

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## 'Sniper' has big \$105.3M 1st weekend

From wire reports

Clint Eastwood's R-rated Iraq War drama "American Sniper" opened in January like a superhero movie in July, taking in a record \$105.3 million over the Martin Luther King Jr. four-day weekend.

The film's success obliterated forecasts and set numerous box-office records. It easily surpassed "Avatar" to become the biggest January weekend ever.

This was actually the third week of release for "American Sniper," which played in just a handful of theaters for two weeks. That release helped stoke demand for the film, in which Bradley Cooper stars as Navy SEAL marksman Chris Kyle.

The resounding wide-release opening is also tops for the 84-year-old Eastwood. And it, in one weekend, gives the Oscar best-picture race something it was lacking: a big box-office hit. "American Sniper" is nominated for six Academy Awards.

"The Wedding Ringer" was in second place for the weekend, meeting Sony's projections with an estimated \$21 million. The comedy is expected to add \$4 million to that amount by the end of the four-day weekend.

With no other family films in the mix, "Paddington" rounded out the top three with \$19.3 million.

"Taken 3," last week's box-office winner, was in fourth place and added about \$14.1 million in the Friday-Sunday period. The Liam Neeson film has made about \$62.8 million to date.

"Selma" added \$8.3 million in the three-day span, making it fifth overall. It has pulled in about \$26 million since its limited Christmas Day release.

## Shots fired near Biden's home

The Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — Law enforcement officials have boosted security at the Delaware home of Vice President Joe Biden after several gunshots rang out from a vehicle speeding by the property over the weekend.

The vice president and his wife were not at their Wilmington home Saturday night when the shots were fired and there were no reports of injuries, authorities said Sunday.

Biden's office said the vice president and his wife, Jill Biden, were briefed Saturday night, as was President Barack Obama. Biden's office referred

all other questions to the Secret Service, which protects the president and vice president and their families. The vice president was set to speak Monday in Wilmington at a breakfast honoring civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Secret Service spokesman Robert Hoback said the shots were fired about 8:25 p.m. Saturday on a public road outside the home's secure perimeter. Biden's home is several hundred yards from the road. Secret Service personnel stationed at the top of the long, winding driveway leading to Biden's home heard the shots, saw the vehicle drive past the home at a high rate of speed and flee the scene.

Young Cho, who lives two houses up from the Bidens, told The Associated Press by telephone that he heard several gunshots Saturday evening.

"We heard the shots, four of them," Cho said. "But next door, there is always Secret Service, so I wasn't too worried. I feel really safe here. But it was really strange to hear those kinds of shots next to the vice president's house."

Authorities searched outside the residence and nearby homes to determine whether any rounds hit anything. On Sunday afternoon, six sport utility vehicles were near the entrance of the property, providing a heavy security presence.

## Lawmakers invoke King in Ferguson

The Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — Leading black members of Congress took to a church pulpit in Ferguson, Mo., on Sunday to trace a direct link from slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy to the fight for criminal justice reform after recent fatal police shootings across the U.S.

Rep. William Lacy Clay Jr. spoke to parishioners at Wellspring United Methodist Church, just blocks from where violent protests broke out after a white Ferguson police officer shot an unarmed black man, Michael Brown, 18, and again after a grand jury declined to indict the officer.

"We need to be outraged when local law enforcement and the justice system repeatedly allow young, unarmed black men to encounter police and then wind up dead with no consequences," the St. Louis Democrat said. "Not just in Ferguson, but over and over

again across this country."

Clay was joined by eight members of the Congressional Black Caucus at the service a day after several caucus members met with young protesters, many of whom have been critical of older elected officials and an earlier generation of activists.

On Sunday, Clay sharply criticized St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch's handling of the grand jury that investigated Brown's shooting. He cited an anonymous jury member's lawsuit seeking to publicly speak out about the grand jury proceedings, which aren't public. He also noted legal and ethical complaints filed over the prosecutor's actions, including allowing witnesses whose testimony had been discredited to testify before the grand jury.

But he expressed faith in two federal civil rights investigations examining Brown's death and broader police practices in

Ferguson — invoking King's efforts a half-century ago that led to federal intervention in state and local civil rights cases. He also quoted King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail."

"We are faced with the obvious failure of local officials, who are either unable, or unwilling, to provide equal justice under the law," he said. "So once again, our community looks toward the federal government to make the promises enshrined in the Constitution finally ring true."

Caucus Chairman Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-N.C., said the group planned to push for broad reforms, such as expanded police use of body cameras and independent investigations of fatal police shootings.

Protests have been ongoing in and around the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson since Brown's fatal shooting in August, though protesters have largely shifted their focus to changing laws in Washington and Missouri.

# US, Turkey not united on next step in Syria

*The Washington Post*

A plan to expand the U.S.-led coalition bombing campaign against the Islamic State in Syria, along the Turkish border west of the besieged town of Kobani, has been put on hold after Turkey and the Obama administration failed to agree on its parameters.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan "continues to have a different geographic priority," a senior administration official said, and is still primarily focused on Aleppo and Syrian President Bashar Assad.

"We want to go after ISIL," the official said, referring to the Islamic State.

Assad's military surrounds, and regularly bombards from the air, Western-backed moderate opposition fighters and civilians in Aleppo, Syria's second-largest city, in the northwest corner of the country. Turkey fears that Aleppo's fall would not only add to the 1.6 million refugees who have already crossed its border from Syria and Iraq, but also would undermine its main priority of pushing Assad from power.

The White House agrees that Assad's departure is an important goal, but its principal concern is the Islamic State, whose forces occupy much of lightly populated northern and east-

## EU: Ally with Arabs to fight terrorism

*The Associated Press*

BRUSSELS — The European Union on Monday called for an anti-terrorism alliance with Arab countries to boost cooperation and information-sharing in the wake of deadly attacks and arrests across Europe.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said Monday that "we need an alliance. We need to strengthen our way of cooperating together."

Mogherini later met with Arab League Secretary General Nabil Al-Araby. She also attended a meeting of the EU foreign ministers who are preparing for a summit of EU leaders in February focused

on terrorism.

Some ministers emphasized the importance of working with Muslim countries, rather than blaming them for the problem.

"They will continue to be in the frontline, and we have to work closely with them to protect both those countries and the European Union countries," British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said.

Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders said the police raids launched in his country last week to break up a suspected network of foreign fighters demonstrate that information-sharing is

the key to success.

"We have to exchange information in Europe and outside Europe to really follow what is going on and to prevent any acts that could be launched on our territory," he said.

Many ministers said no quick solution to the challenge of foreign fighters is likely, and that the real answer is to help end the conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

"That is what long-term will provide stability and security in this region, and to address the root causes of terrorism and radicalization as well," said Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom.

ern Syria, along with a wide swath of Iraq. The U.S. began airstrikes against the militants in both countries last summer, while still resisting entreaties from Turkey and other regional partners to become directly involved in the four-year fight to oust Assad.

As Washington and Ankara have struggled toward a meet-

ing of the minds, President Barack Obama last month authorized U.S. military and diplomatic officials to pursue a plan to use U.S. air attacks against Islamic State forces along the Turkish border, some distance northeast of Aleppo and considerably to the west of where the strikes have been focused so far. Officials who

described the plan, and the disagreements, spoke on the condition of anonymity about the sensitive diplomatic matter.

Under the plan, Turkey would then populate the area with refugees, opposition fighters and its own special forces, who could help coordinate additional airstrikes as the Islamic State was pushed eastward.

# Manila bids farewell to 'living saint' as pope heads home

*The Associated Press*

MANILA, Philippines — Pope Francis flew home Monday after a weeklong trip to Asia, where he called for unity in Sri Lanka after a civil war and asked Filipinos to be "missionaries of the faith" in the world's most populous continent after a record crowd joined his final Mass in the Philippine capital.

President Benigno Aquino III, Catholic church leaders and about 400 street children yelling "Pope Francis we love you" saw him off at a Manila air base, where the pontiff, car-

rying a black travel bag, boarded a Philippine Airlines plane for Rome. Standing at the top of the stairs, the pope waved, slightly bowed his head before the crowd and then walked into the plane.

Hundreds of thousands of flag-waving Filipinos lined Manila's streets to get a final glimpse of Francis, 78, aboard an open-sided, white pope-mobile. As he passed, many shrieked, called his name and wept in joy.

"He's my No. 1 world leader," said Rita Fernandez, 63, a mother of four who stood on a

street near the Apostolic Nunciature in Manila where Francis stayed during his four-day visit.

"He rides on a bus. He flew to Tacloban to visit the typhoon survivors despite the storm and he stops to talk to the poor. He's a living saint," said Fernandez, who readied a cellphone with a camera and wore a yellow shirt with the pope's picture.

Such passion and devotion visibly energized the leader of a 1.2 billion-strong Roman Catholic church confronted by secularism, clergy sex abuse scandals and other daunting

problems.

"He was very happy with the hospitality," Aquino told reporters. "He said he really felt the warmth."

Francis dedicated his four-day trip to the Philippines to the poor, marginalized and victims of injustice. A crowd estimated by officials at a record 6 million poured into Manila's rain-soaked streets and its biggest park Sunday as Francis ended his Asian pilgrimage with an appeal for Filipinos to protect their young from sin and vice so they can become missionaries of the faith.



# Legacies on the line

The Associated Press

Tom Brady against ol' pal Richard Sherman and the rest of the best defense in the NFL.

Russell Wilson against Darrelle Revis, former teammate Brandon Browner and whatever schemes Bill Belichick dreams up.

Marshawn Lynch and LeGarrette Blount and their tough-to-tackle running styles.

The occasional well-designed — and well-executed — trick play.

There is a lot to look forward to when Wilson's Seattle Seahawks, the defending champions, take on Brady's New England Patriots, the dominant franchise of the 2000s, in the Super Bowl at Glendale, Ariz., on Feb. 1. Seattle can become the first team to win consecutive NFL championships since Brady, Belichick and Co. did it a decade ago.

In nearly a half-century of Super Bowls — this will be the 49th — there's never been this long a stretch without a repeat champion.

On Super Sunday last year, the Seahawks beat Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos 43-8.

After Seattle (14-4) and New England (14-4) won their conference title games at home Sunday, some Las Vegas sports books had the Seahawks — heading to the franchise's third Super Bowl — as 1-point favorites, while others made the game a pick 'em.

New England reached its eighth Super Bowl, equaling the Dallas Cowboys and Pittsburgh Steelers for most in league history. It's the sixth time in the past 14 years the Patriots have made it this far; they won trophies after the 2001, 2003 and 2004 seasons.

But they lost in their past two Super Bowl appearances, after the 2007 and 2011 seasons, both times against Eli Manning and the New York Giants.

"It's hard to compare, year to year. I think every situation's different," the 37-

year-old Brady said. "We've had a lot of good teams in the past. This one is going to have to win a very important game to kind of leave our legacy."

Here are some things to know about the Super Bowl:

**You mad bro?:** The last time these two teams met was in October 2012, when Wilson was a rookie who threw for the go-ahead touchdown with less than 90 seconds left, Sherman was not yet as highly regarded for his cornerback play — or as widely known for his confidence — but intercepted Brady, and Seattle won 24-23. That game was best known for what happened afterward: Sherman's taunting tweet aimed at Brady.

**The QBs:** Will Brady win his fourth Lombardi Trophy? Will Wilson win his second? Brady owns all sorts of postseason QB records, including 49 touchdown passes and six trips to the Super Bowl. Wilson, meanwhile, is 10-0 for his career in games against quarterbacks who own at least one ring — but only because he overcame four interceptions and a half-time quarterback rating of zero to rally Seattle in the closing minutes against Aaron Rodgers on Sunday. "I just continue to believe in our guys," said Wilson, who wept after beating Green Bay.

**The coaches:** New England's Belichick owns a record 21 postseason wins. Seattle's Pete Carroll preceded Belichick as New England's coach, then was a national title-winning college coach at Southern California, before returning to the pros. Both come from defensive backgrounds. Neither is afraid to call a trick play. Punter Jon Ryan's touchdown pass on a fake field goal for Seattle's first points Sunday. One of Brady's three TD tosses against the Colts went to left tackle Nate Solder. A week earlier, receiver Julian Edelman threw a 51-yard pass.

# Seahawks rally to stun Green Bay in overtime

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — After the chaos subsided, Earl Thomas sat in his locker quietly searching for a description.

For a change, the normally chatty Seattle Seahawks' All-Pro safety had little to say.

"It's hard to describe what just happened. We were down with 3 minutes left and look what happened. I'm clueless right now," Thomas said. "I don't know if I'm drained. I'm grateful."

By the time Jermaine Kearse caught a 35-yard touchdown from Russell Wilson 3:19 into overtime to give the Seahawks a 28-22 win over Green Bay and a second straight NFC championship Sunday, Seattle was spent.

The Seahawks were down 16-0 at half-time. They trailed 19-7 with 3:52 remaining. They watched Wilson throw four interceptions for the first time in his career. They needed two touchdowns and an onside kick recovery in the final 130 seconds just to reach overtime.

The noisiest venue in the NFL was left on mute for most of the afternoon.

All that made the eruption after Kearse's TD catch even more meaningful for a team that felt they were counted out a number of times through the season.

"As a true competitor, you can't have any doubt. You can't lack any confidence, because if you go out there, you're already beat if you lack that confidence and that belief in yourself and your teammates," Seattle wide receiver Doug Baldwin said. "So, never any doubt."

Seattle (14-4) already bucked history becoming the first defending champion since January 2006 to win a playoff game when the Seahawks beat Carolina in the divisional round. Now, Seattle is the first defending champion in a decade with a chance at repeating.

Waiting for them in Arizona: the last team to pull off back-to-back titles, the New

England Patriots.

For 56 minutes, it appeared Green Bay and Aaron Rodgers were destined for the Super Bowl. The Packers bullied the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball and took advantage of unusual mistakes by Wilson. The 16-0 lead at halftime could have been closer to 30-0 if not for a series of goal-line stands by the Seahawks' defense.

Even still, Green Bay took possession up by 12 with 5:04 left.

"We have lots to evaluate but the way we lost when we were sitting there with two scores late in the game with the ball you expect to put that thing away," Rodgers said.

Seattle had been ineffective all day until Wilson finally put a drive together with passes to Baldwin and Marshawn Lynch — initially ruled a touchdown but called back because he stepped out of bounds. Wilson finished with a 1-yard scoring run to cut the lead to 19-14 with 2:09 left.

The onside kick went high to Packers tight end Brandon Bostick, but he couldn't gather it, and Seattle's Chris Matthews recovered at the 50. Lynch sped and powered his way to a 24-yard TD run. On the 2-point conversion, Wilson — about to be sacked — threw a desperate pass hauled in by Luke Willson to make it 22-19 with 1:25 remaining.

Rodgers, limping on an injured calf, calmly led the Packers (13-5) downfield to set up Mason Crosby's fifth field goal, a 48-yarder with 14 seconds to go to force overtime.

Then Wilson and Kearse struck, with Kearse — the target on all four of Wilson's interceptions — beating Tramon Williams on the winning pass. Instead of a postgame television moment like last year with Richard Sherman shouting, Wilson was in tears.

"I'm usually pretty calm. But I just think that going through that game and going through the ups and the downs of the game, a lot of downs, more so than normal, that's for sure," Wilson said. "But just staying the course and continuing to believe in the guys I have around me."

# Brady, Belichick making sixth trip to Super Bowl

The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — No doubt about it. Bill Belichick and Tom Brady are the dominant coach-quarterback pair in the NFL. And they left no question that they deserve the sixth Super Bowl appearance of their brilliant careers.

Brady threw for 226 yards and three touchdowns, Belichick got his league-high 21st postseason win and the New England Patriots routed the Indianapolis Colts 45-7 in the AFC championship game Sunday night.

"We've had a lot of good teams in the past," Brady said. "This one is going to have to win a very important game to kind of leave our legacy."

It's the most important one. The Patriots (14-4) will face defending champion Seattle (14-4) on Feb. 1 in Glendale, Ariz., as they seek their first Super Bowl win in 10 years after winning three in four. The Seahawks beat the Green Bay Packers 28-22 in overtime in the NFC title game Sunday.

LeGarrette Blount ran for 148 yards and three touchdowns for New England in the second-most lopsided win in an AFC title game.

"You look around and people are posing with the trophy, everybody's smiling," Patriots linebacker Dont'a Hightower said in the locker room. "Everybody's smiling. Even coach Belichick is smiling."

Andrew Luck's expression was much different after his worst game since he was chosen with the top pick in the 2012 draft. He completed 12 of 33 passes for 126 yards, no touchdowns and two interceptions. He is 0-4 against the Patriots with every loss by at least 21 points.

"It's hard to find much good right now, fresh off this game," Luck said. "We had our sights set higher."

The Patriots lost AFC title games the past two seasons after losing to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl after the 2011 season.

"It's so much work just to get there and losing the last time we were there hurt," New

England safety Devin McCourty said. "We've got to play a great team. They wouldn't be there if they weren't and to go back two years in a row is tough, and they did it."

The Patriots have a pretty impressive history, too.

Brady surpassed John Elway for most Super Bowl appearances for a quarterback and tied defensive lineman Mike Lodish for most by any player. Belichick tied Don Shula for most Super Bowls for a coach and broke a tie with Tom Landry with his 21st postseason win. And New England tied Dallas and Pittsburgh for most appearances in the big game with eight.

"I know we've had some ups and downs this year," Brady said of a team that split its first four games, "but right now we're up, baby, and we're going to try to stay up for one more game."

Some things to take from the Patriots' blowout win:

**Up his hoodie sleeve:** One game after

receiver Julian Edelman threw a touchdown pass to beat Baltimore, the Patriots pulled out another trick play.

With a third-and-1 on the Colts' 16 early in the third quarter, offensive tackle Nate Solder reported as an eligible receiver and caught a touchdown pass from Brady to give New England a 24-7 lead.

"It was amazing to be a part of a game like that and have a cool play like that," Solder said. "The stars were aligned."

Brady noted that Solder played tight end his first year in college at Colorado.

"So I don't know," he said, "maybe we have more tricks up our sleeve."

**Coaching tree:** The Super Bowl will feature the two most recent Patriots coaches.

Belichick has had great success in New England, winning six AFC titles and three Super Bowls. But Seahawks coach Pete Carroll was a flop in Foxborough, coaching the team for three seasons and winning fewer games in each one than the year before.



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# Nadal cruises in Aussie opener

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — If Rafael Nadal needed any reminding of how long it has been since he won the Australian Open, he only needed to look at the "09" on the back of his left shoe.

After spending most of the last six months on the sidelines in an extended injury layoff, and after a first-round loss in a warm-up tournament, the 14-time Grand Slam winner said he was low on confidence coming into the first major of the year.

The Spaniard remedied that, for a while at least, with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 win over Russian veteran Mikhail Youzhny on day one of the Australian Open, where he won the title in 2009 and lost in the finals in 2012 and last year. Nadal hit 37 winners, and got his skipping, double fist-pumping celebration going during the third set.

"Very positive result for me. I think very good start," he said. "Always before the first match you always have the doubts, especially in this situation I'm arriving here. Never easy, but it was an important match for me ... a comfortable victory that give me some confidence."

The Australian Open is the only major Nadal hasn't won at least twice, and he has long wanted another triumph in Melbourne to complete a second full career Grand Slam. He has come close, losing to Novak Djokovic in a 5-hour, 53-minute epic final in 2012 and to Stan Wawrinka last year.

A right wrist injury and an appendix

operation that limited Nadal to seven matches after Wimbledon have taught him the benefits of patience.

And a Jan. 5 loss to Michael Berrer in Doha helps keep him grounded.

"When that happens after a tough period of injuries you arrive here with doubts," he said. "This first match was tough mentally for me."

"Today is very hard to speak about having (title) chances. I have one match. That's better than two days ago, but I need more to feel that I am ready for something very important here. It's the moment to really give to this victory the right value."

Roger Federer began his quest for an 18th major title, and his first in Australia since 2010, by beating Lu Yen-hsun of Taiwan 6-4, 6-2, 7-5 in a night match, and three-time Australian Open finalist Andy Murray opened his bid for an elusive Aussie title with a 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (3) win over Indian qualifier Yuki Bhambri.

On a day when eight of the seeded players tumbled out of the women's draw, wins by three of the stronger contenders stood out.

Second-ranked Maria Sharapova followed up her recent title at the Brisbane International with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Petra Martic, No. 3 Simona Halep opened play on Rod Laver Arena with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Karin Knapp and No. 7 Eugenie Bouchard, who reached the semifinals or better at three majors last year, beat Anna-Lena Friedsam 6-2, 6-4.

No. 10 Ekaterina Makarova, No. 14 Sara Errani, No. 21 Peng Shuai and No. 22

Karolina Pliskova also advanced.

Sharapova, the 2008 Australian Open champion, collected her fifth Grand Slam title by winning at the French Open last year and is determined to add more majors.

No. 5 Ana Ivanovic, who lost the Brisbane final to Sharapova on Jan. 10, was the highest-ranked of the first-round losers, serving 10 double-faults in a 1-6, 6-3, 6-2 loss to Czech qualifier Lucie Hradecka. No. 9 Angelique Kerber, No. 16 Lucie Safarova, No. 17 Carla Suarez Navarro and No. 27 Svetlana Kuznetsova, a two-time major winner, were also among the seeded players who stumbled on day one.

American Christina McHale was sick on court and saved a match point as she rallied to beat Stephanie Foretz 6-4, 1-6, 12-10.

Only two of the men's seeded players went out. No. 11 Ernests Gulbis wasted four match points before losing in five sets to Thanasi Kokkinakis, an 18-year-old Australian who went around the court high-fiving fans to celebrate. No. 15 Tommy Robredo retired with a groin injury after five games.

No. 7 Tomas Berdych, No. 10 Grigor Dimitrov, and No. 14 Kevin Anderson were among the men who advanced.

Top-ranked Djokovic, a four-time Australian Open champion, was due to open Tuesday against Aljaz Bedene. Women's No. 1 Serena Williams, who has won five titles at Melbourne Park, had a Tuesday night start against Alison Van Uytvanck.

# Zetterberg's trio rallies Red Wings

The Associated Press

DETROIT — By the time Henrik Zetterberg scored his third goal of the third period, a terrible start by the Detroit Red Wings was all but forgotten.

Zetterberg's hat trick capped an impressive Detroit comeback, lifting the Red Wings to a 6-4 victory over Buffalo on Sunday night in a game the Sabres led 3-0 after one period. It was Buffalo's 11th consecutive loss.

"We knew we had to play better to turn it around," Zetterberg said. "We knew that if we could get one, we were gonna get a few more. Also, if we started playing the way we should play, we would have a good chance of winning the game."

It was the sixth career hat trick for the Detroit captain, and it helped goalie Tom McCollum earn his first career victory. McCollum came on during the first period to replace Petr Mrazek, who allowed three goals on seven shots.

Buffalo barely put any pressure on the Red Wings after that early lead. McCollum, whose only other NHL appearance came in 2011, was credited with only seven saves in more than 45 minutes of action.

"There are going to be certain nights when world-class athletes are going to out-skill us and we believe that's what happened tonight," Buffalo coach Ted Nolan said.

Tyler Ennis scored twice for the Sabres, including a goal in the third that made it 5-4, but Zetterberg answered with his third goal of the period.

All 11 of Buffalo's defeats during this skid have been in regulation. The last time a team lost 11 in a row, all in regulation, was when Pittsburgh dropped 13 straight from Jan. 13-Feb. 12, 2004, according to STATS.

**Rangers 5, Penguins 2:** Rick Nash scored twice as the Rangers downed the host Penguins.

Derek Stepan also scored twice for the surging Rangers and Derick Brassard had a goal and an assist as New York improved to 15-3 over its past 18 games.

Henrik Lundqvist made 32 saves for the Rangers, who needed 26 seconds to jump in front and cruise.

Sidney Crosby scored his 15th goal of the season and David Perron added his fifth since coming over from Edmonton two weeks ago. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped just 13 of the 17 shots he faced before being pulled early in the second period.

**Stars 6, Blackhawks 3:** Cody Eakin, Erik Cole and Shawn Horcoff scored in the third period to lead the visiting Stars to a victory over the slumping Blackhawks.

Eakin also had a short-handed goal in the first as Dallas won for the third time in four games.

Tyler Seguin had a goal and an assist for Dallas. Seguin is tied with Rangers star Rick Nash for the NHL lead with 28 goals.

**Jets 4, Coyotes 3 (SO):** Bryan Little scored the only goal of the shootout after finding the net in regulation as host Winnipeg earned its fourth straight win.

Michael Frolik and Dustin Byfuglien also scored for the Jets (25-14-8), who wasted a late two-goal. Winnipeg has earned points in its last six games dating to Jan. 10.

Lauri Koripikoski and Tobias Rieder scored for the Coyotes (16-24-5) to force overtime.

# Sloppy Tar Heels top Virginia Tech

The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — North Carolina kept giving the ball away and didn't get much scoring from its best player. Still, the No. 15 Tar Heels did plenty to beat struggling Virginia Tech by double figures.

North Carolina held on for a sloppy 68-53 victory over the Hokies on Sunday night behind 16 points from Justin Jackson.

"Sometimes you've got to win ugly to have a really good year," coach Roy Williams said, "and that was an ugly win."

Brice Johnson added 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Tar Heels (14-4, 4-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), who shot 44 percent and overcame 17 turnovers — their most in nearly a month — by forcing 14 from Virginia Tech.

Marcus Paige, the ACC's preseason player of the year, finished with just eight points — matching his second-lowest-scoring game

of the year — on 3-for-10 shooting.

He briefly left the court midway through the second half after team spokesman Steve Kirschner said he was elbowed in his right hip and suffered a bruise.

Still, the Tar Heels did some things right: They held the Hokies scoreless for nearly 7 minutes and outrebounded them 49-22, allowing them just four offensive boards.

"It's just really hard when you get beat on the glass" like that, Virginia Tech coach Buzz Williams said.

Adam Smith had 11 points to lead Virginia Tech (8-9, 0-4), which cut an 18-point deficit to eight and closed to 61-53 on Smith's three-pointer with just over 2 minutes left.

Theo Pinson countered with a dunk, and J.P. Tokoto, Brice Johnson and Nate Britt combined to hit 5 of 6 free throws in the final minute.

**No. 23 Northern Iowa 60, Missouri State 46:** Seth Tuttle

scored 22 points with 10 rebounds and host Northern Iowa cruised to its fifth straight win.

Deon Mitchell had 11 points for the Panthers (16-2, 5-1 MVC), who moved into a tie for second place in the Valley with Indiana State with the win.

**Washington 85, Oregon 77:** Andrew Andrews scored a season-high 21 points and Nigel Williams-Goss added 20 to lead host Washington.

Washington (13-4, 2-3 Pac-12) trailed by 10 points at halftime but the Huskies rallied in the second half for their second win in a row after losing four straight.

**Indiana 80, Illinois 74:** Indiana survived an early run and battled back on the road.

James Blackmon Jr. and Troy Williams led the Hoosiers (14-4, 4-1 Big Ten) with 21 points each.

# Late shot boosts Pelicans past Raptors

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Tyreke Evans scored on a driving layup with 1.6 seconds left and the New Orleans Pelicans beat Toronto 95-93 on Sunday, their first victory in seven meetings with the Raptors.

Evans scored 26 points, and Alexis Ajinca had 22 to help the Pelicans win without injured starters Anthony Davis and Jrue Holiday. Davis and Holiday sat out for the second straight game. New Orleans bounced back after watching a 14-point halftime lead turn into a 12-point deficit midway through the fourth quarter.

"Doing that without Jrue and AD was big for us," Pelicans coach Monty Williams after his team rebounded from a loss at lowly Philadelphia on Friday night.

Williams said Davis could return Monday night at New York against the Knicks, but said he won't rush the former first overall pick back into the lineup because of how hard Davis plays.

DeMar DeRozan led Toronto with 22 points. The Raptors have lost seven of their last nine games.

**Spurs 89, Jazz 69:** Tiago Splitter scored 14 points, Kawhi Leonard had 12

points and nine rebounds and host San Antonio never trailed while holding Utah to a season-low scoring total.

Tim Duncan added 11 points in 23 minutes for San Antonio, which has won three straight — including the last two with Leonard back in the lineup.

**Thunder 127, Magic 99:** Kevin Durant had 21 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, and Oklahoma City ran past Orlando.

The Thunder never trailed, and led by as many as 38 on their way to snapping a four-game road losing streak.