

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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War powers request heads to Congress

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The White House was ready to share with lawmakers Tuesday its plan to seek authority for the use of military force against the Islamic State group, setting up the first war vote in Congress in 13 years.

Presidential counsel Neil Eggleston was set to address the Senate Democrats' luncheon, the day before President Barack Obama is expected to formally unveil his proposed authorization, a Democratic official revealed.

The White House and proponents of a new authorization for use of military force argue that passage is important to show unity in the fight against militants who have seized territory in Iraq and neighboring Syria, imposed a violent form of Shariah law and killed U.S. and allied hostages.

To get congressional approval, Obama must find a balance between lawmakers who want wide authority to fight the Islamic State group and others, including members of his own party, who worry that a new authorization to use

military force will lead to another American entanglement in a protracted war. The White House has been seeking input from lawmakers before unveiling specifics, in hopes of ironing out differences privately and lining up support from both parties before going public with the request.

So far, no formal language has been submitted, although the White House has completed a draft, according to a senior congressional official who spoke only on condition of anonymity because the person wasn't authorized to discuss by name a strategy being discussed privately.

In 2002, Congress passed a resolution authorizing President George W. Bush to use force against Iraq—a vote that scores of Democrats have regretted and Obama used as a cudgel against his rivals to win the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

Obama so far has relied on congressional authorizations that Bush used to justify military action after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Critics say the White House's use of those authorizations to fight the

terrorist group is a legal stretch at best.

The president earlier insisted he had the legal authority to deploy more than 2,700 U.S. troops in Iraq to train and assist Iraqi security forces, and to conduct ongoing airstrikes against targets in Iraq and Syria. More recently, the president has said he wants a new authorization, but has not released details.

Another congressional official said the president will ask for a three-year authorization so the next president will have to seek renewed authority to fight the Islamic State. The official said Obama wants to leave open the option to send in combat forces if needed, but is not seeking an authorization that would permit a prolonged U.S. troop presence on the ground.

The White House request also would not restrict the fight to geographic locations, but would limit the U.S. to fighting Islamic State militants or any future group that evolves, the official said.

A congressional aide said Democrats will not rubber-stamp the White House version but will seek to rewrite it to include bipartisan views. An-

other congressional staffer said the debate in Congress will not necessarily flow along party lines because, for instance, conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats alike have disagreed about two major sticking points: deploying U.S. combat troops and restricting the geographical area served by the new authorization. The second staffer said a final authorization will depend on the language decided on regarding those two issues.

The four congressional officials and staffers spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss ongoing negotiations with the White House.

Before Congress ended its last session in December, New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez, who at the time was chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, pushed his version of an authorization that would have limited operations against Islamic State to three years and allowed ground forces in some circumstances. The legislation passed out of the committee, but was never voted on by the full Senate before the session ended.

US hostage held by Islamic State confirmed dead

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Kayla Jean Mueller, 26, an American woman held by Islamic State militants, has been confirmed dead, her parents and the Obama administration said Tuesday.

The White House said Mueller's family received a private message from her captors over the weekend, and the information contained in that communication was authenticated by the U.S. intelligence community. It was not immediately clear how and when Mueller died.

"We are heartbroken to share that we've

received confirmation that Kayla Jean Mueller, has lost her life," Carl and Marsha Mueller said in a statement. "Kayla was a compassionate and devoted humanitarian. She dedicated the whole of her young life to helping those in need of freedom, justice, and peace."

President Barack Obama said that Mueller, who was an aid worker who assisted humanitarian organizations working with Syrian refugees, "epitomized all that is good in our world."

"No matter how long it takes, the United States will find and bring to justice the terrorists who are responsible for Kayla's cap-

tivity and death," the president said.

Mueller is the fourth American to die while being held by Islamic State militants.

Mueller was taken into captivity in August 2013 while leaving a hospital in Syria.

On Friday, the Islamic State group had claimed that Mueller died in a Jordanian airstrike. Jordan, which has launched a barrage of strikes in recent days in retaliation for the gruesome killing of one of its pilots at the hands of the militants, disputed that report, and the White House said at the time that it had seen no evidence to corroborate the Islamic State group's claims.

Vet: Williams ditched '06 event for 'SNL'

By **PATRICK DICKSON**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — “NBC Nightly News” anchor Brian Williams’ on-air apology last week for lying about coming under attack while on a helicopter in Iraq in 2003 rang hollow to a number of veterans — perhaps none more so than Boston firefighter Neal Santangelo.

In Sunday editions of the Boston Herald, Santangelo recounted for columnist Peter Gelzinis how, at the last minute, Williams had told organizers of a 2006 Congressional Medal of Honor banquet in the city that a “pressing engagement” would prevent him from serving as master of ceremonies and keynote speaker, which he’d agreed to do six months earlier. He would instead have time only to greet the audience.

As members of the committee that arranged the event, Santangelo and Tom Lyons were disappointed, but they arranged for a police escort to rush Williams to the airport to catch his plane back to New York City.

After the banquet, as they and other committee members

relaxed in the hotel lounge, Santangelo’s wife phoned to say she knew why Williams had to bail out. She was watching the news anchor ham it up with Seth Meyers and Amy Poehler in a Weekend Update sketch on “Saturday Night Live.”

In the skit, Williams was not told that he did not get the Update anchor job, and has an awkward moment with co-anchors Amy Poehler and Seth Meyers.

Santangelo wrote an angry letter to Williams a week after the banquet. “In an act of egotistical, blatant self-promotion, you deceived the (Medal of Honor) Recipients, declined to break bread with them and disrespected them,” he wrote.

“You placed comedy before courage ... Your conduct was irreverent, insulting, incomprehensible and shameful. ...”

He never sent it.

“I didn’t want to send it off like some loose cannon,” Gelzinis quotes Santangelo as saying. “So, even though the local committee agreed with every word, we decided to run it past the national (Medal of Honor) society.

“And what came back to us was, ‘Yes, we agree with what

you’re saying, but we don’t want to burn any bridges with this guy.’”

Williams still sits on several advisory boards of the Medal of Honor Foundation, an adjunct of the MOH society. They have declined any comment, Gelzinis wrote.

The accusation that Williams sought celebrity status, perhaps at the expense of journalistic standards, has been made elsewhere since veterans challenged his account of being aboard a helicopter forced down in Iraq in 2003.

In her Sunday column in The New York Times, Maureen Dowd wrote: “As the performers — Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert, John Oliver and Bill Maher — were doing more serious stuff, the supposedly serious guys were doing more performing. ...”

“With no pushback from the brass at NBC, Williams has spent years fervently ‘courting celebrity,’ as The Hollywood Reporter put it, guest starring on ‘30 Rock,’ slow-jamming the news with Jimmy Fallon and regaling David Letterman with his faux heroics: ‘Two of

our four helicopters were hit by ground fire, including the one I was in, RPG and AK-47.’”

Williams is now being scrutinized for a number of stories, including telling journalism students that while covering Hurricane Katrina, he had seen a dead body floating past his New Orleans hotel room, where flooding was not severe, and how armed gangs had run amok in the hotel.

Many of his stories, however, were told as he was out pushing his “brand” on shows such as Fallon’s or Letterman’s, and his bosses at NBC exhibited no public discomfort with his doing so.

On the “NBC Nightly News” broadcast Monday, stand-in Lester Holt said, “We want to take just a moment to tell you where Brian is tonight” ... then mentioned Williams’ note to the staff, adding that he’ll take several days off “amid questions over how he recalled certain stories he’s covered. ... He’ll be off while this issue is dealt with.”

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GIs OK to wear service stars on GWOT-EM

By **JON HARPER**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Troops are now authorized to wear service stars on their Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal suspensions and service ribbons if they have received more than one GWOT-EM for their support of overseas operations.

The new policy, retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001, was approved by Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Jessica Wright in a memorandum issued Monday. The change went into effect immediately.

Servicemembers are allowed to wear only one GWOT-EM suspension or service ribbon, even if they participated in multiple operations and received more than one award.

In the past, there was no way to tell by looking at a servicemember’s uniform how many GWOT-EMs he or she had received. The new policy has changed that. Troops may now wear a service star for each subsequent award. For example, if a servicemember received a GWOT-EM for participating in Operation Enduring Freedom and one for Operation Iraqi Freedom, they may now wear one service star on their suspension or service ribbon to indicate a second award; if they received three medals for participating in OEF, OIF and Operation New Dawn, they may wear two service stars, and so on. The five approved operations are:

- Enduring Freedom (inclusive dates: Sept. 11, 2001-TBD).
- Iraqi Freedom (inclusive

dates: March 19, 2003-Aug. 31, 2010).

- Nomad Shadow (inclusive dates: Nov. 5, 2007-TBD).

- New Dawn (inclusive dates: Sept. 1, 2010-Dec. 31, 2011).

- Inherent Resolve (inclusive dates June 15, 2014-TBD).

Although the Afghanistan component of OEF ended Dec. 31, OEF counterterrorism operations continue elsewhere, including the Middle East, Africa and the Philippines.

U.S. troops participating in Operation Freedom’s Sentinel, the follow-on training and counterterrorism mission in Afghanistan, will not be eligible for the GWOT-EM. However, the Pentagon is staffing a request to make those troops eligible for the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

Gunman leads LAPD on stolen-car chase

MONTEBELLO, Calif. — A gunman driving an allegedly stolen car led police on a wild chase Monday night on roads and freeways east of Los Angeles, smashing into other cars and veering through oncoming traffic before he stole a second car at gunpoint and ran down a crowded street.

Los Angeles police opened fire, wounded him and finally arrested him.

Officers shot the man as he ran on a roadway and appeared to be trying to steal yet another car before he was handcuffed and taken to a hospital, police spokeswoman Rosario Herrera said. Police did not release the name or condition of the man, but said he was still alive several hours after the shooting.

From The Associated Press

Gasols earn All-Star starts

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Marc Gasol can hardly wait for one of the NBA All-Star Game's most mundane moments.

"I'm just really excited for the jump ball," he said.

That's because it will be against his big brother.

Teammates with their national team, once traded for each other and sharing a lifetime love of basketball that developed in their grandmother's backyard in Spain, Marc and Pau Gasol will make history as the first brothers to start in the All-Star Game.

"That jump ball is going to symbolize a lot of things, different ways to do things with the same kind of goal and what we stand for as players and as men, so that jump ball is going to be unique," Marc said Monday. "It's hard to put into words what that jump ball is going to mean."

Not for those who know the brothers best.

"When you're close to somebody like I am with those two guys, you feel really special," said Knicks guard Jose Calderon, a longtime teammate of the Gasols on the

Spanish national team.

"We've been working together and playing together for so many years, so it's like a brother, like family. I think it's really great for Spanish basketball, for Spain, even for the NBA. You've got two brothers starting for two different conferences. I don't know if that is going to happen again in basketball."

Pau, 34, is in his first season with the Chicago Bulls and was elected to start for the Eastern Conference. Marc, who has followed Pau as Memphis' man in the middle, was voted by fans to start for the West.

It's the first time two brothers will start the All-Star Game. They are the first siblings to play in the same game since Tom and Dick Van Arsdale in 1970 and '71.

"It's a beautiful thing. We are a lucky family," Pau said during a conference call with his brother.

It's the fifth All-Star appearance for Pau, who was a star from nearly the minute he came to the NBA. He was the 2002 Rookie of the Year and the MVP of the 2006 world basketball championship, and he won two titles with the Lakers after they acquired him from Memphis during

the 2007-08 season.

Success for the 30-year-old Marc, whose draft rights were traded from the Lakers to the Grizzlies in the deal, was slower and a little more unexpected — except to Pau.

"I'm just happy to see him do so well and also with his team, with the Grizzlies, a franchise that has also been a big part of my career," Pau said. "Just overall, a lot of pride, a lot of joy to see your brother do so well, and I know he's going to continue to do well."

Time together is rare during the season — especially now that they are in different conferences. So they will enjoy these days in New York, along with parents, wives, kids and other supporters.

And Marc should have plenty of them inside Madison Square Garden. A free agent this summer who could draw interest from the Knicks, he laughed off the idea that he might receive some of the loudest cheers Sunday.

"I think there's going to be many more popular guys than me in that arena, but I don't know how it's going to go," he said. "It's going to be one very unique night and I can't wait to enjoy it."

Trouble continues for NFL

The Associated Press

Commissioner Roger Goodell declared at the Super Bowl that the NFL made "enormous progress" on social issues after last year's incessant barrage of disturbing developments, led by the Ray Rice domestic violence and Adrian Peterson child abuse crises.

That bombardment hasn't much abated in 2015, with at least eight players arrested, a star suspended, an agent indicted and a Hall of Famer fired.

Also enmeshed in the headlines are Johnny Manziel checking himself into a treatment program and the murder trial of Aaron Hernandez getting underway.

All of this against the backdrop of the league's investigation into whether the Super Bowl champion Patriots surreptitiously provided under-inflated footballs for their AFC championship win.

"It's a discouraging start to the new year," said Richard Lapchick, director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida. "But my hope is it's an anomaly for 2015."

The players' union maintains it's not a one-way street, noting that several instances of owner misconduct went unpunished last year, raising questions about the congruity of Goodell's discipline. The union cited the cases of the Vikings' Ziggy Wilf, the Cowboys' Jerry Jones and the Browns' Jimmy Haslam.

"Anytime there are off-field incidents by players, we are disappointed, but we need to put things in some perspective," NFLPA president Eric Winston said. "These incidents are exceptions and not reflective of our membership. This union is focused on supporting players, educating players, fighting for due process and fairness. We are not opposed to discipline as we believe everyone should be held accountable for their actions, but there is so much attention on discipline that the other areas tend to get ignored in the public. We will not ignore them."

Former NFL coach Tony Dungy suggested the players' alleged misdeeds are reflective of society at large, commonplace when young players go from strict schedules to offseason freedom.

"The one thing that we have to be careful about is to think it's all of a sudden gotten worse or these guys are different," Dungy said. "I think we can get lost in 'Oh yeah, we had 10 or 12 incidents' and forget that the other 1,790 guys are doing quite well."

Troy Vincent, NFL executive vice president for football operations, said: "Our young men are presented with the greatest platform in the world and how they carry that responsibility determines public perception. Our efforts are focused every day on raising the standard of excellence. We take the approach of shared responsibility and personal accountability in that we have resources and mentors in place to assist these young men where they are challenged. It is their responsibility to utilize them."

R&A admits first female members

The Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — The Royal and Ancient Golf Club announced its first seven female members, including Swedish great Annika Sorenstam and Britain's Princess Anne.

The club voted in September to end 260 years of male-only exclusivity by voting in favor of inviting women to join.

Sorenstam, a 10-time major champion from Sweden, wrote on Twitter: "I am very honored to be one of the lucky ladies."

Princess Anne, who competed in equestrian for Britain at the 1976 Olympics and is an IOC member, is the only female honorary member who hasn't played golf competitively.

Anne is the fourth member of the royal family to become an honorary member of the R&A, joining her father Prince Phillip, brother Prince Andrew and the Duke of Kent.

Two other British honorary members are Laura Davies, who has won four majors, and Belle Robertson, an amateur great.

Two U.S. women were admitted: Renee Powell, only the second black player to compete on the LPGA Tour, and Louise Suggs, a co-founder and former LPGA president who won 11 majors.

Completing the list is Frenchwoman Lally Segard, who won 14 titles before becoming president of the World Amateur Golf Council, which is now known as the International Golf Federation.

Maze wins another gold

The Associated Press

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. — Tina Maze pulled off an impressive feat on the soft snow — a cartwheel in ski boots. Her racing wasn't too bad, either.

Maze captured gold in the Alpine combined Monday, earning her third medal of the Beaver Creek world championships on a warm afternoon when Lindsey Vonn failed to finish the slalom.

Leading after the downhill portion, the Slovenian standout used a clean slalom run to finish in a combined time of 2 minutes, 33.37 seconds. Nicole Hosp of Austria was second, 0.22 seconds behind, and fellow Austrian Michaela Kirchgasser earned third.

"If I didn't win today I wouldn't have felt good," Maze said. "It was a lot of pressure today. It's not easy to race like that. I was really nervous before the slalom."

"This was a hard win." And a difficult day for Vonn, who struggled in the downhill portion, with the icy surface bothering her surgically repaired right knee. Later, in the slalom, she straddled a gate just before the first interval, ending her day.

Vonn was in tears after the race — overwhelmed by the pressure of racing in front of a hometown crowd. She will race in one last event, the giant slalom, on Thursday.

"I'm just really disappointed," said Vonn, whose lone medal at worlds so far is a bronze in the super-G. "I really tried as hard as I could. I came up short. That's disappointing for myself, my family and my fans. I didn't figure out this hill at all."

Maze certainly is dialed in at Beaver Creek. She adds this gold to the silver she won in the super-G and gold in the downhill last week. She's trying to match

Norwegian great Lasse Kjus, who earned medals in all five disciplines at the 1999 worlds in Beaver Creek.

Fatigue is starting to play a factor. Maze said she's exhausted from all the races and training sessions. She has a few rest days before the giant slalom and slalom on Saturday.

The 31-year-old Maze may be tired, but she still had plenty of energy to celebrate. After seeing her winning time on the scoreboard, she held her left ski pole in the air. Then, she lifted her right one and urged the crowd to stand up in the bleachers. She then clicked out of her skis and did a cartwheel — her signature move after wins.

"Winning is always amazing," said Maze, who sang along with her national anthem as she wiped away tears.

By her standards, Maze had what she called a solid downhill, but certainly not one of her best. That made her a little anxious for the slalom, especially running last and the sun baking the snow.

With the snow deteriorating, Maze took a conservative approach through the groove-filled course. Then, near the bottom, she found another gear.

"You had to go for it and I did my best," she said.

Hosp and Kirchgasser led a strong showing by the Austrians. The country had four skiers in the top 10, including Anna Fenninger, who finished fourth. Fenninger won the super-G at worlds last week and was second in the downhill. She was third after the morning downhill, but couldn't hold her place.

For Hosp, it's another silver at a big event. She finished second in the event at the 2014 Sochi Games, behind Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany.



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Spurs' Popovich ninth to reach 1,000 wins

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Gregg Popovich spent 19 seasons teaching his players how to use teamwork and ball movement to break down defenses.

The philosophy still works.

On a night San Antonio started the fourth quarter in a 14-point hole at Indiana, Popovich's principles paid off again as Marco Belinelli freed himself with a pump fake and hit an 18-foot baseline jumper to give San Antonio a 95-93 victory that made Popovich the ninth member of the NBA's 1,000-win club.

"It was looking bleak for a while, but the second group came out there and gave us a lot of energy and the starters came back in and executed pretty well," the Spurs' longtime coach said.

Popovich has won plenty of games this way over the years, and Monday night

was not much different.

Instead of relying on his big three — Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker — Popovich was content to let the supporting cast do some heavy lifting. They didn't let him down.

When Kawhi Leonard drove toward the lane, he saw Belinelli in the left corner. The Italian guard barely beat the shot clock, and then the Spurs' defense challenged George Hill's three-pointer from the top of the key, which came up short.

Popovich celebrated in his typical low-key manner. He walked to midcourt, put an arm around Pacers coach Frank Vogel, hugged one of his former players and stoically strolled into the Spurs' locker room.

Only two coaches, Phil Jackson and Pat Riley, reached 1,000 wins faster than Pop. Only one other coach, Jerry Sloan, achieved the feat with one team. Sloan

won 1,127 games with Utah. Popovich is 1,000-462 in 19 NBA seasons, all with San Antonio.

And it came on the most fitting stage of all for an Indiana native. Popovich was born in the northwestern part of the Hoosier State and grew up playing high school basketball in Merrillville, Ind.

But it was Popovich's players who wanted the win most, especially after blowing their first chance Sunday night in Toronto.

"We had a great opportunity. We were up three with one minute to go and we were playing," Parker said after scoring 19 points. "And the same thing, we couldn't make a shot, but it happens. We made it up today."

The difference was evident as San Antonio methodically erased a nine-point deficit over the final 5½ minutes by following Popovich's grand plan. After deacti-

vating the uninjured Ginobili, he carefully tracked the minutes of Parker and Duncan. Each played 30 minutes, 23 seconds and didn't enter the fourth quarter until just before the closing run began.

Duncan wound up with 15 points and eight rebounds. But the Pacers still couldn't win it.

"We just weren't solid enough down the stretch and gave them too many extra possessions," Pacers forward David West said. "We're disappointed we let this game get away."

West finished with 10 points and a season-high 18 rebounds. Rodney Stuckey had 19 points as the Pacers' three-game winning streak ended.

Indiana was ahead 79-65 after three quarters and still led 91-82 with 5:35 to go, but managed just one more basket, a 20-foot pull-up jumper from Stuckey with 2:33 left.

Durant lifts Thunder past Nuggets

The Associated Press

DENVER — Kevin Durant scored 40 points, Russell Westbrook had 26 and Oklahoma City handed Denver its sixth loss in a row, 124-114.

Durant matched a career best by hitting seven three-pointers and finished 13 of 19 from the floor. Mitch McGary added 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder.

The Nuggets, who have lost 13 of 14, were led by Wilson Chandler's 23 points. Kenneth Faried and Ty Lawson each added 22 for Denver, which also lost its sixth straight at home — its longest home skid since dropping seven in a row at the Pepsi Center from Feb. 6 to March 2, 2003.

Clippers 115, Mavericks 98: DeAndre Jordan had 22 points and a career-high 27 rebounds, and visiting Los Angeles won without All-Star Blake Griffin, beating Dallas after the Mavericks lost Tyson Chandler and Monta Ellis to injuries in the first 4 minutes.

With Dallas' interior defense and rebounding gutted by the loss of Chandler, Jordan led the way as the Clippers stopped a season-high four-game losing

streak. Chris Paul finished with 25 points and 13 assists.

Warriors 89, 76ers 84: Stephen Curry scored 20 points, Leandro Barbosa had 16 off the bench and Golden State snapped Philadelphia's four-game home winning streak.

Klay Thompson and former Sixer Andre Iguodala added 13 points apiece for the Warriors (41-9), who have won four of five and two straight after opening their four-game road trip with a loss to the Hawks on Friday.

Hawks 117, Timberwolves 105: Al Horford scored a season-high 28 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and DeMarre Carroll added a career-best 26 points to lift Atlanta over host Minnesota.

Paul Millsap had 19 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Hawks (43-10), who bounced back from a loss to Memphis the previous night. The NBA-leading Hawks still have not lost back-to-back games since Nov. 18.

Wizards 96, Magic 80: John Wall fell one point shy of his first triple-double of the season, Marcin Gortat

had 14 points and 14 rebounds, and host Washington beat Orlando to sweep the season series.

Wall hit a three-pointer early in the third quarter to open an 11-0 run that put Washington in control. He wound up with nine points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds after missing a floater with about 50 seconds left.

Heat 109, Knicks 95: Chris Bosh scored 32 points, Mario Chalmers added 18 and host Miami pulled away from New York.

Carmelo Anthony scored 26 points for the Knicks, who became the first NBA team this season to be guaranteed of finishing with a losing record. Anthony left in the fourth quarter to get his knee re-taped, but never returned.

Bucks 103, Nets 97: Khris Middleton scored 12 of his 18 points in the third quarter, and host Milwaukee rallied from a 17-point deficit to beat Brooklyn.

Jazz 100, Pelicans 96: At New Orleans, Gordon Hayward scored 25 of his 32 points in the second half, and Utah overcame a 14-point, third-quarter deficit.

Duke holds off Fla. State

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Quinn Cook scored a season-high 26 points and Jahlil Okafor was 5-for-5 from the floor in the second half and finished with 13 points as No. Duke held off Florida State 73-70. Tyus Jones added 16 points, 12 assists and six rebounds for Duke (21-3, 8-3 Atlantic Coast Conference), which won its fourth straight.

Florida State pulled within one at 70-69 as Xavier Rathan-Mayes drove the lane for a layup after dribbling under the basket with 11 seconds to go. But the Seminoles couldn't close the gap any further in the final seconds. Devon Bookert scored a career-high 23 points for FSU (13-12, 5-7 ACC). Bookert shot 6-for-8, but was fouled twice in the closing seconds before he was able to get a shot off.

Bookert made just one of four free throws in the final seconds, including a last attempt that he intentionally missed but Cook rebounded.

No. 17 Oklahoma 94, No. 14 Iowa State 83: At Norman, Okla., TaShawn Thomas had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Oklahoma defeated Iowa State to claim sole possession of second place in the Big 12 and send a message to the rest of the league.

Isaiah Cousins scored 19 points, Hield scored 17 and Ryan Spangler added 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Sooners (17-7, 8-4 Big 12), who won their fifth straight.

No. 21 Oklahoma State 74, No. 16 Baylor 65: At Waco, Texas, Le'Bryan Nash scored 22 points and Phil Forte had 16 of his 18 after halftime as Oklahoma State rallied past Baylor.

It's the first time Oklahoma State (17-7, 7-5 Big 12) has won three straight games against ranked teams during a regular season.

Taurean Prince had 20 points for Baylor (18-6, 6-5), which had won three conference games in a row by at least 18 points since a 64-53 loss at Oklahoma State only two weeks ago.

Dubnyk, Wild push win streak to 6

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Jason Pominville and Ryan Suter scored power-play goals, and Devan Dubnyk earned another victory in the net, guiding the Minnesota Wild past the Vancouver Canucks 5-3 on Monday night for their sixth straight win in regulation.

Jordan Schroeder got his first goal with the Wild, against the team that drafted him, and Nino Niederreiter and Kyle Brodziak also scored to send Canucks goalie Ryan Miller to an early exit midway through the second period.

The Wild raised their record to 8-1-1 in the last 10 games, all with Dubnyk in goal since his arrival in a trade. They moved within three points of the cut for the second wild card spot in the Western Conference, against which they are 17-10-4 with seven consecutive victories in a row.

Zack Kassian, Shawn Matthias and Ryan

Stanton scored goals and Dan Hamhuis had two assists for the Canucks.

Eddie Lack relieved Miller after Brodziak one-timed a pass from Jared Spurgeon for a 5-2 lead less than 8 minutes into the second period. Miller was coming off a 31-save shutout against Pittsburgh on Saturday, but this was his fifth loss in seven starts. Miller stopped 13 shots.

The Wild were 0-5-1 in their previous six games with shattered confidence and a sputtering defense before acquiring Dubnyk in the deal with Arizona. The 28-year-old goalie has not only lifted their spirits but spurred them back into contention since his arrival.

Oilers 2, Devils 1: Nail Yakupov shook off an early mid-ice collision and scored a game-winning power-play goal in the second period to lead Edmonton to a win over host New Jersey.

Jordan Eberle had the primary assist on Yakupov's goal, and helped set up defenseman Oscar Klefbom's tally as the Oilers

snapped a two-game losing streak.

Kings 4, Blue Jackets 3: Jeff Carter and Dwight King each had a goal and an assist, and Jonathan Quick stopped 23 shots to lead Los Angeles past host Columbus.

Coyotes 3, Blackhawks 2 (SO): Antoine Vermette scored in regulation and netted the deciding goal in the third round of the shootout to lift visiting Arizona over Chicago and snap a two-game losing streak.

Flames 4, Sharks 1: Jiri Hudler scored his fifth goal of the season against San Jose to help visiting Calgary win for the fourth time in five games.

Mason Raymond, Lance Bouma and David Jones also scored for the Flames, who won four of five meetings this season against San Jose to move ahead of the Sharks into second place in the Pacific Division. Jonas Hiller made 33 saves.