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Former first lady Nancy Reagan dies

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president — and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease — has died. She was 94.

The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio told The Associated Press.

Her best-known project as first lady was the "Just Say No" campaign to help kids and teens stay off drugs.

When she swept into the White House in 1981, the former Hollywood actress partial to designer gowns and pricey china was widely dismissed as

a pre-feminist throwback, concerned only with fashion, decorating and entertaining. By the time she moved out eight years later, Mrs. Reagan was fending off accusations that she was a behind-the-scenes "dragon lady" wielding unchecked power over the Reagan administration — and doing it based on astrology to boot.

All along she maintained that her only mission was to back her "Ronnie" and strengthen his presidency.

Mrs. Reagan carried that charge through the rest of her days. She served as a full-time caretaker as Alzheimer's melted away her husband's memory. After his death in June 2004 she dedicated herself to tending his legacy, especially at his presidential library in California, where he had served as

governor.

The Reagans' mutual devotion over 52 years of marriage was legendary. They were forever holding hands. She watched his speeches with a look of steady adoration dubbed "the gaze." He called her "Mommy," and penned a lifetime of gushing love notes. She saved these letters, published them as a book, and found them a comfort when he could no longer remember her.

Anne Frances Robbins, nicknamed Nancy, was born on July 6, 1921, in New York City. Her parents separated soon after she was born and her mother, film and stage actress Edith Luckett, went on the road. Nancy was reared by an aunt until 1929, when her mother married Dr. Loyal Davis, a wealthy Chicago neurosurgeon

who gave Nancy his name and a socialite's home. She majored in drama at Smith College and found stage work with the help of her mother's connections.

In 1949, MGM signed 5-foot-4, doe-eyed brunette Nancy Davis to a movie contract.

She met Ronald Reagan in 1950, when he was president of the Screen Actors Guild and she was seeking help with a problem: Her name had been wrongly included on a published list of suspected communist sympathizers. They discussed it over dinner, and she later wrote that she realized on that first blind date "he was everything that I wanted."

They wed two years later, on March 4, 1952. Daughter Patti was born in October of that year and son Ron followed in 1958.

Navy relaxes body fat rules to give many another chance

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The Navy is giving another chance to thousands of sailors who otherwise would be kicked out for repeatedly failing their physical fitness tests because they exceeded body fat limits.

The service branch loosened its body fat restrictions in January and is allowing those who failed their exams three or more times to get one more opportunity to be tested this spring under the more lenient guidelines. The Navy said it has been losing too many talented sailors. Some were resorting to liposuction, diet pills and other measures to save their careers.

The Navy allowed about 2,400 sailors who passed a preliminary test under the new rules to stay in, reducing the number of failures on their re-

ords from three to one, said Navy spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen. In the past, three failures were grounds for being kicked out. The sailors will be measured again this spring and allowed two failures instead of three.

The changes are the latest by the military looking to improve its abilities to recruit and retain talented people as it builds up its digital warfare strategy and faces competition from a rebounding economy.

A 2014 Pentagon study found that roughly two-thirds of Americans would not qualify to enlist in the armed services as a result of health problems, obesity and the failure to complete a high school education.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said the service is not lowering standards but rather adjusting to the reality that people today

are bigger but not necessarily fat. "It's far more realistic," Mabus said of the new body fat standard. "We were kicking more people out of the Navy for failing that than for drugs."

The number of sailors booted from the Navy annually because they did not meet physical standards has more than doubled, from 694 in 2011 to 1,536 in 2014.

The changes come amid debate over whether the physical requirements demanded of servicemembers across the board are still relevant or should be adjusted according to the job so the armed forces can maintain the pool of talent it needs for today's high-tech warfare.

There's been talk in the Army of easing strict body fat requirements for its cyberwarriors, for example. All branches are reviewing their job stan-

dards to modernize their forces and prepare for the opening of combat posts to women.

From drone operators to cyberwarfare officers, "there are a number of officers in jobs where it is really obvious why it would not make whole lot of difference what their weight is, other than to the extent that the culture in the military disrespects it and, therefore, they can't lead," said former Army Officer James Joyner, who teaches at the Marine Corps University.

He believes the military must change. "It's absurd the percentage of high school teenagers who are considered to be too fat to join the military," Joyner said. "Maybe there are two problems: one, obesity, and the other that the standards are out of date and not relevant."

Japan PM agrees to Okinawa legal arbitration

BY CHIYOMI SUMIDA

Stars and Stripes

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Friday that he has agreed to accept court-mediated arbitration to settle the dispute with Okinawa's prefectural government over relocating Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Abe said he was suspending landfill work that is underway off the shore of Camp Schwab, near Henoko in a less-populated part of the island, pending resolution of the issue.

"Our stance that moving Futenma operations to Henoko

is the only option remains unchanged," Abe said. "However, it is not favorable that the central and Okinawa prefectural governments continue to engage in endless court battles. It will only lead to stalemate."

Tokyo and Okinawa have been at odds over construction of a new runway at Henoko to pave the way for shutting down Futenma, which sits in the middle of Ginowan city. Three legal actions between the two sides have been going on since November.

Abe said both sides agree that Futenma should be moved to reduce the risk of an accident

in densely populated Ginowan, where a helicopter crashed into a nearby college building in 2004, and that the burden shouldered by Okinawa in hosting about half of U.S. forces in Japan should be eased.

"To achieve our common goal, it is necessary for both central and prefectural governments to work together," he said, calling arbitration "a big step forward toward a solution."

Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga, who won a landslide election victory in 2014 on an anti-base platform and wants Futenma moved off Okinawa,

has attempted to thwart the bilateral realignment plan through permit revocations and other moves.

He was in Tokyo on Thursday to meet with top government officials and said he also accepts arbitration.

"We decided to accept the settlement plan because the content is along the line of what we have demanded in the litigations," Vice Gov. Mitsuo Ageda told a news conference after the agreement for arbitration was reached. "Especially, suspension of the project at Henoko through the settlement has tremendous significance."

VA worker faces trial over vet's death

Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, La. — Hospital officials called it an accident when a psychiatric patient was fatally injured in an altercation with a nursing assistant at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in central Louisiana three years ago.

But the case became fodder for the VA's congressional critics after local prosecutors charged the employee, Frederick Kevin Harris, 54, with manslaughter in the death of Air Force veteran Charles Lee

Johnson, 70.

Johnson died a year before a national scandal erupted over chronic delays for veterans seeking medical care. The deadly encounter has drawn the Alexandria (La.) VA Health Care System into a broader conflict between the VA and its Republican opponents, who complain the agency has fired few workers for poor performance.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has pressed VA officials to explain why they haven't fired Harris, who has

remained on its payroll while awaiting trial.

Committee Chairman Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., cited the case against Harris during a Dec. 9 hearing and said he sees "no real acceptance of responsibility for the VA's continued and pervasive failure to seriously discipline its employees."

Harris was placed on paid leave after his arrest but returned to work in December in a "nonpatient care area," according to the VA. His Monday trial date is expected to be postponed.

Laser beam disorients crew of F-15

Stars and Stripes

Crewmembers of a U.S. F-15E Strike Eagle were "momentarily disoriented" by a laser beam directed at the fighter jet as it was preparing to land at RAF Lakenheath in England, posing a "serious risk" to flight safety, Air Force officials said.

"On Wednesday evening, our aircrew were momentarily disoriented when a laser was directed at their F-15E Strike Eagle while on approach to land at RAF Lakenheath," a spokeswoman for the 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath, told British media. The laser was not flashed into the pilot's eyes, and the plane landed safely.

"The aircrew saw what they recognized to be a laser reflecting off the aircraft," the spokeswoman said. "If you can imagine a laser pointer, that's what our aircrew saw, only it was amplified in intensity and size."

The British Defense Ministry was notified, and a patrol was dispatched to the location, the Eastern Daily Press and Cambridge News reported Friday.

Ghani: Militants being wiped out of Afghanistan

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said Sunday that the Islamic State group has been defeated in the eastern parts of the country, where it had taken over some remote districts.

Speaking at the opening of parliament, Ghani said Afghan forces had dislodged Islamic State loyalists from regions of Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan. "Afghanistan will be their graveyard," he said in an address broadcast live on national television.

The Islamic State group has had a presence in Afghanistan for more than a year. Officials have said most militants calling themselves Islamic State are disaffected Taliban fighters.

Afghan forces have claimed victory following a 21-day operation in the Achin and Shinwar districts of Nangarhar, claiming at least 200 militants killed, a provincial official told The Associated Press.

Achin and Shinwar are among a number of districts in the remote mountainous regions along the Pakistan border

that were overtaken by Islamic State loyalists in recent months. Operations against the militants included airstrikes to destroy bases and a radio station that was broadcasting Islamic State recruitment messages across Nangarhar province. The radio station was destroyed along with at least seven militants on Feb. 1.

"The aim of the operation in Nangarhar was to root out [the Islamic State group] from the area," said Afghan Army Lt. Col. Sharin Aqa, a spokesman for the 201 Corps.

Broncos' Manning set to hang up cleats after 18 seasons

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Peyton Manning surveyed the landscape of his brilliant career and called one last audible. He's retiring a champion.

A month after Denver's triumph in Super Bowl 50, Manning informed John Elway he's going to follow his lead and ride off into that orange sunset just like the Broncos' boss did 17 years ago after winning his second Super Bowl.

Just shy of 40, Manning will forgo \$19 million and a 19th season in the NFL, where he served as both a throwback and a transformer during a glittering career bookmarked by an unprecedented five MVP awards and dozens of passing records.

"Peyton was a player that guys wanted to play with," Elway said. "That made us better as a team and I'm thrilled we were able to win a championship in his final year."

Manning leaves the league he helped popularize to supersize status as its all-time leading passer and winningest starting quarterback, the only one in NFL history to win Super Bowls with two franchises.

His first came in 2007 with the

Indianapolis Colts, who drafted him No. 1 overall in 1998. The Colts gave up on him after a series of neck surgeries forced Manning to miss all of the 2011 season and left him without feeling in the fingertips of his right hand.

A rare superstar quarterback on the open market in 2012, Manning resettled in Denver, where, despite a right arm weakened by nerve damage, he went 50-15 with his fifth MVP award and two trips to the Super Bowl in four seasons.

So, defensive coordinators, you can breathe a little easier today: Manning will no longer be on the docket to wreck your game plans and ruin your designs on a title.

There will be no more showdowns matching skills with Tom Brady or wits with Bill Belichick — against whom he was just 6-11 but 3-2 in AFC championships.

With no more defenses to dissect, the face of the league since the turn of this century no longer has to be buried in an iPad all day, nor will he have to submerge his battered body for hours in a cold tub in a labor of love.

"I get asked a lot about my legacy," Manning said before the Super Bowl. "For me, it's being a good teammate, having the respect of my teammates, having

the respect of the coaches and players. That's important to me. I am not taking this for granted. I just love football. I always have."

The 18th season for No. 18 was by far his most trying on the field — and so, his sweetest. He had to adjust to new coach Gary Kubiak's run-based offense, to unrelenting health issues, and to questions about his character on his way to his second Super Bowl title.

A torn ligament in his left foot hampered Manning all the way back to August. It led to his worst statistical season and sidelined him for six weeks before that fairy tale finish in Santa Clara, Calif., when his defense carried him across the finish line.

Constantly harassed, never quite comfortable — sort of the way the whole season played out — Manning walked away with his second NFL title after Denver's defense, with seven sacks and four takeaways, all but handed him the Lombardi Trophy in a 24-10 victory over the Carolina Panthers.

"I'm just glad I was on the same team as our defense," Manning said as he relished his second Super Bowl win.

Kyle Busch routs field to win Las Vegas Xfinity race

LAS VEGAS — Kyle Busch led all but one of the 200 laps Saturday to earn his first career Xfinity Series at his home track.

Busch scored a Cup victory at Las Vegas Motor Speedway in 2009, but was 0-for-11 in his previous starts in NASCAR's second tier series.

The victory for Busch was his 78th in the Xfinity Series, and second consecutive this season. He also won last weekend at Atlanta.

He put a Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota in the Vegas victory lane for the first time in team history in the Xfinity Series. The JGR drivers went 1-2-3 in a sweep of the podium as Daniel Suarez finished second and Erik Jones came from two laps down to finish third.

Darrell Wallace Jr. was the only driver to lead one lap.

Source: Utley's 2-game suspension dropped

NEW YORK — A person briefed on the decision tells The Associated Press that the two-game suspension imposed on Los Angeles Dodgers infielder Chase Utley during last year's playoffs has been dropped.

Major League Baseball and the players' union reached an agreement that rescinded the ban.

The person spoke to the AP on Sunday on condition of anonymity because there was no official announcement.

MLB has since reworked the rule on slides to cover the sort of play that resulted in Utley's penalty. His hard, late takeout slide broke the leg of New York Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada in the NL Division Series.

Utley appealed, allowing him to keep playing in the postseason.

The six-time All-Star second baseman is now eligible to play when the Dodgers open the season April 4 at San Diego.

Olympic champ Douglas soars at American Cup

NEWARK, N.J. — Reigning Olympic gymnastics champion Gabrielle Douglas soared to victory in the 2016 American Cup on Saturday, serving notice she's ready to make another run at the podium in Rio de Janeiro this summer.

Douglas posted a score of 60.195 and avoided any major mistakes to edge U.S. teammate Maggie Nichols, who came in second with a total of 59.699. Elisabeth Black of Canada was a distant third.

Douglas is attempting to become the first woman in nearly 50 years to repeat as Olympic champion. While there's work to be done to catch good friend and heavy gold-medal favorite Simone Biles, Douglas showed she's up for the challenge after four steady stops around the Prudential Center.

Ryohei Kato of Japan won the men's title after American Donnell Whittenburg fell in the final rotation.

— Associated Press

Diaz, Tate score upset victories

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — With a pair of rear naked chokes that finished two celebrated champions, Nate Diaz and Miesha Tate both accomplished the improbable in a pair of sport-shaking victories at UFC 196.

Diaz forced Conor McGregor to tap out with 48 seconds left in the second round Saturday night, ending the Irish superstar's 15-fight winning streak in a non-title bout.

Tate won the UFC bantamweight title at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, locking Holly Holm in a choke that rendered the champ apparently unconscious with 90 seconds left in the fifth round.

The dual upsets stunned a sellout crowd and one of the biggest pay-per-view audiences in the history of mixed martial arts.

They also threw two potential wrenches into the UFC's plans for the upcoming year: McGregor was widely expected to fight in the main event at UFC 200 in July, while Holm's next fight was supposed to be her rematch with Ronda Rousey, whose title reign ended with Holm's knockout win in November.

Diaz and Tate had plans of their own. "After 16 years in this business, the one thing you don't ever do is think you know what's going to happen," thrilled UFC President Dana White said. "Because you don't."

Diaz (20-10) was battered and bloodied for the first 1½ rounds by McGregor (19-3), the UFC 145-pound featherweight champ and pay-per-view star fighting at 170 pounds on short notice.

Diaz, who took the fight less than two weeks ago, abruptly changed the bout with an electric series of punches that wobbled the previously unshakable McGregor. When McGregor tried a takedown, Diaz quickly forced him to tap out on the ground.

"I knew I was the superior boxer, with superior kickboxing, with superior jiu-jitsu," said Diaz, who had lost five of his previous 10 fights. "Nothing surprised me except for that I got hit at all. I think with a full camp, I would have been flawless."

Earlier, Tate (18-5) became the third 135-pound champion in UFC history by beating Holm (10-1), the woman who knocked out Rousey in November. Holm appeared to be out cold when Tate finally released her from the choke to celebrate.

"Not many people wouldn't tap out," Tate said. "She went out like a champion. ... She's tougher than nails. She really pulled the most out of me and made me a better fighter tonight."

The main event was the greatest moment in the career of Diaz, a pugnacious veteran from a notorious fighting family in Stockton, Calif. Diaz had lost three of his past five fights, but his size and power

abruptly finished McGregor, who had boasted of his plans to hold championships in multiple weight classes.

The loss was McGregor's first since November 2010, and it put a blemish on the loquacious Irish face of the UFC and the best-paid fighter in this rapidly growing sport.

McGregor was somber but reflective at the post-fight news conference, which often isn't attended by losing fighters. He thinks his next bout will be a featherweight title defense, but he vowed to return to higher weight classes.

"I will never shy away from defeat," McGregor said. "This is part of the game. I had many chances to not do this and sit and wait, but I went in. I took the fight and it didn't pay off. This is the fight business. It's another day. I will come back."

McGregor agreed to fight Diaz at the welterweight limit when 155-pound lightweight champion Rafael Dos Anjos dropped out of his matchup with McGregor due to a foot injury. McGregor set a new UFC record with his \$1 million disclosed purse for this fight, and he predicted a comfortable win over Diaz, comparing the veteran to a gazelle about to be eaten by a lion.

Instead, McGregor got bit. "(McGregor) punches hard," Diaz said. "He's a hard-hitting little guy, but nothing I never felt before."



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Butler gives Bulls lift against Rockets

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Deep down, Jimmy Butler insists he still thinks the Chicago Bulls can do something big. Maybe this is a start.

Pau Gasol finished with 28 points and 17 rebounds, Butler scored 24 points in his return from a strained left knee, and the Bulls snapped a four-game losing streak with a 108-100 victory over the Houston Rockets on Saturday.

Gasol hit four free throws after Patrick Beverley nailed a three-pointer to cut it to 104-100 with 34.8 seconds remaining. And Chicago withstood a late rally to avoid matching its longest skid even though James Harden scored 36 for Houston. The Bulls also moved a half-game ahead of Detroit for eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

"I don't ever think that we're gonna lose," Butler said.

Gasol delivered his 35th double-double and Butler added 11 rebounds after missing the previous 11 games.

An aggressive Derrick Rose contributed 17 points and nine assists, although he did commit six of his team's season-high 26 turnovers. Mike Dunleavy Jr. scored 12 and the Bulls picked up the win.

"Twenty one games left. We have a quarter of the season," Gasol said. "That's a lot of games."

While Harden went off in a big way, he was about the only one scoring for the Rockets.

Dwight Howard was non-factor down low with eight points and 12 rebounds, and Houston once again struggled in a big way from the outside.

The Rockets were just 9-for-35 on three-pointers with Chicago basically daring them to shoot. And that came on the heels of a 3-for-35 meltdown that ranked among the worst performances in NBA history during Wednesday's win over New Orleans.

Cavaliers 120, Celtics 103: LeBron James scored 20 of his 28 points in the second half, and host Cleveland had seven other players in double figures as the Cavaliers shook off a slow start.

The Cavs were down 18 points in the first quarter but regrouped and stopped Boston's winning streak at five games.

Kyrie Irving added 21 points and Iman Shumpert busted out of a shooting slump to add 12 points and a career-high 16 rebounds for Cleveland, which moved 2½ games ahead of Toronto for the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Pacers 100, Wizards 99: Paul George scored 38 points, including two free throws with 3 seconds left to lift Indiana past host Washington.

John Wall missed a jumper at the buzzer for the Wizards.

Hawks 107, Clippers 97: Jeff Teague scored 22 points and Paul Millsap had 20 points and a season-high 18 rebounds to lead visiting Atlanta.

Kent Bazemore added 17 points for the Hawks, who were back at Staples Center one night after routing the Lakers 106-77. They climbed 1½ games behind idle Miami in the in the race for the Southeast Division lead.

Timberwolves 132, Nets 118: Karl-Anthony Towns

had 28 points, seven assists and six rebounds and host Minnesota shot a franchise-record 68.4 percent to beat Brooklyn.

Andrew Wiggins had 26 points and six assists, Zach LaVine scored 21 points and Ricky Rubio had 16 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds for the Timberwolves. The Wolves had a season-high 36 assists to bounce back from an ugly loss in Milwaukee on Friday.

Jazz 106, Pelicans 94: Derrick Favors had 28 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks, and Utah beat host New Orleans to snap a five-game losing streak.

Gordon Hayward scored 24 points for Utah, which entered the night's action two games behind Houston for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Spurs 104, Kings 94: Kawhi Leonard had 25 points and 13 rebounds and Manu Ginobili added 22 points in his return from a gruesome injury, helping short-handed San Antonio improve to 30-0 at home.

The Spurs won their eighth straight and extended their franchise record start to 53-9 despite the absence of LaMarcus Aldridge, Tim Duncan and Danny Green.

Manu Ginobili had 22 points in his return from a 12-game absence, showing no physical or psychological effects from testicle surgery on Feb. 5.

Knicks 102, Pistons 81: Carmelo Anthony had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and host New York got a rare win even without the injured Kristaps Porzingis.

Robin Lopez added 21 points and nine rebounds for the Knicks, who ended a three-game losing streak and won for just the fourth time in 20 games.

Surging Ducks top Kings

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — David Perron scored the go-ahead power-play goal in the second period and the surging Anaheim Ducks earned their 11th consecutive victory, beating the Los Angeles Kings 3-2 on Saturday and taking over sole possession of the Pacific Division lead from their Southern California rivals.

The Ducks trailed the Kings by as many as 16 points on Jan. 20. Anaheim has gone 18-1-1 since and Los Angeles 9-9-1. The teams each have 18 games left, including one more matchup on April 7 at Los Angeles.

The Ducks, trying to win a fourth straight division title, lead the season series 3-1 and have won 11 of the past 14 regular-season meetings overall — including a 2-2 victory last Sunday at Honda Center.

Ryan Kesler and Jacob Silfverberg also scored for Anaheim and Frederik Andersen made 32 saves in his first start against the Kings this season, helping Bruce Boudreau earn his 400th regular-season coaching victory.

Lightning 4, Hurricanes 3 (OT): Alex Killorn scored with 42.5 seconds left on the clock in overtime as host Tampa Bay won a team-record ninth straight game by beating the Carolina Hurricanes.

Ondrej Palat had two goals for the Lightning, who broke the old mark of eight wins in a row from 2004 when Tampa Bay won its lone Stanley Cup.

Predators 5, Avalanche 2: Mike Fisher broke a tie with 9:44 remaining in a four-goal third period, Pekka Rinne stopped 34 shots and visiting Nashville ran its streak to 12 straight games with at least a point by beating Colorado.

The Predators haven't lost in regulation since Feb. 9 as they improve to 8-0-4 during the streak.

Flames 4, Penguins 2: Mikael Backlund scored the go-ahead goal in the second period and Lance Bouma added another in the third and Calgary ended a seven-game losing streak with a win against host Pittsburgh.

Backlund scored his 13th and Bouma his second of the season. Joe Colborne scored his 11th and Mark Giordano his 16th for

the Flames, who won in Pittsburgh for the first time in more than a decade.

Wild 3, Sabres 2 (SO): Jason Pominville scored in the fourth round of the shootout to give visiting Minnesota a victory over Buffalo.

Devan Dubnyk made 30 saves for the Wild, who won their fourth straight.

Jets 4, Canadiens 2: Mark Scheifele's first career hat trick lifted host Winnipeg over Montreal.

Scheifele's empty-netter late in the third period completed his three-goal performance and helped snap Winnipeg's six-game home winless streak.

Capitals 2, Bruins 1 (OT): Matt Niskanen scored in overtime and backup Philipp Grubauer stopped 33 shots to lead visiting Washington past Boston.

Niskanen's goal on a slapper from the blue line beat Tuukka Rask 2:36 into overtime.

Senators 3, Maple Leafs 2: Zack Smith scored the go-ahead goal with 2:15 remaining and Ottawa won in Dion Phaneuf's return to Toronto, defeating the Maple Leafs.

Phaneuf, who spent parts of seven seasons with the Leafs, was honored with a video tribute in the first period. He was dealt to Ottawa on Feb. 9.

Flyers 6, Blue Jackets 0: Radko Gudas scored one of his two goals from 91 feet and added two assists, and Steve Mason made 19 saves in his return to the net in host Philadelphia's rout of Columbus.

Michael Raffl, Claude Giroux, Sam Gagner and Nick Cousins also scored for the Flyers, who moved within three points of the Pittsburgh Penguins for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Coyotes 5, Panthers 1: Alex Tanguay scored two goals and added an assist in his Arizona debut, Antoine Vermette had a goal and three assists and the host Coyotes ended a season-high seven-game losing streak.

Canucks 4, Sharks 2: Dan Hamhuis scored visiting Vancouver's third power-play goal midway through the third period and Jacob Markstrom robbed San Jose twice in the final 20 minutes to help the Canucks beat the Sharks.

KU extends streak

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Perry Ellis scored 22 points, including a hook shot over Iowa State's Georges Niang to ice the game, and No. 1 Kansas stretched its nation-leading home winning streak to 42 games with an 85-78 victory over the 21st-ranked Cyclones on Saturday.

Devonte Graham and Wayne Selden Jr. finished with 16 points apiece for Kansas (27-4, 15-3 Big 12), which has won 33 straight home finales.

Ellis, playing in his final game at Allen Fieldhouse, spearheaded an 11-0 run over the final 4:45 with a hustle play. He ended it with an emphatic dunk.

Niang led the Cyclones (21-10, 10-8) with 22 points.

No. 2 Michigan State 91, Ohio State 76: Denzel Valentine had 27 points and matched a career high with 13 assists in the last home game, helping host Michigan State rout Ohio State.

The Spartans (26-5, 13-5 Big Ten) have won 10 of their last 11 games, earning No. 2 seed in the conference tournament.

No. 3 Villanova 84, Georgetown 71: Josh Hart scored 18 points, Kris Jenkins had 17 and host Villanova closed out the regular season with a win.

No. 4 Virginia 68, No. 11 Louisville 46: Mike Tobey had 15 points and a career-high 20 rebounds and host Virginia stifled Louisville for the second time this season.

The game was the last of the season for Louisville (23-8, 12-6), which self-imposed a postseason ban for violations.

No. 5 Xavier 98, Creighton 93: Trevon Bluiett hit a pair of threes that got Xavier going in the second half, and the host Musketeers matched their school record for regular-season victories.

No. 6 Oklahoma 75, TCU 67: Buddy Hield scored 21 points in his final regular-season game for Oklahoma, and the sixth-ranked Sooners beat host TCU.

Virginia Tech 77, No. 7 Miami 62: Justin Bibbs scored 19 points to lead host Virginia Tech to a win over Miami.

No. 9 Oregon 76, USC 66: Tyler Dorsey scored 19 points, Elgin Cook added

17 and visiting Oregon beat Southern California to clinch the Pac-12 title outright, the Ducks' first since 2002, and fifth in school history.

No. 10 West Virginia 69, No. 19 Baylor 58: Jaysean Paige had 14 points and host West Virginia wrapped up second place in the Big 12 Conference with a victory at Baylor.

No. 13 Utah 57, Colorado 55: Jakob Poehl had 16 points and 13 rebounds and host Utah rallied for a victory over Colorado in the regular-season finale.

No. 16 Iowa 71, Michigan 61: Jarrod Uthoff scored 16 of his 29 points in the first half, and Iowa snapped a four-game losing streak with a win over host Michigan.

Anthony Clemmons added 12 points for the Hawkeyes (21-9, 12-6 Big Ten), who used a 14-5 run to take a 15-point lead with 10:13 to play. Michigan (20-11, 10-8) scored the next 10 points, but the Wolverines couldn't pull any closer down the stretch and now may need a strong showing in the Big Ten tournament to make it to the NCAAAs.

No. 18 Arizona 94, Stanford 62: Gabe York, a senior playing in his final home game, made nine three-pointers to tie the school and McKale Center record and scored a career-high 32 points in host Arizona's rout of Stanford.

No. 20 Texas A&M 76, Vanderbilt 67: Jalen Jones scored 17 points as host Texas A&M earned at least a share of its first regular-season league title in 30 years with a victory over Vanderbilt.

Freshmen Tyler Davis added 16 for the Aggies (24-7, 13-5 SEC), who had a three-way share of the title in 1986.

No. 22 Kentucky 94, LSU 77: Jamal Murray scored 22 points, Skal Labissiere added 18 and host Kentucky shot 53 percent to race past LSU and claim a share of the Southeastern Conference regular-season title.

No. 25 California 68, Arizona State 65: Tyrone Wallace matched a season high with 24 points and hit two decisive free throws in the final minute to lead visiting California to a comeback victory that earned the Golden Bears a first-round bye in the Pac-12 tournament.