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French police kill gunmen in twin attacks, free 16 hostages

Separate standoffs at printing plant and grocery leave 4 captives dead

The Associated Press

PARIS — With explosions and gunfire, security forces ended a three-day terror rampage around Paris, killing the two al-Qaida-linked brothers who staged a murderous rampage at a satirical newspaper, and an associate who seized a kosher supermarket to try to help them escape.

It was the worst terror spree France has seen in decades. At least seven people were killed Friday — the three terrorists and at least four hostages — two days after 12 people were massacred in the newspaper attack. Sixteen hostages were freed on Friday, one from the printing plant and 15 from the grocery store.

The fate of a fourth suspect — the wife of the supermarket attacker — remained unclear, and Paris shut down a famed Jewish neighborhood amid fears that a wider terror cell might launch further attacks. France's interior minister warned his shaken nation to remain "extremely vigilant."

The four attackers had ties to each other and to terrorism that reached back years and extended from Paris to al-Qaida in Yemen. They epitomized Western authorities' greatest fear: Islamic radicals who trained abroad and came home to stage attacks.

Said and Cherif Kouachi, the brothers who attacked newspaper Charlie Hebdo on Wednesday, came out with their guns blazing Friday evening after an all-day hostage siege at a printing plant northeast of Paris, a French police official said. They were killed and their hostage was freed, authorities said.

An accomplice, Amedi Coulibaly, took at least five hostages Friday afternoon at a kosher grocery in Paris — then died in a nearly simultaneous raid there, said Gael Fabiano, of the UNSA police union. Several people were rescued from the Porte de Vincennes grocery store.

Police said at least four hostages there were killed.

France has been on high alert since the massacre Wednesday in Paris at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo that left 12 people dead. Behind that attack were Cherif Kouachi, 32, and his brother Said, 34.

The next day, a gunman shot a police-woman to death in a gunfight just south of Paris. Police later identified the gunman as Coulibaly, who had been a co-suspect with Cherif Kouachi in a court case involving terrorism that never made it to trial.

The Kouachi brothers led police on a chase around northeastern France, robbing a gas station Thursday and stealing a car Friday morning before seizing hostages at a printing plant in Dammartin-en-Goele, a small, industrial town near Charles de Gaulle airport.

Friday afternoon, explosions and gunshots rang out and white smoke rose outside as a police SWAT team clambered onto the roof.

Audrey Taupenas, spokeswoman for the town near the Charles de Gaulle airport, said the brothers had died in the clash.

"They said they want to die as martyrs," Yves Albarello, a local lawmaker inside the command post, told French television station i-Tele.

Minutes before the storming, Coulibaly had threatened to kill his five hostages if French authorities launched an assault on the two brothers, a police official said.

Trying to fend off further attacks, the Paris mayor's office shut down all shops along Rosiers Street in the city's famed Marais neighborhood in the heart of the tourist district. Hours before the Jewish Sabbath, the street is usually crowded with shoppers — French Jews and tourists alike. The street is also only a half a mile from Charlie Hebdo's offices.

At the kosher grocery near the Porte de Vincennes neighborhood in Paris, the

gunman burst in shooting just a few hours before the Jewish Sabbath began, declaring "You know who I am," the official recounted. The attack came before sundown when the store would have been crowded with shoppers.

Paris police released a photo of Coulibaly and his wife, Hayet Boumddiene, who the official said was his accomplice.

Several people wounded when the gunman opened fire in the grocery store were able to flee and get medical care, the official said.

One hundred students were locked down in nearby schools and the highway ringing Paris was closed.

Cherif Kouachi was convicted of terrorism charges in 2008 for ties to a network sending jihadis to fight U.S. forces in Iraq.

A Yemeni security official said Said Kouachi is suspected of having fought for al-Qaida in Yemen. Another senior security official said Said was in Yemen until 2012.

Both officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of an ongoing investigation into Kouachi's stay in Yemen.

Both brothers were also on the U.S. no-fly list, a senior U.S. counterterrorism official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss foreign intelligence publicly.

The satirical paper Charlie Hebdo had long drawn threats for its depictions of Islam, although it also satirized other religions and political figures. The weekly paper had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad, and a sketch of Islamic State's leader was the last tweet sent out by the irreverent newspaper, minutes before the attack.

Eight journalists, two police officers, a maintenance worker and a visitor were killed in the newspaper attack, including the paper's editor. Charlie Hebdo plans a special edition next week, produced in the offices of another paper.

12 sailors face stiff penalties

The Associated Press

GROTON, Conn. — Sailors involved in the secret video recording of female officers in the dressing area of a U.S. Navy submarine will face “significant penalties,” the admiral in charge of the submarine force said Thursday.

A dozen sailors are under investigation in the scandal aboard the USS Wyoming, one of the first American submarines to have female officers.

“What some people thought was a high-schoolish prank was a serious sexual offense, with significant penalties,” Vice

Adm. Michael Connor said.

The recording and distribution of the videos are a setback for the high-profile introduction of mixed-gender crews on submarines, which had been one of the last areas of the armed forces closed to women before the Navy reversed a ban in 2010. More than 50 women are serving aboard submarines, a female officer in Connecticut became the first woman assigned to a Los Angeles-class attack sub last week, and the Navy is expected soon to introduce enlisted female submariners as well as officers.

The recording took place in a changing area that is used by male and female officers aboard the Wyoming, a nuclear-armed submarine based at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in Georgia. Typically, female officers put up a sign to indicate when the shower area is in use by women.

Connor said in an interview with the AP that the biggest concern is that the recordings did not come to authorities’ attention until recent months, even though they had been taken a year ago and shared among a number of sailors.

DOD names leaders of POW/MIA command

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department on Friday appointed leadership for a new command that will replace the dysfunctional, scandal-prone agencies now in charge of recovering the nation’s war dead.

Rear Adm. Mike Franken, a former Navy legislative director who is new to the recovery efforts, will be interim commander until a civilian director is chosen in about six months, defense officials said.

Major Gen. Kelly McKeague, the commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and a top leader of existing recovery operations, was named the interim deputy director.

Filling the positions is another step toward an ongoing consolidation of JPAC and the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office into a single organization, which was ordered by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in March and will likely continue into 2016.

More than 83,000 Americans are still missing from past conflicts, and the agencies have drawn criticism for recovering only about 72 remains annually.

During the past two years, they also have riled surviving families and have been charged with widespread mismanagement and botched recovery efforts.

McKeague has said he hopes to increase the number of annual recoveries to about 125 by 2018.

Defense officials said working more closely with the families of the missing will be a key mission for the new command, which will have a temporary headquarters in Washington until a permanent location is chosen next year.

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Tester: Navy fixes won’t help LCS

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The upgrades to the Littoral Combat Ship approved by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel won’t make it significantly less vulnerable to battle damage, according to the Pentagon’s top weapons tester.

“Notwithstanding reductions to its susceptibility” compared with the design of the first 32 ships, “the minor modifications to the LCS will not yield a ship that is significantly more survivable,” Michael Gilmore, the Pentagon’s director of operational testing, said in an emailed statement.

Hagel approved a Navy proposal last month to buy 20

modified ships after 2019 with improved armor, sensors and weapons. The decision was a reprieve for Lockheed Martin Corp. and Austal Ltd., which make different versions of the ship designed for missions in shallow, coastal waters. Gilmore’s assessment is likely to increase congressional scrutiny of a vessel that’s already viewed with some skepticism by lawmakers.

In January, Hagel had truncated the original program at 32 ships, now valued at \$23 billion, while ordering the Navy to study options including modifications or a completely new ship design. He cited “considerable reservations as to whether this is what

our Navy will require over the next few decades.”

Before Hagel’s decision, Gilmore gave him a classified assessment reviewing the options studied by a Navy task force. The task force canvassed fleet commanders for ways to improve a vessel that’s been criticized as lacking firepower and the ability to survive an attack.

Gilmore’s assessment didn’t include a recommendation, and he “will not take a position on which alternative would best serve the fleet or should be pursued,” he said in the emailed statement. “The decision is the prerogative of the Secretary of Defense.”

Pentagon to seek 20 percent less in war funding

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will request about \$51 billion in war funding for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, a 20 percent reduction from the \$64 billion Congress approved this year and the least since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, officials and congressional aides said.

The Overseas Contingency Operations funding, as it is known, will be sent to Congress in addition to basic defense spending of about \$534 billion when President Barack Obama offers his proposed fiscal 2016 federal budget on Feb. 2, according to the officials and aides, who asked not to be identified before the details are made public.

While the decline in war funding largely reflects the continued withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan — from the 10,600 now there to half that planned by the end of the year — it remains enough to draw questions about why the Defense Department shouldn’t pay to fight wars as part of its basic mission.

Pace, Seau, Warner named HoF finalists

The Associated Press

First-year candidates Junior Seau, Kurt Warner and Orlando Pace are among 18 finalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The list of nominees was reduced Thursday to 15 from the modern era, one senior and two contributors. A finalist must receive at least 80 percent of the votes from the 46-person selection committee to be elected. The class of 2015 will be announced Jan. 31 in Phoenix during "NFL Honors," the TV show in which The Associated Press hands out its eight individual NFL awards. Inductions will be in August in Canton, Ohio.

The modern-day finalists are kicker Morten Andersen, running back Jerome Bettis, wide receiver Tim Brown, coach Don Coryell, running back Terrell Davis, coach Tony Dungy, linebacker-defensive end Kevin Greene, linebacker-defensive end Charles Haley, wide receiver Marvin Harrison, coach Jimmy Johnson, safety John Lynch, and guard Will Shields.

The senior nominee is former Vikings center Mick Tingelhoff. Special contributors are Bill Polian and Ron Wolf, the architects of Super Bowl teams as executives.

Of the three coaches on the ballot, Dungy is in his second year of eligibility, Johnson in his 16th and Coryell in his 28th.

Seau played two decades with three teams and made 12 Pro Bowls. He was the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1992.

Warner guided St. Louis to its only Super Bowl victory after the 1999 season and also led the Rams to the title game two years later. He helped Arizona get to its only Super Bowl after the 2008 season. He won league MVP honors in 1999 and 2001.

Pace was the first overall draft pick in 1997 by the Rams and played 13 seasons, with five Pro Bowl selections.

Harrison is in his second year of eligibility. The Colts star retired ranking second to Jerry Rice in receptions with 1,102.

Andersen played 25 pro seasons with five franchises and set the NFL records for points (2,544), field goals (565) and games (382). Lynch spent 11 seasons with Tampa Bay, four with Denver, and made nine Pro Bowls.

Shields was a Pro Bowl guard 12 straight years with Kansas City. Bettis carried the Steelers to the 2005 NFL championship in his final season.

Brown, a standout kick returner as well as pass catcher, made nine Pro Bowls, twice as a return man.

Davis gave Denver an efficient running game to go with John Elway's passing, and they took the Broncos to championships in 1997 and 1998.

Greene played for four teams and made the Pro Bowl five times. The only player to do so, Haley won five Super Bowls, two with San Francisco and three with Dallas.

Tingelhoff retired in 1978 after 17 seasons as one of the most durable and dependable centers in the league.

Seattle, Carolina relying on run

The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Since the arrival of Marshawn Lynch, the Seattle Seahawks' offensive DNA has been defined by running the football first.

This season that run game of the Seahawks was among the best of any team in the past 30 seasons, a combination of Lynch's bullying style with the improvisation and agility of quarterback Russell Wilson.

But Seattle is not alone. The other seven teams left in the playoffs did quite nicely on the ground themselves — including Carolina, the Seahawks' playoff opponent on Saturday — proving it's still not entirely about the pass game.

"There's a constant emphasis for us. The way we want to play," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said.

While Seattle led the league in rushing and gets the bulk of attention for its phi-

losophy of being so committed to the run game, it isn't alone in leaning so heavily on the run. Six of the eight teams in the divisional round of the playoffs finished in the top half of the league.

Dallas was second in the league, but 25 yards per game behind Seattle. Carolina finished seventh, Baltimore eighth and Green Bay 11th. Even the Broncos, who averaged 111.6 yards per game, finished 15th in the league.

Only New England and Indianapolis finished in the bottom half of the league, but each still averaged more than 100 yards per game rushing.

Seattle concluded the regular season averaging 172.6 yards per game on the ground. While that doesn't seem as if it's an excessive mark, it's among rare company over the past three decades.

Seattle had the third-highest per-game average of any team during the past 30 seasons. Only the 2006 Falcons (183.7) and the 2001 Bears (173.4) rushed for more

yards than the Seahawks did this season.

Carolina has thrived on the ground during its late-season run to reach the post-season. The Panthers are averaging 196.6 yards rushing per game during their five-game winning streak.

Jonathan Stewart has carried the load, averaging 104.8 yards per game with two touchdowns during that span. A healthier Cam Newton has also had an elevated role in the running game, averaging 56.2 yards per game with three TDs in the past five games.

One of the main reasons for the improved play is the Panthers have found consistency on the offensive line, starting the same five players for the past six games.

"I think now, you have a group of guys that's played more games together as a unit consistently," Stewart said. "It builds chemistry and a better awareness of what the guy next to you is going to do. It created a rhythm for our offensive line."

Suggs, Ravens ready to face Patriots

The Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Terrell Suggs wore a gladiator's mask during introductions at a Baltimore Ravens game this season in an effort to boost the spirit of his teammates for a duel with the visiting Pittsburgh Steelers.

The stunt earned him a \$5,512 fine from the NFL. It also aptly displayed the mentality Suggs brings to the field on game day, that of a fun-loving warrior.

"He's entertaining and passionate at the same time," Ravens safety Will Hill said. "You're going to have fun, but it's about business, too. You can see how dedicated and involved he is, not just with this organization but the game of football. He's going to give his all on every snap, and he demands that from every player on the field with him."

Ever since his mentor, Ray Lewis, stepped into retirement, Suggs has taken

over as the leader and spokesman for Baltimore's traditionally rugged defense. It's no coincidence that Suggs, like Lewis, is the last member of the unit to be introduced at home.

After the kickoff, the real fun begins — at home or away.

"I love playing football," Suggs said. "It doesn't matter where I'm at."

Suggs will often jabber at the competition and opposing fans, but his main job at outside linebacker is to help Baltimore win.

Suggs broke into the NFL as a brash 20-year-old. Over the course of a dozen years, he's learned when to bark at an opponent and when to show respect.

As the Ravens (11-6) prepare to face the New England Patriots (12-4) for the right to play in the AFC title game, Suggs has chosen the latter approach.

In the past, Suggs insisted that New England quarterback Tom Brady received preferential treatment from referees. He also said: "I don't like him, he don't like me. I

don't like his hair."

This week, Suggs toned it down to this: "He's a quarterback; I'm a defender. He has a job to do, and so do I. Naturally, there are going to be some disagreements there."

In eight career games against New England, Suggs has 20 tackles, four sacks, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery. If he continues to play as he has this season, he's sure to add to those numbers.

Suggs started all 16 games and ranked third on the team with 61 tackles. He had 12 sacks, tied for the second most in his career, and his between-the-legs interception last weekend helped seal Baltimore's 30-17 playoff win over Pittsburgh.

"It looks like it's his third year out there," Brady said. "He's the leader of that defense, he makes great plays. ... I have a lot of respect for his ability to play the game at a high level. He's phenomenal."

Told of that assessment, Suggs grinned and said, "Did they record him? Like, they had a camera?"

Report faults NFL's probe in Rice case

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL failed to investigate the Ray Rice case properly, former FBI director Robert S. Mueller said in a report that also said he found no evidence the league received a video of the Baltimore Ravens running back knocking out his fiancée in a casino elevator.

"The NFL should have done more with the information it had and should have taken additional steps to obtain all available information about the Feb. 15 incident," Mueller said in a statement after releasing his 96-page report on Thursday.

Mueller said he can find no evidence the league received the video showing Rice striking his fiancée before it was published online in September. A

law enforcement official showed The Associated Press videos of the incident and said he mailed a DVD to NFL headquarters in April.

The report said a review of phone records and emails of NFL employees showed no evidence that anyone in the league had seen the video before Commissioner Roger Goodell initially suspended Rice for two games.

The private investigation, without subpoena power, did not include any contact with the law enforcement official who showed the AP the videos. The officer played the AP a 12-second voicemail from an NFL office number dated April 9, in which a woman verifies receipt of the DVD and says: "You're right, it's terrible."

The official, who insisted on anonymity because he was not authorized to share

the evidence, told the AP on Thursday he didn't speak with investigators.

"I took steps to ensure a call from any person at the NFL wouldn't be traced back to me and I was never contacted by the team of investigators hired by the NFL to investigate the NFL," he said. "I still don't know who confirmed receiving the video and I don't know what that person did with it."

Kathleen Carroll, the AP's executive editor, said: "We have reviewed the report and stand by our original reporting."

"The Mueller team did ask us for source material and other newsgathering information, but we declined. Everything that we report and confirm goes into our stories. We do not offer up reporters' notes and sources."



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Rangers top Kings in Cup rematch

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nearly seven months after the New York Rangers' Stanley Cup hopes were crushed on the Staples Center ice, they returned to Hollywood and demonstrated why they've got a great chance to get back to the big stage again this summer.

Dan Boyle had a goal and an assist, Cam Talbot made 28 saves and the Rangers held off the Los Angeles Kings for a 4-3 victory Thursday night in a rematch of last year's Stanley Cup finals.

Kevin Klein, Lee Stempniak and Martin St. Louis scored in a 5:46 span of the second period for the Rangers, who erased an early two-goal deficit and completed a Southern California sweep with their 12th win in 13 games overall.

"It's a tough building to come in and play, and obviously we didn't fare very well in here last time," said Talbot, who overcame a rocky beginning to win in just his second start in New York's last 13 games. "It's a good measuring stick for us. It was great to get a win in a building like this."

Derick Brassard had two assists for the Rangers, who are on their longest streak of regular-season success in two decades. Conn Smythe Trophy winner Justin Williams got his second goal with 4:03 to play while the Kings dominated the third period, but Talbot held on during the Kings' 6-on-4 advantage in the final 35.9 seconds.

New York looked sharp and motivated in its first appearance in downtown Los Angeles since June 13, when Alec Martinez's double-overtime goal in Game 5 of the finals clinched the Kings' second NHL title in three seasons. Los Angeles won three overtime home games in that series, with the Rangers lamenting their repeated inability to score clutch goals.

Bruins 3, Devils 0: Milan Lucic scored two goals, and Niklas Svedberg earned his second NHL shutout behind three periods of stifling defense as host Boston topped New Jersey.

Flyers 3, Capitals 2 (OT): Jakub Voracek scored 1:28 into overtime to lift host Philadelphia over Washington.

Hurricanes 5, Sabres 2: Jeff Skinner scored one of his team's four goals in the second period, and host Carolina sent Buffalo to its sixth straight loss.

Blues 7, Sharks 2: Host St. Louis scored the final four goals to turn a one-goal lead into a rout of San Jose.

Predators 3, Stars 2 (OT): Shea Weber scored his second goal of the game 17 seconds into overtime, and host Nashville beat Dallas.

Wild 4, Blackhawks 2: Bryan Bickell scored twice in the third period, Corey Crawford made a season-high 42 saves, and visiting Chicago held on to beat Minnesota.

Coyotes 4, Jets 1: Mikkel Boedker had two goals and an assist, Shane Doan added a goal and two assists, and host Arizona rebounded from an ugly home loss to beat Winnipeg.

Avalanche 5, Senators 2: Jarome Iginla scored twice and host Colorado beat Ottawa.

Panthers 3, Canucks 1: Jonathan Huberdeau had two goals and an assist, and Roberto Luongo stopped 32 shots in his return to Vancouver.

Trail Blazers cruise past Heat

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — It was a perfect setup for Portland. The Trail Blazers needed a big third quarter to get back into the game, and Miami has been all-too-generous of late in that period.

The result was a dominant second half by Portland, as LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and 12 rebounds in a 99-83 win over the Heat.

Wesley Matthews scored 18 points, Damian Lillard 16 and Chris Kaman 10 for Portland. The Blazers (28-8) tied Golden State for most wins in the NBA this season.

Portland trailed 48-43 at halftime after getting beat in nearly every statistical category and shooting 2-for-14 from three-point range. The Blazers needed a boost, and found a willing participant in the Heat, who haven't fared well during third quarters this season, particularly the past few weeks.

Portland outscored Miami 33-16 in the third, jumping on the Heat (15-21) by starting the period on a 17-6 run. Matthews and Lillard hit back-to-back three-pointers during the first 3 minutes, then Kaman scored six consecutive points — all on layups.

The Blazers, outrebounded 26-22 in the first half, beat Miami 13-3 on the boards

during the third quarter.

Portland coach Terry Stotts said he went with a bigger lineup in the second half.

"We just came out with a little more energy, a little more focus," Stotts said. "We played a very good defensive second half. Obviously the third quarter made a big difference. We got a rhythm to our shots, got out and played in the flow a little bit. ... The second half was the way we needed to play."

The third-quarter performance left Miami coach Eric Spoelstra frustrated, but not surprised. In their last three losses, the Heat have been outscored 102-46 in the third.

"It's simply not enough. We need a breakthrough in those moments. We have to find a way. Tonight it was simply a matter of not playing hard enough during those minutes when they made their run," Spoelstra said.

Rockets 120, Knicks 96: James Harden had 25 points and nine assists in just three quarters and the visiting Houston Rockets beat the New York Knicks on Thursday night to extend the Knicks' longest single-season losing streak to 14 games.

The Rockets beat New York for the 11th straight time, though everyone is beating the Knicks these days. New York has lost 24

of its last 25 games to fall to an NBA-worst 5-34.

Trevor Ariza added 18 points for the Rockets, who improved to just 4-4 in their last eight. Harden didn't reach his NBA-leading average of 26.8 points only because he was limited to 31 minutes, sitting out the fourth quarter with Houston already leading by 24.

Rookie Travis Wear scored a season-high 21 points and Langston Galloway had 19 for the Knicks in his second game since being called up from the NBA Development League. Rookie Cleanthony Early added a season-best 16.

Hornets 103, Raptors 95: Gerald Henderson scored a season-high 31 points, Kemba Walker added 29 and visiting Charlotte beat Toronto.

Walker made a jumper from just inside the three-point line with 19.6 seconds to give the Hornets a six-point lead en route to their fourth straight victory. The point guard also had assists and seven rebounds and has scored 25-plus points in each of the wins to help the Hornets match their longest streak of the season.

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist added 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Kyle Lowry led Toronto, coming off a six-game trip, with 24 points, seven assists and seven rebounds. Lou Williams added 15 points, and Greivis Vasquez had 11.

McConnell leads Wildcats past Ducks

The Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — With all the offensive weapons that No. 7 Arizona possesses, point guard T.J. McConnell figured it was only a matter of time before he would be called on to score.

McConnell took advantage of Oregon's defensive tactics Thursday night for a season-high 21 points, and all five Wildcats scored in double figures during an 80-62 victory over the Ducks.

"I kind of knew when Pac-12 play started that they were going to try to force me to score," McConnell said. "When I was driving they kind of stayed on their man, so it freed up the shot for me and I just knocked them down tonight."

The win was the second for Arizona (14-1, 2-0) in its last five meetings with the Ducks (11-4, 1-1), and its first at Matthew Knight Arena, which opened in 2011.

"This is a hard place to play," Wildcats coach Sean Miller said. "Obviously a fantastic arena and a tough crowd, but most important, a very good team."

The Wildcats made it look easy at times. They got 14 points from Stanley Johnson, 13 from Rondae Hollis-Jefferson in his second start of the season and 11 from Kaleb Tarczewski. Brandon Ashley scored 10.

Joseph Young, the Pac-12's leading scor-

er at 20.1 points per game, led Oregon with 12. Jordan Bell added 11.

"Rondae did an excellent job on Joe Young," Miller said. "His length and his determination were a big reason we won."

Arizona had a 40-27 edge in rebounds, led by Tarczewski with 10 and Hollis-Jefferson with nine. The Wildcats shot 27 of 56 from the field (48.2 percent).

McConnell, who had 12 points in the second half, took advantage of the way Oregon defended him when his teammates set picks for him at the top of the key or on the wings.

"I was setting a lot of high ball screens for him," Tarczewski said, "and I saw that their guy was going under, so I moved my ball screen down a little bit and it got him open."

The Wildcats hit their comfort zone with an 11-3 run to start the second half that pushed their lead back to double digits at 50-37. That grew to 55-41 minutes later when the pesky McConnell found Gabe York on the left wing for a wide-open three-pointer.

No. 6 Gonzaga 88, San Francisco 57: It had been more than three weeks since No. 6 Gonzaga played in Spokane, and star guard Kevin Pangos was enjoying the comforts of home.

"It was kind of relaxing," Pangos said

after scoring 17 points to help Gonzaga beat San Francisco 88-57 on Thursday night for its eighth straight victory.

San Francisco stayed close for the first 25 minutes, but Gonzaga took control by going on a 16-2 run while holding the Dons without a field goal for 5 minutes.

Przemek Karnowski scored 16 points and Kyle Wiltjer had 15 for the Bulldogs (15-1, 4-0 West Coast Conference), whose only loss was at No. 7 Arizona.

Kruize Pinkins scored 20 for San Francisco (7-10, 1-4), which has dropped four straight.

No. 25 Old Dominion 72, Marshall 51: Jonathan Arledge scored 13 points to lead the visiting Monarchs to their first victory as a ranked team.

Old Dominion (13-1, 2-0 Conference USA) won its 10th straight game to continue its best start since moving to Division I in the 1976-77 season.

Trey Freeman and Jordan Baker added 11 points apiece for the Monarchs.

Austin Loop scored 15 points and Jay Johnson and Ryan Taylor had 13 apiece for Marshall (4-11, 0-2).

Old Dominion showed no signs of pressure after entering The Associated Press rankings for the first time this week.

The Monarchs went ahead 35-25 at halftime and its lead remained in double digits in the second half.

Boston gets nod to bid on 2024 games

The Associated Press

DENVER — Once the shock subsides, the work begins.

Boston was considered something of a long shot by insiders when the U.S. Olympic Committee whittled its list of candidates to bid for the 2024 Games down to four a few months ago.

The leadership team, largely unknown outside of New England, along with the compactness of the city, the politics and the protesters made Boston look like an underdog compared to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington.

Turned out, some of those so-called deficiencies turned into positives in the eyes of the USOC board members. The leader, John Fish, is a can-do business-

man who gets the Olympics' vision. The compactness looks more like a plus than a minus under the International Olympic Committee's newly revised, less-is-more template for the games. The politics and protesters — well, any city that undertakes this sort of endeavor will run into those issues.

Now begins a 32-month march toward the selection in September 2017.