

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Dozens killed in Afghan airport siege

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*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — A daylong siege at a heavily fortified airport in southern Afghanistan has left at least 37 civilians dead and another 35 wounded as Taliban militants tried to fight their way onto an adjacent military base, an Afghan Defense Ministry official said Wednesday.

After nearly 24 hours of fighting against 10 to 15 insurgents armed with suicide vests, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and automatic rifles at Kandahar Airport, Afghan forces were still battling one surviving fighter Wednesday evening, Afghan Defense Min-

istry spokesman Gen. Mohamad Radmanish said.

The airport abuts Kandahar Air Field, a major hub of U.S. and Afghan military operations that officials said the insurgents hoped to reach.

One Afghan soldier was killed and three others injured. All the other attackers reportedly were killed.

Afghan and U.S. officials said the insurgents didn't make it inside the perimeter of the military base, home to roughly 2,000 U.S. troops, instead occupying buildings inside the Kandahar Airport grounds. After fierce battles with Afghan troops overnight, several surviving attackers were scattered throughout several airport buildings Wednesday and

continued fighting with Afghan security forces into the afternoon, officials said.

Passengers from at least one commercial flight were caught up in the attacks Tuesday and were stuck in the passenger terminal until the fighting ceased.

Col. Michael Lawhorn, spokesman for the international military coalition in Afghanistan, said no American or coalition troops were injured or killed in the attack.

Kandahar Air Field, a former hub for tens of thousands of troops and contractors, is located in southern Afghanistan's largest city and the Taliban's spiritual heartland. The Taliban, who often exaggerate the effects of their attacks, claimed responsibility on their

website, saying five attackers killed scores of international and Afghan troops.

The attack is another blow to the Afghan security forces, who have been stretched by a stubborn insurgency since the international military coalition withdrew the bulk of its troops.

They were dealt perhaps their biggest blow of the war in late September, when Taliban fighters overran the major northern city of Kunduz. It took two weeks of fighting and help from American special forces troops and coalition airpower for Afghan forces to fully regain control of the city.

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## 2 GIs dispute military account of Afghan hospital attack

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Two servicemembers have told Congress that American special forces called in an airstrike on a hospital in Afghanistan because they believed the Taliban were using it as a command center, contradicting the military's explanation that the attack was meant for a different building.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, a California Republican who serves on the House Armed Services Committee, quoted the servicemembers without naming them in a letter he sent Tuesday to Defense Secretary Ash Carter. The letter highlights gaps in the military's explanation of an October airstrike on a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz that killed 31 civilians.

Hunter said the accounts provided to him raise the possibility that the U.S. was manipulated by its Afghan partners into at-

tacking the hospital. If true, that would be a setback in the U.S. effort to work with and train a local force capable of securing that country.

A Pentagon spokesman, Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, said the secretary had received the letter but the Defense Department would not comment. Hunter declined to identify the servicemembers because he said they feared disciplinary action.

The two servicemembers told Hunter the U.S. special forces soldiers who called in the airstrike were not aware the Doctors Without Borders building was still being used as a hospital. Afghan forces, they say, told them it had become a Taliban command-and-control center.

"There were enemy in there," Hunter quotes one of the servicemembers as saying. "They had already removed and ransomed the foreign doctors, and they had fired on partnered personnel

from there."

Doctors Without Borders leaders and independent witnesses insist there were no armed men in the hospital, and the military's investigation supported that contention.

The military's official account, a summary of which was disclosed on Nov. 25 by the commanding U.S. general in Afghanistan, says the soldiers and airmen intended the airstrike to hit a different building a half-mile away — an Afghan intelligence facility said to be occupied by the Taliban.

It was only because of technical failures and human error that an AC-130 mistakenly struck and destroyed the trauma center in the Doctors Without Borders hospital, Gen. John Campbell told reporters.

Campbell's account didn't address the evidence that the U.S. had been focusing on the hospital.

The Associated Press has reported that military intelligence analysts had been tracking reports of Taliban activity at the hospital, including the presence of a Pakistani intelligence operative working with insurgents. Specific intelligence-gathering flights over the hospital were requested by the analysts, according to records viewed by a current and a former U.S. official.

The day before the attack, a senior special forces commander wrote in a report that the hospital was in Taliban hands and his objective was to clear it. A senior Pentagon official called Doctors Without Borders to ask whether their hospital had been overrun; he was told it had not.

Even after it became evident the attack had killed civilians at a hospital, Afghan officials continued to insist that the strike was justified because Taliban had been present.

## Man accused of calling for GIs to be killed

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An Ohio man who prosecutors say was sympathetic to the Islamic State group posted the names and addresses of 100 members of the military on social media and called for them to be killed, according to a federal indictment issued Tuesday.

A grand jury charged Terrence J. McNeil of Akron, 25, with three counts each of solicitation of a crime of violence and threatening military personnel. Mike Tobin, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Cleveland, said prosecutors aren't aware of any attacks on the servicemembers named.

Assistant U.S. Attorney General John Carlin said McNeil "solicited the murder of members of our military by disseminating violent rhetoric, circulating detailed U.S. military personnel information, and explicitly calling for the killing of American servicemembers in their homes and communities."

The government said McNeil posted a file on his Tumblr account with the names and addresses of military personnel. The posting urged "Brothers in America" to "Kill them in their own lands, behead them in their own homes, stab them to death as they walk their streets thinking that they are safe," according to the indictment.

# Navy: LCS fails major mine test

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy's new Littoral Combat Ship would be ineffective at hunting for mines because an underwater drone made by Lockheed Martin that's supposed to find them doesn't always work, the Pentagon's weapons-testing office found.

While mine-hunting is intended to be the primary combat mission of the ship, the drones required to detect underwater explosive devices from a safe distance have failed 24 times since September 2014, according to Navy test data provided to the Defense Department's Office of Operational Test & Evaluation.

Most recently, the drones failed 14 times over 300 hours in a five-month round of preliminary trials at sea that ended Aug. 30, according to the data. Crippled drones were towed to port seven times, and the intense combat testing required for increased purchases has been delayed. The Navy plans to spend \$864 million buying 54 drones from Lockheed, the biggest U.S. contractor.

Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, has scheduled a Jan. 19 review of the drone's reliability woes, the latest setback for the troubled Littoral Combat Ship program. Michael Gilmore, the Pentagon's director of combat

testing, prepared a 41-page classified assessment dated Nov. 12 for the review.

An independent team named by the Navy also is reviewing the drone program because the service realizes "reliability performance has not been acceptable," Capt. Thurraya Kent, a spokeswoman for the service, said in an email.

Lockheed spokesman Joe Dougherty said in an email that the drone "exceeded or met key performance parameters during a Navy-led development test conducted in early 2015." He said the Remote Minehunting System is "the only system on track for delivery that can fill" an "imminent capability gap."

## 1st US penis transplants for wounded vets

The Washington Post

Johns Hopkins University will soon perform the first penis transplants in the United States — and wounded soldiers will be the first patients. The New York Times reported that the first surgery could occur in just a few months.

The Department of Defense Trauma Registry reports that 1,367 military servicemen sustained injuries to the genitals between 2011 and 2013 in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The procedure has been suc-

cessful in South Africa. It is being perfected with an eye toward helping men injured during ritual circumcisions common in the Xhosa tribe.

Carisa Cooney, clinical research manager of the Johns Hopkins Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, said the university had been approached by "quite a few servicemen" and military leaders with requests for the experimental surgery. Around July 2013, the plastic surgery team started the process of get-

ting approval — first from their own internal review board, and then from those of the organ procurement organization.

It's true that one doesn't require a penis to survive. But because male genitals are so strongly associated with a sense of masculinity and identity in Western culture, the sudden loss can be debilitating. Reconstruction or prosthetics can help, but it doesn't restore natural function. Only a complete organ taken from a deceased donor can do that.

## Appeals court considers review of all-male military draft

By TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A panel of federal judges in California heard arguments Tuesday on whether the courts should weigh in on the male-only military draft now that the Pentagon opened all combat roles to women.

The case of National Coalition for Men v. the Selective Service System had initially been dismissed because not all combat

positions were open to women when it was first filed in 2013. Tuesday's hearing in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in Pasadena was originally set to discuss whether the 2013 dismissal had been appropriate.

However, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter last week opened all remaining combat positions to women in a move the Pentagon acknowledged "alters the factual backdrop" to the constitutionality of a male-only

draft.

"It seems to me that there's no need to argue whether it was ripe (for review) at an earlier time" given Carter's announcement last week, Judge Ronald Gould said Tuesday. "The question is, is it ripe now in light of what the Department of Defense said so clearly?"

Marc Angelucci, an attorney representing the Coalition for Men, a national advocacy group representing male interests in a

variety of issues, said plaintiff James Leimeister, 18, of Houston, has been affected because he had to register for the draft solely on the basis of his gender or face fines, potential prison time and the loss of federal loans.

Judge Marsha Berzon questioned that argument, given that the remedy would be that women also would have to register, which wouldn't relieve Leimeister's requirements.

# NFC East champ will be ugly

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Players and coaches in the NFC East won't be apologizing anytime soon for their woeful division having a spot in the playoffs — with a home game, no less.

Neither will Dallas owner and general manager Jerry Jones.

"I'm going to go back to that old saying: it's an ugly baby, but it's my baby," Jones said on his radio show Tuesday, a day after the Cowboys beat Washington to drop the Redskins into a three-way tie with Philadelphia and the New York Giants for the East lead at 5-7.

Dallas, which won the division at 12-4 last season, is one game back despite just two victories in 10 weeks. And the Cowboys (4-8) are headed to Green Bay after finally winning without quarterback Tony Romo — a first in eight tries this season.

"The bottom line is, 'Why not?'" Jones said. "We can go up there and the defense put together a game like that, a little more confidence in our offense, and here we go. Why not?"

The rest of the NFL might have a different question. Like, why?

"Does it matter?" Eagles tackle Jason Peters countered. "We can win the division and that's what matters. If a team was 12-0 and we were 11-1, it's no different. The records aren't as good, but it's all about winning your division."

The same questions were circulating a year ago about the NFC South. Carolina recovered from 3-8-1 to win four straight for a 7-8-1 finish before beating Arizona

at home in the wild-card round. The Panthers haven't lost in the regular season since, a winning streak that's up to 16 games now.

There is one other fairly recent example of a painfully weak division getting a wild-card win from its champion: Seattle in the NFC West in 2010, when the Seahawks rode their rowdy home crowd to a victory over defending Super Bowl champion New Orleans after a 7-9 finish.

"Records aren't good, but they're good teams," coach Jay Gruden said after the Redskins blew a chance to be the division's only .500 team.

The most important play in Washington's 19-16 loss fittingly was DeSean Jackson's poor decision to backtrack more than 20 yards on a punt return to his 1 in the final 2 minutes. His fumble led to the only touchdown for Dallas' 27th-ranked offense.

"There's a lot of talent on these football teams that we're playing, I promise you that," Gruden said. "It's exciting down the stretch and that's the way the NFC East is going to be. Whether we're 12-0 or 4-12, it doesn't matter. The fact of the matter is we have four games left and everything in our goals is still reachable."

The Eagles gave up 45 points in consecutive blowouts before getting three touchdowns from the defense and special teams in a 35-28 win over Super Bowl champion New England last weekend. The Cowboys, Giants and Redskins each lost to the Patriots.

The Giants keep giving away fourth-quarter leads with questionable decisions in game management by coach Tom Coughlin. And the Redskins just can't

keep a good thing going. They had five straight home wins before again failing to win consecutive games for the first time this season.

The Cowboys have the best excuses, with Romo missing seven games with a broken left collarbone and now out for the rest of the regular season at least with another break in that shoulder. All-Pro receiver Dez Bryant sat five games with a broken foot and didn't look much like himself in the first few weeks back.

Dallas couldn't find ways to win close games until Monday night, when the Cowboys bounced back from allowing Kirk Cousins' tying touchdown pass to Jackson in the final minute and got in position for Dan Bailey's winning 54-yard field goal with 9 seconds remaining.

So now the NFC East is the target of tweets like the one Monday that laid out a scenario of a four-way tie among 6-10 teams. Unlikely, of course, but that's what happens when last-place Dallas has the best division record at 3-2, and yet is the only team that doesn't control its playoff fate.

Since the Redskins visit the Eagles in Week 16 and the Giants have the Eagles at home on the final weekend of the regular season, all three division leaders don't have to count on anyone else at the moment.

"It's crazy, really," Philadelphia defensive end Vinny Curry said. "I know this doesn't sound right, but we're better than our record, way better. We just have to go out and play our kind of football."

It hasn't been very good football most of this season in the NFC East.

# Arizona adds ace Miller

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — In another dramatic move to return to the playoffs for the first time since 2011, the Arizona Diamondbacks acquired All-Star right-hander Shelby Miller from the Atlanta Braves on Wednesday for overall No. 1 draft pick Dansby Swanson and two other prospects.

A day after finalizing a \$206.5 million, six-year contract with major league ERA leader Zack Greinke, Arizona sent outfielder Ender Inciarte and pitching prospect Aaron Blair to the Braves and also acquired minor league left-hander Gabe Speier.

"If by some chance we get lucky and we get an opportunity to make a nice deal that helps us right now, then you take the opportunity and you take the chance to do it," Diamondbacks general manager Dave Stewart said Tuesday before the trade became known.

Greinke is set to anchor a new-look rotation that also could include Patrick Corbin, Rubby De La Rosa and Robbie Ray.

"We're counting on his mentorship with our other pitchers and being a part of helping their growth," Stewart said.

The Cubs also made some major moves, agreeing to a \$56 million, four-year contract with infielder Ben Zobrist and trading second baseman Starlin Castro to the New York Yankees for right-hander Adam Warren and a player to be named, likely infielder Brendan Ryan.

Zobrist played his first nine seasons with Tampa Bay when current Cubs manager Joe Maddon ran the Rays.

"He's all about winning. That's what he's about," Maddon said.

Chicago also finalized a \$32 million, two-year contract with 37-year-old right-hander John Lackey, who slots in as the Cubs' third starter behind Jake Arrieta and Jon Lester.

In the past year, the Yankees also acquired Didi Gregorius (25), Dustin Ackley (26) and Aaron Hicks (26). Looking for their first World Series title since 2009, the Yankees missed the playoffs for two straight years, then lost to Houston in this year's wild-card game.

"It hasn't and isn't part of our DNA to accept that full-blown commitment to a rebuild," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "I think the ownership's comfort level is walking that tightrope rather than tear down and live to fight another day. The public stated goal is to get younger and compete for the championship every year."

Also:

■ Atlanta agreed to a \$5.3 million, two-year contract with catcher Tyler Flowers, a person familiar with that deal said, also speaking on condition of anonymity because there had not been an announcement.

■ Detroit finalized an \$11 million, two-year contract with reliever Mark Lowe.

# Rookies have key roles in Cards' success

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Four rookies are playing a significant role in the Arizona Cardinals' success.

Running back David Johnson leads the team in touchdowns and wide receiver J.J. Nelson is a lightning bolt of a big-play threat. And on defense, nose tackle Rodney Gunter and outside linebacker Markus Golden have starting roles.

"We all talk a lot, try to help each other out," Johnson said.

Three of them are from schools outside the Power 5 conferences — Johnson from Northern Iowa, Nelson from Alabama-Birmingham, Gunter from Delaware State. The exception is Golden, who played at Missouri.

Johnson is at the top of the rookie list. The third-round draft pick moved into the starting role with injuries to Chris Johnson and Andre Ellington. In Sunday's 27-3 win over St. Louis — Arizona's sixth victory in a row — Johnson rushed for 99 yards, in 22 carries, and caught a 10-yard touchdown pass. He has nine TDs this season — four rushing, four receiving and one kickoff return.

"He's an explosive player," offensive coordinator Harold Goodwin said. "He's got size, he's got speed, he can catch. The

sky's the limit for that guy.

Johnson has been a part of things all along for the offense, but he broke out as an every-down back against the Rams.

"A lot of people had confidence in me and I had confidence in myself," he said. "The coaches helped me out a lot, getting me ready for that game."

Johnson, at 6-foot-1, 224 pounds, brings a power dimension to the running game that Chris Johnson and Ellington couldn't provide.

Next up for him is a place on the big stage of Thursday night football, at home against Minnesota.

Johnson wasn't the only rookie to catch a touchdown pass from Carson Palmer in St. Louis. J.J. Nelson, perhaps the fastest player in the NFL, had a 22-yard reception to cap Arizona's scoring drive the first time it had the ball.

Nelson, a fifth-round pick, has 11 catches, but most of them have been big gains. He's averaging 27.2 yards per catch.

"He needs to eat, first off," Goodwin said, joking.

Nelson, 5-10 and just 160 pounds, outran the secondary for a 64-yard touchdown catch in the team's Sunday night win over Cincinnati on Nov. 22.

On defense, the massive 6-foot-5, 305-pound Gunter, drafted in the fourth round,

has impressed the coaches ever since he got to Arizona.

When Corey Peters went down with a season-ending injury in the opener, Gunter moved in as a starter. He has 21 tackles, three tackles for loss, 11 quarterback pressures and two quarterback hits.

Golden, a second-round draft pick, has started four games but played in all 12. He has 25 tackles, a forced fumble, 13 quarterback hits and 11 quarterback pressures.

"You have to know your plays a little more (than in college) and you have to use your technique," he said. "Really, football's always the same, but when you get to this level, you have to be smart, you have to be mentally prepared at all times."

"We talk about five-star players — Larry (Fitzgerald) and (Patrick) Peterson — all those guys that we know are big-time players," Goodwin said. "These young guys have got to step up. It's December football. And so far, so good."

Conspicuously absent from this rookie list is first-round draft pick D.J. Humphries. The big offensive tackle has been inactive every game.

Coach Bruce Arians insists Humphries is improving steadily, "but he's not ready."



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# Thompson rallies Warriors

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Klay Thompson and the Golden State Warriors spent the first three quarters playing as flawlessly as their unbeaten record.

They spent the last 12 minutes Tuesday trying to protect their perfect quest.

On a night Thompson scored a season-high 39 points and reigning MVP Stephen Curry nearly had a triple-double, the Warriors improved to 23-0 by stopping Indiana's furious fourth-quarter comeback and holding off the Pacers 131-123.

"We've got to handle the end of the game better. We had a double-digit lead. You don't ever want to have to win the game twice or even three times," Curry said. "You want to make things as easy as possible when you have a night like we did for 36 minutes."

The defending NBA champions have made things look pretty easy in what has already been a milestone season.

They've won 27 straight dating to last spring, tying the 2012-13 Heat for the second-longest streak in NBA history. The 1971-72 Lakers hold the record with 33 wins in a row.

Golden State also has won 13 straight road games, breaking a tie with the 1969-70 Knicks for the league's best road start.

Curry, the league's leading scorer, finished with 29 points, 10 assists, seven rebounds and three three-pointers, tying Rashard Lewis' NBA record of 87 consecutive road games with at least one basket from beyond the arc.

Thompson went 10-for-16 on threes. He made a splash with his incredible first half when he scored 29 points, made 8 of 10 threes and was the key to a 22-0 run that forced Indiana to play catch-up the rest of the night.

"It was one of those nights where I got a lot of great looks. Going in I felt great," Thompson said. "I felt like I was due for a

game like that."

For the Warriors there were only two big concerns.

Thompson rolled his ankle late in the game and said afterward he expected to be bruised for the next couple of days. Fortunately for Thompson, Golden State doesn't play again till Friday at Boston.

The other: Letting Indiana back into the game.

"This team is good. One thing about them, they've got a championship confidence," George said. "Every guy is out there to make plays. They know how to put the ball in the hole. It's not just Stephen, it's not just Klay. All of them had that confidence to make plays and make shots."

**Cavaliers 105, Trail Blazers 100:** LeBron James had 33 points and 10 rebounds, and host Cleveland rallied from an 18-point first-half deficit.

Kevin Love added 18 points, and a second-half lineup adjustment by coach David Blatt helped Cleveland break a three-game losing streak.

James, who didn't play Saturday in Miami to rest, scored 14 points in the fourth quarter, including a three-pointer and a three-point play down the stretch. He shot 14-for-24 from the field.

**Nets 110, Rockets 105:** Brook Lopez scored 24 points, Joe Johnson had 22, and host Brooklyn beat Houston to sweep the season series for the first time in 14 years.

Thaddeus Young finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who have recorded two of their six victories this season against Houston. Bojan Bogdanovic scored 19 points in place of injured rookie Rondae Hollis-Jefferson.

Marcus Thornton scored a season-high 32 points for the Rockets, who fell behind by 18 points and got quiet nights from stars James Harden and Dwight Howard. Corey Brewer had 22 in extended minutes after starting forward Trevor Ariza

was lost to a bruised lower back after 4 minutes.

**Thunder 125, Grizzlies 88:** Kevin Durant had 32 points and 10 rebounds for visiting Oklahoma City, and Russell Westbrook added 13 points while matching his season high with 16 assists.

The Thunder built the lead to 35 through three quarters and coasted to their second straight win.

Mario Chalmers led Memphis with 19 points, and JaMychal Green and Marc Gasol had 11 apiece. It was the most points given up by Memphis this season.

The Thunder lead was large enough that the starters, including Westbrook and Durant, sat out the fourth quarter.

**Kings 114, Jazz 106:** Sacramento star DeMarcus Cousins had 23 points, 12 rebounds and six assists, and Rudy Gay also scored 23 points.

The host Kings took a 12-point lead after one quarter and never trailed again in ending a three-game losing streak.

Omri Casspi scored 19 points and Rajon Rondo had 17 points and 13 assists for the Kings. It was the 13th time this season that Rondo had 10 or more assists. Sacramento shot 55.8 percent.

**Magic 85, Nuggets 74:** Nikola Vucevic had 18 points and 13 rebounds, Evan Fournier hit a big three-pointer late and Orlando got the win on the road.

Elfrid Payton finished with 18 points as the Magic snapped a five-game skid against Denver.

With the Magic up by two with 2:38 remaining, Fournier knocked down a three to give them some breathing room. Orlando has made a three-pointer in 677 straight games dating to 2007, a streak that was in jeopardy until Fournier's shot. The team finished 1 for 16 from 3-point range

# Okposo, Isles top Flyers in shootout

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Kyle Okposo scored the only goal of the shootout, Frans Nielsen scored twice in regulation and the New York Islanders beat the Philadelphia Flyers 4-3 Tuesday night.

Jaroslav Halak had 43 saves through overtime and stopped all three Flyers attempts in the tiebreaker, and Brock Nelson also scored to help the Islanders win for the sixth time in eight games (6-0-2).

Ryan White, Pierre-Edouard Bellemare and Claude Giroux scored for Philadelphia. Steve Mason gave up three goals on 10 shots before he was replaced about midway through the second period, and Michal Neuvirth had 16 saves.

Okposo, New York's second skater in the shootout, used a stellar move to pull the puck onto his forehand before roofing it over Neuvirth.

**Kings 3, Blue Jackets 2 (OT):** Alec Martinez had an assist on the tying goal and then scored the winner at 4:33 of overtime to rally Los Angeles past host Columbus.

Jonathan Quick had 21 saves for the Kings, who won their fifth straight and improved to 6-0-1 in their last seven games.

**Capitals 3, Red Wings 2 (SO):** T.J. Oshie and Evgeny Kuznetsov scored in the shootout, lifting host Washington past Detroit.

Alex Ovechkin tied the score at 10:51 of the third period, and the Capitals killed a Red Wings power play in overtime to force the shootout.

**Maple Leafs 3, Devils 2 (SO):** Tyler Bozak and Nazem Kadri scored in the shootout, and Garret Sparks made 25 saves to lead host Toronto.

P.A. Parenteau and James van Riemsdyk scored in regulation for the Maple Leafs. Kadri converted in the fifth round of the tiebreaker for the win.

**Stars 6, Hurricanes 5:** Patrick Sharp scored on the power play with 19 seconds remaining to lift Dallas.

The Hurricanes had rallied with four third-period goals to tie the score with 6:43 remaining.

**Senators 4, Panthers 2:** Mike Hoffman scored the go-ahead goal to help visiting Ottawa get its third win in four games.

Kyle Turris and Zack Smith also scored for the Senators. J

**Blues 4, Coyotes 1:** Vladimir Tarasenko and Alexander Steen scored in the second period to help host St. Louis rally past Arizona.

Jake Allen made 22 saves as the Blues snapped a three-game losing streak.

**Blackhawks 4, Predators 1:** Patrick Kane extended his points streak to 23 games with an empty-net goal with 1:36 left, and host Chicago beat Nashville.

Dennis Rasmussen scored in his NHL debut and Corey Crawford made 36 saves.

**Flames 4, Sharks 2:** Mikael Backlund had a goal and an assist to lead Calgary to its seventh straight home win.

Karri Ramo, who has started three straight games and 15 of the past 16, made 31 saves to earn his ninth win of the season.

# No. 6 Terps hold off Huskies' rally

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Maryland looked like a team intent on a runaway victory, going up by 20 points in the first half and leading by 16 at halftime.

But the sixth-ranked Terrapins had to find a way to hold off a big rally by Connecticut before finally prevailing 76-66 on Monday night in the Jimmy V Classic at Madison Square Garden.

"We were as good as we've been all year on defense and with our rebounding," Maryland coach Mark Turgeon said. "I'm glad it got close. We will learn more from that situation."

Melo Trimble scored a season-high 25 points and freshman Diamond Stone had 16 for the Terrapins (8-1), who used their size up front to dominate the rebounding, 45-24, including 23-9 on the offensive end. Robert Carter had 11 rebounds and Stone grabbed nine for the Terps.

"I was really proud of his defense in the first half. In the second half it wasn't that good," Turgeon said of Stone, a highly recruited freshman. "The bigger the lights, the better he plays. He's coming and it helps that he has a lot of veteran bigs around him."

Daniel Hamilton had a season-high 23 points for the Huskies (5-3), who have lost three of four.

"Once again getting down by 20 really

hurt us," Connecticut coach Kevin Ollie said. "The rebounding, the toughness. They have a talented team but they were tougher than us in every aspect. Trimble took more free throws than our entire team (15-12). They had 45 rebounds. ... We just have to continue to fight. It's a pattern we have to stop."

**No. 10 Virginia 70, No. 14 West Virginia 54:** Anthony Gill had season highs of 20 points and 12 rebounds in Virginia's win in the Jimmy V Classic at Madison Square Garden.

In the first game between the schools in 30 years, the Cavaliers (8-1) had trouble with West Virginia's pressure and switching defenses.

**No. 12 Xavier 90, Wright State 55:** Trevon Bluiett scored a career-high 22 points, and host Xavier went on a 25-point run during a runaway victory that moved the Musketeers to 9-0 for the first time in seven years.

**No. 16 Baylor 75, Northwestern State 62:** Rico Gathers scored a career-high 31 points and grabbed 21 rebounds, helping host Baylor pull away.

Gathers was 12-for-20 from the field in his fourth consecutive double-double and had a season high in rebounds. He had more rebounds than the Demons, who were beaten on the glass 47-18.

**No. 17 Miami 66, Florida 55:** Sheldon McClellan scored 24 points, and host Miami (8-1) overcame an off night offensively with scrappy defense.

**No. 19 SMU 82, Michigan 58:** Jordan Tolbert got most of his 23 points on rim-rattling slam dunks and had nine rebounds as host SMU stayed undefeated.

**No. 20 Gonzaga 61, Montana 58:** Kyle Wiltjer and Domantas Sabonis each scored 16 points, and host Gonzaga (6-2) held on.

Wiltjer made two free throws with 7.5 seconds left. A three-point attempt by Montana's Brandon Gfeller bounced off the front rim as time expired.

**Army 77, Bryant 55:** Tanner Plomb scored 26 points with a half-dozen three-pointers and visiting Army hit 14 from behind the arc.

It was Plomb's 15th 20-point game career, fifth this season. Kyle Wilson scored 14 points with four three-pointers. The Black Knights are off to a 7-2 start for the second consecutive season.

**Ohio State 74, Air Force 50:** Marc Loving had 18 points and 10 rebounds for host Ohio State.

Trevor Lyons led Air Force (6-3) with 13 points.