

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Mabus: Women's role in combat set

Associated Press

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Navy Secretary Ray Mabus had a simple message for 1,500 Marines and sailors: The decision to let women compete for all military combat positions is as irreversible as earlier edicts to integrate blacks and allow gays and lesbians to openly serve.

It was Mabus' third visit to a major Marine Corps base to explain the issue to rank-and-file audiences since Defense Secretary Ash Carter said in December that all combat positions would be open to women.

Mabus repeatedly emphasized that standards won't be lowered.

"Marines, we're past the decision now," he said Tuesday at Camp Pendleton in California. "The secretary of defense has made the decision. Now we're into implementing."

Marine Corps leaders had sought to keep certain infantry and combat jobs closed to women, citing studies showing combined-gender units are not

as effective as male-only units. Carter, backed by Mabus, overruled them.

Since December, the military services have put together plans outlining how they will integrate women into male-only units.

Marines who sat cross-legged around Mabus on a large concrete surface used for ceremonies didn't object to the change when the secretary invited questions. Some who volunteered to speak with reporters said any resistance might come from older Marines.

"This generation, so much has been changing, whether it be with gays and lesbians and all that; everything's just changing," said Lance Cpl. Guillermo Arenas, 20, who joined the Marines in July. "We have a lot of older Marines that were in longer, so it might take them a little while to adapt to it, but then eventually they'll know that they're Marines."

Four of the seven questions that Mabus took were about women in combat. Others were more interested in his thoughts

on Iraq and the future size of the Marine Corps.

One questioner asked for his thoughts on drafting women. He said he supports the idea but it's a decision for Congress. Another wanted to know how quickly women would be fully integrated into combat jobs.

"I think it won't happen all in one day," Mabus said. "It'll be relatively gradual but the decision's been made."

Gunnery Sgt. Janet Marrufo, 31, said Mabus' simple message was effective.

"It was important for Marines to hear out in the open, and let them know officially that it's a full change and that this is happening," said Marrufo, who has been a Marine for 12 years. "I think some Marines were unclear about that at first but he cleared the air."

Mabus, a former Democratic governor of Mississippi, has carried the same message to large audiences at Marine bases at Parris Island, S.C., and Quantico, Va., after Marine Corps leaders expressed reservations

about the change.

Gen. Robert Neller, the Marine Corps commandant, told senators in February that he worried about retention, injury rates and unit effectiveness.

"We have a decision and we're in the process of moving out," Neller told senators. "We will see where the chips fall. And, again, our hope is that everyone will be successful. But hope is not a course of action on the battlefield."

Mabus told the Marines on Tuesday that fully integrating women was akin to the integration of blacks in the 1940s and the repeal of the "don't-ask-don't-tell" policy against gays and lesbians openly serving.

"We are stronger because we have Marines of color," he said. "Same thing when 'don't-ask-don't-tell' got repealed. We're stronger because we don't judge people by who they love but on whether they can do the job as Marines. A more diverse force is a stronger force."

## Russian aircraft twice buzz US warship in Baltic Sea

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Russian fighter jets flew "dangerously" close to a Navy destroyer in the Baltic Sea on consecutive days this week in a pair of incidents that might have violated a long-standing agreement between the countries, a U.S. defense official said Wednesday.

On Monday and Tuesday, twin Sukhoi Su-24 attack jets flew close enough to the USS Donald Cook, which was in international waters, that the ship was forced to cancel some flight operations training and its commander deemed the

Russian actions "unsafe and unprofessional," according to the defense official, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the incident publicly. In both cases, the planes appeared to be unarmed.

The more troubling actions occurred Tuesday. After a pair of Russian helicopters circled the Cook apparently taking photographs, two Russian jets approached and performed a series of "very low, simulated attack profiles" bringing them within 30 feet of the destroyer at an altitude below 100 feet.

"They were so close, they

created wakes in the water," the official said. He added the incidents were "more aggressive than anything we've seen in some time."

On Monday, two Russian warplanes flew 20 overpasses of the Cook, coming within about 1,000 feet of the ship at an altitude of about 100 feet. The Cook recently had departed a port visit in Poland and had been conducting flight operations with a Polish helicopter when the Su-24s approached. The incident forced the Polish helicopter to cancel its training.

The defense official did not

specify where the incidents occurred, but he said the Cook had been about 70 nautical miles from Kaliningrad, a Russian seaport on the Baltic in the country's exclave between Poland and Lithuania.

On Wednesday, the Pentagon was reviewing the actions to determine whether Russia violated a 1972 pact designed to reduce the chance of incidents at sea, the defense official said.

In both incidents, the ship attempted to communicate with the planes through standard radio channels, but did not receive a response from the pilots, the official said.

# Next Marine rotation Australia-bound

BY AARON KIDD

*Stars and Stripes*

About 1,250 Marines are heading to Australia for a Marine Rotational Force-Darwin deployment, a mission that is part of Washington's "Pacific pivot" and reflects the White House's commitment to the region.

The Marines, most from the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., began arriving in Darwin on Wednesday, the Marine Corps said. The rotation will include four UH-1Y Venom

helicopters from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367 out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

During the deployment, the Marines will take on a variety of training exercises throughout the region, including drills with the Australian Defence Force.

"These rotations provide excellent training benefits for both forces and present a unique opportunity for the Australian Defence Force and the U.S. Marines to train together, preparing them for the types of operations they are conducting

together in the Middle East," the Australian Defence Department said in a statement.

The Marine Corps has been sending troops on six-month rotations to Darwin since 2012. The number of Marines heading there has steadily increased, with the goal of expanding the deployment to a 2,500-strong Air-Ground Task Force.

Last year's rotation, which wrapped up in September, kicked off with Predator Walk, an Australian-led exercise at Mount Bunday Training Area. Marines then joined Talisman Saber alongside 30,000 U.S.

and Australian, New Zealand and Japanese troops across Australia.

Marines also deployed out of Darwin for training in East Timor and Tonga, and they participated in Crocodile Strike, another exercise with the Australians at Mount Bunday.

A recently published Defence White Paper called the alliance with the U.S. among Australia's highest priorities.

"Through activities such as [bilateral training] we will continue to broaden and deepen the alliance," the Australian defense statement said.

## Governor expands NC's anti-discrimination laws

*Associated Press*

RALEIGH, N.C. — Saying he received lots of "feedback and suggestions and opinions" about a law he signed that limits LGBT protections, North Carolina's governor has ordered anti-discrimination rules be expanded for state employees.

Gov. Pat McCrory also wants lawmakers to soon restore the ability of all workers to sue over employment bias in state court, which was removed in the law.

"This was my conclusion after hearing from many, many different sides of the issue," McCrory said shortly after he signed an executive order Tuesday addressing the law.

But McCrory said he sees no need to repeal the rest of the law, which has brought nationwide fallout on North Carolina since his signature three weeks

ago, with corporate executives, gay rights groups and political opponents blasting him.

North Carolina's measure is among several advanced across the country that opponents say is discriminatory toward gay, bisexual and transgender people.

McCrory's order expanded the equal employment policy for state employees to include sexual orientation and gender identity. The order also affirmed parts of the law directing people at government buildings and schools to use the multistall bathrooms corresponding to the sex listed on their birth certificate. And the law still prevents local governments and the state from mandating businesses extend protections to LGBT people who work for them or when they visit their stores and restaurants.

## Ryan rules out presidential bid

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Paul Ryan on Tuesday definitively ruled out a bid for president this year, insisting that the party's choice should emerge from the group of candidates who pursued the GOP nomination. "Count me out," he said.

In a brief news conference at the Republican National Committee headquarters, the Wisconsin Republican sought to tamp down rampant speculation that he could end up as the party's standard-bearer if front-runner Donald Trump and the other candidates flame out at a contested convention.

"We have too much work to do in the House to allow this speculation to swirl or have my motivations questioned," said Ryan, who was the 2012 vice presidential nominee. "Let me be clear: I do not want, nor will I accept, the Republican

nomination."

Ryan's comments come as a contested convention looks likelier by the day. Ryan and his aides have continually denied the speaker has presidential ambitions this year, but their statements have not put the issue to rest. That's partly because Ryan also denied he wanted to be speaker last fall after John Boehner announced his resignation but he ended up with the job anyway.

Tuesday's appearance was an attempt to end what aides said has become a major distraction to Ryan's work as speaker.

Yet it may not be enough to quiet the talk about Ryan, given the unpredictable twists of the GOP presidential primary.

"So let me speak directly to the delegates on this: If no candidate has a majority on the first ballot, I believe you should only choose a person who actually participated in the primary. Count me out," Ryan said.

## Copyright trial for 'Stairway to Heaven'

The opening riff from Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" is going on trial.

The case centers around claims from a trustee of late Spirit guitarist Randy Wolfe,

also known as Randy California, that "Stairway to Heaven" copies music from the Spirit song "Taurus."

According to court documents acquired by the Los Angeles Times, U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner determined April 8 that lawyers for the trustee, Michael Skidmore,

had provided enough evidence for the case to proceed to trial May 10 and that, although the songs contain differences, lawyers may be able to prove substantial similarities.

"Taurus" appeared on Spirit's eponymous first album in 1968 and was written by Wolfe in either 1966 or 1967. "Stair-

way to Heaven" was released by Led Zeppelin in 1971.

Wolfe's estate announced plans to pursue a copyright infringement suit in May 2014, seeking a co-writing credit for Wolfe on "Stairway to Heaven."

From wire reports



# Story off to amazing start

Associated Press

DENVER — Manager Walt Weiss told rookie Trevor Story when he reported to spring training that he had a chance to win the starting shortstop job for the Colorado Rockies with veteran Jose Reyes on paid leave while facing legal issues.

Then, he sat back and wondered how the 23-year-old would handle his opportunity.

"You see young players go either way. Sometimes it's too much for them at an early age," Weiss said. "Trevor went the other way. He elevated his game. I never saw the game get too fast for him in spring training. It's nice when pressure brings out the best in people."

Nobody in major league history ever had a first week like Story did: a record seven home runs in his first six games, including homers in his first four starts.

"It has been fun so far," Story said Sunday after hitting a solo shot in Colorado's 6-3 victory over San Diego, giving him 12 RBIs and putting him on a ridiculous pace for 189 home runs and 324 RBIs this season.

OK, that won't happen. But that's the kind of start Story had in his first week in the majors, when just about every day he was doing something nobody had ever done in the history of the game.

Of the 27 players in the 500-homer club, Willie McCovey needed the fewest games — 18 — to reach seven home runs back in 1959, according to STATS.

Barry Bonds needed 38 games. Hank

Aaron needed 49, Babe Ruth 68 and Alex Rodriguez 77.

Cooperstown already has Story's helmet and batting gloves.

"They asked for the bat," Story said, "but I couldn't give up the bat."

Story, who averaged 14 home runs in his five minor league seasons, has no explanation for his sizzling start other than he's locked in at the plate, where he said, "I just clear my mind, compete with my eyes and react with my hands."

Story, who already has as many homers as Reyes hit in 116 games last season, isn't your typical buffed slugger with the six-pack abs and bulging biceps.

The 6-foot-1, 180-pound shortstop generates his tremendous bat speed and powerful punch at the plate with a strong core and technique honed in places like Modesto, Calif., Tulsa, Okla., and Albuquerque, N.M., since being selected 45th overall in the 2011 draft.

"He uses his lower half well. That's usually where it comes from," Weiss said. "The guys that hit from the ground up tend to have more power, and that's what he does very well. He's a strong kid."

That's also how he generates such speed with his throws to first, which are making Rockies fans start to forgive owner Dick Monfort for trading star Troy Tulowitzki to Toronto for a trio of pitching prospects last summer along with Reyes — who's facing a possible suspension under baseball's new domestic abuse policy.

"Really, anything you do athletically you do from the ground up, whether it's hit-

ting or fielding a groundball," Weiss said.

The two teammates who are raving the loudest about Story are Nolan Arenado, who plays next to him at third base and admires his glove work as much as anything, and Carlos Gonzalez who hits behind him in the order and gets an up-close view of his swing.

"In spring training it surprised me how well he played right away, but I'm just kind of expecting it now," Arenado said. "He's shown a lot of range. He has the ability to get a lot of balls. He's not afraid to dive and get dirty, which is cool. And he plays hard, and that's what you want from a shortstop."

Gonzalez said he's thoroughly impressed by Story's approach at the plate and his ability to turn on any pitch, saying, "it's legendary what he's doing."

"Whenever he gets a pitch around the strike zone he just hits it out of the ballpark," Gonzalez said. "So, hopefully he can continue to do that for the entire year and we're going to see a special season."

Of course, he can't keep up this pace. Pitchers will start to figure out some weaknesses. But this kind of introductory week can propel a rookie to a great season and maybe more.

"That's a big boost for a player that just got called up to be playing the way he's been playing," Gonzalez said. "That gives you a lot of confidence. And in this game confidence is No. 1. The more confident you feel out there, the more your ability is going to show and right now that's his game."

# Benn fits captain's role well

Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — Jamie Benn sat at his locker after a light practice, turned a ball-cap backward and waited for reporters to start asking about what will soon be just the second trip to the playoffs for the Dallas captain.

The answers were short and delivered in a soft tone that doesn't change much. Same old Benn, although even he is willing to acknowledge that he's growing more comfortable with everything that accompanies wearing the "C."

It's showing on the ice for the Stars, who enter the playoffs as the top seed in the Western Conference for the first time in 13 years, when Mike Modano was the face of hockey in a southern city still relatively new to the sport.

Dallas opens the playoffs Thursday night against Minnesota, the original home of the Stars franchise before it left in 1993 with a young Modano in tow.

And now the Stars just might have the closest thing to a franchise leader since the highest-scoring American-born NHL player was delighting fans with his fast skating and his wide smile.

"I think it's generally heading in that direction," said Modano, whose last season with the Stars was Benn's first in 2009-10.

"They've got a great nucleus, somewhat like we were when we were all 25, 26 at the time. And we were going to be together a long time. They have finally the same thing here going on."

"Obviously it circles around Jamie."

Three years ago, new general manager Jim Nill hired coach Lindy Ruff, and they inherited a team without a captain after Brenden Morrow was traded during the previous season.

Benn certainly wasn't the vocal type, but it didn't take the new leadership long to settle on him. He turned 24 that summer, and this much Nill knew: Benn was one of the game's young offensive stars and probably would be in Dallas for a long time.

"I just thought it's time for him to grow into that role a little bit," Nill said. "You have to learn it. And I think the team needed it. At that time, we're trying to find a direction and sat down with him and said, 'It's time for you. It's your team. It's time to grab it.'"

Benn might have been quiet — and still might be. But he had no doubt he was ready.

"It was the right time, even though I was still pretty young," Benn said. "I've had a lot of fun with it, and it's pretty easy being a captain for a great group of guys."

The Stars ended a five-year playoff drought in Benn's first season as captain, but underachieved last year and ended up missing the postseason again.

It wasn't much of a consolation to Benn that he made an improbable run to the Art Ross Trophy as the NHL's leading scorer, getting three goals and an assist on the final day of the regular season to overtake John Tavares and Sidney Crosby.

# Capitals embracing playoff expectations

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — Once again, the Washington Capitals are atop the NHL as the best regular-season team. Once again, the pressure's on them as the favorite to win the Stanley Cup and prove this year won't bring another early playoff exit.

Expectations have never been higher for Alex Ovechkin and the Capitals, six years after their first Presidents' Trophy and with their window drawing to a close. Being the best team over 82 games was worth nothing to Washington in 2010 when it lost in the first round to the Montreal Canadiens, but this team isn't running from the notion that it's Stanley Cup or bust.

"We're here to win a championship," general manager Brian MacLellan said. "Anything less than that is unsuccessful in my mind."

MacLellan isn't the only one who holds that belief. The Capitals finished 11 points ahead of the field and boast the top goal-scorer in Ovechkin, arguably the best goaltender in Braden Holtby and one of the deepest defenses around.

With the defending-champion Chicago Blackhawks looking not nearly as formidable as years past and no other dominant team in either the East or the West,

this looks like the Capitals' year. Ovechkin has heard that so much and yet hasn't made it past the second round in seven previous tries.

"Every year you ask me the same question, 'This is the year, this is the year?'" Ovechkin said. "You never know what's going to happen in the playoffs. It's a total different thing."

The unpredictability of playoff hockey is the biggest obstacle standing in the Capitals' way. So much has to go right, from health to matchups to goaltending, and only eight of 29 Presidents' Trophy winners have gone on to win the Stanley Cup.

Coach Barry Trotz brushes off the idea that winning the Presidents' Trophy is a disadvantage. He'll take the home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs, which is especially valuable to a team that won 29 of 41 games in its own rink.

"I can't go to the bank and they're going to give me anything," Trotz said. "Other than (home ice), we're entitled to nothing."

The Capitals' playoff shirts boast the slogan, "Entitled to Nothing," to drive that point home. Their playoff hats read "XVI," Roman numerals signifying the 16 wins needed to win the Cup.

"That's our mentality, and it's a good thing," Ovechkin said.

Center Nicklas Backstrom remembers that empty feeling from six years ago when hot goaltender Jaroslav Halak ended the Capitals' season in seven games. When they were on the verge of winning the Presidents' Trophy last month with seven games to spare, Backstrom deadpanned that "it doesn't mean anything."

That loss is still an open wound in Washington.

Five players remain who took part in that series, and defenseman Karl Alzner said this group is wiser and less arrogant than in 2010 when there was a noticeable "strut" in their step entering the playoffs. Ovechkin, Backstrom, Alzner, defenseman John Carlson and forward Jason Chimera are still around, but they've been joined by veteran defensemen Brooks Orpik and Matt Niskanen, Cup-winning forward Justin Williams and blossoming star center Evgeny Kuznetsov — players who don't bear those scars.

Trotz is also fresh, in his second season with the Capitals after 15 years with the Nashville Predators. But this is also uncharted territory for Trotz, who said he's never gone into a playoff series as the prohibitive favorite, something Washington will be when it opens against the Philadelphia Flyers.

"We're here to win it all," MacLellan said.



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# O's power past Boston to stay perfect

Associated Press

BOSTON — After jumping all over Boston ace David Price in the series opener, the Baltimore Orioles had plenty left for an encore performance Tuesday night.

J.J. Hardy had a pair of two-run home runs, Mark Trumbo added another and the Orioles pounded the Red Sox 9-5 to win their seventh straight game to begin the season.

The Orioles are the only remaining undefeated team in the majors, and this is their best start since moving to Baltimore in 1954 — the franchise went 9-0 as the St. Louis Browns to start the 1944 season.

"It's just every night," Hardy said. "You watch the guys when you're sitting in the dugout and watch everybody's at-bats. It's fun because everybody 1 through 9 can do it."

Trumbo's homer off Clay Buchholz (0-1) was his second in two days. It was part of a three-run sixth inning that put the Orioles in front.

Hardy curled Buchholz's fastball inside the right-field foul pole for his first homer in the fourth, then got his second off Robbie Ross in the seventh.

"You like to see good things happen to good people and he deserves a couple of breaks," Baltimore manager Buck Showalter said. "But he put good swings on those balls."

Buchholz went five innings — one more than in his season debut — but allowed five earned runs for the second time in a row.

"I felt like I had good stuff. I felt like I threw the ball pretty well tonight," Buchholz said. "Two home runs got me."

Mike Wright (1-0) made his season debut after having it delayed by a rainout. He went five innings, gave up four runs and struck out four.

Boston started fast, taking a 2-0 lead on David Ortiz's third home run of the season in the first.

The Orioles have scored nine runs in each of the last two games.

It was the 12th career multihomer game for Hardy and his first since 2014.

Trumbo now has two home runs and five RBIs through two games of the three-game series, which concludes Wednesday night.

Baltimore had 11 hits and has at least eight in every game so far, the first time the franchise has ever done that through seven games.

"Everybody trusts one another," Hardy said. "It really is a good lineup and it's fun to be part of."

**No worries:** Tuesday marked the first time this season the Red Sox allowed 10 or more hits. They were also out-hit by an opponent for the first time in 2016.

Ortiz said there's no reason to be overly concerned about their third straight loss.

"No. Why should I be?" Ortiz said. "We've got a hundred and some more games left. Things going to change. It's early. Don't panic."

**Cover up:** Fenway Park is the latest park to install cameras in the bullpens, but a television feed of the Orioles' bullpen camera was obscured by a towel tied around it. The feed of Baltimore's bullpen shown in the Red Sox dugout had only color block bars instead of a live image. The same thing occurred during Monday's series opener, but Showalter said before Tuesday's game that he was unaware anything was taking place. "I would tell you if I knew about it, but I'll find out," Showalter said.

**Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 2:** Paul Goldschmidt hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning and drove in another run, and Arizona spoiled Los Angeles' home opener in Vin Scully's final season with a 4-2 victory.

Goldschmidt gave the D-backs a 2-1 lead with his second homer of the season off Chris Hatcher (1-1), who then gave up a two-out double to Wellington Castillo before issuing consecutive walks to Jake Lamb (intentional) and Yasmany Tomas that loaded the bases. Hatcher departed to boos.

Arizona added two more runs in the ninth on Socrates Brito's triple and Goldschmidt's groundout to shortstop.

Kenta Maeda allowed five hits over six scoreless innings, struck out four

and walked one in becoming the second Japanese pitcher to start a Dodgers home opener since Hideo Nomo in 1996 and 2004.

Tyler Clippard (2-0) gave up one hit in one inning and struck out one. Brad Ziegler pitched the ninth to earn his first save.

**Royals 3, Astros 2:** Lorenzo Cain hit a three-run homer in the first inning, and Kansas City held on for a win over host Houston.

Alcides Escobar and Mike Moustakas hit consecutive singles to start the game before Cain connected on a full-count, 91-mph fastball off Mike Fiers (0-1) to make it 3-0.

**Yankees 3, Blue Jays 2:** Brian McCann homered before leaving with a bruised left big toe, Jacoby Ellsbury singled home the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning and New York beat host Toronto.

Johnny Barbato (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning for his first major league win in the first game between these AL East rivals this season. The Yankees lost 13 of 19 meetings with Toronto last year.

**Marlins 2, Mets 1:** Dee Gordon sparked the decisive rally with a single on the 16th pitch of his gritty at-bat and visiting Miami edged New York to win a much-anticipated pitching matchup that mostly lived up to its billing.

Noah Syndergaard struck out 12 for the slumping Mets and left with the score tied at 1 after seven innings. Miami ace Jose Fernandez recovered from a shaky start and went five innings.

**Rangers 8, Mariners 0:** Adrian Beltre drove in five runs, Derek Holland pitched scoreless ball into the seventh inning and Texas beat host Seattle.

Holland (1-0) gave up four hits and two walks while striking out four in 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

**Angels 5, Athletics 4:** Geovany Soto hit a go-ahead, two-run homer with one out in the ninth and visiting Los Angeles rallied against Oakland closer Sean Doolittle.

Albert Pujols hit a two-run double in the eighth off Ryan Madson to get the Angels back in the game.

**Giants 7, Rockies 2:** Trevor Brown hit a pair of two-run homers and Jeff Samardzija tossed eight solid innings to get his first win for visiting San Francisco.

It was Brown's first multihomer game, and his four RBIs were also a career high. His only other home run this season broke up a no-hit bid in the eighth inning against Chris Hatcher of the Dodgers.

**Tigers 8, Pirates 2:** Justin Upton had four hits, including a first-inning home run off a camera well above center field, and host Detroit beat Pittsburgh.

Upton entered batting .227 with 10 strikeouts in 22 at-bats, then raised his average to .333 with the 11th game of four hits or more in his big league career. According to MLB's Statcast system, the home run would have gone 451 feet had it landed unimpeded.

**Nationals 2, Braves 1:** Bryce Harper sliced a two-run double to left with two outs in the eighth inning, lifting Washington to its 12th consecutive home victory against Atlanta.

Harper, the reigning NL MVP, broke a scoreless tie by connecting with the first pitch delivered by left-handed reliever Eric O'Flaherty after righty Jim Johnson (0-2) put two runners on.

**Rays 5, Indians 1:** Logan Forsythe and Evan Longoria both hit two-run home runs in the eighth inning, and Tampa Bay beat visiting Cleveland.

Matt Moore gave up one run, five hits, one walk and had five strikeouts in seven innings for the Rays. Xavier Cedeno (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth.

**Phillies 3, Padres 0:** Charlie Morton pitched sharply into the seventh, Odubel Herrera hit an RBI triple in the sixth and host Philadelphia beat San Diego.

Morton (1-1) allowed three hits, walked four and struck out seven in 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings for his first win with the Phillies.

# Spurs finish with 40-1 home record

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs got an unexpected battle in their final home game of the season Tuesday night.

But they found a way to win, just as they have in all but one home game this season at the AT&T Center.

Kawhi Leonard had 26 points and San Antonio rallied to beat the short-handed Oklahoma City Thunder 102-98 in overtime to finish 40-1 at home this season, matching an NBA record. The Boston Celtics had the same record in 1985-86.

"You know, it's one of the legendary teams with Larry Bird, (Kevin) McHale and (Robert) Parrish," Spurs point guard Tony Parker said. "So it's pretty good. It's not easy to lose one game the whole season (at home)."

San Antonio was lethargic coming off its first home loss of the season to the Golden State Warriors on Sunday. The Spurs never led in the final quarter in that loss and trailed throughout much of their home finale.

Oklahoma City coach Billy Donovan rested stars Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook

and Serge Ibaka in their regular-season finale while San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich started his regular lineup.

The Thunder were still able to force the first overtime in San Antonio this season.

"There's a way that you're used to playing a team and knowing who's on the floor," Leonard said. "So, you have to get used to different bodies to guard."

Thunder guard Dion Waiters completed a three-point play to tie the game at 93 with 16.2 seconds remaining. Waiters was fouled by David West driving into the lane for a layup after Payne ran down a long rebound following his own miss. Leonard missed a jumper at the close of regulation.

"The ball kind of slipped out of my hand and I felt like I still got a good shot off," Leonard said. "But it was just short."

Leonard had six points in overtime and Parker added three as the Spurs avoided their fourth straight loss overall and second straight at home.

**Heat 99, Pistons 93:** Dwyane Wade got off to his slowest start offensively in a decade and finished with 14 points, but still helped Miami beat host Detroit.

Miami will win the Southeast Division and earn home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs if it closes the regular season Wednesday night by beating Boston on the road.

The Pistons' loss sealed their spot as the eighth-seeded team in the Eastern Conference, setting up a matchup with top-seeded Cleveland.

Wade didn't score until there was 4:14 left in the first half. He had not been scoreless that long at the start of a game since March 17, 2006, against Charlotte, according to STATS.

**Raptors 122, 76ers 98:** Rookie Norman Powell had 18 points and Jonas Valanciunas had 17 more and 11 rebounds as host Toronto beat Philadelphia for the 12th straight time.

With Indiana's win over New York and Detroit's loss to the Miami Heat, second-seeded Toronto is now locked into a playoff matchup with the seventh-seeded Pacers.

Robert Covington had 24 points for Philadelphia on 6-for-10 shooting from 3-point range.

**Clippers 110, Grizzlies 84:** Chris Paul

had 12 points and 13 assists and host Los Angeles extended Memphis' freefall to the final night of the regular season.

Memphis lost for the ninth time in 10 games and dropped into a tie with the Dallas Mavericks for sixth place in the Western Conference.

Each team has one game remaining. The Grizzlies finish the season Wednesday night at Golden State, where the Warriors will be going for their NBA-record 73rd victory. Dallas plays host to San Antonio.

**Pacers 102, Knicks 90:** Paul George and George Hill each scored 19 points and Indiana beat New York to win its final home game of the regular season.

Trailing 64-62, the Pacers (44-37) finished the final seven minutes of the third quarter with a 17-6 run that gave Indiana a 79-70 lead heading into the final period. New York (32-50) led at the end of the first and second quarters before the Pacers rallied in the third quarter.

Derrick Williams scored 21 points for New York and Jerian Grant finished with 18.