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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Airman kills commander, self at Texas base

Associated Press

DALLAS — An airman shot his commander in an apparent murder-suicide Friday at a U.S. Air Force base in San Antonio, a senior U.S. official said.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the shooting at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Two handguns were found near the bodies of the men, which were inside a building that's used for classrooms and offices, according to Brig. Gen. Robert LaBrutta, who oversees Joint Base San Antonio.

He stressed that the shooting was not

an act of terrorism and declined to identify the two men, saying that their families must be notified first. The Air Force's Office of Special Investigations is leading the investigation into the incident, and the FBI is assisting.

The fatal shooting of the two is the latest to occur at a military facility in Texas in the past several years.

In January 2015, an Army veteran and former clerk at the veterans' clinic at Fort Bliss in El Paso shot and killed a psychologist, then killed himself. About a year earlier, three soldiers were killed and 16 were wounded in an attack at Fort Hood near Killeen by Army Spc. Ivan A. Lopez, who

also killed himself.

And in the deadliest attack that has occurred at a U.S. military installation, 13 people were killed and 31 were wounded in a mass shooting in 2009 at Fort Hood. Nidal Hasan, a former U.S. Army major, was convicted and sentenced to death in that shooting.

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is the home of Air Force basic training. The Army's Fort Sam Houston and Air Force's Lackland and Randolph bases were combined during base realignment several years ago to become the military's largest joint base.

DOD, admiral deny 'gag order' on South China Sea

The Washington Post

The Obama administration and a four-star admiral have denied that the White House issued a "gag order" to prevent senior U.S. military officials from discussing the disputed South China Sea, a politically charged region that is dogging the administration in its last months in office.

The denials came after the independent Navy Times reported Wednesday that national security adviser Susan Rice decided to "muzzle" Adm. Harry Harris, the chief of U.S. Pacific Command, and other senior military officials as the Obama administration prepared to host a nuclear summit in Washington last week that included China's president, Xi Jinping. Rice's request was designed to give President Barack Obama room to maneuver politically as he met with the Chinese president, the newspaper reported, citing anonymous officials.

But Peter Cook, the Pentagon press secretary, said that Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Harris have "been able to provide frank and informed

counsel to the president and the National Security Council on a host of issues related to the Asia-Pacific area of responsibility."

"We are confident that counsel has been considered and valued," Cook said. The Defense Department "fully supports the current maritime strategy in the Pacific and is working to execute that strategy to the best of their ability. We continue to coordinate our communications within the framework of the interagency process in a way that advances that strategy."

Cook added: "To be clear, there never has been a 'gag order,' as described by anonymous officials in the article."

Harris said in a statement released to The Washington Post that "any assertion that there is a disconnect between U.S. Pacific Command and the White House is simply not true." He declined to discuss what he has recommended, saying his private counsel to Obama and Carter during classified deliberations "wouldn't be worth much if it weren't private."

"Maintaining that trust is why senior military admirals

and generals won't discuss our counsel in public," Harris said. "During recent congressional testimony and press engagements in Washington just a few weeks ago, I was very public and candid about my concerns regarding many issues in the Indo-Asia-Pacific to include the fact that China's militarization of the South China Sea is problematic. So any suggestion that 'the White House has sought to tamp down' on my talking about my concerns is patently wrong."

Harris said that he is satisfied that his concerns and recommendations are "solicited, listened to and considered."

The president has accepted many of Harris' recommendations, including resuming freedom-of-navigation operations in the South China Sea a few months ago to demonstrate that waterways in that region will be patrolled by the Navy, said one defense official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak on the subject.

The issue exposes a couple of nerves for the Obama adminis-

tration as it closes out its final year in the White House. For one, the previous three Pentagon chiefs all have voiced frustrations with perceived administration micromanagement after leaving office. Those former defense secretaries — Robert Gates, Leon Panetta and Chuck Hagel — made those points again in an interview with Fox News that aired Wednesday.

The Obama administration also has faced questions this year about how it will handle tensions in the South China Sea, in light of China's continued addition of weapons, including surface-to-air missiles, in the region despite protests from U.S. partners such as Taiwan and the Philippines.

Harris and other senior military officials — including Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — increasingly have raised concerns about China's operations in the South China Sea for months. During congressional testimony in February, Harris said "you have to believe in a flat Earth" to think China's goal is not to militarize the area and achieve "hegemony in East Asia."

Navy unveils prototype of unmanned vessel

The Seattle Times

PORTLAND, Ore.—The 130-foot trimaran docked Thursday on the Willamette River is miserly enough on fuel to make a slow journey around the world without once stopping for a refill. The narrow hull — stabilized by two outriggers — can survive in up to 30-foot seas. And, in what may foreshadow a new chapter in maritime history, it is designed to operate without any humans aboard.

“This, here, is the look and shape of things to come,” said Rear Adm. Robert Girrier, the Navy’s director of unmanned warfare systems. “We are excited to learn from this amazing vessel and how we can team with it.”

This prototype was developed by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, in a five-year, \$120 million program that tapped some of the technology used by unmanned spacecraft.

It was christened in Portland on Thursday as the Sea Hunter in a ceremony attended by senior Defense Department officials and contractors. The vessel will be headed to California for two years of tests with the Navy.

Unarmed and equipped with sonar, it is designed for anti-submarine warfare that may involve tracking of undersea diesel-electric subs.

But Defense Department officials say unmanned vessels one day could be used in many different ways, including countermine actions and cargo transport. The ships also might be armed for maritime conflicts, though Defense Department officials say the decision on when to use force would remain under human control.

Defense Department officials believe the Sea Hunter could help set the stage for a push to develop civilian use of unmanned vessels.

Suspect held in Brussels attack

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — A fugitive suspect in the Nov. 13 Paris attacks was arrested in Belgium on Friday, French police officials said, after a raid Belgian authorities said was linked to the deadly March 22 Brussels bombings.

The suspect, Mohamed Abrini, is believed to be the mysterious “man in the hat” who escaped the double bombing at the Zaventem airport, according to one of the French officials. If true, that would mean Abrini had a key role in both attacks carried out by the Islamic State cell that left a total of 162 people dead — 130 in Paris and 32 in Brussels.

The two officials spoke on condition of anonymity to offer details about the ongoing Belgian investigation, which has also involved French anti-terror police.

Friday’s arrest of at least two people came a day after Belgian

authorities released photos and video of the airport suspect.

The Belgian federal prosecutor’s office confirmed “several arrests” but refused to provide more information.

Abrini, 31, was the last identified suspect still at large from the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris which killed 130 people, although his precise role has never been clear. He is a Belgian-Moroccan petty criminal believed to have traveled early last summer to Syria where his younger brother died in 2014 in the Islamic State group’s notorious francophone brigade.

He has not resurfaced since the emergence of surveillance video placing him in the convoy with the attackers headed to Paris. He had ties to Abdelhamid Abbaoud, the ringleader of the Paris attacks who died in a police standoff on Nov. 18, and is a childhood friend of brothers Salah and Brahim Abdeslam.

He went multiple times to Birmingham, England, last year, meeting with several men suspected of terrorist activity, a European security official has told The Associated Press. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to provide details on the investigation. He said the meetings, including one later last summer, took place in several locations, including cafes and apartments.

He was traveling with Salah Abdeslam, who is in jail in Belgium for involvement in the Paris attacks, in the convoy headed to Paris in the 36 hours leading up to the attacks.

The man in the hat was with the two suicide bombers who killed 16 people at Brussels airport on March 22. A second arrest also could be linked to the Maelbeek subway bombing that killed another 16 people during rush hour that morning.

Navy eyes smaller, cheaper subs for SEALs

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser

A new, less costly minisubmarine for Navy SEAL commandos is expected to be prowling Hawaii’s waters in a few years, U.S. Special Operations Command said.

The command has been testing commercial-technology subs in Hawaii and Florida following the failure of the 65-foot Advanced SEAL Delivery System.

The military envisioned a fleet of the \$80 million ASDS minisubs, but only one was built after the Northrop Grumman effort was beset by technological problems and ballooned to more than \$885 million by 2007. ASDS-1 burned at the Pearl City SEAL compound in 2008 as its batteries were recharged, and the program was scrapped the following year as too costly.

In the wake of the failure, the Pentagon decided bigger and

more costly is not necessarily better.

Special Operations Command turned to commercial builders, and three much smaller minisub prototypes have been tested during the past several years with a contract expected to be awarded in July for a production vessel with options for two others, officials said.

The new submersibles are intended to allow SEALs and other special operators to travel undetected over greater distances and longer duration and in extreme conditions.

SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team 1 in Hawaii also has underwater vehicles, but they are open to the water and require scuba gear — sapping energy before the elite commandos even get to their mission.

“Current plans have these (minisubs) going to Pearl City,” said Lt. Cmdr. Matt Allen, a Special Operations Command spokesman. “The vessels, sup-

port equipment and personnel will be housed in an existing building in Pearl City.”

A \$19.85 million addition is expected to be completed in coming years at an existing SEAL building for the mission.

Special Operations Command tested the 24-foot S301i under a \$10 million lease from Lockheed Martin; the 31-foot Button 5.60 from General Dynamics/Electric Boat and Gintio Santi Engineering in Italy; and the 39-foot S351 from Submergence Group and MSubs.

U.S. Special Operations Command is developing a new SEAL minisub called the “dry combat submersible,” which will be based at Pearl Harbor. Three prototypes were tested, including the S351.

According to Defense Department budget documents, \$32.4 million had been invested in product development in the Button 5.60 through fiscal 2015, and \$31.3 million in the S351.

Spieth picks up where he left off at Augusta National

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Jordan Spieth picked up where he left off at the Masters.

After a dominating victory a year ago, the 22-year-old Texan threw up three early birdies on a breezy Thursday at Augusta National to claim the top spot on the leaderboard.

Spieth set a tournament record with 28 birdies in 2015, romping to his first major title with an 18-under score. That sparked one of the great years in golf history, as he went on to capture the U.S. Open at Chambers Bay, just missed out on a play-off in the British Open, and took the runner-up spot behind Jason Day at the PGA Championship.

Day is now the top-ranked player in the world and came into the Masters as the betting favorite.

Spieth might have something to say about that.

He birdied the third hole, rolled in a 10-footer for another birdie at the sixth, and took advantage of the par-5 eighth to become the first player to reach 3 under. He made the turn with a 33, one stroke ahead of Daniel Berger and a pair of Englishmen, Paul Casey and Matthew Fitzpatrick.

Spieth went on to put more distance between himself and his competition on the 11th hole with a shot so risky his caddie practically begged him not to try it.

"That was one of the best shots I've ever hit in tournament competition given where it was," Spieth said of his escape from the pine trees on the 11th hole. "And I was laughing afterwards. That's how

dumb the decision was, and pulled it off."

Spieth was coming off a birdie on the 10th that put him at 4 under and in the lead during a deceptively windy day at Augusta National. He blocked his tee shot to the right on the 11th hole and didn't have many options. His ball was on the pine straw. By going through the widest gaps in the trees, he figured the best he could have done was punch it out to 100 yards or more from the green. His caddie, Michael Greller, at one point motioned back to the fairway.

Spieth picked the tiny gap in the trees.

"I would like, if anyone gets a chance, to go look at that shot," Spieth said after his 6-under 66. "Because Michael did everything in his power to call me off of hitting that shot. I had a 4-iron in my hands from about 210 (yards). And I had a gap where it had to rise over a tree, under another branch and split."

It came off perfectly, though there was one last moment where Spieth held his breath. The ball took a hard hop to the left when it reached the green, running fast toward the water. He bit his lip. He grit his teeth and said quietly, "Bite." It held up on the collar, and Spieth repeatedly slapped his thigh.

He made a 7-foot putt to escape with par.

Asked if the fact he was 4 under and it was only the first round of a major ever came into the discussion, Spieth smiled.

"It should have," he said. "And I should not have hit the shot I hit."

Even though the course was softened overnight by strong thunderstorms, the

wind whipping across Augusta National made it tough to go low. It didn't seem to bother Spieth, who is trying to become only the fourth player to win back-to-back titles.

Tiger Woods was the last to do it in 2001 and 2002. The others: Jack Nicklaus and Nick Faldo.

On the 30th anniversary of his sixth and last Masters title, Nicklaus joined Gary Player to hit the ceremonial opening tee shots shortly after sunrise. Arnold Palmer could only watch, having decided not to swing the club this year because of health issues.

The 86-year-old Palmer did ride a cart out to the first tee, offering that familiar wink and thumbs-up. He also posed for a picture with his two longtime rivals and friends, who combined to win seven straight Masters in the 1960s and collectively won 34 major championships.

Player, the 80-year-old South African who said he prepared by doing 1,300 sit-ups and crunches, belted his drive down the middle. The 76-year-old Nicklaus hit it higher and shorter.

"Gary won his tournament this year," Nicklaus said with a grin. "I hit a pop-up." "I wouldn't be too concerned about me outdriving you too much," Player replied, "because you did it to me for 50 damn years."

But this moment was all about Palmer. "It was gratifying and sad, because everything shall pass," Player said. "But it was nice to have him on the tee. I dedicated my first tee shot to him in respect. It's a very special moment."

Source says Jets' durable LT Ferguson to retire

NEW YORK — D'Brickshaw Ferguson is walking away from football after 10 years of protecting New York Jets quarterbacks.

The remarkably durable and consistent left tackle who never missed a snap due to injury has decided to retire, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Friday.

Ferguson was the No. 4 overall pick in the 2006 NFL Draft and was selected to three Pro Bowls while establishing himself as one of the league's best at his position. But he has chosen to walk away, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Friday because neither the Jets nor Ferguson announced the move.

ESPN first reported Ferguson's decision to retire.

The news comes as a stunner since it was believed the 32-year-old Ferguson had a few more solid seasons left. But his play slipped a bit last season and there were no guarantees he would be on the Jets' roster this season because of his lofty salary.

Ferguson was scheduled to count \$14.1 million against the team's salary cap in 2016, and had been approached by the team about potentially taking a pay cut to help give the Jets relief. If he didn't agree to a cut, there was a possibility he would have been released.

Instead, Ferguson's retirement will create nearly \$9.1 million in salary cap space, which will help the Jets in their negotiations to re-sign quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick. They had only about \$500,000 in cap space, lowest among all NFL teams.

Still no timetable for Tony Stewart's return

FORT WORTH, Texas — Brian Vickers is getting ready for his third consecutive race filling in for injured Tony Stewart, who still has no timetable for his return.

Stewart said Thursday night that he is anxious to get scans on his back at the end of this month to get an idea of when he might be able to make his debut in what will be his last season as a full-time driver.

"It's driving me crazy wanting to see what it looks like and then to listen to the diagnosis of when they think they're going to let me go," Stewart said. "I'm really anxious."

Those pending scans will come after X-rays last month to make sure the rods and screws surgically implanted in his back were still in place and not moving. Stewart fractured his vertebra while riding an all-terrain vehicle in a California desert before the Sprint Cup season started.

For Vickers, there still could be more NASCAR Sprint Cup Series races for Stewart-Haas Racing and maybe a ride in the 100th Indianapolis 500. He would also like to do the 24 Hours of Le Mans again.

Vickers is coming off a seventh-place finish at Martinsville in Stewart's No. 14 Chevrolet. Vickers will drive Saturday night's Duck Commander 500 at Texas, but is sharing the role as Stewart's fill-in driver. Ty Dillon, already with two races in the No. 14, is expected to be driving it again next week at Bristol.

From The Associated Press

Quinnipiac, N. Dakota earn title berths

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Quinnipiac goalie Michael Garteig raised his arms in triumph and bounced on his skates in front of the Bobcats' net.

The 3-2 victory over Boston College on Thursday night sent the tiny school located at the foot of Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden, Conn., to the NCAA hockey title game for the second time in four years.

And it took every one of Garteig's 34 saves for the Bobcats (32-3-7) to advance.

"Garzie is a winner. All year long he has been going up head to head with the top goalies in the country, and he finds a way to win," Quinnipiac coach Rand Pecknold said. "That's what he does."

Kevin McKernan and Andrew Taverner scored in the opening period and Landon Smith added a power-play goal that made it 3-1 in the second period, setting the stage for Garteig to shine when the Bobcats needed him.

Ryan Fitzgerald's power-play goal trimmed Boston College's deficit to 3-2 with 4:16 remaining. Garteig had four more saves, including a glove deflection on Ian McCoshen's shot from the high slot in the closing seconds.

"He made a terrific save," Boston College coach Jerry York said. "It ended out season."

North Dakota 4, Denver 2: At Tampa, Fla., Nick Schmaltz scored off a rebound with 56.8 seconds remaining and the Fighting Hawks survived blowing a two-goal, third-period lead to beat the NCHS-rival Pioneers in the other semifinal.

Schmaltz's backhand shot from in front of the net slipped past goalie Tanner Jaillet, setting off a wild celebration among North Dakota fans in the crowd of 18,037 at Amalie Arena.

Drake Caggiula scored a pair of second-period goals for North Dakota. Rhett Gardner added an empty-netter with 1.9 seconds remaining.

North Dakota's trip to the Frozen Four in its first season under coach Brad Berry

is the 22nd for the Fighting Hawks. North Dakota (33-6-4) has won seven NCAA crowns, tied with Denver for second behind Michigan's nine.

"Our message after the second period was keep the foot on the gas. The only problem was we stopped making plays for a little bit," Berry said. "But there was no panic on the bench. Even though the game was going the wrong way the first 10 minutes of the third period, they caught their breath after a timeout."

The Fighting Hawks, who lost in the semifinals the past two years, are headed to their first championship game since 2005, when they lost to Denver in the final. A win would give North Dakota its first national title since 2000.

Denver (29-10-6) was in the Frozen Four for the first time since 2005. The Pioneers entered this year's tournament as one of the nation's hottest teams, compiling an 18-3-4 record over the past three months after going 7-7-2 in October, November and December.



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Warriors join Bulls in 70 club

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors reached a milestone that only Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls have achieved in the history of the NBA.

All that's left for Golden State to do now is win three more games and become the winningest team of them all.

Curry scored 27 points and the Warriors became the second team to win 70 games in a season by beating the San Antonio Spurs 112-101 on Thursday night, wrapping up home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

"Two teams in the history of this game have reached where we are right now," Curry said. "It's a proud moment and something that should be recognized."

The Warriors (70-9) bounced back from their second loss in three home games two nights earlier against Minnesota and joined the 1995-96 Bulls as the only teams in the 70-win club. Golden State can pass the Bulls by sweeping the final three games, including a rematch in San Antonio on Sunday.

Coach Steve Kerr, who played on the record-setting Bulls team, acknowledges being uneasy about chasing the record instead of giving the team a break, but the Warriors' young stars are gung-ho to get it.

"Most of the guys in the locker room are saying, 'We're right here, we've put all this effort into it, let's go for it,'" forward Draymond Green said.

Harrison Barnes scored 21 points and Green added 18 to help the Warriors avoid losing back-to-back games for the first time this season. Golden State has outscored the opposition by 14.6 points per game following its nine losses and has finally achieved its main goal in the regular season of earning the top seed in the playoffs.

"It took 70 wins to wrap up the one seed, which tells you all you need to know about that team in the other locker room," Kerr said.

Kawhi Leonard scored 23 points for the Spurs, who will enter the playoffs next weekend as the second seed in the West.

San Antonio has been outscored by 41 points in two losses at Golden State this

season and will have to open on the road if these teams meet again in the conference finals.

"You can't make mistakes against these guys," coach Gregg Popovich said. "Best team on the planet. If you lose your concentration defensively or you shoot ill-advised shots or don't move the ball and give it back to them quickly, you're in big trouble."

After a relatively quiet first half, Curry took the game over in the third quarter and sent the Warriors to their second easy win at home against the Spurs this season. Curry had 15 points and four assists in the quarter as he was able to drive to the basket with ease for either his own shot or to set up a teammate.

The Warriors shot 80 percent in the third alone and took an 87-69 lead into the fourth — easily passing the 79 points they scored the entire game in last month's loss at San Antonio.

Heat 106, Bulls 98: Dwyane Wade scored 21 points, Joe Johnson added 17 and host Miami shook off a slow first half to beat Chicago, clamping down in the final minutes for its ninth win in the last 10 home games.

Goran Dragic and Hassan Whiteside each had 16 points and 12 rebounds for Miami, which has 14 consecutive games of scoring 100 or more at home — the second-longest such streak in franchise history.

Luol Deng scored 13, Josh Richardson had 11 and Amare Stoudemire added 10 for the Heat (46-32), who remained fifth in the Eastern Conference.

Jimmy Butler scored 25 points for the Bulls (39-40), who now need a series of miracles to get into the postseason. Pau Gasol finished with 21 points and 12 rebounds, and Derrick Rose scored 17 for Chicago.

Hawks 95, Raptors 87: Jeff Teague scored 23 points, Kyle Korver added 14 and host Atlanta held off Toronto.

It was one of the season's best performances for the Hawks, who remained in third place in the Eastern Conference by beating the East's No. 2 seed.

With Paul Millsap scoring 13 points and Al Horford, Tim Hardaway Jr. and Mike Scott each adding 11, Atlanta used a balanced attack to knock off Toronto for the

first time in four tries this season.

The Hawks have won 16 of 21 and are a half-game ahead of Boston for the third spot in the East. Toronto dropped 3½ games behind first-place Cleveland.

Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan each finished with 16 points and Jonas Valanciunas had 13 for the Raptors. Toronto has dropped two of three.

Suns 124, Rockets 115: Mirza Teletovic scored 26 points off the bench, P.J. Tucker added 24 and visiting Phoenix dealt another blow to Houston's dwindling playoff chances.

It's the second straight loss for the Rockets, who entered the day in ninth place in the Western Conference after a loss at Dallas on Wednesday.

The game was back and forth through the first few minutes of the fourth quarter before the Suns took over.

They scored 10 straight points, with eight coming on free throws, to take a 117-110 lead with 1:03 left and send fans streaming for the exits.

Tyson Chandler added 21 points for the Suns, who snapped an NBA-high, seven-game skid.

James Harden led Houston with 30 points.

Timberwolves 105, Kings 97: Gorgui Dieng had 18 points and 13 rebounds, Zach LaVine and Nemanja Bjelica also scored 18 points, and visiting Minnesota beat Sacramento.

The Timberwolves led for most of the game in following up their victory at Golden State by sweeping the four-game series against the Kings.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 17 points and 10 rebounds and Andrew Wiggins scored 15 points for the Timberwolves. Bjelica made four three-pointers and his point total was a career high.

Darren Collison had 19 points and six assists in the Kings' third straight loss. Quincy Acy scored 17 points, Willie Cauley-Stein had 15 and Rudy Gay finished with 13 points and 13 rebounds.

Kings coach George Karl rested DeMarcus Cousins, the team's leading scorer and rebounder, and Rajon Rondo, who leads the NBA in assists. This was Sacramento's 32nd different starting lineup.

Penguins win in OT over Caps

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sidney Crosby scored in overtime and the streaking Pittsburgh Penguins rebounded after blowing a three-goal lead to beat the Washington Capitals 4-3 on Thursday night to clinch home-ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

The Penguins have won eight games in a row and 14 of their past 15 to vault into second place in the Metropolitan Division. The Presidents' Trophy-winning Capitals have lost three consecutive games for the first time all season and have dropped four of their past five.

Stars 4, Avalanche 2: Jason Dickinson scored in his first NHL game, and host Dallas beat Colorado to move closer to the Central Division and Western Conference titles.

With one game remaining for each team, the Stars and St. Louis are tied with 107 points, but Dallas holds the tiebreaker. Dallas hosts Nashville, and St. Louis hosts Washington, both on Saturday night.

Blues 2, Blackhawks 1 (OT): Vladimir Tarasenko scored his second goal of the game at 3:37 of overtime, and visiting St. Louis cooled off Chicago in a possible playoff preview.

Bruins 5, Red Wings 2: Torey Krug had a goal and two assists, Brad Marchand and Loui Eriksson each added a goal and assist, and host Boston beat Detroit to keep its playoff hopes alive.

Tuukka Rask had 13 saves, and David Pastrnak and Lee Stempniak also scored to help Boston tie Detroit for third place in the Atlantic Division.

Maple Leafs 4, Flyers 3 (OT): Jake Gardiner scored a power-play goal at 2:51 of overtime to lift visiting Toronto past Philadelphia.

The Flyers fell a point behind Boston and Detroit for the eighth seed in the Eastern Conference. But Philadelphia can secure a playoff berth by winning its last two games.

Lightning 4, Devils 2: Jonathan Drouin scored the winning goal in his second-chance return to the NHL and visiting Tampa Bay beat New Jersey to clinch home-ice advantage for the first round of the playoffs.

Islanders 4, Rangers 1: John Tavares had a goal and an assist, Thomas Greiss made 36 saves and the visiting Islanders earned their first regular-season sweep of the Rangers.

The Islanders moved into a tie for third with the Rangers with 99 points in the Metropolitan Division.

Predators 3, Coyotes 2 (OT): Roman Josi scored 20 seconds into overtime, and host Nashville rallied in the third period to beat Arizona.

Canadiens 4, Hurricanes 2: Max Pacioretty had a goal and an assist in visiting Montreal's victory over Carolina.

Flames 7, Canucks 3: Mikael Backlund had his first NHL hat trick to help host Calgary beat Vancouver.

Senators 3, Panthers 1: Buddy Robinson scored his first NHL goal in host Ottawa's victory over Florida.

Kings 2, Ducks 1: Milan Lucic and Kris Versteeg scored 93 seconds apart in the second period, and host Los Angeles closed in on just its second division title in franchise history.

Jets 5, Sharks 4: Dustin Byfuglien scored with 10 seconds remaining to give visiting Winnipeg its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Pence's slam helps Giants blast Dodgers

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Hunter Pence hit a grand slam in the eighth inning, Joe Panik drove in three runs to key San Francisco's comeback, and the Giants beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 12-6 in their home opener Thursday.

The Dodgers' 31-inning shutout streak ended in the fifth, one inning shy of the record to begin a season set by the 1963 St. Louis Cardinals.

Chris Heston (1-0) worked the sixth in relief of Jake Peavy for the victory as San Francisco erased a 4-0 deficit. Bruce Bochy bested his former outfielder and now-Dodgers manager Dave Roberts in their first matchup.

In the fifth, Los Angeles finally gave up its first runs of 2016 when the Giants got to Alex Wood (0-1).

Yankees 8, Astros 5: Mark Teixeira sliced a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the seventh inning and Starlin Castro connected again, sending host New York past Houston.

The Yankees took two of three in the season-opening series against the team

that beat them in the AL wild-card game last October.

Marlins 6, Nationals 4: Reliever David Phelps entered after a rain delay and pitched four shutout innings while delivering his first career RBI at the plate, and visiting Miami spoiled Washington's sloppy home opener in front of a dwindling crowd.

While Phelps (1-0) replaced Adam Conley following a 1-hour, 25-minute break because of a thunderstorm in the second with the score 3-all, Nationals starter Tanner Roark (0-1) surprisingly remained in the game. Roark allowed four runs — three earned, all in the first — and nine hits in four innings.

Reds 10, Phillies 6: Jay Bruce homered twice and matched a career high with five RBIs, and host Cincinnati made a winner of top pitching prospect Robert Stephenson in his major league debut by beating Philadelphia to complete a season-opening sweep.

White Sox 6, Athletics 1: Mat Latos gave up one hit over six shutout innings for his first win since last July, Jose Abreu hit a two-run homer and visiting Chicago

beat Oakland to give manager Robin Ventura his 300th career win.

Latos (1-0) didn't allow a baserunner until Chris Coghlan's one-out single in the fifth.

Orioles 4, Twins 2: Ubaldo Jimenez pitched seven sharp innings and host Baltimore rallied to beat Minnesota for a three-game sweep.

Manny Machado and rookie Joey Rickard homered for the Orioles, who trailed 2-0 in the sixth before coming back.

Cubs 14, Diamondbacks 6: Anthony Rizzo matched his career high with six RBIs and visiting Chicago beat Arizona, but lost Kyle Schwarber with a sprained ankle in an outfield collision.

Schwarber was hurt in the second inning when he collided with Dexter Fowler, a play that resulted in an inside-the-park home run for Arizona's Jean Segura.

Angels 4, Rangers 3: Albert Pujols hit a bases-loaded single with two outs in the ninth inning to give host Los Angeles its first victory of the season.

Yunel Escobar drove in the Angels' first two runs with a homer and RBI single in the opener of a four-game series.