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Calif. attack investigated as terrorism

Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — The Pakistani woman who joined her U.S.-born husband in killing 14 people in a commando-style assault on his co-workers is now at the center of a massive FBI terrorism investigation, yet she remains shrouded in mystery.

The FBI — which announced Friday it is investigating the shooting as an act of terrorism — acknowledges knowing little about Tashfeen Malik. Those who attended mosque with her husband, Syed Farook, said they know nearly nothing of her. Even Farook's mother, who lived with the couple and their 6-month-old daughter, knows little, according to attorneys for Farook's family.

The lawyers on Friday described the 27-year-old as “just a housewife” who was quiet like her husband and strictly followed Muslim custom. She wore traditional clothing that covered her face so her male relatives didn't even know what she looked like, according to the lawyers who represent Farook's mother and three siblings.

Authorities say she ditched the Muslim garb for a combat-style outfit Wednesday, when she and Farook attacked a training session and holiday luncheon in San Bernardino. A few hours later, they were killed in a shootout with police.

If proven to be terrorism, it would be the deadliest attack by Islamic extremists on American soil since Sept. 11, 2001. A U.S. law enforcement official said Malik used a Facebook alias to pledge her allegiance to the Islamic State group and its leader just before the shootings.

FBI Director James Comey would not discuss whether anyone affiliated with the Islamic State communicated back, but he said there was no indication

Killings call into question visa bill

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The news that Tashfeen Malik, the woman suspected in the San Bernardino, Calif., shootings, was granted a fiancée visa and permanent U.S. residency raises new questions about the effectiveness of the screening process the U.S. relies on to prevent dangerous individuals from entering the country.

Malik would have gone through an exhaustive vetting process to win her residency, including at least two personal interviews, a terrorism background check and a criminal background check. None of that vetting turned up any sign of radicalism.

That fact suggests that a proposal by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., to tighten the so-called visa-waiver program to prevent its use by terrorists to enter the United States is

unlikely to prove fail-safe. It also might raise doubts about Obama administration assertions that its process for vetting Syrian refugees is tough enough to prevent would-be terrorists from entering the country.

Feinstein's bill targets a program that lets citizens of 38 allied countries travel to the U.S. without going through the visa process, which involves an interview at a U.S. consulate and can take weeks. Under her proposal, visitors from those countries would be required to provide photos and fingerprints before traveling to the United States, and any traveler who had visited Syria or Iraq in the previous five years would have to go through the traditional visa process.

Travel industry leaders argue that Feinstein's proposal would damage American tourism without offering a security benefit.

yet that the plot was directed by any other foreign terrorist group.

“The investigation so far has developed indications of radicalization by the killers and of potential inspiration by foreign terrorist organizations,” Comey said. He cautioned that the investigation has not yet shown evidence the couple was part of a larger group.

Despite signs of the couple's radicalization, there “is a lot of evidence that doesn't quite make sense” at this early stage, he said.

The Farook family attorneys, David Chesley and Mohammad Abuersheid, said none of his relatives had any indication that either Farook or his wife held extremist views.

“If the most evidence there is to any affiliation is a Facebook account under another person's name ... then that's hardly anything at all,” Chesley said.

He and Abuersheid said the family was shocked by the attack and mourns for the vic-

tims. They cautioned against rushing to judgment on their motivations.

David Bowdich, head of the FBI's Los Angeles office, said “a number of pieces of evidence” point to terrorism and that the agency was focused on that idea “for good reason.” He would not elaborate.

Bowdich said investigators were looking carefully to determine if there is a connection to the Islamic State group.

In Pakistan, a relative of Malik said she apparently became a more zealous follower of the Muslim faith about three years ago.

Hifza Batool told The Associated Press on Saturday that other relatives have said that Malik, who was her step-niece, used to wear Western clothes but began wearing the hijab head covering or the all-covering burqa donned by the most conservative Muslim women about three years ago.

“I recently heard it from relatives that she has become a reli-

gious person, and she often tells people to live according to the teachings of Islam,” said Batool, 35, a private-school teacher who lives in Karor Lal Esam, about 280 miles southwest of the Pakistani capital of Islamabad.

A Facebook official said Malik praised the Islamic State group in a post at 11 a.m. Wednesday, about the time the couple stormed a social service center where Farook's co-workers from San Bernardino County's health department had gathered.

An Islamic State-affiliated news service called Malik and Farook “supporters” of their Islamist cause but stopped short of claiming responsibility for the attack.

The Facebook official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not allowed under corporate policy to be quoted by name, said the company discovered Wednesday's post the next day, removed the profile from public view and reported its contents to law enforcement.

Iraq: Turkish troops must leave

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The presence of Turkish troops near the Islamic State group-held city of Mosul in northern Iraq is a “violation” of international law, Iraq’s president said Saturday.

President Fuad Masum called the move a “violation of international norms, laws and Iraq’s national sovereignty,” and said it was contributing to increased tensions in the region.

Hakim al-Zamili, the head of parliament’s security and defense committee, went a step further, calling on Iraq’s prime minister to launch airstrikes against the Turkish troops if they remained in Iraqi territory.

Turkey has said a military battalion equipped with armored vehicles has been in the Bashiqa region close to Mosul in the northern Ninevah province for the last five months as part of a training mission to help forces fighting the Islamic State group.

Mosul fell to the extremists in June 2014 amid a stunning collapse of Iraqi security forces.

Plans to try to retake Mosul last spring were sidelined as the extremist group advanced on other fronts.

The founder of the training camp outside Mosul, former Ninevah governor Atheel al-Nujaifi, told The Associated Press that the Turkish trainers were at his base at the request of Iraqi Prime Minister Haider

al-Abadi and Defense Minister Khaled al-Obeidi. He said the Turkish forces are training but not arming Sunni fighters.

“They didn’t give us any weapons even though we asked them to,” he said. “We equipped this force from the black market with our own money and we believe they’re the best force to liberate Mosul. ... These people will be very effective to hold ground because they are from there, and there’ll be no resistance to them from local people.”

Sunni fighters in Ninevah and the western Anbar province say the Shiite-dominated government has failed to provide them with the support and weaponry needed to defeat the Islamic State group.

Obama signs \$305B bill for infrastructure

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A five-year, \$305-billion bill to address the nation’s aging and congested transportation systems was signed into law Friday by President Barack Obama, who said it will put Americans to work and provide states with the federal help they need to commit to long-term projects.

The bill, which was overwhelmingly approved by Congress a day earlier, provides a modest increase to highway and transit spending but falls short of the \$400 billion over six years that administration officials said is necessary to keep traffic congestion from worsening. Nor does it resolve how to pay for transportation programs in the long term.

Obama said he’ll continue to push for greater transportation spending to meet the nation’s infrastructure needs and create jobs.

“This bill is not perfect, but it is a common-sense compromise, and an important first step in the right direction,” Obama said in a statement.

Police, video version of Ill. killing at odds

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago police officers who watched one of their own shoot a black teenager 16 times filed reports depicting a version of events that contrasted sharply with what was captured on the dashcam footage that has sparked protests and cost the police commissioner his job.

The city released hundreds of pages of documents late Friday pertaining to the October 2014 killing of Laquan McDonald, 17, by a white police officer, Jason Van Dyke, who was charged

with first-degree murder only hours before the department released the video under a court order.

The video shows McDonald veering away from officers on a four-lane street when Van Dyke opened fire from close range and continued shooting after the teen had crumpled to the ground and was barely moving.

In police reports, however, several officers, including Van Dyke, described McDonald as aggressively approaching officers while armed with a knife.

Van Dyke told an investigator

McDonald was “swinging the knife in an aggressive, exaggerated manner” and that McDonald “raised the knife across chest” and pointed it at Van Dyke, according to one report. Multiple officers reported that even after McDonald was down, he kept trying to get up with the knife in his hand.

Van Dyke told an investigator he feared McDonald would rush him with the knife or throw it at him. He also noted a 2012 police department warning about a weapon that was a knife but was capable of firing a bullet.

Ex-Stone Temple Pilots frontman dead at 48

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — Scott Weiland, the former frontman of the Stone Temple Pilots whose three-decade career in music also included solo albums and a spot in the supergroup Velvet Revolver, has died. He was 48.

The singer’s manager, Tom Vitorino, confirmed the death

to The Associated Press early Friday morning. Vitorino referred to a statement on Weiland’s Facebook page that said the singer died in his sleep while on a tour stop in suburban Minneapolis.

Police said investigators found small amounts of cocaine on Weiland’s tour bus, though a cause of death hasn’t

been released. The singer had been dogged by substance abuse problems throughout his career.

Weiland’s former Stone Temple Pilot bandmates — Eric Kretz and brothers Dean and Robert DeLeo — released a statement Friday thanking Weiland “for sharing your life with us.”

Chipotle E. coli cases seen in 3 more states

NEW YORK — An outbreak of E. coli linked to Chipotle Mexican Grill has expanded to nine states, with a total of 52 reported illnesses.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday that seven additional people were sickened, including in three more states — Illinois, Maryland and Pennsylvania. The most recent illness started on Nov. 13, it said.

The majority of the illnesses have been in Oregon and Washington, where cases were initially reported at the end of October. Additional cases were later reported in California, Minnesota, New York and Ohio.

From The Associated Press

Source: Free agent Zack Greinke headed to Arizona for \$206.5M

Associated Press

The Arizona Diamondbacks unveiled their snazzy new uniforms one day, then landed a new ace to wear them the next. Surprise! Zack Greinke is coming to the desert.

The D-backs beat out the division rival Dodgers and Giants to unexpectedly win the Greinke sweepstakes Friday night, acquiring the free agent ace they hope will get the franchise contending again — and fast. He reached an agreement on a \$206.5 million, six-year contract, sources told The Associated Press.

The major league ERA leader and runner-up for the NL Cy Young Award helped lead the Dodgers to their third straight division title this season. Then, the 32-year-old righty opted out of his contract, leaving \$71.5 million on the table — and wound up with the richest deal, by yearly average, in baseball history.

The sources spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because there hadn't been an official announcement. Fox Sports first reported an agreement.

Greinke was the second former AL Cy Young winner to get a mega-contract this week. David Price joined the Boston Red Sox for \$217 million over seven years. The moves came as teams prepared to head this weekend to the winter meetings in Nashville, Tenn.

Greinke's new deal contains deferred money. The \$34.4 million average will be the sport's highest, topping Price's \$31 million.

Earlier this offseason, pitcher Johnny Cueto turned down a \$120 million offer

from the Diamondbacks after he helped Kansas City win the World Series and became a free agent.

Instead, the Diamondbacks reeled in an even bigger prize. They had money to spend — last February, they signed a TV deal with Fox Sports Arizona for more than \$1.5 billion over 20 years.

Greinke's contract gave him the flexibility to find a new home. He was in prime position, too, after setting a career high for wins by going 19-3 and posting a 1.66 ERA that was the best in the majors in 20 years.

In December 2012, Greinke signed a \$147 million, six-year deal with the Dodgers that included an opt-out clause. He exercised it and walked away from a whopping amount over the next three years.

"We made a very strong offer to retain Zack but clearly he found a deal that fit better for him and his family," Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman said in a statement. "We are now hard at work on our alternatives."

Out of the playoffs since 2011, the Diamondbacks finished 79-83 last season, 13 games behind the West champion Dodgers and also trailing the Giants, who have won three of the last six World Series.

Arizona scored the second-most runs in the NL last season, but was thin in the pitching department — Diamondbacks starters threw the second-fewest innings in the league.

The Diamondbacks tried this season to clear salary. In June, they traded pitcher Bronson Arroyo to Atlanta to further reduce their payroll.

"It is more of what we are trying to do. The money is definitely important," Diamondbacks general manager Dave Stewart said at the time. "We said that we are going to try to do what we can to promote our young pitchers but also give ourselves a chance to make some savings so that we can have an opportunity to do things at a later date."

On Friday night, they did a really big thing. After revealing futuristic uniforms for 2016 a day earlier, Arizona found its new big star to wear one.

Greinke's ERA was the lowest in the majors since Greg Maddux had a 1.63 ERA in 1995. Greinke had a scoreless streak of 45 2/3 innings this summer.

He was durable, too, pitching 222 2/3 innings. A Gold Glove winner who also likes to hit, he teamed with lefty Clayton Kershaw to give the Dodgers a formidable 1-2 combo at the top of the rotation.

The Dodgers had hoped Greinke and Kershaw, plus a roster that added up to the highest payroll in baseball, could lead them to their first World Series crown since 1988. Instead, LA lost in the division round to the New York Mets in October.

Greinke went 51-15 during his three years with the Dodgers.

Arizona will lose its first-round draft pick, No. 13 overall. The Dodgers gain a compensatory pick, likely No. 41.

Greinke's departure leaves the Dodgers with an unstable rotation beyond Kershaw. Brett Anderson returns after his first healthy season since 2009 and young Alex Wood is also back, but Hyun-Jin Ryu is coming off shoulder surgery that cost him all of last season and Brandon McCarthy is out until midseason after Tommy John surgery.

Is Watt MVP candidate?

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Last year at this time, J.J. Watt was at the center of the conversation for MVP.

A year later, after coming in second to Aaron Rodgers for the award, he's hardly being mentioned as a contender for it.

This despite leading the league in sacks and helping the Houston Texans to a four-game winning streak that has them in the thick of the playoff hunt.

So maybe the star defensive end should be up there with quarterbacks Cam Newton and Tom Brady?

Watt says he doesn't think about the MVP race because he can't be concerned with things out of his control.

"So it doesn't matter a whole lot to me," Watt said. "All I do is play for the respect of my teammates and coaches, make my family proud, and then try and put on a good show for the fans."

It's been quite a show, as it usually is with Watt.

He won AFC defensive player of the month honors on Thursday after piling up 7½ sacks, 20 tackles (nine for losses) and forcing a fumble. He's helped the Texans go from a 2-5 start by leading a defense that allowed the fewest yards (250.5) and points (8.8) a game in November.

The Texans try to extend their longest winning streak since 2012 on Sunday at Buffalo. No one had to remind Bills coach Rex Ryan how dominant Watt is. He's been an admirer since Watt was in college.

Watt recalled a meeting with Ryan at the NFL combine when Ryan was coaching the Jets and they weren't scheduled to pick until the end of the first round.

"I sat down in there and he kind of real casually goes: 'Hey man, you're going to be gone by the time we get to pick, so here's what we're doing. We're going to put a fake medical report that you have some sort of disease, I don't know what, but we'll make one up. And then we'll draft you, but we'll pay you like you're way up there,'" Watt said. "... It's a nice compliment to hear from an NFL coach when you're a college kid."

Ryan's affinity for Watt has only grown since, and he certainly thinks Watt should be in the conversation for MVP.

"I knew he was a great player back then," Ryan said. "But he's even exceeded that, you know, now. I love the way he plays."

Along with leading the league in sacks, he's also first in the NFL with 23 tackles for losses and 41 quarterback hits. Watt tied a career-high with 20 1/2 sacks last season to win NFL Defensive Player of the Year for the second time. He has 70 1/2 sacks in his five-year career and has had at least one sack in five straight games.

He's continued to put up impressive numbers despite schemes that try to limit his effectiveness, and near constant double-teams. And that's not to mention the excessive holding offensive linemen often resort to when they can't corral the 6-foot-5, 289-pound Watt.

"That's what's very cool about it from my perspective," he said. "That's fine, if you want to put a few guys on me, we got other guys over here that will make plays. And you're still not guaranteed to stop me, either."

Bowling Green wallops N. Illinois

Associated Press

DETROIT — A year after a hip injury forced him to miss the Mid-American Conference title game, Matt Johnson could celebrate a championship.

And a record he set when he surpassed one of the greatest quarterbacks in league history.

Johnson threw two scoring passes, and Travis Greene ran for 183 yards and two touchdowns to lift Bowling Green over Northern Illinois 34-14 in the MAC title game Friday night.

Johnson threw for 235 yards, bringing his season total to a MAC-record 4,700. The Bowling Green senior broke the mark of 4,486 yards passing set by Ben Roethlisberger in 2003.

This wasn't Johnson's best game — he threw two interceptions — but the win capped a stellar comeback after he broke his hip in the 2014 season opener. That injury cost Johnson a chance to play in last year's MAC title game, when Bowling

Green lost to Northern Illinois 51-17.

"I battled through a lot of adversity. There was good days, there was bad days, but ultimately the goal was to get back out on the field and just play with my brothers again," Johnson said. "Once we got here, we weren't going to let it slip away."

This year it was Northern Illinois that had to deal with injury problems at quarterback. After Drew Hare and Ryan Graham both got hurt, the Huskies gave walk-on freshman Tommy Fiedler his first career start in the title game. He went 12-for-28 for 152 yards with a touchdown and three interceptions.

"I thought he prepared really well all week. The guys prepared really well," NIU coach Rod Carey said. "I don't think we played well enough and in the end I don't think we coached well enough. It starts with me and trickles down to everyone else."

The Falcons (10-3) took back the league title in the third straight matchup between the teams in the championship

game. Northern Illinois won last year after Bowling Green won in 2013.

This was the 12th MAC title for Bowling Green.

Northern Illinois (8-5) was making its sixth straight appearance in the title game, but the Huskies fell behind 28-0 early in the third quarter.

Now the victorious Falcons will have to wait and see if coach Dino Babers moves on to another job. He was asked about his future after the game.

"My future right now is with these guys, and we're going to celebrate this win, and it's going to be special," Babers said. "I'm not going to let anyone take that away from us, and we'll go to sleep, and we'll get together over the weekend, and then we'll start and we'll talk about other things."

Bowling Green outgained Northern Illinois 288-72 in the first half, and early in the third quarter, Johnson found Roger Lewis for a 45-yard catch-and-run that made it 28-0.



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Pelicans down Cavaliers in OT

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — After New Orleans survived a stunning fourth-quarter surge by LeBron James and forced overtime, injured veteran center Kendrick Perkins pulled Pelicans teammate Anthony Davis aside for a quick word.

"Perk told me, 'This is the time where you've got to be great,'" Davis said. "Every time I caught the ball, I was looking to be aggressive and teammates were looking for me. ... So it was just about me knocking down the shots."

Davis hit three jump shots from beyond 12 feet to start overtime, capping a 31-point, 12-rebound, four-steal performance that lifted New Orleans to a 114-108 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Friday night.

"It just shows that when we play like we're supposed to, we can beat anybody," Davis said, alluding to an earlier victory over San Antonio. "We've just got to do it against teams that are not the Spurs or not Cleveland. We can't play down to the level of our competition. We've got to make sure we're playing at a high level every game."

Eric Gordon had 19 points and Ryan Anderson 18 for the Pelicans (5-15), who led by 13 with less than 7 minutes left in the fourth quarter.

The Cavs stormed back to take a late lead, with James scoring 21 of Cleveland's

last 24 points of regulation.

"What else was I going to do?" James said. "I tried to make something happen for our team, be aggressive and see if I could make a push. And if not, at least I put in the effort."

Jrue Holiday's three pulled New Orleans back into a tie at 105 with 8 seconds left before James, who finished with 37 points, missed a 19-footer that could have won it. James didn't score in overtime, missing two shots.

"We played a pretty good game tonight," James said. "We had some defensive lows in the third quarter. We did not play a 48-minute game, and if one or two guys breaks down it breaks the whole team down."

Rockets 100, Mavericks 96: James Harden scored 25 points after another rough shooting start as Houston beat visiting Dallas.

Harden, who missed his first 11 shots in a home loss to Dallas last month, was 3-for-12 in the first half before making seven of 11. That included a clinching jumper that hit the rim and backboard before bouncing on the rim a couple more times and going in for a four-point lead with 7 seconds left.

The All-Star guard also had nine assists, including one to Terrence Jones for a wide-open dunk that put Houston ahead for good at 98-96 in the final minute.

Knicks 108, Nets 91: Carmelo Anthony scored 28 points and Kristaps Porzingis had 19 as New York beat visiting Brooklyn to get back to .500.

Arron Afflalo added 18 points for the Knicks (10-10), who dominated lowly Philadelphia and Brooklyn in their last two games after a four-game losing streak. They reclaimed city bragging rights with ease, leading by as many as 31 points.

Hawks 100, Lakers 87: Al Horford scored 16 points, and Paul Millsap and Kent Bazemore each added 15 as host Atlanta beat Los Angeles to spoil Kobe Bryant's last game there.

In the third game since announcing his retirement plans earlier this week, Bryant scored 14 points on 4-for-19 shooting.

Pistons 102, Bucks 95: Andre Drummond had 17 points and 23 rebounds, and Reggie Jackson scored 23 points as host Detroit beat Milwaukee.

Drummond was 7-for-18 from the field and 3-for-10 at the line. It was his fifth 20-rebound game of the season; the rest of the NBA has combined for only three.

Wizards 109, Suns 106: Bradley Beal scored 34 points and Ramon Sessions added 18 as Washington rallied to beat visiting Phoenix in a turnover-filled game.

Washington improved to 8-9 after losing five of its previous six games.

Runnin' Rebs roll past Ducks

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Mountain West Conference play doesn't open until Dec. 30. By then, UNLV may have already made quite the name for itself.

Ike Nwamu scored 19 points and UNLV upset a ranked team for the second time this season, beating No. 15 Oregon 80-69 on Friday night.

Jerome Seagears added 16 points for the Rebels, who also beat then-No. 13 Indiana in Maui, Hawaii, on Nov. 25.

Patrick McCaw had 14 points for UNLV, and 7-foot freshman Stephen Zimmerman Jr. had 12 points and 12 rebounds. Ben Carter, who transferred to UNLV from Oregon, scored 10 points.

UNLV shot 44.8 percent from the floor, connecting on 26 of 58 attempts, including 10-for-23 (43.5 percent) from three-point range.

"I thought one of the differences in the game was we didn't settle for too many jump shots in the second half," UNLV coach Dave Rice said. "I thought we attacked the basket with Stephen Zimmerman inside making some huge plays, obviously Ben Carter was aggressive and I thought Ike attacking the basket and Jerome attacking the basket were huge for us."

Zimmerman shot just 5-for-14 from the field but hit two free throws at the 16:15 mark of the second half to give the Runnin' Rebels their biggest lead of the game, 55-35. But that's when the Ducks responded with a 9-0 run to slice into UNLV's lead.

"I expressed my concern to the guys at halftime about our effort level for the second half because we had the double-digit lead," Rice said. "I thought we came out with energy and played well and then we just hit a stretch where we just couldn't hit a basket. ... But I thought we found our way, and we got back to attacking the basket, getting to the free-throw line, I thought the game changed back for us in the right way."

Zimmerman picked an ideal time for his first field goal of the second half, helping the Rebels end a near-10 minute drought from the floor.

No. 2 Maryland 96, St. Francis 55: Robert Carter Jr. had 20 points, and the Terrapins routed the visiting Red Flash.

Maryland (7-1) bounced back from its first loss of the season Tuesday against No. 9 North Carolina in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge. Freshman Diamond Stone added 16 points, and Jake Layman scored 11 of his 16 points in the first half.

Maryland was 31-for-46 from the field (67.4 percent) and has shot at least 50 percent for five consecutive games.

Ben Millaud-Meunier led St. Francis (3-4) with 13 points. Ronnie Drinnon added 11 points with 10 rebounds for the Red Flash, who have dropped each of their four road games this season.

Layman scored eight points as Maryland opened with a 16-3 run. The Red Flash struggled to get open shots against the Terrapins' tight man-to-man defense and made just three of their first 16 shots from the field.

A jumper by Stone gave Maryland its first 20-point lead at 32-12 with 4:13 left in the half. Maryland went 15-for-22 (68.2 percent) from the field and led 45-24 at the break. The Terrapins also scored 16 points off eight St. Francis turnovers.

Maryland went deep into its reserves and a jumper and free throw by 7-foot-1 center Michal Cekovsky extended the lead to 58-28 with 14:14 left. It was the Terps' largest margin of victory.

Gaudreau's trick lifts Flames over Bruins

Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta — Johnny Gaudreau got his first home hat trick and the last-place Calgary Flames kept giving fans at the Scotiabank Saddledome reason to cheer.

Gaudreau finished his second-career hat trick in overtime after Jiri Hudler tied the game with 1.2 seconds left and the Flames beat the Boston Bruins 5-4 on Friday night for their sixth straight home victory.

Gaudreau trailed a 2-on-1 rush and took a pass from former Bruin Dougie Hamilton in the high slot. He stickhandled in on Tuukka Rask and beat the goaltender with a low shot.

"Last year I was fortunate enough to get a hat trick but it was in a different arena. I was fortunate to get one tonight. It's always exciting seeing hats get thrown on the ice," Gaudreau said.

It was quite a night for Gaudreau, a Boston College product who won the Hobey Baker Award during a three-year stint in Massachusetts. He also had an assist for his first four-point game in the NHL. His only other hat trick was Dec. 22 last year against the Kings.

Gaudreau leads the Flames in scoring and is on a nine-game points streak at home with 17 points, including seven goals, during that span. He also leads the NHL with five overtime points, including three goals.

"When (Gaudreau) shows up at the rink, his biggest asset is he wants to be the game changer, he wants to make the difference," Flames coach Bob Hartley said. "He has such high expectations of himself that it makes him very special."

Hudler forced overtime when he tapped in a loose puck with Calgary goalie Karri Ramo pulled for an extra skater. It was the latest tying goal ever in a Flames win, according to the NHL.

Mark Giordano also scored and the Flames won their second straight.

Islanders 2, Blues 1 (SO): Frans Nielsen and Kyle Okposo scored in the

shootout to lift host New York over St. Louis.

Mikhail Grabovski tied it early in the third period for the Islanders, and Thomas Greiss, making his third start in four games, stopped 31 shots through overtime. He also denied both St. Louis shooters in the tiebreaker.

The Islanders They also won by an identical score against the cross-town rival New York Rangers on Wednesday night.

Kevin Shattenkirk scored late in the first period and Brian Elliott finished with 24 saves through overtime. Elliott was starting for the first time in 17 days after Jake Allen started the last seven games for St. Louis.

Oilers 2, Stars 1 (OT): Jordan Eberle scored 45 seconds into overtime and Anders Nilsson made 42 saves to lift host Edmonton over league-leading Dallas.

The Oilers won their second straight game but remained tied for last in the Pacific Division with Calgary.

The league-leading Stars lost for the second time in three games and fell to 11-2-2 on the road this season.

Edmonton's Taylor Hall scored with 5:11 left in the first period, but Mattias Janmark tied it late in the second.

Nilsson made a huge glove save on Tyler Seguin 48 seconds in and denied Jamie Benn on a breakaway a couple minutes later. Dallas outshot Edmonton 15-4 in the third period, but Nilsson was perfect in forcing overtime.

Ducks 1, Sharks 0: John Gibson made 23 saves for his second shutout of the season as Anaheim ended San Jose's seven-game road winning streak.

Mike Santorelli's fourth goal early in the third period was enough for Gibson, who handed the Sharks their third shut-out loss this season and second against Anaheim.

The last time the teams met, Anton Khudobin made 31 saves in a 1-0 win on Nov. 7 at San Jose.

Gibson made his fifth straight start with Frederik Andersen sidelined by the flu.

