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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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'Fat Leonard': Scores in Navy took bribes

The Washington Post

A Malaysian defense contractor pleaded guilty Thursday in a corruption scandal of epic proportions, admitting that he bribed "scores" of U.S. Navy officials with \$500,000 in cash, six figures' worth of sex from prostitutes, lavish hotel stays, spa treatments, Cuban cigars, Kobe beef, Spanish suckling pigs and an array of other luxury goods.

Leonard Glenn Francis, a businessman who charmed a generation of Navy officers while resupplying their ships in Asia, admitted in federal court in San Diego to presiding over a decade-long corruption scheme involving his Singapore-based firm, Glenn Defense Marine Asia.

The investigation has steadily escalated into the biggest corruption case in the Navy's history, with Francis admitting that he bilked the service out of tens of millions of dollars by overcharging for food, fuel and basic services. Five current and former Navy officials have pleaded guilty so far, and prosecutors have made it clear they are targeting others.

The Navy has also stripped security clearances from two admirals, including the chief of naval intelligence, for their alleged involvement with Francis, although they have not been charged with crimes.

Known in Navy circles as "Fat Leonard" for his girth, Francis, 50, agreed to forfeit \$35 million in ill-gotten proceeds and could face up to 25 years in prison. But the most severe impact may turn out to be the blow to the Navy's reputation, given the array of evidence that so many officers were corrupted so easily by a foreign defense contractor.

"It is astounding that Leonard Francis was able to purchase the integrity of Navy officials by offering them meaningless material possessions and the satisfaction of selfish indulgences," said Laura Duffy, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of California, whose office has led the investigation. "In sacrificing their honor, these officers helped Francis defraud their country out of tens of millions of dollars. Now they will be held to account."

The criminal investigation has spanned eight states and eight Asian countries, with more than 100 law enforcement agents involved, court records show.

In his plea agreement, Francis admitted that he and his firm defrauded the Navy by overcharging for hundreds of Asian port visits by U.S. ships and submarines. To ensure he didn't get caught, he plied Navy officials with an array of temptations, including lavish meals, "top-shelf" alcohol, designer handbags, fountain pens, or-

namental swords, computers, furniture and handmade ship models.

Federal prosecutors disclosed Thursday that Francis has provided evidence against two more Navy officials who have yet to be charged: a lieutenant commander and a contract specialist whose names have not been made public.

Hours before Francis pleaded guilty Thursday, federal prosecutors won another conviction when a Navy captain, Daniel Dusek, admitted to disclosing military secrets to Francis and his firm in exchange for prostitutes, cash and visits to luxury hotels in Hawaii, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

According to a copy of his plea agreement, Dusek provided classified information about Navy ship schedules dozens of times to Glenn Defense Marine, which held contracts worth more than \$200 million.

2 dozen arrested in Europe anti-terrorism sweeps

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — French, German, Belgian and Irish police arrested more than two dozen suspects in anti-terrorism raids Friday, as European authorities rushed to thwart more attacks by people with links to Mideast Islamic extremists.

Rob Wainwright, head of the police agency Europol, told The Associated Press that foiling terror attacks has become "extremely difficult" because Europe's 2,500-5,000 radicalized Muslim extremists have little command structures and are increasingly sophisticated.

Highlighting those fears, a bomb scare forced Paris to evacuate its busy Gare de l'Est train station during Friday morning rush hour. No bomb was found. A man also briefly took two hostages at a post office northwest of Paris, but police said the hostage-taker had mental issues and no links to terrorism.

Visiting the tense French capital, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met President Francois Hollande and toured the sites of last week's terror attacks: the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo and a kosher supermarket. Twenty people, including the three gunmen, were killed.

One of those Paris attackers had proclaimed allegiance to the Islamic State group, and French and German authorities arrested at least 14 other people Friday suspected of links to the group.

Thirteen more people were detained in Belgium and two were arrested in France in a separate anti-terror sweep following a firefight Thursday in the eastern Belgian city of Verviers. Two suspected terrorists were killed and a third wounded in that raid on a suspected terrorist hideout. Federal magistrate Eric Van der Sypt said Friday the suspects were within hours of implementing a plan to kill police.

In Ireland, police arrested a suspected French-Algerian militant at Dublin Airport as he tried to enter the country using a false passport. The man, who was being interrogated, landed on a European watch list after expressing support in social media for last week's attacks, authorities said.

In more than a dozen raids Friday, Belgian forces found four military-style weapons including Kalashnikov assault rifles and several police uniforms, Van der Sypt said. Belgian officials were reasonably confident they dismantled the core of an important terrorist cell but the magistrate said more suspects could be at large.

"I cannot confirm that we arrested everyone in this group," he told reporters.

Authorities said most of those detained or killed in Belgium were citizens and some had returned from Syria. They stressed that the targets of their crackdown had no known connections to last week's attacks in France.



Hagel warns of military overreach in Middle East

By Jon Harper

Stars and Stripes

FORT BLISS, Texas — Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel warned against American military overreach Thursday in what may be his last major speech as Pentagon chief.

Hagel's remarks came at a time when America is again deploying troops to Iraq to try to defeat insurgents. The U.S. military has also been injected into Syria's civil war, waging an air campaign and planning to train moderate Syrian rebels to take on the Islamic State terrorist group and other radical factions.

Still, the Iraqi government and some in Congress are calling for the Obama administration to step up American military involvement in the conflict against the militants.

Hagel said the terrorism and fighting roiling the Middle East are being driven by deep tribal, religious and ethnic tensions.

"We can't fix that," he said during a troop talk at Fort Bliss. "The United States of America can't fix that problem. No country outside that region can fix that problem."

He argued that some people

are too quick to look for a military solution.

"Sometimes there are not immediate answers," he said. "We Americans can test that. We can fight for that [and say], 'Of course there's an answer to the problem. We'll fix it. Let's go to war. Let's commit troops. ...' [But] we have blundered when we have tried to force issues and tried to force answers on other people."

Hagel didn't mention specific "blunders," but he has been critical of the 2003-2011 Iraq War in the past. Later in his remarks, he noted the toll that the post-9/11 wars have taken on the armed forces.

He noted the efforts that the Pentagon and the Department of Veterans Affairs have taken to improve the health of the force, including providing more assistance for those dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Although he doesn't expect the U.S. to get involved in extended land wars in the next few years, Hagel thinks that continued instability around the world will only create more need for possible U.S. military intervention.

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US troops preparing to train Syrian rebels

By Jon Harper

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — American troops are preparing to deploy to the Middle East to train moderate Syrian rebels, Pentagon officials said Friday.

About 400 trainers and an unspecified number of support personnel will go to Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatarto conduct the training, which is expected to begin in early spring, according to Cmdr. Elissa Smith, a Pentagon spokeswoman.

"This number could fluctuate based on course load, course requirements and other variables," Smith said in an emailed statement.

Pentagon officials did not identify which U.S. military units will be involved nor exactly when the troops will begin to deploy.

Col. Ed Thomas, a spokesman for Gen. Martin Dempsey, said the deployments will begin "soon," but the final dates have not been set.

The move is part of a larger U.S. and international effort to combat the Islamic State terrorist group, which has taken over large chunks of Syria and Iraq. About 1,200 American troops are in Iraq training and advising Iraqi security forces and the Kurdish peshmerga as they prepare to conduct large-scale offensive operations against the Islamic State group.

Thomas said the Syrian moderates will receive individual

and group training with small arms and heavy weapons.

U.S. Central Command is conducting a bombing campaign in both countries to degrade the Islamic State group's military capabilities. Coalition partners from the Middle East and Europe are participating in the air war.

Countries in the coalition have also pledged to send trainers to build up the moderate Syrian rebel force, according to defense officials, but they have not officially announced their intentions.

The Pentagon hopes to train about 5,000 moderate Syrian rebels each year as the conflict evolves. The moderates are battling the Islamic State and other radical groups, as well as the Bashar Assad regime.

"The goal for the train and equip program is to build the capabilities of the moderate Syrian fighters to defend the Syrian people; stabilize areas under opposition control; promote the conditions for a negotiated settlement of the conflict in Syria; and empower trainees to go on the offensive" against the Islamic State group, Smith said.

Thomas said the total number of U.S. troops that will ultimately be committed to the train-and-equip effort will depend on how many people international partners are willing to contribute.

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Report: Exosuits have unrecognized potential

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — It's no secret that U.S. armed forces are working on high-tech robotic suits, known as exosuits, to enhance the average servicemember's capabilities and to develop the military's very own Iron Man.

But while many are excited about the potential of an army of Tony Starks vanquishing the free world's enemies, a new report by the Center for a New American Security suggests exosuits have unrecognized potential when it comes

to humanitarian assistance and ship-based operations.

The 28-page report, "Between Iron Man and Aqua Man: Exosuit Opportunities in Maritime Operations," suggests that exosuits technology will be available within five years and could greatly benefit U.S. maritime operations. It finds that "damage control is the application with the greatest opportunity for capability enhancement and that use in deck operations and maintenance would provide major cost savings."

Marine general to head intelligence agency

WASHINGTON — A Marine three-star general will take control of the Defense Intelligence Agency later this month, marking the first time an African-American or a Marine has held that post, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

Maj. Gen. Vincent Stewart

will be promoted to lieutenant general and will take over the DIA on Jan. 23. His promotion was confirmed last month by the U.S. Senate.

Most recently, Stewart was serving as the head of Marine Forces Cyber Command, and he has also been the Corps' intelligence director.

From The Associated Press

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Lacy, Lynch spearhead teams' attacks

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Seahawks' Marshawn Lynch and the Packers' Eddie Lacy are known for being punish-

Their conduct in front of the cam-

eras couldn't be any different.
Lynch isn't a talker, to put it mildly. The affable Lacy can charm reporters and teammates with an easygoing

Trying to tackle Lynch and Lacy won't be easy for the defenses when Green Bay visits Seattle on Sunday in the NFC title game.

What are they like with the ball?

Lacy will take that question.

I mean personally, I don't know him, I never met him or anything," he said. "But we're both physical backs. We don't care who's in front of us. When you come to hit us, you've got to come ... you've got to try your hardest to get us down."

Sure-handed tackles become of utmost importance. Defenders will have to swarm to the ball to prevent the runner from bouncing off a tackle and rumbling for extra yards.

It is Lynch's specialty.

"He's a dog — his whole demeanor," Seattle safety Earl Thomas said. "He's

a man amongst boys out there."
One who had his fourth straight season of at least 1,200 yards rushing. Lynch finished the regular season with 1,306 yards on 280 carries and 13

The Seahawks led the league in averaging 172.6 yards rushing per game, with mobile quarterback Rus-sell Wilson also posing a threat on the

"We're kind of just reaping the benefits of the philosophy but then how the players go out and execute it," Seahawks offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell said. "We got as good of guy you'd ever want to hand it to with handing it to Marshawn."

Packers linebacker Julius Peppers, a 13-year yeteran described Lynch as

a 13-year veteran, described Lynch as "one of the hardest runners I think in football in my opinion. Very physical and violent runner."

It sounds a lot like trying to tackle

Lacy.
"Those guys are similar in the sense that you have to have multiple defenders trying to get those guys

down," Peppers said. Whereas Lynch and Wilson share top billing in the Seattle attack, Lacy and his production can get overshadowed by Aaron Rodgers. The quarterback is having an MVP-caliber year, even after being slowed by a strained left calf

The injury makes Lacy an even more important piece to Green Bay's offense. As evidence, Lacy was added to the injury report as a precaution on Thursday as a limited participant be-cause of a sore knee.

"I was just being conservative, so I pulled him in about the middle of practice," coach Mike McCarthy said on Thursday. "I think Eddie will be

ready to go on Sunday. Just the coach was nervous, all right?"

The running game stalled in a 1-2 start, when Green Bay played Seattle, the New York Jets and Detroit to open the season three of the ton defens the season — three of the top defenses against the run in the league.

The Packers were also a bit more

conservative early on in giving Lacy carries, while putting added emphasis on catching passes out of the

He has turned into Green Bay's

third-leading receiver as a check-down threat for Rodgers, while the production on the ground has steadily increased behind an effective offen-

Lacy finished with 1,139 yards on 246 carries with nine touchdowns. Counting last week's playoff win against Detroit, Lacy is averaging 99 yards in his past seven games.

"His ability to be a three-down player is of primary importance to us," McCarthy said. "He's breaking tackles, but we're going against an excellent tackling defense, so this will be a big challenge."

The Seahawks figured out Lacy in the 36-16 win over Green Bay in the league opener in Seattle. Lacy was held to 12 carries for 34 yards before leaving the game with a concussion following a hit from safety Kam Changallar

At least that's how it was reported

"Uh I remember it wasn't a concussion. It was 'got rung my bell," Lacy said with a laugh to a gaggle of reporters. "So I ran into Kam! That's what happened."

Ohio State quarterback Jones passes on draft

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Not so long ago, the only reason a lot of people knew Cardale Jones was for a thoughtless comment on social media about not

wanting to go to school.

Now the national-champion quarterback is also a shining example for educators preaching to kids to get a

It's a turnaround almost as dra-matic as the one he has taken in his Ohio State career over the past two

The big quarterback surprised a packed crowd Thursday, declaring at his old high school in Cleveland that he would stay at Ohio State rather than jump into the NFL Draft.

"My decision was very simple," he said. "I'm going to return next year for school."

That sentence was met with audible gasps in the gymnasium, then applause from students and teachers.

Many thought that Jones, who could have jumped to the pros after a year spent at military school, a redshirt season and a year capped by starring for the Buckeyes, would make himself available for the draft. After all, it was just over two years

ago he posted on his Twitter account: "Why should we have to go to class if we came here to play FOOTBALL, we ain't come to play SCHOOL classes are

Coach Urban Meyer suspended him. Jones later apologized, and now calls it an embarrassing moment in his life. He said he has matured a lot since sending out that message. He proved it by saying he was coming

back to the Buckeyes.

In his only college starts, he led
Ohio State to wins in the Big Ten title
game, the Sugar Bowl and Monday

might's national championship.

"It's everybody's dream and goal
when they play football or any collegiate sport to make it to the next level," he said, wearing a gray T-shirt with his nickname "12 Gauge" because of his uniform number and shotgunlike arm. "At my point in my career, I feel like it's best for me to go back to school. One of the most important things for me to do is graduate.

When I make that decision to play in the NFL, I want to be done with school. I want to devote all of my time and all my effort to the film room and getting better at playing the quarter back position."

Just a few weeks after coming from anonymity to take over the Ohio State quarterback job, his decision was broadcast live on ESPN.

The cable network's draft guru, Mel kiper Jr., said Jones could go as high as the second round of the draft. He, like many football experts, believed Jones, who recently became a father, would jump to the pros.

"We put everything on a scale for him and education outweighed every-thing else. This shows the maturity he does have," said his mentor and coach at Glenville Academic Campus, Ted Ginn. "I'm so proud. He's a great kid, very intelligent, smart."

Cardinals ink pitcher Lynn to 3-year, \$22 million deal

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — St. Louis pitcher Lance Lynn was among 21 players who avoided salary arbitration by agreeing to contracts Thursday, reaching a \$22 million, three-year deal with the Cardinals.

Milwaukee catcher Martin Maldonado agreed to a \$1.95 million, two-year contract, and 10 players struck one year.

contract, and 19 players struck one-year

Among the 175 players who filed for arbitration Tuesday, 149 were on track to swap proposed arbitration figures with their teams Friday. A majority of those were expected to settle before the exchange.

High-profile players still set to swap included pitchers David Price, Stephen Strasburg, Jeff Samardzija, Rick Porcello, Ian Kennedy, Doug Fister and Kenley Jan-

Chris Davis, Matt Wieters, Austin Jackson and Mark Trumbo were among the position players.

Pittsburgh had the most players in arbitration with 12, while Baltimore had 10, and Kansas City and Oakland nine each.

Lynn, a 27-year-old right-hander, gets \$7 million this year and \$7.5 million in each of the following two seasons. He earned \$535,000 last year, when he was 15-10 with a 2.74 ERA in 33 starts.

Cardinals outfielder Peter Bourjos, coming off hip surgery in November, agreed at \$1.65 million and St. Louis backup catcher Tony Cruz at \$775,000.

Maldonado, who hit .234 with four homers and 16 RBIs, gets a \$50,000 sign-ing bonus and salaries of \$800,000 this year and \$1.1 million in 2016.

The Chicago White Sox agreed with right-handed pitchers Hector Noesi (\$1.95 million), Javy Guerra (\$937,500) and Nate Jones (\$660,000), and Washington reached deals with catchers Wilson Ramos (\$3.55 million) and Jose Lobaton (\$1.2 million), right-hander Craig Stammen (\$2.25 million) and second baseman Danny Espinosa (\$1.8 million).

Cleveland settled with right-hander Carlos Carrasco (\$2,337,500), left-hander Marc Rzepczynski (\$2.4 million) and third baseman Lonnie Chisenhall (\$2.25 mil-

Also agreeing were Texas reliever Neftali Feliz (\$4,125,000), Atlanta left-hander James Russell (\$2,425,000), Los Angeles Angels catcher Hector Santiago (\$2.29 million), Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Chris Heisey (\$2.16 million), Toronto pitcher Brett Cecil (\$2,475,000), Chicago Cubs left-hander Felix Doubront (\$1,925,000) and Houston catcher Carlos Corporan (\$975,000).

Johnson to wear **D-Backs cap into Hall**

PHOENIX - Randy Johnson will wear an Arizona Diamondbacks cap on his plaque in baseball's Hall of

Johnson had said it was out of his hands as to whether the cap would be from the Diamondbacks, from his previous team, the Seattle Mariners, or have no insignia at all.

Johnson said Friday that after thinking about the issue and confer-ring with Hall of Fame representatives, they came to the decision that "the Diamondbacks logo on my Hall of Fame plaque makes the most sense.'



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Cavs get past Lakers

 $The \, Associated \, Press$

LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant and LeBron James traded hugs, big shots and verbal jabs all night with warmth and humor. In the waning minutes, they went head-to-head in yet another entertaining duel between two of this generation's greatest talents.

Although LeBron ended up topping his friendly rival again, King James relished what could be one of his final chances to share a court with one of his few true neers.

James scored 36 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers snapped their six-game losing streak with a 109-102 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday night despite Bryant's 19 points and career-high 17 assists.

"It's always fun, a pleasure," James said. "It's two of the best competitors this game has probably ever seen, and to be on the same floor with him, somebody I looked up to when I was a child growing up, seeing him go straight from high school to the NBA, it's fun, it's great. I hated him being out of the NBA last year because of injury, and it's fun having him back."

Bryant set a career high for assists in his 1,279th regular-season game, playing in his second straight after skipping three of four games to rest his 36-year-old body.

James and Bryant laughed and joked throughout the game, exchanging good-natured jibes while waiting to check into the game together. James turned 30 last month, while Bryant's season has been defined by his weariness from a 19-year career.

"If we were contending for a championship, I'd be my same moody self," Bryant said. "But right now, I tend to have a little more perspective, knowing I really won't get a chance to play against him for much longer. So you want to enjoy it."

Kobe even had something to say when LeBron spectacularly clanged a dunk attempt off the rim.

"He said, 'That's what old age will get you,' "James said with a laugh. "You start missing dunks when you thought you was up there."

Rockets 112, Thunder 101: James Harden scored 15 of his 31 points in Houston's big first quarter against visiting Oklahoma City.

Kevin Durant had 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder. They have lost three of their last four games.

Bucks 95, Knicks 79: O.J. Mayo scored 22 points, Brandon Knight had 20 points and six steals, and Milwaukee extended New York's franchise-record losing streak to 16 with a rout in London.

Agreement could restore Paterno wins to Penn State

The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The NCAA on Friday announced a proposed agreement that would restore 112 wins by the school's football team that were wiped out during the Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal and would put the late Joe Paterno back as the winningest coach in major college football history.

College sports' governing body announced the proposed deal weeks before a scheduled trial in state court on the legality of the 2012 consent decree it would replace.

The new deal would direct a \$60 million fine to address child abuse be spent within Pennsylvania and would resolve the lawsuit.

The deal still must be approved by the NCAA board and the Penn State board. Penn State trustees' chairman Keith Masser told The Associated Press that board members were having a private discussion early Friday afternoon about the lawsuit.

The announcement follows the NCAA's decision last year to reinstate the school's full complement of football scholarships and let Penn State participate in post-season play, and comes just days after a federal judge declined to rule on the consent decree's constitutionality. The proposed settlement does not discuss the validity of the original consent decree.

The consent decree sprung from the scandal that erupted when Sandusky, a retired football assistant coach, was accused of sexually abusing boys, some of them on Penn State's campus.

It had eliminated all wins from 1998 — when police investigated a mother's complaint that Sandusky had showered with her son — through 2011, Paterno's final season as head coach after six decades with the team and the year Sandusky was charged

In September, the NCAA announced it was ending the school's ban on post-season play and restored its full complement of football scholarships earlier than scheduled.

The restored wins would include 111 under Paterno, who died in 2012, and the final victory of 2011, when the team was coached by defensive coach Tom Bradley. It would return Paterno's record to 409-136-3

Germans win WC race, Americans crash

KOENIGSSEE, Germany — Kathleen Martini steered Germany to a bobsled World Cup victory Friday in a race overshadowed by the heavy crash of the U.S. crew of Jamie Greubel Poser and Lauryn Williams.

Poser crashed heavily in the first heat while heading for a top-3 finish. She and pusher Williams bumped a wall and overturned, coming down the track upside down before coming to a stop. They were helped out of the bobsled and walked slowly from the scene.

Martini took advantage of a mishap by first-run leader Elana Meyers Taylor of the United States, whose bobsled went on its side in the same area as Poser's vehicle. The American got the bobsled back on track but dropped down.

■ Lindsey Jacobellis of the United States won the women's snowboard cross for her fourth world title Friday, while Luca Matteotti won the men's event for his first major championship.

Nelly Moenne Loccoz of France was the fastest starter and led the women's final before being overtaken by Jacobellis, who also won the word title in 2005, '07 and '11.

■ Kaitlyn Farrington, the American snowboarder who pulled off one of the biggest surprises at the Sochi Olympics, is retiring because of a degenerative spine condition.

The 25-year-old raised in Bellevue, Idaho, won the gold medal on the halfpipe last year, defeating previous champions Torah Bright and Kelly Clark.

Ali back in hospital for 'follow-up care'

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky — Muhammad Ali was back in the hospital Thursday for follow-up care related to a severe urinary tract infection, his second stint in the hospital in the past four weeks.

The three-time former heavyweight champion was admitted to an undisclosed hospital earlier this week, Ali family spokesman Bob Gunnell said Thursday. Ali is in stable condition.

Ali was hospitalized on Dec. 20 with what was initially believed to be a mild case of pneumonia. Doctors later determined Ali was suffering from a urinary tract infection, not pneumonia, Gunnell said.

Sources: Ray Rice and Ravens settle grievance

Ray Rice has reached a settlement on his grievance against the Baltimore Ravens, according to two people familiar with the case.

The three-time Pro Bowl running back was seeking slightly more than \$3.5 million for wrongful termination after the Ravens released him once the video of him knocking out his then-fiancee in an elevator was released publicly in September.

Hole-in-1 helps McIlroy's pursuit of Kaymer

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Rory McIlroy made his first competitive hole-in-one as a professional as part of a brilliant back nine that propelled his pursuit of Martin Kaymer in the second round of the Abu Dhabi Championship on Friday.

The world No. 1 threw his hands in the air and high-fived playing partner Rickie Fowler after his 9-iron from 177 yards at the par-3 15th landed a yard from the hole, hopped right and trickled in.

McIlroy's 6-under 66 put him in third on 11 under and two shots behind Kaymer, who followed up an opening-round 64 with a 67. Belgium's Thomas Pieters (67) is second on 12 under.

Wild halt losing streak

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Goalie Devan Dubnyk had such an easy time in his Minnesota Wild debut Thursday night, he barely worked up a sweat.

When teammate Matt Cooke tossed him a towel in the locker room following a 7-0 win over the Buffalo Sabres, Dubnyk tossed it aside with a smile, saying he didn't need it.

"There were some nerves at the start, but the guys made it easy on me," he said. "Right from the drop of the puck, they were working."

Dubnyk made 18 saves in his 10th career shutout, which came a day after being acquired in a trade with Arizona. Jason Pominville had three assists and Thomas Vanek had a goal and assist against their former team in helping the Wild (19-19-5) snap an 0-5-1 skid.

The Sabres (14-28-3) continued their freefall by extending their losing streak to nine — all decided in regulation. No NHL team has done that since the Edmonton Oilers lost nine straight in regulation from Feb. 25 to March 15, 2007, according to STATS.

"When you get blown out, you get embarrassed in your own building, I feel bad for the fans that come here to support us," defenseman Josh Gorges said. "We go out and have an effort like that in front of them, they don't deserve that. They deserve better."

The Wild jumped to a 2-0 lead in a first period in which they outshot Buffalo 15-3. And they scored five times on their first 25 shots before the second period was over in rebounding from a 7-2 loss at Pittsburgh on Tuesday night.

Zach Parise, Kyle Brodziak and Erik Haula had a goal and assist each in a game the Wild enjoyed their largest margin of victory in franchise history. Cooke, Matt Dumba and Jared Spurgeon also scored for Minnesota.

Parise opened the scoring 5:13 in when he was allowed to walk in front untouched from the left corner. Vanek scored a power-play goal in the final minute, when his one-timer from the right circle banked in off the far post.

The Wild scored three times in the second period — including Brodziak's shorthanded goal. Cooke and Haula capped the route in the third period.

Dubynk's best save came 5:05 into the second period, when he got his right pad out to stop Tyler Ennis' attempt, while cutting across the front of the crease.

Canucks 4, Flyers 0: Henrik Sedin had a goal and an assist, and Ryan Miller made 29 saves to lead visiting Vancouver over the Philadelphia.

Bruins 3, Rangers 0: Tuukka Rask stopped 30 shots for his second shutout, Patrice Bergeron scored a first-period goal, and host Boston won its fifth straight by beating New York.

Senators 4, Canadiens 1: Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored his first goal of the season to help lead host Ottawa past Montreal.

Lightning 3, Oilers 2: ondrej Palat scored a pair of third-period goals, and Eastern Conference-leading Tampa Bay beat visiting Edmonton.

Red Wings 3, Blues 2 (OT):

Pavel Datsyuk scored at 4:57 of overtime to give visiting Detroit a win over St. Louis.

Avalanche 4, Panthers 2: Nick Holden scored the go-ahead goal in the third period to lift visiting Colorado over Florida.

Jets 2, Stars 1: Ondrej Pavelec made a season-high 46 saves, leading visiting Winnipeg past Dallas.

Flames 4, Coyotes 1: David Jones, Mark Giordano and Sean Monahan scored third-period goals, and Joni Ortio made 28 saves in his second win in two starts this season to lead visiting Calgary past Arizona.

Sharks 3, Maple Leafs 1: Tyler Kennedy and Patrick Marleau scored goals 15 seconds apart in the first period, and host San Jose beat reeling Toronto.

