

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## UNITY AND DEFIANCE

### World leaders among thousands who march on Paris to honor victims

*The Associated Press*

PARIS — Hundreds of thousands of people marched through Paris on Sunday in a massive show of unity and defiance in the face of terrorism that killed 17 people in France's bleakest moment in half a century.

Their arms linked, more than 40 world leaders headed the somber procession, setting aside their differences for a manifestation that French President Francois Hollande said turned the city into "the capital of the world."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stood near Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also marched.

The deadly attacks on a satirical newspaper, kosher market and police marked a turning point for France that some compared to Sept. 11. In the weeks and months ahead, the cruelty will test how attached the French — an estimated 5 million of whom are Muslims — really are to their liberties and to each other.

"Our entire country will rise up toward something better," Hollande said Sunday.

The aftermath of the attacks remained raw, with video emerging of one of the gunmen killed during police raids pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group and detailing how the attacks were going to unfold. Also, a new shooting was linked to that gunman, Amedy Coulibaly, who was killed Friday along with the brothers behind a massacre at satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo in nearly simultaneous raids by security forces.

Rallies were planned throughout France and major cities around the world, including London, Madrid and New York — all attacked by al-Qaida-linked extremists — as well as Cairo, Sydney, Stockholm, Tokyo and elsewhere.

Children, grandparents, Muslims, Jews, Christians, workers, bosses — all joined together in streets and plazas thronged with crowds throughout eastern Paris.

On Paris' Republic Square, deafening applause rang

out as the world leaders walked past, amid tight security and an atmosphere of togetherness amid adversity. Families of the victims, holding each other for support, marched in the front along with the leaders, along with journalists working for newspaper Charlie Hebdo, the target of the attack that started three days of terror. Several wept openly.

"I Am Charlie," read legions of posters and banners. Many waved editorial cartoons, and the French tricolor and other national flags.

The leaders marched down Voltaire Boulevard — named after the Enlightenment-era figure who symbolizes France's attachment to freedom of expression. One marcher bore a banner with his famed pledge: "I do not agree with what you say, but I will fight to the death to defend your right to say it."

"It's important to be here for freedom for tolerance and for all the victims. It's sad we had to get this point for people to react against intolerance racism and fascism," said Caroline Van Ruymbeke, 32.

The three days of terror began Wednesday when brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi stormed the newsroom of Charlie Hebdo, killing 12 people. Al-Qaida's branch in Yemen said it directed the attack by the masked gunmen to avenge the honor of the Prophet Muhammad, a frequent target of the weekly's satire. Charlie Hebdo assailed Christianity, Judaism as well as officialdom of all stripes with its brand of sometimes crude satire that sought to put a thumb in the eye of authority and convention.

On Thursday, police said Coulibaly killed a policewoman on the outskirts of Paris and on Friday, the attackers converged. While the Kouachi brothers holed up in a printing plant near Charles de Gaulle airport, Coulibaly seized hostages inside a kosher market. It all ended at dusk Friday with near-simultaneous raids at the printing plant and the market that left all three gunmen dead. Four hostages at the market were also killed.

Five people who were held in connection with the at-

tacks were freed late Saturday, leaving no one in custody, according to the Paris prosecutor's office. Coulibaly's widow is still being sought and was last traced near the Turkey-Syrian border.

Early Sunday, police in Germany detained two men suspected of an arson attack against a newspaper that republished cartoons from Charlie Hebdo. No one was injured in that attack.

"The terrorists want two things: they want to scare us and they want to divide us. We must do the opposite. We must stand up and we must stay united," French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told French TV channel iTele on Sunday.

France remains on high alert while investigators determine whether the attackers were part of a larger extremist network. More than 5,500 police and soldiers were being deployed on Sunday across France, about half of them to protect the march. The others were guarding synagogues, mosques, schools and other sites around France.

"I hope that we will again be able to say we are happy to be Jews in France," said Haim Korsia, the chief rabbi in France, who planned to attend the rally.

At an international conference in India, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said the world stood with the people of France "not just in anger and in outrage, but in solidarity and commitment to the cause of confronting extremism and in the cause that extremists fear so much and that has always united our countries: freedom."

Posthumous video emerged Sunday of Coulibaly, who prosecutors said was newly linked by ballistics tests to a third shooting — the Wednesday attack on a jogger in a Paris suburb that left the 32-year-old man gravely injured. In the video, Coulibaly speaks fluent French and broken Arabic, pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group and detailing the terror operation he said was about to unfold.

The Kouachi brothers claimed the attacks were planned and financed by al-Qaida in Yemen.

## Army sees few cuts in latest Europe drawdown

By MATT MILLHAM  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The Pentagon's consolidation announcement Thursday bore no real surprises for U.S. Army Europe, which has argued — persuasively, it would seem — that it's already been right-sized.

Years of prior cuts and reshufflings have left the Army with about 28,000 soldiers stationed in Europe concentrated in seven major garrisons. At its Cold War height, the service had some 213,000 soldiers assigned to more than 850 garrisons, according to U.S. European Command.

Rather than using a cleaver, this round trimmed away some of the rough edges, taking some buildings and outlying properties away from garrisons. That will "improve operations, eliminate excess infrastructure and reduce costs," the Army says.

In Baumholder, for example, the Army will close its water works and switch to the municipal water supply — a move

the local mayor has advocated. Part of a small base in Kaiserslautern will close and the services it offers will move closer to where more soldiers work.

While those are some of the smaller moves in the announcement, they were big enough for the Pentagon to count them among the 15 sites returning to their host nations as the result of the lengthy and long-anticipated consolidation plan.

"None of these changes would happen if we weren't able to maintain readiness to complete the mission," Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, U.S. Army Europe's commander, said in an email. "I wouldn't say there were any surprises, given how long this study has been going on and the multitude of options that were discussed."

Among the largest installations on the chopping block are Ansbach garrison's Barton Barracks, a small base somewhat removed from the community it supports, and Wiesbaden garrison's Mainz-Kastel Station, where operations have already wound down significantly.

While short on surprises, the announcement did start to clear up some questions about other bases that are losing tenants

from earlier rounds of cuts.

The sprawling U.S. Army hospital at Landstuhl, for instance, is expected to empty out in 2022 when its replacement at nearby Rhine Ordnance Barracks is complete. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will fill at least part of the old hospital, relocating its Europe headquarters there from the Amelia Earhart Hotel in Wiesbaden in 2023, a garrison official said Friday.

An airfield near the hospital, vacated last year when its helicopter unit relocated to Bavaria, will be the new home of the Defense Information Systems Agency, which will move to the hilltop base from Stuttgart in 2019.

The announcement also brought the closure of Husterhöf Kaserne in Pirmasens. The base is a fragment left over from previous years' cuts. The only sizable unit left at the base is the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Europe, which will relocate to the Kaiserslautern Army Depot, itself a recent victim of civilian job cuts.

Overall, the plan will lead to the loss of 152 active-duty positions across Europe over the next eight years or so. In its last

major round of cuts in 2012, the Army slashed two combat brigades from the continent.

One under-the-radar move in the announcement is the closure of a popular vacation destination on Italy's west coast. The "partial closure" of Camp Darby means the demise of the Sea Pines Recreational Facilities, operated by Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

According to the Army, most of the moves won't happen for years.

"As I've said before and echoing Gen. (Philip) Breedlove," the top U.S. general in Europe, "I think the Army is the right size for the current mission in Europe," Hodges said. "Between the assigned forces and those rotating through as part of the European Rotational Forces, we have the right people at the right time to complete today's missions."

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# Obama is pressured on Keystone pipeline

*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans and Nebraska's Supreme Court have shipped the Keystone XL oil pipeline project back to President Barack Obama.

Obama has blamed six years of delays in approving the project on bureaucratic formalities and parochial issues in Nebraska. Critics have claimed that the politics of Obama's re-election race in 2012 were a more accurate explanation.

That campaign is over, the Nebraska issue is settled and a bipartisan bill forcing the pipeline's approval may soon reach Obama. Those on opposite sides of the debate just want the president to decide.

"It's time for the State De-

partment and the president to make a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline — however they decide — because six years is beyond long enough," said Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, of North Dakota, among the Democrats supporting the pipeline.

In April, just as the State Department's review was nearing an end, Obama suspended it. The department has jurisdiction because the pipeline would start in Canada. The White House cited uncertainty about the pipeline's route, spurred by a Nebraska court challenge.

On Friday, the Nebraska Supreme Court threw out the case, clearing the way for the pipeline to snake through the state as envisioned.

The State Department said it would pick up its review where

it left off. It was unclear how long that review will last.

Republicans and some Democrats don't want to wait.

Now in charge of both the House and Senate, Republicans are speeding a bill that would authorize construction of the 1,779-mile pipeline. It would carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day from Canada to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast. The House approved the legislation Friday, ending the first week of the new Congress. The Senate planned a test vote on an identical bill Monday, hoping to get it to Obama quickly.

Obama has repeatedly threatened a veto, saying Congress must not circumvent the executive branch's authority.

So far, Republicans haven't

shown they have the votes to override a veto.

Obama believes the project has becoming a proxy battle for the broader debate over global warming.

"A vote against Keystone sends the signal that our government is taking the science of climate change and risk analysis seriously," said Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M.

Outside the White House on Saturday, dozens of people rallied in support of Obama's pledge to veto any legislation approving the pipeline.

The energy industry and business groups say Obama is jeopardizing an \$8 billion project that could create thousands of jobs.

## Wartime legacy weighs on Japan as defense biz grows

*The Washington Post*

TOKYO — Seventy years after the end of World War II, talk about any kind of military expansion remains highly sensitive here in Japan.

Just consider the position of Akifumi Arai, president of the Tamagawa Trading Co., a relatively small Nagano-based business that supplies sensors and gyroscopes used to guide torpedoes and missiles for Japan's self-defense forces.

For decades, his firm has had only a handful of possible defense-related customers, restricted to the Japanese market and its major players, such as Mitsubishi and Fuji Heavy Industries. Now, with the easing of defense export rules — part of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's wider effort to put Japan's history behind it and return the country to a more "normal" footing — Japanese companies making military equipment have the opportunity to sell abroad. But what should be a good business opportunity is complicated in a country still conscious of its

wartime actions.

"Weapons are for fighting with other countries, but it's good for us not to fight," Arai said.

That is not the kind of sentiment likely to be expressed by a Western defense executive.

The prospect of selling military equipment again is creating a dilemma for Japanese defense companies of all sizes. Officials at the big defense companies have been reluctant to even discuss the prospect of expanding their defense exports, privately shrugging off the opportunity to develop a global market and simply saying they'll do it if the government asks.

The changes come as part of a broader push by Abe, a conservative who has been trying to distance Japan from its legacy of wartime aggression, often angering neighbors and former victims. He has proposed reinterpreting Japan's pacifist constitution to allow the country's military, officially known as its self-defense forces, to come to the aid of allies under attack.

## Rebel group Nusra Front claims Lebanon bombing

*Los Angeles Times*

BEIRUT — The Syrian al-Qaida-linked rebel group Nusra Front claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at a cafe in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli on Saturday that left nine dead and more than three dozen injured, according to the National News Agency. It was the latest violence to spill over from the four-year Syrian civil war.

Lebanese government agencies released conflicting infor-

mation about the attack in the Shiite Alawite Muslim neighborhood of the mostly Sunni Muslim city of about 130,000. Lebanese army officials said the attack was carried out by a single suicide bomber, but the National News Agency said there were two, both from Tripoli.

The official Twitter account of the Nusra Front carried a statement saying the bombing was "a double martyr operation as vengeance for the Sunni people in Syria and Lebanon."

## Military mail recovered, headed to Europe

A shipment of military mail headed to servicemembers in Europe has been recovered after being stolen earlier this month near Chicago.

The mail was recovered Tuesday. Most of the items were on their way to recipients after being examined by U.S. Postal Service and law enforcement

officials, according to a postal official with the U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces in Africa. The stolen mail was bound for overseas military members and civilians, including personnel in the United Kingdom and possibly Poland, Romania and Kosovo, according to Tech. Sgt. Aaron E. Green, assistant postmaster with the 501st Combat Support Wing.

From staff reports

# Kentucky escapes Texas A&M

The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Kentucky coach John Calipari repeated the same thing again and again after his top-ranked team remained undefeated with a double-overtime victory against Texas A&M on Saturday.

"We're not a very good team right now," Calipari said.

But surprisingly, that's OK with the veteran coach.

"I don't want us to be great right now anyway," he said. "We need to be great at the end of February and March ... you win and you learn. It's winning and learning and that's all we're trying to do."

Tyler Ulis put Kentucky (15-0, 2-0 SEC) ahead with a three-pointer deep in double overtime to help hold off Texas A&M for the 70-64 win.

The game was tied at 63 when Ulis hit the shot with 1:26 left for his first points of the game.

The Aggies rallied in the final minutes to tie it in regulation. Trey Lyles made two foul shots with six seconds left in the first overtime for Kentucky, and Texas A&M took its time before missing a long three at the buzzer.

Down 66-63, Kourtney Roberson made one of two free throws for A&M (9-5, 0-2 SEC) before a turnover by Lyles gave the Aggies the ball back with 26.9 seconds left.

Danuel House missed a three-pointer with 16 seconds left and Dakari Johnson made two free throws for Kentucky. House finished with 25 points.

**No. 18 North Carolina 72, No. 5 Louisville 71:** Marcus Paige hit a scooping layup with 8.5 seconds left to help the host Tar Heels rally to beat the Cardinals.

Paige's layup capped a frantic comeback from 13 down in the final 8½ minutes

for the Tar Heels (12-4, 2-1 Atlantic Coast Conference).

Paige, a preseason all-American mired in a slow start to the season, finished with 10 points on 4-for-12 shooting and shook off a right ankle injury that sidelined him briefly after halftime.

**No. 3 Virginia 62, No. 13 Notre Dame 56:** Darion Atkins scored 14 points, Malcolm Brogdon and Justin Anderson hit key baskets in the final 4 minutes and the visiting Cavaliers outscored the Irish 9-3 down the stretch.

**No. 6 Gonzaga 79, Santa Clara 57:** Przemek Karnowski scored 18 points and Kyle Wiltjer added 16 to help the host Bulldogs beat the Broncos for its ninth straight victory.

**No. 8 Villanova 81, DePaul 64:** Darrun Hilliard scored 21 points, Ryan Arcidiacono added 14 and the host Wildcats halted the Blue Demons' quick Big East start.

Villanova (15-1, 3-1) shot 53.6 percent from the field and 44.8 percent from three-point range against DePaul (9-8, 3-1), who came into the contest alone in first place after three surprising wins.

**Oklahoma State 69, No. 10 Texas 58:** Le'Bryan Nash and Phil Forte each scored 20 points and the host Cowboys stopped the Longhorns.

**No. 11 Maryland 69, Purdue 60:** Jake Layman scored 14 points and the visiting Terrapins bounced back from a loss to beat the Boilermakers.

**No. 12 Kansas 86, Texas Tech 54:** Perry Ellis scored 15 points, Kelly Oubre Jr. added 14 and the Jayhawks remained perfect at home against the Red Raiders.

**No. 17 Iowa State 74, No.**

**14 West Virginia 72:** Abdel Nader scored 19 points to lead the Cyclones past the host Mountaineers.

**Kansas State 66, No. 16 Oklahoma 63 (OT):** Marcus Foster forced overtime with a floater, and hit a three-pointer with 4 seconds left in the extra period to lift the visiting Wildcats past the Sooners.

**No. 19 Seton Hall 68, Creighton 67:** Sterling Gibbs made a three-pointer with 2.1 seconds left to lift the Pirates past the host Bluejays.

**No. 20 VCU 89, Saint Joseph's 74:** Melvin Johnson scored 20 points and the host Rams beat the Hawks to extend their winning streak to eight games.

**No. 21 Baylor 66, TCU 59 (OT):** Rico Gathers had 17 points and 18 rebounds to lead the visiting Bears to their first Big 12 Conference win of the season, a victory over the Horned Frogs.

**Indiana 69, No. 22 Ohio State 66:** Troy Williams had 15 points and 12 rebounds, and the host Hoosiers held off the Buckeyes.

**No. 23 Arkansas 82, Vanderbilt 70:** Bobby Portis had a season-high 32 points and the host Razorbacks beat the Commodores to improve to 2-0 in the Southeastern Conference for the first time since the 2007-08 season.

**Western Kentucky 72, No. 25 Old Dominion 65:** George Fant had 24 points and 13 rebounds for the host Hilltoppers. The Monarchs (13-2, 2-1 Conference USA) had won 10 in a row. This was their first week as a ranked team.

# Crosby lifts Pens over Habs

The Associated Press

MONTREAL — Sidney Crosby and the Pittsburgh Penguins needed just one mistake by the Montreal Canadiens to come away with a victory.

Crosby scored a power-play goal 3:41 into overtime, lifting the Penguins over the Canadiens 2-1 on Saturday night. Evgeni Malkin also scored for the Penguins, and Marc-Andre Fleury made 27 saves.

"We were fortunate to get a power play," Crosby said. "Guys were moving around, and I got a good look there. It was a great pass from Geno (Malkin)."

Max Pacioretty scored the lone goal for the Canadiens, who have lost two consecutive games after winning nine of their previous 10. Carey Price stopped 35 shots.

**Capitals 3, Red Wings 1:** John Carlson and Joel Ward scored in the second period, and Braden Holtby stopped 26 shots as host Washington beat Detroit.

**Bruins 3, Flyers 1:** Rookie David Pastrnak scored his first two career NHL goals to lead visiting Boston over Philadelphia.

**Avalanche 4, Stars 3:** Nathan MacKinnon broke a second-period deadlock and Semyon Varlamov stopped 37 shots, leading host Colorado over Dallas.

**Predators 3, Wild 1:** Calle Jarnkrok scored a tiebreaking goal early in the third period as visiting Nashville beat Minnesota.

**Islanders 5, Blue Jackets 2:** Brian Strait had a goal and an assist as New York used a three-goal second period to power past host Columbus.

**Senators 5, Coyotes 1:** Five Ottawa players scored as the Senators ended a three-game losing streak with a victory over host Arizona.

**Blues 5, Hurricanes 4 (SO):** Vladimir Tarasenko equalized early in the third period and T.J. Oshie had the lone goal in a shootout to lift host St. Louis to a victory over Carolina.

Jake Allen allowed one goal after replacing Brian Elliott after the Hurricanes scored on three of their first 10 shots and took a 3-1 lead.

**Flames 1, Canucks 0:** Joni Ortio made 36 saves for his first NHL shutout, leading host Calgary past Vancouver.

**Rangers 3, Sharks 1:** Henrik Lundqvist made 30 saves just hours after getting passed over for the All-Star game as New York completed a rare California sweep by beating San Jose.

**Jets 5, Kings 4 (SO):** Mathieu Perreault, Bryan Little and Blake Wheeler scored with Winnipeg's first three shots against Jonathan Quick during a 3-minute span, and then Little got the only goal in a four-round shootout to help the Winnipeg beat host Los Angeles.

# Gasol powers Bulls past Bucks

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago Bulls went right inside to Pau Gasol on their first possession, and just kept feeding the big man. There was no reason to go anywhere else.

Gasol had a career-high 46 points to go along with 18 rebounds, and the Bulls bounced back from two ugly losses with a 95-87 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday.

"He wasn't going to let us lose tonight," coach Tom Thibodeau said.

Gasol was 17-for-30 from the field and 12-for-13 at the line in his 20th double-double of the season. He became the first player to record at least 46 points and 18 rebounds for Chicago since Michael Jordan had 69 points and 18 rebounds in a 117-113 overtime victory at Cleveland on March 28, 1990, according to STATS.

Kirk Hinrich added 16 points for Chicago, and Jimmy Butler had nine points, a ca-

reer-best 10 assists and eight rebounds in the opener of a three-game homestand.

**Hornets 110, Knicks 82:** Kemba Walker scored 28 points as Charlotte extended host New York's losing streak to 15 games.

Charlotte won its fifth in a row and did it so easily that Walker played only three quarters.

**Clippers 120, Mavericks 100:** Blake Griffin scored 22 points, and Chris Paul had 17 points and 13 assists as host Los Angeles beat Dallas for its sixth win in eight games and second in a row.

**Spurs 108, Timberwolves 93:** Austin Daye scored a season-high 22 points and had 10 rebounds to help San Antonio hand host Minnesota its 15th straight loss.

**Trail Blazers 103, Magic 92:** LaMarcus Aldridge scored 25 points as host

Portland handed Orlando its sixth consecutive loss.

Aldridge hit 10 of 22 shots to help the Blazers (29-8) tie Golden State for most wins in the NBA this season.

**76ers 93, Pacers 92:** Michael Carter-Williams hit a running layup with 9.2 seconds left to lift host Philadelphia past Indiana.

**Pistons 98, Nets 93:** Brandon Jennings scored all 20 of his points in the second half to help host Detroit beat Brooklyn.

**Raptors 109, Celtics 96:** Kyle Lowry scored 10 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, and James Johnson had 15 points and 10 rebounds as host Toronto ended a four-game losing streak.

**Rockets 97, Jazz 82:** James Harden had 30 points and five assists as host Houston beat Utah for its third straight victory.



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## Bills said to be closing in on Ryan

*The Associated Press*

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Bills are closing in on hiring Rex Ryan as their coach.

The team has offered the job to the former New York Jets coach, and the sides are negotiating final contract details, a person familiar with the talks told *The Associated Press* on Sunday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the Bills have not discussed their search to replace Doug Marrone, who stepped down abruptly Dec. 31.

The offer was made a day after the Bills identified Ryan as a finalist and met with him for a second time. He was one of 12 candidates to interview for the job since last weekend. At the same time, the Bills are negotiating to hire Greg Roman as their offensive coordinator, the person said. Roman, a finalist for the Bills' coaching job, spent the past four years as the San Francisco 49ers' offensive coordinator. Roman's future is uncertain in San Francisco after coach Jim Harbaugh left to coach Michigan.

This is the Bills' sixth coaching search since Wade Phillips was fired after the 2000 season and the first since Terry and Kim Pegula bought the team from the estate of Hall of Fame owner Ralph Wilson in October. The Bills went 9-7 to match their best record in a decade, but missed the playoffs to extend the NFL's longest active drought to 15 seasons.

Ryan is very familiar with the Bills after spending the past six seasons coaching their AFC East rival. He had a 50-52 record, including 4-2 in the playoffs, with the Jets before being fired along with general manager John Idzik following a 4-12 finish.

Ryan's strength is defense, as it is with the Bills. Buffalo's defense finished fourth in the NFL in yards allowed last season and produced three Pro Bowl linemen. His challenge in Buffalo would be similar to the one he had in New York — providing a spark to a sputtering offense.

## Steelers coordinator LeBeau, 77, resigns

PITTSBURGH — Hall of Famer Dick LeBeau has resigned as the defensive coordinator for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The 77-year-old LeBeau had been with the organization for 16 seasons, including serving as defensive coordinator from 1995-96 and from 2004-14. He was also the team's secondary coach from 1992-94.

He was inducted into Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2010.

In his 13 years as defensive coordinator, the Steelers have finished in the top five in total defense 11 times and five times the team had the top overall ranked defense. The team won seven division championships, four AFC championships and two Super Bowls, while making the playoffs nine times during that period.

Linebackers coach Keith Butler is the most likely candidate to replace LeBeau.

"We want to thank Dick for his many years of service with the team and all that he has done for this organization," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said in a statement. "His coaching helped lead us to many successful seasons and championships. We are very appreciative of his efforts, and we wish him well."

As a player, LeBeau had 62 interceptions in 14 seasons as defensive back for the Detroit Lions from 1959-72.

# Pick-6 seals Seahawks' win

*The Associated Press*

SEATTLE — This time Russell Wilson did it with his arm, passing the Seattle Seahawks into the NFC championship game for the second straight year with a big assist from Kam Chancellor.

The Seahawks are one step closer to defending their Super Bowl title.

"It's exciting but the job is not done. There is still a lot more to do," Wilson said.

Wilson threw for 268 yards and three touchdowns, Chancellor returned an interception 90 yards for a TD midway through the fourth quarter and the Seahawks beat the Carolina Panthers 31-17 on Saturday night in an NFC divisional playoff game.

Wilson was nearly flawless in one of the best playoff performances of his young career. He took shots downfield and was perfect on third downs.

Wilson threw a 16-yard touchdown to Doug Baldwin in the first quarter, found Jermaine Kearse for a 63-yard TD in the second quarter and capped his night with a 25-yard strike to Luke Willson with 10:26 remaining that gave Seattle a 24-10 lead.

Even with Wilson's passing prowess, the capper was still to come from the most impressive athlete on the field.

"I don't know if a strong safety can have a better game than Kam did tonight," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said.

Chancellor wowed everyone by twice jumping over the Carolina offensive line on a pair of Graham Gano field goal attempts at the end of the first half. And he showed that he's a pretty good safety in coverage, too.

With Carolina driving and trying to cut Seattle's 14-point lead in half, Chancellor anticipated Cam Newton's throw.

Newton's primary target was covered and when he came back to try and find Ed Dickson, Chancellor jumped the throw and returned his third career postseason interception for a touchdown.

For all the tackles Chancellor made — and his hurdling exhibition — it was the hulking safety running alone for the first TD of his career that left CenturyLink Field shaking.

"We have a full trust and understanding of his athletic ability. He's a freaking monster," Seattle cornerback Richard Sherman said. "... He damages people's souls."

It was the longest touchdown in Seattle's postseason history, topping Percy Harvin's 87-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in last season's Super Bowl.

"It felt awesome. It felt like preparation. It felt like everything I worked all week for," Chancellor said.

The Seahawks (13-4) never trailed and became the first defending Super Bowl champion to win a playoff game the following season since New England in January 2006. Seattle will host either Green Bay or Dallas next Sunday for a trip to the Super Bowl.

Newton threw a pair of touchdowns to Kelvin Benjamin, but Carolina (8-9-1) couldn't overcome three turnovers, two of which the Seahawks turned into touchdowns.

After knocking off Arizona in the wildcard round last week, Carolina was trying to be the first team to reach a conference championship game after having a losing record in the regular season.

Much like the previous three regular-season games between the two teams, Carolina made it difficult on Seattle. The best running team in the NFL this season was held to 100 yards rushing by the

Panthers defense. Marshawn Lynch was mostly a non-factor aside from a 25-yard run in the third quarter that helped set up Steven Hauschka's 37-yard field goal on the first play of the fourth quarter.

But Wilson was outstanding, especially on third down. All three of his touchdown throws came on third-and-long situations. Baldwin beat safety Tre Boston on a double move on third-and-9 on his TD catch in the first quarter.

Kearse's TD reception came on a third-and-7. And Wilson's catch-and-run TD was on third-and-10.

Wilson finished with a passer rating of 149.2, the second-highest for any game in his career. He was 8 of 8 for 199 yards passing on third downs.

"That's just a fantastic night of coming through in critical situations," Carroll said.

Newton played well, but turnovers were the Panthers' undoing. Newton finished 23 of 36 for 246 yards and added 37 yards rushing. Jonathan Stewart had been a key to the Panthers' late-season surge, and rushed for 70 yards on 13 carries.

Newton got away with testing All-Pro cornerback Richard Sherman in the first quarter and watching Sherman dance away with his first career postseason interception.

But Seattle took the lead after Carolina's second turnover of the first quarter. Michael Bennett disrupted the handoff between Newton and Stewart and Tony McDaniel fell on the loose ball at the Carolina 28. Wilson connected with Baldwin to take the lead and Carolina never pulled back even.

"We needed them to make some mistakes and that would help," Carolina coach Ron Rivera said. "But it didn't happen. Credit to them."

## Pats rally twice from 14 down, beat Ravens

*The Associated Press*

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — One big comeback, then another.

And now another game for Tom Brady and the New England Patriots.

The quarterback who treats deficits as distractions dug the Patriots out of two 14-point holes — the first team to do that in NFL playoff history — to reach the AFC championship game for the fourth straight year with a 35-31 win over the Baltimore Ravens on Saturday.

"Behind twice by 14 wasn't necessarily in the plan," Brady said. "It took a lot of execution to overcome it."

Thanks to three touchdown passes by Brady and one by college quarterback turned receiver Julian Edelman, the resilient Patriots kept their season alive.

"Right now, it's all about giving us a chance to come to work again," said safety Devin McCourty, who batted down Joe Flacco's desperation pass into the end zone on the last play.

Brady led a masterful march — completing eight of nine passes and running for a first down — to the decisive 23-yard touchdown completion to Brandon LaFell with just over five minutes left to give the Patriots their first lead.

The top-seeded Patriots (13-4) will host the winner of Sunday's Indianapolis-Denver game in the AFC title game. The sixth-seeded Ravens (11-7) had won two of three playoff games in Foxborough over the past five seasons.

"We came to their home field and fought them to the end and we just came up short," said Kamar Aiken, who caught one of Flacco's four touchdown passes.

Brady completed 33 of 50 passes for

367 yards for an offense that picked up just 14 on the ground, the second fewest in team playoff history. His 46 career playoff touchdown passes surpassed Joe Montana's 45 for most in NFL history.

Flacco was 28-for-45 for 292 yards and two interceptions. Justin Forsett gained 129 yards on 24 carries.

Forsett had an outstanding season replacing the Ray Rice, who was suspended and then released for domestic abuse.

"We're all faced with challenges in life," Baltimore coach John Harbaugh said, "and, as a teacher and coach that's what you ask of your guys. I guess what I'm saying is I'm so proud of the way they handled it."

It was a thrilling game of shifting momentum — two touchdowns by the Ravens, the next two by the Patriots, two more by the Ravens and another two by the Patriots.

"We had two separate 14-point leads. Those guys did a good job getting it back to seven as quickly as they could," said Flacco, who threw his first two interceptions in six playoff games. "They don't panic."

Flacco completed his first eight passes, two for touchdowns of 19 yards to Aiken and 9 yards to Steve Smith, to give the Ravens a 14-0 lead. Then the Patriots tied it on a 4-yard run by Brady and his 15-yard pass to Danny Amendola late in the first half.

The Patriots were driving again — until Daryl Smith intercepted Brady, who immediately grasped both sides of his helmet and then bent over in frustration.

"It was just a terrible play by me," he said.

Flacco capitalized with an 11-yard scoring pass to Owen Daniels with 10 seconds

left for a 21-14 halftime lead.

And when New England punted on the first series of the third quarter, Baltimore added to its lead on Flacco's fourth scoring pass, a 16-yarder to Forsett, who was wide open in the flat and scored easily.

Then fortunes turned again.

Brady threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Rob Gronkowski, and the Patriots got the ball back after a punt. This time, another strong arm lifted the Patriots into a tie.

With the ball at the New England 49, Brady threw behind the line of scrimmage to Edelman on the left side. The Kent State quarterback then lofted a deep pass to a wide-open Amendola after cornerback Rashaan Melvin came up toward Edelman.

"We've had it in for 10 weeks, and the coaches finally got to call it," Edelman said. "I had to loosen up the arm a little bit."

After Justin Tucker's 25-yard field goal gave the Ravens a 31-28 lead five minutes into the fourth quarter, the Ravens nearly stopped the Patriots. Brady threw a 9-yard completion to Shane Vereen and officials ruled he fumbled and Baltimore recovered. The call was reversed when replays showed Vereen was down by contact.

Seven plays later, LaFell scored. Baltimore had two more possessions. The first ended when Duron Harmon intercepted Flacco's deep pass in the end zone with 1:39 left. On the final series, Flacco's desperation pass into the end zone was knocked down as time expired.

"It was a wild game," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said, "but I'm just thankful our players hung in there and made the plays they needed to make."