMarco (67) in the group at 5-under 204.

"I hit it so great this morning it was scary," Woods said, who made three straight birdies to finish his second round in the rain-delayed tournament. "Then all of a sudden, I come out here and play like an idiot. I know it's in there. It's just a matter of bringing it out."

Toms ended his round with a double bogey for the second time this week, and this one was costly. He was two shots out of the lead when he pulled his tee shot on the 18th under a tree, advanced it into the rough, came up short of the green and then chipped 10 feet long and missed the putt.

"I wasn't hitting it very solid, and it came back to haunt me on the last hole," Toms said.

Han holds two stroke edge

DUBLIN, Ohio — Defending champion Hee-Won Han leads five players by two strokes heading into Sunday's final round of the rain-plagued Wendy's Championship for Children.

Eighteen players were unable to complete their rain-delayed rounds on Saturday night due to darkness. They took the course early Sunday morning and completed the third round before pairings were set for the final 18 holes.

Rain and lightning prevented 69 players from finishing the first round on Thursday, forcing tournament officials to delay the start of the second round. More rain and inclement weather caused an early end to Friday's second round, with 66 players still on the course.

Han, who was second two years ago at the Wendy's, leads Laura Diaz, Catriona Matthew, Mi Hyun Kim, Marilyn Lovander and Suzann Pettersen by two shots heading into the final round. Han stands at 8-under 208.

Moore poised for fourth title

MAMARONECK, N.Y. — Ryan Moore moved into position to try for his fourth amateur title of the year, beating Jeff Overton 2 and 1 in the semifinals of the U.S. Amateur at Winged Foot Golf Club.

Moore, a UNLV senior who has already won the NCAA Division I, U.S. Amateur Public Links and Western Amateur titles, will face Luke List in Sunday's 36-hole final.

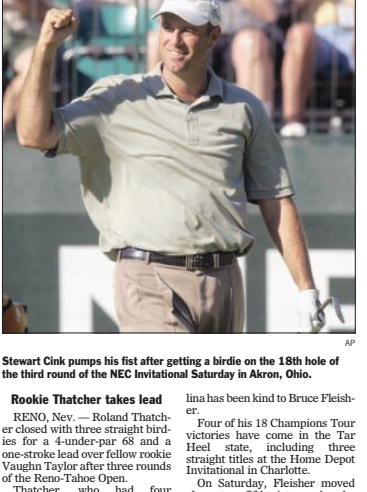
List, of Ringgold, Ga., beat Chris Nallen with a birdie on the first playoff hole.

He led Nallen, of Hackettstown, N.J., 2-up when rain temporarily halted play with three holes remaining. Nallen later squared the match with a par on the 16th and a birdie at No. 18, forcing a playoff.

Overton capitalize on three bogeys by Moore on the front nine and led 1-up at the turn. Moore pulled even with a par at No. 10.

After halving two holes, Moore took control with a birdie at the par-3 13th and a par at the 14th for a 2-up lead.

Moore, of Puyallup, Wash., has won 44 of his last 46 matches.



AP

Stewart Cink pumps his fist after getting a birdie on the 18th hole of the third round of the NEC Invitational Saturday in Akron, Ohio.

Rookie Thatcher takes lead

RENO, Nev. — Roland Thatcher closed with three straight birdies for a 4-under-par 68 and a one-stroke lead over fellow rookie Vaughn Taylor after three rounds of the Reno-Tahoe Open.

Thatcher, who had four three-putt bogeys, fell three strokes behind Taylor with four holes remaining at Montreux Golf and Country Club. He rallied with a 17-foot birdie putt at the par-3 16th and a 6-footer at the par-5 17th. He hit a wedge from 84 yards to within a foot at the 18th and tapped in for a 14-under 202 total.

Taylor settled for a 69.

Fleisher closes in on N.C. win

CONOVER, N.C. — North Carolina has been kind to Bruce Fleisher.

Four of his 18 Champions Tour victories have come in the Tar Heel state, including three straight titles at the Home Depot Invitational in Charlotte.

On Saturday, Fleisher moved closer to a fifth victory when he parlayed eight birdies into a tournament-low 65 and cruised to a 3-shot lead after the second round of the Greater Hickory Classic.

Fleisher hit all 14 fairways at Rock Barn Golf & Spa and used 26 putts to improve to 9-under-par 135 entering Sunday's final round.

He distanced himself from first-round leader Mark Lye and Doug Tewell, who share second at 6 under par.

Solid Busch easily wins Cabela's 250

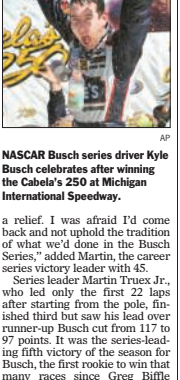
The Associated Press

BROOKLYN, Mich. — It took Kyle Busch 27 laps to work his way to the lead Saturday despite starting second. After that, though, there was little doubt who was the fastest driver in the Cabela's 250 NASCAR Busch Series race.

The 19-year-old Busch, younger brother of Nextel Cup driver Kurt Busch, led 87 of the 125 laps on the 2-mile oval at Michigan International Speedway. Three times he had leads of more than five seconds wiped out but still beat runner-up Mark Martin to the finish by 3.861 seconds — nearly half a straightaway.

"Kyle Busch was just in another league," said Martin, a longtime Cup star who started last in the 43-car field in his first Busch race since 2000. "He put it on us really bad, but I'm still pleased we were able to beat all those guys behind us.

"Even getting beat like that, it's a relief. I was afraid I'd come back and not uphold the tradition of what we'd done in the Busch Series," added Martin, the career series victory leader with 45.



AP

NASCAR Busch series driver Kyle Busch celebrates after winning the Cabela's 250 at Michigan International Speedway.

Series leader Martin Truex Jr., who led only the first 22 laps after starting from the pole, finished third but saw his lead over runner-up Busch cut from 117 to 97 points. It was the series-leading fifth victory of the season for Busch, the first rookie to win that many races since Greg Biffle won five in 1989.

Little experience helps Texas

BY DAN LEWERENZ
The Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Randal Grichuk tried to play down the fact that he's the only returning U.S. player in this year's Little League World Series. But, maybe experience does count for something.

Grichuk hit two home runs and an RBI double, and Lamar National of Richmond, Texas, never trailed in an 18-7 victory Saturday over Redmond (Wash.) North.

Little League roundup

It was the first pitch Grichuk saw in this series — and the first since he struck out in his final at-bat in a 14-13, seven-inning loss to Saugus, Mass., in last year's U.S. semifinals.

"It feels a lot better to be back, very definitely. I love the games where you get to bat four or five times," Grichuk said. "A lot of people saw last year's [game], and now I think some of them expect us to win. So I guess we've got to."

Daniel Homann sent the next pitch over the wall in left-center field, giving Texas (1-0) a 3-0 lead at the end of the first.

Washington (0-1) never got closer.

Matt Daniels (1-0), who hit a grand slam, earned the win. Ryan Beliel (0-1) took the loss.

"The kid's what you'd call a lollipop thrower," Daniels said of his grand slam pitch. "Basically, his fastball had a little rainbow arc to it. A lot of the other kids were way out in front of it, but all I did was, I thought, 'Tennis ball in the cul-de-sac,' and hit it square. And if you hit it square, the ball goes."

In other games Saturday, South Caroline Little League from Preston, Md., beat Owensboro (Ky.) Southern 7-2; Willemstad, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles beat Guadalupe, Mexico, 3-2; Dhahran, Saudi Arabia beat Saipan 4-1 in seven innings; and Shou-Tien, Taiwan routed Kutno, Poland 18-0 in 4 innings; and Lincoln, R.I., held on for a 3-2 victory over Davenport, Iowa.

Grichuk's second home run capped a five-run second inning for Texas, which started with Cody Abraham's RBI single. Dustin Moehlig scored on a wild pitch. Joey Scheurich's sacrifice fly drove in one run, and a second run scored on an infield error. That set up Grichuck's second homer, which sailed over the wall in center field for an 8-0 Texas lead.

Maryland 7, Kentucky 2: Brady Hare hit a two-run homer, and Hunter Bennett added a two-run double for Maryland, and pitcher Davonta DeShields gave up just two hits.

Curacao 3, Mexico 2: Carlos Pineda hit a three-run homer in the first, then allowed just two hits as Curacao held on for the win. Both of Mexico's runs came in the fourth.

Saudi Arabia 4, Saipan 1, 7 innings: Mark Lumpa hit a two-run double in the top of the seventh to lift Saudi Arabia past Saipan. Matt Timoney and Joel Reimer singled to set up Lumpa's hit, breaking the 1-1 tie.

Taiwan 18, Poland 0, 4 innings: Hsu Chi-Hung and Tung Chen-Lun combined to pitch a no-hitter, Taiwan's 14 first-inning runs were the most in an inning since pool play began in 1992.

Rhode Island 3, Iowa 2: Chris Costantino struck out 15, including the last out with the bases loaded. Rhode Island led 2-0 after the first inning, but Justin Black's home run brought Iowa within 2-1. Iowa, the only team yet to play two games, fell to 0-2.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	75	46	.620	—
Boston	69	52	.570	6½
Baltimore	57	64	.471	18½
Tampa Bay	55	68	.447	21½
Toronto	51	72	.415	25½
Central Division				
Minnesota	68	54	.557	—
Cleveland	63	61	.508	6
Chicago	60	61	.500	7
Detroit	58	64	.475	10
Kansas City	47	77	.358	24
West Division				
Oakland	70	52	.574	—
Texas	69	52	.570	½
Anaheim	69	54	.561	1½
Seattle	45	76	.372	24½

Saturday's games

Anaheim 6, N.Y. Yankees 1
Boston 10, Chicago White Sox 7
Minnesota 8, Cleveland 1
Toronto 10, Baltimore 4
Oakland 5, Tampa Bay 0
Detroit 11, Seattle 10, 11 innings
Texas 5, Kansas City 3

Sunday's games

Seattle at Detroit
Anaheim at N.Y. Yankees
Oakland at Tampa Bay
Toronto at Baltimore
Cleveland at Minnesota
Texas at Kansas City
Boston at Chicago White Sox

Monday's games

Boston (P.Martinez 13-4) at Toronto (Lilly 8-8)
N.Y. Yankees (Mussina 9-7) at Cleveland (C.Lee 10-5)
Chicago White Sox (Contreras 11-5) at Detroit (Bonderman 10-8)
Minnesota (Santana 13-6) at Texas (Rogers 15-5)
Tampa Bay (Brazelton 5-4) at Seattle (Madritsch 3-0)
Kansas City (May 9-13) at Anaheim (Colon 12-9)
Baltimore (Lopez 10-8) at Oakland (Hudson 8-4)

Tuesday's games

Boston at Toronto
N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland
Chicago White Sox at Detroit
Minnesota at Texas
Tampa Bay at Seattle
Kansas City at Anaheim
Baltimore at Oakland

Saturday
Angels 6, Yankees 1

ANAHEIM	ab	r	h	bi	NEW YORK	ab	r	h	bi
Eckstin ss	4	0	0	0	Lofton cf	3	0	0	0
Erstad 1b	5	1	2	0	Jeter ss	4	0	1	0
Vizcno rf	4	1	1	0	Sheffld dh	4	0	1	0
GAndsn dh	4	1	2	1	ARdrgz 3b	4	0	1	0
JGillen lf	4	2	1	1	Mattsll lf	4	0	0	0
Pride lf	2	0	1	1	BWllms dh	4	0	1	0
DVnon cf	5	1	2	1	Olerud 1b	4	0	1	0
AKndy 2b	4	1	1	0	EWilsn 2b	3	0	0	0
BMolna c	5	0	1	1	Sierra pr	1	0	0	0
Figgins 3b	4	0	2	1	FHerrn c	2	1	1	0
					Posada c	1	0	1	0
Totals	**39**	**6**	**13**	**6**	**Totals**	**34**	**1**	**8**	**1**

Anaheim	010	300	101—6
New York	000	000	000—1

E—Jeter (9). ARodriguez (11). DP—Anaheim 1. LOB—Anaheim 11, New York 7. 2B—GAnderson (14), JGuillen (22), Pride (10). HR—JGuillen (24), DAvnon (6), Flaherty (4). SB—Erstad (14). CS—Figgins (11). S—Eckstein.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Anaheim						
Sele	3	3	1	1	1	1
Shields W,7-2	3	4	0	0	2	2
Donnelly	1	1	0	0	0	2
FRodriguez	2	2	0	0	0	2
New York						
Loaiza L,9-7	3	7	4	3	1	5
Sturze	4	2	1	1	2	4
Quantrill	1	1	0	0	0	0
Nitkowski	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Proctor	⅓	0	0	0	0	0

Loaiza pitched to 5 batters in the 4th.
HBP—by Nitkowski (Pride). T—2:49. A—54,008 (57,478).

Tigers 11, Mariners 10 (11)

SEATTLE	ab	r	h	bi	DETROIT	ab	r	h	bi
Ibuzuki rf	7	2	4	2	Infante 2b	5	1	1	0
Winn cf	6	1	5	4	Hggnsn rf	4	0	1	0
BBoone 2b	7	0	1	1	Logan cf	0	0	0	0
Ibanez lf	4	2	1	1	IRdrgz c	5	2	4	1
Jcbsen dh	5	1	1	1	DYoung dh	5	1	1	0
JoCbra dh	0	0	0	0	RoWhite lf	5	2	2	0
SSlaught c	6	1	1	0	CGillen ss	6	2	2	6
DWilsn c	5	1	2	1	Monroe cf	6	1	1	1
BImquit 3b	6	2	3	0	CPena 1b	5	1	3	3
RSiagio ss	5	3	0	1	Inge 3b	3	0	1	0
EMrtnz ph	1	0	1	0					
Lopez ss	1	0	0	0					
Totals	**52**	**10**	**21**	**10**	**Totals**	**46**	**11**	**15**	**11**

Seattle	121	201	300 —10
Detroit	030	043	000 —11

One out when winning run scored.

E—Ibanez (2). JCrawford (6). DP—Seattle 1. Detroit 1. LOB—Seattle 14, Detroit 10. 2B—Ibuzuki (23), JCrawford (2), Winn (26), CGuillen 2 (34), 3B—Ibuzuki (5), Spiezio (3). HR—Winn (11), Ibanez (14), CPena (18). SB—ISuzuki (29), Winn (17), Bloomquist (12), CGuillen 2 (11), Inge (3). SF—DWilson.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Seattle						
Moyer	4⅔	9	7	5	3	3
Hasegawa	1⅓	2	3	3	2	0
Sherrill	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atchison L,1-1	2⅓	3	1	1	0	2
Detroit						
Johnson	1⅓	6	3	3	0	0
Novoa	2⅔	5	3	3	1	3
Levine	2	3	1	1	0	1
Knotts	⅓	3	3	3	0	1
Yan	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Urbina	2	0	0	0	0	2
JWalker W,2-4	1	2	0	0	0	1

WP—Sherrill. Balk—Johnson. T—4:43. A—36,817 (40,120).

Red Sox 10, White Sox 7

BOSTON	ab	r	h	bi	CHICAGO	ab	r	h	bi
Damon cf	5	1	2	1	WHarris 2b	5	1	2	0
DOrtiz ss	5	1	2	0	Uribe ss	3	1	1	0
MRmrez lf	4	1	3	5	CEvrtt dh	4	0	0	0
Millar rf	5	0	0	0	Thrznr dh	1	0	0	0
Varitek c	5	3	2	2	Knerko 1b	4	2	1	2
Millar 1b	4	1	1	1	Rvera rf	4	2	3	0
Mntkw 1b	1	0	0	0	Glaud lf	5	0	2	2
Mueller 3b	5	0	1	0	Brchrd rf	4	0	0	0
Loaiza rf	4	2	2	1	Burks cf	4	0	1	2
Bilhorn 2b	3	1	1	0	Crede 3b	3	1	1	1
Totals	**41**	**10**	**15**	**10**	**Totals**	**37**	**7**	**11**	**7**

Boston	322	011	100—10
Chicago	203	000	110—7

E—Borchard (2). DP—Boston 1. LOB—Boston 7, Chicago 9. 2B—Varitek (19), Millar (27), Mueller (21), Uribe (21), Rvera (29), Glaud (7). HR—MRamirez (32), Varitek 2 (17), Konerko (30), Crede (16). SB—Bilhorn (5). SF—Kapler.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Boston						
Arroyo W,6-9	5⅔	7	5	5	3	4
Timlin	1⅓	2	1	1	0	1
Adams	1	1	1	1	0	2
Foulke	1	1	0	0	0	2
Chicago						
Stewart L,0-1	3⅓	8	7	7	1	1
Adkins	2⅓	3	0	0	1	2
Politte	⅓	2	1	1	0	1
Marte	1⅓	1	1	1	0	1
MJackson	1	1	0	0	0	0

HBP—by Arroyo (Uribe), by Arroyo (Rowand). WP—Timlin. T—3:10. A—37,303 (40,615).

Blue Jays 10, Orioles 4

TORONTO	ab	r	h	bi	BALTIMORE	ab	r	h	bi
Jhnson lf	4	3	2	2	BRbrts 2b	4	0	2	0
OHudsn 2b	5	1	2	2	Newhn dh	4	0	2	1
WVelis cf	5	0	0	0	Mora 3b	4	0	1	0
CDfgds 1b	4	2	1	3	Tejada ss	4	0	1	0
Hinske 3b	3	1	2	0	RPlmro 1b	4	1	1	0
Rios rf	5	1	2	1	JvLnds rf	4	1	2	1
Zaun c	4	2	2	1	Surhoff rf	0	0	0	0
Cash c	1	0	0	0	Kgcrva cf	4	1	1	2
Gross dh	4	1	2	0	Mjwski rf	4	1	1	0
Berg dh	0	0	0	0					
Wdwrd ss	4	1	1	1					
Totals	**40**	**10**	**15**	**10**	**Totals**	**36**	**4**	**10**	**4**

Toronto	102	100	006—10
Baltimore	000	021	001— 4

DP—Toronto 1. LOB—Toronto 9, Baltimore 5. 2B—Johnson 2 (31), Hinske (19), Rios (20), Zaun (21), RPalmeiro (19). HR—CDelgado (20), KGarcia (3). SB—Rios (9). SF—CDelgado, Woodward.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Toronto						
Halladay W,2-3	6	9	3	3	0	4
Lightenberg	2	0	0	0	0	1
Frasor	1	1	1	1	0	1
Baltimore						
Cabrera L,9-6	2⅓	8	8	8	2	2
Williams	2⅔	2	1	1	1	1
Groom	1	2	0	0	0	0
Grimsley	1	2	1	1	0	0
Bryan	1	1	0	0	0	1
Julio	1	0	0	0	0	1

HBP—by Williams (Delgado), by Cabrera (OHudson). WP—Bush. T—2:45. A—38,079 (48,286).

Athletics 5, Devil Rays 0

OAKLAND	ab	r	h	bi	TAMPA BAY	ab	r	h	bi
Kotsay cf	5	1	1	1	Crwfrd cf	4	0	2	0
Byrnes lf	4	0	3	0	Upton dh	4	0	2	0
CEstvz 3b	4	0	0	0	Walker rf	4	0	1	0
DMiller c	4	1	1	0	JoCruz rf	3	0	0	0
Hbtbrg 1b	4	1	0	0	TMrtnz 1b	3	0	1	0
Durazo dh	4	1	0	1	Lugo ss	4	0	0	0
Ktchy rf	2	0	0	0	Hall c	3	0	0	0
Crosby ss	3	1	1	2	Cantu 3b	3	0	0	0
Scutaro 2b	4	1	1	1	Rolls lf	3	0	0	0
					Sonnanstine p	0	0	0	0
Totals	**34**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**Totals**	**31**	**0**	**5**	**0**

Oakland	002	012	000—5
Tampa Bay	000	000	000—0

E—Sanchez (3). DP—Oakland 1. Tampa Bay 2. LOB—Oakland 7, Tampa Bay 5. 2B—Byrnes (26), Durazo (26), Kielty (12), Upton (4). HR—Kotsay (12), Crosby (14), Walker (4). SF—Crosby.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Oakland						
Zito W,9-8	8	4	0	0	1	6
Chammond	1	1	0	0	0	0
Tampa Bay						
Hamana L,6-6	5	8	5	4	2	1
Nunez	2	0	0	0	0	4
Rupe	0	0	0	0	0	0
DBaez	1	0	0	0	0	0

Hamana pitched to 3 batters in the 6th.
HBP—by DBaez (Byrnes), by Nunez (Kielty). WP—Zito. T—2:24. A—25,123 (43,969).

Rangers 5, Royals 3

TEXAS	ab	r	h	bi	KANSAS CITY	ab	r	h	bi
EYong dh	3	1	2	1	DJesus cf	5	0	1	0
Dllucci dh	1	0	0	0	Sweeney lf	4	0	0	0
MYoung ss	5	0	2	0	Mtheny ss	3	0	2	0
ASrzon 2b	4	0	1	1	MSwy dh	4	0	1	0
Texeira 1b	4	1	1	1	Nunez 1b	5	0	2	0
Mench rf	5	0	0	0	Berroa rf	3	0	0	0
BJordn rf	4	1	0	0	Lillif 3b	4	1	1	0
Kndrk 3b	4	1	2	2	Wdrffe c	4	1	2	2
Mathws cf	4	0	0	0	ABlnco ss	2	1	1	0
Brajas c	2	1	1	0	RMatteo ph	1	0	0	0
Akindr 3b	4	1	2	0	WGreiro ss	0	0	0	0
Totals	**36**	**5**	**10**	**5**	**Totals**	**36**	**3**	**10**	**3**

Texas	100	400	000—5
Kansas City	000	020	100—3

E—Relaford (7). LOB—Texas 11, Kansas City 12. 2B—EYoung (16), MYoung (23), Bjordan (9), Barajas (17), Alexander (1). HR—Teixeira (30). SB—DeJesus (5), S—Barajas. SF—ASoriano, Gotay.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Texas						
Callaway	4⅔	5	2	2	1	4
Francisco W,4-1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Almanzar	⅓	0	0	0	1	0
Mahay	1	1	0	0	0	1
FCordero S,39	2	2	0	0	0	2

Kansas City

Brlinderson L,2-11	5⅔	8	5	5	2	2
Sullivan	1⅓	2	0	0	0	1
Carrasco	2	1	0	0	2	0

HBP—by Callaway (Relaford). T—3:12. A—25,035 (40,785).

Twins 8, Indians 1

CLEVELAND	ab	r	h	bi	MINNESOTA	ab	r	h	bi
Billard 2b	4	0	0	0	ShStwrt lf	3	0	0	0
Vizquel ss	3	0	1	0	Jones rf	2	1	1	0
Lawton rf	3	0	1	0	LFord dh	4	1	2	2
VMrtnz dh	2	0	0	0	Hdges 1b	4	1	1	0
Blake 3b	4	0	0	0	Thntcr cf	4	2	1	1
Phillips lf	4	1	1	0	Koskie 3b	4	1	1	0
Crisp lf	3	0	1	0	CGzmns ss	3	0	1	3
Szmore cf	3	0	0	0	Ojeda ss	0	0	0	0
Laker c	3	0	1	0	Bowen c	4	0	0	0
					Rivas 2b	4	1	1	0
Totals	**29**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**Totals**	**31**	**8**	**8**	**6**

Cleveland	010	000	000—1
Minnesota	010	240	01x—8

E—Blake (22). DP—Minnesota 4. LOB—Cleveland 5, Minnesota 4. 2B—Rivas (14). HR—JPhillips (13), VMartinez (2), Thntcr (16), Koskie (20). SB—JJones (12), Thntcr (18), Rivas (12). CS—ShStewart (3). SF—CGzuman.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Cleveland						
Durbin L,5-5	4⅔	5	6	5	2	2
Betancourt	2⅓	3	1	1	1	3
RWhite	1	1	1	1	0	1
Minnesota						
MHlnd W,4-6	6	7	1	1	2	4
Baltour	2	0	0	0	0	2
Crain	2	0	0	0	2	1

HBP—by Durbin (JJones). T—2:29. A—27,945 (45,400).

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	69	53	.566	—
Florida	61	60	.504	7½
Philadelphia	61	62	.496	8½
New York	59	62	.488	9½
Montreal	51	71	.418	18
Central Division				
St. Louis	81	42	.659	—
Chicago	66	56	.541	14½
Houston	61	61	.500	19½
Pittsburgh	58	64	.475	22½
Cincinnati	58	64	.475	22½
Milwaukee	55	66	.455	25
West Division				
Los Angeles	72	50	.590	—
San Francisco	68	57	.544	5½
San Diego	65	57	.533	7
Colorado	55	68	.447	17½
Arizona	38	86	.306	35

Saturday's games

N.Y. Mets 11, San Francisco 9, 12 innings
L.A. Dodgers 7, Atlanta 4
Houston 4, Chicago Cubs 3
Philadelphia 8, Milwaukee 6
St. Louis 10, Pittsburgh 6
Colorado 5, Montreal 3
Florida 8, San Diego 2
Arizona 2, Cincinnati 1

Sunday's games

Chicago Cubs at Houston
Philadelphia at Milwaukee
Pittsburgh at St. Louis
Montreal at Colorado
Florida at San Diego
N.Y. Mets at San Francisco
Atlanta at Los Angeles
Cincinnati at Arizona

Monday's games

Los Angeles (Od.Perez 6-4) at Montreal (Kim 3-6)
Arizona (Fossum 3-12) at Pittsburgh (Undecided)
San Diego (Peavy 9-3) at N.Y. Mets (Heilman 0-0)
Milwaukee (Sheets 9-9) at Chicago Cubs (C.Zambrano 11-7)
Philadelphia (Lidle 7-11) at Houston (Clemens 12-4)

Tuesday's games

Arizona at Philadelphia
Los Angeles at Montreal
San Francisco at Atlanta
San Diego at N.Y. Mets
St. Louis at Cincinnati
Colorado at Florida
Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs
Philadelphia at Houston

Saturday
Cardinals 10, Pirates 6

PITTSBURGH	ab	r	h	bi	ST. LOUIS	ab	r	h	bi
Kendall c	4	1	1	0	Wmack 2b	5	0	1	0
Wilson ss	4	1	1	0	Walker cf	2	2	2	0
Ward 1b	5	1	0	1	Pujols 1b	3	2	2	2
VWlliams rf	4	3	3	2	Rolen 3b	4	2	1	2
Mckwk cf	4	0	1	1	Rnteria ss	4	1	3	0
Sanchez lf	3	0	1	1	Edmnd cf	3	1	1	2
Wggntn 3b	4	0	1	1	Rdnts lf	4	1	2	0
Castillo 2b	3	0	0	0	Tvarez p	0	0	0	0
Kbl 2b	2	0	0	0	Eldred p	0	0	0	0
SBrnett p	2	0	0	0	Suppan p	2	0	0	0
Corey p	0	0	0	0	Cedeno ph	1	0	0	0
ANunez ph	1	0	0	0	Eldred p	0	0	0	0
Mdows p	0	0	0	0	King p	0	0	0	0
TMcMln p	1	0	0	0	Mulvey lf	1	0	0	0
Totals	**37**	**6**	**9**	**6**	**Totals**	**33**	**10**	**13**	**10**

Pittsburgh	000	400	002—6
St. Louis	300	321	10x—10

E—Kendall (8), Womack (13), Rolen (6). DP—Pittsburgh 2. LOB—Pittsburgh 8, St. Louis 3. 2B—VWilson (29), RSanders (21), Mahay (16), Walker (26), CJPujols (38), Rolen (31), Mahony (3). SB—Rnteria (15). CS—RSanders (3). SF—Bay, Edmonds.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Pittsburgh						
SBurnett L,5-5	4	9	8	8	3	0
Corey	2	2	1	1	0	1
Meadows	2	2	1	1	1	1
St. Louis						
Suppan W,12-6	6	4	3	1	2	4
Eldred	1	1	0	0	0	1
King	⅓	0	0	0	1	0
Tavarez	1⅓	2	0	0	0	2

SBurnett pitched to 2 batters in the 5th.
WP—Meadows, Suppan. T—2:50. A—46,017 (50,345).

Astros 4, Cubs 3

CHICAGO	ab	r	h	bi	HOUSTON	ab	r	h	bi
CPttson cf	5	1	3	0	Biggio lf	4	0	0	0
GrdzIn 2b	3	0	0	0	Lane lf	0	0	0	0
DeLee 1b	3	0	0	0	CBeltrn cf	3	0	0	0
Alou lf	3	0	1	2	Bywell 1b	4	0	1	0
SSosa rf	4	0	0	0	Blkmn rf	3	0	0	0
ARmrez 3b	3	0	2	0	Berkman rf	1	0	0	0
Macias 3b	0	1	0	0	Brntlett pr	0	1	0	0
Barrett c	4	0	1	2	Ensbrg 3b	3	1	0	0
RSndrs ss	3	0	1	0	JVizcno ss	3	1	1	0
Prior p	2	0	0	0	Asmus c	3	0	1	0
Godwin ph	1	0	0	0	Backe p	2	0	1	0
Rmlngr p	0	0	0	0	OPlmro ph	1	0	0	0
TWalkr ph	0	0	0	0	Lidge p	0	0	0	0
Hwkins p	0	0	0	0	Ledesma ss	0	0	0	0
					Lamb ph	0	0	0	0
Totals	**32**	**3**	**8**	**3**	**Totals**	**29**	**4**	**7**	**4**

Chicago	000	000	012—3
Houston	000	000	102—4

One out when winning run scored.

E—Macias (1). DP—Chicago 2, Houston 2. LOB—Chicago 7, Houston 8. 2B—CPatterson (25), Bagwell (22). 3B—Barrett (5). SB—CPatterson 2 (3), CBeltran (15). S—Eckstein, Backe. SF—RMartinez.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Chicago						
Prior	7	4	2	2	5	6
Remlinger	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hawkins L,2-4	1⅓	3	2	1	1	0
Houston						
Backe	7	4	0	0	3	4
Dotel	⅓	1	1	1	0	0
Lidge W,4-5	1⅓	3	2	2	0	3

T—2:54. A—42,461 (40,950).

Rockies 5, Expos 2

MONTREAL	ab	r	h	bi	COLORADO	ab	r	h	bi
Wlkrsn 1b	3	0	1	0	Atchlsn rf	4	0	0	0
ASGzlz ss	4	0	0	0	MaSwy rf	3	1	1	0
Vidro 2b	4	1	1	1	Piedra cf	4	1	1	0
TBtista 3b	4	0	0	0	Helton 1b	3	3	3	1
Rivera rf	3	1	0	0	Castilla 3b	4	1	2	1
Sledge lf	4	0	0	0	Burnitz cf	4	0	0	0
Schndr c	4	0	1	0	Hllday lf	3	0	1	0
DEstvez cf	3	1	0	0	Clbson ss	3	0	1	0
LHrndz p	3	0	2	0	LuGnzl ss	3	0	0	0
Church ph	1	0	0	0	JKnzlr p	0	0	0	0
					SReed p	1	0	1	0
					JStratton p	0	0	0	0
					Chacon p	0	0	0	0
Totals	**33**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**Totals**	**31**	**5**	**8**	**4**

Montreal	100	000	01—2
Colorado	000	202	01x—5

E—Sledge (2), JKennedy (3). DP—Montreal 1. LOB—Montreal 9, Colorado 3. 2B—LHernandez (21), MaSweeney (11), Castilla (35), Helton (36). HR—Vidro (14), Helton (28). S—ASGonzalez.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Montreal						
LHrndz L,9-11	8	8	5	4	1	5
Colorado						
JKennedy W,6-5	6⅓	5	1	1	3	1
SReed	1⅓	0	0	0	0	2
JLopez	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Chacon	1	1	1	1	1	1

T—2:14. A—33,225 (50,449).

Dodgers 7, Braves 4

ATLANTA	ab	r	h	bi	LOS ANGELES	ab	r	h	bi
Furcal ss	5	1	0	1	Izturis ss	4	0	1	0
MGiles 2b	5	1	1	0	SFinley cf	3	1	1	1
CJohn p	0	0	0	0	Drew rf	4	2	0	0
JDrew rf	4	2	2	2	Beltre 3b	3	1	1	0
CJones 3b	4	0	2	1	ShGreen lf	4	2	2	5
JEstda c	4	0	2	0	Werth lf	0	0	0	0
AJones cf	3	0	0	0	JHrndz 2b	4	0	1	0
Mrrero rf	3	0	0	0	Ledesma ss	0	0	0	0
Lroche 1b	2	0	0	0	Ross c	2	1	0	0
Nbrean 2b	2	0	0	0	Werth p	2	0	0	0
Thmas lf	5	0	1	0	VnAlfro p	0	0	0	0
Hmptn p	2	0	1	0	Brban p	0	0	0	0
Affrisca p	0	0	0	0	Grbwsk ph	1	0	0	0
DeRosa ph	1	0	0	0	Carrar p	0	0	0	0
JuCruz p	0	0	0	0					
JuFrco 1b	2	0	1	1					
Totals	**40**	**4**	**13**	**4**	**Totals**	**30**	**7**	**10**	**7**

Atlanta	002	010	010—4
Los Angeles	401	011	00x—7

E—Beltre (9). DP—Atlanta 2. LOB—Atlanta 14, Los Angeles 5. 2B—NGreen (13). HR—JDrew (26), ShGreen 2 (22). S—Weaver. SF—SFinley.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Atlanta						
Hampton L,9-9	4⅔	9	6	6	3	1
Alfonseca	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
JuCruz	2	1	1	1	1	1
CJohn	1	0	0	0	0	1
Los Angeles						
Weaver W,11-10	7	8	3	3	1	3
Venafro	⅓	1	1	1	0	0
Brazoban	⅓	2	0	0	0	1
Carrara	1	0	0	0	0	1

HBP—by Weaver (JEstrada), by Weaver (CJohn), by Weaver (JDrew). T—2:54. A—52,398 (56,000).

Phillies 8, Brewers 6

PHILADELPHIA	ab	r	h	bi	MILWAUKEE	ab	r	h	bi
Rollins ss	4	0	0	0	Pdsdnk cf	3	1	0	0
Michlsk rf	5	1	3	2	Kielty lf	4	1	1	0
Howard 1b	5	0	0	0	Ovrbay 1b	3	1	1	3

Green grand for Dodgers

The Associated Press

NL Roundup

LOS ANGELES — Shawn Green hit a grand slam and a solo homer to lead the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers to a 7-4 victory over the NL East-leading Atlanta Braves on Saturday, snapping Mike Hampton's string of seven straight victories.

Jeff Weaver (11-10) won his fourth consecutive decision in a span of five starts, allowing three runs and eight hits in seven innings. With two outs in the first, he hit three consecutive batters with pitches, tying a major league record. He escaped that jam and another bases-loaded situation in the fifth.

Weaver also had two hits, including a single in the sixth to set up a sacrifice fly by Steve Finley that increased the Dodgers' lead to 7-3.

Giovanni Carrara pitched the ninth for his second major league save, and first since 2002.

Hampton (9-9) gave up six runs and nine hits in 4 1/3 innings, walking three. He lost for the first time since June 29.

Los Angeles has won two of three in the series between division leaders.

Mets 11, Giants 9 (12): Dustan Mohr allowed two runs to score when he dropped a fly ball in the 12th inning and visiting New York overcame a shaky return by Tom Glavine from an auto accident and a team-record six double plays. The game featured 10 double plays, 16 walks and three errors. But the biggest mistake occurred when Mohr, battling the sun, had Todd Zeile's two-out fly to right glance off his glove.

Astros 4, Cubs 3: Jose Vizcaino and Jason Lane hit RBI singles in the bottom of the ninth for Houston's fifth victory in six games.

Michael Barrett hit a tying triple off Brad Lidge (4-6) in the top of the ninth and scored on Ramon Martinez's sacrifice fly, giving the Cubs a 3-2 lead.

Houston's Brandon Backe outpitched Mark Prior in his first major league start, throwing seven scoreless innings. Backe also hit a two-run single for his first career hit.

LaTroy Hawkins (2-4) took the loss.

Phillies 8, Brewers 6: Chase Utley's bases-loaded triple keyed a six-run eighth and visiting Philadelphia rallied from a five-run deficit.

Geoff Geary (1-0) struck out two in a scoreless seventh to earn his first major league win. Tim Worrell pitched the ninth for his 15th save as Philadelphia won for the second straight night following a seven-game losing streak at home.

Cardinals 10, Pirates 6: Scott Rolen, Albert Pujols and Mike Matheny homered to lead host St. Louis. Jeff Suppan (12-6) gave up five runs — three earned — and four hits in six innings for St. Louis, which has won 14 of 18 and clinched its eighth straight series victory.

The Cardinals got off to a quick start against Sean Burnett (5-5), scoring three times in the first inning.

Rockies 5, Expos 2: Todd Helton homered and Joe Kennedy (6-5) won for the first time since June 20 as host Colorado ended a three-game skid.

Matt Holliday hit a two-run double and Vinny Castilla a run-scoring double for the Rockies. Helton finished 3-for-3 with three runs.

Pitching after he appealed a five-game suspension for his part in a brawl with Pittsburgh catcher Jason Kendall on Aug. 15, Kennedy allowed one run and five hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Marlins 8, Padres 2: Josh Beckett (5-7) pitched six innings for his first victory in over three months and drove in his first run of the year with a double for visiting Florida.

Juan Pierre and Jeff Conine homered and Miguel Cabrera's four hits tied a career high for the Marlins.

Diamondbacks 2, Reds 1: — Brandon Webb (5-14) allowed one run in seven innings for his second victory in 15 starts and also drove in the go-ahead run for the host Diamondbacks.

Chad Tracy had an RBI double for the Diamondbacks, who are 2-3 since snapping a nine-game losing streak last Sunday.

AP

Philadelphia third baseman David Bell, right, collides with catcher Mike Lieberthal while chasing a foul ball Saturday in Milwaukee. Phils manager Larry Bowa watches the play.

Angels give Yankees fans reason to boo

The Associated Press

AL Roundup

NEW YORK — Jose Guillen and Jeff DaVanon homered off Esteban Loaiza, the newest target of the Yankee Stadium boo-birds, as the California Angels beat New York 6-1 in a storm-interrupted game on Saturday.

Loaiza (9-7) failed to make it out of the fourth inning against Anaheim, which has won four straight and 12 of 16.

New York, playing its worst ball since early April, has lost five of six and has been outscored 33-8 in the defeats. Its AL East lead over second-place Boston is down to 6 1/2 games, the smallest margin since July 11.

Acquired from the White Sox on July 31 for Jose Contreras, Loaiza has made himself nearly superfluous in the Yankees' current six-man rotation, going 0-2 with a 7.08 ERA in four starts.

The skies darkened ahead of a thunder-and-lightning storm that led to a 3-hour, 42-minute delay in the fourth. Scot Shields (7-2) relieved Aaron Sele after the rain delay and got the victory with three scoreless innings.

Red Sox 10, White Sox 7: Manny Ramirez homered and drove in five runs, Jason Varitek hit two solo shots and visiting Boston beat Chicago for its fifth straight victory.

The streaking Red Sox battered Chicago pitching for the second day in a row and moved a season-high 17 games over .500. The slumping White Sox (60-60) fell to .500 for the first time since April 11. They lost for the fourth time in five games, all at home, and trail first-place Minnesota by seven games in the AL Central.

Bronson Arroyo (6-9) won it despite giving up five runs in 5 2/3 innings. Keith Foulke earned his 21st save.

A day after hitting a grand slam, Ramirez gave the Red Sox the lead for good in the first inning with a three-run shot off rookie Josh Stewart (0-1). Ramirez's 379th homer tied Orlando Cepeda and Tony Perez for 50th on the career list.

Twins 8, Indians 1: Justin Morneau and Torii Hunter hit consecutive homers and Terry Mulholland pitched six innings as host Minnesota moved six games ahead of Cleveland in the AL Central.

Cleveland, which pulled within a game of the first-place Twins last Saturday, has lost six straight while Minnesota has won five of six.

Mulholland (4-6) allowed one run and seven hits. Cristian Guzman drove in three runs for the Twins, and Corey Koskie hit his 20th homer.

Chad Durbin (5-5) lost for the first time since returning from the minors on July 24.

Blue Jays 10, Orioles 4: Carlos Delgado homered and drove in three runs to key a 15-hit outburst as visiting Toronto handed Baltimore its fifth straight loss.

Rookie Dave Bush (2-3) allowed three runs in six innings for the Blue Jays, who have their first winning streak under interim manager John Gibbons, now 4-8 since taking over for Carlos Tosca.

Karim Garcia homered for the Orioles.

Athletics 5, Devil Rays 0: Barry Zito scattered four hits over eight shutout innings, leading AL West-leading Oakland past host Tampa Bay.

Bobby Crosby, Marco Scutaro and Mark Kotsay homered for Oakland, which has won five straight. The Athletics have 14 homers — including seven solo shots the last two days — in the past four games.

Zito (9-9) struck out six and walked one to improve to 5-2 in eight starts since the All-Star break. Chris Hammond pitched the ninth to complete the five-hitter.

John Halama (6-6) gave up five runs and eight hits in five-plus innings for the Devil Rays, who have lost four straight and 10 of 11.

Rangers 7, Royals 3: Mark Teixeira hit his 30th homer, Manny Alexander added a two-run double and visiting Texas won its eighth straight.

Texas matched its longest winning streak of the season and remained tied with Boston for the AL wild-card lead. The Rangers trail first-place Oakland by a half-game in the AL West.

Tigers 11, Mariners 10 (11): Craig Monroe hit an RBI single with one out in the 11th, leading host Detroit to a wild victory in which the teams combined for 36 hits, including 21 by Seattle and four by the Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki, the majors' hit leader with 196.

Carlos Guillen reached on a force play, stole second and scampered home on Monroe's single to center, easily beating centerfielder Randy Winn's throw to give Detroit its third straight victory.

Guillen had a career-best six RBIs against the team that traded him last winter, Ivan Rodriguez was 4-for-5 with an RBI and Carlos Pena homered and drove in three runs for Detroit.

Stars and Stripes
Messages of Support
May God keep you safe from any harm...God Bless all of you!

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Injury ends Devers' quest for hurdles gold

BY ROB GLOSTER
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Gail Devers failed once again Sunday in the Olympic 100-meter hurdles, falling to injury just steps into her first race.

Devers, 37, who has three world championships in the event, pulled up short and screamed as she slid under the first hurdle.

She sat on the track for about two minutes, rubbing her left leg and grimacing.

Devers issued a statement through USA Track & Field saying the leg had popped while she was warming up for the race.

"I knew before I got in the blocks that it was gone already. My head said I'm running and if it's going to pull 10 times in the race, it's going to have to pull," she said. "I believe I conquered this tonight just getting out there when I already knew it was gone. My career is not over. I'm here. I'm alive. I'm not healthy, but I'm alive."

Defending champion Maurice Greene led three Americans into the 100 final, scheduled for later Sunday, but Jamaica's Asafa Powell showed he was the man to beat.

With tiny Jamaican flags painted on his right cheek and neck, Powell won his semifinal heat in 9.95 seconds. Greene, attempting to become the first man since the 1980s with back-to-back Olympic 100 titles, was third in the heat in 9.97.

Shawn Crawford and training partner Justin Gatlin dominated the other heat, Crawford winning in 10.07 and his U.S. teammate second in 10.09. Crawford turned to jaw at Gatlin with 20 meters remaining, then high-stepped the rest of the way.

In Saturday's second round, Crawford pretended to spike a football after winning in a smoking 9.89.

Devers hurt her leg in practice a week ago and wore a heavy bandage during the three rounds of the 100 meters on Friday and Saturday before being eliminated in the semifinals. She has refused to discuss the injury in detail.

Devers' two U.S. teammates won their hurdles heats, Melissa Morrison in 12.76 and Joanna Hayes in 12.72.

Sunday's shocking development may lead to second guessing about Devers' decision to run in the 100. She won the third U.S. spot in that event when Torri Edwards was suspended for two years for accidentally ingesting a banned stimulant.

Devers could have turned down the spot and focused on the hurdles, allowing Marion Jones to try to defend her Olympic title.

Instead, Devers failed to reach Saturday's final and Belarus' Yuliya Nesterenko ended two decades of American dominance in the event with a time 10.93 seconds.

American Lauryn Williams, the NCAA champion from the University of Miami, was second in a personal-best 10.96. Veronica Campbell of Jamaica got the bronze in 10.97.

Olympic scoreboard

Sunday's scores

BASEBALL
Taiwan 5, Netherlands 1
Japan 6, Greece 1
Cuba 5, Italy 0

BASKETBALL
Women
Czech Republic 74, New Zealand 57
Russia 93, Nigeria 58
Australia 84, Brazil 66
Greece 93, Japan 91

FIELD HOCKEY
Women
Germany 3, South Korea 2
New Zealand 1, Spain 2

SOFTBALL
Semifinals
Japan 1, China 0
United States 5, Australia 0
Bronze Medal
Australia 3, Japan 0 (Japan wins bronze)

TEAM HANDBALL
Men
Slovenia 26, South Korea 23
Croatia 30, Spain 22
France 27, Germany 22
Hungary 26, Greece 22
Russia 34, Iceland 30

VOLLEYBALL
Women
Germany 3, Dominican Republic 0 (25-16, 25-19, 25-21)
Japan 3, Kenya 0 (25-8, 25-17, 25-14)
China 3, Russia 0 (25-15, 25-16, 28-26)
Italy 3, Greece 0 (25-19, 25-19, 25-22)

WATER POLO
Women
Seventh Place
Canada 10, Kazakhstan 4
Quarterfinals
Greece 7, Russia 4
Italy 8, Hungary 5

Athletics

Saturday
Women
100
1. Yuliya Nesterenko, Belarus, 10.93.
2. Lauryn Williams, Miami, 10.96.
3. Veronica Campbell, Jamaica, 10.97.
4. Ivet Lalova, Bulgaria, 11.00.
5. Aleen Bailey, Jamaica, 11.05.
6. Sherone Simpson, Jamaica, 11.07.
7. Debbie Ferguson, Bahamas, 11.16.
8. Latasha Colander, Garner, N.C., 11.18.

Discus
1. Natalya Sadova, Russia, (67.02), 219-10.
2. Anastasia Kelesidou, Greece, (66.68), 218-9.
3. Iryna Yatchenko, Belarus, (66.17), 217-1.
4. Vera Cechlova Pospisilova, Czech Republic, (66.08), 216-9.
5. Olena Antonova, Ukraine, (65.75), 215-8.
6. Lenuta Nicoleta Grasu, Romania, (64.92), 213-0.
7. Beatrice Faumuina, New Zealand, (63.45), 208-2.
8. Ekaterini Voggoli, Greece, (62.37), 204-7.

Heptathlon
1. Carolina Kluft, Sweden (13.21, 1093) (1.91), 6-3 1-4, 1119; (14.77), 48-5 1-2, 845; 23.27, 1052; (6.78), 22-3, 1099; (48.89), 160-4, 839; 2:14.15, 905), 6952.
2. Austra Skujyte, Lithuania (13.04, 974) (1.76), 5-9 1-4, 928; (16.40), 53-9 3-4, 955; 24.82, 903; (6.30), 20-8, 943; (49.58), 162-8, 852; 2:15.92, 880), 6435.
3. Kelly Sotherton, Britain (13.44, 1059) (1.85), 6-0 3-4, 1041; (13.29), 43-7 1-4, 747; 23.57, 1022; (6.51), 21-4 1-4, 1010; (37.19), 122-0, 613; 2:12.27, 932), 6424.
4. Sheila Burrell, Chula Vista, Calif. (13.17, 1099; (1.70), 5-7, 855; (13.14), 43-1 1-2, 737; 24.06, 975; (6.25), 20-6 1-4, 927; (47.69), 156-5, 815; 2:15.32, 888), 6296.
5. Yelena Prokhorova, Russia (13.84, 1001) (1.79), 5-10 1-2, 966; (13.67), 44-10 1-4, 772; 24.71, 914; (6.21), 20-4 1-2, 915; (45.58), 149-6, 775; 2:11.31, 946), 6389.
6. Sonja Kesselschlager, Germany (13.38, 1068; (1.76), 5-9 1-4, 928; (14.53), 47-8, 829; 25.23, 866; (6.42), 21-0 3-4, 981; (42.99), 141-0, 725; 2:15.21, 890), 6287.
7. Marie Collonville, France (13.65, 1028; (1.85), 6-0 3-4, 1041; (12.35), 40-6 1-4, 684; 25.26, 863; (6.19), 20-3 3-4, 908; (49.14), 161-2, 843; 2:13.62, 912), 6279.
8. Natalya Dobrynska, Ukraine (13.89, 994; (1.82), 5-11 1-2, 1003; (14.70), 48-2 3-4, 841; 25.02, 885; (6.23), 20-5 1-4, 921; (44.08), 144-7, 746; 2:17.01, 865), 6255.

Other U.S. finishers
14. Michelle Perry, Los Angeles (12.74, 1164; (1.70), 5-7, 855; (11.28), 37-0 1-4, 614; 22.91, 1088; (6.02), 19-9, 856; (38.36), 125-10, 636; 2:13.69, 911), 6124.
20. Tiffany Lott, Pleasant Grove, Utah (13.13, 1105; (1.67), 5-5 3-4, 818; (14.43), 47-4 1-4, 823; 24.99, 888; (6.15), 20-2 1-4, 896; (45.84), 150-4, 780; 2:25.10, 756), 6066.

Cycling

Women
3000m Individual Pursuit
Bronze Medal
Leontien Zijlaard-van Moorsel, Netherlands, 3:27.037, def. Katherine Bates, Australia, 3:31.715.

Gold Medal
Sarah Ulmer, New Zealand, 3:24.537, def. Kate Maclear, Australia, 3:27.650.

Diving

Women's 10m Platform
1. Chantelle Newbery, Australia (3, 198.30; 1, 392.01), 590.31.
2. Lao Lishi, China (1, 203.04; 2, 373.26), 576.30.
3. Loudy Tourky, Australia (5, 192.87; 3, 368.79), 561.66.
4. Emilie Heymans, Canada (8, 187.05; 4, 367.98), 555.03.
5. Laura Wilkinson, Spring, Texas (4, 194.52; 5, 355.20), 549.72.
6. Li Ting, China (2, 198.33; 6, 348.15), 546.48.
7. Myriam Boileau, Canada (6, 187.92; 7, 342.33), 530.25.
8. Tania Cagnotto, Italy (7, 187.29; 8, 331.38), 518.67.
9. Olena Zhupina, Ukraine (11, 172.47; 9, 325.23), 497.70.
10. Sara Hildebrand, St. Paul, Minn. (9, 180.69; 11, 304.08), 484.77.
11. Takiri Miyazaki, Japan (13, 170.85; 10, 308.25), 479.10.
12. Paola Milagros Espinosa Sanchez, Mexico (12, 171.18; 12, 284.22), 455.40.

Fencing

Men's Team Epee
Bronze Medal
Germany (Daniel Strigel 2-1; Joerg Fiedler 3-0; Sven Schmid 5-1), def. Russia (Igor Tourchine 1-2; Pavel Kolobkov 1-1; Serguey Kotchetkov 0-2), 37-29, 25:34.

Gold Medal
France (Jerome Jeannet 2-0; Hugues Obry 1-1; Fabrice Jeannet 2-0), def. Hungary (Ivan Kovacs 1-2; Krisztian Kulcsar 0-2; Gabor Boczko 0-2), 43-32, 25:09.

Rowing

Men
Lightweight Double Sculls
Final A
1. Poland, 6:20.93.
2. France, 6:21.46.
3. Greece, 6:23.23.

Lightweight Four
Final A
1. Denmark, 6:01.39.
2. Australia, 6:02.79.
3. Italy, 6:03.74.

Quadruple Sculls
Final A
1. Russia, 5:56.85.
2. Czech Republic, 5:57.43.
3. Ukraine, 5:58.87.

Eights
Final A
1. United States (Jason Read, Ringoes, N.J.; Wyatt Allen, Portland, Maine; Chris Ahrens, Milwaukee; Joseph Hansen, Bakersfield, Calif.; Matt Deakin, San Francisco; Daniel Beery, Oaktown, Md.; Beau Hoopman, Plymouth, Wis.; Bryan Volpenhein, Cincinnati; Pete Cipollone, Ardmore, Pa.), 5:42.48.
2. Netherlands, 5:43.75.
3. Australia, 5:45.38.

Women
Lightweight Double Sculls
Final A
1. Romania, 6:56.05.
2. Germany, 6:57.33.
3. Netherlands, 6:58.54.

Quadruple Sculls
Final A
1. Germany, 6:29.29.
2. Britain, 6:31.26.
3. Ukraine, 6:34.31.
6. United States (Michelle Guerette, Brisbol, Conn.; Hilary Gilman, Wolfeboro, N.H.; Kelly Salchow, Cincinnati; Danika Holbrook, Durham, N.H.), 6:39.67.

Eights
Final A
1. Romania, 6:17.70.
2. United States (Kate Johnson, Portland, Ore.; Samantha Magee, Simsbury, Conn.; Megan Dirkmaat, San Jose, Calif.; Alison Cox, Turlock, Calif.; Anna Mickelson, Bellevue, Wash.; Laurel Korholz, La Jolla, Calif.; Caryn Davies, Ithaca, N.Y.; Lianne Nelson, Seattle; Mary Whipple, Sacramento, Calif.), 6:19.56.
3. Netherlands, 6:19.85.

Shooting

Men
50m Rifle 3 Positions
Final Ranking
1. Jia Zhanbo, China (1171, 93.5), 1264.5.
2. Maj. Michael Anti, Winterville, N.C., U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, Fort Benning, Ga. (1165, 98.1), 1263.1.
3. Christian Planer, Austria (1167, 95.8), 1262.8.
4. Rajmond Debevec, Slovenia (1166, 96.6), 1262.6.
5. Artem Khadjibekov, Russia (1164, 97.6), 1261.6.
6. Thomas Farnik, Austria (1165, 96.4), 1261.4.
7. Artur Aivazian, Ukraine (1166, 95.0), 1261.0.
8. Matthew Emmons, Browns Mills, N.J. (1169, 88.4), 1257.4.

Skeet
Final Ranking
(Won shoot-off)
1. x-Andrea Benelli, Italy (124, 25), 149.
2. Marko Kemppainen, Finland (125, 24), 149.
3. x-Juan Miguel Rodriguez, Cuba (122, 25), 147.
4. Nasser Al-Attiya, Qatar (122, 25), 147.
5. Shawn Dulohery, Lee's Summit, Mo. (122, 25), 147.
6. Harald Jensen, Norway (122, 23), 145.

Other U.S. finisher
9t. Sgt. 1st Class Todd Graves, Laurel, Miss., U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, Fort Benning, Ga. (121), 121.

Final
Shoot Off
1. Andrea Benelli, Italy, +5 (149).
2. Marko Kemppainen, Finland, +4 (149).
3. Juan Miguel Rodriguez, Cuba, +10 (147).
4. Nasser Al-Attiya, Qatar, +9 (147).
5. Shawn Dulohery, Lee's Summit, Mo., +5 (147).

Table tennis

Women
Singles
Bronze Medal
Kim Kyung-ah, South Korea, def. Jia Wei Li (6), Singapore, 9-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-5, 11-8.

Gold Medal
Zhang Yining (1), China, def. Kim Hyang-mi (25), North Korea, 11-8, 11-7, 11-2, 11-2.

Tennis

Men
Singles
Bronze Medal
Fernando Gonzalez (16), Chile, def. Taylor Dent, Huntington Beach, Calif., 6-4, 2-6, 16-14.

Doubles
Gold Medal
Fernando Gonzalez and Nicolas Massu, Chile, def. Nicolas Kiefer and Rainer Schuettler, Germany, 6-2, 4-6, 3-6, 7-6 (9-7), 6-4.

Women
Singles
Bronze Medal
Alicia Molik, Australia, def. Anastasia Myskina (3), Russia, 6-3, 6-4.

Gold Medal
Justine Henin Hardenne (1), Belgium, def. Amelie Mauresmo (2), France, 6-3, 6-3.

Doubles
Bronze Medal
Paola Suarez and Patricia Tarabini (7), Argentina, def. Shinobu Asagoe and Ai Sugiyama (5), Japan, 6-3, 6-3.

U.S. women lose Smith to injury in hoops win

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — This latest victory for the U.S. women's basketball team came with a scare — from an injury, not the opponent.

Katie Smith, the team's best outside shooter, reinjured her right knee early in the game, a disheartening turn in an otherwise sparkling performance that produced a 100-62 victory over China on Sunday.

The four-time WNBA All-Star for the Minnesota Lynx had missed the first game in these Olympics after bruising her right knee last month. The initial diagnosis was a sprain and Smith will undergo an MRI on Monday.

Smith was hurt in the final round of the preliminaries, a game that meant nothing other than extending the U.S. winning streak in the Olympics to 22. The United States already had secured first place in Group B and China, which had injury problems of its own, had no chance of advancing to Wednesday's quarterfinals.

Lisa Leslie and Yolanda Griffith dominated inside and the United States harassed the Chinese players all over the floor with its pressure defense, forcing 27 turnovers and making 22 steals.

Li Ye led China with 19.

The Americans will play Greece in the quarterfinals, when the competition moves from the Helliniko Indoor Arena to the arena at the main Olympic complex. Greece, in the Olympics for the first time and backed by a loud, noisy crowd every time it has played, finished fourth in Group A with a 93-91 victory over Japan on Sunday.

Group A winner Australia is the only other unbeaten team in the tournament and will play New Zealand. The other quarterfinal matchups are Russia vs. the Czech Republic and Spain vs. Brazil.

Olympic roundup

Russian gold medalist in shot put fails drug test

ATHENS, Greece — Russian shot put gold medalist Irina Korzhanenko was under investigation for a positive drug test, international and Russian Olympic officials confirmed Sunday.

Korzhanenko, the first woman to win a gold medal at the sacred site of Ancient Olympia, tested positive for the steroid stanozolol after Wednesday's competition, Russian Olympic Committee spokesman Gennady Shvets said.

The backup B sample was being analyzed to verify the result.

Stanozolol is the same steroid that cost Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson his gold medal in the 100 meters at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Also, Greek weightlifter Leonidas Sampanis was stripped of his bronze medal and expelled from the Olympics for a doping offense, another embarrassment for the host nation. He was the first athlete in Athens to lose his medal because of doping.

U.S. team eliminated in beach volleyball play

ATHENS, Greece — The American beach volleyball team of Stein Metzger and Dax Holdren, seeded 12th, lost Sunday to fifth-seeded Swiss pair Patrick Heuscher and Stefan Kobel 21-16, 21-19 on the sizzling Athens sand in the Olympic quarterfinals.

The defeat ended U.S. hopes of winning a third straight gold medal in the event.

"It's a bummer," Metzger said. "But in a few hours, I'll recover and I'll go enjoy Athens."

Fencing ref gets two-year ban

ATHENS, Greece — A Hungarian fencing referee was expelled from the Olympics and suspended for two years Sunday after making several errors during Saturday night's gold-medal match in men's team foil.

Referee Joszef Hidasi made mistakes in six scoring decisions — all in favor of Italy, International Fencing Federation media director Jochen Faerber said. The Italians beat China 45-42 to win the gold medal. Faerber said the result would stand.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Hamms fail to medal; women earn three

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Teng Haibin of China won the gold medal on pommel horse Sunday night, upsetting three-time world champion Marius Urzica of Romania.

Teng finished with 9.837 points. Urzica, the gold medalist on pommel horse at the Sydney Olympics, won silver with 9.825 points.

Takehiro Kashima of Japan took the bronze with 9.787 points.

American Paul Hamm, who became the first U.S. man to win all-around gold Wednesday in what has now become a disputed finish, failed to add to his medals collection. He finished sixth in the pommel horse with 9.737 points. He was fifth on floor earlier in the night.

Kyle Shewfelt won the men's floor exercise, giving Canada its first Olympic gold medal in gymnastics.

Marian Dragulescu of Romania finished with the same score as Shewfelt, a 9.787, but a series of tiebreakers dropped him to second place. Jordan Jovtchev of Bulgaria won the bronze medal.

Morgan Hamm was eighth.

Annia Hatch became the first American woman since Mary Lou Retton in 1984 to win an Olympic medal in vault Sunday, taking the silver behind Monica Rosu of Romania.

Anna Pavlova of Russia took bronze.

Hatch, a former national champion in Cuba, qualified for the Olympics in 1996 but wasn't able to go because of financial restraints in the country.

She moved to the United States and got married. Then, after a five-year retirement, Hatch resumed her gymnastics career in 2001. She was named to the U.S. Olympic team this year as a vault specialist.

Americans Terin Humphrey and Courtney Kupets took the silver and bronze medals on uneven bars, giving the U.S. its sixth and seventh gymnastics medals.

Emilie Lepennec of France won the gold. Svetlana Khorkina of Russia, a two-time Olympic champion in the event, fell off during her routine and finished last.

The Americans also won silver medals in both team competitions and golds in both all-arounds.

The seven medals are the most for the United States in a nonboycotted Olympics since 1932. In the boycotted 1984 Games, the Americans won 16.

In other gymnastics news, South Korea's Olympic team met with lawyers Sunday to plan its appeal over the medal given to Paul Hamm, the Court of Arbitration for Sport indicated it won't take the case.

Hamm won after judges incorrectly scored Yang Tae-young's parallel bars routine, failing to give him enough points for the level of difficulty. Yang ended up with the bronze.

"If it's a dispute related to scoring or judging it would be very difficult for CAS to review the decision of the gymnastics federation," CAS general secretary Matthieu Reeb said. "As a practice CAS does not review field-of-play decisions."

The South Koreans were expected to send the case to CAS on Monday.

At issue was the tenth of a point deducted from Yang's start value in the fifth of six events. Yang received a 9.9 for a routine that had been given a 10 start value in team preliminaries and finals.

He finished third, 0.049 points behind Hamm, who became the first American man to win gold in the all-around. With the extra 0.100, Yang would have finished first. His teammate, Kim Dae-eun, won the silver.

AP

Annia Hatch of the United States smiles after completing her vault during the women's gymnastics individual apparatus finals in Athens, Sunday. Hatch won the silver.

Japan's Noguchi wins marathon; Kastor surprising 3rd

The Associated Press

ATHENS — Mizuki Noguchi of Japan held on for the gold and American Deena Kastor used a late burst for a stunning bronze medal finish Sunday night in the Olympic marathon.

Olympics medal roundup

Kastor's third place gave the United States its first marathon medal since Joan Benoit's gold in Los Angeles 20 years ago.

Catherine Ndereba of Kenya took the silver, reversing the order of last year's world championships, where the Kenyan won and Noguchi was second.

Noguchi, who ran the ancient Greek course as a warmup in June, won in 2 hours, 26 minutes, 20 seconds. She was 49 seconds ahead of Ndereba, who narrowed the lead to 14 seconds late in the race but could get no closer.

Kastor, who overtook Ethiopian Elfenish Alemu with less than a mile remaining in the 26.2-mile race, finished in 2:27.19.

The favorite, British world record holder Paula Radcliffe, faded to fourth place and then quit the race about 3½ miles from the finish, bursting into tears, then sitting on a curb and sobbing.

At the finish line in Panathiniko Stadium in central Athens — site of the original modern Olympics in 1896 — the crowd of mostly British fans stood in stunned silence as the giant television screen showed Radcliffe stopping, trying to start again, then stopping for good, her face contorted in agony. They never had the chance to wave the British flags that most of them carried.

Kastor, who trains in the mountains near her home in Mammoth Lakes, Calif., and spent the last two weeks dodging herds of sheep in runs through the hills of Crete, was eighth at the 30-kilometer mark, sixth at 35 kilometers and fourth at 40.

She easily passed the fading Ethiopian to assure the surprise medal.

The marble, horseshoe-shaped stadium was less than half-full.

Noguchi, who had to be helped from the stadium by an official, had run the Olympic course in June, then went to train at altitude in St. Moritz, Switzerland, returning to Athens just three days ago. She kept the gold in Japanese hands — her countrywoman Naoko Takahasi won the gold in Sydney in 2000.

This was the first time women had raced the ancient course over which, it is said, that Pheidippides carried the news in 490 B.C. that the Greeks had defeated the Persians in the Battle of Marathon.

"Be joyful. We win!" Pheidippides hollered. Then he dropped dead.

AP

Japan's Mizuki Noguchi takes the final lap inside the Panathinaiko Stadium as she wins the gold medal in the women's marathon in the Olympic Games at the Panathinaiko Stadium in Athens on Sunday.

Track and field

High jump: Stefan Holm of Sweden won the gold medal with a jump of 7 feet, 8¾ inches (2.36 meters).

American Matt Hemingway got the silver medal. Jaroslav Baba of the Czech Republic won the bronze.

Cycling

Women's 3,000-meter pursuit: World champion Sarah Ulmer of New Zealand continued her dominance in the 3,000-meter pursuit, breaking her own world record to win the gold medal.

Ulmer finished in 3:24.537, nearly two seconds faster than her world record set in Friday's qualifying. Australia's Katie Mactier won silver while retiring Leontien Zijlaard-van Moorsel of the Netherlands got bronze — her sixth and final Olympic medal.

Fencing

Men's team epee: French fencers earned their third gold medal of these Olympics on Sunday, defeating Hungary 43-32 in the final of the men's team epee competition.

France built its lead over Hungary slowly in the final match, never pulling away until the very end when Fabrice Jeannet scored three straight touches to open the last bout, causing Krisztian Kulcsar to force his attacks in a vain hope of rallying.

France's Brice Guyart won the individual foil gold earlier in the games, as did the French men's saber team. In total, France has won six fencing medals.

Germany defeated Russia to take the bronze on the last day of competition at the Helliniko Fencing Hall.

Sailing

Women's Europe class: Norway's Siren Sundby took the gold medal, protecting her big lead with a middle-of-the-field finish.

Sundby came in 12th in the final race of the class, winning by 18 points from Lenka Smidova of the Czech Republic. Signe Livbjerg of Denmark held on to take bronze by one point despite finishing last.

Men's Laser class: A sixth-place finish in the final race was enough for Robert Scheidt of Brazil to take the gold medal. Andreas Geritzer of Austria took the silver and Vasilij Zbogar of Slovenia the bronze.

Table tennis

Women's singles: China's Zhang Yining won her second table tennis gold, beating surprise finalist Kim Hyang Mi of North Korea 4-0.

The top-seeded Zhang dominated the match from start to finish for a comfortable 11-8, 11-7, 11-2, 11-2 victory. She dropped her bat to the ground after the winning point and blew kisses to the crowd.

Kim's semifinal may have taken its toll — she took 62 minutes and seven games to beat Jia Wei Li of Singapore on Saturday.

Sunday's final took just 26 minutes.

Kim raced to a 4-0 lead in the first game, but the Chinese quickly leveled and Kim never got back into the match.

Row, row, row for U.S. gold and silver

Men's eight wins title as women settle for second

BY BRETT MARTEL
The Associated Press

SCHINIAS, Greece — The American men's elite eight crew ended a four-decade gold drought in rowing on Sunday, taking a big lead and fending off a late charge by the Netherlands.

The women's eight won the silver medal, but had a more subdued celebration. The favored U.S. team finished behind the Romanian boat it had edged in the initial heat.

After the men's victory, coxswain Pete Cipollone turned to face the grandstands and splashed water with both hands, celebrating a clutch performance. After receiving their medals, Cipollone's teammates threw him back into the water, laughing as their 5-foot-1, 120-pound coxswain flew through the air and splashed down.

The Americans had set themselves up as the team to beat with a world record in their initial heat a week ago.

AP

Coxswain Pete Cipollone, back to camera, calls the cadence as members of the United States' men's eight crew row to a gold medal on Sunday.

They edged Canada in the preliminary, forcing their highly regarded rival to enter the finals through a repechage, or second-chance race. Canada won that, but seemed to have nothing left in the final, struggling to fifth.

Without the strong tail wind of last week, the U.S. men weren't close to their world-record time of 5 minutes, 19.85 seconds, but had little trouble with the rest of the field. They got off the line quickly and turned a half-second lead at 500 meters into a commanding 3.26 at 1,000.

The Netherlands closed the gap by nearly 2 seconds over the next 1,000 meters but never threatened as the Americans finished in 5:42.48.

Australia got the bronze.

Romania's women's eight, beaten by 0.3 seconds by the American women in the preliminary heat, didn't wait as long to make a move this time. The Americans, undefeated in 2004, had small leads at 500 and 1,000 meters, but Romania picked up its stroke over the remaining 1,000 and won by 1.86 seconds, finishing in 6:17.70.

Germany, the only country to win gold in women's quadruple sculls since it became an Olympic event, pushed its streak to five on Sunday by leading from start to finish. Kathrin Boron, a member of the German crew, won her fourth gold medal.

Britain won silver and Ukraine bronze, with the United States sixth.

In other finals Sunday:

■ Romania's Constanta Burcica and Angela Alupei overcame a 2-second deficit to repeat as lightweight doubles sculls champions.

■ Poland's Tomasz Kucharski and Robert Sycz pulled out an early lead and held off France by a half-second to repeat in men's lightweight doubles sculls. Vasileios Plymeros and Nikolaos Skiathitis rallied for a bronze for the host country.

■ Two-time world champion Denmark breezed to gold in the lightweight four.

■ Russia beat the Czech Republic and Ukraine in the men's quadruple sculls, with world champion Germany lagging back in fifth.

Fernandez, U.S. cruise in softball

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Lisa Fernandez pitched a three-hitter and Crystl Bustos drove in two runs as the United States beat Australia 5-0 on Sunday, giving the Americans their eighth shutout in eight days and a berth in the softball gold medal game.

Natasha Watley had three hits, Kelly Kretschman homered and the U.S. team (8-0) dominated again. The Americans have won 78 straight games since last July, and have yet to yield a run in the Athens Games, outscoring opponents 46-0 while allowing just 14 hits.

Tanya Harding pitched her fourth shutout as Australia beat Japan 3-0 in a loser's bracket game, setting up a rematch Monday with the United States for the gold medal.

Gold still the target for basketball team

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Once there was shock. Now there are shrugs.

The U.S. men's basketball team wasn't taking its latest Olympic defeat too hard on Sunday, knowing its spot in the quarterfinals was assured.

Even with a 94-90 loss to Lithuania on Saturday night, and a 19-point loss to Puerto Rico in the opener, the Americans will still advance regardless of what happens in their final preliminary round game Monday against winless Angola.

"My sense is that they were just shocked after the Puerto Rico [loss] to a greater degree," assistant coach Gregg Popovich said Sunday. "They've realized as the tourney has gone along that everybody's pretty good."

The Americans will finish third or fourth in Group B, depending on the outcome of Monday night's Greece-Puerto Rico game. A Greek victory would put the Americans into a quarterfinal matchup with Spain, the top team from Group A. If Puerto Rico wins, the Americans would next play Argentina or Italy.

"I know we keep saying it, but we are getting better," Richard Jefferson said. "We're understanding what coach wants, the way each other plays. Our defense and offense is getting better, guys are shooting the ball better, including myself, and I still think we're going to be the team to beat."

No matter the quarterfinal opponent Thursday, players will be off Tuesday, their first day of rest in nearly a month.

Not that the players believe they need it.

"Fatigue will set in once we're done with all this," Jefferson said. "That's like saying fatigue is setting in during the (NBA) playoffs. Only cowards get fatigue."

The most intrigue Monday, the final day of preliminary round play, could come in the first game, which is between Spain and New Zealand. If New Zealand wins — or if Spain intentionally loses — the reigning world champions from Serbia-Montenegro would be eliminated.

"I would think there would be some players resting," Popovich said.

If Spain defeats New Zealand, Serbia-Montenegro can reach the quarterfinals by defeating China in the second game of the afternoon session. The Greece-Puerto Rico game that matters most to the Americans won't be played until the end of the night session.

"It'll be good to be back to 0-0 and have a chance to win the gold," U.S. forward Carlos Boozer said. "We've matured a lot in the four games we've played, and we're looking forward to maturing a lot in the Angola game and moving on to the medal round."

The game against Angola (0-4) figures to be the easiest of the Olympics for the Americans, though it'll be nowhere near as lopsided as the Angola-U.S. game in 1992 when the Dream Team opened the Barcelona Olympics with a 116-48 victory over players who had holes in their sneakers.

Charles Barkley caused an international incident in that game when he elbowed an Angolan and remarked afterward that it appeared the player hadn't eaten in awhile.

Those days of American dominance are long gone, which is part of the reason why this U.S. team was able to put the latest loss — and a measly 2-2 record — behind them so easily.

"What amazes me is some of the people who'll say, 'How could you lose?' or 'What happened?' " Popovich said. "Those are people who live in a phone booth and haven't watched basketball for the last 10 years and don't realize how good these teams are, how well coached they are, what it takes to put a team together and how long it takes.

"There are five to seven teams that can win the tournament," Popovich said. "I think that's great for basketball, and I don't think that's lost on our guys. They know exactly how large the challenge is."

Softball titles hinge on last-inning rallies

BY RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — One last-inning rally got trumped and another fell short Sunday as the Kaiserslautern women and Stuttgart men claimed the 2004 Army Europe slow-pitch softball titles. K-town's Lady Panthers posted a walk-off 9-8 victory over Heidelberg with a three-run rally in the bottom of the seventh, while the Stuttgart Stallions held off defending champion SHAPE 15-11.

RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Stuttgart's Mitch Johnson connects for a hit during Sunday's final game of the community-level softball championship.

RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Kaiserslautern's women celebrate their 9-8 victory over Heidelberg in the final game of the community-level softball championship.

K-town women 9, Heidelberg 8

Libby Barnaby stroked a fielder's choice grounder to Heidelberg shortstop Tiffany Collins with one out in the bottom of the seventh that scored Emily Murphy with the winning run. The play capped a three-run rally that erased a two-run lead Heidelberg had fashioned with a five-run top of the seventh.

Barnaby hit a grounder between Collins and the bag. Collins fielded the ball and stepped on second to force Kate Connolly, fresh off delivering a two-run single to tie the game, but Barnaby beat the relay to first that would have ended the inning and allowed Murphy to tally the game-winner.

"The hit was really ugly," Barnaby said, "but I knew I had to hit it somewhere. I have speed and I knew there was no way they were going to double me up."

Barnaby's hustle made a winner of K-town pitcher Kathy Dowling and tagged Heidelberg's Mary King Espinal with the loss.

Gracie Clowe and Dowling stroked singles to left to start the rally, and after Melissa Parish fouled out and Murphy walked, Connolly delivered a ringing single to left to plate Clowe and Dowling and tie the score.

Dowling wasn't surprised at the way her team shrugged off Heidelberg's five-run seventh.

"We always come back," Dowling said. "I knew if we could hold them, we could come back. We can hit."

Heidelberg had taken an 8-6 lead in the seventh on five consecutive hits after a lead-off strikout. Marcella Johnson's RBI single tied the game, and a two-run single by Doris Morgan put Heidelberg in front for the first time in a game that saw its defense let down in the early going.

Stuttgart men 15, SHAPE 11

Leading 11-4 going into the top of the seventh, the Stallions cleared their bench and pinch-hit for most of their starting lineup. The substitutes — Mike Lyons, Kevin Choclat, Jody Hawkins, Reggie Evans, Jose Lustar and Robert Moxham — came through with five hits and four runs that loomed unexpectedly large when defending champion SHAPE mounted a seven-run rally in the bottom of the inning.

No one from Stuttgart was surprised at the SHAPE comeback.

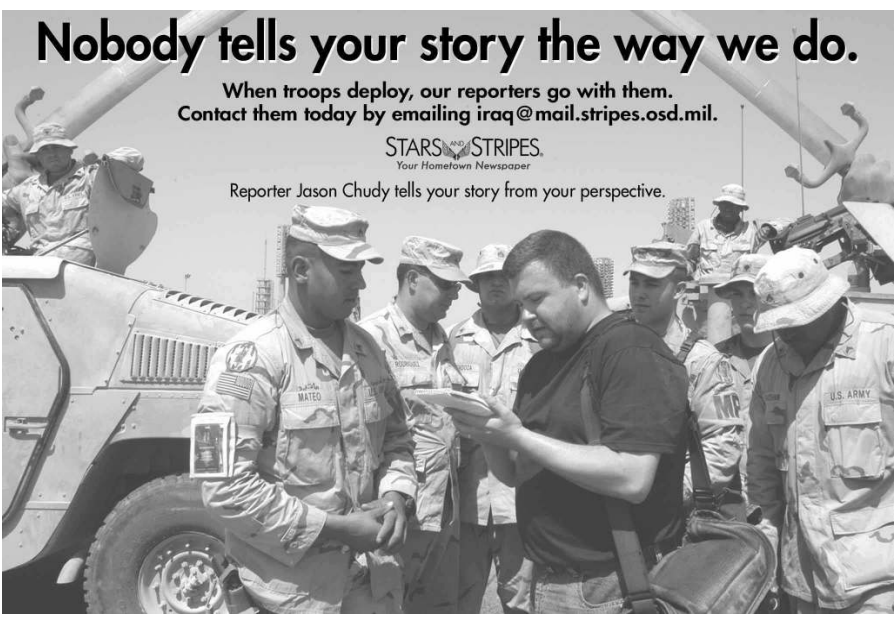
"They're a good team," said winning pitcher Mike Brown, who fanned two SHAPE batters in the final frame on a rainbow pitch that came out of the sun as a white blur.

"I saw the sun in their faces," Brown said, "and just kept it up there."

SHAPE stroked six hits in the final inning, marked by an intentional pass with the bases loaded to SHAPE slugger Ernie Surber. Surber had opened the game with a blast over the gym behind the 25-foot left-field fence and singled sharply in third before Brown conceded him first base in his final two at-bats.

"My guys did an excellent job," Brown said. "We lost two in the round robin, but they never got down. We got everybody into the game and everybody got a hit."

They'll get a chance to do it again this weekend, when the U.S. Forces Europe titles are on the line in Aviano against the champions and runners-up of each sex from the USAFE tournament. All four of Saturday's finalists in Heidelberg are scheduled to play in Aviano.



SPORTS

Two homers from Green lead Dodgers past Braves, Page 27

Army shooter Anti wins silver

American Emmons loses gold by firing at next lane's target

BY DAVID MORDKOFF
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Matt Emmons was just focusing on staying calm. He wishes he had been more concerned with where he was shooting.

Emmons fired at the wrong target on his final shot Sunday, a simple mistake that cost the American a commanding lead in the Olympic 50-meter three-position rifle final and ruined his chance for a second gold medal.

Ahead after nine shots and needing only to get near the bull's-eye to win, Emmons fired at the target in lane three while he was shooting in lane two. When no score appeared on the electronic scoring device for his lane, he turned to officials and gestured there was some sort of error.

"I shot," he appeared to say with a quizzical look as three officials in red blazers approached.

The officials went back and huddled briefly before announcing that Emmons had cross-fired — an extremely rare mistake in elite competition — and awarded him a score of zero.

The mistake dropped Emmons to eighth place at 1,257.4 points and lifted Jia Zhanbo of China to the gold at 1,264.5.

It also lifted Army Maj. Michael Anti, of Winterville, N.C., to the silver at 1,263.1 points and Christian Planer of Austria to the bronze at 1,262.8.

But Anti also knew he could have won the gold if he hadn't been assessed two penalty points for taking an extra shot in the kneeling position portion of the competition.

"Both Matt and I made a bonehead mistake today," Anti said. "I actually fired an extra shot by mistake. I had no clue at the time I was doing it. I was trying to concentrate on shooting 10.

AP

Army Maj. Michael Anti shows off his silver medal in the 50-meter three-position rifle event Sunday.

Medal count

Leaders after 158 medal events in the 2004 Olympics on Sunday, Aug. 22:

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	20	20	13	53
China	21	13	10	44
Russia	7	13	15	35
Australia	11	8	11	30
Germany	8	9	12	29

"When you do that, you have the monitor in front of you, but you don't really concentrate on all the information that the monitor is giving you. You just look for your shot.

"I did not realize that my monitor said stop, thought I had one more shot left, and I shot it, which ended up giving me a two-point penalty."

Emmons, a 23-year-old accounting student from Browns Mills, N.J., explained he usually looks at the number of the target through his viewfinder as a reference point and then lowers his gun to hone in on the target.

"On that shot, I was just worrying about calming myself down and just breaking a good shot, and so I didn't even look at the number," he said. "I probably should have. I will from now on."

If Emmons had fired at the right target, he would have needed only a 7 to win. When judges checked the wrong target, they determined Emmons had scored an all-for-naught 8.1.

"Honestly, when I shot the shot, everything felt fine," the stunned Emmons told reporters. "I looked down at the monitor and I didn't see a shot. On those targets, sometimes every once in a great while, it won't register. The shot just doesn't show up, so that's what I thought happened."

"For like a half-a-second, I thought, 'Maybe I cross-fired … no, no, I didn't do that.' "

Emmons' errant shot also overshadowed what had been a successful Olympics that made him one of the feel-good stories of these Games.

After discovering earlier this year that someone had apparently sabotaged his rifle, Emmons used a rifle loaned to him by a training partner and won the gold medal Friday in the 50-meter prone rifle competition.

Another Army shooter just missed out on a medal in Sunday's skeet shooting.

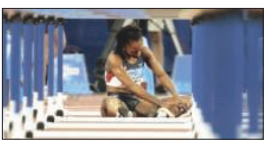
Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Dulohery lost in a three-way shoot-off for the bronze, which went to Juan Miguel Rodriguez of Cuba. They finished the regular portion of the event tied with Nasser Al-Attiya of Qatar with 147 points.

Andrea Benelli of Italy won the gold medal, beating Marko Kemppainen of Finland in a shoot-off.

Sgt. 1st Class Todd Graves placed ninth with a score of 121.

AP

Matthew Emmons signals to officials that he fired his gun during the men's 50-meter three-position rifle final on Sunday. Emmons fired at a competitor's target, an error that sent him from first place to last.



Devers' dreams of long-denied gold dashed with injury suffered on very first hurdle
Page 28

U.S. men's eight holds on for gold in rowing, ending 40-year drought; women win silver
Page 30

K-town women, Stuttgart men claim softball championships Page 31