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Report: Navy ships, subs to get new missiles that target ships

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In the next decade, U.S. ships and submarines capable of firing Tomahawk cruise missiles will likely be fitted with a variant specifically designed to hit enemy ships up to 1,000 miles away, according to a report published in the U.S. Naval Institute News.

Vice Adm. Joseph Mulloy, deputy chief of naval operations for integration of capabilities and resources told USNI News on Wednesday that surface ships would receive the upgraded missiles first, followed by submarines. The move follows the Navy's upcoming \$434 million budget request that would modify a portion of the current stock of Tomahawks with the ability to strike maritime targets.

Tomahawks, or TLAMs, were first introduced in the 1980s and an early variant was actually designed to strike enemy ships but was withdrawn from service because of issues with the missile's accuracy. In 2015, however, the Navy demonstrated that current versions of the missile could be modified to accurately hit moving naval targets.

According to the Navy's 2017 budget, the modified Tomahawks will start testing in 2021 before being distributed to surface ships such as guided-missile destroyers and cruisers as well as guided-missile submarines.

Mulloy's comments came after Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced earlier this month that the SM-6 missile, a weapon designed specifically to intercept enemy warheads, would be upgraded to attack enemy ships also.

Both the news of the SM-6's newfound abilities as well as the upcoming changes to the Tomahawk are in keeping with the Navy's now year-old concept of "distributed lethality," which basically entails making the Navy's current vessels more lethal within the confines of a restrained budget environment.

The combination of the SM-6 and the modified Tomahawks would help give the Navy a leg up on China, a country that is rapidly upgrading its naval capabilities.

US attack in Libya targets Islamic State camp, leader

BY JOHN VANDIVER,
COREY DICKSTEIN AND TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — American warplanes attacked an Islamic State terrorist training camp early Friday in the deadliest known U.S. airstrike to date in Libya, killing at least 30 militants and targeting one of the group's top operatives in the region, according to Pentagon officials and reports from the ground.

The United States spent weeks planning the strike carried out by manned and unmanned aircraft, said Peter Cook, the Pentagon press secretary. The Islamic State group has used the civil war in the North African country to expand its operations there to several thousand fighters.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter and other top defense officials have vowed to attack the Islamic State group anywhere it attempts to gain a foothold, though Cook said Friday this most recent strike — the second against a senior Islamic State operative in Libya in recent months — does not necessary signal an uptick in American operations there.

"This may not be the last" strike in Libya, Cook said, adding he was not going to speculate about future operations there. "We saw an opportunity to strike at (the Islamic State group) in Libya and we feel confident this was a successful strike."

The main target of the operation was the militant known as Nouredine Chouchane, a senior Tunisian operative who served as key facilitator in the movement of foreign fighters in and around Libya. Cook declined to say where Chouchane was moving those fighters, but he said they posed a threat to "American interests." Chouchane had been linked to two major terrorist attacks in Tunisia.

It was not immediately clear whether Chouchane had been killed in the strike, Cook said, adding the results of the mission were still being assessed.

"Destruction of the camp and Chouchane's removal will eliminate an experienced facilitator and is expected to have an immediate impact on [the Islamic

State's] ability to facilitate its activities in Libya, including recruiting new [Islamic State] members, establishing bases in Libya, and potentially planning external attacks on U.S. interests in the region," Cook said.

Friday's F-15E airstrikes hit a farmhouse outside Sabratha occupied by Islamic State militants who were mainly of Tunisian descent, according to The New York Times, which first reported the strike.

It was not immediately clear how many people had been killed in the attack, Cook said. He said up to 60 people — mostly Islamic State group fighters, trainers and recruits — had been present at the camp in recent weeks as the United States surveyed it. The Reuters news agency quoted Sabratha's mayor as saying 41 people were killed.

There are likely similar camps in other parts of Libya that could be targeted in future operations, Cook said. This particular camp, he said, was attacked Friday because of the presence of Chouchane, the attack's primary target, and his intent to use the camp to launch attacks against U.S. interests.

Chouchane is believed to have had a hand in the June attack on a resort hotel in Tunisia that killed 38 people, mostly from Europe.

"We believe that this group posed a threat ... in the short term," he said without identifying how that was determined or what that exact threat might be. "We were able to strike this facility before they posed an even bigger, more significant threat."

But Harmer said targeting Islamic State leadership in western Libya won't be enough.

"If you want to have a desired effect, you've got to do a lot more than one or two airstrikes here or there. It's got to be a sustained campaign," he said. "Look at Iraq, where we've been doing airstrikes for 18 months. It put pressure on [the Islamic State] but does not fundamentally shift the arc of the conflict. If you want to really kill these guys, you need guys on the ground calling in airstrikes."

Wounded soldier set to receive first penis transplant in the US

The Washington Post

Johns Hopkins University has selected a wounded soldier as a patient for the country's first penis transplant, Reuters reported Thursday. The university announced its intention, in December, to perform the first surgery of this kind in the United States, and surgeons there have been practicing the 12-hour procedure on cadavers to prepare for their patients.

The surgery could take place within the next few weeks, pending the selection of a donor of the right age and skin color and permission of their next of kin. The potential stigma surrounding penis donation is one of the biggest problem for Johns Hopkins to overcome. In fact, the medical team has expressed concern that the very existence of penis transplants in the United States may discourage some individuals from donating any of their organs. For now, penile donation is strictly opt-in.

The first successful penis transplant was performed last year in South Africa, and has helped the recipient conceive a child. In South Africa, the procedure was developed to help men injured during ritual cir-

cumcisions, which are common in the country's Xhosa tribe.

In the United States, the target demographic for the surgery will be wounded veterans. The Defense Department's Trauma Registry reports that 1,367 military servicemen sustained injuries to the genitals between 2011 and 2013 in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The anonymous first patient is a soldier who lost most of his penis in an explosion overseas. More than 60 other potential patients — all of them wounded servicemen — are waiting in the wings to follow.

The surgery is meant to restore sexual function as well as to heal the psychological trauma of severe genital injury. But it comes with risk: In addition to the grueling surgery and a lifetime of medication to keep the immune system from rejecting the new organ, patients must prepare for the possibility that their transplant will make their emotional anguish worse. Before South Africa's successful surgery, the world's first transplant in China ended in the patient asking for the new penis to be removed. The presence of the unfamiliar, donated organ was too disturbing.

Poll: More voters see Sanders as electable

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The more Democrats learn about Bernie Sanders, the more they appear to like him.

A greater percentage of Democratic registered voters view the Vermont senator as likable, honest, competent and compassionate than they did two months ago, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll. Seventy-two percent now believe he could win the general election, a 21-percentage-point increase from when the survey was conducted in December.

The findings underscore the challenge facing Hillary Clinton as she enters the Democratic contest's pivotal spring stretch, with primaries across the country.

Though Sanders is gaining ground with Democrat voters, Clinton maintains a commanding lock on the party's leadership. An Associated Press survey of superdelegates, who are influential in picking the nominee, found that 449 of the party insiders back Clinton, while only 19 support Sanders.

If they continue to back Clinton overwhelmingly, Sanders would have to win the remaining primary contests by a landslide to catch up.

Seventy-four percent of Democratic registered voters say they have a favorable view of

Clinton, compared with 64 percent who say the same of Sanders. That's a 10-point increase for Sanders from December.

But 16 percent of Democratic registered voters still say they don't yet know enough about Sanders to form an opinion.

Sanders is also more likely to be viewed as very or somewhat honest than he was in December, 64 percent to 56 percent. Clinton is viewed as honest by 55 percent of Democrats.

But the poll also finds that Clinton maintains a variety of advantages over Sanders. Nine in 10 Democratic registered voters say they think she could win a general election, a 16-point margin over Sanders. She has a 13-point advantage on being viewed as at least somewhat decisive, and a 15-point advantage on being viewed as competent.

The AP-GfK Poll of 1,033 adults, including 389 Democratic or Democratic-leaning registered voters, was conducted online Feb. 11-15, using a sample drawn from GfK's probability-based Knowledge-Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points, and is plus or minus 5.5 percentage points for Democratic voters.

B-1s benched in fight with militants over Iraq, Syria

The Washington Post

The U.S. Air force's swing-wing bomber, the B-1B Lancer, is taking a back seat in the air campaign against the Islamic State group.

Lt. Gen. Charles Brown, commander of the Air Force's Central Command, told reporters Thursday that the B-1s had been redeployed back to the United States for scheduled upgrades to the aircraft's cockpits.

Speaking through video conference from

his headquarters in Qatar, Brown said that U.S. air campaign over Iraq and Syria might lose a "little flexibility" with the B-1 benched, but has plenty of other aircraft to make up for the deficit.

The B-1, first fielded in the mid-1980s as a nuclear strike bomber and affectionately called "Bone" by pilots, has since become the workhorse of the United States' low intensity conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and more recently, Syria. Capable of supersonic flight and staying airborne for long periods of time, the B-1 is able to carry 75,000

pounds of internally mounted munitions. That includes dumb bombs, GPS-guided variants and cluster munitions.

Brown didn't say when the aircraft would return to the skies over Iraq and Syria but said that he fully expected the B-1 to return. In the interim, he said, other aircraft — including those flown by coalition partners — would step up.

In recent weeks, Denmark, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have said that their aircraft would begin contributing more to the air campaign in Iraq and Syria.

Busch, Earnhardt Jr. tops in Daytona 500 qualifying races

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Driving a car he believes is unbeatable, Dale Earnhardt Jr. added to his family legacy at Daytona International Speedway on the anniversary of his father's death.

Earnhardt won the first qualifying race Thursday night for the Daytona 500 to earn a starting spot on the second row for NASCAR's biggest event.

It was Earnhardt's 17th career win at Daytona International Speedway. The late Dale Earnhardt leads all drivers with 34 career victories at Daytona. He was killed on the final lap of the 2001 Daytona 500.

"It's another win at Daytona for the Earnhardts, adding to the legacy," Earnhardt said in Victory Lane. "We're up here in the 50s now."

The No. 88 Chevrolet that Hendrick Motorsports brought to Daytona won three times last year, and Earnhardt admitted after the qualifying race that he allowed himself to daydream about winning as a tribute to his father.

"I try not to make too big a deal — I told all you guys how much I like people to remember dad and talk about dad," he said. "I'm guilty of daydreaming a little bit, about winning this race tonight because of the day. That's very special to me. I was glad that nothing bad happened and we didn't tear our car up because that would have been embarrassing on a day like this."

Kyle Busch, the reigning Sprint Cup

champion, won the second qualifying race, but several contenders wrecked their prized cars in a last-lap accident.

Busch was trying to hold off Jamie McMurray on the final lap and briefly blocked him. McMurray moved up the track for another try, but Jimmie Johnson was in the same space and Johnson bounced off the wall to trigger a multi-car accident.

Among those who wrecked strong race cars were Johnson, Matt Kenseth and Martin Truex Jr., who will all have to go to backup cars for the Daytona 500. Kenseth had earned a front row starting spot for Sunday's season-opener, but he'll now forfeit it because of the crash.

It wasn't clear how much damage Kurt Busch and McMurray sustained, but Stewart-Haas Racing said it would not go to a backup for Busch.

Only two spots were up for grabs in the 500 — one in each qualifying race. Michael McDowell earned the spot in the first race, while Robert Richardson Jr. earned the final transfer spot. Richardson only got the call two weeks ago from BK Racing to attempt the Daytona 500.

"I was at home working on my ranch," said Richardson, who added every dollar he earns this weekend will go into a college fund for his newborn son. Richardson manages hay production as his full-time job at a ranch in Pilot Point, Texas.

"The stress that I've been putting just on myself in general to make this race, I've been pacing the floor ever since I

woke up this morning just eager to get this race underway, just eager to see how the outcome would happen."

Failing to make the Daytona 500 were: Josh Wise, Cole Whitt, David Gilliland and Reed Sorenson.

Earnhardt dominated the 150-mile race and easily darted around leader Denny Hamlin with six laps remaining to cruise to the victory. Earnhardt led 43 of the 60 laps in his Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, and Hamlin seemed to be the only driver with a car strong enough to challenge the No. 88.

Hamlin won last week's exhibition race, but his Toyota didn't have the help Hamlin needed when Earnhardt was ready to make a pass for the win. Hamlin finished fifth.

Defending Daytona 500 winner Joey Logano was second and Ryan Blaney was third. Blaney had early issues with a loose wheel, but had assured himself a spot in Sunday's Daytona 500 based on qualifying speed. Still, his Wood Brothers Racing team got him back on the lead lap and he was in position to work with Logano to make a late run at Earnhardt.

Instead, the order didn't change and Blaney's finish opened up a spot in the Daytona 500 for McDowell.

"It's so intense. When Blaney had a problem there, we were counting on him racing his way in," McDowell said. "I can't tell you what it means to make the Daytona 500. We're racing Sunday and I can't wait to get going."

Gut wins downhill

Associated Press

LA TUILE, Italy — Swiss racer Lara Gut won a downhill by a large margin Friday and reclaimed the overall World Cup lead from Lindsey Vonn, who lost a ski, fell and did not finish.

Gut finished 1.02 seconds ahead of Cornelia Huetter of Austria, with Nadia Fanchini of Italy third, 1.03 back, as the Franco Berthod course in the shadows of Mont Blanc made its debut on the circuit.

Vonn was the last of the favorites to start and was ahead of Gut at the first checkpoint but then her right ski detached on a tricky turn and she slid down the course on her hip.

"I was getting a little bit bounced by the ice there and I was a little bit inside of my body position and my ski just came off," said Vonn, showing off her bent ski in the finish area. "I'm definitely disappointed. I thought I was skiing pretty well. ... That's pretty much the one thing besides the weather you can't control. I did my job and hopefully tomorrow my skis will also do their job."

The American said she didn't have any serious injuries.

"I'll probably be pretty bruised," Vonn said. "I slid on my hip for quite a ways."

Gut moved 13 points ahead of Vonn in the overall standings.

"A lot can change in one day," Gut said. "I'll try to repeat it tomorrow."

Vonn still holds a big lead in the downhill discipline standings and can clinch her eighth season-long crystal globe title in another downhill Saturday.

It was the 18th win of Gut's career and her sixth this season, which is developing into the best of her career.

In other skiing news:

■ Alexis Pinturault of France protected his lead from the morning slalom in the afternoon's downhill to win an Alpine combined race and clinch the overall combined title as rival Kjetil Jansrud's bid crumbled on Friday at Chamonix, France.

It was the 12th race win of Pinturault's career, and his first title in any discipline.

Italian Dominik Paris finished 0.27 seconds behind Pinturault to take second place in the race, followed by French pair Thomas Mermillod-Blondin and Victor Muffat-Jeandet.

Celtics say F Olynyk will miss 'about two weeks'

BOSTON — Boston Celtics forward Kelly Olynyk has a right shoulder injury that will keep him out for about two weeks.

General manager Danny Ainge revealed the prognosis on a conference call with reporters after standing pat at the NBA trade deadline on Thursday.

Ainge said Olynyk received treatment during the All-Star break. The injury won't require surgery, he said, but it does need more time.

Olynyk is averaging 10.1 points and 4.3 rebounds per game.

Ainge said he came close on a deal Thursday but didn't want to bring in a player as a short-term fix who would become a free agent after the season.

Critics challenge Baylor on sex assaults

Associated Press

DALLAS — Baylor University did not report a single instance of sexual assault in a four-year span, according to federal statistics, a finding that stands in sharp contrast to the many other private and public schools that made multiple reports over the same period.

The Baptist school of 16,000 students in Waco has faced mounting criticism over its response to sex assaults on campus, and some critics contend administrators fail to fully investigate complaints, including two involving football players who were later convicted.

"There's always a red flag that goes up when a school reports zero incidents," said Neena Chaudhry, senior counsel for the National Women's Law Center. "I don't think it's a good sign when you're not getting any reports because it's probably not true."

Among nearly 200 public and private institutions in the U.S. with similar enrollment, Baylor was one of about two dozen schools that reported no offenses.

Baylor has declined to address specific allegations, though President and

Chancellor Ken Starr has decried the "scourge of sexual violence."

Colleges and universities are required to report crime statistics to the Education Department. Prosecutors, alumni and students said they were dismayed by the statistics that showed Baylor reported nothing from 2008-11.

For instance, a lawsuit was filed last week by a group of women alleging that the University of Tennessee violated federal Title IX anti-gender discrimination regulations and created a "hostile sexual environment" through a policy of indifference toward assaults by student-athletes.

An Associated Press review of the data shows that during those years, Texas Christian University, with an enrollment of more than 10,000 students, reported 13 sex assaults on campus. Southern Methodist University in Dallas, with an enrollment topping 11,000, reported 15.

Nationally, Wilmington University's campus in New Castle, Del., was the only other private institution with an enrollment similar to Baylor's that reported no sex offenses during that time. Most reported at least a dozen assaults, with Marquette University reporting 15, Notre

Dame 26, Vanderbilt recording 38 cases, and Stanford 53.

It's "ridiculous" to think that no assaults occurred at Baylor during those years, said McLennan County Assistant District Attorney Hilary LaBorde.

LaBorde prosecuted two Baylor football players who were convicted of sexual assault: Tevin Elliott for a 2012 offense and Sam Ukwuachu for a 2013 assault.

ESPN's "Outside The Lines" profiled three unnamed students earlier this month who said the school failed to act after they reported being sexually assaulted by Elliott. One of the victims said an administrator told her there were six complaints against Elliott, and Baylor could not act because "it turns into a he said-she said," according to the report.

In the case of Ukwuachu, LaBorde said Baylor "did not validate" the sex assault claim made by another student.

Michele Davis, a nurse who examines victims of sexual assault for the Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children in Waco, said on "Outside The Lines" that she sees about eight Baylor students a year. Of those, athletes are accused 25 to 50 percent of the time.



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Williams lifts Capitals in OT

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Justin Williams sensed one of his linemates was getting tired late in the 3-on-3 overtime, so he waited for a line change. With rested teammates Williams went up the ice and got the winning goal.

Williams scored 4:16 into the extra period to lift the Washington Capitals to a 3-2 victory over the New York Islanders on Thursday night.

On the play, defenseman John Carlson sent the puck across to Williams, who sent a one-timer from beyond the top of the left faceoff circle past Islanders goalie Thomas Greiss for his 19th of the season.

"I was behind the net and I knew (Matt Niskanen) was tired so I asked him if he wanted to go change. He said 'Yeah,' so I let him go change, get some fresh guys out there," Williams said. "Certainly didn't get all of the one-timer but enough to get in."

Alex Ovechkin scored twice in a 1:27 span early in the second period and Braden Holtby stopped 20 shots for Washington to get his league-leading 36th win of the season. The Capitals beat the Islanders for the third time in three meetings this season.

Washington, which leads the NHL with 88 points, was 7-2-1 in its last 10 coming in but won for the fifth time in six games and improved to 15-3-2 against Metropolitan Division teams.

"We had seen our game slip lately and it's not all the way back to where it needs to be but we did a lot of good things tonight," Williams said. "We need to keep having the puck a lot more and lessening the opportunities the other team has and I thought we did a good job of that tonight."

John Tavares and Frans Nielsen scored and Greiss had 32 saves for the Islanders, who had won four of their previous five. New York snapped a four-game home winning streak and will play 12 of its next 14 on the road.

Nielsen tied it with 1:44 left as Travis Hamonic sent the puck toward the goal from the blue line and after it settled about a foot from the goal line, Nielsen

tucked it inside the right post for his 16th.

"At least we got a point out of it tonight so we could take something away from this game because we definitely didn't play our best game," Nielsen said.

With the Capitals trailing 1-0 after one period, Ovechkin tied it 1:25 into the second as he got a pass from Evgeny Kuznetsov at the right side of the net and fired it past Greiss. Kuznetsov got his 42nd assist and 58th point — both team highs — on the play.

Ovechkin gave Washington the lead on the power play at 2:52 with his league-leading 37th goal of the season. Nicklas Backstrom took a pass from T.J. Oshie as he crossed the blue line and dropped the puck back to the left for Ovechkin, who fired it past Greiss.

Ovechkin has 30 goals in 40 career games against the Islanders and helped the Capitals improve to 32-0-1 when leading after two periods.

Blues 2, Kings 1 (OT): Jaden Schwartz scored 1:40 into overtime, Brian Elliott was sharp again in goal and host St. Louis beat Los Angeles.

Robby Fabbri scored a power-play goal in the first period for St. Louis and Elliott made 34 of 35 saves as he improved to 11-3-3 since Jake Allen was injured on Jan. 8.

Coyotes 6, Stars 3: Maxi Domi had two goals and an assist, linemate Anthony Duclair had three assists and host Arizona beat Dallas at its own game.

The Coyotes scored a season-best six goals for the second straight game, racing past the NHL's top-scoring team to win consecutive games for the first time in nearly a month.

Penguins 6, Red Wings 3: Phil Kessel scored twice, Sidney Crosby had a goal and an assist and host Pittsburgh got plenty of help from other players in a win over Detroit.

Matt Cullen added a goal and an assist, Ben Lovejoy picked up his first goal since November and Scott Wilson collected the first goal of his career for the Penguins.

Rangers 4, Maple Leafs 2: Derek Stepan scored with 1:31 remaining and Derick Brassard added an empty-netter for his second goal of the game to lift vis-

iting New York over Toronto.

Stepan's one-time goal came 59 seconds after Colin Greening tied it with his first goal as a member of the Leafs.

Sharks 2, Panthers 1 (SO): Joe Pavelski scored the winning goal in the shootout and visiting San Jose beat Florida for its third straight victory.

Joonas Donskoi also scored in the shootout for the Sharks. Nick Bjugstad had a shootout goal for Florida, but San Jose's Martin Jones stopped Jussi Jokinen in the third round to seal it.

Ducks 5, Canucks 2: Ryan Getzlaf, Rickard Rakell and Sami Vatanen each had a goal and an assist and visiting Anaheim beat Vancouver.

Josh Manson and Kevin Bieksa also scored, John Gibson made 19 saves and Anaheim wrapped up a seven-game trip with a 5-1-1 record and improved to 11-1-1 over its last 13 overall.

Lightning 6, Jets 5 (SO): Steven Stamkos scored in the fifth round of the shootout and host Tampa Bay rebounded after blowing a three-goal lead to beat Winnipeg.

Tampa Bay got regulation goals from Stamkos, Victor Hedman, Jonathan Marchessault, Alex Killorn and Nikita Kucherov.

Predators 2, Bruins 0: Pekka Rinne made 29 saves, Filip Forsberg had a goal and an assist and host Nashville beat Boston.

Craig Smith had the other goal and Mike Ribeiro had two assists for Nashville, which has won two of three.

Wild 5, Oilers 2: Matt Dumba, Thomas Vanek and Mikael Granlund each had a goal and an assist and visiting Minnesota beat Edmonton to win its third straight under interim coach John Torchetti.

Jason Pominville and Charlie Coyle scored for the Wild, and Darcy Kuemper made 31 saves. Minnesota had lost 13 of 14 games under former coach Mike Yeo before his firing Saturday night.

Senators 4, Hurricanes 2: Cody Ceci scored the winning goal early in the third period and host Ottawa beat Carolina.

Alex Chiasson, Zack Smith and Mark Stone also scored for the Senators. Craig Anderson stopped 30 shots.

Minnesota knocks off Maryland

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Nate Mason had 18 points, six rebounds and six assists to help Minnesota get its first Big Ten win of the season with a stunning 68-63 upset of No. 6 Maryland on Thursday night.

Jordan Murphy added 17 points and 11 rebounds and Joey King had 15 points and six boards for Minnesota (7-19, 1-13), which shot just 33 percent.

Rasheed Sulaimon scored 28 points for Maryland (22-5, 10-4), which has lost consecutive games for the first time this season. Melo Trimble had 10 points on 3-for-11 shooting and the Terrapins turned the ball over 15 times.

The Williams Arena crowd stormed the court when time expired to celebrate Minnesota's first Big Ten regular-season win since beating Michigan State on Feb. 26, 2015.

No. 8 Michigan State 68, Wisconsin 57: Denzel Valentine had 24 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds for the host Spartans.

Michigan State (22-5, 9-5 Big Ten) went from eighth place in the conference into a four-way tie for fourth with its sixth win in seven games.

Michigan State's Bryn Forbes scored 17 points and Eron Harris had 10.

The Badgers (16-10, 8-5) had won seven straight games dating to their victory Jan. 17, at home against Michigan State.

Wisconsin's Ethan Happ scored 18 points and Bronson Koenig had 12 with a scoring surge late in the game. Nigel Hayes was held to a season-low five points, 12 below his team-high scoring average, for the Badgers.

No. 14 Kentucky 80, Tennessee 70: Jamal Murray scored 28 points and Derek Willis made seven three-pointers for a career-high 25 as the host Wildcats won their fourth straight.

Sixteen days after blowing a 21-point lead in an 84-77 loss at Tennessee, Kentucky (20-6, 10-3 Southeastern Conference) held its ground this time against the Volunteers. The Wildcats stretched a six-point halftime lead to as many as 22.

Armani Moore scored 21 points and Kevin Punter Jr. added 19 for Tennessee (12-14, 5-8 SEC), which got within 10 points in the final minute but really wasn't that close in losing for the third time in four games since upsetting Kentucky.

Tyler Ulis added 11 points and nine assists for Kentucky, which shot 26-for-62 overall (42 percent) but made 11 of 24 from long range (46 percent).

Connecticut 68, No. 21 SMU 62: Amida Brimah had 16 points, eight rebounds and five blocks as the host Huskies improved their NCAA Tournament résumé.

Brimah was playing in his sixth game since returning from a broken finger.

Daniel Hamilton scored 14 points and made two key free throws late for Connecticut (19-7, 9-4 American) and Shonn Miller added 12 points and seven rebounds.

Nic Moore scored 14 points and Ben Moore had 13 points and 12 rebounds for SMU (21-4, 9-4).

A dunk by Brimah on a lob pass from Omar Calhoun capped an 8-0 run that gave the Huskies a 61-52 lead with just under 5 minutes left in the game.

SMU cut the lead to two points with just over a minute left, but missed its final four shots.

Cavaliers cruise past battered Bulls

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 25 points and barely missed a triple-double, Kevin Love added 15 points and 15 rebounds and the Cleveland Cavaliers looked refreshed from the All-Star break with a 106-95 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Thursday night.

James had nine rebounds and nine assists in 35 minutes for the Cavs, who lost their first two matchups with Chicago this season. But the Bulls are broken, missing three key players because of injuries.

Cleveland has its sights set on finishing with the East's best record and earlier in the day the club acquired forward Channing Frye from Orlando in a three-team trade the Cavs hope can get them an NBA title. They had to part with popular center Anderson Varjeao and a future first-round pick to obtain Frye, who has not yet joined his new squad.

Derrick Rose scored 28 points and Pau Gasol had 14 for the Bulls, just 5-14 since they were a season-best 10 games over .500 on Jan. 9. Chicago is currently without Jimmy Butler, Nikola Mirotic and

Joakim Noah.

With the Bulls hanging around in the third quarter, James scored seven points during a 15-4 run capped by his dunk off a lob from J.R. Smith. James celebrated his latest highlight clip, which gave the Cavs a 17-point lead, with a dance that would have enraged Noah, who complained about similar theatrics by the four-time MVP in the past.

The Bulls also were involved in a three-team trade before the NBA's 3 p.m. deadline, but it didn't involve Gasol.

Instead, Chicago sent veteran guard Kirk Hinrich to Atlanta for a future second-round pick and acquired guard Justin Holiday from Utah. The moves save the Bulls some luxury tax money but they certainly won't tilt the balance of power in the Eastern Conference.

There had been loud rumblings that Gasol would be dealt, but the veteran center is staying put and remains open to re-signing with the Bulls as a free agent this summer.

"Pau obviously is having a great year and he had a very good year last year," coach Fred Hoiberg said. "I love what Pau brings to this team — he can get Jimmy

(Butler) a lot of easy baskets by throwing the lob and his ability to play-make all over the floor. Obviously, all the other (contract) stuff will be handled in the off-season, but I love having him here."

Wizards 103, Jazz 89: Marcin Gortat had 22 points and 10 rebounds and John Wall added 17 points and 11 assists to help Washington beat visiting Utah.

Rescheduled from Jan. 23 because of a snowstorm, the game was first of three in three days for Washington following the All-Star break.

Hours before the start, the Wizards acquired forward Markieff Morris from Phoenix at the trade deadline in an attempt to boost their playoff hopes.

Gordon Hayward scored 19 points and Rodney Hood added 18 points for Utah.

Clippers 105, Spurs 86: Chris Paul had 28 points and 12 assists, and host Los Angeles led all the way to snap San Antonio's six-game winning streak coming out of the All-Star break.

Just before the game, Paul returned from Oklahoma City where he attended the funeral of Ingrid Williams, wife of Thunder assistant coach Monty Williams.