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Triple bombings in Syria kill nearly 100

Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — Secretary of State John Kerry said Sunday that a “provisional agreement” has been reached on a Syrian cease-fire that could begin in the next few days, but he acknowledged that it’s not finalized and all parties might not automatically comply.

Explosions meanwhile ripped through the central Syrian city of Homs and a Damascus suburb, killing nearly 100 people, and government forces backed by Russian warplanes pressed a major offensive north of Aleppo that has undermined previous efforts to halt the fighting.

Kerry said he discussed the terms of a cease-fire with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and said the two must now reach out to the opposing forces in the conflict. He declined to go into the details of

the agreement, saying it “is not yet done.”

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Lavrov and Kerry spoke on the phone Sunday for a second day in a row and discussed “the modality and conditions” for a cease-fire that would exclude groups that the U.N. Security Council considers terrorist organizations.

Syrian President Bashar Assad said in remarks published Sunday that his government was ready to take part in a truce as long as it is not used by militants to reinforce their positions.

Turkey and Saudi Arabia are among the leading supporters of the insurgents.

Assad’s forces have almost completely surrounded the northern city of Aleppo. He said the immediate aim is not “recapturing the city” but “closing

the roads between Turkey and between the terrorist groups.”

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said he welcomed the latest agreement and said regional powers should exert their “influence on the warring parties in Syria to use the window of opportunity that now exists.”

The explosions in Homs on Sunday killed at least 46 people and wounded dozens, according to Syria’s Foreign Ministry. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a network of activists around Syria, said 57 people, including 11 women, were killed in the Homs blasts, adding that they were caused by a pair of car bombs.

Bomb blasts also ripped through Sayyida Zeinab, a Shiite suburb of Damascus, according to Syrian state TV, which

said 50 people were killed and more than 200 wounded. The neighborhood is home to one of Shiite Islam’s holiest shrines, which was not damaged.

The Islamic State group claimed both bombings. The militant group controls parts of the surrounding province, including the historic town of Palmyra.

Syrian TV aired footage of the destruction in Homs. Debris and mangled cars filled the streets, and the charred body of a man was seen being taken away on a stretcher.

The Observatory said angry residents forced Governor Talal Barrazi and Interior Minister Mohammed al-Shaar away from the scene of the blasts when they visited the area. The report could not be independently confirmed.

Peace negotiations with Taliban a ‘polarizing’ issue

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

The Afghan government’s drive for negotiations with Taliban insurgents has been met with increasing skepticism by some Afghans who believe the time is not right for a peace process, fearing that negotiations could lead to unfavorable compromises with an enemy that remains far from beaten on the battlefield.

“We have to continue the peace process, but what I worry is that Afghanistan right now is at its weakest position since the fall of the Taliban in 2001,” said local analyst Helena Malikyar. “So I think this would be a very bad time for the Afghan government to reach a settlement.”

Representatives from Af-

ghanistan, the United States, Pakistan and China have been meeting to work out a road map for peace talks involving the insurgents and the Afghan government. The fourth meeting of the so-called Quadrilateral Coordination Group is scheduled for Tuesday in the Afghan capital, Kabul. Taliban guerrillas have been invited to attend the upcoming session, but they have not yet said they will attend.

Since he assumed office in September 2014, President Ashraf Ghani has made peace talks with the Taliban a priority of his administration. He also has reached out to the Pakistanis, who are often blamed by distrustful Afghans for tacitly helping the Taliban and providing a safe haven for the group’s leadership.

“The first thing that needs to

be done is for the Afghan state to once again reach a higher position than the insurgents in the combat field, and it’s impossible for the Afghan security forces to do that alone,” Malikyar said. “That is why the U.S. once again has to increase its combat mission in Afghanistan and help the Afghan state push back the Taliban, to some degree at least.”

Critics of the government’s push for negotiations include some high-profile politicians, including Ahmad Zia Massoud, who served as vice president under former Afghan President Hamid Karzai from 2004 to 2009.

“Many people now believe that a military victory against the Taliban is achievable, and that there should be no concessions given to insurgents,” Mas-

soud has said.

Thomas Ruttig, co-director of the Afghan Analysts Network, said the issue has become “very polarizing” among Afghan citizens partly because the four-country group has not revealed what incentives might be offered to insurgents or what concessions might be granted.

Afghanistan has seen improvements in areas such as women’s rights, freedom of expression, freedom of speech and democratization over the past decade — all things that conflict with Taliban ideology and which the group suppressed when it controlled the country from 1996 to 2001.

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Sasebo facilities to be revamped

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
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Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Navy plans to revamp its pierside power facilities at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, to accommodate advanced warships expected to roll off stateside assembly lines in the coming years.

The announcement was made in the draft fiscal 2017 budget released by the Navy earlier this month. Modernization upgrades at Sasebo's Juliet Basin pier were budgeted at \$16.42 million.

Navy officials would not say

which platforms the upgrades are meant to accommodate, after local media reported they were specifically meant for the new Zumwalt-class stealth destroyer. However, officials did say the planned upgrades are meant to accommodate the Navy's most advanced platforms.

"These upgrades ... will allow the base to continue to support forward deployed and port visits for many different classes of the Navy's most advanced warships," said Darian Wilson, a U.S. Naval Forces Japan spokesman.

The Navy will work closely with Japan to plan and announce any changes to the

Navy's forward-deployed presence in Japan, he added.

Japanese Minister of Defense Gen Nakatani said last week that he had not received information about the Navy's fiscal 2017 budget request, and that he would explain it to the general public when that happens.

Sasebo Naval Base is a joint-use facility with a protected, deep harbor that hosts both Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel and vessels. The base is home to most of the 7th Fleet's amphibious vessels, including the USS Germantown and the USS Bonhomme Richard.

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Paper's new watchdog comes from competitor

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Stars and Stripes has a new ombudsman to defend the newspaper's editorial independence — and he comes from a close competitor.

Tobias Naegele, who headed Military Times newspapers, became the paper's watchdog Thursday after being selected by the Defense Media Activity, an arm of the Defense Department. He took over for Ernie Gates, whose term expired this month.

Stars and Stripes is part of the DOD but Congress mandated that the newspaper remain an editorially independent source of news for troops. As part of that effort, the ombudsman was created to oversee the paper's performance and to ensure news stories and content remain uncensored and propaganda-free.

Naegele has more than 30 years of experience as a journalist dealing with military and defense issues — 22 years of that with the Military Times. He served as editor-in-chief of the Military Times publications from 2004 to 2014 and established Marine Corps Times as a distinct publication.

He called working with the Gannett newspapers the highlight of his professional career.

"It was a privilege to serve military members and their families, and to produce news and information that helped them understand and navigate their world," Naegele wrote in an email.

Top military aircraft on display on Guam

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — When this base opened its gates to the public Saturday for a chance to see dozens of aircraft and support vehicles displayed near the airfield, cars lined up for several miles waiting to get inside.

It's rare that top military aircraft from America, Australia and Japan would be gathered in one spot; rarer still that the

public would get an up-close look. But Cope North, a Pacific Air Forces-sponsored two-week exercise running through this Friday, provided the opportunity for this open house.

Many of those visitors made a beeline to the fighter jets. There were U.S. F-15s from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, and F-16s from Misawa Air Base, Japan. From the U.S. mainland were F-16C "Aggressors" and more F-16s. The Japan Air Self-Defense Force brought F-2s and F-

15MJ fighters, and from Down Under, the Royal Australian Air Force brought six F/A-18F fighters.

Also on display were a host of other aircraft and ground vehicles at Cope North that keep those attack jets ready for battle. Among those were two KC-135 Stratotankers with the 909th Aerial Refueling Squadron from Kadena Air Base.

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6 killed in Mich. shooting rampage; arrest made

Associated Press

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — A gunman who authorities believe chose victims at random shot people in the parking lots of a western Michigan apartment complex, a car dealership and a restaurant, killing at least six and seriously injuring two others — including a 14-year-old girl — during a rampage and subsequent manhunt that spanned nearly seven hours, authorities said.

Authorities cannot say what

may have prompted Jason Dalton, 45, of Kalamazoo County, who has no criminal record, to randomly prey on victims who had no connection to him.

"How do you go and tell the families of these victims that they weren't targeted for any reason other than they were there to be a target?" Kalamazoo County Prosecutor Jeff Getting said during a Sunday morning news conference.

Dalton was arrested early Sunday in downtown Kalamazoo following a massive man-

hunt after the shooting began early Saturday evening.

Getting said Dalton, who is being held at the county jail, is expected to be arraigned Monday afternoon in a Kalamazoo County courtroom, where he likely will face multiple counts of first-degree murder and attempted murder.

Kalamazoo, with a population of about 75,000, is about 160 miles west of Detroit. It is home to Western Michigan University.

College Player of Year race heats up

Associated Press

Three losses in five games will surely send Oklahoma plummeting down the polls and possibly end the Sooners' bid to be a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Those games might also have sprung the door wide open in the national player of the year race.

Once the clear front-runner, Oklahoma's Buddy Hield now has some company in the conversation for college basketball's best player. The Sooners' senior may still sweep top honors with all the special things he's done, but there are several players who can still give him a run for this season's crown.

A quick look at some of the top candidates for player of the year:

Buddy Hield, Oklahoma: He's put up big numbers, hit clutch shots, had signature moments — everything you could want in a player of the year. Hield is second nationally — first among power programs — with 25.4 points per game and is shooting 49 percent from three-point range while averaging 5.5 rebounds per game. The senior had 46 points, eight rebounds and seven assists against Kansas in January, and two weeks ago beat Texas with a last-second three-pointer. He hadn't quite been his usual self in Oklahoma's three recent losses, though, hitting 18 of 47 shots, but a 29-point effort in a 76-62 win over West Virginia on Saturday suggests Hield is back on track.

Denzel Valentine, Michigan State: The senior forward

was the front-runner for POY early in the season after posting a 29-12-12 triple-double against Kansas the second game of the season. Valentine's bid was derailed a bit when he missed four games in December due to minor knee surgery and needed a few more games to get back in the groove. He's been stellar since then, making a case for being the best all-around player in the country, averaging 19.7 points while shooting 47 percent — 45 percent on threes — 7.7 rebounds and 7.3 assists for the eight-ranked Spartans.

Ben Simmons, LSU: Though his team inexplicably struggled early in the season, the Tigers' multitalented freshman has lived up to the hype that followed him into the season. Simmons has been criticized at times for not being aggressive enough on offense, particularly after a close loss to Oklahoma, but that talk has quieted down as he's led the Tigers toward the top of the SEC. Simmons averages 19.4 points and 12 rebounds, but also has exceptional court vision for a 6-foot-10 forward, dishing out 5 assists per game. He's also been projected to be the No. 1 pick in next year's NBA draft, should he decide to come out early.

Jarrod Uthoff, Iowa: The Hawkeyes' 6-9 senior is unlike any player in college basketball, a lanky, athletic force who causes opponents problems at both ends of the floor. Uthoff is a threat inside and out on offense, averaging 18.8 points on 46 percent shooting. He also averages 6.5 rebounds and just under three blocked

shots per game for a team that's contending for the Big Ten championship. He showed off his versatility in a win over Minnesota last Sunday, finishing with 24 points, 15 rebounds and six blocked shot, but wasn't much of a factor in Wednesday's surprising loss to Penn State.

Malcom Brogdon, Virginia: Statistics don't tell the entire story with the seventh-ranked Cavaliers' senior guard. Brogdon's numbers are still solid: 17.8 points, 46 percent shooting, 4.3 rebounds, 2.9 assists. Virginia's style of play skews the appearance of Brogdon's impact. The Cavaliers are defensive-oriented and have one of the fewest possessions-per-game averages in Division I, keeping his numbers below some of the other POY contenders. He's also one of the nation's perimeter defenders, able to shut down the opponent's best scorer while still keeping his scoring up.

Kris Dunn, Providence: As fill-the-stat-sheet players go, the Friars' junior is right there with Valentine. A pre-season All-American, Dunn averages 17.1 points while shooting 44 percent, grabs 6.1 rebounds as a 6-4 guard, dishes out 6.6 assists per game and nabs nearly three steals per game. He has labored as teams have shifted their defensive focus on him, averaging 4.6 turnovers during an 11-game streak, but still is one of the best defensive guards in the country. Providence's slide from the AP Top 25 to losing seven of 11 games will not help his POY chances.

Texas Tech boosts case for tournament bid

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Big 12 has bragged the past few years that it's the toughest conference in college basketball, and its brutal double-round robin format has consistently produced strong RPI ratings.

When March Madness rolls around, the league keeps coming up empty.

After qualifying seven of its 10 teams for last year's NCAA Tournament, conference aficionados were aghast when none reached the round of eight. No. 3 seeds Baylor and Iowa State were upset by 14-seeds in their openers, and second-seeded Kansas was bumped the opening weekend by Wichita State.

Might that dubious track record come into play Selection Sunday?

With conference tournaments beginning in just a couple of weeks, the Big 12 has more than half of its schools in the Top 25, led by second-ranked Kansas and No. 3 Oklahoma. West Virginia, Iowa State, Texas and Baylor give the conference a virtual certainty that it will qualify six for the field of 68 teams.

Sitting firmly on the bubble is Texas Tech, which is going through a renaissance under Tubby Smith. The Red Raiders continued to improve their case for a bid by winning their fourth straight on Saturday night.

Toddric Gotcher scored 21 of his career-high 24 points in the second half to help the Red Raiders (17-9, 7-7 Big 12) defeat Oklahoma State 71-61.

Texas Tech was coming off consecutive victories over Top 25 squads Iowa State, Baylor and Oklahoma.

But the Red Raiders haven't been to the tournament since 2007 and might be hurt by the perception that the Big 12 is over-

rated when it comes to March Madness.

"We've been underdogs for quite a few games," said Smith, whose team has won three straight against ranked teams. "We have the incentive to get to postseason play. It's at hand and a possibility for us."

Indeed, the Red Raiders appear on the way up.

Double bubble

Games on Saturday that matched teams trying to improve their chances at reaching the tournament:

Cincinnati 65, Connecticut 60: Sophomore Gary Clark and freshman Jacobs Evans III each scored 13 points as host Cincinnati held off Connecticut in a key American Athletic Conference contest.

Junior Troy Caupain also reached double figures with 10 points for the Bearcats (20-8, 10-5), who reached 20 wins for the sixth consecutive season and 35th in program history.

Freshman Jalen Adams scored a season-high 19 points to lead Connecticut (19-8, 9-5).

Cincinnati entered the game tied with Houston and Tulsa for fourth place in the AAC. The Huskies had won five of their previous six games, but now have been swept by Cincinnati and Temple.

Saint Mary's 63, Gonzaga 58: Calvin Hermanson scored 12 with a pair of free throws that made it a five-point game with 12.8 seconds left and visiting Saint Mary's swept the season series with Gonzaga for the first time since 1995.

The Gaels (22-4, 13-3) tied Gonzaga atop the West Coast Conference standings. The regular-season sweep gives Saint Mary's the first tiebreaker in the conference tournament seeding should it remain tied with Gonzaga (21-7, 13-3).

The West Coast could very well earn just one NCAA bid.

Pittsburgh 66, Syracuse 52: Jamel Artis had 21 points, including a tie-breaking three-pointer, for Pittsburgh (19-7, 8-6 Atlantic Coast Conference), which snapped a three-game skid on Tuesday with a 101-96 double-overtime victory at home over Wake Forest.

Syracuse (18-10, 8-7 ACC) lost its second straight after a five-game winning streak.

It was a game for position in the mid-pack of the ACC and a chance for both teams to boost their resumes for the postseason. The Orange were ranked 41st in RPI and Pitt just four spots below.

Virginia Tech 83, Florida State 73: In a game with postseason implications for both teams, one appears to be playing its way into the conversation, while the other appears to be playing itself out of a tournament berth.

Seth Allen scored 23 points, including 17 in the second half, for the Hokies (14-13, 6-8 ACC), who had lost seven of their past eight games, including four to ranked teams.

Florida State (16-11, 6-9), which lost its fourth straight game, still has games against top-20 teams Duke and Notre Dame to turn things around.

Here are some others changing the bubble outlook:

On the rise

Ohio State: Thad Matta's crew gutted one out against Nebraska on Saturday for its sixth win in eight games.

JaQuan Lyle scored all 19 of his points after halftime, including six in overtime to carry the Buckeyes (17-10, 8-5 Big 10) to a 65-62 victory when a loss to the struggling Cornhuskers would have been devastating to their tournament hopes.

Up and down

Alabama: Mississippi State dealt a blow to streaking Alabama's tournament

hopes with a 67-61 defeat on Saturday. The Crimson Tide (16-10, 7-7 SEC) had won five straight, including victories over Texas A&M and LSU, to give first-year coach Avery Johnson a legit shot at the dance.

Washington: The Huskies (16-11, 8-7 Pac-12) picked up a needed victory Saturday to keep their slim hopes alive. DeJonte Murray led Washington with 25 points, and the Huskies snapped a four-game losing streak with a 64-53 win over Stanford. Washington has a solid non-conference win over Texas, and swept UCLA. But Lorenzo Romar's team had dropped five of six before beating the Cardinal, including one to fellow bubble team California on Thursday night.

Marquette: Is there a more difficult team to figure out than the Golden Eagles? They won nine straight to enter Big East play, but a poor conference record may doom them. Marquette (17-10, 6-8 Big East) had lost three of four, though their lone victory did come against then-No. 20 Providence. Marquette recovered to cruise past DePaul on Saturday.

Fading hopes

Oregon State: Another Pac-12 team on the bubble, the Beavers (15-9, 6-7) had things rolling with three straight wins before stumbling at Cal. They followed that up with a loss on Saturday to No. 16 Oregon, missing a good opportunity to prove they are still worthy of the tournament.

LSU: Tennessee didn't have its leading scorer and still delivered a huge blow to the Tigers' hopes. Armani Moore had 17 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists Saturday as Tennessee won 81-65, handing the Tigers (16-11, 9-5) their third loss in four games and their most lopsided loss of the season.



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Aggies top Kentucky in OT

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — When Kentucky's Isaac Humphries got a technical foul in overtime on Saturday for slamming the ball to the court, there was a lot of confusion as to exactly what happened and why.

The Texas A&M Aggies weren't worried about any of that and were overcome instead by a sense of relief — and gratitude.

"I was like, 'Thank you. We appreciate the opportunity to try and go win the game,'" Texas A&M's Jalen Jones said. "I was shocked and it ended up working in our favor. So thanks to dude on the other team."

Tyler Davis' putback at the buzzer gave Texas A&M a 79-77 win over No. 14 Kentucky after the technical foul on Humphries cost the Wildcats the lead in the final seconds.

With the clock winding down, Danuel House drove into traffic and missed a contested shot that hit the front of the rim. The ball caromed directly to Davis, who banked in a layup as time expired.

"I just tried to put it up as quick as possible," Davis said.

The freshman center finished with 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Anthony Collins missed a shot with 9 seconds left for Texas A&M (20-7, 9-5 Southeastern Conference), and Humphries pulled down the rebound with the Wildcats up by one. But after the Aggies fouled him, he slammed the ball to the court and was whistled for a technical that fouled him out.

House made both free throws to give A&M a 77-76 lead. Skål Labissiere hit one of two foul shots for Kentucky (20-7, 10-4) to tie it before the final possession.

"The play there at the end sullied up the game," Kentucky coach John Calipari said. "That's what it did."

Humphries didn't speak to reporters but tweeted "I will learn from this" about 30 minutes after the game.

Tyler Ulis had 22 points and 11 assists for Kentucky, which had won four straight.

"Everybody raises their level up when Kentucky comes in," Texas A&M coach Billy Kennedy said. "They think they're going to win every game ... but we were resilient. We never thought we weren't going to win this game."

Jalen Jones led A&M with 24 points.

No. 1 Villanova 77, Butler 67: Josh Hart had 22 points and 12 rebounds and Kris Jenkins added 20 points to lead host Villanova over Butler.

It was the seventh straight victory for the Wildcats (24-3, 13-1 Big East).

Kelan Martin scored 19 points for Butler (18-9, 7-8).

No. 2 Kansas 72, Kansas State 63: Frank Mason III scored 15 points, Perry Ellis added 14 and visiting Kansas escaped after blowing most of a 17-point lead in the second half.

Wayne Selden Jr. also scored 12 for the Jayhawks (23-4, 11-3 Big 12), who needed a jumper from Devonte Graham and some free throws down the stretch to secure their first win at Kansas State in three years.

No. 3 Oklahoma 76, No. 10 West Virginia 62: Buddy Hield scored 29 points to lead visiting Oklahoma, which had lost three of four.

Hield capped a 9-0 run with a three-pointer to put the Sooners ahead 61-52 with 5:22 left, silencing the home crowd.

No. 5 North Carolina 96, No. 11 Miami 71: Brice Johnson had 16 points and 15 rebounds as host North Carolina regrouped from an emotional loss to rival Duke.

Justin Jackson added 15 points for the Tar Heels, who opened the second half on a 10-0 burst to turn this into blowout.

No. 8 Xavier 88, Georgetown 70: Xavier broke open a tight game by making 12 of its first 13 shots after halftime, and Edmond Sumner finished with a career-best 22 points against host Georgetown.

No. 13 Iowa State 92, TCU 83: Georges Niang scored 27 points, Abdel Nader had 24 and host Iowa State held on to move within a victory of its fifth straight 20-win season.

Deonte Burton set season highs with 23 points and 14 rebounds for the Cyclones.

St. Bonaventure 79, No. 15 Dayton 72: Jaylen Adams matched his career high with 31 points and hit the big shot in the final 36 seconds to lead St. Bonaventure to its first road win over a ranked team in its history.

No. 16 Oregon 91, Oregon State 81: Freshman guard Tyler Dorsey matched his season high with 25 points, and Oregon regained a share of the Pac-12 lead.

Dillon Brooks added 17 points and Elgin

Cook had 16 for the Ducks, who tied a school record with their 23rd consecutive home win.

No. 22 Indiana 77, No. 17 Purdue 73: Troy Williams scored 19 points, Yogi Ferrell had 18 and host Indiana held off its state rival.

The Big Ten-leading Hoosiers improved to 16-0 this season in Assembly Hall and 17-2 in their last 19 home games against Top 25 opponents.

No. 18 Louisville 71, No. 20 Duke 64: Damion Lee scored 24 points, including three three-pointers during host Louisville's furious second-half rally from a 13-point deficit.

Georgia Tech 63, No. 19 Notre Dame 62: Marcus Georges-Hunt scored on a short jumper with 2 seconds remaining to lift host Georgia Tech.

Georgia Tech led for most of the first 30 minutes but needed a late comeback after Notre Dame went ahead 60-54.

No. 25 Baylor 78, No. 24 Texas 64: Johnathan Motley scored 24 points on 12-of-13 shooting to lead visiting Baylor.

The win puts the Bears in a solid position in third place in the Big 12 with an outside chance to play for the regular-season title with four games left.

Army 80, Navy 78 (2OT): Kevin Ferguson scored 22 points, including the game-winning tip-in at the buzzer, and visiting Army beat archrival Navy in double overtime.

Ferguson also pulled down a career-high 19 rebounds. Tanner Plomb led Army (17-11, 8-8 Patriot League) with 24 points and Kyle Wilson added 11 for the Black Knights.

Wilson sent the game to OT on a three-pointer with eight seconds left in regulation.

The victory for Army snaps Navy's five-game win streak in the series.

Air Force 76, New Mexico 72: Jacob Van scored 22 points and Hayden Graham added 21 and 11 rebounds to lead host Air Force.

Van, Graham and teammate Zach Kocur combined to shoot 20-for-37 from the field and grabbed 24 of 39 rebounds for the Falcons.

Warriors rebound in LA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Golden State Warriors rebounded from their biggest loss of the season with a dominating shooting performance.

Klay Thompson scored 32 points, fellow Splash Brother Stephen Curry added 23 and the Warriors shot 51 percent in beating the Los Angeles Clippers 115-112 on Saturday night to avoid losing back-to-back games for the first time this season.

The Warriors were coming off a 32-point drubbing at Portland a night earlier that snapped their 11-game winning streak. They appeared highly motivated to erase that memory from the opening tip, shooting 56 percent in the first half and twice leading by 15 points in the second quarter.

Draymond Green had his NBA-leading 11th triple-double with 18 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to help the defending champions improve to 49-5.

Heat 114, Wizards 94: Hassan Whiteside had 25 points and 23 rebounds in his return from a one-game suspension to help host Miami beat Washington.

Whiteside was suspended for throwing an elbow at Spurs center Boban Marjanovic's head Feb. 9. It was the 11th time in NBA history that a player has had at least 20 points and 20 rebounds in a game off the bench.

Bucks 117, Hawks 109 (2OT): Jabari Parker had career highs of 28 points and 13 rebounds, Greg Monroe added 24 points and visiting Milwaukee outlasted Atlanta in double overtime to end a six-game road skid.

Paul Millsap finished with 27 points, and Dennis Schroder had 25 for the Hawks. Atlanta has lost three straight at home for the first time since March 2014.

Knicks 103, Timberwolves 95: Carmelo Anthony had 30 points and 11 rebounds and visiting New York snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Robin Lopez had 26 points and 16 rebounds to give interim coach Kurt Rambis his first victory since taking over for the fired Derek Fisher three games ago.

Jagr reaches milestone in Panthers' win

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Jaromir Jagr fulfilled his birthday wish in a big way.

The veteran forward scored twice to move into third place on the NHL career goals list and help the Florida Panthers beat the Winnipeg Jets 3-1 on Saturday night.

"When I got a birthday cake for my 44th birthday (on Monday), I said I wish I'm going to be a goal scorer," Jagr said. "So far it worked so maybe I'm going to catch Gordie (Howe) and maybe Wayne Gretzky, too, you know?"

Jagr tied and then moved past Brett Hull and now has 742 goals, trailing only Gretzky (894) and Howe (801).

Reilly Smith had the go-ahead power-play goal early in the third period and Roberto Luongo stopped 30 shots in his return after missing two games to help the Panthers win for just the third time in eight games (3-3-2).

Bruins 7, Stars 3: Brad Marchand's goal in the second period ended Boston's drought on the power play, and got the Bruins going on a big scoring night.

Marchand scored twice and added an assist to help the Bruins rally for a victory over host Dallas.

Most important was his power-play goal with 6:36 remaining in the second after Dallas had built a 3-1 lead. The Bruins had failed on their previous 21 man-advantage chances, and then got two more power-play scores in the third period.

Marchand's score also started a string of six unanswered goals for Boston.

Loui Eriksson, Kevan Miller and Brett Connolly also scored for the Bruins.

Capitals 4, Devils 3: Brooks Orpik scored his second goal of the season with 3:58 left and host Washington rallied to beat New Jersey, becoming the first NHL team with 90 points this season.

Washington's T.J. Oshie tied the game

with 6:05 left in his 500th NHL game. Orpik got his fourth assist of the season on Oshie's goal.

Alex Ovechkin scored his league-leading 38th goal and had an assist, and Evgeny Kuznetsov also had a goal and an assist for Washington.

Flyers 5, Maple Leafs 4 (OT): Shayne Gostisbehere scored 29 seconds into overtime, extending his scoring streak to 15 games, and Philadelphia edged host Toronto.

Blues 6, Coyotes 4: Vladimir Tarasenko, David Backes and Alexander Steen each had a goal and an assist and visiting St. Louis used a four-goal first period to beat Arizona.

Lightning 4, Penguins 2: Tampa Bay forward Steven Stamkos became the third player in franchise history to reach 300 goals, and the Lightning ended a long losing streak in Pittsburgh.

Stamkos knocked in a rebound off Alex

Killorn's shot midway through the first period to join Vincent Lecavalier and Martin St. Louis as the only Lightning players with 300 goals.

Kings 2, Predators 1 (OT): Tanner Pearson scored 1:18 into overtime and Los Angeles beat Nashville to wrap a seven-game road trip with a victory.

Jake Muzzin also scored for the Kings, and goalie Jonathan Quick made 33 saves. The Kings finished this trip 3-3-1 after going 0-2-1 in their previous three games.

Avalanche 3, Oilers 2: Tyson Barrie had two goals and an assist and Colorado beat host Edmonton.

John Mitchell also scored for the Avalanche, and Colorado has won four of its last five to remain in a playoff wildcard spot. Calvin Pickard made 25 saves.

Senators 3, Red Wings 2 (SO): Kyle Turris had the only goal in the shootout and Dion Phaneuf got his first goal with Ottawa in a win over visiting Detroit.