

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## US could expand effort to retake Mosul

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The United States could need more troops — including attack helicopters — in Iraq as it prepares Iraqi forces to retake Mosul from the Islamic State group, Army Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland said Monday.

MacFarland, the top U.S. general in Iraq, said the United States is weighing options to “accelerate” the campaign, which could include expanding its 3,700-troop force there. The additional troops would help more quickly train about 10 brigades of Iraqi troops and Kurdish peshmerga fighters assigned to liberate Mosul, the country’s second-largest city.

“All of us in uniform are preparing various options, and the president will decide,” the general told reporters Monday at the Pentagon during a video briefing from Baghdad. “... Certainly, we’ll do everything we can to continue this campaign by, with and through the indigenous forces that are on

the ground. That’s really the best way to defeat the enemy, we believe.”

It remains unclear when ground operations against Mosul could begin. The Operation Inherent Resolve coalition has trained nearly 20,000 Iraqi troops for the fight and has another roughly 3,000 in training.

The siege of Mosul, a city much larger than Ramadi, could require up to 30,000 troops, Army Col. Steve Warren, an OIR spokesman, estimated last week. About 10,000 Iraqi troops participated in the Ramadi offensive, although most of the fighting was led by Iraq’s elite Counter-Terrorism Service, a force largely expected to lead the fight again in Mosul.

Iraqi commanders have estimated their forces would be prepared to take Mosul by the end of the year or the beginning of 2017. MacFarland declined to speculate Monday, saying only that he wants “to get this wrapped up as soon as I possibly can.”

In recent months, the U.S.

has expanded its own role in the fight against the Islamic State militants, primarily through the use of special operations forces. In Iraq, it added some 200 troops called an Expeditionary Targeting Force to conduct raids and gather intelligence. It additionally added about 50 special operators in Syria to work with indigenous forces fighting the militant group. MacFarland, like other Pentagon leaders, declined to comment on the special operations groups. Those forces are not expected to serve on the front lines in assaults on major cities such as Mosul or Raqqa, the Islamic State’s self-declared capital in Syria, Pentagon officials have said.

On Monday, MacFarland told reporters he did not want to provide specific details about the options he’d lay out to Pentagon leaders for any further increases in the U.S.’ role in Iraq.

“I believe surprise is a really underappreciated principal of war,” he said. “... I don’t want to get too much into what those precise capabilities would be

because I’d like the enemy to find out about it for the first time when the area around them is going up in smoke.”

But they could include American AH-64 Apache attack helicopters. MacFarland said the options that the U.S. provided Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in the lead-up to the assault late last year on Ramadi — including American-flown Apaches — are still possible.

Al-Abadi did not explicitly turn down the offer for the U.S. to provide Apaches to take Ramadi, MacFarland said. Instead, the prime minister simply didn’t see the need for them at that time, the general said.

“He didn’t say, ‘No.’ He said, ‘Maybe a little bit down the road we’ll need it for other places,’” MacFarland said. “... We are in a constant dialogue with the Iraqis about what kind of support they require and we can provide.”

“They have to ask for it, and they have to want it, and we’re here to provide it as required,” he said.

## Suicide bomber strikes Afghan police unit; at least 20 dead

By SLOBODAN LEKIC

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber who tried to penetrate the compound of an elite police unit killed 20 officers and wounded 32 other people on Monday, in the bloodiest attack in the capital since the start of the year, officials said.

The blast, which came as authorities have been trying to restart stalled peace talks with Taliban insurgents, occurred at the entrance of the National Civil Order Police in western Kabul, Najeed Danish, an Interior Ministry spokesman said.

The U.S.-led international military coalition known as Resolute Support condemned the attack.

“Current reports state the attack has left 20 Afghan police officers dead, 25 officers injured, and seven Afghan civilians injured,” a coalition statement said.

“Targeting those who defend their fellow Afghans does not advance the cause of peace,” Brig. Gen. Wilson Shoffner, of Resolute Support, said in the statement.

The Taliban immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing and said in a statement

that they killed or wounded 40 policemen.

The civil order police is an elite paramilitary unit that is part of the national police force. It has been trained by European gendarmerie instructors for rapid interventions and has reportedly thwarted a number of Taliban attacks in Kabul and other cities.

Abdullah Abdullah, the government’s chief executive officer, strongly condemned the attacks, saying they “harm the upcoming peace talks.” In a statement, Abdullah urged the “armed terrorist groups” to take part in negotiations rather

than continue carrying out suicide attacks.

Efforts to revive the peace process, which has been stalled since last summer, have been going on since Jan. 11 when Afghan government representatives met with diplomats from the United States, Pakistan and China to set out a road map for talks with the Taliban. The four-country group held a second meeting on Jan. 18.

Meanwhile, representatives of the Taliban and Afghan officials and lawmakers met on Jan. 23-24 at an informal gathering in the Qatari capital of Doha to discuss the peace process.

# DOD: Tricare should cover transgender care

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department sent a strong signal Monday that it intends to open the military to transgender troops with the release of proposed changes to Tricare.

The department wants the health insurance to cover hormone treatment for gender dysphoria, the clinical term for wanting to transition to a male or female gender, according to a notice published in the Federal Register.

The insurance change is likely to be scrutinized by Congress, where Republicans have been critical of the recent landmark decision to open combat roles to women. But the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee said he was open to the idea as long as transgender servicemembers can do their assigned jobs.

Thousands of transgender troops con-

tinued to serve in hiding even after the military repealed the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy for gay servicemembers in 2011 and decided last year to integrate women into combat occupational specialties.

“I do not believe that the military should be an experimental laboratory for social issues. But I also believe you focus on capability, getting the job done, protecting the country and don’t worry so much about a person’s color, gender, whatever it is,” said Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, Armed Services Committee chairman.

“That’s what counts and beyond that we’ll have to look at the details of what they are proposing.”

It was unclear Monday how much resistance could come from lawmakers. Integration of women into combat roles is still causing waves on Capitol Hill. The Senate Armed Services Committee has an oversight hearing scheduled for Tuesday. On the House side, Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-

Calif., said last month that Navy Secretary Ray Mabus was a greater threat to the Marines than the Islamic State group because he pushed ahead with the integration.

The Tricare changes could not end the prohibition on transgender troops but it would set the stage for such a move. The insurer now blocks any coverage for gender dysphoria, which can be treated through counseling, hormone treatment and surgery.

“This proposed change will permit coverage of all nonsurgical medically necessary and appropriate care in the treatment of gender dysphoria, consistent with the program requirements applicable for treatment of all mental or physical illnesses,” according to the DOD notice.

Coverage of cosmetic surgery such as breast implants, face-lifts and other sex or gender modifications still would be barred under federal law.

## Races tight as caucuses begin in Iowa

*Associated Press*

DES MOINES, Iowa — Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Bernie Sanders hope to translate voter enthusiasm into victories as Monday’s Iowa caucuses kick off the 2016 presidential nominating contests, while Ted Cruz and Hillary Clinton rely on sophisticated get-out-the-vote operations.

The caucuses mark a new phase in a tumultuous election that has exposed Americans’ deep frustration with Washington and given rise to candidates few expected to present a serious challenge for their party’s nomination when they first entered the race.

Candidates will be awarded delegates to the parties’ national conventions based on the caucus votes. But given Iowa’s relatively small population, another prize is the boost of publicity and fundraising heading into the New Hampshire primary and later contests.

## COLA to rise in Germany, Turkey

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The cost-of-living allowance paid to U.S. troops in Germany and Turkey is going up by as much as 100 percent, starting with the Feb. 15 paycheck, despite a stronger dollar.

The COLA adjustments, which are posted on the Pentagon’s Defense Travel Management Office website, show

across-the-board increases for most locations in Germany — from Vilseck to Spangdahlem — as well as in Istanbul, Turkey.

Army officials said COLA is going up in Germany because goods and services here cost more than they do in the United States, as revealed by data collected from recent surveys asking military members where they shop and how much they buy on base versus off base.

Individual COLA allowances vary according to a member’s rank, years in service and number of dependents, among other factors.

COLA is typically adjusted once per year based on data provided by overseas installations, though it can be adjusted as often as each pay day, officials said.

To check out the new COLA rates, go to: [defensetravel.dod.mil/site/colaCalc.cfm](http://defensetravel.dod.mil/site/colaCalc.cfm)

## China making sweeping military changes

By WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

China’s armed forces are undergoing a sweeping, five-year reorganization aimed at creating central control over the military’s nearly autonomous branches and creating a more lethal fighting force to close the gap with U.S. capabilities, analysts say.

The restructuring is the most profound undertaken since the 1950s, when Soviet advisers

helped modernize China’s post-civil war military, changes that likely will challenge long-held assumptions by the Pentagon, according to David M. Finkelstein, director of the China Studies division of CNA Corp., a Washington research center.

The reorganization, which was officially launched Jan. 1, will fundamentally redefine the roles, missions and authorities among the services — particularly the People’s Liberation

Army, or PLA — and the Central Military Command, Finkelstein wrote in a paper released Friday.

The changes include disbanding the country’s seven military regions and replacing them with joint warfighting commands in charge of “war zones” or “theaters of operation.” Also newly formed will be the PLA Rocket Force, which will be responsible for the nation’s nuclear and conventional missiles.

# Report: Lions' Johnson to retire

*Detroit Free Press*

According to a report by ESPN's Adam Schefter, Detroit Lions star receiver Calvin Johnson told his inner circle before the 2015 season he would retire at the end of the year.

After the season, Johnson, 30, gave Lions coach Jim Caldwell the same message.

Johnson could not be reached for comment.

Schefter reported that Caldwell told Johnson to take his time on the decision, and Johnson agreed, though "one person who knows Johnson well said Johnson is

'pretty content with his decision.'

According to Schefter, after the season ended Jan. 3 with a 24-20 win over Chicago, Johnson shared his decision to retire with two teammates: Quarterback Matthew Stafford and linebacker Stephen Tulloch, requesting they keep their lips sealed.

Johnson and the Lions released a joint statement Jan. 6, saying the wideout was contemplating his future.

"Like many players at this stage of their career, I am currently evaluating options for my future," Johnson said in the statement. "I would expect to have a decision regarding this matter in the not-too-dis-

tant future."

Johnson is the franchise leader in receptions (731), yards (11,619) and receiving touchdowns (83).

Johnson declined to say last season if he would restructure his contract, which calls for him to count \$24 million against the salary cap in 2016.

If the 30-year-old Johnson chooses to retire, he will walk away from the game despite having the physical ability to play more, just as Hall of Fame running back Barry Sanders did. Sanders was 30 in 1998, his 10th and final season with the Lions.

# Broncos, Panthers arrive in Bay Area

*Associated Press*

SAN FRANCISCO — They're here. The Denver Broncos arrived in the Bay Area on Sunday for Northern California's first Super Bowl since 1985, followed soon after by the Carolina Panthers.

Denver's flight into San Jose, Calif., was delayed by an hour. The team flew in a customized United Airlines jet with a Broncos logo over the door. Someone in the cockpit waved a Broncos flag out of a window as the plane taxied along the tarmac.

Former Broncos running back Terrell Davis, the Super Bowl MVP in 1998, met the players as they exited the jet.

Panthers All-Pro quarterback Cam Newton emerged from the team plane wearing gold, black and white zebra pants, along with a dark V-neck sweater with a shirt and tie underneath his hooded leather coat. It's not all that unusual an outfit for him considering Newton has been seen wearing loafers without socks with his suit at postgame interviews.

Still, the pants were striking and set social media ablaze.

"Dang, Cam wore the exact same outfit as me today," right tackle Mike Remmers joked on Twitter.

Defensive tackle Dwan Edwards flashed the peace sign to the waiting crowd.

Carolina's de-boarding process wasn't easy at first as the wind caused the steps to the tarmac to wobble significantly. At one point, with several players on the stairs, everyone stopped moving in deference to the gusts. Some even put away their cellphones as they traversed the swaying stairs.

Then again, it's San Francisco.

The players were in a frivolous mood, and who could blame them? They're at the Super Bowl.

Many jumped into each other's photos and ruined others' selfies.

The Broncos are in their second Super Bowl in three years; they lost 43-8 to Seattle in 2014 in New Jersey. Carolina has been to one, losing to New England in 2004.

Both teams brought their practice squad players and guys on injured reserve.

The first big event this week is media day on Monday — actually, it's at night this year.

Broncos cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said he was hoping all his teammates "stay under the radar," although he's pretty sure Von Miller won't be able to.

"No telling with Von, he might come in with one of those crazy hats," Harris said. "He's going to do something crazy."

Miller joked that he might pull a Marshawn Lynch and not answer any questions at all.

Fat chance: Miller loves holding court.

# Team Irvin claims Pro Bowl victory

*Associated Press*

HONOLULU — With no Super Bowl trip this season for the Seattle Seahawks, their stars came to play — and dominate — at the Pro Bowl.

Russell Wilson threw three first-half touchdown passes to lead Team Irvin to a 49-27 victory over Team Rice on Sunday and earn offensive MVP honors at Aloha Stadium. Seattle teammate Michael Bennett was the defensive MVP after having the game's only sack and deflecting a pass.

"To see us Seahawks out there is a real special thing," Wilson said. "It's a testament to our hard work and to see two Seahawks out there as MVPs is really cool."

The Seahawks quarterback, who was the first player picked in the all-star game's draft, went 8-for-12 for 164 yards. He led scoring drives on three of Team Irvin's first four possessions.

Wilson threw touchdown passes of 14 and 2 yards to Atlanta Falcons teammates Julio Jones and Devonta Freeman, respectively, in the opening quarter. Early in the second quarter, Wilson connected with Los Angeles Rams running back Todd Gurley for a 10-yard score.

The teams were drafted and captained by Hall of Fame wide receivers Michael Irvin and Jerry Rice. Winston Moss, Green Bay's assistant head coach and linebackers coach, filled in for the ill Mike McCarthy and coached Team Irvin. Kansas City's Andy Reid led Team Rice.

A record 47 players declined to participate in this year's Pro Bowl, either due to injury or for personal reasons, or couldn't play because their teams are in the Super Bowl. Carolina had 10 players selected, including quarterback Cam Newton, while Denver had four, including defensive stars Von Miller and DeMarcus Ware.

Wilson was the lone quarterback originally selected to participate in the game.

"Any time you have the opportunity to play the great game of football, you take advantage of the opportunity," Wilson said. "Playing in the Pro Bowl is a special thing because to be able to see all the amazing players across the league, who are the best players in the world and to be able to play on one field together is a really, really cool thing."

## Browns fans boycotting Manziel on Twitter

CLEVELAND — Some Browns fans are sacking Johnny Manziel for a month — and maybe longer.

Tired of the quarterback's off-field transgressions, the fans have started a "Johnny Free February" movement on Twitter. Longtime Browns fan Chris McNeil says his 8-year-old daughter came up with the idea after hearing about more bad news involving Manziel.

As of Monday morning, McNeil says

750 people have signed up for his campaign "not to tweet, retweet, or mention Johnny Manziel on Twitter in February or until he is no longer a Cleveland Brown."

The tipping point for many fans was the latest news concerning the quarterback. Manziel is being investigated for a possible assault of his ex-girlfriend in Texas, where police used a helicopter to find him.

From The Associated Press

Bennett was busy on defense, but played one snap at quarterback late in the game and picked up 7 yards on a rush. The 6-foot-4, 274-pound defensive said it was his first experience under center in his career.

"Only in my dreams," Bennett said with a laugh.

Two other Seahawks players mixed it up midway through the third quarter when Team Irvin's Richard Sherman — a cornerback — was dropped for a 22-yard loss on a reverse by Team Rice linebacker Bobby Wagner.

"He said that he knew what he was going to do," Sherman said. "He knew I was getting the ball and he knew he was making the tackle."

Minnesota's Teddy Bridgewater and Tampa Bay's Jameis Winston each added two TD passes for Team Irvin. Jacksonville's Allen Robinson, Philadelphia's Darren Sproles, Tennessee's Delanie Walker and Houston's DeAndre Hopkins had scoring receptions.

Kansas City tight end Travis Kelce caught two scoring passes for Team Rice. Miami's Jarvis Landry also had a TD catch, and Tampa Bay's Doug Martin ran for a score.

Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie of the New York Giants had two of Team Irvin's six interceptions.

After Kelce's 4-yard reception from Eli Manning gave Team Rice a 7-0 lead, Jones tip-toed the left sideline just after hauling in Wilson's pass near the back cor-

ner of the end zone for a 14-yard score. Kelce caught the second of his TDs on a 10-yard pass from Oakland's Derek Carr to cut Team Rice's deficit to 21-14. The Chiefs star, who signed a five-year, \$46 million contract extension Friday, tied Martin with a game-high five catches for 91 yards. Team Irvin added a score late in the second quarter on a 2-yard touchdown pass from Bridgewater to Sproles to hold a 28-14 lead after two quarters.

The halftime festivities included a parade of local high school football players. Tennessee Titans rookie quarterback Marcus Mariota, a Honolulu native, led his alma mater, Saint Louis School, onto the field during the procession and was greeted by loud cheers from the sellout crowd of 50,000.

It was the 35th time the NFL's annual all-star game was played at Aloha Stadium dating to 1980, and the third consecutive season that it has used an "unconferenced" format. The game was played at in Glendale, Ariz., last year. The site of next year's Pro Bowl has not yet been determined by the NFL, although it does have an option to return to Hawaii.

Martin helped Team Rice cut the deficit to 28-21 in the third quarter with a 3-yard run early in the third quarter.

But Team Irvin put the game away with three straight TDs: a 50-yard catch by Robinson from Bridgewater, a 53-yard reception by Walker from Winston and a 7-yarder by Hopkins, also thrown by Winston.



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# Magic top Celts, snap streak

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — It was far from pretty. It still counted as a victory — finally — for the Orlando Magic.

The Magic rallied from 14 points down, then had to hold on for dear life in the final minute before securing a 119-114 win over the Boston Celtics that snapped an eight-game losing streak.

"We didn't close it out in a professional manner," Magic coach Scott Skiles said, "but we needed any win we could get."

Orlando used an 18-2 run late in the fourth quarter to go ahead 113-102 with under a minute to play, but then missed four free throws and allowed Boston to cut the deficit to 117-114 with 14.6 seconds remaining — before closing out only its second win in January.

"When you scramble and hustle and play hard, usually good things happen," Skiles said. "We've struggled so much recently that I'm just happy for the guys to battle and get one coming from behind."

Evan Fournier led Orlando with 24 points and Aaron Gordon scored 19 points and grabbed 14 rebounds. Rookie Mario Hezonja scored 17 points, Tobias Harris had 16 and Nikola Vucevic had 16 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists for the Magic.

Marcus Smart led Boston with 26 points. Isaiah Thomas scored 23 and Avery Bradley had 22. The Celtics started the game off hitting seven of 12 three-pointers in the first period, but went only 9-for-34 from beyond the arc the rest of the game.

**Warriors 116, Knicks 95:** Klay Thompson woke the Warriors from their slowest start of the season with 17 of his 34 points in the second quarter, Draymond Green tied Tom Gola's franchise record

## Reeling Suns fire coach

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Suns have fired coach Jeff Hornacek, with the team mired in one of the worst stretches in franchise history.

The Suns announced the dismissal Monday, saying an interim coach would be in place by Tuesday.

A person with knowledge of the situation told the Associated Press three assistant coaches would be interviewed Monday for the interim job. The

person spoke on condition of anonymity because the plans had not been announced.

Hornacek coached the Suns for 2½ seasons. His team had lost 10 of 11 games and 19 of its last 21. At 14-35, their record is tied for fourth worst in the NBA.

The firing came after Phoenix's 91-78 loss at Dallas on Sunday night, the Suns' 14th straight defeat on the road, tied for second longest in franchise history.

with his ninth triple-double of the season, and visiting Golden State beat New York for its seventh straight victory.

Green made all nine shots as the Warriors (44-4) wrapped up January at 40 games over .500 even with a quiet 13 points from Stephen Curry. Green finished with 20 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Warriors.

**Hornets 101, Lakers 82:** Marvin Williams and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 19 points and 12 rebounds apiece, and Charlotte sent host Los Angeles to its franchise record-tying 10th consecutive defeat.

Kobe Bryant scored 23 points in 23 minutes, but the Lakers matched the 1994 team for the longest skid in the 16-time NBA champion franchise's history.

**Trail Blazers 96, Timberwolves 93:** CJ McCollum and Damian Lillard scored 21 points apiece, and host Portland handed

Minnesota its 11th straight road loss.

**Clippers 120, Bulls 93:** Jamal Crawford scored 12 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, leading a dominant bench effort for the second straight game, and Los Angeles defeated visiting Chicago for its fourth consecutive victory.

**Heat 105, Hawks 87:** Chris Bosh scored 18 points and Miami extended its winning streak to four games with a victory over visiting Atlanta.

Dwyane Wade's 17 points left him tied with Bernard King (19,655) for 42nd on the NBA's career scoring chart.

**Mavericks 91, Suns 78:** Deron Williams scored 27 points and host Dallas won without Dirk Nowitzki, surging past lowly Phoenix.

Nowitzki sat out the opener of a back-to-back set and the first of Dallas' five games in seven nights.

# No. 3 Iowa blows past Wildcats

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Peter Jok had 22 of his 26 points in the second half to help third-ranked Iowa blow past Northwestern 85-71 on Sunday.

Jarrod Uthoff scored 23 points for the Hawkeyes (17-4, 8-1 Big Ten), who sent Northwestern to its fifth straight loss.

Uthoff shook off his season-low nine points in Thursday's defeat at No. 8 Maryland with 19 in the first half as Iowa went up by 16. Jok followed with three straight 3s and Iowa rolled to its seventh league win by at least 10 points.

Tre Demps had a season-high 30 points for Northwestern (15-8, 3-7). Bryant McIntosh, the Wildcats' leading scorer at 15 points per game, was held to just four.

The Wildcats looked strong in non-conference play, and a 3-2 start in the Big Ten had some wondering if they were poised for a rare run for an upper division finish.

Blowout losses to Indiana and Michigan changed that thinking.

Iowa had it nearly as easy against the free-falling Wildcats.

The Hawkeyes shook off a sluggish start with a 14-0 run, highlighted by a tough inside score from emerging freshman Ahmad Wagner, to go up 28-18 midway through the first half.

Fellow freshman Nicholas Baer drilled a 3 to make it a 15-point game, and Uthoff spun nearly 360 degrees for an open bank shot to give Iowa a 42-24 lead.

Northwestern briefly got back within nine. But another bank shot from Uthoff — and those Jok 3s — helped turn the final 10 minutes into a blowout. Iowa led by as much as 29 before Northwestern made a late run against the Hawkeyes' backups.

Northwestern has lost seven of its last 10 after winning 10 straight to end 2015.

**No. 6 Villanova 68, St. John's 53:** Josh Hart had 16 points and 11 rebounds and Kris Jenkins added 14 points and 11 rebounds to lead visiting Villanova to a victory over St. John's for the Red Storm's 12th straight loss.

**No. 8 Maryland 66, Ohio State 61:** Melo Trimble scored 20 points, Jake Layman added 16 points and 10 rebounds and Maryland made six free throws in the final 25 seconds to beat host Ohio State.

**No. 12 Michigan State 96, Rutgers 62:** Bryn Forbes scored all 18 of his points in the first half and host Michigan State tied a school record with 17 three-pointers in a win over Rutgers.

**No. 22 Wichita State 78, Evansville 65:** Fred VanVleet scored a career-high 32 points and Connor Frankamp added 10 to lead visiting Wichita State past Evansville.

The Shockers (16-5, 10-0 Missouri Valley Conference) have won 11 straight since starting the season 5-5.

**No. 23 Oregon 91, Arizona State 74:** Chris Boucher scored a career-high 26 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked seven shots and Oregon took sole possession of first place halfway through the Pac-12 season with a win over host Arizona State.

**No. 25 Notre Dame 85, Wake Forest 62:** Zach Auguste had 21 points and 12 rebounds, Demetrius Jackson added 14 points in his return and host Notre Dame beat Wake Forest.

V.J. Beachem added 15 points for the Fighting Irish (15-6, 6-3 Atlantic Coast Conference).

# Fans make Scott NHL All-Star MVP

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — John Scott sat on his teammates' shoulders while fans chanted "M-V-P! M-V-P!" and the NHL finally got out of the way.

The people spoke up for Scott once again Sunday night, making the career journeyman enforcer an All-Star MVP as a write-in candidate after voting him into the new 3-on-3 All-Star tournament as captain of the Pacific Division.

Scott scored twice during the tournament, bringing cheers from fans and smiles from teammates who relished every moment along with the gentle giant and his goofy grin. Scott captained the Pacific to a 1-0 win in the championship.

"It's just another one on the list of stuff that I cannot believe is happening," Scott said of being picked as MVP. "I never in a million years would have believed I was at an All-Star Game, the fans would be behind me like that and score two goals in a game. You can't put it into words. You can't write this stuff. It's unbelievable."

Now Scott's helmet is headed to the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, and his name was trending on Twitter in the United States after a night when he wasn't listed among the three MVP candidates for a social media vote late in the final game.

The NHL did not release details, but fans took it upon themselves to select him once again, in an overwhelming vote for the 6-foot-8 forward with five goals in 285 career games.

"I'm sure he won over a lot of people,

and got even more fans," Chicago forward Patrick Kane said of Scott.

Fans at Bridgestone Arena booed the MVP options when announced and yelled for Scott, who wrote last week that someone with the NHL tried to talk him out of coming. He seemed a bit stunned as he soaked everything in, from teammates lifting him on their shoulders while fans chanted "MVP!" before Scott was announced as the winner and presented with a Honda Pilot Touring SUV. He also posed with teammates behind their \$1 million check.

Scott only got nervous when Sharks defenseman Brent Burns, a former teammate and friend, caught him off guard and helped hoist the reluctant fighter into the air.

"I'm not a very light guy, almost 275 pounds, soaking wet about 300 pounds," Scott said. "Yeah, nerve wracking, especially [since] Burnzie is such a spaz. Again, just another moment on this weekend I just cannot believe. You really can't put into words."

The NHL changed the format after last year's All-Star Game featured 92 shots and a combined 29 goals for the biggest offensive display in the showcase's 60-year history. This time, All-Stars combined for 116 shots and 23 goals.

This event looked much more like the hockey the league plays the rest of the season. Their inspiration was the 3-on-3 overtime approach for a tournament pitting the four divisions against each other in 20-minute games. The winners of the first two games advanced to a third-period championship.

Goalies split the work with a 10-minute portion each and actually got the chance to stop shots rather than be targets in the net. Florida's Roberto Luongo and Jonathan Quick of the Kings each made great saves to keep the first 10 minutes of the championship game scoreless, and Quick stopped Florida Panthers forward Jaromir Jagr in the final seconds before intermission.

Scott, the personable enforcer toiling for now in the minor leagues, stole the show.

A fan campaign made Scott captain of the Pacific Division before the Arizona Coyotes traded him Jan. 15 to Montreal, which assigned him to the AHL. He will return to the AHL to Newfoundland in Canada with lots of prizes after fans chose Scott over the finalists offered by the league's hockey operations — Luongo, Calgary forward Johnny Gaudreau or Edmonton forward Taylor Hall.

Scott's two goals tied Hall, Daniel Sedin of Vancouver and Nashville forward James Neal for the most goals at this event. Scott's wife, Danielle, is pregnant with twins due within the next two weeks, and they will be heading to Michigan during the American Hockey League's All-Star break.

Anaheim forward Corey Perry scored the lone goal in the championship at 13:38.

Pittsburgh defenseman Kris Letang blocked a shot, and Montreal defenseman P.K. Subban sprawled out on the ice to help protect a one-goal lead in the final seconds of the Atlantic Division's 4-3 win over the Metropolitan.