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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Iraqi general warns of difficulties in fighting Islamic State extremists

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Lt. Gen. Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi had 225 fighters, a single Abrams tank, a pair of mortars, two artillery pieces and about 40 armored Humvees when he set out to retake a strategic city in northern Iraq captured by Islamic State militants over the summer.

It took 30 days as his force made an agonizingly slow journey for 25 miles through roadside bombs and suicide car attacks, then successfully laid siege to the oil refinery city of Beiji. The campaign earned al-Saadi the biggest battlefield victory by Iraqi forces since Islamic State fighters swept over most of northern and western Iraq in a summer blitz, prompting the collapse of the military.

Yet al-Saadi is deeply pessimistic. In a two-hour interview with The Associated Press, he said Iraq's military lacks weapons, equipment and battle-ready troops and complained that U.S. air support was er-

ratic. Both the military and the government remain riddled with corruption, he said. Most of the senior generals serving when the military fell apart had skills "more suited to World War II," he said.

"If things don't get better," warned the general, "the country could end up divided" between its Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish populations.

The extremists are beatable when confronted with a proper force, he said. But he worries that the military's multiple woes prevent it from doing so. Already, there is a danger the jihadis could retake Beiji, he said.

A Baghdad-born Shiite with family roots in southern Iraq, al-Saadi complained of "excesses" by some of the Shiite volunteers who joined the fight against the Sunni militants and on whom the military has come to rely.

"I am a military man, and they don't respect the rules by which we operate," he said. Volunteers, for example, looted homes in government-controlled areas around the Sunnicity of Tikrit and tried to intimidate army officers, he said. During his march toward Beiji, some of the volunteers whom he deployed as a rear guard left their posts.

The government and its media consistently praise the volunteers' role in the war against the Sunni militants.

Al-Saadi is the head of military operations in Salahuddin province, where Beiji is located, and his troops were stationed in a base outside Tikrit. The Islamic State group holds Tikrit itself and most of the surrounding ground.

A veteran of Iraq's 1980-88 war against Shiite Iran, al-Saadi said he turned down offers of help from Iranian military advisers in retaking Beiji. Iran has been closely helping Iraq's government in the fight against the extremists.

"If I had accepted help from non-Iraqis, the history books will say the victory was not ours, the Iraqis," he said.

He had troubles from the outset with top military leaders in Baghdad who wanted Beiji retaken quickly.

"I told them I can reach Beiji from Tikrit in three days, but I will lose many of my men," he said. "(I) told them I will do it my way and get Beiji back. They were unhappy, but they had no choice."

In the end, his strategy paid off. Beiji was recaptured in mid-November, and the entire campaign cost 12 lives and about 30 injured among his troops. On the other side, he estimates his forces killed around 1,500 Islamic State fighters.

Now al-Saadi worries the victory is in danger of being reversed. Already, Islamic State militants are back on the outskirts of Beiji, and he said the men left to hold the city are too few.

Obama sanctions North Korea over Sony hack

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration imposed sanctions Friday on three entities and 10 individuals tied to the North Korean government in what it called the first step in a proportional response to the devastating cyberattack on Sony Pictures Entertainment.

In a lengthy call with reporters, several senior administration officials said the entities and people sanctioned under Friday's executive order by President Barack Obama weren't directly involved with the Sony data breach.

But they confirmed that the sanctions, designed to isolate North Korea from the global financial system, are the first issued in direct response to a cyberattack on a U.S. corporation, and they said North Korea was to blame.

The executive order signed by Obama cites — among other things, such as North Korea's nuclear program and human-rights abuses — that nation's "destructive, coercive cyber-related actions during November and December 2014."

The administration alleges that North Korea or people acting on its behalf hacked into Sony's emails and private data to avenge the planned Christmas Day release of "The Interview," a movie comedy about a plot to kill North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un.

The Obama administration's assertion of a North Korean connection to the Sony hack remains controversial, with some cybersecurity experts saying there's compelling evidence that the break-in was the work of a disgruntled former Sony employee. An official of Norse Corp., a San Mateo, Calif., cybersecurity company, told the Los Angeles Times last week that it believed the hack was an inside job.



Debris appears to be that of AirAsia jet

The Associated Press

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia — Indonesian officials said Saturday that they were confident wreckage of AirAsia Flight 8501 had been located after sonar equipment detected four massive objects on the ocean floor.

The biggest piece, measuring 59 feet long and 18 feet wide, appeared to be part of the jet's body, said Henry Bambang Soelistyo, chief of the National Search and Rescue Agency.

Though strong currents and big surf have prevented divers from entering waters to get a visual of the suspected fuse-lage, officials are hopeful they will find many of the 162 passengers and crew still strapped in their seats inside.

So far, after nearly a week of

searching, only 30 bodies have been found floating in the choppy waters.

The Airbus A320 crashed Dec. 28, halfway into a two-hour flight from Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, to Singapore. Minutes before losing contact, the pilot told air traffic control that he was approaching threatening clouds, but was denied permission to climb to a higher altitude because of heavy air traffic.

While the plane's black boxes—the flight data and cockpit voice recorders—have yet to be located, the discovery of the wreckage, especially if it is largely intact, would greatly benefit the investigation.

The objects were discovered Friday and Saturday and a Geological Survey vessel was used to assess dimensions, Soelistyo said.

In addition to what appeared to be a significant part of the plane's body, chunks of debris found in the target search area measured up to 39 feet long.

Other suspected plane parts were seen scattered on beaches during an aerial survey, Soelistyo said.

Indonesian authorities announced the grounding of AirAsia flights from Surabaya to Singapore, with the Transport Ministry saying the airline did not have a permit to fly on Sundays. However, Singapore's Civil Aviation Authority said Saturday that from its end, the airline had been approved to fly the route daily.

AirAsia, which began operations in 2001, quickly becoming

one of the region's most popular low-cost carriers, said it was reviewing the suspension. The crash was the airline's first.

It remains unclear what caused the plane to plunge into the Java Sea, though bad weather appears to have been a factor, according to a 14-page report released by Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency.

Vessels involved in the search for debris included at least eight sophisticated navy ships from Singapore, Russia, Malaysia and the U.S. equipped with sonars for scouring the seabed to pinpoint the all-important black boxes and the wreckage.

The U.S. Navy said it was sending a second vessel, one of the newest in the fleet, to help in the search.

Dozens kidnapped in Iraq by Islamic State

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Militants linked to the Islamic State group have rounded up dozens of men from two villages in northern Iraq following a quarrel that led to the burning of the extremist group's flag, tribal leaders said on Saturday.

The latest move by the Sunni extremist militants came as the United Nations said that last year saw the highest casualty figures in Iraq in over five years.

Two sheiks said the militants entered a mosque in the village of al-Shajara on Friday as worshipers gathered for prayers, removing flags commemorating the birth of Prophet Muhammad and hoisting their own black Islamic State group flag.

That prompted a verbal quarrel between the militants and the worshippers, who later burned the Islamic State group flag. The militants then snatched up around 140 men from their homes in al-Shajara

and from the nearby village of al-Ghariba, both about 44 miles outside the northern city of Kirkuk.

About 100 of the men were later released, while the rest remained in captivity, the sheiks said on condition of anonymity, fearing for their own safety.

Violence has spiked as the Islamic State group's advances have sparked renewed sectarian tensions between Sunni and Shiite Muslims. The latest incident took place Thursday in the mostly Shiite southern city of Basra, where gunmen shot dead three Sunni clerics.

In a symbolic gesture of unity between Iraqis, Prime Minster Haider al-Abadi paid a visit on Friday to the hallowed Abu Hanifa Sunni mosque in Baghdad's northern Azamiya neighborhood, and to the adjacent Shiite shrine of Imam Mousa al-Kazim, a revered 8th-century saint, during commemorations of Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

Girl, 7, walks away from plane crash that killed 4

The Associated Press

EDDYVILLE, Ky. — A 7-year-old girl survived a plane crash in Kentucky that killed four people Friday night, and the disoriented little girl walked away from the wreckage and reported the crash to a local resident, authorities said.

The small Piper PA-34 reported engine trouble and lost contact with air traffic controllers as it was flying over the southwestern part of Kentucky about 5:55 p.m., the FAA said.

About a half hour later, a Lyon County resident called 911 and told dispatchers that a 7-year-old girl had walked to his home and said she had been involved in a plane crash, said Sgt. Dean Patterson, of the Kentucky State Police.

"This girl came out of the wreckage herself and found the closest residence and reported the plane crash," Patterson said. "It's a miracle in a sense that she survived it, but it's

tragic that four others didn't."

The girl was in emotional distress and taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, Patterson said.

At that point, authorities launched a search for the crash site.

About two hours later, authorities found the crash site in a heavily wooded area near Kentucky lake, a popular tourist attraction in the state.

The FAA said the plane had taken off from Tallahassee Regional Airport in Florida, and was bound for Mount Vernon, Ill. Patterson said the girl indicated that the plane had left from Key West, Fla.

Patterson said in a statement that the victims were identified Marty Gutzler, 49; Kimberly Gutzler, 45; their daughter, Piper Gutzler, 9; and her cousin, Sierra Wilder, 14. All four were from Nashville, Ill. Police said the name of the 7-year-old passenger is being withheld at the request of family.

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NBA roundup

Durant, Thunder hold off Wizards

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kevin Durant is dominating, and he doesn't think he has found his groove just yet.

The reigning MVP scored 34 points to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Washington Wizards 109-102 on Friday

Durant was 12-for-18 from the field in just 32 minutes, including a 4-for-7 performance from three-point range. He scored 44 points in an overtime win over Phoenix on Wednesday night in his first game back after missing six straight with a sprained right ankle.

"I was out for a while, I watched the game and learned it a lot more, and just gotta keep it up," he said. "I ain't really did nothing I wanted to do yet, and I'm gonna keep going."

Durant scored 30 points in 19 minutes against Golden State on Dec. 18 before injuring the ankle. In the last three games he has played, including the Golden State game, he has scored 108 points on 35-for-54 shooting (.648), including 15for-24 from three-point range, in just 90

His teammates just shrug their shoulders. They have come to expect extraordinary play from the four-time scoring champion who averaged 32 points last season.

"That's what he does," Thunder guard Russell Westbrook said.

Westbrook had 22 points and six assists for the Thunder (17-17), who reached .500 for the first time this season. Oklahoma City shot 53 percent from the field to win for the fourth time in five games.

Bradley Beal had 21 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for Washington, which has lost two in a row. Andre Miller added a season-high 15 points, and John Wall had 14 points and 12 assists, but he made just 5 of 13 shots.

Beal made a three-pointer with just over a minute remaining to trim Oklahoma City's lead to 105-102. Washington had a chance to inch closer or tie, but Westbrook intercepted a pass by Wall that was intended for Beal. He missed the lavup on the fast break, but Serge Ibaka was there to clean it up for a layup with 22.9 seconds to play

Warriors 126, Raptors 105: Stephen Curry had 32 points and 12 assists, Draymond Green got his first career triple-double and host Golden State rolled past Toronto in a matchup of conference leaders.

Hawks 98, Jazz 92: Jeff Teague scored 25 points, and surging Atlanta picked up another victory by beating host

Pelicans 111, Rockets 83: Ryan Anderson scored 22 points and Tyreke Evans added 21, leading host New Orleans to the runaway win over

Grizzlies 109, Lakers 106: Mike Conley had 19 points and nine assists, Marc Gasol scored 18 points and visiting Memphis edged Los Angeles.

Cavaliers 91, Hornets 87:Kevin Love scored 27 points, Kyrie Irving had 23 and visiting Cleveland ended a three-game losing streak by beating

Nets 100, Magic 98: Mason Plumlee had 18 points and nine rebounds, and visiting Brooklyn earned its third straight victory by beating Orlando.

Suns 112, 76ers 96: Gerald Green and Markieff Morris each scored 21 points, and host Phoenix pulled away from Philadelphia in the fourth quarter.

Pistons 97, Knicks 81: Brandon Jennings scored 29 points, and visiting Detroit stretched its win streak to four games by beating New York. New York (5-30) has lost 10 in a row.

Pacers 94, Bucks 91: c.J. Miles scored 22 points and Roy Hibbert had 18, leading balanced Indiana past host

NHL roundup

Panthers goalie has 30 saves in shutout

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. - Told he had again moved up a notch in the record books with his latest shutout in Buffalo, Florida Panthers goalie Roberto Luongo had just one question:

"When do we come back?"

Luongo made 30 saves for his 68th career shutout — and third-straight in Buffalo — to lead the Panthers past the Sabres 2-0 on Friday night.

The shutout moved him past Roy Worters for 13th all-time after he passed Patrick Roy with a win on Oct. 17 in Buffalo.

"I enjoy playing in this building and I'm having success," Luongo said. "Maybe sometimes you get in another team's head or whatnot, but I just try to do my job and take the wins.'

Brad Boyes and Nick Bjugstad scored for Florida, which won for the first time in three games.

No. 1 overall draft pick Aaron Ekblad picked up his 21st assist to tie Ed Jovanovski's franchise scoring record for rookie defensemen.

Michal Neuvirth made 31 saves for Buffalo, which has lost three in a row.

The Panthers came out of the gate fast, outshooting Buffalo 19-7 in the first period and coaxing Luongo into joking that "I was tweeting" during an inactive first

Florida started the scoring at the 3:29 mark when Sabres defenseman Tyson Strachan missed the puck on a clearing attempt and the Panthers worked the puck to Boyes, who scored alone in front

The former Sabre has points in five straight games against Buffalo, and has a 6-2 record against his old team since joining Florida.

With Mike Weber in the box for an interference penalty, Bjugstad made it 2-0 with a power-play goal at 11:51 when he tapped home Jimmy Hayes' rebound.

The opening period didn't sit well with Sabres head coach Ted Nolan.

"Our first period was God-awful," Nolan said. "We tried a little bit in the second and got better as the game went, but not enough.'

Buffalo started to come around in the second period, putting 11 shots on goal.

Penguins 6, Lightning 3: Steve Downie scored twice after missing five games with the mumps, and host Pittsburgh used a three-goal, first-period lead to defeat Tampa Bay.

Canadiens 4, Devils 2: Michael Bournival scored his first two goals of the season and Carey Price made 22 saves on a personal milestone night and visiting Montreal extended its winning streak to five with a victory over New Jersey.

Price got his 200th victory in his 400th game as Montreal won its eighth in the past nine games.

Hurricanes 2, Flyers 1: Brad Malone scored his first goal of the season and Eric Staal got his 10th and host Carolina held on for a victory over Philadelphia.

Wild 3, Maple Leafs 1: Kyle Brodziak, Jared Spurgeon and Mikko Koivu scored, Darcy Kuemper made 34 saves, and host Minnesota beat shorthanded Toronto.

Islanders 2, Flames 1: John Tavares scored twice to lead visiting New York to their its straight victory.

Avalanche 2, Oilers 1 (SO):
Alex Tanguay and Matt Duchene scored shootout goals, Semyon Varlamov stopped both of the visitor's shooters to lead Colorado past Edmonton.

Ducks 4, Blues 3: Matt Beleskey scored the tiebreaking goal midway through the third period, and Sami Vatanen had two assists in host Anaheim's victory over St. Louis.

Rondo shines in return to Boston after trade

The Associated Press

BOSTON - The Boston fans had never seen Rajon Rondo in an opponent's uniform before.

They'd never seen a game like this from

The former Celtics point guard scored a career-high 15 first-quarter points, finishing with a season-best 29 in his return to Boston to lead Dallas to a 119-101 victory Friday night. Rondo also had a careerhigh five three-pointers and finished with six rebounds and five assists.

"Obviously, it was a special day," the four-time all-star said after his first game in the TD Garden since he was traded to Dallas last month. "I'm emotionally tired. I'm physically tired, and I'm drained."

Monta Ellis scored 22 points, Dirk Nowitzki added 17 and Tyson Chandler had 16 rebounds to help the Mavericks to their fourth consecutive victory. But the tone was set when Rondo scored Dallas' first 10 points, with the usually weak outside shooter hitting his first four threepoint attempts and his first seven shots "He obviously had his best game as a Maverick," coach Rick Carlisle said. "It's extremely difficult to come back in this situation and play the way that he did. ... He showed a lot of class with the way he

Avery Bradley scored 22 points for the Celtics, and Tyler Zeller had 17 points and 10 rebounds.

But the Mavericks opened a 14-point lead after one quarter thanks to Rondo and went on a 13-0 run to finish the third and make it a 28-point game. The Celtics cut the deficit to 10 points with about six minutes left before Rondo hit a jumper and soon added a steal and an assist to help make it 105-90 with 4:45 to play.

"He's a big-game player. He's amazing," Mavericks center Chandler said. "To come into a situation like this where you spent your entire career and had incredible success, I know it had to be very emotional. But he came incredibly locked in."

Rondo received a lengthy ovation when he was introduced in the pregame warmups, and then quickly went to work. In all, he went 12-for-19 from the floor, making 5 of 7 from three-point range.



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Top 25 roundup

Cal upsets Washington

The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. - Tyrone Wallace will always generate the attention of opposing defenses. Jordan Mathews got his turn, and knocked down key shots from all over the floor in California's biggest win yet under new coach Cuonzo Martin.

Mathews scored 31 points and hit three of his career-high five three-pointers in the second half and David Kravish added a career-best 21 points, leading the Golden Bears to an 81-75 upset of No. 21 Washington on Friday night in the Pac-12 opener for both schools.

After struggling to make shots in the first half, Cal (11-3, 1-0 Pac-12) pushed the tempo after halftime and capitalized on Washington's turnovers and shot selection.

"We did a way better job today than we have in the past few games of coming out fast," Kravish said. "We came out harder. Shots weren't falling that we would normally make but we were working through

Wallace wound up with 19 points, eight rebounds, four steals and four assists while shooting 11-for-12 from the line for Cal, which concluded the non-conference schedule with at least 10 wins for the first time since also beginning the 2011-12 season 10-3. The Bears were 24 of 34 overall on free throws.

Kravish added 10 rebounds for Cal, which had lost consecutive games for the first time under Martin.

"We have to be sound defensively and make free throws. When you make free throws, it opens it up," Martin said. "My biggest concern going into a game like this was how are we going to score the ball? We stayed aggressive. Dave was engaged offensively from start to finish ... then Jordan shot the ball and shot it with confidence."

Washington (11-2, 0-1) shot 53.6 percent in the first half then 38.2 over the final 20 minutes. The Huskies hurt themselves with 12 turnovers and breakdowns on both ends that allowed Cal to establish a nice tempo and shoot 60.9 percent after

Nigel Williams-Goss had 19 points, eight rebounds and nine assists and Robert Upshaw added 16 points, eight boards and five blocks for Lorenzo Romar's Huskies, who lost their second straight and still must play a tough game at Stanford on Sunday in jeopardy of falling out of the Top-25 poll. Washington has dropped the last three against Cal.

Washington put its defensive energy into stopping Wallace, who was held to 4-for-20 and missed all four of his threepoint attempts. But Mathews kept hitting the key shots.

No. 10 Utah 79, Southern California 55: Jordan Loveridge scored 14 points to help No. 10 Utah beat Southern California 79-55 on Friday night

in the Pac-12 opener for both teams. Delon Wright had 11 points and 10 assists, Brandon Taylor added 11 points and Utah (11-2) shot 57 percent and led by double digits most of the game.

Loveridge missed seven games after knee surgery, but the junior forward has returned to provide scoring punch to an offense that struggles to score at times. He made three three-pointers.

Malik Martin and Nikola Jovanovic each scored 14 points for the Trojans (8-5).

UCLA prevails in Alamo Bowl

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Even with a 31-6 halftime lead, UCLA coach Jim Mora knew the Bruins had a lot of work to do to finish off Kansas State in the Alamo Bowl.

"We're playing the 11th-ranked team in the country, and it's not going to be easy," Mora said. "You know they're going to fight back. If they don't fight back, they don't deserve to be No. 11."

The No. 14 Bruins held on, beating the Wildcats 40-35 on Friday night.

Mora and Kansas State coach Bill Snyder had an awkward exchange on the field after the game. Apparently upset that Kansas State took a timeout and hit Bruins quarterback Brett Hundley as he kneeled to down the ball on the final play, Mora quickly turned away from the 75-year-old Snyder after barely shaking hands, then went back and got into an animated chat.

"I will defend the safety of my players ... forever," Mora tweeted.

The message was retweeted by many Bruins players.

Facing the large deficit at the half, Snyder bristled at the thought that TV broadcasters might say the same thing about his Wildcats that they did about Florida State in the Rose Bowl.

"We had a TV announcer indicate in another ballgame that a football team had quit, and that's the last thing in the world anybody wants to hear on national TV, I assure you," Snyder said. "I reminded our youngsters of it, that we weren't about to let somebody say that about us. And they didn't.'

Kansas State (9-4) scored 22 of the first 25 points in the second half, cutting it to 34-28 on quarterback Jake Waters' 1-yard run with 4:54 left.

Paul Perkins countered for UCLA (10-3) with a 67-yard run with 2:20 to go.

"That hole was huge. Anybody could have run through it," said Perkins, who ran for 194 yards on 20 carries. "And on the kick, I just wanted to secure the ball and get us out of here with the win."

The Wildcats weren't finished.

Waters threw a 29-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Lockett with 1:21 left, but Perkins recovered the onside kick for UCLA and the Bruins ran out the clock.

"Our players didn't give in," Snyder said. "Fought back. It wasn't enough."

It's been a week of big comebacks at bowl games. Michigan State trailed Baylor by 20 in the fourth quarter at the Cotton Bowl and won 42-41. Earlier Friday, Houston scored 29 points in the fourth quarter to beat Pittsburgh 35-34 in the Armed Forces Bowl.

Waters was 31 of 48 for 338 yards, but was sacked seven times — twice by Butkus Award winner Eric Kendricks - and threw two interceptions and lost a fumble.

Lockett had 13 catches for 164 yards for Kansas State.

Hundley ran for 96 yards and two touchdowns on 11 carries and passed for 136 yards. Mora has said Hundley is forgoing his senior season to enter the NFL Draft.

Bowls roundup

Houston rallies past Pitt in Armed Services Bowl

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Greg Ward threw three touchdown passes in the final 3:41 of the Armed Forces Bowl, two after Houston recovered onside kicks, and completed a winning two-point conversion in the Cougars' 35-34 victory over Pittsburgh on

Pitt (6-7) took a 31-6 lead on James Conner's touchdown run with 14 minutes left, but Houston (8-5) had the biggest comeback in an FBS game this season and matched the third-largest ever in a

Wardthrewan8-yardTDpasstoDeontay Greenberry, the Cougars recovered their first onside kick and Ward teamed with Demarcus Ayers on a 29-yard scoring play on fourth-and-13 with 1:58 left.

Houston's onside kick didn't go 10 yards on the rain-slickened field, but the ball was touched by the same Pitt defender who couldn't handle the first one and Houston running back Kenneth

Farrow jumped on it at the Cougars 43. Greenberry started the drive with a 38yard catch, then on third-and-16 had a 25yard touchdown catch with 59 seconds left. Interim coach David Gibbs opted for a win-or-lose two-point conversion try, and Greenberry made a leaping catch in the back corner of the end zone.

Ward was 15-for-24 for 274 yards, with 237 of those yards and all three TDs coming in the fourth quarter. He also ran for 92 yards. Farrow ran 22 times for 103 yards and two touchdowns.

Taxslayer Bowl

Tennessee 45, lowa 28: At Jacksonville, Fla., Joshua Dobbs accounted for three touchdowns, Jalen Hurd ran for two scores and the Volunteers beat the Hawkeyes for their first postseason victory since 2008.

Tennessee (7-6) scored on its first four possessions, leading 28-0 before Iowa (76) managed 70 yards.

Hurd, a freshman, finished with 122 yards on 16 carries, the most yards rushing for any Tennessee player in a bowl game since Travis Henry ran for 180 against Kansas State in the 2001 Cotton

Cactus Bowl

State 30, Oklahoma Washington 22: At Tempe, Ariz., Mason Rudolph threw for 299 yards and two touchdowns and Desmond Roland ran for 123 yards as the Cowboys held off the Huskies.

Oklahoma State (7-6) dominated Washington on both sides of the ball to take a 17-point halftime lead.

Washington (8-6) eventually found it's rhythm after stagnating offensively in the first half, but couldn't overcome the early deficit to close out coach Chris Petersen's first season with a loss.

US women's soccer reveals camp roster

The Associated Press

U.S. women's national team coach Jill Ellis named 29 players to the roster for a 21-day training camp that starts Monday.

The team, preparing for the Women's World Cup later this year in Canada, is training in Carson, Calif., before heading overseas to play matches in France and England in February.

The roster includes all the players that the US team took to Brazil last month for the International Tournament of Brasilia, along with midfielders Shannon Boxx. Kristie Mewis and Allie Long, defender Rachel Van Hollebeke and goalkeeper Nicole Barnhart.

Also included is forward Alex Morgan, who was also on the Brasilia roster but unable to play because of an ankle injury she suffered in October during the CONCACAF women's championship.

The 29-player roster, by position: GOALKEEPERS (4): Barnhart, Ashlyn Harris, Alyssa Naeher, Hope Solo.

DEFENDERS (10): Van Hollebeke, Lori Chalupny, Crystal Dunn, Whitney Engen, Julie Johnston, Meghan Klingenberg, Ali Krieger, Kelley O'Hara, Christie Rampone, Becky Sauerbrunn.

MIDFIELDERS (10): Boxx, Long, Mewis, Morgan Brian, Tobin Heath, Lauren Holiday, Carli Lloyd, Samantha Mewis, Heather O'Reilly, Megan Rapinoe.

FORWARDS (5): Sydney Leroux, Morgan, Christen Press, Amy Rodriguez, Abby

Highlight beats Armour in All-America Game

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. - Deondre Francois threw for 103 yards and a touchdown pass to Garrett Williams to lead Team Highlight to a 46-6 victory over Team Armour in the 2015 Under Armour All-America Game on Friday. Ohio State commit Eric Grover-Williams, from McKinley High School in Canton, Ohio, had a 47-yard punt return for a touchdown for Team Armour.