

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Muslims in military tell of rising hostility

*The Washington Post*

U.S. Marine Gunnery Sgt. Emir Hazdic was a Muslim refugee.

"The way Americans welcomed us made such a huge impression on me that I felt like I owed something back," said Hazdic, a Bosnian Muslim who fled Sarajevo in 1995. Shortly after arriving in the United States, Hazdic joined the Marine Corps as an infantryman, hoping to help peacekeepers deploying to his homeland.

"I thought I would sign up and pay my debt and on behalf of my family," he added.

Eight deployments later and still in the Marine Corps, Hazdic has become disturbed by the rising anti-Muslim sentiment in this country after the recent Islamic State attacks in Paris and last week's shootings in San Bernardino, Calif. GOP presidential front-runner Donald Trump, a candidate Hazdic used to support, has called for barring Muslims from entering the United States.

"We used to be a balanced people. We used to be true to our values, but now we're willing to betray our values because of a sense of fear? That's not American," said Hazdic. "What the hell happened to that America I immigrated to?"

Many American Muslims say they are living through a difficult time in this country. For the Muslims who are former and current servicemembers, the prejudice and anti-Muslim rhetoric are particularly painful. Those interviewed for this story said hateful comments have driven a wedge between them and the country they swore to defend.

There are roughly 5,900 U.S. servicemembers who self-identify as Muslims — just 0.27 percent of both active-duty and reserve components of the military. In many units, they number in the single digits and often find themselves acting as representatives for the religion in their platoons, answering basic questions about the tenets of Islam.

Now they are finding a climate that is significantly worse than anything they experienced after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"The rhetoric is definitely different; it's very alarming," said Cpl. Ibrahim Hashi, a Marine who left the service in 2011 and now attends American University in Washington. "And I'm concerned for myself and my family's safety."

Hashi said he has seen anti-Muslim

### 'What the hell happened to that America I immigrated to?'

U.S. Marine Gunnery Sgt. Emir Hazdic

postings on Facebook — often on informal, military-themed pages set up by current and former servicemembers. He recently saw a meme that read, "The only good Muslim is a dead Muslim."

He said he has tried to confront friends and former comrades who post hateful things about Muslims. Their response, according to Hashi: "Aw, man, we're not talking about you; you're good. We're talking about those Muslims."

"I tell them you can't cut me out of my own community and say that I'm the good one," said Hashi, who deployed once to Afghanistan and twice to Iraq. "It's sad. I've had to cut people out of my life, people I consider friends, because I'm not going to accept it. I value myself. I have self-worth."

According to Shadi Hamid, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute, the spike in anti-Islamic sentiment is inextricably linked to the presence of the Islamic State group, an organization that "provokes a greater level of fear," than other extremist groups such as al-Qaida. In addition, Hamid thinks that President Barack Obama's stance on how the Islamic State "has nothing to do with Islam" has provoked a hard-line response from Republican politicians.

"It would be different if there was a Republican president who would be able to push that message and own it," Hamid said. "Some people are rediscovering their appreciation for certain aspects of the Bush presidency, because he was unequivocal on the question of terrorism being different and separate and to make careful distinctions."

For Hazdic, the Bosnian immigrant, the suggestion from Trump that Muslims need to carry special ID cards is unmistakably similar to what he heard as a child in Bosnia in the early 1990s, when Serbs started rounding up Muslims with orders to wear white armbands so they could be identified by their religion.

"That's what's scary with things that he's saying," Hazdic said. "I know how things work when you start whipping up mistrust

between your neighbors and friends. ... I've seen them turn on each other."

Some Muslim veterans have spoken out on social media. Tayyib Trashid, a former Marine, tweeted out a photo of his military ID card after Trump said Muslims should carry special cards.

"Hey @realDonaldTrump, I'm an American Muslim and I already carry a special ID badge. Where's yours? #SemperFi #USMC pic.twitter.com/QSf2O9PTi2"

Army Capt. Nadi Kassim said he sees today's rhetoric as "un-American" and has watched his country's descent into a renewed Islamophobia from a distance. Stationed in Germany and in charge of 120 men and women, he thinks the current climate is profoundly against his Army values.

"It doesn't represent what the military represents when it comes to equality," Kassim said. "It's not OK to discriminate, and it's not OK to be racially biased, and that's coming from someone who is Muslim and has decided to serve his country, which anybody can do."

Kassim, a 2010 West Point graduate and son of two Palestinian refugees, has had an Army career that has been "100 percent positive" as a Muslim, and currently serves with a diverse command team that runs a headquarters unit under the 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

Former Marine Cpl. Mansoor Sham said the anti-Muslim rhetoric especially dishonors the memories of the American Muslims who have died in uniform.

"Every time that [anti-Islamic] comments are made, we're pretty much doing a disservice to them; we're not honoring them," said Sham, a Pakistani-American who left Karachi when he was 6 and joined the Marine Corps in 2000. "They're people that have died for this country, and we're bashing their faith around all the time."

Sham watched the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks unfold from his duty station in North Carolina, and in the days following the attacks was asked to teach Marines about his religion.

During his five-year enlistment, Hashi said that in his platoon, "it was nothing but love." But after seeing such visceral reactions and condemnations toward his religion on fellow veterans' and Marines' Facebook pages, it has made him think twice about joining if he were to sign up today.

"It's a very real tangible hate that exists," Hashi said.

# Obama mum on new commando force being deployed to in Iraq

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The commando force that President Barack Obama is dispatching to Iraq to conduct clandestine raids against the Islamic State group does not fit neatly into a picture of the U.S. military strategy for defeating the extremist army.

Even the name — “specialized expeditionary targeting force” — is a bit of a riddle.

The main point is that the force is intended to ratchet up pressure on Islamic State militants by using a small group of special operations troops — possibly fewer than 100 — to more aggressively use intelligence information, including capturing and killing the group’s leaders. In theory, this would generate even more and better intelligence, feeding what the military calls a “virtuous cycle” of intelligence-driven air and ground operations.

It will be combat, but on a relatively small scale. Obama remains opposed to major U.S. ground combat in Iraq or Syria. Several weeks ago, the administration said it would send as many as 50 special operations troops to Syria as trainers and advisers.

The Pentagon has been spare in its description of this new commando force in Iraq. It has not even said when it will deploy.

Offered a chance by the Senate Armed Ser-

vices Committee on Wednesday to expand on the Pentagon’s cryptic outline of the force’s makeup and mission, Defense Secretary Ash Carter demurred. In fact, he said less about it than when he announced the move a week ago. He said then that the force would be positioned to gather intelligence, conduct raids and free hostages in Iraq while partnered with Iraqi forces. He also said it could conduct unilateral hit-and-run raids into Syria.

But Carter told the committee that he preferred to keep details under wraps.

“This is a no-kidding force that will be doing important things,” he said, adding that describing it too fully would jeopardize its security.

This kind of military force typically works in the shadows; the very fact of its existence normally would be classified secret. In this case the Pentagon lifted that veil to bolster its argument that the U.S. military strategy is building momentum at a time when its critics claim the Islamic State is winning.

Obama alluded to the new commando force when he said in an Oval Office address Sunday that thousands of Iraqi and Syrian ground forces are trying to retake territory from the Islamic State group and that U.S. special operations forces are being deployed to “accelerate that offensive.”

# N. Korea hints at H-bomb

The Washington Post

TOKYO — North Korea is ready to detonate a hydrogen bomb to “defend its sovereignty and the dignity of the nation,” leader Kim Jong Un said Thursday — a threat that remains unsubstantiated.

It is the first time the regime, which has already conducted three atomic tests, has claimed to have built a hydrogen bomb.

South Korean intelligence specialists were skeptical and dismissed Kim’s words as rhetoric.

“We don’t have any information that North Korea has developed an H-bomb,” Yonhap News Agency quoted an unnamed intelligence official as saying. “We do not believe that North Korea, which has not succeeded in miniaturizing nuclear bombs, has the technology to produce an H-bomb.”

Kim asserted this week that North Korea had become “a powerful nuclear weapons state ready to detonate self-reliant A-bomb and H-bomb to reliably defend its sovereignty and the dignity of the nation.”

In recent months, Pyongyang said it could launch a submarine ballistic missile, had made nuclear warheads small enough to fit on a missile and had restarted its key nuclear facilities at Yongbyon.

None of these assertions has been proven. In fact, North Korea appears to have disproved the first claim with a failed missile launch from a submarine last month.

# Dear: I’m a ‘warrior for the babies’

Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The man accused of killing three people in an attack on a Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic defied his own defense attorney in court, declaring himself a “warrior for the babies” who would not be silenced by the lawyer tasked with potentially saving his life.

Robert Dear, 57, repeatedly

interrupted public defender Daniel King and accused him of seeking a gag order in the case to conceal what Dear portrayed as Planned Parenthood’s crimes that led to the Nov. 27 assault. The conflict added a new level of turmoil to a politically charged case that has already sparked debate about when political speech becomes a call for violence.

“You’ll never know what I

saw in that clinic,” a bearded, unkempt and shackled Dear yelled Wednesday in one of more than a dozen outbursts as King successfully argued for the gag order by contending that public discussion of the investigation could prejudice potential jurors. “Atrocities. The babies. That’s what they want to seal,” Dear said. A deputy squeezed Dear’s shoulder in an effort to quiet him.

# Marriage, previous plot tie gun buyer, shooter

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The gunman who massacred his co-workers in the San Bernardino rampage and the friend who bought the assault rifles used in the shooting were related

through marriage and may have plotted an attack together three years ago.

New revelations from officials and public records show a much deeper connection between Syed Rizwan Farook and Enrique Marquez than disclosed previously.

Marquez purchased high-

powered weapons at least three years ago that Farook and his wife fired when they burst into a holiday-themed meeting of Farook’s fellow health inspectors Dec. 2, killing 14 people and wounding 21 others.

Marquez and Farook “were plotting an actual attack” three years ago, including purchas-

ing weapons, but became apprehensive and shelved the plan because of law enforcement activity and arrests in the area, said Idaho Sen. Jim Risch, a Republican who sits on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

From The Associated Press



# Navy heavy favorite over Army

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — When Keenan Reynolds first faced Army, the Navy quarterback couldn't help getting caught up in the enormity of the historic rivalry.

"That was a pretty nerve-racking game. When I think about it, I get nervous again," Reynolds recalled this week. "I was thinking, one or two plays either way and we lose that game."

Reynolds ran for an 8-yard touchdown with 4:41 left to give the Midshipmen the lead in a 17-13 victory.

"That's something that will stick with me forever," he said.

The 2012 season marked the beginning of Reynolds' sensational, record-setting college career. On Saturday, the talented senior hopes to add another milestone to his impressive list of accomplishments: first quarterback to go 4-0 as a starter in the Army-Navy series.

"That would be pretty awesome," Reynolds said. "But it's not going to happen by just showing up."

No. 21 Navy (9-2) is an overwhelming favorite to beat Army (2-9) for the 14th consecutive season. A victory would enable the Midshipmen to claim the Commander-In-Chief's Trophy, awarded annually to the military academy with the best record in games between Army, Navy and Air Force.

"That's the No. 1 priority," Reynolds said.

He intends to play this one with a far more relaxed attitude than in his initial encounter with the Black Knights.

"I'm going to enjoy all the little things about the game — coming out for warmups, going to midfield for the coin toss, that type of stuff," Reynolds said.

No matter what happens Saturday, Reynolds will be remembered as one of the finest quarterbacks in Naval Academy history. His 83 rushing touchdowns are the most ever among Football Bowl Subdivision schools, and his 4,279 yards rushing tops the school's career list. He can throw, too — Reynolds needs only 36 yards passing to become the first Navy quarterback to rush and pass for 1,000 yards in two separate seasons.

Reynolds operates coach Ken Niumatalolo's triple-option attack to near-perfection. When it comes to drawing up a game-plan to beat Navy, nothing is more important than stopping Reynolds.

"Trying to contain him is difficult. Every coach, every defensive staff they face will tell you the same," Army coach Jeff Monken said. "He has a great knack for finding the opening, finding the crease, and then wiggling his way through there and getting a lot of extra yards. That's a unique talent in itself."

"He's as valuable to his team as anybody in the country."

Especially against Army. In 2013, Reynolds dashed through the snow for 136

yards and three touchdowns in a 34-7 rout. Last year, the 5-foot-11 standout guided the Midshipmen to 17-10 victory.

And now, in his finale against the Black Knights, Reynolds can become the first quarterback to go 4 for 4 in a classic rivalry that began in 1890.

"It's a special opportunity that I've been afforded," Reynolds said. "It's not something I've thought a lot about, but it is pretty cool."

Reynolds has a 30-13 career record as a starter, and his numbers this year brought his name into the conversation as a potential Heisman Trophy finalist. He didn't make the cut, but no one will argue his stature as the best to play the position at Navy since Heisman winner Roger Staubach in 1963.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't disappointed," Reynolds said of the Heisman slight. "But I'm moving on."

Pro football isn't in the immediate future for Reynolds, who must serve out his military commitment after Navy faces Pitt on Dec. 28 in the Military Bowl. Staubach, who's gotten to know Reynolds well over the past four years, expects the Tennessee native to be as effective in the service as he is behind center.

"He has that ability, that humility, in addition to that greatness that he has, and I think that balance will make him a great officer," Staubach said. "Whatever he chooses, he's going to be an inspiration to the active service after he graduates."

## UFC says Holm's next fight a Rousey rematch

LAS VEGAS — The UFC wants bantam-weight champion Holly Holm's next fight to be a rematch with Ronda Rousey.

Holm would prefer not to wait for the former champ to heal up from their first meeting.

UFC President Dana White told the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday that "it's Rousey" next for Holm (10-0), who dethroned Rousey (12-1) with a dramatic second-round stoppage last month in Australia.

But Rousey says she might need several months to recover, which would potentially keep the 34-year-old Holm out of action until summer or longer.

Holm's manager, Lenny Friesquez, told the Times that his fighter would prefer to be more active, perhaps meeting top contender Miesha Tate in the interim.

The UFC has shown interest in booking the Holm-Rousey rematch for July in Las Vegas.

In other boxing news:

■ Tyson Fury has been summoned by the British Boxing Board of Control in the new year following controversial comments by the new world heavyweight champion.

Fury's remarks about homosexuals and abortion, some of which are being investigated by British police, were published in a newspaper interview before his victory over Wladimir Klitschko in a heavyweight title fight on Nov. 28, and repeated on radio this week. He also said a woman's place was in the kitchen.

## Hornets' Jefferson gets five-game suspension

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte Hornets will be without Al Jefferson for an additional five games once he returns from a leg injury after the veteran center was suspended without pay for violating the terms of the NBA/NBPA Anti-Drug Program.

Jefferson is currently out with a strained left calf and can't begin serving the five-game suspension until he's healthy, the league announced Wednesday.

The banned substance Jefferson used has not been disclosed. When a reporter asked Jefferson if the substance was marijuana, he declined to answer.

## Pitt extends head coach Narduzzi through 2021

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh's promising first season under Pat Narduzzi has earned the energetic football coach a contract extension.

The school announced Thursday it has extended Narduzzi's contract through the 2021 season. Narduzzi led Pitt to an 8-4 record and a second-place finish behind North Carolina in the ACC Coastal Division. Pitt will face Navy in the Military Bowl on Dec. 28.

Athletic director Scott Barnes said Narduzzi "adrenalized" the program after replacing Paul Chryst last December. Narduzzi said he is "humbled" by the support from Barnes and the rest of the athletic department.

From The Associated Press

# Changes coming to bowl system

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The bowl system has finally snapped after years of being stretched thin.

Three teams with losing records will be among the 80 playing in a record 40 bowl games over the next month and two teams from the same conference will play each other in a bowl.

This offseason, a task force will study the bowl system, intent on making changes to prevent that from happening again. The NCAA has largely removed itself from the bowl business, allowing conferences, communities and television networks to create postseason games. The NCAA is not looking to take control of the bowls, but everyone agrees adjustments are needed.

"The members are going to have to figure out, what's the purpose of bowl games?" NCAA President Mark Emmert told reporters Wednesday at the IMG Intercollegiate Athletics Forum. "Is it a reward for a successful season or is it just another game that we're going to provide an opportunity for?"

Ten years ago a bit less than 50 percent of the FBS earned a postseason bid. This season, 63 percent of 127 FBS teams will play in bowls, including new games in Florida and Arizona.

The new NCAA football oversight committee was forced to tweak a safety net policy to allow 5-7 teams to be bowl-eligible based on their Academic Progress Rates. That let the Big Ten fill its con-

tracted bowl spots with Nebraska and Minnesota, though the new Arizona Bowl in Tucson ended having to match Mountain West rivals.

Colorado State and Nevada, who play in different divisions and didn't meet this season, will play Dec. 29. That angered Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson.

"Clearly, the system is broken," Thompson said in a statement.

Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby leads the football oversight committee and said the goal of the task force is not specifically to cut bowl games.

"I think the fact is we do have too many bowl games and we have more bowl games waiting in the wings," Bowlsby said. "But you can't fault the communities from going and ahead and doing something if they want to. We're going to have to do a deep dive on it and figure it out."

Figuring it out won't be easy. There are some clear disagreements among major players.

ACC Commissioner John Swofford said athletic directors in his conference would prefer teams be at least 7-5 to be bowl eligible. Currently, the minimum requirement for bowl eligibility is six victories and a .500 record.

"For the Southeastern Conference, the opportunity for 6-6 teams to participate is important," SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said.

As many established bowls made deals with Power Five conferences in re-

cent years, Group of Five conferences such as the Mountain West, American Athletic Conference and Mid-American Conference have worked to create bowls to provide postseason opportunities for their members.

Last season, Temple of the American went 6-6 and didn't go to a bowl game.

South Florida Athletic Director Mark Harlan said it was tough to hear his counterpart at Temple, Patrick Kraft, recount the story of how he told last year's team it wouldn't be playing in the postseason.

"We have to make sure 6-6 teams are rewarded," Harlan said.

Some have suggested drawing a hard line at six victories and not filling spots if there are not enough eligible teams.

"We're going to have a candid conversation about bowls either going dark, that's an assumption of risk that they'll have to understand that there might not be teams, or do you structure a set of expectations, whether it's some criteria bowls have to meet to be a part of consideration," Sankey said.

It's early to speculate on what changes are coming, but some are expected.

"In our society, sometimes we don't put up a traffic light until there have been a couple of accidents at an intersection," FBA executive director Wright Waters said during a teleconference with reporters this week. "This may be the opportunity to force that conversation."



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# Raptors snap Spurs' streak

Associated Press

TORONTO — Dwane Casey liked what he saw from his Raptors, and wants to see it more often.

DeMar DeRozan scored 28 points, Kyle Lowry added 19 and Toronto snapped the San Antonio Spurs' four-game winning streak with a 97-94 victory on Wednesday night.

Casey has seen this before. Solid victories at Oklahoma City, at Washington and at Atlanta have been followed up by less-than-desirable efforts at Orlando, against Phoenix and against Denver.

So even a victory over the Spurs did little to bring a smile to Casey's face.

"We have to build a consistent identity of playing this way if we're serious about doing anything," he said. "We can be up and down and get happy on the farm and do all this on one night and come back and lay an egg the next night."

"We have to make sure we tend to our business and keep this same concentration, execution in the next game."

Toronto won despite taking just 64 shots, the seventh time in franchise history that the team won attempting 64 or fewer and the first time since a 2009 win over Detroit. The Raptors made them count, connecting on a season-high 57.8 percent.

**Celtics 105, Bulls 100:** Isaiah Thomas scored nine of his 20 points in the final 3 minutes to lead host Boston past Chicago.

Kelly Olynyk added 15 points, Jae Crowder and Evan Turner each had 13 and David Lee scored 12 for the Celtics, who had eight players in double figures and won for the fourth time in five games.

**Grizzlies 93, Pistons 92:** Matt Barnes tossed in a desperation three-pointer from just inside midcourt with 1.1 seconds left to lift visiting Memphis over Detroit.

Marcus Morris missed a contested shot with 7 seconds left that could have clinched the game for the Pistons, and Andre Drummond's tip bounced off the rim.

**Rockets 109, Wizards 103:** James Harden had 42 points, nine rebounds and seven assists in visiting Houston's victory over Washington.

Harden scored 23 in the second half a day after he finished with a season-low 10 points in a loss at Brooklyn.

**Hornets 99, Heat 81:** Kemba Walker and Marvin Williams scored 18 points each to lead host Charlotte past Miami for its third straight victory.

Tyler Johnson scored 20 for Miami, which had won three of four. Dwyane Wade and Gerald Green each added 11.

**Timberwolves 123, Lakers 122 (OT):** Kevin Martin scored 37 points and Karl-Anthony Towns had 26 points and 14 rebounds to lift host Minnesota over Los Angeles in overtime.

Martin went 6-for-9 from three-point range and scored 17 in the fourth quarter to help the Timberwolves (9-12) improve

to 3-9 at home. Towns made 11 of 19 shots and tied a career high for rebounds.

**Clippers 109, Bucks 95:** J.J. Redick scored a season-high 31 points as visiting Los Angeles pulled away in the second half against Milwaukee.

Redick, who averaged 24 points in two games against the Bucks last season, once again tormented his former team, scoring 15 in the third quarter.

**Hawks 98, Mavericks 95:** Paul Millsap scored 20 points, including a jumper that capped Atlanta's game-turning run in the final minutes against host Dallas.

The Hawks trailed 93-89 with 3:07 to play before Millsap scored four points in a 7-0 spurt. He also led Atlanta with 11 rebounds.

**Jazz 106, Knicks 85:** Gordon Hayward scored 24 points as host Utah bullied New York from start to finish.

Hayward shot 9-for-14 from the field, including four three-pointers, to go with four rebounds and five assists.

**Suns 107, Magic 104:** Brandon Knight scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half, and Alex Len set career highs with 20 points and 14 rebounds as host Phoenix beat Orlando.

Eric Bledsoe made a tiebreaking layup for the Suns with 1:11 left and finished with 21 points and nine assists. The Magic had a couple of chances to tie in the final 30 seconds but turned the ball over, and Victor Oladipo and Evan Fournier missed potential tying three-pointers in the final 5 seconds.

# Dayton knocks off Vanderbilt

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Dayton coach Archie Miller has seen his Flyers not respond before when an opponent jumped out ahead. This time, they fell behind by 16 points in the first half in an old gym where comebacks are tough.

The Flyers couldn't have answered much better.

Kendall Pollard scored a season-high 21 points, and Dayton rallied to upset No. 21 Vanderbilt 72-67 on Wednesday night in what Miller called a "terrific" win.

"The end of the first half was really important," Miller said of a run that started with 2:35 left. "It gave us some confidence at halftime, and I thought once we got our offense in front of our bench it was a little easier to control it, and some guys got some baskets to go in and we had some confidence."

The Flyers (7-1) now have beaten three teams from the power five conferences this season, with previous wins over Alabama and Iowa. They have won two straight since being routed 90-61 by Xavier.

The Commodores (6-3) not only blew a big lead on their own floor in their second straight loss, but will be without top shot blocker Luke Kornet for four to six weeks after he tore the medial collateral ligament in his left knee in practice Monday.

Coach Kevin Stallings called Kornet probably the most physical player on their team.

"We got to play harder," Stallings said. "We came out the start of the second half and I mean literally on defense we were walking around. Literally."

Scoochie Smith added 13 points, and Steve McElvene added 10 as Dayton shot its way back into the lead despite just seven points from leading scorer Charles Cooke.

Wade Baldwin IV and Damian Jones scored 18 apiece for Vanderbilt, which hit just two of its final 10 shots. Matthew Fisher-Davis and Riley LaChance each added 11 points.

**No. 1 Michigan State 78, Maryland Eastern Shore 35:** Denzel Valentine had 11 points, 10 rebounds and six assists to help the Spartans rout the visiting Hawks.

**No. 2 Kansas 92, Holy Cross 59:** Brannen Greene returned from suspension to score 14 points, Wayne Selden Jr. had 15 and the host Jayhawks rolled to the runaway win.

**No. 5 Kentucky 88, Eastern Kentucky 67:** Alex Poythress had 21 points and 13 rebounds, Jamal Murray scored 16 and the host Wildcats pulled away for the victory.

**No. 11 Purdue 93, Howard 55:** Freshman Caleb Swanigan scored 11 of his 19 points during the host Boilermakers 56-point first half.

**No. 13 Arizona 85, Fresno State 72:** Allonzo Trier scored 27 points, Ryan Anderson added 17 and the host Wildcats pulled away late.

**No. 15 Providence 66, Boston College 51:** Rodney Bullock scored 17 points as the host Friars beat the Eagles in the first game for Boston College since several team members fell ill to a restaurant-related virus.

The Boston Public Health Commission said lab testing confirmed the presence of a gastrointestinal illness at a Chipotle restaurant near the BC campus. More than 120 students were affected.

# Bruins rally in third to beat Canadiens

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Veteran Zdeno Chara jumpstarted the Bruins on their way to a come-from-behind victory with some impressive stick work.

Chara assisted on the first of three third-period goals for Boston en route to a 3-1 win over the Montreal Canadiens on Wednesday night that snapped the Bruins' seven-game skid in the rivalry.

Playing short-handed, Chara batted the puck out of mid-air from deep in his own zone to send Loui Eriksson on a breakaway. Eriksson's goal made it 1-1 and sparked the late rally.

"Zee (Chara) made a heck of a play on that first goal and that got us going," said goaltender Tuukka Rask, who recorded his first career regular-season victory against the Canadiens. "That kind of caught them off guard after that and we scored a couple of quick ones."

Landon Ferraro scored a go-ahead goal 42 seconds later, and Patrice Bergeron followed with a milestone score with 6:18 left, surpassing Milt Schmidt for 11th on the franchise list with his 576th point.

Eriksson said he wasn't aware Chara had used his hockey stick like a baseball bat to make the play.

"I didn't see that," Eriksson said. "Good play by him then. It was a late shift for me but I was able to find some room to get a breakaway. I didn't really see what happened."

Paul Byron scored for Montreal 8:49 into the first, and the Canadiens lost their season-high third straight game.

Rask stopped 32 shots to help Boston win for the second time in five games since ending a five-game win streak.

Mike Condon stopped 20 shots for the Canadiens.

Boston hadn't beaten Montreal since March 12, 2014.

Ferraro beat Condon with a snap shot to the blocker side.

"All of a sudden the control of the game came to our side," Chara said. "We got more jump from that and we were feeling better after those two goals. You could tell by our forecheck."

Bergeron scored after a nice play by Brad Marchand to snag a loose puck behind Montreal's net. Marchand passed to Bergeron in the slot, and the Bruins center waited out Condon and beat him with a forehand move.

"We played well until the end, until we fell asleep there," Canadiens captain Max Pacioretty said. "It's frustrating. Great play by Chara to spring him on the breakaway, but we can't take our foot off the gas when that happens. We fell asleep after that."

Byron got his fourth goal of the season after his centering pass to Tomas Plekanec went off Bruins defenseman Zach Trotman and in. Byron now has points in three of his last four games.

Montreal repeatedly tested Rask in the first two periods, outshooting Boston 26-14 through 40 minutes, but the Bruins netminder kept his team in the game going into the third.

Condon made his sixth consecutive start and also made big stops throughout before the third-period collapse.

In the first, Condon reacted quickly to make the pad save on Brett Connolly, who was alone in front of goal. In the second, Condon stopped a puck through traffic off Chara's long stick.

**Penguins 4, Avalanche 2:** Beau Bennett and Olli Maatta combined for three goals in 3:24 during the third period as visiting Pittsburgh rallied to beat Colorado.

Bennett had two goals during the flurry and Maatta had the winner. Maatta also had an assist.

Bennett tied it at 2 with a backhand

at 7:19 of the third, and Maatta put the Penguins ahead 2:05 later when his sharp-angle shot went off goalie Reto Berra and popped up in the air. The puck hit the crossbar and went off Colorado's John Mitchell and into the net.

Bennett scored his second of the night and fifth of the season 1:19 later.

Marc-Andre Fleury had 24 saves for Pittsburgh, and Matt Cullen also scored.

Matt Duchene and Erik Johnson scored first-period goals for the Avalanche. Berra finished with 29 saves.

**Canucks 2, Rangers 1:** Daniel Sedin and Alexander Edler each had a goal and an assist to lift host Vancouver over New York.

Henrik Sedin added two assists for Vancouver, and Ryan Miller made 32 saves. The Canucks won consecutive games for the first time since Oct. 30 and Nov. 2.

Dan Boyle scored on a penalty shot for the Rangers, and Henrik Lundqvist made 23 saves.

Daniel Sedin scored the winner on a slick deflection down low at 9:24 of the third period off a slap pass from Edler for his 13th of the season just 40 seconds after Boyle tied the game 1-all.

**Oilers 4, Sharks 3 (OT):** Taylor Hall scored at 3:59 of overtime as host Edmonton edged San Jose for its fourth straight victory.

Leon Draisaitl, Jordan Eberle and Iiro Pakarinen also scored for the Oilers.

The Sharks lost their fifth straight. Justin Braun, Patrick Marleau and Joe Pavelski scored for San Jose.

Draisaitl set up Hall's winner with a pass on a 2-on-1 that Hall tipped in for his 12th of the season.

Pakarinen made it 3-all with 4:37 left, and Anders Nilsson had 27 saves for the Oilers.