

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, April 3, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Ramstein welcomes families leaving Turkey

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Moments after their Air Force C-17 touched down, military family members arrived inside the terminal here to the sound of barking dogs and a smiling commander, who offered encouragement after a turbulent couple of months at bases in Turkey.

“There’s a lot of people who can’t wait to see you,” Brig. Gen. Ty Thomas, commander of the 86th Airlift Wing, told the passengers as they passed through passport control at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Military family members have been arriving at Ramstein since Tuesday’s decision to order the departure of nearly 700 dependents and their pets from Incirlik and two other, smaller bases. For the Air Force, that has prompted a rapid mobilization of support services to help families with everything from hotel reservations and school

registration to arrangement for travel onward.

On Thursday night, an Army veterinarian and his team were on hand to help get cats and dogs through customs, reviewing health records in an effort to reconnect people with their pets as soon as possible. In all, 287 pets were to be evacuated from Turkey.

School officials also were ready to collect academic records for those enrolling at schools in the area, where about 70 new students are expected to be attending classes.

Some families have opted to return to the States. For those students, schooling options depend in part on their locations, said Will Griffin, spokesman for the Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe. Options include enrolling in another DODEA school or a public school, distance learning with DODEA’s virtual school for secondary students, and homeschooling with an accredited program.

DODEA is working to reassign teachers who taught at Incirlik to other DODEA schools, Griffin said. School operations will remain suspended at Incirlik until normal dependent assignments resume.

U.S. European Command officials said a decision on the future status of Incirlik as an accompanied assignment for airmen and their families is under review. They said it’s unlikely that the families ordered to leave will return to Turkey.

The ordered departure is approved initially for 30 days but will remain in effect until terminated by the State and Defense departments, officials said.

Security concerns in Turkey, which has been hit by a wave of terrorist attacks in recent months, have disrupted the school year for about 250 students at Incirlik Elementary/High School, which shut down in early March for a three-week stretch. Classes resumed Monday at different buildings on base, but were cut short when

families were ordered abruptly to leave because of concerns about a deteriorating security environment in Turkey.

“They’ve been very unsettled for a long time,” said Lt. Col. Nathan Tarkowski, deputy commander for the 86th’s mission support group, who helped coordinate the response at Ramstein.

As the families learned about their options at a briefing at the base’s passenger terminal, they ate from a bounty of food provided by community members. Child care providers were on hand to help watch youngsters as parents did paperwork.

“The general reaction from the community is, ‘What can I do?’” Tarkowski said. “If everyone chips in, it is easy.”

A representative from Kaiserslautern USO said people donated baked goods, fresh fruit, blankets, pillows and toiletries, which were given to families as they arrived at the terminal.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jennifer Svan contributed to this report. vandiver.john@stripes.com

## Foreign-born US military veterans deported despite service

*Los Angeles Times*

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — When they pushed him off the prison bus into the swirling dust of the Mexican border, they gave him only one instruction: Run.

He watched the other inmates scamper in all directions across the line dividing Laredo, Texas, from Mexico. This is how it ends, he thought to himself, after three honorable years of service in the U.S. Navy and one serious run-in with the law, he was being set adrift, here in a deadly Mexican border town hundreds of miles from home.

So he ran.

Juan Valadez once embraced the Navy’s ideals: Be your best, serve with honor, protect your country. But because he was born in Mexico and was taken to the U.S. as an infant, his pact with America when he joined the military came with a catch: If he ever was convicted of a felony, he would be deported.

The only legal way to return would be in a coffin — a final mercy the U.S. government grants veterans who die after deportation.

“They’ll take you back once it’s not no good to you anymore,” Valadez said.

For much of its wartime history, the U.S. has offered citizen-

ship to noncitizens who enlisted in the military and completed boot camp. The practice was stopped after the Vietnam War, and then resumed a generation later by the Army in 2009 and the Navy after that.

Valadez, 33, is one of the thousands who served in those middle years when naturalization wasn’t a part of boot camp graduation.

Advocates estimate there are now at least 2,000 U.S. veterans living in northern Mexico, many in border towns such as Tijuana and Juarez, where English speakers can find decent-paying work in telemarketing and other service-sector jobs.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement doesn’t keep track of how many veterans the government has deported.

In Mexico, Valadez said, his military training and fluent English have drawn the keenest interest from a powerful drug cartel. In a single day, he said, he could make what he earns in a month running the sushi restaurant he owns in downtown Juarez.

Valadez said going to work for the cartel, even for simple jobs like driving a truck or running security, would not only be dangerous, but also a betrayal.

“I’m still an American, I’m still a sailor,” Valadez said.

# US-led strikes squeeze Islamic State funds

*The Washington Post*

The Islamic State group is facing an unprecedented cash crunch in its home territory, U.S. counterterrorism officials say, as months of strikes on oil facilities and financial institutions take a deepening toll on the group's ability to pay its fighters and to carry out operations.

For the first time, U.S. officials are seeing clear evidence of the financial strain on the group's leadership as reports surface of clashes among senior commanders over allegations of corruption, mismanagement and theft.

Cash shortages already have forced the group to put many of its Iraqi and Syrian recruits on half-pay, and accounts from recent defectors suggest that some units haven't received salaries in months. Civilians and businesses in the Islamic State's self-proclaimed homeland complain of being subjected to ever-higher taxes and fees to make up for the shortfall.

U.S. officials attribute the economic upheaval to a monthslong campaign to de-

stroy the group's financial underpinnings, including weeks of punishing strikes on oil facilities as well as banks and other repositories of hard currency.

The strikes against oil fields, refineries and tankers have cut oil production by about a third, according to several counterterrorism officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence from the region. Meanwhile, overall revenue from the Islamic State's oil business has plummeted by as much as 50 percent because of falling oil prices and a diminished capability to make and sell refined products such as gasoline, the officials said.

"For the first time, there's an optimistic tone," Daniel Glaser, assistant secretary for terrorist financing at the Treasury Department, said of the financial war against the Islamic State. "I really do think we're having a significant impact."

But, he added, "They still make a lot of money, and we still have a long way to go."

U.S. military operations, meanwhile, have killed a number of high-ranking fi-

nancial officials including the group's finance minister, Haji Iman, whose death in an airstrike was announced a week ago.

Moreover, because of the group's territorial losses in recent months — military defeats have shrunk the size of the self-declared caliphate by about 40 percent during the past year — the terrorists now have a significantly smaller population to exploit for cash, U.S. officials and analysts say. Unlike al-Qaida, which relied on outside donors for revenue, the Islamic State traditionally has generated much of its income locally, through extortion and other criminal enterprises as well as taxes and fees imposed on businesses and civilians.

"The successful pushback of ISIL from the territory they control is huge," Matthew Levitt, an expert on terrorist financial networks who worked at the Treasury Department and FBI, using one of the common acronyms for the Islamic State. "If they don't control the territory, they can't exploit the population. They can't take advantage of natural resources, whether it's oil or wheat or water."

## DOD sees drones as emerging threat

*Tribune Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon, the world's largest user of drones, has posted a new policy on signs outside the mammoth, five-sided building: No Drone Zone.

The signs, complete with a red slash through an image of a quadcopter drone, reflect America's growing concern about the proliferation of the small, inexpensive, remote-controlled devices and the risk they pose to safety, security and privacy.

Federal law prohibits flying a drone anywhere in and around Washington, an area known as the National Capital Region. Other communities and institutions across the country are wrestling with the potential threat from more than 400,000 private and commercial drones now registered to operate in the skies.

Under the law, hobbyists and commercial users must keep unmanned aircraft below 400 feet and avoid flying within 5 miles of an airport to avoid endangering manned aircraft. With a maximum weight of 55 pounds, even a recreational drone could disable a jet flying hundreds of miles per hour.

"Introduction of unmanned aircraft into America's airspace must take place incrementally and with the interest of safety first," said Laura J. Brown, spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

But some drone operators regularly ignore or

flout the law.

Pilots reported 238 sightings of drones in 2014, the first year such sightings were tracked, according to the FAA. Drone sightings jumped to 583 — or nearly 100 per month — in the six months between August 2015 and January 2016, the FAA's most recent records show.

On Jan. 15, for example, Compass Airlines reported a near-collision with a black-and-silver drone at 5,700 feet as the jet came in for a landing at Los Angeles International Airport.

The U.S. Forest Service says drones interfered with firefighting aircraft about 25 times last year, often forcing the planes to be diverted from fast-moving wildfires.

Law enforcement and national security officials worry that small drones could carry explosives, chemical agents or other potentially hazardous material over sensitive facilities.

The risk hit the headlines in January 2015 when a 2-foot-by-2-foot quadcopter crashed on the South Lawn of the White House about 3 a.m., triggering a Secret Service lockdown of the compound. President Barack Obama and the first lady were overseas, but their two daughters were home.

The Justice Department ultimately decided not to charge the drone's operator, a federal employee. He had lost control of the device several blocks away earlier in the evening and did not intend to fly it near the White House, officials said.

## 1st flight leaves Brussels since March 22 attacks

BRUSSELS — A Brussels Airlines plane heading to Faro, Portugal, took off from Brussels Airport on Sunday, the first passenger flight to leave the airport since suicide bombings there on March 22.

Security at the airport was tight, with new check-in procedures for passengers. Two other planes were scheduled to leave later Sunday — Brussels Airlines flights to Athens and Turin, Italy — from a European aviation hub that used to handle 600 flights per day.

Arnaud Feist, the CEO of Brussels Airport Co., called Sunday's flights a symbolic "sign of hope" following "the darkest days in the history of aviation in Belgium."

Damage to the airport was extensive when double suicide bombs exploded near its check-in counters, killing 16 and maiming people from around the world. Another bombing that day on a Brussels subway train killed 16 others. Both attacks were claimed by the Islamic State group.

From The Associated Press

# Villanova dominates Hield, Oklahoma

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Villanova had a night to remember on both ends of the court.

Buddy Hield had a night to forget.

The Wildcats, setting a record for margin of victory in a Final Four semifinal, held Hield to his second-lowest output of the season in a 95-51 victory over Oklahoma on Saturday night.

"That was just one of those nights," Villanova coach Jay Wright said. "I feel bad for Oklahoma."

He can feel good for his Wildcats (34-5) as they advanced to Monday night's national championship game against North Carolina, which beat Syracuse 83-66.

Josh Hart scored 23 points and his 10-for-12 shooting performance was part of Villanova's 71.4 percent (35-for-49) effort. Villanova missed just five shots in the second half.

The margin topped the 34-point Final Four wins by Cincinnati over Oregon State in 1962 and Michigan State over Penn in 1979.

The Wildcats now have four wins in the tournament of at least 19 points, the only close game a 5-point win over overall No. 1 seed Kansas in the Elite Eight.

Villanova dominated the Sooners (29-8) after an opening 7 minutes that had the teams trading the lead almost

every possession.

The Wildcats broke it open with a 21-4 run. The stats about NRG Stadium being a horrible place to shoot went out the window along with the Sooners' chances at playing for their first title.

"I definitely think it helped," Wright said of practicing shooting in the dome. "We're going to be good, we keep telling them, and I think they believed that."

The Wildcats, with Hart going 7-for-8, shot 66.7 percent in the first half, including 6 of 11 from three-point range in taking a 42-28 halftime lead.

"I wouldn't say it's easy, but when you have guys like [teammates] you can go off any night," Hart said. "When they're aggressive, it helps me. The driving lanes, able to get a couple of shots to fall, when that happens, able to kick out and get some guys some shots."

As the Wildcats, who won it all in 1985 with the shocking upset of Georgetown, kept making shots, Hield kept missing.

The unanimous All-America selection was 3-for-8 in the first half, including 1-for-5 from beyond the arc. Hield came into the game shooting 46.5 percent from three-point range.

"Just playing defensively as a team ... we contained him," Hart said.

Hield kept putting on and off his familiar white sleeve on his right arm. It didn't matter as the Sooners absorbed

their worst loss of the season.

The Sooners finished 31.7 percent (19-for-60) for the game.

"Just credit them for what they were doing. Made it tough on me throwing multiple bodies at me," said Hield, who had six points against West Virginia. "They just played terrific tonight."

Hield said Villanova was: "one of the best teams I've ever played in college."

Several Wildcats get credit for the great defense against Hield.

"We were just loading into him," Mikal Bridges said. "We just tried our best to limit his touches and load to him when he had the ball."

Kris Jenkins added 18 points for Villanova and Ryan Arcidiacono had 15.

Jordan Woodard led the Sooners with 12 points.

The Wildcats had as many assists (9) as Oklahoma did turnovers. Villanova shot 66.7 percent (18-for-27) while the Sooners were just 12-for-25 (48 percent).

"I'm happy we had one of those games, we made every shot," Wright said. "Kind of similar to our game in Hawaii against Oklahoma, they made everything, we couldn't make anything."

"We were dialed in. Played great defensively."

## Heels playing for title Difficult week ends with loss for Sooners' Lattin

Associated Press

HOUSTON — North Carolina's latest step on the way to a title was shaping up as strictly an inside job.

Out of nowhere, Marcus Paige figured out how to hit from three-point land and the Tar Heels put an end to any hopes of another Syracuse comeback.

Using layups, floaters and putbacks — then, finally, three very timely threes from Paige — the Tar Heels outmuscled Syracuse 83-66 on Saturday to move a win away from the program's sixth national title.

Paige finished with 13 points and Brice Johnson and Justin Jackson led North Carolina (33-6) with 16 apiece, as the Tar Heels, the lone No. 1 seed in the Final Four, beat Jim Boeheim's 10th-seeded Orange for the third time this season and advanced to Monday's title game against Villanova.

Earlier, the Wildcats made 11 of 18 shots from behind the three-point line, debunking the theory, first advanced at the cold-shooting Final Four in 2011, that nobody could shoot in Houston's cavernous stadium.

Then, the Tar Heels, ranked 284th in the country this season from long range, reversed that one-game trend. They bricked up three after three, going 0-for-10 in the first half and barely drawing iron on some of them. Paige opened the second half with North Carolina's 11th straight miss, and for the next 10 minutes, the Tar Heels basically ignored the three-point line.

Only when Trevor Cooney and Malachi Richardson triggered a 10-0 Syracuse run to trim a 17-point deficit to seven did Carolina start thinking long range again. Paige made three threes and Theo Pinson hit another to stifle the rally and make Carolina almost respectable from the three-point line: 4-for-17 for the game.

Kennedy Meeks finished with 15 points

and eight rebounds, including a paddy cake putback after batting a second offensive rebound to himself off glass. That gave the Heels a 67-53 lead.

Before Paige found his range, Carolina built its lead on the inside, with big-time help from an in-your-face defense that held Syracuse's leading scorer Michael Gbinije to 12 points on 5-for-18 shooting.

"We had a brain lapse there for about three minutes in the second half, but other than that I thought we were really good defensively against a team that's hard to guard," said Carolina coach Roy Williams, in search of his third title.

It was a reminder of the days before the three-point shot was invented, when the way to really beat a zone — and Boeheim's 2-3 is the best in the game — was to make blink-of-an-eye passes in and around the paint and crash the offensive glass to take advantage of a defense that doesn't put bodies on bodies when the ball goes up.

That plan still works these days.

Early in the second half, Jackson made a jump pass from the corner to the lane, where Paige was waiting and batted the ball with an open hand over to Meeks, who dunked.

A bit later, Joel Berry got an easy offensive rebound and a layup to put the Tar Heels ahead by 17.

North Carolina finished with 16 second-chance points on 16 offensive boards. Even more telling were points in the paint: Tar Heels 50, Orange 32.

Syracuse trailed by 16 in its crazy comeback victory over Virginia last week to make it here. But there was no full-court press that could beat the Heels, and no meltdown awaiting from them either.

Cooney led the Orange (23-14), the first No. 10 seed to make it to the Final Four, with 22 points. Richardson had 17.

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Oklahoma forward Khadeem Lattin sat on a chair in a corner of the locker room with his head down, headphones on, already dressed. His bright crimson backpack, ready to go, sat on the floor in front of him.

Several times, the Houston native was surrounded by reporters and television cameras. He gave mostly one-word answers and tried hard to politely make them go away. It has been a bad week for the sophomore from Houston.

Lattin's grandmother died earlier this week, before she got to see him play in the Final Four in his hometown. The game was a huge disappointment for him and the Sooners, too. Lattin fouled out and scored only two points in Oklahoma's 95-51 loss to Villanova in the national semifinals Saturday night at NRG Stadium.

Lattin sprinted off the court and into the tunnel as soon as the buzzer sounded. He did not wait around to shake hands.

Lattin found out Wednesday night, not long after getting to Houston with his teammates, that his grandmother, Brenda Fair, had died after a long bout with cancer.

During the week, he kept his composure answering questions about his grandmother on his mother's side of the family and how they both couldn't wait for her to watch him play.

He wrote something on his shoes to honor her during the game. But after the Sooners were routed by Villanova, Lattin did not have much to say about his play or his emotions. "I am very angry" was one of his longest answers.

"He doesn't want to talk, y'all," said

teammate Jamuni McNeace, who was sitting in a folding chair next to Lattin.

Lattin's grandfather on his father's side, David Lattin, played on the famous 1966 Texas Western team that won the NCAA championship. Those Miners were the first team to start five black players in the title game.

Lattin and his former teammates and coaches were honored at halftime of the second semifinal between Syracuse and North Carolina.

The elder Lattin said he wanted to give his grandson some space.

"He's young and he's still finding his way," David Lattin said. "He's human. We have to expect that sometimes humans don't perform as well as they can all the time. So he's getting better and he's learning. So perhaps next time he's in this position he'll play better."

When he David Lattin does talk to Khadeem he said his message will be: "Stay positive. Stay focused and get better."

The Sooners lose some key pieces from this year's team, including star Buddy Hield, big man Ryan Spangler and guard Isaiah Cousins.

Khadeem Lattin will be expected to raise his game and go from complementary player to big-time contributor next season. But for now, his teammates are just looking to help him get through some tough times.

"That's my boy," Spangler said. "I've taken him under my wing. We'll talk tonight and I'll get him going and he'll be fine."



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# Pistons edge fading Bulls

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Detroit Pistons coach Stan Van Gundy said it was the biggest victory of most of his starters' careers.

"Hopefully there's bigger ones to come," Van Gundy said.

Reggie Jackson scored 22 points, Tobias Harris added 21 and the Pistons overcame Jimmy Butler's first career triple-double to beat the Chicago Bulls 94-90 on Saturday night.

The Pistons are fighting for one of the remaining playoff spots in the Eastern Conference and their first postseason appearance since 2008-09. They are a half-game ahead of Indiana for seventh in the East and 2½ games up on ninth-place Chicago.

"This is the biggest game I've played in my career, probably the most meaningful game thus far," Harris said. "I'm in my fifth year in the league, but for a lot of young guys on our team, that type of experience is valuable."

Marcus Morris had 16 points and Andre Drummond had 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Pistons.

"We feel like we got a little more comfortability, but can't think like that," Jackson said. "We need each and every one of them."

Butler had 28 points and career highs of 17 rebounds and 12 assists. Pau Gasol had 16 points and 14 rebounds.

"I just felt like I could have done more," Butler said. "I could have made some more shots or played better defense."

There's always room for improvement. All I want to do is win. I didn't do my job. We as a whole didn't do our job."

Jackson's jumper gave Detroit an 86-83 lead with 1:46 left. After E'Twaun Moore and Butler missed threes, Harris scored on a putback for a five-point lead. Morris made two free throws for Detroit's largest lead at seven with 43.3 seconds left after Butler missed a layup and committed a foul.

Chicago cut it to 90-88 on Butler's three and two free throws after Jackson committed an offensive foul.

Butler briefly went down but remained in the game when Jackson drove to the basket with 20.4 seconds remaining. The officials reviewed the play and confirmed Butler's blocking foul. Butler said he was hit in the ribs.

"It's tough to swallow," Butler said. "We need to win as many games as possible, and we didn't get this one."

**Spurs 102, Raptors 95:** Kawhi Leonard had a career-high 33 points, LaMarcus Aldridge had 31 points and 15 rebounds and host San Antonio beat Toronto for its franchise-record 64th victory.

San Antonio never trailed and topped its 63-win season in 2005-06. The Spurs also extended their NBA-record home winning streak to start the season to 39 games.

Toronto sat Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan for rest.

**Trail Blazers 110, Heat 93:** C.J. McCollum had 24 points and made all six of his three-point attempts to help

Portland beat Miami for its seventh straight home win.

Despite the loss, the Heat still clinched a playoff spot after the Bulls lost earlier in the evening. Miami came into the game tied for the third seed in the East but dropped to sixth with the loss.

**Pacers 115, 76ers 102:** C.J. Miles scored 25 points, including a go-ahead three-pointer with 3:39 left, and Indiana rallied to beat short-handed Philadelphia.

Paul George added 20 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for visiting Indiana, the eighth seed in the NBA's Eastern Conference. Rodney Stuckey scored 17 points.

Isaiah Canaan had 24 points for Philadelphia (9-68), which needs one victory in its remaining five games to avoid matching the 1972-73 Sixers for the worst full-season record in NBA history.

**Kings 115, Nuggets 106:** Rudy Gay had 25 points and nine rebounds, Seth Curry scored 17 points and visiting Sacramento beat Denver to sweep the three-game season series.

Darren Collison had 14 points and eight assists and Willie Cauley-Stein and Ben McLemore scored 14 points each for Sacramento, which played without DeMarcus Cousins and Rajon Rondo.

The Kings left Cousins and Rondo — their two best players — in Sacramento for the one-game trip. Cousins averaged 38 points, 14.5 rebounds and three blocks in two wins over the Nuggets this season.

# Scott Dixon dominates in Phoenix

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — IndyCar's return to the desert was supposed to be fast and furious, maybe even a little dangerous.

It certainly was fast, but Scott Dixon took most of the danger out with a dominating performance.

Dixon took the lead from Chip Ganassi Racing teammate Tony Kanaan with 155 laps left and never relinquished control, dominating IndyCar's first race at Phoenix International Raceway in 11 years on Saturday night.

"The Target car was fast, really, really fast," Dixon said. "I think at any point we had enough for anybody that was challenging. We definitely, definitely had some speed in reserve for sure."

Dixon started sixth and took advantage of tire trouble that knocked two of Team Penske's drivers out of the lead to move up the grid.

Once he passed Kanaan coming out of pit road, there was no stopping Dixon until he crossed the checkers under caution for his 39th career IndyCar race, tying Al Unser for fourth on IndyCar's all-time list.

It was Dixon's 20th win on an oval and gave him victories in a series-record 12 straight seasons, a mark he had shared with Bobby Unser, Emerson Fittipaldi and Helio Castroneves.

"It is mind-boggling," Dixon said of the records. "I love doing what I do."

Simon Pagenaud and Will Power helped save what could have been a disastrous day for Team Penske after Helio Castroneves and Juan Pablo Montoya suffered blown tires early in the race.

Pagenaud made a big push after going a lap down due to a back break on a caution and finished second for the second straight week. Power was third after missing the season opener in St. Petersburg with an ear infection.

"Behind him (Dixon), we had the pace," said Pagenaud, the points leader after two races. "It's so difficult to pass, there was no interest for me to take that many risks and try. I mean, I was trying, don't get me wrong, but Will was trying, too, at the end, but there's only so much you can do at some point of the race."

Kanaan finished fourth to give Chevy the top four spots and Honda driver Graham Rahal was fifth.

IndyCar returned to PIR for the first time since 2005 and the drivers faced a reconfigured-and-repaved track that was much faster than before.

Castroneves led the first 39 laps, but dropped out after his right front tire blew. Montoya took the lead when Castroneves was forced into the pits, then he suffered the same problem to the same tire and was forced to the pits after leading 56 laps.

"This is unbelievable," Montoya said on the radio as he pulled into his pit stall. The Penske drivers worked their way back toward the front, but couldn't make up all the ground. Montoya finished ninth and Castroneves was 11th.

In other auto racing news: ■ Kyle Busch held off John Hunter Nemechek in a two-lap overtime restart and won the NASCAR trucks race at Martinsville Speedway, his first victory in 31 career starts on the 0.526-mile oval.

Busch, who was saving his last set of fresh tires for an opportune time inside the final 50 laps, never got one and won despite driving the last 115 laps on the same tires.

# Stars' late rally takes down Kings

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Jordie Benn has 55 points in his five-season career with the Dallas Stars. That's about the same number scored by his younger brother, NHL scoring champion Jamie Benn, in the last four months.

Yet when the Dallas Stars needed a big goal and a statement-making victory Saturday, the older Benn provided it.

Jordie Benn scored the tie-breaking goal with 4:58 to play, and the Stars rallied from a third-period deficit to assert their Western Conference supremacy with a 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Kings.

After Patrick Eaves tied it early in the third, Jordie Benn got his first goal in 29 games since Dec. 21 with a long shot past a screened Jonathan Quick.

"It's huge to come back in their building in the third and get the two points that we needed to stay up on St. Louis," Eaves said. "That was huge for us."

Coach Lindy Ruff won his 700th career game as Dallas (48-22-9) moved four points ahead of St. Louis atop the Central Division and eight points ahead of Los Angeles (46-27-5) in the conference standings.

Kari Lehtonen made 24 saves for Dallas and Jamie Benn scored his 41st goal early on for the Stars, who claimed a late-season meeting of division leaders.

"Both teams (had) a lot of intensity," Ruff said. "It was a heck of a hockey game."

If this was a Western Conference finals preview, two large teams with aggressive forechecking styles set a tone with a chippy afternoon performance. With agitator Antoine Roussel in fine form,

Dallas controlled long stretches of early play and rallied late for its sixth win of the season when trailing after two periods.

Jeff Carter scored his fifth goal in four games and Jonathan Quick stopped 36 shots for the Kings, who have lost five of seven.

Tanner Pearson scored for the Kings, who lost in regulation at home for just the second time in 13 games. Los Angeles has a one-point lead atop the Pacific Division over the Anaheim Ducks, who host Dallas on Sunday.

Shortly after an apparent early goal by Dallas was waved off for goaltender interference by a hard-charging Roussel, Pearson put the Kings ahead when his long shot tipped off defenseman Stephen Johns' stick and fooled Lehtonen.

Jamie Benn evened it on a power play with 2.9 seconds left in the first, scoring his fifth goal over four games and setting a new career high with his 88th point. He began the day trailing Patrick Kane by nine points in the league scoring race.

**Penguins 5, Islanders 0:** Pittsburgh clinched a playoff berth on the road behind Matt Murray's 23 saves for his first NHL shutout.

The Penguins made the postseason for the 10th straight year and solidified their grip on second place in the Metropolitan Division.

**Flyers 3, Senators 2:** Host Philadelphia got two power-play goals from Wayne Simmonds and a strong effort from goaltender Steve Mason as they continued to surge toward the playoffs.

Thanks to the Islanders dropping a home game against Pittsburgh, the Flyers moved within two points of the first wildcard spot in the Eastern Conference.

**Sabres 4, Rangers 3:** Ryan O'Reilly scored two first-period goals in a 2:52 span as visiting Buffalo put a hold on New York's hopes of clinching a playoff berth.

**Lightning 3, Devils 1:** Brian Boyle scored the go-ahead goal on a third-period power play to help host Tampa Bay beat New Jersey.

**Red Wings 3, Maple Leafs 2:** Brad Richards and Mike Green each had a goal and an assist as Detroit beat host Toronto.

Jimmy Howard made 32 saves for the Red Wings, who moved past the Boston Bruins for third place in the Atlantic Division.

**Panthers 4, Canadiens 3:** Aleksander Barkov scored the winning goal with 28.1 seconds left as host Florida rallied from a three-goal deficit to beat Montreal.

**Blue Jackets 5, Hurricanes 1:** Brandon Saad scored three goals for his first career hat trick as visiting Columbus beat Carolina.

**Sharks 3, Predators 2 (SO):** Logan Couture scored the only goal of the shootout to lead San Jose to a comeback victory over host Nashville.

**Coyotes 3, Capitals 0:** Mike Smith stopped 31 shots for his second shutout since returning from injury, and Shane Doan and Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored 27 seconds apart early in the third period as host Arizona beat NHL-leading Washington.

**Flames 5, Oilers 0:** Joni Ortio made 28 saves for his second career shutout, while Johnny Gaudreau and Mikael Backlund each scored two goals as visiting Calgary snapped a two-game losing skid with a win over Edmonton.