

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Study: NATO forces overrely on US

BY JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

Europe's leading armed forces are so hollowed out they are incapable of conducting major rapid-response operations, raising questions about NATO's overall readiness to respond to a more aggressive Russia, a study released Friday by the Atlantic Council concludes.

The study, "Alliance at Risk: Strengthening European Defense in an Age of Turbulence and Competition," analyzes the status of six European NATO militaries. It paints a grim picture of an alliance wholly dependent on the United States as the guarantor of security.

The readiness of the United Kingdom's army is so dismal that the deployment of a single brigade on a short-notice operation poses a major challenge, wrote retired Gen. Richard Shirreff, former deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

### 'Dire' situation

"Indeed, last November's deployment of a small armored battlegroup to Poland — to take part in a flagship NATO exercise to demonstrate solidarity against Russia — almost necessitated retrieving tanks from the training fleet in the western prairies of Canada, because the serviceability and spares situation in the U.K.'s fleet was so dire," Shirreff wrote.

The report, a compilation of assessments by country experts, examined the militaries of Britain, Poland, Italy, Norway, France and Germany.

In the case of Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse, the military has been chronically underfunded for a generation, experts said.

As it stands, the force is virtually incapable of conducting major operations on its own. German defense spending, about 1.3 percent of the country's gross domestic product, "does not even begin to match the requirements," the report says, citing the German army's inspector general.

While there have been recent commitments to increase expenditures, it's feared that those funds will be eaten up by personnel costs rather than being spent to improve readiness.

"As a consequence, shortages and readiness problems have become apparent with increasing frequency," wrote Patrick Keller, coordinator of foreign and security policy at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, one of the report's authors.

The majority of German combat systems cannot be used immediately for missions, exercises or training, he said.

Of Germany's 31 Tiger helicopters, only 10 are combat-ready and deployable. Fighter jets, infantry fighting vehicles and transport aircraft suffer from a similar lack of readiness, the report says.

"Germany cannot 'pool and share' its way out of the crisis of an underfunded Bundeswehr — in the end, you need to buy things," Keller wrote.

Other nations examined in the study came in for similar critiques. The defense of Nor-

way, where U.S. Marines have large stockpiles of pre-positioned weapons, rests heavily on American assistance, wrote report co-author Rolf Tamnes, director of the Oslo, Norway-based Institute for Defense Studies.

"Norway cannot meet its defense obligations without a significant increase in its defense expenditures and a major reallocation of defense resources in favor of operations," Tamnes wrote. The country is increasingly vulnerable to Russia's growing inventory of long-range, precision-guided weapons, he added.

### Readiness paramount

While the U.S.-led NATO alliance outspends Russia by a large margin on defense — collectively allies invest \$1 trillion annually — much of European defense spending does little to ensure combat readiness. The more enduring challenge for allies is to direct resources to military readiness rather than personnel costs, the report says.

One step to improve readiness is to establish a permanent NATO base in the Baltics, which would reinforce defense lines where allies are outgunned locally by a larger Russian force, the Atlantic Council study recommends.

Such recommendations have become more frequent from Western defense analysts, who say a stronger presence would send a deterrent signal to Russia.

"Along with the Baltic air-policing mission, effective deterrence demands more than

just episodic training activity," Shirreff wrote. "Rather, a permanent land presence is required to prevent any Russian coup de main operation that could achieve its aims before any NATO reserves are able to react."

Critics counter that such a move would unnecessarily provoke Moscow, which has said it doesn't have designs on NATO territory.

Currently, NATO is examining a plan for setting up a multinational force in Eastern Europe, but that unit will be rotational rather than permanent. The size of the force is under review.

NATO has emphasized that its moves represent an adaptation to Russia's recent actions in Ukraine. The alliance has doubled its crisis response force to 40,000 troops and created from that unit a "spearhead" force capable of operating within 48 hours of a crisis. Still, there remain questions about whether NATO political decision-making is fast enough to mobilize such a force in a crisis.

Shirreff, who calls for a combined arms brigade to be established in the Baltics, said the U.K. needs to play a leading role in NATO's push for more effective crisis response forces.

"The implementation of the new national defense strategy must address the threats of the age, whether it is revanchist Russia and its potential clash with NATO or the arc of chaos on the periphery of Europe," he wrote.

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## Army sergeant charged in police officer's death

Associated Press

WOODBIDGE, Va. — An Army staff sergeant assigned to the Pentagon was arrested on murder and other charges in the death of a police officer and another person, authorities said Sunday.

Ronald Hamilton, 32, is being held without bond in the Prince William County Adult Detention Center on charges that include murder of a law enforcement officer. He is accused of shooting and killing Officer Ashley Guindon after she answered a domestic violence call at the Hamilton home Saturday evening. Two other officers were hospitalized with injuries.

The suspect is an active-duty Army staff sergeant assigned to the Joint Staff Support Center at the Pentagon, according to Cindy Your, a Defense Information Systems Agency spokeswoman based at Fort Meade, Md.

Officer Brandon Carpenter

at the county's adult detention center said Hamilton also is charged with first-degree murder, two counts of malicious assault and two counts of use of a firearm during a felony.

Hamilton is scheduled to be arraigned Monday morning.

Prince William County Commonwealth's Attorney Paul Ebert told The Associated Press on Sunday morning that the gunman's wife was the victim in the domestic incident. He did not provide her name.

The shooting occurred Saturday evening at Hamilton's home in Woodbridge, where neighbors say he lived with his wife and their 10-year-old son.

A picture of Guindon was posted to the department's Twitter page on Friday with a tweet that read, "Welcome Officers Steven Kendall & Ashley Guindon who were sworn in today & begin their shifts this weekend. Be Safe!"

## USS Enterprise sailor pleads guilty to filming in restroom

The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — A watch commander assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise pleaded guilty Friday to secretly recording seven co-workers in a restroom, including his boss and at least two women he supervised.

As part of a plea deal, Petty Officer 3rd Class Ricardo Pilola will serve two years in confinement, be reduced in rank to a seaman recruit and dishonorably discharged from the Navy.

"I'm very, very sorry," a tearful Pilola said during sentencing at Norfolk (Va.) Naval Station. "My actions are inexcusable. I took advantage of your trust."

The recordings happened aboard a barge serving as a workstation for sailors as-

signed to the Enterprise while the nuclear-powered aircraft undergoes defueling and inactivation in Newport News, Va.

Pilola told military Judge Capt. Charles Purnell that he placed a GoPro video camera in a vent above a toilet next to his office. He paired the camera with his cellphone to begin recording.

Six women were recorded at least once, while one was recorded at least four times.

The recordings happened between March 2013 and March 2014, when an investigation began after the memory card from the camera was left in a car that didn't belong to Pilola. Pilola's civilian defense attorney, Eric Leckie, said the videos were not distributed.

## Nuke chief: Time to update is running out

Associated Press

VANDENBERG AIRFORCE BASE, Calif. — In describing how little room the Pentagon has to extend the life of its decades-old nuclear forces, the top U.S. nuclear war-fighting commander, Navy Adm. Cecil Haney, says "we're at the brick wall stage."

Time to begin modernizing the country's nuclear weapons is running short, he and other Pentagon leaders say. They contend the force is still in fighting shape — "safe, reliable and effective" is the official mantra. But they also argue the time has come to begin modernizing the force or risk eroding its credibility as a deterrent to attack by others.

They don't face brick wall-like resistance in Congress, but the debate over spending hundreds of billions of dollars to build and field a new generation of nuclear-capable bombers, submarines and land-based missiles is just beginning.

Critics say full-scale mod-

ernization is neither affordable nor necessary.

The debate is influenced not only by the perceived need to fully replace aging weapons but also by worries about North Korea's nuclear ambitions and concern over what Defense Secretary Ash Carter calls Russia's "nuclear saber-rattling."

Robert Work, the deputy secretary of defense, said the Pentagon will need an estimated \$18 billion per year between 2021 and 2035 to modernize the three "legs" of the U.S. nuclear triad — weapons capable of being launched from land, sea and air.

"We need to replace these," Work said. "We can't delay this anymore."

The enormous sums needed are at risk of getting squeezed by high-priority requirements for non-nuclear, conventional weapons. And Work's numbers don't include the billions that would be needed to modernize the nuclear warheads on the business end of missiles and bombs.

## Clinton victorious in SC as Super Tuesday nears

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Hillary Clinton resoundingly reclaimed her standing as the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination with a lopsided victory in South Carolina, a win over Bernie Sanders that doubles as a strong sendoff toward Super Tuesday.

For Sanders, the roughly 50-point defeat crystalized his weakness with black voters, a crucial segment of the Democratic electorate. If he loses blacks by similar margins in the Southern states that vote

Tuesday, Clinton likely would take a delegate lead difficult for the Vermont senator to overcome.

As Clinton relished the most sweeping victory of her political career, her focus was already on Super Tuesday — and the general election.

"Despite what you hear, we don't need to make America great again," Clinton said at a rally Saturday night, alluding to Republican front-runner Donald Trump and his campaign slogan. "America has never stopped being great," Clinton declared.

# Reigning league MVP Curry does it again for playoff-bound Warriors

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Somehow, Stephen Curry still has detractors.

Perhaps this latest shot will quiet Oscar Robertson and some of the old-timers trying to discredit the Warriors superstar.

Curry barely crossed halfcourt Saturday night before nailing a three-pointer in overtime to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 121-118.

Curry scored 46 points and drove a dagger through one of the playoff-bound Warriors' toughest rivals. He also tied Kobe Bryant and Donyell Marshall for the single-game record with 12 three-pointers and broke his own record for three-pointers in a season, setting the new mark at 288.

Robertson said this week said on ESPN's "Mike & Mike" show that players and coaches don't know how to properly defend Curry, and the Warriors don't really run plays or have a strategy. He suggested Curry wouldn't be as effective in his day, when the game was more physical.

Isiah Thomas and Stephen Jackson also recently downplayed the achievements of Curry and the Warriors. Thomas said weak perimeter defense in today's NBA has made outside shooting easier, and Jackson suggested his 2007 Warriors could beat this season's juggernaut.

So Curry might not have convinced every star from yesteryear. After Saturday, though, it's clear he has the re-

spect of his peers.

LeBron James tweeted, "@StephenCurry30 needs to stop it man!! He's ridiculous man! Never before seen someone like him in the history of ball!" Dwyane Wade said, "Curry is UNREAL!!!!" Portland's Damian Lillard added: "That boy steph somethin else lol" Toronto's DeMar DeRozan: "He can't be human."

Curry doesn't think all that much of it. At this point, it doesn't seem to matter where he pulls up. It's more a matter of when.

"Honestly, I don't know exactly where I am, so it's not like I'm calibrating in my head, 'All right, 38 feet, 37, 36,'" he said. "Just literally, you've got a sense of — I've shot the shot plenty of times, you're coming across halfcourt and timing up your dribbles, and you want to shoot before the defense goes in. And that was pretty much my only thought."

Warriors forward Draymond Green thought Curry had time to get closer to the hoop before the release.

"What was that, 40 feet?" Green asked. "That's absurd."

Golden State guard Klay Thompson is beyond the point of being surprised anymore.

"Everybody in this locker room, we've seen him practice from that range every day," Thompson said. "He's got the greatest range I've ever seen. He makes it look so effortless."

Golden State has the best 58-game re-

cord in NBA history at 53-5 and became the first team since the 1987-88 Los Angeles Lakers to clinch a playoff spot in February, a Warriors spokesman said.

The postseason berth was secured about an hour before Curry's scintillating shot, when Houston lost to the San Antonio Spurs. That assured Golden State will finish no lower than eighth in the Western Conference. The shot simply added to an incredible day for the franchise.

Curry, the league's scoring leader and reigning MVP, missed about 6 minutes of the third quarter with a left ankle injury. He drove to the basket and rolled the ankle before Westbrook stepped on it.

"It was a little nerve-racking," he said. "I wanted to make sure I was OK. I had to get it re-taped. It was painful."

Curry returned, of course, and finished the night 12 of 16 from three-point range. He might have a chance to make even more threes, but Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook missed a three-pointer at the buzzer in overtime that would have tied the game.

If it all seems hard to believe sometimes, well, Curry understands.

"I never would have thought at this point in the season I would be closing in on 300 and all that kind of stuff," he said. "That doesn't make sense to me. I've always tried to push the envelope and keep getting better, but a lot has to go right to get to this point."

# Kyle Busch earns 77th Xfinity win

Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. — Check another one off the list for Kyle Busch.

Less than 24 hours after losing the Sprint Cup pole, Busch claimed his first Xfinity Series victory at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Saturday.

Busch and Kyle Larson pulled away from the field after the final yellow flag. Larson closed the gap to about a half-second in the closing laps, but the rally ended when he got caught up briefly behind the lapped car of Ryan Preece.

Busch crossed the line 0.466 seconds ahead of Larson, then did his customary burnout and bow in front of the main grandstand, holding the checkered flag. No one else was within 10 seconds of the first two cars.

The winner has plenty of experience celebrating in the second-tier series, claiming his career-best 77th victory, though Atlanta was one of three active tracks where he'd never won an Xfinity race.

"This is a pretty neat deal," Busch said. "I'm glad get it out of the way. I checked another off the list."

## Scott, Garcia tied after wild day at Honda Classic

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Adam Scott hit two balls into the water on one hole and still shot 66. He still managed to share the lead Saturday with Sergio Garcia in the Honda Classic.

A bizarre, breezy afternoon at PGA National ended with Scott and Garcia (67) sharing a four-shot lead going into the final round. Garcia made birdie on the 18th hole to join Scott at 9-under 201.

Rickie Fowler had a one-shot lead after going the opening 36 holes without a bogey. On Saturday, he didn't make a birdie and fell five shots behind with a 74.

In other golf news: American Lexi Thompson won her seventh LPGA title after a final-round 68 that completed a six-stroke victory over In Gee Chun of South Korea in the final round of the LPGA Thailand at the par-72 course at the Siam Country Club on Sunday.

The 21-year-old from Florida hit an eagle on the 10th to go along with three birdies and a lone bogey for a 20-under-par total of 268 to become the first American winner of the tournament.

## Marshall, Fuller post best 40 times at combine

INDIANAPOLIS — Georgia running back Keith Marshall and Notre Dame receiver Will Fuller produced the fastest 40-yard dash times during workouts Saturday at the NFL's annual scouting combine.

Marshall was clocked at 4.31 seconds. Fuller came in at 4.32. The only other player who was faster than 4.4 was TCU receiver Kolby Listenbee at 4.39.

Nobody seriously threatened Chris Johnson's combine record of 4.24, which was set in 2008.

# Spurs top Rockets to wrap up road trip

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Road-weary and eager to get home, the San Antonio Spurs spoke before Saturday night's game about the importance of maintaining focus in the finale of their season-long road trip against the Houston Rockets.

They were able to do that, never trailing in a 104-94 win that let them tie the mark as the seventh-fastest team in NBA history to reach 50 wins.

Kawhi Leonard scored 27 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 26 to give San Antonio a 7-1 record on their annual "Rodeo Road Trip" that coincides with the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo. They also extended their NBA record of straight 50-win seasons to 17.

"This game is always very mental because it's the last game on the road and everybody can't wait to get home," Tony Parker said. "This was a great win. Everybody was very focused."

It was the fifth straight win for the Spurs (50-9), who have a double-digit lead in the Southwest Division and the second-best record in the NBA behind Golden State.

The Spurs showed no signs of fatigue despite wrapping up the long road stretch as they never trailed and held a double-digit lead for most of the night.

"Our guys played well and stayed locked in the whole trip," Aldridge said. "I think everybody was motivated to finish the trip off right."

San Antonio led by 31 points in the second half, but Houston slowly chipped away at the lead. James Harden and Jason Terry both made a 3-pointer to power a 6-2 run that made it 94-83 with less than four minutes left.

The Spurs slowed Houston down after that by intentionally fouling Dwight Howard, and Leonard and Aldridge both added baskets to secure the victory.

Harden led the Rockets with 27 points, but shot just 10 for 25 from the field.

"We got our shots, we just didn't knock them down," Harden said. "We played with some aggressiveness in the second half, but it was a little bit too late."

**Trail Blazers 103, Bulls 95:** Damian Lillard scored 31 points and Portland won for the 16th time in 20 games, beating short-handed host Chicago.

Lillard hit the 30-point mark for the sixth time in seven games, and Mason Plumlee added 16 points and nine rebounds. Gerald Henderson scored 13 and the Trail Blazers got back to winning after blowing a 21-point lead in a loss to Houston two nights earlier.

The Bulls got a triple-double from Pau Gasol, but came up short with Derrick

Rose (sore right hamstring) missing his third straight game. Gasol had 22 points, 16 rebounds and a career-high 14 assists.

**Celtics 101, Heat 89:** Marcus Smart had 15 points and six rebounds as Boston held off Miami for its 10th straight win at home. Jae Crowder and Evan Turner each added 14 points. Jared Sullinger had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Goran Dragic led the Heat with 21 points but was scoreless in the fourth quarter.

**Pistons 10, Bucks 91:** Andre Drummond posted his NBA-leading 50th double-double with 15 points and 17 rebounds as Detroit beat host Milwaukee.

**Timberwolves 112, Pelicans 110:** Karl-Anthony Towns had 30 points and 15 rebounds, Andrew Wiggins hit two free throws with 3.6 seconds left and visiting Minnesota rallied to beat depleted New Orleans.

**Suns 111, Grizzlies 106:** Alex Len had 22 points and 16 rebounds, and host Phoenix snapped a 13-game losing streak with a victory over Memphis.

**Nets 98, Jazz 96:** Thaddeus Young had 21 points and eight rebounds, and Brook Lopez scored 19 to lead visiting Brooklyn past Utah.



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# Texas Aggies overwhelm No. 3 Oklahoma

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Isaiah Taylor scored 18 points and No. 25 Texas overwhelmed Oklahoma over the final 7 minutes to beat the third-ranked Sooners 76-63 on Saturday.

Texas trailed 58-51 before Taylor converted a three-point play to start a 25-5 run down the stretch.

Buddy Hield, a leading candidate for national player of the year, scored 33 points for Oklahoma.

Connor Lammert and Javan Felix scored 14 points each for Texas (19-10, 10-6 Big 12).

Hield reached 30 points for the ninth time this season but faded badly like the rest of his teammates down the stretch. He missed a wide-open three-pointer before Lammert made one to get Texas within 58-57 as the Longhorns' run really got rolling. Hield then missed another as the Longhorns broke the game open.

Oklahoma (22-6, 10-6) went nearly 7 minutes without scoring as the Texas run cranked up. Hield didn't break the Oklahoma scoring drought until making a three-pointer in the final minute.

Hield beat Texas in the first matchup with a three-pointer in the final seconds and lit up the Longhorns again with 23 points in a wide open first half.

Hield scored from everywhere. His opening basket was a twisting, baseline drive for a layup, and followed that with four 3-pointers and a dunk of an alley-oop pass.

Several times Texas tried to switch defenders on Hield, which left him with several easy looks from long range. He was on pace to match his career-high of 46 points scored in Oklahoma's triple-over-

time loss to Kansas in January.

But even with Hield on a torrid pace, the Longhorns kept up with the Sooners at nearly every turn in the half.

**No. 2 Kansas, 67, Texas Tech 58:** Svi Mykhailiuk came off the bench to score 17 points, Frank Mason III added 16 and host Kansas secured at least a share of its 12th straight Big 12 title.

Mykhailiuk hit five three-pointers and didn't miss a shot until the final minute, helping the Jayhawks (25-4, 13-3) extend one of the most remarkable streaks in major college basketball.

**No. 1 Villanova 89, Marquette 79:** Kris Jenkins scored 19 points and Josh Hart had 19 on 7-for-8 shooting as visiting Villanova pulled away.

The Wildcats (25-4, 14-2 Big East) rebounded nicely after a midweek loss at No. 5 Xavier to stay atop the conference, one game ahead of the Musketeers.

**No. 3 Virginia 79, No. 7 North Carolina 74:** Malcolm Brogdon scored 26 points and Virginia used a 16-5 second-half run to break open a tie game and hold off visiting North Carolina for its 19th consecutive home victory.

Anthony Gill added 15 points and London Perrantes had 12 for the Cavaliers (22-6, 11-5 Atlantic Coast Conference), who moved within one game of the first-place Tar Heels in the conference standings with two regular-season games to play.

**No. 22 Utah 70, No. 9 Arizona 64:** Brandon Taylor scored 19 points, including an ankle-breaking move to free himself for a game-clinching three-pointer with 41 seconds to play, and host Utah moved into a first-place tie with Oregon in the Pac-12.

**No. 20 Purdue 83, No. 10 Maryland 79:** A.J. Hammons scored 19 points to

lead five Purdue players in double figures, and the host Boilermakers held on for the win.

Sophomore guard Dakota Mathias added a career-best 17 points for Purdue (22-7, 10-6 Big Ten).

**No. 12 Miami 73, No. 11 Louisville 65:** Miami applied smothering defense led by center Tonye Jekiri to hold visiting Louisville without a point for nearly 5 minutes down the stretch.

**No. 14 West Virginia 70, Oklahoma State 56:** Jaysean Paige scored 17 points and Devin Williams had his 13th double-double of the season with 13 points and 15 rebounds to lead visiting West Virginia over Oklahoma State.

**Vanderbilt 74, No. 16 Kentucky 62:** Matthew Fisher-Davis tied his career-high with 20 points, and visiting Vanderbilt got its third straight victory.

The Commodores (18-11, 10-6) have won six of their last eight to move closer to the top of the Southeastern Conference standings.

**No. 17 Iowa State 80, Kansas State 61:** Matt Thomas scored 20 points and Georges Niang added 17 to help host Iowa State clinch its fifth straight 20-win season.

**No. 19 Baylor 86, TCU 71:** Taurean Prince scored 22 points and Johnathan Motley led a dominant effort inside with 22 points and nine rebounds to carry visiting Baylor to a victory.

**No. 21 Texas A&M 84, Missouri 69:** Jalen Jones had 20 points and six rebounds to lead visiting Texas A&M.

**Florida St. 77, No. 23 Notre Dame 56:** Dwayne Bacon scored 21 points and host Florida State snapped a five-game losing streak. It was the freshman's 11th

game this season with 20 points or more.

**Bucknell 77, Navy 73:** Chris Hass scored 13 points, Nana Foulland added 12 more and Bucknell captured the Patriot League regular season title with a win over host Navy.

Leading by 10 midway through the second half, Bucknell (17-12, 14-4) had to hold off a Navy rally that twice cut the margin to two, with the Midshipmen getting a three-pointer from Zach Fong to trail 73-71 with 1:22 left and then 75-73 a half minute later on Will Kelly's jumper.

Stephen Brown sank a pair of free throws with five seconds remaining to stretch Bucknell's advantage back to four and Tilman Dunbar missed a three-pointer at the other end as time expired.

**Lehigh 82, Army 72:** Tim Kempton scored 23 points and grabbed a career-high 18 rebounds and visiting Lehigh beat Army to win their ninth straight and to retain at least the No. 2 seed in the upcoming Patriot League tournament.

Dylan Cox had 16 points, while Kevin Ferguson and Tyler Plomb scored 14 apiece for Army (18-12, 9-9), which saw a five-game win streak end but is guaranteed to be in the tournament's top six.

Up 39-35 at halftime, Lehigh pulled further ahead on a 15-7 run capped by Austin Price's jumper with 14:40 left. Army gained on a 7-0 run, but Kempton hit a layup and Price added a 3 as the Mountain Hawks pulled ahead by 11, 68-57.

Kyle Wilson pulled the Black Knights within 77-69 with a 3-pointer, but Army got no closer. Price scored 16 points and made five steals, Kahron Ross added 19, Kyle Leufroy had 11 and the Mountain Hawks (15-14, 13-5) shot 50.8 percent from the field.

## Wings top Avalanche outdoors

Associated Press

DENVER — The fake snow surrounding the rink was only intended for decoration. Certainly made for a nice blizzard, though, when the whipping wind caught hold of the cotton-like substance and sent it flying everywhere.

"It was snowing, right? In the 50s," Red Wings goaltender Petr Mrazek cracked.

This "snow" storm couldn't derail Detroit as Brad Richards scored the winning goal with a minute remaining and the Red Wings beat the Colorado Avalanche 5-3 at Coors Field on Saturday night in the NHL's warmest regular-season outdoor game.

Richards, playing in his fifth NHL outdoor game, flipped a shot over the shoulder of Colorado goaltender Semyon Varlamov. Tomas Tatar, Gustav Nyquist and Justin Abdelkader also scored for the Red Wings. Darren Helm added an empty-netter to seal the win.

"I'd be lying if I told you I was trying to put it in," Richards said of his goal that he just tried to put on net after a save from Varlamov. "But we'll take those."

Nathan MacKinnon, Tyson Barrie and Alex Tanguay had goals for the Avalanche in the first NHL outdoor game in Colorado.

Talk about a heated rivalry: The game-time temperature was an unseasonably balmy 65 degrees at puck drop. The warmest game-time temperature before Saturday in an NHL regular-season outdoor game was 62 degrees on Jan. 25, 2014, when Los Angeles hosted Anaheim at Dodger Stadium.

And yet there was a blizzard as the

wind lifted strands of cotton into the air in front of a capacity crowd of 50,095.

"The guys did a good job of cleaning up when they had to," Abdelkader said. "It really didn't affect the game."

The wind was a different matter. It was gusting so hard that with 10 minutes left, the teams changed ends so one didn't have an advantage.

**Predators 5, Blues 0:** Filip Forsberg recorded his second hat trick in four days and Pekka Rinne posted a 26-save shut-out in host Nashville's win.

Forsberg scored three goals during a 14-minute span to start the second period, leading the Predators to a fourth straight win.

**Senators 6, Flames 4:** Mika Zibanejad scored three times in a span of 2:38 in the third period to lead visiting Ottawa to a comeback victory.

Zack Smith, Nick Paul and Jean-Gabriel Pageau also scored for Ottawa, which has won five of its last six and remained six points back of the Pittsburgh Penguins for the second wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference.

**Blue Jackets 4, Panthers 3 (SO):** Brandon Dubinsky scored the only shootout goal in the third round, and Scott Hartnell had a goal and assist as host Columbus beat the Atlantic Division leaders.

Seth Jones and Brandon Saad also scored for Columbus, which has won nine of its last 14. Alexander Wennberg added two assists. Joonas Korpisalo made 28 saves in regulation and overtime to pick up an 11th win in his last 16 starts.

**Rangers 3, Stars 2:** Kevin Klein scored with 2:53 left to lift visiting New York.

Ryan McDonagh gave the Rangers a 2-

1 lead with a goal 8:26 into the third, and then helped prevent a tying goal by sliding over a loose puck at the goal line.

**Penguins 4, Jets 1:** Carl Hagelin scored twice and host Pittsburgh welcomed star forward Evgeni Malkin back from injury with a victory.

Hagelin scored his sixth and seventh of the season for Pittsburgh, and Scott Wilson added a third-period goal. Kris Letang also scored for the Penguins, who had Malkin back in the lineup after the 2012 NHL MVP missed 10 games with a lower-body injury. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 27 shots for his 25th win.

**Flyers 4, Coyotes 2:** Claude Giroux scored one of host Philadelphia's three first-period goals for his 500th career point and Mark Streit had three assists to lead the Flyers past Arizona.

Scott Laughton, Sam Gagner and Pierre-Edouard Bellemare also scored for the Flyers, who have won both games so far of a six-game homestand that likely will determine their playoff fate.

**Canadiens 4, Maple Leafs 1:** Max Pacioretty scored twice and visiting Montreal beat Toronto for its 10th straight victory in the rivalry.

Alex Galchenyuk and Devante Smith-Pelly also scored for Montreal, and Mike Condon had 31 saves.

**Kings 2, Sabres 0:** Backup goalie Jhonas Enroth made 23 saves, Tanner Pearson scored twice and host Los Angeles overcame two disallowed goals.

The Kings got their fourth straight victory and increased their Pacific Division lead to four points over Anaheim.

## Golfer had 99 percent heart block

Associated Press

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Golfer Jason Bohn tells NBC Sports that what was reported as a mild heart attack turned out to be much more.

The 42-year-old golfer had a stent inserted Saturday for what he says was 99 percent blockage of a major artery. In a text exchange with the network, Bohn says the blockage was in his left anterior descending artery — known as the "widow maker" because it could lead to a major heart attack.

The PGA Tour initially said Friday night that it was a mild heart attack and he was in stable condition.

Bohn said he had been dealing with bronchitis and pneumonia. He made the cut in the Honda Classic and said he was experiencing chest pains. He was taken to Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center.

In other golf news:

■ One bad swing by Adam Scott led to two balls in the water on the same hole Saturday in the Honda Classic. Even with a quadruple bogey, he managed to be satisfied with a 4-under 66 and a share of the lead with Sergio Garcia.

Scott looked better than ever, 7 under through 14 holes and only once having to save par. He was three shots ahead going to the tee on the par-3 15th, and it was starting to look like a runaway. Some 20 minutes later, he was one shot behind Garcia.