

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy SEAL to receive Medal of Honor

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — It was react or die.

That's how Navy SEAL Edward C. Byers Jr. described the night of Dec. 8, 2012, when his unit rescued Dr. Dilip Joseph from the Taliban deep in the remote mountains of eastern Afghanistan.

Byers was the second SEAL through the door of a tiny, one-room building where Joseph was held hostage. As bullets zipped across the room, Byers leaped on top of the doctor, using his own body armor to shield the captive as his fellow SEALs exchanged gunfire with enemy fighters.

"Anyone who has been in combat knows that in those moments, you either react or you get killed," Byers said in a Navy video released Friday.

As Byers protected Joseph, he spotted an AK-47-wielding Taliban guard just inches away. He continued to shield Joseph with his body as he grabbed the gunman by the throat, pinning him to a wall long enough for another SEAL to shoot him dead.

For his actions during that rescue in the Qarghah'i district of Laghman province, President Barack Obama will present Byers, now a senior chief petty officer, with the Medal of Honor at the White House on

Monday.

Byers, 36, learned in December that he would receive the nation's highest honor for military valor. Yet he insists he's not a hero.

The heroes are his fellow SEALs, especially the ones killed in the line of duty, Byers said. That includes his good friend Petty Officer 1st Class Nicolas Checque, 28, who was mortally wounded serving as the point man on that rescue mission in December 2012. Checque was the first man through the door during the rescue of Joseph and was shot just after sprinting into the building where the doctor was being held.

"Nic embodied exactly what it is to be an American hero," Byers said in the video. "He will forever be remembered in the pages of history for the sacrifices that he made."

There is no doubt that Byers is deserving of the Medal of Honor, Navy officials have said.

"Senior Chief Ed Byers' actions on the battlefield reflect the highest ideals of our profession: bravery, selfless dedication to duty and, above all, the highest level of commitment to protect the lives of others and the freedom for which our nation stands," said Rear Adm. Brian Losey, com-

mander Naval Special Warfare. "We are humbled by Senior Chief Byers' incredible example of service, and are proud to call him teammate."

Joseph, who through an assistant declined an interview request from Stars and Stripes, issued a prepared statement that thanked Byers and the SEALs for saving him. Joseph was not expected to attend the ceremony Monday.

"I am extremely happy to hear that Senior Chief Byers is receiving the Medal of Honor. Byers and his team are examples of courage, bravery and heroism," Joseph said in the statement.

"I am so grateful for their dedication for rescuing me as well as bringing security to the Afghan people and to those who desire to see peace and prosperity in this region. On behalf of my family and I, congratulations for this momentous achievement to Senior Chief Byers and the whole team," he said.

On Monday, Byers will become just the sixth Navy SEAL in history to be awarded the Medal of Honor. He'll be the 11th living American servicemember to receive the medal for actions in Afghanistan.

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## Naval exercise off W. Africa becomes real-life drama

*Associated Press*

LAGOS, Nigeria — It was supposed to be a U.S.-led naval training maneuver off the coast of West Africa when real-life drama intervened, with pirates taking over an oil tanker and turning the exercise into a rescue mission.

Navies from the United States, Ghana, Togo and Nigeria tracked the hijacked tanker through waters off five countries before Nigerian naval forces stormed aboard on Feb. 20 amid a shootout that killed one of the pirates.

It was the first big success in international maritime co-

operation in the pirate-ridden Gulf of Guinea, the commodore in charge of U.S. operations in Africa and Europe told The Associated Press.

Capt. Heidi Agle, the commodore, had been directing a training exercise against piracy with maritime agencies of Ghana when the hijacking provided a real-life lesson, she said in a telephone interview Friday from her base in Italy.

First, word came from the French Embassy, which sent information to Agle's USNS Spearhead via Ghanaian officials and U.S. diplomats of a possible pirate ship loitering off Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

There, pirates seized the Dubai-owned MT Maximus, on lease to a South Korean company and carrying 4,700 tons of diesel fuel, on Feb. 11.

The Spearhead tracked down the hijacked Maximus, identified it and then monitored its progress for two days as it traveled from Ivorian into Ghanaian waters. Then Agle handed over to Ghana's Navy, which continued to shadow the ship until it entered the waters of Togo, when that country's navy took over.

As the pirates steamed across the gulf toward the tiny island nation of Sao Tome and Principe, officials there contacted the

Nigerian government for help.

The tanker had traveled nearly 800 miles before the Nigerians made the assault.

Dirk Steffen, maritime security director of Denmark-based Risk Intelligence, agreed the operation was "the first anti-piracy success in the region of this scale."

"Never has a West African navy carried out an opposed boarding before," he said.

Agle called it "a coordinated effort and the biggest piece in progress in the region" since the United States began training with African nations in the Gulf of Guinea in 2009.

# Cease-fire brings relative calm to Syria

Associated Press

BEIRUT — A U.S. and Russian-brokered cease-fire brought relative calm to parts of Syria for the first time in years Saturday despite cease-fire breaches, but the war against the Islamic State group continued as the extremists launched a surprise attack on a northern border town.

The Islamic State group, which is not a party to the cease-fire, launched several attacks after the truce went into

effect, including a brazen offensive on the northern town of Tal Abyad on the border with Turkey and at least one suicide bombing in central Syria.

The cease-fire went into effect across Syria at midnight, marking the most ambitious international attempt yet to reduce violence in the devastating conflict, which has killed more than 250,000 people, wounded a million and created Europe's worst refugee crisis since World War II.

In addition to the Islamic

State group, the truce also excludes al-Qaida's branch in Syria, known as the Nusra Front, which is also considered a terrorist organization by the United Nations.

Syria's state-run news agency said armed groups fired several shells on residential areas in the capital in the first breach of a cease-fire at midday Saturday. SANA said the shells were fired by "terrorist groups" entrenched in Jobar and Douma, two opposition-held Damascus suburbs.

Rebel groups said they have registered numerous violations by government forces across the country.

Lt. Col. Fares al-Bayoush, commander of the 1,300-strong Fursan al-Haq Brigade, a U.S.-backed rebel faction, told The Associated Press, "If they continue with these violations, we will be forced to retaliate accordingly." He added, however, that the cease-fire has sharply reduced government attacks across northern Syria, where his group is based.

## Qatar base living conditions raise alarm

The (Manchester) New Hampshire Union Leader

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., is adding her voice to those raising alarm about the unhealthy living conditions for American servicemembers at a military base in Qatar.

Her comments came during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Thursday on the nomination of Brad Carson to serve as Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Ayotte, who chairs the Read-

ness and Management Support subcommittee, said her office has received reports of "unacceptable" living conditions at Al Udeid Air Base, where troops are stationed in support of the fight against the Islamic State group.

Problems with black mold have plagued the base for years, according to published reports.

"I recently learned that our airmen ... are being forced to live in potentially unhealthy facilities and may be getting sick from black mold exposure," Ayotte told Carson. "Despite

efforts by the local command there and repeated requests of our airmen, the situation's not been fixed."

Ayotte said she has been told that black mold "is coming out of showers, it's in the bathrooms, it's in the curtains, and that some of our airmen are becoming sick and having symptoms as a result of it."

At Thursday's hearing, Ayotte asked for a commitment to address the problem.

"I don't want to hear from my Guard that they're getting sick from mold," she said.

## Donald Trump endorsed by Chris Christie

Associated Press

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has a reputation for vengeance.

And he delivered it with gusto on Friday as he shocked many in the political world by endorsing GOP front-runner Donald Trump for the Republican presidential nomination.

The surprise endorsement, the first for Trump from a sitting governor and by far his most prominent, comes as Trump rival Marco Rubio appeared on the cusp of a breakthrough following a breakout debate performance. And it marks the second time that Christie has knee-capped the Florida senator just as he appeared to be on the rise.

At the news conference in Fort Worth, Texas, Christie described Trump — a man he previously had panned as ill-suited for the White House — as the best Republican candidate to lead the country and to beat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"I've gotten to know all the people on that stage and there is none who is better prepared to provide America with the strong leadership that it needs both at home and around the world than Donald Trump," Christie said.

## Clues begin to emerge in Kansas rampage

The Washington Post

HESSTON, Kan. — Law enforcement officials struggled Friday to understand how this small town had become the latest American community to be shaken by a mass shooting as they pieced together why an attacker had gunned down three people and injured 14 others before being killed by police.

In some ways, the violence Thursday was familiar: a lone gunman described as troubled targeting a place he knew.

Cedric Larry Ford, 38, had randomly sprayed bullets at the lawn mower factory where he

worked, authorities said. Clues emerged about a possible motive: Ford was described as depressed and had been served with a restraining order just before the attack, which police said probably led to the bloodshed.

Yet the rampage, which started on a rural Kansas highway, did not fit a general pattern of previous mass shootings in the nation's endless series of such tragedies.

For one, Ford was African-American — research shows that the majority of mass public shootings are committed by whites. And unlike most mass shooters, Ford had an extensive

criminal record, which may have precluded him from obtaining his weapons legally.

Even his weaponry deviated somewhat from the norm; handguns are most frequently used in mass shootings. While police said Ford was armed with an automatic pistol, he also carried an assault-style rifle.

Authorities vowed a thorough investigation and identified the three people who died inside Excel Industries: Renee Benjamin, 30; Joshua Higbee, 31; and Brian Sadowsky, 44. Some of those injured remained in critical condition, authorities said.

# Spring brings QB competition

Associated Press

Quarterback competitions that get settled in spring are often competitions in name only.

The ones with real drama almost always get resolved in August, but that does not mean some quarterbacks won't assert themselves during the spring.

Last season, Ohio State's star-studded QB contest was one of the stories of the offseason and not until November was it settled. The Buckeyes have no quarterback competition this season, but several teams that hope to contend for a playoff spot do.

**Alabama:** For the third straight season Alabama has no clear-cut starting quarterback.

Cooper Bateman is the presumptive front-runner after he lost out to Jake Coker last year. Blake Barnett is the five-star future franchise QB. David Cornwell was a four-star recruit who could play at dozens of FBS schools.

Three of Alabama's national championships have come with a first-year starter behind center as Nick Saban has proved the best way to develop a quarterback is to surround him with future NFL players.

**Florida State:** Sean Maguire ended last season as the Seminoles' starter, but he will have serious competition from underclassmen with more upside. Redshirt freshman Deondre Francois was one of the top dual-threat quarterbacks coming out of high school in 2015 and five-star freshman Malik Henry has enrolled early to take part in spring practice. Henry has said he has no plans to redshirt. Jimbo Fisher might have other plans.

**Georgia:** Among 2016 freshman quarterbacks, Georgia's Jacob Eason would be voted most likely to start immediately. He is already enrolled, will take part in spring practice and new coach Kirby Smart's other options are ... limited. Brice Ramsey is the only returnee with experience, but an argument could be made he is a better punter (41.9-yard average) than passer (two picks and one touchdown pass in 35 attempts).

**Michigan:** The Wolverines rode graduate transfer Jake Rudock to 10 wins in coach Jim Harbaugh's surprisingly good first season in Ann Arbor. Next in line ap-

## Several stars recovering from injuries

Associated Press

Detailed and accurate information about players returning from injuries is often difficult to dig up during spring practice.

Many coaches treat that sort of intelligence as classified and occasional updates are usually spun toward the positive. Plus, players on the mend tend to be placed in handle-with-care jerseys. Don't expect to see your favorite team's healing star taking — or giving out — hits during the spring game.

So fans will be sifting through a stream of coach-speak for nuggets of news about their comeback candidates.

Six players who will be asked about a lot over the next two months:

**Nick Chubb, RB, Georgia:** Chubb blew out his left knee in the sixth game of last season, depriving the Bulldogs of one of the best running backs in the country. New coach Kirby Smart has been cautious about making predictions regarding Chubb's

return and you can all but guarantee the running back will spend more time riding a stationary bike at spring practice than carrying a ball. If you're a Georgia fan, as long as the word setback is nowhere near in any reporting about Chubb, consider it good news.

**Tarean Folston, RB, Notre Dame:** Folston tore the ACL in his right knee in the second game of last season, and the Fighting Irish proved to have the depth (C.J. Prosise and Josh Adams) to withstand the loss. Prosise is gone but Adams flashed star potential as a freshman and the Irish appear to have other promising young players in the mix. Folston may only be part of a rotation for the Irish, but as coach Brian Kelly found out last season, depth at tailback is more necessity than luxury.

**Seth Russell, QB, Baylor:** Russell has been cleared to begin football activities after neck surgery cost him most of last season. Those activities will likely be very limited when the Bears crank up spring ball, regardless of how Russell is feeling.

pears to be another transfer. John O'Korn came over from Houston, where he was the American Athletic Conference freshman of the year in 2013 and demoted to second string in 2014. He is not a lock to win the job. Former five-star recruit Shane Morris figures to be his main competition, along with last year's backup, Wilton Speight. A couple of freshmen will get a look, too.

**Notre Dame:** DeShone Kizer saved Notre Dame's season after Malik Zaire broke his ankle in Week 2. Kizer passed for 2,884 yards and 21 touchdowns, ran for 10 TDs and threw 10 interceptions. Kizer, a sophomore, was so good it almost makes you forget that the junior Zaire was a clear No. 1 going into last season. Brian Kelly also has second-year man Brandon

Wimbush, who could be the most talented quarterback on the roster. Maybe Kelly can call Urban Meyer for some advice? Then again, maybe not a good idea.

**Stanford:** Now that Kevin Hogan's 10-year career at Stanford (at least it seemed that way) is over, the Cardinal have a vacancy. Conventional wisdom is the job is Keller Chryst's to lose. The son of former 49ers offensive coordinator Geep Chryst and nephew of Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst played sparingly as the No. 2 last year, but being second on the depth chart meant he beat out Ryan Burns, this season's main competition.

Highly touted freshman K.J. Costello will join the competition in August, but for spring it will be Chryst and Burns taking just about all the reps.

# Pass rush tops list at combine

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The most coveted players in the NFL Draft are, of course, the franchise-caliber quarterbacks.

The most important prospects might be the pass rushers. Just ask the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos how they snagged that shiny trophy.

"That's pretty much the whole example I have to give. Defense won that game, 100 percent. Von Miller, he really showed what a pass rush can do for a team," said Joey Bosa, the Ohio State defensive end who's first in line to be the next Miller.

Widely pegged for the first pick, held this year by the Tennessee Titans, Bosa's 6-foot-5, 269-pound frame ought to fit well in the lineup for some team at the top of the draft seeking an instant impact for the defense. He was an end in a 4-3 scheme in college, but he said Friday at the league's scouting combine that he has incorporated pass-coverage drops into his offseason training to prepare for possibly playing outside linebacker in a 3-4 system.

"I never could have dreamed to be in this situation, being considered the No. 1 pick," Bosa said. "It's kind of mind blowing."

Taking an outside pass rusher with the top slot in the draft would hardly be startling. Miller, voted the Super Bowl MVP less than three weeks ago, was the No. 2 pick in 2011 by the Broncos. Defensive end Jadeveon Clowney was the first selection by the Houston Texans in 2014. These days, the role is even more in demand.

"Von Millers aren't just falling out of the sky, all over the place," said Indianapolis Colts coach Chuck Pagano, whose team could use one.

The players realize this, too. "Watching the Super Bowl, it was evident that the pass rushers took over that game," Northwestern DE Dean Lowry said. "Even with Cam Newton and Peyton Manning, the guys on the defensive lines decided to take over. Von Miller and DeMarcus Ware won that game."

In a deep draft for defensive linemen, tackles included, Bosa is the consensus leader of the pass-rushing pack on a list highlighted by UCLA outside linebacker Myles Jack, Oregon end DeForest Buckner, Clemson end Shaq Lawson, Ohio State outside linebacker Darron Lee, Notre Dame outside linebacker Jaylon Smith, and Eastern Kentucky end Noah Spence. Spence started at Ohio State before being kicked off the team due to a drug problem.

Bosa's sack total dropped from 13½ as a sophomore to just five as a junior last year, which he attributed to the excess of double-teams he faced. Bosa was suspended for the season opener, too, for an unspecified violation of athletic department policy.

"I really took that opportunity and ... let it help me grow as a person, as a leader, and as a player," Bosa said. "But I'll discuss that with the teams. I'm sure it'll be a little uncomfortable, but I've got to do what I've got to do."

# Kyle Busch forfeits pole position to Kurt

Associated Press

HAMPTON, Georgia — Kyle Busch's car failed a post-qualifying inspection on Friday, leaving him at the back of the pack instead of on the pole for Sunday's NASCAR Sprint Cup race.

The ruling handed brother Kurt Busch the pole position at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Kurt Busch ran strongly through all three elimination rounds of qualifying and had the top speed before he was topped by Kyle's fast lap in his No. 18 Toyota.

Kyle Busch is the defending Sprint Cup series champion.

Scott Miller, NASCAR's senior vice president of competition, said a laser inspection revealed the rear toe, which affects alignment, on Kyle Busch's car did not meet specifications. Miller said Busch and his crew chief, Adam Stevens, do not face additional penalties.

Miller said Kyle Busch's car passed the same inspection before qualifying, and that more tolerance in the test is allowed following qualifying.

"We give them some but they took a little more," Miller said.

Jamie McMurray, who had the top speed in the second round, will start beside Kurt Busch on the front row, followed by Trevor

Bayne and Ryan Newman.

Before the post-qualifying inspection results were announced, Kurt Busch said Kyle "got us just by a little bit."

"I know I was just a little bit tight out there on the race track," said Kurt Busch, who said the brothers have a friendly rivalry.

"I'll wave at him and he'll wave at me and then we'll go back to business," said Kurt Busch. "It's fun."

Trevor Bayne and Ryan Newman will start third and fourth, respectively.

Denny Hamlin, fresh off last week's Daytona 500 win, was eliminated in the second round.



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# Fiery ex-goalie takes more mellow approach as coach

Associated Press

DENVER — One of the greatest goaltenders of all time nearly became a swimmer. Only, he couldn't stand freezing water.

So, Patrick Roy took up skating instead, elevating teams along the way with his cool play in net and his fiery attitude. The four-time Stanley Cup winner detested losing as a player.

Still does. But as coach of the Colorado Avalanche, he's trying to master the art of emotional balance, when to use his spirited voice — not to mention his menacing stare — and when to back off.

A more peaceful Patrick has the Avalanche in playoff contention during his third season behind the bench.

"There are times when we'll hear it from him like we should," defenseman Erik Johnson said. "But he's not per se a yeller and a screamer like people might think. He's very fair and real easy to work with, giving players input and working as a partnership with us rather than a hierarchy-type deal."

Of course, Roy still has eruptions. But he has worked to keep his outbursts in check since Day 2. Day 1 wasn't exactly a shining example, when he pounded on the glass partition in fury during his first regular-season game as coach. In a lopsided win over Anaheim, no less. But that's proven to be more of an emotional outlier than the norm.

Roy's style has evolved to this: Backing his players, even after dreadful losses, and keeping an even keel. That took nearly a decade to sink in as he learned

how to maintain his cool while coaching the Quebec Remparts of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. He realized that yelling didn't lead to goals and that screaming only caused players to tune out.

"I love to win as much as I did as a player," said the 50-year-old Roy, whose team tied a franchise record for wins in 2013-14 when he was coach of the year and missed the playoffs a year ago. "But as a coach, you're learning to control your emotions because if you don't control it, it's going to have a negative effect on the players."

When Roy gets home after games, he scrutinizes every decision he made, from lineup combinations to power-play opportunities.

"Sometimes, you just realize that it's a team game and it's in the hands of the players and the best thing you could do is support them," Roy said. "I just try to be the best I can."

His father, Michel, has certainly seen a transformation. They had dinner after a recent loss and his son was remarkably calm.

"He told me, 'I have to learn how to realize I'm just the coach. I can't score or block shots for them,'" his father recounted. "As a player, he could, at times, over-perform and go beyond his limits. ... All he can do now is make sure they give all they have."

Michel Roy was in town promoting his book that was re-released through a U.S. publisher. The subject? His son, natu-

rally. There are number of intriguing revelations in "Patrick Roy: Winning. Nothing Else," which gained the stamp of approval from the legendary goaltender:

■ Roy's last name could've been Arsenault. His father only found out later in life his biological dad was Arsenault, not Roy.

■ Before the 1984 draft, the family went to brunch and dropped a coin into a machine that forecast lucky numbers for the day. His was 51, which happened to be the overall spot where Montreal selected him.

■ Roy was a talented tennis player and swimmer, one of the best breaststrokes in the province for his age. But he detested how cold it was at the pool.

He certainly doesn't mind a frigid ice rink, though. He had 551 career wins as a goaltender and a league-record 151 victories in the playoffs.

"When Patrick was six or seven or eight, he was a frail kid and very skinny, not very strong. By looking at him, you'd never guess he would become a pro athlete," his father recounted. "It is basically because of his passion for winning, passion for the game, determination, that he achieved what he has achieved."

Same goes with Roy the coach.

"He's brought an attitude here, what it's going to take to win, how we were going to have to play to win games," said Avalanche forward Alex Tanguay, who was teammates with Roy on the 2001 Stanley Cup squad. "His will to win has always been what sets him apart."

# Caps rally to victory over Wild

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dmitry Orlov scored with 5:04 remaining after Alex Ovechkin got a tying goal earlier in the period to help the Washington Capitals rally for a 3-2 win over the Minnesota Wild on Friday night.

Ovechkin got his league-leading 40th goal 4:35 into the third on a power play, and Brooks Orpik also scored while the NHL-best Capitals completed a four-game homestand with three wins.

Braden Holtby made 30 stops for Washington after he was pulled early in the second period of a loss Wednesday night to Montreal. All four games on the Caps' homestand were decided by one goal.

Mikko Koivu and Nino Niederreiter scored for Minnesota. Koivu tied a club record by playing in his 743rd NHL game, all with the Wild.

**Lightning 4, Devils 0:** Steven Stamkos extended his goal-scoring streak to a season-high five games and visiting Tampa Bay beat fading New Jersey for its fifth straight win.

Ben Bishop made 21 saves for his third shutout of the season. Alex Killorn, Ondrej Palat and Matt Carle also scored as the Lightning sent the Devils to their second loss in as many nights and fifth in six games.

Cory Schneider, who was lifted after giving up three goals in the first period of a 6-1 loss to Columbus on Thursday, had 32 saves for New Jersey.

**Bruins 4, Hurricanes 1:** Matt Beleskey scored goals in the first and third periods, leading visiting Boston over Carolina.

It was the 388th regular-season victory for Boston coach Claude Julien, who needs two wins to tie Art Ross as the Bruins' career leader.

It was only the third regulation loss for the Hurricanes in their last 16 home games (10-3-3). Carolina has lost in regulation on back-to-back nights.

Patrice Bergeron scored for Boston in the first period, and Brad Marchand added an empty-net goal in the closing seconds. Tuukka Rask stopped 39 shots.

Noah Hanifin had Carolina's lone goal. **Ducks 2, Oilers 1 (OT):** Rickard Rakell scored 1:24 into overtime to give host Anaheim a win over Edmonton.

Rakell put a backhand past Cam Talbot seconds after a change on the fly, using some gorgeous puck handling to keep Oilers center Leon Draisaitl flat-footed and leave the goaltender baffled.

Ryan Getzlaf scored in regulation and Frederik Andersen stopped 17 shots to give Anaheim its seventh straight win.

Jordan Eberle had the lone goal for Edmonton, which dropped its sixth in a row.

**Sabres 3, Sharks 1:** Zach Bogosian scored on a ricochet with 7:24 remaining in regulation and visiting Buffalo beat San Jose for the ninth time in 10 meetings.

Johan Larsson also scored and Evander Kane added an empty-netter to help the Sabres extend their domination over the Sharks by winning for the fifth straight time in San Jose. Chad Johnson made 24 saves.

Marc-Edouard Vlasic scored the lone goal for the Sharks, who lost for just the third time in regulation this season in the 30 games that they scored first.

# Lowry, Raptors trim Cavaliers' lead

Associated Press

TORONTO — Kyle Lowry scored a career-high 43 points to help the Toronto Raptors beat the Eastern Conference-leading Cleveland Cavaliers 99-97 Friday night.

Terrence Ross added 15 points for Toronto, which won its 10th straight at home to tie a franchise record previously set between March 24 and Nov. 4, 2002. Raptors leading scorer DeMar DeRozan had a season-low six points while battling flu-like symptoms.

LeBron James had 25 points and Kevin Love added 20 for the Cavaliers, who had their lead over Atlantic Division-leading Toronto in the East cut to two games.

Lowry tied the score at 97 with a hook shot with 51.9 seconds remaining. After J.R. Smith's miss gave the Raptors the ball with 28.9 seconds left, Lowry made a pull-up jumper with 3.8 seconds left to put Toronto back in front.

Following a Cleveland timeout, James unleashed what would have been a game-winning three-pointer, but it missed the rim completely as time expired.

**Hawks 103, Bulls 88:** Jeff Teague scored 19 points, Al Horford added 18 and host Atlanta snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory over short-handed Chicago.

Paul Millsap had 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Hawks, who ended a four-game home skid — their longest since April 2007. Atlanta moved into fifth place in the East.

Chicago, which had won three straight, played without its top three scorers because Jimmy Butler, Derrick Rose and Nikola Mirotic were nursing injuries. A sore right hamstring sidelined Rose for the second straight game.

Doug McDermott finished with 20 points and Paul Gasol had 16 points and 17 rebounds for the Bulls.

**Hornets 96, Pacers 95:** Kemba Walker scored 22 points and hit the game-winning shot with 2.4 seconds left to lift visiting Charlotte over Indiana.

Monta Ellis gave Indiana the lead with a layup over Walker with 16.2 seconds to go. Walker then split two defenders above the three-point line to get to the rim and sank a left-handed scoop shot over Paul George.

The Pacers had a chance at the buzzer, but George's shot from the top of the key missed. George finished with 32 points.

**Clippers 117, Kings 107:** Chris Paul scored a season-high 40 points and added 13 assists with eight rebounds to propel visiting Los Angeles past Sacramento.

Sparked by the scoring and playmaking of Paul, the Clippers ran off 20 consecutive points in the third quarter to break the game open.

DeMarcus Cousins had 26 points, 15 rebounds and nine assists for the Kings. Rudy Gay scored 23.

**Wizards 103, 76ers 94:** John Wall had 23 points and 11 assists to lead visiting Washington past Philadelphia.

Jared Dudley scored 14 points and

Ramon Sessions added 12 for the Wizards. Wall finished two rebounds short of a triple-double.

**Knicks 108, Magic 95:** Carmelo Anthony had 19 points, 11 rebounds and six assists, and host New York quickly jumped on an Orlando team that appeared to still be staggered by Stephen Curry.

A night after yielding 51 points and 10 three-pointers to Curry in a 130-114 loss to Golden State, the Magic were barely in the game after the first 10 minutes.

**Mavericks 122, Nuggets 116 (OT):** Raymond Felton hit a tying jumper with 10.2 seconds left in regulation and then scored eight of his 16 points in overtime as host Dallas rallied from 23 down to beat Denver.

Chandler Parsons led the Mavericks with 27 points, including 15 in the third quarter when Dallas took a 67-66 lead with 5:15 to play after coming all the way back from a 55-32 deficit late in the second quarter.

**Grizzlies 112, Lakers 95:** Vince Carter scored a season-high 19 points and five of his teammates also reached double figures to help visiting Memphis cruise past Los Angeles.

Carter made his first five shots — all three-pointers during a 7:48 span — and the 18-year veteran finished 7-for-10 from the field in 20 minutes to help the Grizzlies win for the 13th time in 17 games.