

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Islamic State makes threat to kill 2 Japanese hostages, demands ransom

*The Associated Press*

CAIRO — The Islamic State group threatened to kill two Japanese hostages Tuesday unless they receive \$200 million in 72 hours, directly demanding the ransom from Japan's premier during his visit to the Middle East. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vowed to save the men, saying, "Their lives are the top priority."

Abe and other Japanese officials declined to discuss whether they'd pay the ransom for captives Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa, though their armed forces generally operate only in a self-defense capacity at home. Their kidnapping also immediately recalled the 2004 beheading of a Japanese backpacker in Iraq, carried out by the Islamic State group's predecessor over Japan's involvement in the U.S.-led war there.

Tuesday's video, identified as being made by the Islamic State group's al-Furqan media arm and posted on militant websites associated with the extremist group, mirrored other hostage threats it has made. Japanese officials said they would analyze the tape to verify its authenticity, though Abe offered no hesitation as he pledged to free the men while speaking to journalists in Jerusalem.

"It is unforgivable," said Abe as he wrapped up a six-day visit to the Middle East. He added: "Extremism and Islam are completely different things."

In the video, the two men appear in orange jumpsuits with a rocky hill in the background, a masked militant dressed in black standing between them. The scene resembles others

**'It is unforgivable. Extremism and Islam are completely different things.'**

**Shinzo Abe**  
prime minister of Japan

featuring the five hostages previously beheaded by the Islamic State group, which controls a third of Iraq and Syria.

"To the prime minister of Japan: Although you are more than 8,000 and 500 kilometers (5,280 miles) from the Islamic State, you willingly have volunteered to take part in this crusade," says the knife-brandishing militant, who resembles and sounds like a British militant involved in other filmed beheadings. "You have proudly donated \$100 million to kill our women and children, to destroy the homes of the Muslims ... and in an attempt to stop the expansion of the Islamic State, you have also donated another \$100 million to train the [apostates]."

The militant's comments likely refer to money Abe pledged while in Egypt to help Iraq's government and aid Syrian refugees.

Abe said he would send Yasuhide Nakayama, a deputy foreign minister, to Jordan to seek the country's support and to resolve the hostage crisis. The premier also said the Israeli government, which Japan promised Sunday to cooperate with on counterterrorism, is sharing information to aid in the hostage crisis. The Israeli prime minister's office declined to comment.

Speaking in Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga also declined to say wheth-

er Japan would pay the ransom.

"If true, the act of threat in exchange of people's lives is unforgivable and we feel strong indignation," Suga told journalists. "We will make our utmost effort to win their release as soon as possible."

Yukawa, a 42-year-old private military company operator, was kidnapped in Syria in August after going there to train with militants, according to a post on a blog he kept. Pictures on his Facebook page show him in Iraq and Syria in July. One video on his page showed him holding a Kalashnikov assault rifle with the caption: "Syria war in Aleppo 2014."

"I cannot identify the destination," Yukawa wrote in his last blog post. "But the next one could be the most dangerous." He added: "I hope to film my fighting scenes during an upcoming visit."

Nobuo Kimoto, an adviser to Yukawa's company, told Japanese public television station NHK that he had worried "something like this could happen sooner or later."

"I was afraid that they could use Yukawa as a card," Kimoto said.

Goto, 47, is a respected Japanese freelance journalist who went to report on Syria's civil war last year.

"I'm in Syria for reporting," Goto wrote in an email to an Associated Press journalist in Oc-

tober. "I hope I can convey the atmosphere from where I am and share it."

The Islamic State group has beheaded and shot dead hundreds of captives — mainly Syrian and Iraqi soldiers — during its sweep across the two countries, and has celebrated its mass killings in extremely graphic videos. The group also beheaded American hostages James Foley and Peter Kassig, Israeli-American Steven Sotloff, and British captives David Haines and Alan Henning.

The group still holds British photojournalist John Cantlie, who has appeared in other extremist propaganda videos, and a 26-year-old American woman captured last year in Syria while working for aid groups. U.S. officials have asked that the woman not be identified out of fears for her safety.

Japan's military has been constrained by the country's commitment to pacifism in the constitution drafted during the American occupation following World War II. Abe is seeking to raise Japan's military capabilities and expand its reach, but he has ruled out sending troops overseas. It remains unclear whether Japan would ask the U.S., which has launched previous operations to free hostages in Syria, to attempt a rescue.

Tuesday's video marks the first time an Islamic State group message publicly has demanded cash. The extremists requested \$132.5 million from Foley's parents and political concessions from Washington, though neither granted them during months of negotiations before his killing, U.S. authorities say.

## Ohio overpass collapse fatal

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — A collapsed overpass covered southbound lanes of Interstate 75 with hundreds of tons of concrete and steel Tuesday following a construction accident that killed a worker and injured a truck driver.

The Ohio Department of Transportation said the busy artery through downtown Cincinnati will be closed at least two to three days.

“The debris needs to be removed and we have to determine if there is damage to the pavement,” spokeswoman Sharon Smigielski said. “The cause is still under investigation.”

Work was going on Monday night to remove an overhead exit ramp that had recently been replaced by a new one when it pancaked down about 10:30 p.m. on top of southbound lanes some 5 miles north of the Ohio River.

“Something happened and it collapsed,” she said.

A tractor-trailer driver suffered minor injuries when his rig ran into the collapsed section. Cincinnati’s police chief says the driver probably was seconds away from serious harm. His and the construction worker’s names weren’t immediately released.

The ramp had been a left-hand exit from northbound 75 that carried traffic over the southbound lanes to Hopple Street. The new ramp exits to the right from northbound 75 near the University of Cincinnati.

The ramp replacement is part of a yearslong project to increase capacity and safety on a congested, accident-prone section of the interstate. Cincinnati Police Chief Jeff Blackwell said late Monday that something went “terribly wrong.”

The truck driver was taken to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center with minor injuries.

The Cincinnati Fire Department said the worker’s body was removed early Tuesday after airbags were used to lift the wreckage.

# Burn-pit suits OK’d to proceed

By HEATH DRUZIN  
Stars and Stripes

The Supreme Court is allowing lawsuits involving open-air burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan and a soldier’s electrocution in a base shower to move forward against two of the largest American military contractors, according to wire reports.

The lawsuits were filed against KBR Inc. and Halliburton Co., which had filed appeals saying the lawsuits should be thrown out because the com-

pany was operating as an arm of the military in Iraq and Afghanistan. Two of the lawsuits include claims that troops suffered health problems related to their exposure to burn pits and toxic chemicals on U.S. bases in Iraq and Afghanistan. Another claims that shoddy electrical work led to the electrocution of Staff Sgt. Ryan Maseth in Iraq. In general, the government cannot be sued in such cases, but private contractors working on behalf of the government have presented a

legal gray area. Supreme Court justices offered no comment for their decision, according to The Associated Press. The Obama administration has sided with the contractors.

The decision could open the door to thousands of troops who were potentially exposed to toxic chemicals, said Kelly Kennedy, a spokeswoman for the Bergmann and Moore law firm, which focuses on veterans’ claims.

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## Bill lets vets start federal job with sick leave

The Washington Post

Wounded veterans hired by the federal government would start their jobs with a stockpile of paid sick leave under a bill introduced in Congress last week.

The bipartisan measure would give service-disabled veterans 104 hours of paid sick time after they enter the federal workforce; nonveteran employees begin with none and accrue

hours over time.

Rep. Stephen Lynch, D-Mass., who sponsored the bill, said in a joint statement with other House supporters that new veteran hires, many of whom return from multiple tours of duty with post-traumatic stress disorder and other health issues, often start their jobs without paid leave for medical appointments to treat their service-related disabilities.

“It is unacceptable that our wounded warrior federal employees who are just starting out in the federal workforce are often faced with the difficult choice of having to take unpaid leave to attend their VA appointments or miss their medical visits,” Lynch said.

Sens. Jon Tester, D-Mont., and Jerry Moran, R-Kan., plan to introduce companion legislation, according to the statement.

## Jury selection begins in Colo. shooting trial

The Associated Press

DENVER — Jury selection got underway Tuesday in a death penalty case involving one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history: an attack that left 12 dead and 70 wounded in a Colorado movie theater.

The trial will focus on the question of whether James Holmes was insane when he barged into the packed theater, clad in combat gear, and opened fire on moviegoers in July 2012. Experts say it is rare to have a mass shooter appear in court to face charges — many either are killed by police or commit suicide.

“The public is going to get an insight into the mind of a killer who says he doesn’t know

right from wrong,” said Alan Tuerkheimer, a Chicago-based jury consultant. “It is really rare.”

The first step began Tuesday, when 9,000 prospective jurors — what experts say is the largest jury pool in U.S. history — began arriving at the courthouse in Centennial, in suburban Denver.

Whittling those numbers to the 12 jurors and 12 alternates is expected to take months. The trial could last until October.

In the 2½ years since the shooting, the case has sparked an emotionally charged debate, with his parents begging for a plea deal that would save his life and many survivors and family members of victims demanding that he be put to death.

Holmes, 27, was arrested as he stripped off his combat gear in the parking lot of the Century 16 movie theater in Aurora after he opened fire at the midnight showing of a new Batman movie. He later pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to multiple counts of first-degree murder and attempted murder.

Under Colorado law, defendants are not legally liable for their acts if their minds are so “diseased” that they cannot distinguish right from wrong.

Part of the reason the case has dragged on so long is the battle over whether that standard applies to Holmes. His sanity was evaluated by a state psychiatrist, but the results were not made public.

# Seattle's comeback still hard to fathom

*The Associated Press*

RENTON, Wash. — A day later, it was still hard to fathom how the Seattle Seahawks are headed for their second straight Super Bowl.

Even for those directly involved in Seattle's stunning comeback to win the NFC title.

"A little bit," said wide receiver Jermaine Kearse, who caught the winning 35-yard touchdown in overtime of Seattle's 28-22 win over Green Bay.

"But the type of guys that we have in our locker room is a bunch of different stories of different paths of how people got to where they got.

"You think about all the undrafted guys, you think about the guys that were drafted in the late rounds and rose to the occasion. I feel like our team story is full

of adversity and pushing through it and that's what showed."

Just how the Seahawks rallied to stun the Packers was still being comprehended on Monday while Seattle began preparations for its chance at a second straight championship facing New England.

Seattle is keeping the same schedule as last year with three days of practice this week before heading to Arizona on Sunday.

Seattle coach Pete Carroll intends on having most of the game plan in place before the Seahawks leave.

"We do have to get a lot done. This is a very heightened time for us. This is not sit back and take a couple of days. We're going after it," Carroll said. "Wednesday, Thursday, Friday we're game planning and we'll have the game plan in before we

leave. That's an old Bill Walsh way.

"That's the way we've always done the bowl games and stuff since we've been doing it. It's a really good way for the coaches and players to focus before the distractions that naturally come up when you get on the road."

Seattle's improbable comeback started when it trailed 19-7 after Russell Wilson threw his fourth interception of the game with about five minutes remaining.

But the interception started the chain of events that helped Seattle pull off its rally, beginning with Morgan Burnett's decision to slide down in the open field rather than trying to return the pick as far as possible.

Seattle was able to force Green Bay into a three-and-out with the Seahawks using only two of their timeouts and just

1:12 elapsing off the clock. The Seahawks needed only 1:43 to go 69 yards and score on Wilson's 1-yard touchdown with 2:09 remaining.

Then came a successful onside kick, which Carroll said Monday gets practiced once a week. Just 44 seconds later, Marshawn Lynch was in the end zone after a 24-yard run and the ensuing two-point conversion pass from Wilson to tight end Luke Willson, who wasn't supposed to be involved in the original play.

And lastly, on the first drive of overtime, Wilson made a check at the line of scrimmage, recognizing there was no safety in the middle of the field and Kearse had single coverage. All Kearse had to do was win his matchup.

# NFL investigates whether Pats deflated footballs

*The Associated Press*

The NFL is investigating whether the New England Patriots deflated footballs that were used in their AFC championship game victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

"We are looking into it," league spokesman Brian McCarthy wrote in an email to The Associated Press on Monday. "We do not have anything further to add at this point."

The inquiry was first reported by the website for WTHR-TV in Indiana, citing an unnamed source.

"We'll cooperate fully with whatever the league wants us to, whatever questions

they ask," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Monday during his regular conference call with reporters.

He said he was unaware there was an issue until Monday morning.

The Patriots have come under scrutiny with regards to NFL rules in the past, most infamously when they were punished for videotaping sideline signals used by the New York Jets during a 2007 game. Belichick was fined \$500,000, and the team was docked \$250,000 and stripped of its 2008 first-round draft pick.

According to the NFL rule book, home teams are responsible for furnishing playable balls at all times. Each team brings

12 primary balls, while home teams are required to also bring 12 backup balls.

Once the referee makes sure the footballs are properly inflated, they're delivered to ball attendants provided by the home team.

The league's game operations manual notes: "If any individual alters the footballs, or if a non-approved ball is used in the game, the person responsible and, if appropriate, the head coach or other club personnel will be subject to discipline, including but not limited to, a fine of \$25,000."

Deflating a football could change the way it would be gripped by a player or the

way it travels through the air.

The Patriots beat the Colts 45-7 to reach the Super Bowl. New England will play the defending champion Seattle Seahawks for the NFL title at Glendale, Ariz., on Feb. 1.

In Sunday night's lopsided AFC finale, quarterback Tom Brady threw for three touchdowns and running back LeGarrette Blount gained 148 yards while scoring three touchdowns to send New England to its sixth Super Bowl in the past 14 years.

Colts quarterback Andrew Luck had his worst game as a pro, completing only 12 of 33 passes for 126 yards, no touchdowns and two interceptions.

# Djokovic, Serena cruise into 2nd round at Aussie Open

*The Associated Press*

MELBOURNE, Australia — As a first-time dad with a baby at home, Novak Djokovic could see merits in the tale of Serena Williams' mid-match espresso that has been brewing in the lead-up to the Australian Open.

Hey, he reckons, why not open up the menu?

The No. 1 seeds in the men's and women's draws both had straight-set wins in their first-round matches on Tuesday. Djokovic shrugged off the effects of a cold to beat No. 116-ranked Aljaz Bedene 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in his first Grand Slam match as a father, and Williams beat No. 106-ranked Alison Van Uytvanck 6-0, 6-4.

Williams, with five Australian titles in her collection of 18 majors, didn't need anything to perk her up as she raced through the first set in 21 minutes. It was a vastly different story when she arrived in Australia, jet-lagged, this month to start her preparations for the season's

first major, and asked for a coffee during a Hopman Cup match in Perth.

She checked with the chair umpire and tournament referee first, because she didn't know if she could order a brew. The coffee was served, and Williams rallied for a win.

"Judging by what she did, it opens up a new chapter of rules I guess on the tennis court," Djokovic said. "Maybe we need to explore more. Some people can't live without coffee in the morning, it keeps them going. I guess that helped her in that match."

Djokovic has left his wife and baby son — Stefan, who was born in October — at home as he bids for a fifth title at Melbourne Park. He was sick on the weekend, and missed some practices.

"It hasn't been an ideal couple of weeks in terms of health and preparation," he said. "But I fought my way through. Now it's behind me."

Djokovic won the first of his Australian Open titles in 2008, then three in a row

from 2011. But his 25-match winning streak at Melbourne Park ended in a quarterfinal loss last year to eventual champion Stan Wawrinka.

That led to a breakout year for Wawrinka that included his first major, a rise to No. 3 in the rankings, and a Davis Cup title with Switzerland.

Seeded fourth, he began the defense of a major for the first time with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 win over No. 100-ranked Marcel Ilhan.

"It's great, bringing me a lot of memories from last year," Wawrinka said of his return. "It was great to come back here feeling happy, happy with my game."

U.S. Open finalist Kei Nishikori and Wimbledon semifinalist Milos Raonic are part of the next generation of serious major contenders, and both opened their campaigns well.

No. 5 Nishikori beat Nicolas Almagro 6-4, 7-6 (1), 6-2, and No. 8 Raonic fired 30 aces in a 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3), 6-3 win over Illya Marchenko. No. 9 David Ferrer, a quarterfinalist or better at the last four Australian Opens, also

advanced.

The 33-year-old Lleyton Hewitt started his 19th consecutive Australian Open with a four-set win in a night match, while Vasek Pospisil beat Sam Querrey 6-3, 6-7 (5), 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, and No. 17 Gael Monfils rallied from two sets down, and from a break down in the fifth, to beat fellow Frenchman Lucas Pouille 6-7 (3), 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-4.

Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova and No. 6 Agnieszka Radwanska advanced, along with 2014 Australian finalist Dominika Cibulkova, two-time champion Victoria Azarenka, and No. 18 Venus Williams. No. 12 Flavia Pennetta, No. 13 Andrea Petkovic and No. 15 Jelena Jankovic were all eliminated.

Azarenka, coming back from a foot injury, beat Sloane Stephens 6-3, 6-2 — her third win in three years over the American at the Australian Open — and will next have to play U.S. Open finalist Caroline Wozniacki.

Serena Williams has only ever lost once in the first round of a major — she's playing her 58th.



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# Harden, Rockets blast Pacers

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — James Harden scored a season-high 45 points, including 18 in the third quarter, and the Houston Rockets beat the Indiana Pacers 110-98 on Monday.

It was the 18th 30-point game and fourth with 40 this season for Harden, the NBA's leading scorer. He bounced back after scoring just 11 in a 131-106 loss to Golden State on Saturday.

Houston led by 10 at halftime and used a 33-point third quarter, thanks in large part to four three-pointers from Harden, to push the lead to 20 entering the fourth.

The Pacers outscored Houston 30-21 in the final period, and a 5-0 run got them within eight with 2½ minutes left. But Harden scored seven points after that to secure the victory.

C.J. Miles had 23 points to lead the Pacers, who have lost five straight.

Harden finished one point shy of his career high. Dwight Howard had 14 points and 17 rebounds for the Rockets.

**Hawks 93, Pistons 82:** Atlanta won its 13th straight game, one short of equaling the team record, as Mike Scott and Paul Millsap each scored 20 points in beating visiting Detroit.

The Hawks haven't lost since Dec. 26

against Milwaukee.

**Cavaliers 108, Bulls 94:** LeBron James scored 26 points and J.R. Smith added 20 as host Cleveland entered a favorable portion of its schedule with a win over Chicago.

**Knicks 99, Pelicans 92:** New York ended its 16-game losing streak, getting 24 points and nine rebounds from Carmelo Anthony to beat visiting New Orleans.

**Wizards 111, 76ers 76:** Marcin Gortat scored 20 points, and John Wall had 11 points and 10 assists as host Washington beat overmatched Philadelphia.

**Trail Blazers 98, Kings 94:** Damian Lillard scored 22 points, including the go-ahead basket with 1:20 remaining, as host Portland ended a three-game losing streak with a win over Sacramento.

**Hornets 105, Timberwolves 80:** Gerald Henderson scored 17 points and Brian Roberts added 16 as Charlotte defeated visiting Minnesota.

**Clippers 102, Celtics 93:** Blake Griffin scored 22 points, and DeAndre Jordan had 19 points and 12 rebounds as host Los Angeles held off

Boston after losing most of a 23-point lead.

**Warriors 122, Nuggets 79:** Klay Thompson scored 22 points, and Stephen Curry had 20 points and eight assists as host Golden State matched a club record with their 16th consecutive home win in impressive fashion.

The NBA-leading Warriors (33-6) out did Denver (18-23) in nearly every major category, including shooting percentage (54.3 percent to 34.5 percent), rebounds (53 to 39), assists (30 to 17), blocks (six to three) and steals (10 to nine).

**Mavericks 103, Grizzlies 95:** Dirk Nowitzki scored 21 points, including the last eight for his team in the final 2 minutes, as Dallas defeated host Memphis.

**Raptors 92, Bucks 89:** Kyle Lowry scored 18 points and was one of six Toronto players to reach double figures against host Milwaukee.

**Suns 115, Lakers 100:** Goran Dragic and Isaiah Thomas scored 24 points apiece and fellow guard Eric Bledsoe added 17 as host Phoenix pulled away in the second half to hand Los Angeles its fifth loss in a row, the last two without Kobe Bryant.

# Flames douse Kings in OT

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Dennis Wideman scored 4:08 into overtime as Calgary rallied for its fourth straight victory a 2-1 win over Los Angeles.

Sean Monahan tied it with 6:05 left in regulation for the Flames, who are unbeaten on their five-game Pacific Division road trip. Joni Ortio stopped 33 shots in his fourth straight win as Calgary moved past Los Angeles into the final playoff spot in the Western Conference with the victory.

Matt Greene scored midway through the third period and Jonathan Quick made 22 saves for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who wrapped up their seven-game homestand with a dismal 1-2-4 record and dropped out of the playoff picture.

Wideman's goal wasn't confirmed until video review confirmed his shot had ricocheted off the camera inside the net.

**Islanders 7, Flyers 4:** Nikolay Kulemin had two goals and an assist as host New York reclaimed first place in the Eastern Conference with a victory over Philadelphia.

**Canucks 2, Panthers 1:** Radim Vrbata and Bo Horvat scored, and Ryan Miller stopped 23 shots to lead visiting Vancouver to its third straight win.

**Blues 3, Avalanche 1:** Jaden Schwartz had a goal and assist as St. Louis' defense stifled visiting Colorado.

**Blue Jackets 3, Wild 1:** James Wisniewski had the go-ahead goal, two assists and made a critical defensive play in the crease late in the third period to help Columbus beat host Minnesota.

**Hurricanes 4, Maple Leafs 1:** Eric Staal scored twice and Anton Khudobin stopped 34 shots to lead visiting Carolina.

**Devils 5, Sharks 2:** Mike Cammalleri scored a tiebreaking, power-play goal late in the second period to help New Jersey beat host San Jose.

# Krzyzewski gets his 999th win

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Because all those Duke guards put up some big numbers, their Hall of Fame coach is on the brink of an even bigger one.

Mike Krzyzewski moved one victory from 1,000 for his career in the fifth-ranked Blue Devils' 79-65 win over Pittsburgh on Monday night.

"It means we're 16-2," Krzyzewski said, referring to his team's overall record. "That's exactly what that means. And, hopefully, we can be 17-2 the next game we play, and that's the way we approach everything. We'll continue to approach it that way."

Coach K improved to 999-308 during his 40-year career. His first chance to become the first men's coach in Division I history to reach four figures comes Sunday against St. John's in Madison

Square Garden. That's also where in 2011 he passed Bob Knight as the winningest men's coach in college basketball's top tier.

Nearly everyone in the backcourt played a big role in this one for the Blue Devils (16-2, 4-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) — who shot 46 percent and made 11 three-pointers while holding Pitt to three of them.

"We saw the ball go in," Krzyzewski said.

Freshman Tyus Jones matched a season high with 22 points and hit a season-best four three-pointers. So did Rasheed Sulaimon, who finished with 13 points. Quinn Cook — who was just 3-for-10 from the field — finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

**Georgetown 78, No. 4 Villanova 58:** The Hoyas took over first place in the Big East with an old-

fashioned, push-and-shove win worthy of the conference's legacy of physical play, forcing 17 turnovers and holding their opponents to 34 percent shooting in a victory over the visiting Wildcats.

**No. 11 Kansas 85, No. 19 Oklahoma 78:** Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 19 points, converting two driving layups in the closing minutes, and the host Jayhawks held on after blowing a 20-point first-half lead for a victory over the Sooners.

**No. 17 Texas 66, TCU 48:** Javan Felix scored 15 points, Isaiah Taylor added 13 and the visiting Longhorns rolled to a victory.

The Longhorns (13-4, 3-2 Big 12) never trailed in their second straight win since a two-game skid that included a blowout loss at home to Oklahoma.

# Pats' Wilfork helps accident victim after game

The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Tom Brady earned his latest Super Bowl berth, then left Gillette Stadium with his supermodel wife. Patriots coach Bill Belichick probably went straight to the film room.

And it's best not to ask too many questions about what fun-loving tight end Rob Gronkowski did after New England beat the Indianapolis Colts 45-7 in Sunday's AFC championship game.

Vince Wilfork, on the other hand, stopped on his way home and rescued a woman from a partially overturned car.

"It wasn't a big deal," the 325-pound defensive tackle said Monday. "It's just seeing somebody that needed help. I helped

them."

State troopers said they responded to an SUV rollover in Foxborough not far from Gillette Stadium shortly before 1 a.m. Monday and were surprised to see Wilfork checking on the driver.

Wilfork reached into the vehicle and helped troopers remove 38-year-old Mary Ellen Brooks of Hanson, authorities said, and made sure police didn't need any more help before heading home.

In other NFL news:

■ Bengals quarterback Andy Dalton is headed to his second Pro Bowl, replacing the injured Aaron Rodgers.

Dalton was a seventh alternate in voting for the Pro Bowl last month. Rodgers had a calf injury during the playoffs. Green

Bay lost the NFC championship game to Seattle 28-22 in overtime.

## W. Klitschko to fight Jennings in US in April

FRANKFURT, Germany — Wladimir Klitschko has agreed to defend his WBA and IBF heavyweight titles against Bryant Jennings on April 25 at Madison Square Garden.

It will be the champion's first fight in the United States in seven years.

Jennings is undefeated in 19 fights, with 10 knockouts.

Klitschko, who also holds the minor WBO and IBO belts, has a 63-3 record, with 54 KOs.

## Brewers trade pitcher Gallardo to Rangers

Yovani Gallardo is getting a chance to pitch at home.

The Milwaukee Brewers traded Gallardo and \$4 million of his \$14 million salary to the Texas Rangers for infielder Luis Sardinas and right-handers Corey Knebel and Marcos Diplan on Monday.

"It definitely means a lot. I grew up here, went to high school here," said Gallardo, who lives in North Texas.

"I'm very excited for this opportunity and looking forward to it."