

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy budget requests 7 new warships

BY TARA COPP  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is asking for funding for seven ships for the Navy in the 2017 budget as it continues to build the fleet back to 308 warships in the next five years.

The 2017 request for the Navy is \$132 billion in base budget funding plus \$7.9 billion from a separate wartime account known as Overseas Contingency Operations, for a \$139.9 billion request.

The wartime account funds operations such as the thousands of carrier-launched airstrikes that the Navy contributes to the campaign

**‘If we didn’t like the [littoral combat] ship, we would stop buying it.’**

**Robert Work**  
deputy defense secretary

against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

The Navy’s budget proposal includes funds to buy warships and aircraft.

On the ship purchases, the request includes funds in 2017 of \$5.2 billion for two Virginia-

class attack submarines; \$3.2 billion for two Arleigh Burke-class Aegis enabled destroyers; \$1.1 billion for two littoral combat ships; and \$1.6 billion for an amphibious warship.

The budget includes funding to purchase two F/A-18E Super Hornets from the wartime account, four Navy variant F-35s, 11 P-8 Poseidon surveillance aircraft and six E-2D Hawkeye command and control aircraft.

The budget request also provides \$1.9 billion for the Ohio-class nuclear ballistic missile submarine replacement program, \$773 million of which is for advanced procurement. The 12-ship program is still in

the research and development stage, with construction of the first vessel planned to start in 2021.

Over the life of the littoral combat ship program, the Navy will reduce the fleet from 52 to 40 ships but the Navy still gets two in 2017.

Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work said the Pentagon decided that there were higher priorities within the Navy, including purchasing advanced torpedoes. “If we didn’t like the ship, we would stop buying it,” Work said of the littoral ship.

The Navy’s budget supports an end strength of 322,900 personnel, down from 327,300 in 2016.

## Proposal could end Marine Corps’ yearslong drawdown

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps could end its yearslong drawdown based on the proposed Defense Department budget for 2017.

The Marines’ budget request of \$23.4 billion released Tuesday shows the service remaining steady at 182,000 active-duty Marines, a force size it expects to reach in the fall.

It marks the first time in years that the Corps’ spending request did not include cutting the active-duty force, downsizing from a wartime high of about 202,000 troops in 2009.

In addition to its base budget, a slight increase from its 2016 funding of \$23.3 billion, the Marines are seeking \$1.6 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations, or OCO, to pay personnel and operations expenses for Marines in areas including Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, the Horn of Africa and Europe.

The “budget provides a ready and capable Marine Corps that is forward postured, capable across the range of military operations and promotes regionally based rapid crisis response, theatre security cooperation, and humanitarian assistance,” the budget proposal read.

The 2017 budget also includes \$6.2 billion for operations and maintenance, and prioritizing training for forward deployed and soon-to-deploy Marine units, said Navy Rear Adm. William Lescher, the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for budget. That would strain the Marines to respond to a major combat operation and other missions that they have been tasked to fill as the military’s expeditionary response force, he said.

Those missions include security cooperation missions across the Pacific, as well as pre-positioning Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Forces in areas including

**The Marine budget proposes buying 16 F-35B Short Takeoff and Vertical Landing Joint Strike Fighters, the Corps’ variant of the fifth-generation fighter, and 16 MV-22B troop transport aircraft.**

Africa, Kuwait and Central America.

About \$1.3 billion of the Marine Corps’ budget would be used for procurement, a slight uptick from last year.

The budget request lists more than \$400 million for weapons systems and combat and support vehicles, which includes 192 Joint Light Tactical Vehicles, intended to replace the Army and Marine Corps workhorse Humvee.

The Marines also propose purchasing several airframes, including the first two CH-53K King Stallion heavy lift helicopter, intended to replace the aging fleet of CH-53D and

CH-53E models that in recent years have been involved in several deadly crashes.

Additionally, the Marine budget proposes buying 16 F-35B Short Takeoff and Vertical Landing Joint Strike Fighters, the Marine Corps’ variant of the fifth-generation fighter, and 16 MV-22B troop transport aircraft.

The Marine Corps Reserve would see a slight decline in size from 38,900 to 38,500.

The proposed budget also includes a 1.6 percent increase to military basic pay and civilian pay in fiscal year 2017.

# Trump, Sanders take NH

Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Bernie Sanders rode a wave of voter frustration with American politics to commanding victories in Tuesday's New Hampshire primaries, adding credibility to their candidacies.

Sanders swept majorities of men, women, independents and young people in his win over Hillary Clinton, but faces challenges in the more diverse states that come next on the primary calendar. Trump, appealing to voters seeking a political outsider, could benefit from the lack of clarity among the more mainstream Republicans struggling to challenge him.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich grabbed second in New Hampshire after pouring nearly all of his campaign resources into the state. Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio vied for third along with Ted Cruz, the Iowa caucus winner, ensuring all would press on to the next voting contest in South Carolina.

Sanders, I-Vt., at his own raucous rally, said his victory sent a message "that will echo from Wall Street to Washington, from Maine to California. And that is

that the government of our great country belongs to all of the people and not just a handful of wealthy campaign contributors and their super PACs."

The enthusiasm behind Trump, a real estate mogul who has never held political office, and Sanders, a democratic socialist, underscores the public's anger with the political and economic system. Even if neither candidate ultimately becomes his party's nominee, whoever wins that nomination will have to reckon with the voter frustration they've tapped into.

Clinton appeared to recognize that reality in her concession speech, echoing Sanders' calls for taking on Wall Street banks and tackling income inequality. But she cast herself as more prepared to make good on her pledges.

"People have every right to be angry. But they're also hungry, they're hungry for solutions," she said after congratulating Sanders on his win.

New Hampshire did little to clarify the crowded contest among more mainstream GOP candidates fighting to emerge as a challenger to Trump and Cruz. Rubio, Bush and Cruz battled for third behind Kasich.

Throughout the heated primary campaign, Kasich has prided himself on not attacking his rivals. A more moderate Republican from a politically important state, Kasich told supporters Tuesday night that his second-place finish could be an indication that "we're turning the page on a dark part of American politics."

The day was a blow for Rubio, who had appeared to be breaking away from the second-tier Republican pack after a stronger-than-expected showing in Iowa. But he stumbled in Saturday's debate under intense pressure from New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who has relentlessly cast the young senator as too inexperienced and too reliant on memorized talking points to become president.

Rubio conceded that the debate may have hurt him in Tuesday's contest and pledged to supporters that his poor performance "will never happen again."

Christie, however, didn't benefit from roughing up Rubio. He lagged behind the pack as votes were being tallied and said he planned to return home to New Jersey to "make a decision on our next step forward."

# Pentagon focuses on Africa in budget

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is seeking \$200 million in the 2017 budget for counterterrorism operations in Libya and other portions of North and West Africa, but Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Wednesday that Libyans must take the lead in eliminating the Islamic State group threat in their country.

The proposed new funding provides the first concrete indication of what the U.S. military may do to battle the threat, including expanded drone and surveillance flights, strikes and other operations. It is the first time the Pentagon has included a separate increase for operations against the Islamic State group in Africa.

There were no details on how the money would be spent. The \$200 million is part of an overall proposed increase in the department's war funding, including the ongoing effort in Afghanistan and the airstrikes and training in Iraq and Syria against the Islamic State group. The war funding request is \$58.8 billion for 2017, compared with \$58.6 billion this year.

The \$200 million is likely to cover increased drone operations over Africa, as the military struggles to provide real-time intelligence through 24-hour unmanned aircraft patrols in the coming years. That budget increase would build on discussions U.S. officials are having now on plans to beef up counterterrorism operations in Libya in the coming weeks and months.

Carter said many allies are worried by the extremist group's foothold in Libya. But Carter also made clear that his consultations are not aimed at any immediate large-scale military intervention in Libya by the U.S. or others.

# Iranian drone 1st over US carrier since '14

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — An Iranian drone that flew over a U.S. aircraft carrier last month was the first to conduct an overflight of an American carrier since 2014, according to a U.S. Navy report obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The Jan. 12 reconnaissance flight by the Iranian Shahed drone was the latest in a series of tense naval encounters between forces of the Islamic Republic and the U.S. Navy, including the brief detention of 10 American sailors who strayed into Iranian territorial waters in the Persian Gulf.

All the incidents have come after Iran signed a nuclear deal with world powers including the U.S., and point to lingering tensions between the two playing out in key waterways used to transport oil.

An internal U.S. Navy report on the incident, obtained by the AP through a Freedom of Information Act request, said it happened as the USS Harry S. Truman and the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle were 89 nautical miles southwest of the Iranian port of Bushehr. The Navy dispatched a Seahawk helicopter to observe the drone as it flew over the Truman, a nuclear-powered carrier based out of Norfolk,

Va. "Shahed" means "witness" in both Farsi and Arabic.

The U.S. Navy task force in the area publicly described the drone's overflight as "safe, routine and professional." But the internal report says the Navy's higher command described it as "safe, abnormal and unprofessional," as Iranian drones seldom fly over American carriers.

U.S. and French sailors repeatedly confirmed that the Iranian drone had its "wings clean," the report said. That means it did not carry weapons and didn't pose a risk to the ship, said Cmdr. Kevin Stephens, a spokesman for the Navy's 5th Fleet based in Bahrain.

# Officials eye NCAA tournament

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Since the first jump ball of the season rose from their hands, the 1,000 or so referees who work men's Division I college basketball games have been trying to turn heads and earn a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

Like the teams they officiate, the refs are being judged and graded to see if they're worthy of March Madness. Only 100 of them will make it that far, and only 10 will get to work the Final Four. Just like the teams, they're judged by their consistency and excellence under pressure in every step of a long season.

Every ref has to earn a spot each year. "It's a very big deal," said Ted Hillary, who officiated for 37 years and worked four Final Fours. "It's a recognition for your year's work. If you get selected to move on, I guess you're doing something right."

Three years after retiring as a referee, Hillary is one of four NCAA regional advisers who attend games and grade officials with an eye toward picking the tournament crews.

The complicated, time-consuming process starts before the season.

The NCAA held training sessions for the regional advisers in August followed by regional clinics for officials, emphasizing the rule changes this season aimed at making the game less physical and freeing up the offenses. Referees are independent contractors hired by the conferences for their games.

Each conference gave the NCAA a list of who it considers its best officials when the season started. The 315 who made the lists are being graded and observed

by one of the regional advisers or J.D. Collins, who presides over the evaluation process as the NCAA's national coordinator of men's officiating.

Evaluators fill out forms for each game, with an emphasis on judging how the officials enforce the new rules. They also grade and comment on the officials' fitness, communication, game management and accuracy of calls.

Collins officiated two Final Fours, worked as a referee coordinator in conferences, and got the national job before this season. One of his priorities has been bringing consistency to how games are called during the season as well as during the tournament.

"Nationally, we need everybody on the same page, reading the same sheet music, doing the exact same thing as it relates to physical play," Collins said. "I think we're far better than we have been in the past. There's still room for growth."

Collins and the coordinators will pare the list of officials to 150 by the third week of February. An official who wasn't on the list originally could make it by impressing the observers.

During the first week in March, Collins recommends 100 officials to the men's basketball committee.

"There's a significant number of very qualified officials that either haven't made the tournament yet or didn't make it a particular year," Collins said. "It's a very tight group to get into."

Choosing the last few referees is like picking the final schools for the 68-team field with a lot of close calls. And Collins notes that officials, in general, have an accuracy rate of around 92 percent, so there's not a great discrepancy.

Those chosen know what it means.

"It's a lot of airplane rides and a lot of rental cars and a lot of driving during the season," Hillary said. "And it's your reward as much as the teams' reward. They're going through the same stuff, with a lot of bus rides."

The judging continues. Referees are evaluated during each game of the tournament starting with the First Four in Dayton, Ohio. Those who grade the highest advance to the next round, and it continues until 10 are picked for the Final Four.

Coaches can see a difference in how NCAA Tournament games are officiated.

"There's no doubt," Tennessee coach Rick Barnes said. "In the past, you don't get the same consistency."

Xavier coach Chris Mack has played or coached in 16 tournaments and been impressed with the consistency in how teams are treated and how the games are called.

"I think they tend to let you play a little more in the NCAA Tournament," Mack said. "I've felt every game I've ever coached in the NCAA Tournament was very well officiated. It was extremely consistent. Both teams — regardless of who they were as a seed coming into the game — got the same whistle on both ends of the floor."

That's the main goal. "Our officials are really good," Collins said. "They do their job extremely well under high scrutiny, high stress. On the other side of the accountability coin, when they miss a call and it's a critical call or a game-deciding call, additional scrutiny is brought on them. They try to be good for 38 minutes, and really, really good the last 2."

# Browns say they told truth

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Browns are defending their handling of Johnny Manziel's late-season concussion.

The team issued a statement on Tuesday saying Manziel was diagnosed with a concussion on Dec. 30 by an independent neurologist, countering an NFL Network report that they lied about the injury to cover up the troubled quarterback showing up intoxicated for practice.

"Johnny Manziel came to our facility on the morning of December 30th and complained of concussion symptoms," the statement read. "He was tested by an independent neurologist and entered the league's concussion protocol. He remained in the protocol until January 12th after being cleared by the independent neurologist."

The league's in-house network reported citing an unnamed Browns player that the team "lied" to try and protect Manziel, who is being investigated by Dallas police on allegations of domestic violence.

Manziel missed the team's season finale against Pittsburgh because of the concussion. He also didn't report to a scheduled medical checkup for his head injury on Jan. 3 amid a report he was spotted partying in Las Vegas. The team did not know his exact whereabouts that day.

Following the loss to the Steelers, then-coach Mike Pettine, who was fired hours after the game, was asked if Manziel had been sent home earlier in the week because he was inebriated.

"No. No. No, that is not the case," Pettine said.

NFL Network reporter Michael Silver sent out a series of comments on Twitter saying he stands by his report about Manziel. He also said he'll take the Browns at their word about not covering up Manziel's injury and "I regret using that term ('lied')."

There had been suspicions about Manziel's injury during the season's final week after Pettine first announced that the 23-year-old arrived at the team's complex on Dec. 30 complaining of "concussion-like symptoms."

Pettine did not specify what was bothering Manziel and only offered that "he took a pretty good shot in the game."

The quarterback had absorbed at least two hard hits during Cleveland's Dec. 27 loss at Kansas City. He was later fined for missing his medical treatment and new director of football operations Sashi Brown said on Jan. 21 that Manziel had returned following the season for other scheduled assessments and was cleared.

The Browns intend to release Manziel next month when the league begins its new calendar year. Cleveland selected him in the first round in 2014, but the Heisman Trophy winner never lived up to expectations and now finds himself entwined in legal problems as his future in football grows cloudy.

# Ole Miss football named in 13 violations

Associated Press

Mississippi's football program was cited by the NCAA in nearly half of the 28 rules violations levied against the school in the Notice of Allegations the university recently received, said a person with knowledge of the investigation.

The person said Tuesday that 13 allegations involve the football program, and nine of those occurred during current coach Hugh Freeze's tenure. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

The violations are a mix of Level I — which the NCAA considers most serious — and Level II and III.

The school's women's basketball and track and field programs are also involved in the investigation.

Ole Miss has been under investigation since 2012 when women's basketball coach Adrian Wiggins and two assistants were fired after a school investigation found academic and recruiting misconduct.

Two players were ruled ineligible and the school self-imposed a one-year postseason ban.

Ole Miss has 90 days to respond to the Notice of Allegations. School officials and legal counsel have not released the notice because they believe the documents should remain confidential while the investigation continues.

Some of the NCAA issues involving the football program are already known.

Left tackle Laremy Tunsil was suspended seven games during the past season after the NCAA ruled he received several improper benefits, including the use of three loaner cars over a six-month period.

A separate NCAA probe from last year involving Louisiana-Lafayette — and former football assistant David Saunders — also involved Ole Miss. Saunders worked at Ole Miss in 2010 under Nutt. Freeze became the Ole Miss head coach in December 2011.

Documents from the Louisiana-Lafayette case stated that Ole Miss legal counsel and NCAA enforcement staff interviewed Saunders in 2013.

Saunders was given an eight-year show-cause in the Louisiana-Lafayette case after the NCAA ruled he made an effort to arrange fraudulent college entrance exam scores for recruits.

Louisiana-Lafayette did not receive a postseason ban in its case, but was put on probation for two years and lost 11 scholarships over three seasons.

Ole Miss has already released some self-reported football violations over the past year, including that a "representative of athletics interests" provided transportation for potential recruits on six different occasions from 2011 to '14.

There was also a self-report where an assistant coach — whose name was redacted from documents — made improper contact with a recruit at a high school.

Also: ■ Iowa State wide receiver D'Vario Montgomery and running back Joshua Thomas won't return to the team for next season.

The Cyclones said Montgomery was dismissed for violating team rules. Thomas intends to transfer to another school.

Montgomery was fourth on the team with 27 receptions for 335 yards and three touchdowns last season.

Thomas ran for 295 yards as a freshman. But the rise of Mike Warren, who led all freshmen nationally with 1,339 yards in 2015, likely played a role in Thomas's decision to leave.



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# Warriors stretch home streak

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Stephen Curry and the Golden State starters got a big boost from their bench.

Curry had 35 points, nine assists and six rebounds, and the Warriors put away the Houston Rockets in the fourth quarter of a 123-110 victory Tuesday night.

Even with a remarkable 47-4 record, Golden State is far from satisfied.

"We can definitely play better and just sustain our level of play and be more consistent over 48 minutes. It's hard," Curry said. "As long as you keep that at the forefront and challenge yourselves, that's what hopefully inspires to continue to get better. It's not going to be pretty every minute we're out there, it's not going to be perfect, we're not going to blow everybody out. But we strive to be great every night."

Andrew Bogut added 13 points, 11 rebounds, three steals and a season-high six blocked shots — three in the fourth — during one of his best games yet.

Andre Iguodala and Harrison Barnes hit consecutive three-pointers to start the fourth quarter to get the defending champions going after the game was tied at 93 after the third.

James Harden overcame a scoreless first quarter to finish with 37 points, five assists and five rebounds in Houston's eighth straight loss to Golden State.

"We didn't win the game but we gained some momentum. It was a competitive game against an undefeated team at home and we put ourselves in a position to win," Harden said.

**Spurs 119, Heat 101:** LaMarcus Aldridge scored 28 points, Kawhi Leonard added 23 and visiting San Antonio got seven points on one possession in the fourth quarter.

Danny Green added 15 for the Spurs, who have won six straight over the Heat.

**Jazz 121, Mavericks 119 (OT):** Gordon Hayward hit a fadeaway jumper at the buzzer in overtime and visiting Utah extended its season-best winning

## Griffin suspended 4 games

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Blake Griffin was suspended four games without pay on Tuesday for punching a team staff member, and the Los Angeles Clippers will dock the star forward's pay for an additional game because he broke his shooting hand.

In all, Griffin will lose \$859,442 from his season salary of \$18,907,725.

A team spokesman said the suspension will begin when Griffin is healthy, cleared to play and active. He was expected to be out four-to-six weeks while his hand heals from the Jan. 23 altercation in Toronto.

The spokesman said the fine was issued by the Clippers, with the NBA assisting in the investigation of the incident as well as in the disciplinary process. No other punishment from the league is expected.

The Clippers were to end a four-game road trip Wednesday night in Boston before the All-Star break this weekend. They resume play with a four-game homestand starting Feb. 18 against San Antonio.

The Clippers will donate Griffin's salary from the five games to charities

that help disadvantaged youth in Los Angeles. The team said Griffin asked to donate his time to the organizations.

"We have made it clear that this conduct has no place in the Clippers organization," team owner Steve Ballmer and coach Doc Rivers said in a joint statement. "Blake is remorseful and has apologized for his actions. He is a valued member of our Clippers family and we support him as he rejoins the team."

Griffin has been away from the team since he punched assistant equipment manager Matias Testi last month. Testi has yet to rejoin the team, although he is expected to at some point.

The Clippers are 18-4 without Griffin, who has been out since Dec. 26 with a partially torn left quadriceps tendon. He was close to returning from that injury when he punched Testi, who sustained multiple facial injuries.

A person with knowledge of the incident said last month that Griffin and Testi got into an argument during dinner that escalated. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the Clippers had not confirmed those details publicly. Rivers said later that both men had been drinking.

streak to seven games.

Rodney Hood had a tying three-pointer with 1.5 seconds left in regulation as the Jazz ended a 10-game losing streak in Dallas. Their last win on the Mavericks' home court was Jan. 9, 2010.

**Wizards 111, Knicks 108:** John Wall had 28 points and 17 assists, Bradley Beal scored 26, and Washington beat host New York in the Knicks' first game under Kurt Rambis.

Wall made four free throws in the final 6.6 seconds and the Wizards held on when Langston Galloway's three-pointer

at the buzzer was just short.

Carmelo Anthony had 33 points and 13 rebounds, but the Knicks lost their sixth straight in their first game since firing Derek Fisher on Monday.

**Bucks 112, Celtics 111:** Khris Middleton made one of two free throws with 0.6 seconds left for host Milwaukee.

Middleton drew a foul on Avery Bradley to get to the line. Boston had tied the game when Kelly Olynyk made two free throws with one second remaining.

# Kings score 9 in rout of Bruins

Associated Press

BOSTON — Milan Lucic looked as though he didn't want the night to end, taking the ice after both teams left to thank the fans who showered him with cheers most of the game.

It was a banner night for his teammates, too.

Lucic scored in his return to Boston. Drew Doughty had a power-play goal for his 300th career point and the Los Angeles Kings had nine goal scorers in a 9-2 rout of the Bruins on Tuesday.

Marian Gaborik added a goal and an assist for Los Angeles, which had lost four of six. Doughty also had an assist.

Jeff Carter, Andy Andreoff, Dwight King, Trevor Lewis, Luke Schenn and Dustin Brown also scored for the Kings, who chased Tuukka Rask during the second period on the way to setting a season high for goals. Los Angeles also had a season-best 57 shots on net.

The 27-year-old Lucic played eight seasons with the Bruins and was a member of their 2011 Stanley Cup championship team. Boston traded the popular wing at the beginning of last summer.

Brad Marchand scored his team-leading 25th goal, and Tyler Randell had the other score for the Bruins.

**Devils 2, Oilers 1:** Reid Boucher set up a goal and scored the game-winner 7:13 into the third period, and host New Jersey edged Edmonton after retiring Martin Brodeur's No. 30 jersey in a rousing ceremony.

**Panthers 7, Sabres 4:** Defenseman Alex Petrovic scored in the first minute of the second period to cap Florida's four-goal opening surge against host Buffalo.

**Ducks 4, Flyers 1:** Rickard Rakell had two goals, Chris Stewart scored on a penalty shot and Andrew Cogliano added an empty-netter to lead visiting Anaheim over Philadelphia.

**Islanders 3, Blue Jackets 2 (SO):** Cal Clutterbuck scored the winning goal in the shootout, lifting visiting New York to a comeback victory over Columbus.

**Sharks 2, Blackhawks 0:** Martin Jones made 33 saves for his fifth shutout this season and Patrick Marleau scored a power-play goal in the second period to lead San Jose past host Chicago.

**Canadiens 4, Lightning 2:** Tomas Plekanec scored twice and added an assist, helping his team to a victory over visiting Tampa Bay that extended Montreal's winning streak to three games.

**Jets 2, Blues 1 (SO):** Mark Scheifele scored in the fourth round for his first career shootout goal in four attempts, lifting Winnipeg over host St. Louis.

**Capitals 5, Predators 3:** Marcus Johansson had a goal and two assists to lead visiting Washington past Nashville.

**Stars 4, Wild 3 (OT):** John Klingberg scored in overtime and Kari Lehtonen made 37 saves to win for the first time in more than a month as host Dallas defeated slumping Minnesota.

**Canucks 3, Avalanche 1:** Bo Horvat had a goal and an assist, and Jacob Markstrom made 29 saves and chipped in with an assist in Vancouver's victory over host Colorado.

**Flames 4, Maple Leafs 3:** Markus Granlund scored short-handed for his first goal in 21 games and added an assist to lead host Calgary over Toronto.

# Kansas avenges loss to West Virginia

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Landen Lucas rarely gets much credit for the work he does for Kansas, mainly because the blue-collar forward earns his minutes with rebounding and defense rather than offense.

So when Perry Ellis had the ball with a clear path to the rim Tuesday night, he decided to reward his teammate. With a deft flip of his wrist, Ellis lobbed up a pass that Lucas dutifully flushed.

"He was open," Ellis said with a shrug, "so I had to get him some."

Lucas had certainly earned it. He pulled down a career-high 16 rebounds, scored nine points and even had four blocks in the sixth-ranked Jayhawks' 75-65 victory over No. 10 West Virginia.

"I see him out there working hard," Ellis said. "You got to reward your teammate."

Besides, Ellis still scored a game-high 21 points. Frank Mason III added 14 for the Jayhawks (20-4, 8-3 Big 12), who handled the Mountaineers' pressure well most of the night in avenging their lopsided loss last month in Morgantown that had them playing catch-up in the league race.

Now, they are tied with the Mountaineers (19-5, 8-3) and No. 3 Oklahoma (20-3, 8-3) as they pursue their 12th consecutive

Big 12 championship. All three teams have seven games remaining, with the Jayhawks and Sooners to meet on Saturday in Norman, Okla.

**No. 1 Villanova 86, DePaul 59:** Josh Hart scored 18 points and visiting Villanova celebrated its first game as the nation's No. 1 team with a victory over DePaul.

Kris Jenkins made three three-pointers and finished with 13 points as the Wildcats (21-3, 11-1) rolled to their 13th win in their past 14 games. They moved two games ahead of fifth-ranked Xavier in the Big East after the Musketeers lost 70-56 at Creighton.

**No. 2 Maryland 93, Bowie St. 62:** The Terrapins (22-3) got 16 points from Rasheed Sulaimon in their school-record 27th consecutive home victory.

**Creighton 70, No. 5 Xavier 56:** Maurice Watson scored a career-high 32 points and the host Bluejays (16-9, 7-5 Big East) rode a fast start to the upset.

**No. 7 Virginia 67, Virginia Tech 49:** Anthony Gill scored 16 points and the host Cavaliers (20-4, 9-3 ACC) turned the tables on the Hokies (13-12, 5-7) for their seventh straight win.

**No. 18 Purdue 82, No. 8 Michigan**

**St. 81 (OT):** Raphael Davis made one of two free throws with 4.6 seconds left in overtime to help the Boilermakers (20-5, 8-4 Big Ten) pull off the upset.

**No. 9 North Carolina 68, Boston College 65:** Playing most of the second half without coach Roy Williams, who left the bench after complaining of vertigo, the visiting Tar Heels (20-4, 9-2 ACC) rallied for the win behind 20 points from Justin Jackson.

**No. 12 Miami 65, Pittsburgh 63:** Guard Angel Rodriguez scored on an offensive rebound with 1.4 seconds left for the host Hurricanes (19-4, 8-3 ACC).

**No. 19 Dayton 76, Duquesne 74:** Scoochie Smith hit a three-pointer that put his team ahead to stay as the host Flyers (20-3, 10-1 Atlantic 10) overcame a late 12-point deficit.

**No. 22 Kentucky 82, Georgia 48:** Jamal Murray scored 24 points and Tyler Ulis added 14 as the host Wildcats (18-6, 8-3 SEC) held the Bulldogs (13-9, 6-5) to a season-low 22 percent shooting.

**No. 25 Wichita St. 74, Drake 48:** Ron Baker and Shaq Morris had 11 points each and the visiting Shockers (18-5, 12-1 Missouri Valley) won for the 13th time in 14 games.