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Okinawa's Camp Schwab protests intensify

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — For more than a decade, the protest movement over the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Camp Schwab was largely characterized by smiling elderly Okinawans holding sit-ins.

The most provocative action of those Western-friendly protesters was perhaps temporarily blocking a gate or tying colored ribbons on the chain-link fences surrounding the seaside Marine Corps base.

But 2014 brought a new development: Local politicians who spoke against the construction of a controversial runway at Oura Bay on the northern part of the island were swept into power. And when those politicians were unable to fulfill campaign promises to put the brakes on the project — their demands largely ignored by Tokyo's central government — the protests took a more desperate and vitriolic turn.

Buoyed in numbers by foreigners and nonislanders, the protesters began to verbally attack American families and their children. They egged the cars of Americans and locals who work on base and tried to intimidate reporters and Japanese security guards. They phoned in bomb threats.

On Tuesday, after the arrest of a 35-year-old protester for allegedly assaulting two Japanese police officers, protesters blocked the main gate at Camp Schwab, where the new runway is to be built. Young Marines entering and exiting the base on foot and by car were forced to wade through about 100 shouting protesters who held signs calling them murderers.

It was just the latest in a string of incidents by protesters who seem intent on escalat-

ing the conflict.

The old guard of the protest movement has expressed concern over the turn of events.

"We are antagonizing Americans and Yamato (mainland Japanese). We are Okinawans, a different race from Yamato," an angry protester said as he blocked Stars and Stripes reporters from approaching the protest group sitting on the roadside. "You are not wanted here!"

He was quickly intercepted by a more passive demonstrator.

"Our struggle is nonviolent," Yasukuni Enokawa, 81, said in a warm and inviting tone. "The activities today are well under control, but I am concerned about a possible sudden onset [of violence] with mounting frustrations. People's stresses are being built up."

Like Enokawa, Tomoyuki Kobashigawa, 72, does not condone violence, but he could not rule out the possibility that it might break out in the future.

"With a large number of people engaging in the protest activities, there will always be someone who derails it," he said.

Escalating activities

Kobashigawa acknowledged the protesters have been intensifying their activities recently, including the harassment of military personnel driving vehicles near Futenma. He said the targets were the troops and not their children, although he admitted children might be subjected to insults and scorn if they were in a car with a servicemember parent.

"We want the U.S. military to leave Okinawa," Kobashigawa said.

He acknowledged attempts by the protesters to provoke Japanese security guards and police, as well as coast guard officials, who are protecting the

construction site. In the same breath, he deplored their treatment of the protesters when confrontations occur.

"The coast guard is becoming more and more aggressive," Enokawa said. "They grab women around the neck and intimidate. Should a canoe go beyond the construction boundary, they approach from behind, jumping onto the canoe and overturn it."

"There are people who have suffered from a sprained neck or broken ribs," Kobashigawa added.

Unfair burden

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa and the end of the war between the U.S. and Japan. While wounds have largely healed and friendships forged on the mainland, many Okinawans still hold a strong resentment toward Tokyo and the U.S.

Enokawa and Kobashigawa have long memories that fuel their struggle, they said.

"When Okinawa was under the military control (after the end of World War II and until reversion in 1972), the presence of the U.S. military was the sources of all evils to Okinawa," Enokawa said. "Troops committed crimes off base such as murders, rapes, thefts, tormenting residents."

He offered a detailed laundry list of offenses stretching to the 1950s.

"It is our ocean that we want to protect," he said. "Too many military bases are concentrated on Okinawa. We are against U.S. and Japanese governments. Why do they keep forcing us to bear a disproportionate burden? If the military presence is so crucially needed, why don't they take their share on the mainland? For us, it is nothing but discrimination against Okinawa."

Okinawa is home to more than half of the U.S. troops stationed in Japan, although it accounts for less than 1 percent of its total land mass.

Further complicating matters is the increased frequency with which a resurgent China, which has publicly challenged Japanese sovereignty, has encroached on the island in recent years.

Construction begins

A bilateral agreement in 2006 set a 2014 deadline to build the runway into the bay and move Futenma. It was met with consternation, and the fledgling protest movement began to grow. Budgetary issues provided a further complication, but construction finally began in August.

In November, Takeshi Onaga was overwhelmingly elected governor. He ran on an anti-base platform that included putting a stop to the project.

Marine Corps officials have maintained that they remain committed to the relocation. They referred requests for comment on its progress to the Japanese government.

Japanese government officials have pledged to ease Okinawa's burden while vowing to complete the project. Last week, they suspended demands from Onaga to cease and desist. At the same time, they coordinated the reversion of a U.S. base housing area in Ginowan. Its announcement did little to quell the unrest, and small but passionate protests continue across the island.

The battle between Onaga and Tokyo is expected to spill into the Japanese courts.

Scholars believe the division between Tokyo and Okinawa is widening and becoming unbridgeable.

burke.matt@stripes.com
sumida.chiyomi@stripes.com

Prayers, fear at Kenyan Easter service

The Associated Press

GARISSA, Kenya — Grieving Christians prayed, sang and clapped hands at an Easter Sunday service at a Catholic church in Garissa, a Kenyan town where Islamic extremists killed 148 people in an attack on a school.

Security forces patrolled the perimeter of Our Lady of Consolation Church, which was attacked by militants almost three years ago. Grenades lobbed at the building sprayed shrapnel into the interior, in-

cluding some worshippers. Another Garissa church was also attacked that day. Seventeen people died that day.

Sunday's ceremony was laden with emotion for the several hundred members of Garissa's Christian minority, which is fearful following the attack by al-Shabab, a Somalia-based Islamic extremist group. The gunmen who attacked Garissa University College on Thursday singled out Christians for killing, though al-Shabab has a long record of killing Muslims over the years.

"We just keep on praying that God can help us, to comfort us in this difficult time," said Dominick Odhiambo, a worshipper who said he planned to abandon his job as a plumber in Garissa and leave for his hometown because he was afraid.

"Thank you for coming, so many of you," Bishop Joseph Alessandro said to the congregation. He said some of those who died in Thursday's attack would have been at the service, and he read condolence messages from around the world.

Alessandro saw a parallel

between the ordeal of Jesus Christ, which Easter commemorates, and that of Garissa.

"We join the sufferings of the relatives and the victims with the sufferings of Jesus," he said. "The victims will rise again with Christ."

Alessandro, who is from Malta, first came to Garissa in 1989 and was shot and injured by bandits on a trip outside the town several years later. He said there had been development in recent years in the area, as well as an increase in insecurity because of al-Shabab.

Army looking closely at why 105mm round strayed

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

The Army in South Korea has stopped firing the mobile gun system on its Stryker vehicles as it investigates why one vehicle errantly fired a 105mm round that struck the home of a man living near the Rodriguez Range complex on March 29.

Army officials said the investigation will review three areas: whether the system operators followed procedure, if the gun system worked properly, and if the training event accounted for all variables, such as the rocky terrain.

"We are as equally concerned about the safety of our local communities as we would be back home," 8th Army spokesman Col. Shawn Stroud said.

Units using the Stryker, a wheeled armored vehicle, aren't permanently based in South Korea but some rotate to the peninsula for training, Army officials said.

Although the Army awaits the investigation results, there are preliminary indications of what might have occurred.

The 105mm, nonexplosive training round used by the Stryker gun system is supposed to break apart upon hitting its

range target.

In this case, the round was found intact after it punctured the homeowner's roof, ricocheted off metal reinforcement bars and landed in a field, South Korean police and fire officials told Stars and Stripes.

At Rodriguez Range and other live-fire locations, the military computes "danger zones" that determine where rounds should be fired, based on factors like terrain and trajectory. South Korea-specific training for servicemembers, range safety officers, master gunners and after-action video also contribute to safety efforts, officials said.

The 3,390-acre complex had been used by battalion-level or higher commands on all but eight days this year as of April 1. The Army, Marines and Air Force all use the complex, as do their South Korean counterparts.

The incident came as part of Foal Eagle, an annual bilateral exercise involving several thousand servicemembers throughout the country.

slavin.erik@stripes.com
Twitter:@eslavin_stripes

Aggression also suspected in Germanwings co-pilot

Los Angeles Times

Mental health experts say that it was aggression, not just depression, that would have driven Andreas Lubitz, 27, to deliberately crash a Germanwings airliner into a mountainside, the co-pilot breathing evenly as passengers screamed and the plane's frantic captain pounded helplessly on the cockpit door.

Unless investigators recognize the toxic role of aggression and hostility in some patients' depression, they say, such individuals will continue to elude detection.

Lubitz's history of depression, acknowledged by his employer in the days after the March 24 crash of the Airbus A320 with 150 people aboard, left many mental health professionals in the U.S. openly skeptical that Lubitz's psychological troubles stopped there. In the parade of garden-variety depressives who march into their offices, psychiatrists and psychologists often hear about the physical symptoms of mental distress — sleep problems, stomachaches, even changes in vision. They see sadness, guilt and hostility. But a murder-suicide on this scale, they said, requires an explanation that goes beyond a diagnosis of depression.

"We need to stop talking as if this was a suicidal guy with access to an airplane," said Dr. Jeff Victoroff, a neuropsychiatrist at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine and a leading researcher on aggression. "This was a murderous guy who probably had elements of a mood disorder and personality disorders."

"People who have depression alone are much, much more likely to bring harm to themselves alone," said forensic psychiatrist Dr. Steven E. Pitt, who conducted the Columbine Psychiatric Autopsy Project after the 1999 high school shootings in Colorado. "There has to be a maladaptive character defect, a character disorder here."

Sketchy reports of Lubitz's behavior in the weeks before the crash have hinted at some of the emotional distortions and likely underlying mental illness that may have motivated him, several forensic psychiatrists said in interviews. While a full diagnosis cannot come from such bits of information, they are piecing together Lubitz's history of depression, possibly heightened by an unraveling romantic relationship and a perceived threat — vision problems — to his career.

Duke, Wisconsin to meet for national championship

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Duke is the four-time national champion accustomed to playing in the spotlight this time of year. Wisconsin is the plucky upstart that won its only championship in 1941.

The two will meet with everything at stake Monday night.

The Blue Devils cruised into the title game with an 81-61 blowout of Michigan State in the semifinals, a showcase for coach Mike Krzyzewski's touted bunch of freshmen.

The Badgers followed with a back-and-forth, 71-64 victory over Kentucky, not only avenging a loss to the Wildcats in last year's Final Four but also ruining their unbeaten season.

Duke and Wisconsin have already met once this season, the Blue Devils getting 22 points from freshman guard Tyus Jones in an 80-70 victory in Madison in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

This will be the first time the teams have met in the NCAA Tournament, though.

Here are some early things to keep in mind as the Badgers and Blue Devils prepare to meet:

Quick Turnaround: With just 48 hours

between the semifinals and championship, how quickly the two teams can turn their focus to Monday night could prove to be critical.

Not only did the Blue Devils obliterate the Spartans, they also had the earlier game Saturday night, which means they probably watched Wisconsin upset the Wildcats from their hotel rooms.

The Badgers didn't finish off their victory until after 11 p.m. local time.

Coaching Matchup: Krzyzewski and Ryan are considered two of the best coaches in college basketball, and both of them have the national championship rings to prove it.

Coach K has won all four of his with the Blue Devils, of course. But people tend to forget that Ryan won four national titles of his own at Division III Wisconsin-Platteville.

It's only the second national championship game for Wisconsin in school history.

The first? A full six years before 67-year-old coach Bo Ryan was even born.

Who will win the ring that finishes off a hand?

Hoosier Hospitality: The Blue Devils have a bit of history on their side: When

they reached the title game in Indianapolis in 1991 and 2010, they wound up winning the championship.

"Even if we didn't win tonight, the city would still be great and the venue would be great," Krzyzewski said. "Being in a national championship game, it's crazy how lucky you are."

"This team has really earned it," he said. "A couple times we've been in it, and we were lucky. A couple times we've lost — one time in particular we lost a really tough game. This team, though, has deserved to be in it, so it makes it feel even better. They've been so good."

Youth vs. Experience: The Badgers relied on their veterans when things got tight against the freshman-laden Wildcats. Now, they face another team that relies heavily on youth.

Will the experience of Kaminsky, fellow seniors Traevon Jackson and Josh Gasser, junior star Sam Dekker and sophomore standouts Nigel Hayes and Bronson Koenig make a difference? Or will the Blue Devils' freshmen — Okafor, Jones and Winslow — be able to cope with the pressure?

All the answers will be provided on Monday night.

Badgers stun No. 1 Kentucky

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Nobody ever said they were perfect. Now, the Kentucky Wildcats aren't undefeated, either.

The hard-nosed Wisconsin Badgers did what nobody else could this season: They knocked off the Wildcats 71-64 on Saturday night behind 20 points and 11 rebounds from birthday boy Frank Kaminsky and a clutch comeback down the stretch.

Now, instead of Kentucky going for history, it's Wisconsin heading to the final Monday night to play Duke. The Badgers, who lost 80-70 to Duke in a December meeting in Madison, opened as a one-point favorite.

"I just feel like we wanted to win the national title, and we didn't do it," Wildcats freshman Tyler Ulis said. "So the season was a waste."

Some of the Kentucky players skulked off without shaking their opponents' hands.

The Wildcats close the season at 38-1 — two wins short of becoming the first undefeated team in college basketball since the 1975-76 Indiana Hoosiers. Instead, this NBA-ready group joins the star-studded 1991 UNLV team as the latest to take an undefeated record into the Final Four but lose in the semifinals.

"I've had some tough losses and some unbelievable wins at the buzzer," coach John Calipari said. "My concern is that these guys keep it in perspective. They just had an historic year. If you want to blame anyone, blame me."

Plenty of folks will take pleasure in that.

Trending on Twitter shortly after the buzzer: "38-and-Done." And "38-and-1."

All easy pickins for the many detractors of Calipari's group of "One and Done" players, All-Americans and other future first-rounders and lottery picks.

But there's more than one program sending players to the NBA — more than one team that keeps on fighting even when things look bleak.

Wisconsin had every reason to turtle, going without a point for six minutes during an 8-0 Kentucky run that put the Wildcats up by four and left the Badgers gasping for breath and resting their hands on their knees.

Instead, they answered the Kentucky run with an 8-0 run of their own to set up the pullaway. It was a Kentucky-like effort, the kind the Wildcats pulled off yet again last week in a two-point win over Notre Dame in the regional final that made them look more gritty than invincible.

"I think you guys have seen that all year," Wisconsin senior Sam Dekker said. "Whether we're down six or up 20, we're going to be us, and we're going to play our game."

Blue Devils end underdog Spartans' run

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Two star freshmen, a solid senior and some of the trademark defense Duke has long been known for have the Blue Devils back in the national championship game.

And in Indianapolis, no less.

Justise Winslow scored 19 points, fellow freshman Jahliil Okafor added 18 and senior Quinn Cook had 17 to lead top-seeded Duke to an 81-61 victory over Michigan State on Saturday and into yet another title game in the city known for a 500-mile auto race.

The Blue Devils won it all in Indianapolis in 1991, their first under Mike Krzyzewski. The winningest men's Division I coach, who has a 9-3 record in national semifinal games, led them to their fourth and most recent title in 2010, also in Indianapolis.

The start against Michigan State didn't look too promising for a trip to Monday night's title game against Wisconsin, which beat top-ranked Kentucky 71-64, the Wildcats' first loss of the season.

The Spartans were ahead 14-6 just 4 minutes into the game, making five of their first seven shots and the first four they took from beyond the three-point line.

Things changed and in a hurry.

"After the first four minutes, we were a different team. We played great basketball tonight, especially on the defensive

end," Krzyzewski said.

Defensively, it was a team effort, just the way Krzyzewski has stressed for his 35 seasons at Duke. What had been wide open three-pointers early for Michigan State became contested shots and when the Blue Devils started getting up and into the Spartans, the points were suddenly tough to come by.

"They did a good job of taking me away," said Michigan State's Denzel Valentine, who had nine of his 22 points in that opening run, including three three-pointers. "I got hot, and they started denying a little bit and started forcing us to take bad shots and the next thing you know they had the lead."

The two Duke freshmen put up some impressive stats in their first Final Four game. Winslow, who played through some early foul trouble, had nine rebounds and was 5-for-7 from the field, while Okafor grabbed six rebounds and was 7-for-11 from the field.

"I don't think we started the game out with the intensity we needed," Cook said. "When we got down early Coach got on us and the last 36 minutes we played one of our better games. It's definitely hard out there, but we just strung some stops together and great defense led to great offense."

Valentine had 11 rebounds for the Spartans (27-12) while Travis Trice added

16 points.

A win on Monday night would mean a fifth national championship for Krzyzewski, breaking a tie with Kentucky's Adolph Rupp and leaving him behind only John Wooden, who won 10 at UCLA.

"It's an amazing thing, I mean, just to be in the Final Four, but to play on Monday night is the ultimate honor," Krzyzewski said. "I hope our guys get their rest and we can get the same type of effort we got tonight."

"Now they've got a chance to play for a national championship, and damn, damn how great is that?"

Michigan State shot 40 percent from the field (22 of 55) for the game but the Spartans were just 8 of 27 (29.6 percent) in the first half.

The loss dropped Michigan State coach Tom Izzo to 3-4 in national semifinal games.

Seventh-seeded Michigan State was the only non-No. 1 team in the Final Four. In the four NCAA Tournament games, the Spartans were allowing 61.2 points per game on 33.9 percent shooting. Duke had 61 points — and a 20-point lead — with just under 10 minutes to play.

"I feel bad because I didn't think people got to see the team that won 12 out of 15 games," Izzo said. "So give Duke credit and give our team credit for getting someplace most people didn't think we could go."



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Celtics get boost from OT win

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Marcus Smart made a big basket to boost Boston's playoff hopes.

Smart hit a buzzer-beating layup in overtime and the Celtics beat the Toronto Raptors 117-116 on Saturday night.

Boston, which lost at home to Milwaukee on Friday, has won 10 of their past 11 on the second night of back-to-back games.

"It's just the will, the determination," Smart said. "The guys on this team, we're competitors, heavy competitors. We don't like to lose that much, especially when we come off a night where we didn't play that well."

With 2.6 seconds left and Boston trailing by one, Smart took a pass from a driving Isaiah Thomas and sneaked behind the collapsing Toronto defense to score the winning basket, silencing the sellout crowd of 19,800.

"When he drove he committed two defenders, including mine," Smart said. "Lou Williams swiped [the ball] toward the area I was in and I was able to get the shot off in time."

Thomas scored 25 points, Tyler Zeller had 20 and Evan Turner added 18 points and 10 assists for the Celtics, who moved one-half game ahead of Miami in the race for the final Eastern Conference playoff

berth.

Warriors 123, Mavericks 110: Klay Thompson scored 21 points and visiting Golden State clinched home-court advantage throughout the playoffs with its 12th straight victory.

The Warriors (63-13) need one more victory to assure finishing with the best record in the NBA for the first time since 1975-76. They hold the tiebreaker on Atlanta for the top overall seed.

Hawks 131, Nets 99: Al Horford and DeMarre Carroll scored 20 points each to help host Atlanta match a franchise record with its 57th win.

However, the Hawks lost forward Paul Millsap to a right shoulder injury in a collision with Brooklyn's Earl Clark with 1:52 left in the first half.

Trail Blazers 99, Pelicans 90: LaMarcus Aldridge had 21 points and 12 rebounds, and host Portland snapped New Orleans' four-game winning streak.

Pistons 99, Heat 98: Reggie Jackson scored 15 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter, including the winning layup with 5 seconds remaining for host Detroit.

Wizards 92, Grizzlies 83: Bradley Beal scored 20, John Wall had 18 points and 14 assists for the visiting Wizards.

Clippers 107, Nuggets 92: J.J. Redick scored 24 points, DeAndre Jordan had 14 points and 22 rebounds and visiting Los Angeles beat Denver. Chris Paul had 23 points and nine assists for the Clippers, who moved a half-game ahead of San Antonio for the fifth seed in the Western Conference with their ninth win in 10 games.

Suns 87, Jazz 85: Gerald Green came off the bench to score all 24 of his points in three quarters, leading host Phoenix.

Hornets 92, 76ers 91: Gerald Henderson's driving layup with 6 seconds left lifted host Charlotte to the win.

Kemba Walker had 24 points and Mo Williams added 18 as the Hornets won despite playing without three starters, including center Al Jefferson.

Magic 97, Bucks 90: Tobias Harris had 23 points and 10 rebounds and Nikola Vucevic scored 20 points for Orlando in Milwaukee.

Victor Oladipo added 15 points to help Orlando get its second road win in two nights after losing 12 straight away from home. Harris made a career-best five three-pointers on nine attempts.

Healthy Fielder lifts hopes in Texas

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Prince Fielder's booming voice and laugh echo through the Texas Rangers' clubhouse. On the field, his swing is free and easy.

This is the version of the big slugger the Rangers never really got to see last season after acquiring him.

"Up there at the top of the list of highlights for me this camp," general manager Jon Daniels said.

"All you've got to do is go up and talk to him, he'll let you know," new Rangers manager Jeff Banister said. "What an incredible human being, full of energy, full of life."

Fielder hit .247 with three home runs and 16 RBIs while playing only 42 games in his first season with the Rangers. He had a cervical fusion of two disks in his neck last May, ending his then majors-best streak of 547 consecutive games played since 2010. He hadn't missed consecutive games since August 2007.

Before being among several regulars not playing in Saturday's final exhibition game against the Mets, Fielder hit .341 with a homer and seven RBIs in 17 games this spring. His double was the only extra-base hit for Texas on Friday night against New York.

"Obviously nobody wants to get hurt, but I think it definitely helped me as far as re-igniting my passion for the game, realizing how much I do love it," Fielder said. "I just really, started falling in love with the process and just really falling in love with getting prepared to play again. It's a lot of fun."

The 30-year-old Fielder, a five-time All-Star, is going into his 10th full season and signed through 2020 after the Rangers got him in a November 2013 trade with Detroit for All-Star second baseman Ian Kinsler.

Fielder has repeatedly said he's not sure when his neck started hurting, and if it was before he was traded from Detroit to Texas.

For the Rangers, it became immediately clear at the start of spring training in Arizona this year that Fielder wasn't completely himself when they first got him.

"No. 1, his swing. He was able to let loose and cut it loose, no restriction and you could tell the strength he was missing last year," Daniels said.

While nobody made any such conclusions last year in Arizona, Daniels remembers conversations wondering if Fielder was having his normal spring hitting sessions. But since it was Fielder's first spring with the Rangers, they had no comparative baseline.

Asked if anything during spring training satisfied any lingering doubts, Fielder said he knew he was all right when he homered. There was also that bunt single, when he laid one down to beat the shift during an exhibition game against the Los Angeles Angels.

Third baseman Adrian Beltre said he is excited to see what a healthy Fielder adds to the Rangers lineup after not getting to show what he could do last season.

"He looks really healthy," Beltre said. "He looks comfortable, he looks happy. Mentally, he's there. Physically, he's there. I can't wait to be part of what he can do here this year."

Stamkos, Bolts blank Panthers

The Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Steven Stamkos broke out of his scoring slump in a big way Saturday night.

Stamkos had two goals and an assist to lead the Tampa Bay Lightning to a 4-0 victory over the Florida Panthers.

The goal was the first for Stamkos since he scored in a 3-1 win March 20 against Detroit, a span of eight games.

"I knew if I kept working hard that things were eventually going to go in, so I just tried to shoot the puck a little more today and got some nice passes, and those ones go in," he said.

Stamkos has 17 goals and 10 assists in his last 17 games against Florida. Tampa Bay is 14-2-1 in the past 17 matchups.

"You can't keep him down for long," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "It was great to see him bust out, especially when it was a pretty tight game and there weren't a lot of scoring chances either way. For him to get those two, that was great for us."

Tyler Johnson also scored and Ryan Callahan had a goal and an assist. Ben Bishop stopped 34 shots in his fourth shutout of the season.

The Lightning won for the second time in six games and secured home-ice advantage for the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs. Tampa Bay is tied with Montreal for first place in the Atlantic Division with 104 points.

Red Wings 3, Wild 2 (SO): Darren Helm scored in the eighth round of a shootout, and Detroit outlasted host Minnesota.

Helm came down the slot, cut to his forehand and let go with a low wrist shot. Officials on the ice ruled that Devan Dubnyk stopped the puck in time; however, video review showed the stop came after the puck crossed the goal line. Detroit and Boston remained tied for third place in the Atlantic Division, three points ahead of Ottawa.

Senators 4, Capitals 3 (OT): Kyle Turris scored on a breakaway at 3:14 of overtime to lift Ottawa over visiting

Washington.

Turris stripped the puck away inside his own blue line before racing down the ice and beating Braden Holtby through his legs.

Rangers 6, Devils 1: Rick Nash scored his career-best 42nd goal, Henrik Lundqvist made 35 saves and New York moved closer to securing home-ice advantage for the playoffs with a victory over visiting New Jersey.

It was the Rangers' third straight win. They're tied with Anaheim for the most points in the NHL at 107, and are three ahead of Montreal and Tampa Bay in the race for the best mark in the Eastern Conference.

Kings 3, Avalanche 1: Alec Martinez scored the tiebreaking goal, Marian Gaborik added his 26th and host Los Angeles kept pace in the playoff hunt with a victory over Colorado.

Dwight King also scored and Jonathan Quick made nine saves for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who have won five of seven to stay even with Winnipeg for the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference.

Bruins 2, Maple Leafs 1 (SO): Patrice Bergeron scored the only shootout goal, and streaking Boston improved its playoff chances in its home finale with a win over Toronto.

Boston and Pittsburgh hold the two Eastern Conference wild-card spots with 95 points each, but the Penguins have played one fewer game. The Bruins have three games remaining — at Washington, Florida and Tampa Bay.

Islanders 3, Sabres 0: Jaroslav Halak made 21 saves for his sixth shutout of the season in New York's victory over visiting Buffalo.

In his first NHL start, Andrey Makarov stopped 33 shots for the Sabres, who have been shut out 12 times this season.

Stars 4, Predators 3: Cody Eakin scored on his first career penalty shot in overtime, and Dallas kept its faint playoff hopes alive by beating Nashville.

Jhonas Enroth made 33 saves as the Stars snapped a two-game skid. They are six points out of the Western Conference's final wild-card spot with three games left.

Coyotes 5, Sharks 3: Oliver Ekman-Larsson had two goals and an assist, Mike Smith made 42 saves and host Arizona damaged San Jose's faint playoff hopes.

The Sharks, who have made the playoffs in 10 straight seasons, fell five points out of the final wild-card spot in the Western Conference with three games left.

Blue Jackets 5, Penguins 3: Nick Foligno scored three times and host Columbus beat Pittsburgh to set a franchise record with its ninth consecutive win.

It was Foligno's first hat trick in his 541st NHL game.

Hurricanes 3, Flyers 2 (SO): Nathan Gerbe and Chris Terry scored in the shootout to lift Carolina past visiting Philadelphia.

Sean Couturier sent it to overtime by scoring with 1:50 left in regulation. He also assisted on Michael Raffl's power-play goal for the Flyers, who erased a 2-0 deficit in the second period.

Jets 5, Canucks 4: Lee Stempniak scored twice, Mathieu Perreault had three assists and Winnipeg defeated Vancouver.

Jim Slater, Michael Frolik and Mark Scheifele also scored for the Jets, who completed a 2-2 homestand.

Flames 4, Oilers 0: Dennis Wideman had a goal and two assists, and Jonas Hiller made 27 saves for the shutout in Calgary's victory over host Edmonton.

Markus Granlund had a pair of goals and Joe Colborne also scored for the Flames, who have won three of four. Calgary is clinging to one of the final playoff positions in the Western Conference with three games to play.