

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## ANALYSIS

# Obama struggles with terrorism talk

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama appears to be playing catch-up to the national mood on terrorism.

His speech Sunday night on the threat posed by Islamic State group militants and their admirers may have been only his third address from the Oval Office. But he has spoken at least a dozen times about terrorism in the weeks since the Paris attacks and the mass shooting in San Bernardino, Calif. And it apparently hasn't worked.

The unusual venue of a prime-time TV address came as aides sought a way for Obama to reassert himself on the issue of national security. Despite frequent comments in past days, he's faced criticism from Republicans for what seemed a dispassionate response to the back-to-back attacks, doubts about his strategy from members of both major parties, and the defection of 47 Democrats in the House of Representatives who did not accept his assurance that his administration already is doing an adequate job screening refugees from Syria.

## Speaking of terrorism

Yet much of Obama's failure to drive the conversation his way — that his strategy against the Islamic State group is working, however slowly — stems from his own rhetoric, particularly his reluctance to speak in anger or alarm about terrorism.

Last week, for example, his White House lagged behind his own FBI director in saying flatly that the San Bernardino attack was an Islamic jihadi-inspired "act of terrorism."

On Sunday, Obama strived to use clearer language to assure

the country.

"This was an act of terrorism," he said of the California attacks.

"We will destroy ISIL and any other organization that tries to harm us," he added, using an alternative name for the Islamic State group and sharpening his wording from his traditional phrasing of "degrade and ultimately destroy."

He also implored Americans not to scapegoat Muslims for the actions of a "death cult," but called out Muslim leaders and nations to do more themselves. "It's a real problem that Muslims must confront without excuse," he said.

Obama's usual reticence — also on display in the aftermath of the 2009 Fort Hood, Texas, shooting and his administration's initial focus on a video-inspired demonstration after the 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya — is seen as deliberate caution by his White House and dismissed as insufficient to the task by his critics.

Before Obama spoke, a senior administration official knowledgeable about the speech but not authorized to speak publicly as a matter of practice said that the president "felt compelled" to deliver a speech to address fears prompted by both recent attacks.

"We recognized that there are very real and legitimate fears in the United States and around the world about the nature of this terrorist threat," the official said.

## GOP criticism

Republicans were unmoved.

"President Obama is a war-time president who doesn't seem to realize it," said Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark.

Obama's customary hesi-

tancy followed by acknowledgment reflects an inherent tension in Obama's presidency. He campaigned for the White House and has spent much of his seven years in office promising to turn the page on war and the threat of terrorism only to be forced to react by events in a convulsing Middle East. He again ruled out a ground war Sunday.

John Hudak, a fellow in governance studies at the Brookings Institution who studies the presidency, said Obama's "overly cautious" tendency comes from a naturally deliberative personality as well as a rare attitude for a politician that if he doesn't have anything to say, then he won't say anything. Americans often want to hear from their presidents, though, in the way Bill Clinton spoke after the Oklahoma City bombing and George W. Bush after 9/11.

"After a series of tragedies, Americans are looking for someone somewhere to make them feel better," Hudak said. "A president has the opportunity to make them feel better. His biggest weakness is not being able to do that."

## Slow to react?

Critics complain that Obama has a tendency to react slowly or awkwardly.

When a Muslim Army psychiatrist killed 13 and wounded 30 others at Fort Hood, Obama didn't comment until the following day. And his administration long called it an act of workplace violence, not Islamic-inspired terrorism.

After a would-be terrorist tried to blow up a Detroit-bound jetliner on Christmas Day 2009, a vacationing Obama didn't make a public comment

until four days later. When the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded in April 2010, Obama didn't speak publicly on it until nine days later.

Republicans complain that Obama hasn't been forceful enough.

"If I am elected president we will utterly destroy ISIS," Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz said Saturday in Des Moines, Iowa, using another alternative name for the Islamic State group. "We won't degrade them. We will utterly destroy them. We will carpet bomb them into oblivion."

## Democratic doubts

Even prominent Democrats have criticized Obama's strategy as weak, or have raised doubts about his assurances in past weeks.

In the House of Representatives, 47 Democrats brushed aside White House assurances that it is adequately screening refugees coming from Syria to the U.S., and voted for a bill that would require the administration to certify that any refugee has been fully vetted and is not a terrorist before they could be admitted to the U.S.

On the campaign trail, Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton said Sunday that Obama's approach needs bolstering. "We're not winning," she said on ABC News.

Jens David Ohlin, a law professor at Cornell University who studies war, said Obama is trying to strike a balance between his own cautious nature and what the American people want to hear in time of crises.

"Obama is often aggressive in his actions but rhetoric is always measured," he said. "He's not going to get on a soapbox and beat his chest."

# Sailors, Marines may finally return home

After 74 years, bones from USS Oklahoma crew attacked at Pearl Harbor might be ID'd

*The Washington Post*

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. — Inside an old aircraft factory here, behind the glass windows of a pristine laboratory, the lost crew of the USS Oklahoma rests on special tables covered in black foam.

Their bones are brown with age after 50 years in the ground and, before that, months entombed in their sunken battleship beneath the oily waters of Pearl Harbor.

Legs, arms, ribs, vertebrae. Some have blue tags tied with string, identifying the type of bone. Some have beige tags, indicating that experts also want samples for DNA testing.

They are the unidentified remains of hundreds of sailors and Marines who perished 74 years ago Monday when Japan launched a surprise air attack on Hawaii and plunged the United States into World War II.

Now, seven decades later, the government is trying to put names to the old salts and teenage sailors who died when their ship was sunk by enemy torpedoes Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941.

Over the past six months, with a fresh mandate from the Defense Department, the bones were exhumed from a cemetery in Hawaii and most were brought to a new lab here, where scientists have begun the task.

The goal is to send the men

home.

"It's important for the families," said Carrie Brown, an anthropologist with the newly created Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, which is doing the work.

"For a lot of people, it's an event that happened in their family history," she said, and that story "has been carried down sometimes (for) generations."

"A lot of people say, 'World War II. Who's even alive? Who even remembers?'" she said.

"We need to get these guys home. They've been not home for too long."

Thus far, the DPAA has made seven identifications, a spokeswoman said last week. Officials are still reaching out to family members, and no identifications have been publicly announced.

At 7:45 a.m., on Dec. 7, the USS Oklahoma's 24-member band, like the bands of other ships in the harbor that day, had assembled on deck for the morning colors ceremony.

The ship had a complement of about 1,300, including 77 Marines.

Almost certainly present on deck were Musician 1st Class Henri Clay Mason, whose wife, Mary May, lived in Washington; the band's leader, James Booe, of Flagler County, Fla.; and bugler Lionel Lescault, of Worcester, Mass.

As they prepared to play,

another band member saw strange planes approaching. Then he heard explosions, and then over the PA system the alarm: "Air Raid!" according to a history of the ship by author Jeff Phister.

Some musicians ran for cover and survived. Mason, Booe, Lescault and nine other band members were killed, according to Phister and records in the National Archives. Their bodies were never identified.

The Oklahoma's loss of life at Pearl Harbor — a total of 429 sailors and Marines — was second only to the 1,100 lost on the USS Arizona, whose wreck remains a hallowed Pearl Harbor historic site.

Many Oklahoma sailors jumped overboard as the crippled battleship rolled over in about 50 feet of water. Hundreds were trapped below decks.

Thirty-two were rescued by intrepid crews who heard them banging for help, cut into the hull and made their way through a maze of darkened, flooded compartments to reach them. Others managed to escape by swimming underwater to find their way out.

A few managed to escape through tiny port holes — pushed by brave comrades who couldn't fit or were determined to let others go first.

Two who made that sacrifice were a Catholic priest, Lt. j.g. Aloysius Schmitt, the ship's

chaplain, and the ship's dentist, Lt. Com. Hugh Alexander, who had been in the Navy 20 years.

Schmitt's corroded chalice and water-stained Latin prayer book were found in the wreckage. The book was still marked with a page ribbon for Dec. 8 prayers, including the Old Testament's Eighth Psalm:

"O Lord, our Lord, how awesome is your name through all the earth!

I will sing of your majesty above the heavens"

Neither Father Schmitt's nor Alexander's body was ever identified.

DNA samples have been gathered from relatives of most of the crew for comparison with DNA taken from the bones.

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Michael Linnington, who heads the DPAA, said he recently met in Maine with relatives of the Oklahoma's unidentified. "For them, they've been waiting for this for 70 years," he said last week.

Thus, the work of reassembling each sailor or Marine presented a huge series of anthropological puzzles.

"It is a very large task," said Debra Prince Zinni, a forensic anthropologist and a manager with the DPAA's main lab in Hawaii, and one that could take years to complete. "But we definitely have the techniques and the personnel and the capacity to take this project on. And that's why we're doing it now."

## Challenge to gun ban in Ill. city is rejected

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday rejected an appeal from gun owners who challenged a Chicago suburb's ban on assault weapons.

Two conservative justices said they would have heard the case and struck down the ban.

The court left in place a lower

court ruling that found that local governments have leeway in deciding how to regulate firearms. The federal appeals court in Chicago upheld the city of Highland Park's 2013 gun law that bans semi-automatic weapons and large-capacity magazines. In October, the federal appeals court in New York largely upheld similar laws in Connecticut and New York.

From The Associated Press

## US shipment headed to space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A U.S. shipment of much-needed groceries and other astronaut supplies rocketed toward the International Space Station for the first time in months Sunday, reigniting NASA's commercial delivery service.

If the Orbital ATK capsule

arrives at the space station Wednesday as planned, it will represent the first U.S. delivery since spring.

"Santa is on his way!" Tory Bruno, president of rocket maker United Launch Alliance, announced via Twitter.

To NASA's relief, the weather cooperated after three days of high wind and cloudy skies that kept the Atlas V rocket firmly on the ground.

From The Associated Press



# Newton's case for MVP gets stronger

Associated Press

Cam Newton's case for being voted NFL MVP is getting stronger.

Leading the Carolina Panthers past the New Orleans Saints 41-38 for a 16th consecutive regular-season victory, Newton showed off all of his many skills. He threw for five touchdowns, including the go-ahead score with 65 seconds left. He completed 28 of 41 passes for 331 yards. He was his team's second-leading rusher, gaining 49 yards on 10 carries, including one that ended with such a jarring hit that the QB was taken to the locker room to be checked for a concussion.

And in the most obvious indication of how elite Newton has become, he kept bringing Carolina back Sunday — from a 14-0 deficit after the first quarter, and then twice when trailing in the fourth quarter.

"It goes back to his whole development as a quarterback in this league," Panthers coach Ron Rivera said. "I am really proud of what he did and the confidence with which he played."

Like Tom Brady, whose New England

Patriots have lost two games in a row, Newton does not have much to work with in the way of receivers. His top target is tight end Greg Olsen, who did make a tremendous, rolling catch on fourth down during the final TD drive. But there's not much else there to take pressure off Newton.

So what if his passer rating entering Sunday was only 89.5, 20th-best among quarterbacks with at least 150 pass attempts? That is more of an indictment of the convoluted statistic than it is of Newton.

This might be the only stat anyone truly needs to know about Newton: 12-0.

That's Carolina's record, two games better than any other team, and while wins and losses are admittedly hardly the fairest way to judge a quarterback's worth, there can be no doubt about Newton's value this season.

In case you missed it, here are the other top topics after the NFL season's 13th Sunday:

**They're baaaaack:** Don't look now, but the Seattle Seahawks have won five of six games to get to 7-5 and appear capable

of a serious push at a third consecutive Super Bowl trip. In a 38-7 victory over Minnesota, Russell Wilson went 21 of 27 for 274 yard with three passing TDs, and he ran for 51 yards and another score. Thomas Rawls continued his strong impersonation of Marshawn Lynch, topping 100 yards and getting into the end zone. And for all the recent whispering about the demise of the "Legion of Boom," consider this: Minnesota's offense did not score and its 125 total yards are the fewest by an NFL team this season, according to STATS.

**UnBelichickian:** For a guy often called a genius, Bill Belichick sure made an odd call after his Patriots took a 14-0 lead against the Eagles. Instead of a regular kickoff, Stephen Gostkowski pitched the football to former rugby player Nate Ebner, whose pooch-kick drop-kick was recovered by the Eagles at their 41. It was nearly as poorly designed, timed and executed a trick play as the fake punt the Colts were mocked for against the Pats in Week 6. Eight plays later, Sam Bradford threw a TD pass, opening a 35-point run for Philadelphia that included a punt

return, blocked punt and interception return that all went for touchdowns in a 35-28 loss for Belichick, Brady and Co.

**Coughlin's choice:** In the latest example of the New York Giants' apparent attempt to do everything in their power to give away the NFC East, coach Tom Coughlin went for it on fourth-and-2 from the 4 with a 10-point lead against the Jets with under 9 minutes left. Eli Manning threw a pick, and the Jets went on to win 23-20 in overtime when Giants kicker Josh Brown — 25 for 25 this season until that moment — missed a 48-yard field-goal try. It's not the first time Coughlin's clock or game management has been curious; it's the fifth time this season the Giants (5-7) lost a game they led in the fourth quarter.

**Stick the landing:** If you haven't seen it already, you will soon — Antonio Brown's goalpost-straddling leap and backward tumble after a punt return for a touchdown that capped Pittsburgh's 45-10 victory over Indianapolis. "I tried to stick the landing on the goalpost," Brown said, "but it didn't work out."

# Panthers overcome errors to stay perfect

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Cam Newton passed for five touchdowns, capped by a 15-yard scoring strike to Jerricho Cotchery with 1:05 to go, and the unbeaten Carolina Panthers wrapped up the NFC South title with a 41-38 victory over the New Orleans Saints on Sunday.

Carolina, the only remaining unbeaten team in the NFL, has the ninth 12-0 start in league history.

Newton, who was 28 of 41 for 331 yards, twice had to lead the Panthers back from fourth-quarter deficits as the Saints (4-8) tried desperately to avoid a four-game losing streak. Jonathan Stewart had a 5-yard scoring run on a pitch from Newton.

Drew Brees passed for 282 yards and three touchdowns. Saints linebacker Stephone Anthony returned a fumble 31 yards for a score and also became the first NFL player to return a blocked extra-point kick for 2 points in NFL history.

**Eagles 35, Patriots 28:** Najee Goode scored on a blocked punt, Malcolm Jenkins returned an interception 99 yards for another touchdown and Philadelphia held on for an improbable victory over host New England.

Darren Sproles returned a punt 83 yards for the Eagles' second special teams touchdown, giving Philadelphia a 21-point lead before the Patriots came charging back.

Tom Brady threw for a touchdown to make it a two-score game and then, after an onside kick, ran it in from the 1 yard-line to cut it to seven points with 3 minutes left.

New England's second onside kick failed, but the Patriots (10-2) forced a third-down fumble to give Brady one more chance.

The comeback fell short when Brady's

passes bounced out of his receivers' hands.

**Cardinals 27, Rams 3:** Running backs David Johnson and Kerwynn Williams scored a touchdown apiece and visiting Arizona stuffed St. Louis.

Johnson, a rookie, had 99 yards on 22 carries in his first start and caught one of two TD passes by Carson Palmer, who led an offense that rolled up 524 yards.

Larry Fitzgerald made his 1,000th reception and topped 1,000 yards for the seventh time. The Cardinals (10-2) have won six in a row, and seven of eight since losing 24-22 at home to St. Louis in Week 4.

**Steelers 45, Colts 10:** Ben Roethlisberger threw for 364 yards and four touchdowns and host Pittsburgh overwhelmed Indianapolis.

Antonio Brown caught eight passes for 118 yards and two scores and also returned a punt 71 yards for a touchdown for the Steelers.

Martavis Bryant hauled in four passes for 114 yards and a score, and DeAngelo Williams added 134 yards rushing as Pittsburgh shook off a slow start to dominate the Colts (6-6) over the final three quarters.

**Chiefs 34, Raiders 20:** Jeremy Maclin had two touchdowns catches after fourth-quarter interceptions and Tyvon Branch returned a third interception from Derek Carr for a game-clinching score against his former team and visiting Kansas City rallied for its sixth straight win.

The Raiders (5-7) were leading by six points and driving for more when Carr's mistakes changed the tide of the game and helped keep the Chiefs (7-5) in the lead in the AFC wild-card race.

**Broncos 17, Chargers 3:** Brock Osweiler threw for one touchdown and Danny Trevathan intercepted Philip Rivers and returned it 25 yards for a score, lead-

ing visiting Denver to a victory against hapless San Diego.

Osweiler improved to 3-0 since taking over for the injured Peyton Manning. The AFC West-leading Broncos are 10-2. San Diego fell to 3-9.

Thousands of orange-clad Broncos fans cheered the visitors in what might have been the penultimate Chargers game in San Diego. Chairman Dean Spanos wants to move to an industrial suburb of Los Angeles, and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell last week warned San Diego that it had until the end of the month to come up with an acceptable plan for a new stadium.

**49ers 26, Bears 20 (OT):** Blaine Gabbert threw a 71-yard touchdown pass to Torrey Smith in overtime after running for the tying TD late in regulation, lifting struggling San Francisco to a victory over host Chicago.

**Jets 23, Giants 20 (OT):** Randy Bullock kicked a 31-yard field goal on the first possession of overtime to give the visiting Jets a stunning win that sent the reeling Giants to their third straight loss.

The Jets (7-5) didn't seal the win until Josh Brown missed a 48-yard field goal field goal with 6:33 left in the extra session, his first miss in 26 attempts this season.

**Seahawks 38, Vikings 7:** Russell Wilson threw for three touchdowns and rushed for another, Seattle's defense didn't allow a score, and surging Seattle won their third straight game with a romp over host Minnesota.

**Bills 30, Texans 21:** Tyrod Taylor threw a 40-yard touchdown pass to Charles Clay with 1:53 left to lead host Buffalo over Houston.

Taylor finished 11 of 21 for 211 yards and three TDs and also scored on an 8-yard run. Buffalo (6-6) snapped a two-game skid and gained ground on the Texans in

the AFC playoff race.

**Titans 42, Jaguars 39:** Marcus Mariota scored the go-ahead touchdown on an 87-yard run midway through a wild fourth quarter, and Tennessee edged Jacksonville to snap its 11-game home losing streak.

The Titans (3-9) had not won on their own field since Oct. 12, 2014, when they needed a blocked field goal to beat these very same Jaguars 16-14.

**Bengals 37, Browns 3:** Andy Dalton threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score and visiting Cincinnati moved closer to a playoff berth and the AFC North title with a win over woeful Cleveland, which dropped its seventh straight.

Dalton connected with A.J. Green for a 23-yard TD pass in the second quarter and the Bengals moved to 10-2 for just the second time in team history.

**Buccaneers 23, Falcons 19:** Jameis Winston threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Mike Evans with 1:39 remaining to give host Tampa Bay a victory over Atlanta.

The No. 1 overall pick in this year's draft also scored on a 5-yard run and scrambled up the middle of the field 20 yards on third-and-19 to prolong the third game-winning drive of his young career.

**Dolphins 15, Ravens 13:** Miami intercepted a pair of deflected passes from Matt Schaub to score two touchdowns 20 seconds apart late in the first half, and held on to beat visiting Baltimore.

The score was 0-0 when Reshad Jones intercepted a pass batted by defensive tackle Jordan Phillips to set up the game's first score. On the next play, Ryan Tannehill hit a leaping DeVante Parker at the goal line for a 38-yard touchdown.

Three plays later, defensive end Derrick Shelby slapped a pass in the air, caught it and ran 22 yards to the end zone, with Schaub giving chase in vain.



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# Source: Chapman to Dodgers

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Cincinnati Reds have agreed to trade hard-throwing reliever Aroldis Chapman to the Los Angeles Dodgers, pending approval of medical records, according to a person familiar with the deal.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Monday because the agreement, first reported by Fox, had not been announced.

Chapman, a 27-year-old right-hander, is eligible for free agency after next year's World Series. He threw the 62 fastest pitches

in the big leagues this year, ranging from 103.92 mph to 102.36 mph, according to Major League Baseball's Statcast computer system.

He joins a bullpen that already has closer Kenley Jansen, who like Chapman is eligible for salary arbitration this winter and can become a free agent next November.

After defecting from Cuba, Chapman spent the last six seasons with the Reds and saved 146 games in 164 chances.

He had a 1.63 ERA this year, when he struck out 116 in 66 1/3 innings.

# Aggressive Bears edge Vanderbilt

Associated Press

WACO, Texas — No. 16 Vanderbilt is 0-2 against the Big 12 this season.

The Commodores couldn't hold on after scoring 17 points in a row midway through the second half, as No. 25 Baylor erased a 13-point deficit on way to a 69-67 victory Sunday night when Lester Medford made a three-pointer while being fouled in the final minute.

"They got aggressive. We turned the ball over like crazy and just didn't play like we needed to play, the way we had played to that point," Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings said. "But you've got to give them credit. They became the aggressors."

The Bears (6-1) missed nine shots in a row before Prince hit a three-pointer to finally end their scoring drought and start a stretch when Vanderbilt (6-2) had four of its 17 turnovers. Prince had seven points in the 13-0 run to get the Bears even, including a one-hander off the glass while falling down and his steal that led to a fadeaway jumper.

Wade Baldwin had 19 points for the Commodores, but fouled out when he knocked down Medford on the game-winning shot with 42 seconds left.

**No. 9 North Carolina 98, Davidson 65:** Nate Britt matched his career high with 17 points and host North Carolina rolled to a huge first-half lead.

Justin Jackson added 15 points to help the Tar Heels (7-1) cap a big week with an easy win over the cold-shooting Wildcats (5-1).

**No. 17 Cincinnati 87, Morgan State 66:** Gary Clark had a career-high 14 rebounds as part of his first double-double of the season, and Cincinnati recovered from its first loss of the season.

Cincinnati (8-1) was coming off a 78-76 loss to Butler on the Bearcats' home court Wednesday night, when Roosevelt Jones made a bank shot with a tenth of a second left. Kyle Thomas had 17 points for Morgan State (2-6).

# Warriors stretch streak to 22

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Golden State's first game against the Nets went down to the wire, and the rematch seemed headed the same way.

With one of his electrifying flurries, Stephen Curry changed things in a hurry.

Curry scored 16 of his 28 points in the third quarter and the Warriors ran their NBA-record start to 22-0 by beating Brooklyn 114-98 on Sunday night.

Coming off consecutive 40-point games, Curry was having a relatively quiet and even puzzling night — he missed his first three free throws — before helping the Warriors regain control against a team that nearly beat them this season and looked capable of finishing the job this time.

"Just trying to see if I could get some room and figure out a way to impact the game," Curry said, "and things started to click."

They sure did, as Curry scored 11 points and threw a lob for Festus Ezeli's slam during a 15-4 run to close the third.

"That's what great players can do. Plus, he has a great team," Nets coach Lionel Hollins said. "He doesn't have to go out there and do it all the time. Last night he had 44. Two nights ago when they were in Charlotte he had 43. When he needs to he

can and when he doesn't need to he takes a backseat to those guys."

Draymond Green added 22 points, nine rebounds and seven assists. Klay Thompson scored 21 for the Warriors, who won their 26th in a row overall in the regular season, one behind the 2012-13 Miami Heat for the second-longest streak in NBA history.

Down 75-70 with 3:10 left in the third, the Warriors were soon ahead 96-85 early in the fourth.

"It's one of our biggest strengths, is that we're never out of a game and we're always one little run away from putting a game away," coach Luke Walton said.

The Warriors equaled another NBA record, tying the 1969-70 New York Knicks for the best road start at 12-0. They visit Indiana on Tuesday.

**Thunder 98, Kings 95:** Russell Westbrook had his third triple-double of the season with 19 points, 10 assists and 11 rebounds and host Oklahoma City rallied late to beat Sacramento.

Kevin Durant committed 10 turnovers but hit the go-ahead jumper with 23 seconds left and two free throws with 4.4 seconds left to cap a 20-point, nine-rebound outing for Oklahoma City.

**Grizzlies 95, Suns 93:** Jeff Green's dunk on an alley-oop inbound pass from Courtney Lee with 0.5 seconds left gave

host Memphis a victory over Phoenix.

The Suns' last chance to tie the game came on Eric Bledsoe's shot from the right corner. The two-point attempt was long, sending Phoenix to its fourth straight loss despite a late rally that pulled the Suns even.

Marc Gasol led Memphis with 22 points. **Mavericks 116, Wizards 104:** Wesley Matthews scored 28 of his season-high 36 points in the second half and Dallas beat host Washington.

He hit 10 three-pointers overall and eight in the second half. The Mavericks took the lead early in the third quarter and pulled away in the fourth.

John Wall led Washington with 28 points but injured his right leg colliding with Dallas' Jeremy Evans and was helped off the court with 1:14 left.

**Pistons 111, Lakers 91:** Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 22 points, Andre Drummond added 18 points and 15 rebounds and Detroit beat Los Angeles in Kobe Bryant's last visit to Detroit.

Bryant received a standing ovation before the game, when the arena went dark while public address announcer John Mason read off his long list of achievements, graciously skipping the loss to Detroit in the 2004 Finals.

# Faulk lifts Hurricanes over Coyotes

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Carolina Hurricanes are next-to-last in the NHL in power-play goals, with 12 in 91 man-advantage opportunities.

Defenseman Justin Faulk, however, is tied for the league lead.

Faulk scored with 17 seconds left to give the Carolina Hurricanes a 5-4 victory over the Arizona Coyotes on Sunday.

He sent a shot from near the blue line past Coyotes goalie Anders Lindback after Martin Hanzal took a penalty for Arizona with 2:15 left. It was his ninth goal of the season — all on the power play.

"Anytime you get a power play late in the game, with a chance to go up, you get pretty excited," Faulk said. "I was just trying to find a way to get a shot through the net. We had good traffic, and it just kind of went in there."

Eric Staal, Kris Versteeg, Jay McClement and Ron Hainsey also scored as the Hurricanes got five goals for the first time since Oct. 16 at Detroit. Cam Ward had 19 saves.

Antoine Vermette's power-play goal with 6½ minutes remaining gave the Coyotes a 4-3 lead, but Hainsey tied it 1:57

later.

"You keep doing good things, and you're going to get rewarded in the end," Hurricanes coach Bill Peters said.

Stefan Elliott, Tobias Rieder and Nicklas Grossman also scored for Arizona. Lindback finished with 13 saves as Arizona lost its fourth straight. Each time Arizona scored, the Hurricanes came back with a goal less than 2 minutes later.

**Blackhawks 3, Jets 1:** Teuvo Teravainen scored from a sharp angle 21 seconds into the third period to snap a tie, and Marian Hossa had a goal and an assist as host Chicago defeated Winnipeg to end a three-game losing streak.

Chicago right wing Patrick Kane assisted on Artemi Panarin's empty-net goal with 1:46 left to extend his point streak to 22 games, breaking Bobby Hull's team record. Kane has a goal or assist in 25 of the Blackhawks' 27 games this season.

**Kings 3, Lightning 1:** Andy Andreoff, Brayden McNabb and Milan Lucic scored to lead Los Angeles past visiting Tampa Bay.

**Ducks 2, Penguins 1:** Chris Stewart had the go-ahead goal in the second period, Corey Perry also scored and host Anaheim overcame a disallowed goal to

beat Pittsburgh.

**Rangers 4, Senators 1:** Derick Brassard scored twice and Henrik Lundqvist stopped 23 shots to lead New York over visiting Ottawa.

Ryan McDonagh and Jesper Fast also scored to help the Rangers snap a two-game skid and win for the second time in seven games (2-4-1).

**Oilers 4, Sabres 2:** Taylor Hall and Teddy Purcell each had a goal and an assist to help host Edmonton beat Buffalo for its third straight win.

Jordan Eberle and Luke Gazdic also scored for the Oilers, who have won four of five. Anders Nilsson had 32 saves.

**Devils 4, Panthers 2:** Lee Stempniak and Kyle Palmieri scored first-period goals, and Cory Schneider made 34 saves as host New Jersey cooled off Florida.

Adam Henrique and Mike Cammalleri also scored to help the Devils win for the first time in their last five home games (1-2-2).

Jaromir Jagr had two assists in his first game at the Prudential Center since the February trade that sent him from New Jersey to Florida.

# Timbers win their 1st MLS title in Columbus

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Portland Timbers had a plan to attack early in their first MLS Cup appearance. They didn't expect it to work to perfection so quickly.

Diego Valeri scored 27 seconds after the opening whistle for the fastest goal in MLS Cup history to stun the Columbus Crew and their home fans.

A second goal in the seventh minute by Rodney Wallace provided all the scoring the Timbers needed to beat the Crew 2-1 on Sunday for their first league title.

The first goal came when Columbus midfielder Wil Trapp sent a back pass to goalkeeper Steve Clark, who tried to move the ball from his right foot to the left for a clearance. But Clark didn't see Valeri closing and the midfielder poked the ball away from him and into the goal. The Crew had barely recovered when a mental gaffe gave Portland a controversial second goal. Several Crew players stopped playing when the ball rolled over the right boundary. Instead of a stoppage for a throw-in, Portland's Darlington Nagbe kept going with the ball and sent a pass to Lucas Melano, who found Wallace for the header.

From The Associated Press