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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Shooter pledged allegiance to militants

Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — The woman who helped her husband kill 14 people at a holiday banquet for his county co-workers pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group and its leader on Facebook, a U.S. law enforcement official said Friday, providing the strongest evidence to date that the rampage may have been a terrorist attack.

The official said Tashfeen Malik made her posts with an alias and deleted the messages before carrying out the nation's deadliest mass shooting since the Newtown, Conn., school massacre three years ago that left 26 people dead. Specific details about her postings were not disclosed by the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not allowed to discuss an ongoing investigation.

Malik was a Pakistani woman who came to the U.S. in 2014 on a fiancée visa and married Syed Farook in California. They had a 6-month-old daughter.

Another U.S. official said Malik expressed "admiration" for the extremist group's leader on Facebook under the alias account and said there was no sign that anyone affiliated with the Islamic State group communicated back with her and no signs of any operational instructions being conveyed to her. The official also spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss case details by name.

The FBI has been investigating the shooting at a Southern California social service center as a potential act of terrorism, but had reached no firm conclusions Thursday.

Separately, a U.S. intelli-

Polarized Senate rejects more background checks for guns

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A polarized Senate voted Thursday against expanding background checks for more gun purchases, rejecting the proposal a day after the latest U.S. mass shooting left 14 people dead in California.

Thursday's mostly party-line 50-48 vote, which followed the Senate's defeat of other firearms curbs, underscored that political gridlock over the issue remains formidable in Washington, even amid a rash of highly publicized U.S. shootings and last month's terrorist attack in Paris.

The background-check measure, co-authored by Sens. Joe Manchin and Patrick Toomey, was the same proposal the Senate rejected in early 2013, just months after 20 children and six educators were shot to death at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn.

In that roll call two years ago in a Democratic-

controlled Senate, the effort fell five votes short of the 60 needed to overcome opponents' tactics aimed at derailing it. The plan was strongly opposed by the National Rifle Association, which on Thursday emailed its members urging them to contact senators and "tell them to vote against any gun-control amendments."

Manchin said his amendment "makes all the sense in the world."

Thursday's first replay of the issue since that 2013 vote showed an erosion of support by seven votes since then and came in what is now a Republican-run Senate. The issue has never received a vote in the Republican-run House.

With next year's presidential and congressional elections moving into sight, Democrats have hoped that support for the curbs would grow, fed by a spate of high-profile mass slayings since 2013.

who worshipped with Farook at a mosque in San Bernardino.

Authorities say the couple sprayed as many as 75 rounds into the room before fleeing. They died four hours later and 2 miles away during a furious gunbattle with police.

The pair had more than 1,600 bullets when they were killed. Police said they also had 12 pipe bombs, tools to make more explosives and well over 4,500 rounds of ammunition at home.

Police Lt. Mike Madden, one of the first officers to reach the room, said the carnage was unspeakable, the scene overwhelming: the smell of gunpowder, the wails of the injured, the blood, fire sprinklers pumping and fire alarms blaring — all in a room with a Christmas tree and decorations on every table.

The dead ranged in age from 26 to 60. Among the 21 injured were two police officers hurt during the manhunt, authorities said. Two of the wounded remained in critical condition Thursday.

Nearly all the dead and wounded were county employees.

They were remembered Thursday night as several thousand mourners gathered at a local ballpark for a candlelight and prayer vigil with leaders of several religions.

Mayor Carey Davis urged people to "dedicate and commit ourselves to strengthen our families to overcome." The names of the dead were read, and participants sang "God Bless America."

Farook legally bought two handguns used in the massacre, and their two assault rifles were legally bought by someone else who federal authorities wanted to question. That person's identity was not released.

gence official said Farook had been in contact with known Islamic extremists on social media. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly.

Farook, 28, had no criminal record and was not under scrutiny by local or federal law enforcement before the attack. Friends knew him by his quick smile, his devotion to Islam and his talk about restoring cars.

They didn't know the man authorities say was busy with his wife building homemade bombs and stockpiling thousands of rounds of ammunition for the commando-style assault Wednesday on a gathering of Farook's colleagues from San Bernardino County's public health department.

"This was a person who was successful, who had a good job, a good income, a wife and a family. What was he missing in his life?" asked Nizaam Ali,

Many in Iraq see US as ally of Islamic State

The Washington Post

BEIJI, Iraq — On the front lines of the battle against the Islamic State, suspicion of the United States runs deep. Iraqi fighters say they have all seen the videos purportedly showing U.S. helicopters airdropping weapons to the militants, and many claim they have friends and relatives who have witnessed similar instances of collusion.

Ordinary people also have seen the videos, heard the stories and reached the same conclusion — one that might seem absurd to Americans but is widely believed among Iraqis — that the United States is supporting the Islamic State for a variety of pernicious reasons that have to do with asserting American control over Iraq, the wider Middle East and, per-

haps, its oil.

“It is not in doubt,” said Mustafa Saadi, who said his friend saw U.S. helicopters delivering bottled water to Islamic State positions. He is a commander in one of the Shiite militias that last month helped push the militants out of the oil refinery near Beiji in northern Iraq alongside the Iraqi army.

The Islamic State is “almost finished,” he said. “They are weak. If only America would stop supporting them, we could defeat them in days.”

U.S. military officials say the charges are too far-fetched to merit a response. “It’s beyond ridiculous,” said Col. Steve Warren, the military’s Baghdad-based spokesman. “There’s clearly no one in the West who buys it, but unfortunately, this is something that a segment of the Iraqi population believes.”

VA: Senior executives’ demotions were botched

BY DIANNA CAHN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs refueled outrage Thursday over its light handling of two senior executives when the agency acknowledged that it had botched its disciplinary actions against the two officials, forcing the VA to rescind their demotions and to start the punishment and appeals process again.

The agency announced last month that it was demoting and transferring Diana Rubens and Kimberly Graves after an investigation determined that both women had manipulated the hiring system to carve out their jobs of choice and collect huge relocation bonuses meant to entice employees to take hard-to-fill jobs.

Rubens and Graves received more than \$400,000 in total relocation bonuses.

Lawmakers, veterans advocates and other watchdog groups lambasted the agency for not firing the women and for not recouping the money they got through their scheming.

On Thursday, the VA issued a statement saying that during the processing of the demotions, an administrative error had occurred and one of the five binders of evidence had inadvertently been omitted from paperwork provided to the two women.

The department had to rescind and reissue the proposed demotions to allow the women an opportunity to respond to the omitted evidence, the VA statement said, adding to the cascade of dismay over the VA’s handling of the case.

“It seems VA’s incompetence knows no bounds,” said Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., who chairs the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Decision, lawsuit put focus on gender, draft

BY TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Thursday’s historic decision to allow women in all combat roles could require them to register for the draft, depending on the outcome of a federal lawsuit challenging male-only registration.

The case, *National Coalition for Men v. the Selective Service System*, will be considered Tuesday by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Pasadena, Calif.

The court date comes just days after Secretary of Defense Ash Carter opened combat roles to women, but he says that the outcome of the case won’t stop the Pentagon from moving forward.

“That legal determination won’t affect ... our timetable for the implementation,” he said Thursday. “But it is an issue that’s out there.”

Under the Military Selective Service Act, men must register 30 days after their 18th birthday with the Selective Service System, which could call upon them for compulsory military service in a time of war. They must stay registered until their 26th birthday. Failure to register has consequences, including prison, a \$250,000 fine and

denial of federal jobs or government benefits.

“If women are not being penalized for failing to register for the draft, then men shouldn’t be penalized either,” Harry Crouch, the coalition president, said in a statement issued Friday.

Judy Patterson, chief executive officer of the Service Women’s Action Network, a nonprofit focused on advancing equal opportunity for military women, said the group welcomes adding them to the draft.

“The draft is another gender-biased policy rooted in another era. We welcome an open debate around the inclusion of women and even whether the law, itself, is an anachronism whose time has come,” she said Friday. “I have yet to speak with any woman who is personally opposed to registering.”

Coalition attorney Marc Angelucci said Thursday’s decision could have a big impact on his case.

“The fact that the military has now opened all combat roles for women can certainly affect this lawsuit,” he said. “As long as there are any women in combat, there’s no excuse for forcing only males to register for the draft.”

Former Trump adviser was stock fraud felon

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump tapped a man to be a senior business adviser to his real-estate empire even after the man’s past involvement in a major Mafia-linked stock fraud scheme had become publicly known, according to Associated Press interviews and a review of court records.

Portions of Trump’s relationship with Felix Sater, a convicted felon and government informant, have been known previously. Trump worked with the company where Sater was

an executive, Bayrock Group LLC, after it rented office space from The Trump Organization as early as 2003. When Sater’s criminal past and mafia links came to light in 2007, Trump distanced himself.

But less than three years later, Trump renewed his ties with Sater.

Trump said Wednesday that he recalled only bare details of Sater.

“Felix Sater, boy, I have to even think about it,” Trump said, referring questions about Sater to his staff. “I’m not that familiar with him.”

From The Associated Press

Clemson does it Dabo's way

Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — An unexpected call from a scary man changed Dabo Swinney's life.

On the other end of the phone was Rich Wingo, the former Alabama linebacker who was the Crimson Tide's drill-sergeant of a strength coach when Swinney played at the school. Wingo had a job offer for the former walk-on receiver. Not in football, but in real estate.

Swinney was an out-of-work assistant coach at the time — a long way from being the coach of No. 1 Clemson — with no experience in real estate. But the money sounded good. So for two years, Swinney leased space in shopping centers.

"I became a much better coach after those two years out," Swinney said. "I was very successful. I figured it out pretty quick. I had a bright future if I wanted to stay that path, but I had a confidence because I was successful doing something else. Sometimes coaches, that's all they've ever done and there is this fear. I have never felt that."

Fearlessly, the 46-year-old Swinney has embraced challenges and exceeded expectations throughout much of his life. Those who have had the foresight to invest in Swinney have reaped huge rewards.

Just ask any Clemson fan. Seven years after Swinney made the huge jump from wide receivers coach to head coach of the Tigers, they are a victory away from a spot in the College Football Playoff.

"He's done a very good job of being the CEO of the program," Clemson athletic director Dan Radakovich said. "He's real. He's grounded. He creates a great environment for his coaches and his players."

Clemson plays No. 8 North Carolina on Saturday night in Charlotte, N.C., in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game.

Swinney's career as a college player

started in the stands at Bryant-Denny Stadium, watching the Crimson Tide play when he was a freshman at Alabama. He decided to try to walk on to the team, figuring he could do better than the receivers who were on the field.

Swinney eventually earned a scholarship. After his playing days, he became a graduate assistant at Alabama while working on an MBA.

Tide coach Gene Stallings gave him his first big break, hiring him as wide receivers coach.

"I'm going to pay you \$38,000 and that's more than you're worth, but I know you'll do me a good job," Swinney said, doing his best impersonation of Stallings' deep and gravelly grumble.

Swinney had a difficult upbringing. His father drank too much and was abusive when he did. His parents split when he was in high school. Swinney became a devout Christian while in high school and that helped get him through the hard times.

"The change in me was I had this peace and this hope and this confidence in a better future than I ever had (before)," he said.

As an assistant at Alabama, life was good for him and his wife, Kathleen.

But upheaval is always one bad season away for a coach. Alabama went 3-8 in 2000, head coach Mike Dubose was fired and Swinney was let go, too.

Swinney didn't immediately hook on with another school, and since he was getting paid until August, he decided to take a season off, fully intent on getting back into the business the next year.

Then he got that phone call from Wingo.

"I hated Rich Wingo," Swinney said. "I was scared to death of him."

Wingo did not feel the same about Swinney.

"Dabo, when he came to Alabama, he was a skinny, wiry, but tough kid," said Wingo, who is now the senior developer at Blackwater Resources in Birmingham,

Ala. "I just saw such character in this guy. A lot of it because of the tough times, and the fire that he's been through. I can't teach people how to work late, how to get up early. Dabo had that. Of course, Dabo's never lacked confidence, either."

The way Swinney caught Wingo's attention at Alabama, he did the same at Clemson with Terry Don Phillips, who was the Tigers athletic director from 2002-12.

Swinney was lured back to coaching in 2003 by Clemson coach Tommy Bowden, who hired him to coach receivers.

"I didn't know Dabo from Adam's house cat," Phillips said.

But every time the old defensive lineman would watch practice, he was drawn to Swinney.

"It didn't make any difference if the player was on the first rung or on the last rung, he's going to coach them the same. If you didn't do it right, you were going to keep doing it until you got it right," Phillips said.

Swinney was also an ace recruiter and players flocked to him. Phillips would constantly see them hanging out in Swinney's office.

"He's always had the enthusiasm. He's always had that energy about him," former Clemson receiver Aaron Kelly said. "If you're around him it kind of helps you be the same way."

In the middle of the 2008 season, with Clemson struggling, Bowden resigned and Phillips made the bold step of handing the program to Swinney.

"I knew there was going to be criticism and second-guessing," Phillips said. "There wasn't a doubt in my mind that he could be successful."

Clemson is 73-26 under Swinney and three victories away from its first national championship since 1981.

Swinney tells his players to be the best they can be at whatever it is they are doing, on the field and off.

"You never know," he tells the Tigers, "who's watching you."

Hail Mary lifts Pack over Lions

Associated Press

DETROIT — It's a play Mike McCarthy says the Packers practice every Saturday — because they've been victimized by this type of desperation heave in the past and want their defense to be prepared to stop it.

"I'm not real happy when the offense gets the ball," the Green Bay coach said.

But McCarthy needed the Hail Mary to work this time, and the Detroit Lions gave Richard Rodgers a bit too much room in the front of the end zone.

Rodgers came down with the 61-yard toss from Aaron Rodgers for a touchdown with no time on the clock Thursday night, giving the Packers a 27-23 victory. Detroit appeared to have the game won when Aaron Rodgers was tackled about 75 yards from the end zone, but Lions defensive end Devin Taylor was called for a facemask, giving the Packers one more chance from their own 39.

The Lions, fearing the Packers (8-4) would start lateraling and force Detroit to make a tackle, did not put 6-foot-5 Calvin Johnson in the game for defensive purposes. Detroit had plenty of people in the end zone, but the Lions may have misjudged the high throw. Linebacker Josh Bynes dropped back away from Richard Rodgers to cover another potential target, allowing the tight end to drift into the end zone and haul the ball in at the front of a pack of players, with no Lions in great position to knock the pass down.

"It's written in the playbook that my job is to box out and Davante (Adams) is supposed to jump and I'm supposed to wait for a tip," Rodgers said.

There was no need for all that. After the touchdown, the Packers took a knee rather than kick an extra point.

There were 6 seconds left when Green Bay snapped the ball from its own 21. Aaron Rodgers threw to James Jones about 20 yards downfield, then the Packers began lateraling. The ball got all the way back to Aaron Rodgers near the original line of scrimmage, and for a split-second, the game appeared over when the Lions closed in on him.

Taylor, however, was flagged for a facemask, giving Green Bay an untimed down.

Here are a few things we learned from Green Bay's dramatic victory:

Historical parallel: Richard Rodgers' father played a role in another famous game-winning touchdown. Richard Rodgers Sr. threw two laterals on the final play of the Cal-Stanford game in 1982, when the Golden Bears went through the Stanford band and reached the end zone.

The younger Richard Rodgers — and Aaron Rodgers — both went to Cal as well.

Complaints: Caldwell disputed the facemask call. A replay appeared to show contact, but it wasn't excessively violent.

"It was called, so therefore it is and we've just got to find a way to make the play," Caldwell said.

Baylor still shooting for Sugar Bowl

Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Oh how sweet the season could end for No. 12 Baylor even though the Bears will not win a third consecutive Big 12 title.

A likely Sugar Bowl berth is on the line Saturday for the Bears, who with a win would represent their league against the SEC on New Year's Day if Big 12 champion and No. 3 Oklahoma gets into the College Football Playoff as expected.

"Well, I'd be running as fast as I could to get that berth, because it's worth chasing," coach Art Briles said when asked about the potential of New Year's Day in New Orleans.

Briles almost as quickly noted that the Bears (9-2, 6-2 Big 12) first have to take care of business in their regular-season finale against Texas (4-7, 3-5).

The Bears play their first home game since a 44-34 loss to Oklahoma three weeks ago ended their 20-game home winning streak — and playoff hopes. They are coming off a rain-drenched, double-overtime loss at No. 11 TCU, though a win there wouldn't have changed their Big 12 fate.

"Everyone was sad. I was sad and heartbroken about the situation," said Corey Coleman, the FBS leader with 20 touchdowns receiving. "Now we just have to beat Texas and get to the Sugar Bowl."

Baylor can still get to 10 wins and play on Jan. 1 for the third year in a row. Not bad for a team that had losing records the first 14 seasons of the Big 12 (1996-2009), finished at the bottom of the standings 12 times, and won 10 games only once before that.

Some things to know when Texas and Baylor play a regular-season finale:

Starting again: Texas freshman starting quarterback Jerrod Heard is sidelined after a concussion. Tyrone Swoopes, replaced as the starter after the first game, is back in that role and still leads Texas with 11 touchdowns rushing.

Baylor's big numbers: The Bears have the nation's top offense with 616 yards and 51 points a game, and 7.47 yards per snap. ... They have an FBS-best 22 wins in November and December games since 2011

Limited linebackers: Texas lost its best defensive player, senior linebacker Peter Jenkins, to a knee injury last week. That leaves five freshmen among the two-deep depth chart for three linebacker spots. It is asking a lot for that group to keep up with the big-play Bears in coverage and handle Baylor's run game.



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Wade leads Heat over Thunder

Associated Press

MIAMI — Dwyane Wade was exhausted. Erik Spoelstra was nauseous. Goran Dragic was already sore when the game ended.

And the Miami Heat weren't complaining in the least, not after winning the most back-and-forth game so far in this NBA season.

Wade scored 28 points, including two free throws with 1.5 seconds left that put Miami ahead to stay and the Heat defeated the Oklahoma City Thunder 97-95 on Thursday night in a wild back-and-forth game that featured 38 lead changes and 11 ties.

"Like a playoff atmosphere," Wade said. "For our young team, that hasn't been in many of these kind of games, it was great."

Chris Bosh scored 16 points and Dragic added 14 for Miami, which survived when Russell Westbrook's three-point try from the right wing bounced off the backboard as time expired.

"Back and forth and back and forth," Bosh said. "These are the games you want to play in."

Westbrook and Kevin Durant each scored 25 for Oklahoma City, which misfired on a pair of threes in the final 10 seconds. First, Durant missed and Bosh grabbed the rebound, calling time with 7.7 seconds remaining. That set up the possession where Wade drove, drew a foul on Serge Ibaka and put Miami ahead for good.

"I shoot 47 percent from three and I got a wide-open look," Durant said. "I just

missed it."

Westbrook then missed the finale, leaving him scoreless in the game's final 16 minutes.

"We got some shots that we usually make," Westbrook said. "We just missed them."

No other NBA game entering Thursday had more than 25 lead changes this season — and in Wade's 13-season career with the Heat, no Miami game ever had more than 31.

It was theater, all the way to the end. "My stomach's in knots," Spoelstra, the Heat coach, said. "These guys love it. They love it. This is what you play for."

Nuggets 106, Raptors 105: Will Barton came off the bench to score 22 points and Danilo Gallinari added another 21 as Denver stopped an eight-game losing streak, beating host Toronto.

Denver avoided its first nine-game losing streak since the 2002-03 season, when it dropped 14 in a row.

Joffrey Lauvergne had 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Nuggets, who made all 18 of their foul shots.

DeMar DeRozan scored a Raptors' season-high 34 points and Kyle Lowry had 16.

Celtics 114, Kings 97: At Mexico City, Isaiah Thomas tormented his former team, scoring 21 points and leading Boston over Sacramento in the NBA's third regular-season game played in Mexico.

Thomas, who played for the Kings from 2011-14, scored 19 points in the first half. He shot 8-for-14 overall and had nine assists as the Celtics won for the fourth time in five games.

Kelly Olynyk added 21 points for the Celtics while Avery Bradley and Jae Crowder each had 20.

Rudy Gay scored 18 points and DeMarcus Cousins added 16 for the Kings.

Magic 103, Jazz 94: Tobias Harris scored 17 points as visiting Orlando beat Utah for its fifth straight win and its longest winning streak since January 2012.

Harris also had seven rebounds.

Gordon Hayward led the Jazz with 24 points, five rebounds, four assists and two steals.

Spurs 103, Grizzlies 83: Kawhi Leonard scored 27 points, shooting 7-for-9 on three-pointers as visiting San Antonio defeated Memphis.

Leonard's career-high threes were part of the Spurs going 10-for-18 from behind the arc.

Tony Parker had 17 points, seven rebounds and five assists as San Antonio won for the seventh time in eight games.

Mike Conley, Marc Gasol and Mario Chalmers scored 15 apiece for the Grizzlies.

Trail Blazers 123, Pacers 111: Damian Lillard had 26 points and backcourt partner CJ McCollum added 21 as host Portland ended Indiana's six-game winning streak.

Mason Plumlee added 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers, who had a season-high 18 three-pointers in their seventh-straight victory at home against the Pacers.

C.J. Miles had 27 points, including eight three-pointers, for the Pacers.

UCLA stuns top-ranked Kentucky

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Steve Alford barely mentioned last year's 39-point drubbing by Kentucky and showed no video of it in preparing UCLA for the rematch.

The memory was already seared in the minds of the players who endured the humiliation.

The coach's main message was a boxing analogy: "If you want to play it, we got to come to fight."

The Bruins came out punching and landed a knockout blow, upsetting the Wildcats 87-77 on Thursday night for their first victory over a No. 1 team since 2003.

"This win is very, very special just because of what happened last year," Alford said. "Not only were they the number one team in the country, we had seven points in the (first) half last year."

Thomas Welsh led five Bruins in double figures with 21 points and 11 rebounds.

Bryce Alford and Isaac Hamilton added 15 points each, Tony Parker had 11 and Aaron Holiday 10 for the Bruins (5-3), who led all but 30 seconds of the game and shot 53 percent from the field.

They last beat a No. 1 team on March 13, 2003, defeating Arizona 96-89 in overtime.

"We knew nobody in the world thought we were going to win this game," the younger Alford said. "I heard a lot this week about trying to keep it competitive and so I'm glad we did that."

Some fans dashed onto the court to celebrate at the buzzer, but the majority were held back by security.

"The fans were absolutely incredible and we couldn't have won without them," Bryce Alford said.

Isaiah Briscoe led Kentucky (7-1) with 20 points. Jamal Murray added 17 and Derek Willis 11.

The Wildcats had five players in foul trouble, including Alex Poythress, who fouled out with four points with under 10 minutes left. They lost a regular-season game for the first time since March 8, 2014, at Florida.

Kentucky shot its worst of the season at 38 percent, and never made a big run.

"Playing at Kentucky, that's what you get. We get the other team's best," Wildcats coach John Calipari said. "We walk into another team's arena, it's the best crowd in the world. We did not meet that challenge."

The result was a dramatic turnaround from last December, when the Wildcats opened the game in Chicago with a 24-0 run and led 41-7 at halftime.

This time, the Bruins dominated from the start, going on a 9-0 run after Kentucky scored the game's first basket. They ran off 10 straight points later in the half, when the Bruins shot 50 percent and led by 11.

UCLA opened the second half with a 17-10 spurt to build its largest lead of 15. Welsh and Parker, who both had two points in the first half, scored six points each.

No. 6 Oklahoma 111, Central Arkansas 68: Jordan Woodard matched his career-high with 24 points and the host Sooners (5-0) posted their highest point total since 1996.

Woodard made six three-pointers in a 3:30 stretch early in the second half. The junior had never even attempted more than five threes in a game. Oklahoma made 11 of its 13 three-pointers in the second half.

Buddy Hield scored 19 points, Isaiah Cousins had 16 and a career-high 11 rebounds and Khadeem Lattin added a career-high 12 points for the Sooners.

Dubnyk, Wild shut out Toronto

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Matt Dumba and the Minnesota Wild will take a hard-fought win over sloppy play any time.

Devan Dubnyk made 28 saves for his fourth shutout of the season, Dumba scored a power-play goal and the Wild beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 1-0 on Thursday night.

The Wild came into the game on a bit of a skid, having gone 2-4-2 in their last eight games. But buoyed by a 2-1 win at Chicago on Tuesday, Minnesota turned in another strong defensive effort in front of Dubnyk.

"It's been awesome to see the boys bear down and get two solid wins and kind of get this thing back on track," said Dumba.

James Reimer stopped 27 shots for the Maple Leafs, who outshot Minnesota 13-0 over a 16-minute stretch spanning the first and second periods. They even held the Wild without a shot through almost two full power plays. However, with 9 seconds remaining in the second man advantage, Dumba finally got a shot on net, scoring the lone goal.

Standing in the high slot, Dumba took a pass out of the corner from Charlie Coyle. He dropped it for Jared Spurgeon, then took a return pass from Spurgeon and blasted a shot over Reimer's right shoulder for his third goal of the season.

"I liked the mentality of the goal we scored," Wild coach Mike Yeo said, "winning battles down low and then just a quick-shot mentality."

Toronto appeared to have tied the game with 4 minutes to go when Peter Holland pounced on a loose puck in front of the net and slipped it past Dubnyk. But Yeo challenged the call, arguing that Holland

was offside when the Leafs gained the zone, and video replay confirmed that Holland's skate was just over the blue line as Byron Froese carried the puck across.

Senators 4, Blackhawks 3 (OT): Mike Hoffman scored his second goal of the game 30 seconds into overtime to give host Ottawa a victory over Chicago.

Bobby Ryan and Mark Stone also scored for the Senators, and Craig Anderson — making his ninth straight start — stopped 35 shots.

Patrick Kane and Artemi Panarin each had a goal and two assists for Chicago, and Artem Anisimov had a goal and an assist. Corey Crawford made 23 saves.

Kane tied Bobby Hull's franchise record 21-game point streak, set in 1971-72.

Avalanche 2, Rangers 1: Chris Wagner and Matt Duchesne scored 4:16 apart in the second period to lead visiting Colorado over New York.

Semyon Varlamov stopped 24 shots as Colorado won consecutive games for only the second time this season.

Oscar Lindberg scored and Antti Raanta stopped 16 shots as the Rangers lost for the fifth time in six games (1-4-1).

Red Wings 5, Coyotes 1: Niklas Kronwall and Gustav Nyquist scored 18 seconds apart in the first period as host Detroit beat Arizona to earn at least one point in a ninth straight game.

Justin Abdelkader, Danny DeKeyser and Darren Helm also scored for Detroit, which played five straight overtime games before opening a 3-0 lead in the first period and shutting down the Coyotes.

Jordan Martinook scored for the Coyotes, who had a goal overturned just 1:21 into the game.

Devils 5, Hurricanes 1: Mike Cammalleri scored twice and backup goalie Keith Kincaid stopped 30 shots as visiting New Jersey beat Carolina.

Adam Henrique, Stephen Gionta and Jacob Josefson also scored for the Devils.

Brad Malone scored for Carolina and Eddie Lack finished with 22 saves. The Hurricanes lost their third straight and fourth in the last five.

Capitals 3, Canadiens 2: T.J. Oshie's second goal of the game broke a tie in the third period and lifted visiting Washington to a victory over Montreal.

Tom Wilson also scored for Washington, which won its sixth straight despite being outshot 35-19.

The Capitals improved to 10-0-2 at the Bell Centre since 2009 and goalie Braden Holtby stopped 33 shots to run his career record against Montreal to 7-0-2.

Panthers 2, Predators 1: Roberto Luongo made 32 saves to lead visiting Florida to a win over Nashville.

Quinton Howden and Jonathan Huberdeau scored for Florida, which won its fourth straight despite being outshot 33-16.

The Panthers snapped a nine-game losing streak in Nashville, winning there for the first time since Dec. 11, 1999.

Stars 4, Canucks 2: Patrick Sharp scored the tiebreaking goal with 5:59 left in the third period as visiting Dallas beat Vancouver.

Sharp took a stretch pass from Stars defenseman Alex Goligoski and wove into the Vancouver zone before beating Canucks goalie Ryan Miller with a quick shot through the pads for his ninth of the season.