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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Kurds push Islamic State out of Kobani

The Associated Press

Kurdish fighters backed by intense U.S.-led airstrikes pushed the Islamic State group entirely out of a key Syrian town on Monday, marking a major defeat for the extremists whose hopes for an easy victory when they pushed into Kobani last year dissolved into a bloody, costly and monthslong siege.

As their victory neared, the Kurdish troops earlier in the day raised their flag on a hill overlooking the town just across the border with Turkey, replacing the Islamic State group's black banner.

The battlefield success is a major conquest both for Syria's embattled Kurds and the U.S.-led coalition, whose American coordinator had predicted that the Islamic State group would

"impale itself" on Kobani.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Kobani-based Syrian activist Farhad Shami said the Islamic State group had been fully expelled, with some sporadic fighting on the outer eastern edges of the town.

In September, Islamic State fighters began capturing some 300 Kurdish villages near Kobani and thrust into the town itself, occupying nearly half of it. Tens of thousands of refugees spilled across the border into Turkey.

By October, the Islamic State group's control of Kobani was so widespread that it even made a propaganda video from the town featuring a captive British photojournalist, John Cantlie, to convey its message that Islamic State fighters had pushed deep inside despite

U.S.-led airstrikes.

Kobani, whose capture would have given the jihadi group control of a border crossing with Turkey and opened direct lines between its positions along the border, quickly became a centerpiece of the U.S.-led air campaign in Syria. Secretary of State John Kerry declared it would be "morally very difficult" not to help Kobani.

The U.S.-led air assault began Sept. 23, with Kobani the target of about a half-dozen airstrikes on average each day, and often more. More than 80 percent of all coalition airstrikes in Syria have been in or around the town. At one point in October, the U.S. air campaign dropped bundles of weapons and medical supplies for Kurdish fighters — a first in the Syrian conflict.

Analysts, as well as Syrian and Kurdish activists, credit the campaign and the arrival in October of heavily armed Kurdish peshmerga fighters from Iraq, who neutralized the Islamic State group's artillery advantage, for bringing key areas of the town under Kurdish control.

Idriss Nassan, a senior Kurdish official, said U.S.-led coalition strikes became more intense in the past few days, helping Kurdish fighters in their final push toward Islamic State group positions on the southern and eastern edges of the town.

U.S. Central Command said Monday that it had carried out 17 airstrikes near Kobani over the last 24 hours that struck Islamic State group infrastructure and fighting positions.

US training forces to fight terrorism amid Yemen turmoil

The Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — A U.S. drone strike in Yemen, the first this year, killed three al-Qaida fighters on Monday, signaling Washington's determination to keep targeting the global terrorist network's most lethal branch despite the resignation of the Yemeni president, a top U.S. ally, in the face of a Shiite rebel power grab.

Hours later, the State Department announced the U.S. Embassy in Yemen was closing to the public "until further notice" over security concerns as street gunbattles and political turmoil continue to roil this impoverished Arab country.

Defense Department spokesman Col. Steve Warren said Monday that U.S. military forces have not been called on to evacuate Americans from

Yemen since the latest crisis erupted. However, the USS Iwo Jima and the USS Fort McHenry, along with a contingent of U.S. Marines, are in the Red Sea in case they are needed.

The drone strike was also the first such U.S. action since Shiite rebels known as Houthis placed embattled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and his Cabinet under house arrest last week in an attempt to force them to make political concessions. After reaching a tentative deal with the Houthis, the president and his government resigned in an effort to thwart rebel attempts to force more compromises.

Yemeni tribal and security officials in Marib province said a missile hit a vehicle carrying three men near the boundary with Shabwa province, an al-Qaida stronghold.

Warren would not confirm that the drone strikes occurred, but said, "We will continue to hunt [al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula] wherever they are."

An al-Qaida member told The Associated Press that one of the three slain fighters was Saudi while the other two were Yemenis. He identified the Saudi man as Awaid al-Rashidi, who he said was in his 30s and had been imprisoned in Saudi Arabia for seven years, apparently over terrorism charges. The two Yemeni al-Qaida members killed in the strike were Abdel-Aziz al-Sanaani and Mohammed al-Jahmi from Marib's tribe of Jahmi, the member said. Both Yemeni officials and the al-Qaida member spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media.

The Houthis, who claim to

only want an equal share of power, had seized the capital of Sanaa and its central province in September and at least eight other provinces after descending from the north.

Critics say the Shiite Houthi rebels want to retain Hadi as president in name only, while keeping an iron grip on power. They also accuse the Houthis of being a proxy of Iran, an allegation the rebels deny.

The prospect of a leaderless Yemen has raised concerns about Washington's ability to continue targeting al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, as the Yemeni branch is known. The group claimed the recent attack on a French satirical weekly and has mounted several failed attacks on the U.S. homeland.

"Counterterrorism operations in Yemen continue," Warren told reporters.

Electric bike to allow quiet approach in battle

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. military is hoping to field an electric motorcycle that would allow soldiers to quietly glide into battle, providing an element of surprise and potentially cutting down on roadside bomb attacks, according to a defense contractor hired to build the bike for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

This month, Logos Technologies was awarded a DARPA contract to construct and test a prototype of its SilentHawk hybrid motorcycle, in partnership with California's Alta Motors.

DARPA's requirements — released in August 2013 — are for an extremely quiet, multi-fuel, off-road motorcycle that can travel between 26 and 50 miles on battery power alone.

Those capabilities would have been useful in places like Afghanistan, where the Taliban's weapon of choice — the improvised explosive device — often targeted large, armored vehicles full of U.S. soldiers. Some 1,400 coalition soldiers have been killed in IED attacks in Afghanistan, according to the website icasualties.org.

The quietness of motorcycles also can help negate the threat of roadside bombs in future conflicts, according to Logos advanced concepts manager Wade Pulliam.

"IEDs are cheap, but they are static," he said. "You have to know where your enemy is coming from."

Motorcycles also would allow troops to approach an objective from almost any direction — be it through woods or across fields, he said.

Pulliam said his company's SilentHawk bike would fulfill DARPA's requirements and do even more. The design weighs less than 350 pounds, so it could be flown into combat. Its hybrid-electric power system — originally developed for an unmanned aircraft — gives it a range of up to 170 miles, and it's capable of carrying 75 pounds of gear and recharging electronic devices, Pulliam said.

Lithuanian Special Forces troops and Afghan security forces have used motocross bikes to chase down the enemy. However, the U.S. military uses motorcycles only for simple tasks such as driving around airfields, Pulliam said.

"They (conventional motorcycles) aren't really used in actual kinetic military missions ... because you are announcing your presence ahead of time," he said.

Quiet combat vehicles have long been a dream of military planners, he said, adding, "The technology is here now to do this sort thing."

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Major blizzard headed for northeastern US

NEW YORK — A potentially historic blizzard could dump up to 2 feet of snow on a large part of the U.S. Northeast, crippling a region that has largely been spared so far this winter, the National Weather Service said. Thousands of flights were canceled.

The National Weather Service said the storm, known as a nor'easter, would bring heavy snow, powerful winds and widespread coastal flood-

ing through Tuesday. A blizzard warning was issued for a 250-mile stretch of the Northeast, including New York and Boston.

"This could be a storm the likes of which we have never seen before," New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio told a news conference in a Manhattan sanitation garage where workers were preparing plows and salt for the massive clean-up on about 6,000 miles of city roadways.

From The Associated Press

Navy seeks greater use of sonar buoys

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The U.S. Navy is seeking permits to expand sonar and other training exercises off the Pacific Coast, a proposal raising concerns from animal advocates who say that more sonar-emitting buoys would harm whales and other creatures that live in the water.

The Navy wants to deploy up to 720 sonobuoys at least 12 nautical miles off the coasts of Washington state, Oregon and Northern California. The devices, about 3 feet long and 6 inches in diameter, send out sonar signals underwater so air crews can train to detect submarines.

"It sounds drastic in numbers, but it's really not drastic in its impact," said John Mosher, Northwest environmental manager for the U.S. Pacific Fleet. "Anti-submarine warfare is a critical mission for the U.S. Navy."

The Navy's training range is home to endangered whales such as orcas, humpback and blue, as well as seals, sea lions and dolphins.

Critics say the noise from sonar can harass and kill whales and other marine life. They worry the Navy is expanding training exercises without also increasing efforts to reduce the impacts.

Dozens of servicemembers leave grounded cargo ship

By **ERIK SLAVIN**
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Dozens of servicemembers have debarked the USNS Sgt. Matej Kocak, which remained grounded Monday on a reef about 6 miles east of Okinawa, military officials said.

Of the 131 people who were aboard when the Kocak ran aground at 11:30 a.m. Friday, 47 soldiers and 18 Marines have since been transported by a landing craft ship to their shore-based commands, Commander Naval Forces Japan spokesman Cmdr. Ron Flanders said.

Maritime pre-positioning ships like the Kocak can carry up to a brigade's worth of gear. The soldiers and Marines aboard the civilian-crewed ship were maintaining the gear while headed to military exercises, officials said.

The 821-foot cargo ship remains stuck on a reef just outside a deep-water shipping

channel, where the open ocean is separated from Nakagusuku Bay, also known as Buckner Bay. How the cargo ship ended up outside the channel remains under investigation, Flanders said.

The ship sustained some damage during the incident and has been taking on a low level of water, but officials say it is not a threat to the ship or its remaining crew.

"The ship remains stable, and there is no danger of flooding," Flanders said.

Tugboats connected to the Kocak are keeping the ship from jostling too much over the reef and rocks, officials said.

Meanwhile, a team from the Navy's Supervisor of Diving and Salvage and another from the Military Sealift Command, which owns the Kocak, are trying to determine the best way to get the ship off the reef.

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Super Bowl coaches known for calling unconventional plays

The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick has long been a fan of trick plays.

Some of them are even legal.

But he won't be alone in next week's Super Bowl: Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll also went deep in his playbook to earn a chance to play for an NFL championship.

Carroll used a fake field goal to help the Seahawks rally from a 16-point deficit and beat the Green Bay Packers in overtime in the NFC championship game. Belichick reached his sixth Super Bowl as a head coach with the help of a touchdown pass to a 320-pound offensive tackle.

That was one week after Belichick pulled out a double-pass and some innovative lineman deployment to beat the Baltimore Ravens.

Belichick has long been known as a coach who will pursue every advantage, a doggedness that has helped him win three Super Bowls.

But it has also gotten him in trouble.

In 2007, the Patriots were caught videotaping the other team's signals despite a warning from the league to stop doing it. Belichick was fined \$500,000, and the team was fined and forced to give up a first-round draft pick.

Now Belichick is under suspicion again because the NFL found that the footballs used in New England's victory over the Colts in the AFC championship game were insufficiently inflated. On Thursday, Belichick denied having anything to do with the deflated footballs.

But there's no doubt that he is intimately familiar with the rule book and willing to push its limits.

For fear of giving up a competitive advantage, he listed quarterback Tom Brady on the injury report as probable every week for three years. Brady played in every game, and the league eventually changed the reporting rules to combat the tactic.

In lamenting the lineman shuffling that confused him, Baltimore coach John Harbaugh acknowledged it was legal

— though it would take a Talmudic understanding of the rule book to explain it — but was so frustrated that he took an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty to give his players a chance to figure out the matchups.

In that same game, the Patriots also scored a touchdown on a pass by receiver Julian Edelman, a college quarterback who had never thrown a pass in the NFL. Belichick has also pulled out the dropkick, the pooch punt and the intentional safety.

The Seahawks have their own history of trick plays.

There was a touchdown pass by receiver Golden Tate against the Jets in 2012, and a flea-flicker to Jermaine Kearse last season vs. Atlanta. Seattle faked a field goal against Washington during this past regular season and another in the playoffs.

Trick plays can make a coach look like a genius or a fool, but that's not really the point either. Just knowing they are in the opponent's playbook can keep a team off-balance and force it to prepare for unlikely options at the expense of more useful practice time.

Watt enjoys Pro Bowl moments

The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — J.J. Watt danced, Jimmy Graham dunked, Odell Beckham Jr. dazzled.

The Pro Bowl in the desert was all about having a good time.

Few moved very fast, no one flattened a quarterback and there were no bone-jarring hits in the gentle, friendly version of football played Sunday.

Even in a game dominated by offense, Watt was the star.

The Texans defensive end intercepted a pass, recovered a fumble and led the crowd in dances during commercial breaks.

Team Irvin defeated 32-28 Watt's Team Carter, but the score doesn't matter in the NFL's all-star game. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, no one more so than Watt, moving to the music while the cheerleaders danced.

"I just tried to enjoy it," he said. "That's what the Pro Bowl is all about, giving the fans a good show. Everybody worked so hard to get here, you want to enjoy yourself and play some good ball. Guys are dancing around and having a good time, that's what it's all about."

In its one year out of Hawaii, the game drew a sellout crowd of 63,225.

Memorable moments came from Graham, the Saints' tight end who dunked over the crossbar twice after TD catches — this time with no penalty, and Giants rookie Beckham, who made a diving grab at midfield.

Graham's second touchdown, on a 1-yard, fourth-down pass from Matt Ryan, was the winning TD with 3:10 to play.

Greg Olsen and Emmanuel Sanders also caught a pair of touchdown passes each. Andrew Luck was nearly perfect, completing nine of 10 for 119 yards and two scores. Matthew Stafford threw for 316 yards and two TDs and was the offensive MVP.

The Pro Bowl took a one-year hiatus from Hawaii to be played in the desert a week before the Super Bowl. The big crowd watched the teams move up and down the field, often without much resistance.

"You don't have hardly any time to get timing down or anything else," New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees said. "So much of what you're doing out there is street ball."

If the players missed the beach, they wouldn't let on.

"It's been fantastic," Dallas quarterback Tony Romo said. "The turnout here at the stadium is just like an NFL game."

Romo knew this wasn't a real NFL game. The difference between Hawaii and Arizona?

"More fans," Cardinals cornerback Patrick Peterson said. "I believe it gives the fans an opportunity — it's a little bit more inexpensive trip versus going across the water. So I think it's definitely getting more fans engaged in the game."

"It's a blast," Stafford said. "To be able to play with the best in the world is a whole lot of fun, and everybody is such good people, too. I am out here having a good time."

Looking back at the most memorable gimmick plays in Super Bowl history

The Associated Press

Trick plays stand out in a Super Bowl a little like clown suits at a cocktail party.

In this highest-of-high-stakes contest, the appetite for NFL coaches whose strategies lean more conservative than not is typically low for gadgets and gimmicks. Surprising the other team with a safety blitz or deep pass, sure, but the risk of true trickery can be steep with a title on the line.

Yes, the reward of a valuable touchdown remains. Mess up a trick play in a game of this magnitude and lose a close one in the end? Well, good luck living that decision down, coach, for the rest of your career.

Perhaps another gimmick or two will emerge next week in Arizona when the New England Patriots play the Seattle Seahawks. The Patriots threw a touchdown pass to left tackle Nate Solder in the AFC Championship, after all, and the Seahawks scored on a fake field goal toss by punter Jon Ryan to spur their comeback victory for the NFC title.

For now, here's a list of the best trick plays in Super Bowl history:

'Ambush' in Miami. Onside kicks are expected at the end of the game when the trailing team is running out of time, but New Orleans stunned Indianapolis and everyone else watching the game by recovering the kickoff to start the second half in Miami in 2010.

The play was called "ambush," a stutter-step tap by rookie kicker Thomas Morstead out of a standard formation that came with the Colts leading 10-6. The Saints responded with their first touchdown six plays and 58 yards later and went on to win 31-17.

Saints coach Sean Payton was inspired by his mentor Bill Parcells, one of the boldest coaches in history. Payton drew praise from President Barack Obama at the White House ceremony for the first-time champions.

"I make some tough decisions every day, but I've never decided on an onside kick in the second half of the Super Bowl. That took some guts," Obama said.

Second-half spark. Twenty-three years earlier, Parcells was the coach who saw the opening for a surprise with his team trailing at the break. The New York Giants lined up for a punt on fourth-and-1 near midfield when backup quarterback Jeff Rutledge moved up behind center before the snap. He took it 2 yards on a sneak, and Phil Simms had them in the end zone five plays later for a 16-10 lead over Denver at the Rose Bowl.

Later in the third quarter, Parcells struck again. With the Broncos focused on stopping the run, Joe Morris took a handoff he flipped back to Simms, who found Phil McConkey wide open for a 44-yard completion on the flea flicker. With a touchdown on the next play, the Giants were up by 16 points and went on to win

handily.

Let 'em have it. Trick plays aren't only for the offense. Green Bay, the champion after the 1996 season, was going for back-to-back titles the following year in San Diego. With the game tied after the two-minute warning, Packers coach Mike Holmgren liked his team's chance of scoring another touchdown with the ball back better than stopping Denver on second-and-goal from the 1. So they let Terrell Davis into the end zone without trying to tackle him.

The strategy almost worked. The Packers had 105 seconds left and drove to the 31, but the Broncos held on for the 31-24 victory.

Steelers surprise. Leading Seattle by four points early in the fourth quarter in Detroit in 2006, Pittsburgh got the ball back with an interception at its 5-yard line. A return, a penalty and three plays later, coach Bill Cowher made a bold call.

Running back Willie Parker handed off to wide receiver Antwaan Randle El on a first-and-10 reverse from the Seahawks 43. Then Randle El, a former college quarterback at Indiana, halted his run and heaved the ball to a wide-open Hines Ward for the 21-10 final score. That's the only touchdown pass by a wide receiver in Super Bowl history.

"When we called it, my eyes lit up, and I had to try to not give it away," Randle El said.



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Cavs top Thunder for sixth straight

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The sold-out arena buzzed with 20,000 fans decked out in matching gold T-shirts. There was a national TV audience, two high-profile teams and All-Stars all over the floor.

It felt like the playoffs in January. LeBron James played as if it was June.

James scored 34 points, including the first eight in the fourth quarter, and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 108-98 on Sunday for their sixth straight win.

James made a pair of three-pointers and a nasty fade-away jumper to give the Cavs a 91-80 lead. Later, the four-time MVP fed Kevin Love for a three-pointer with 3:38 left that put the Thunder away.

The Cavs, who seemed to be unraveling two weeks ago during a six-game losing streak, are now 6-1 since James returned after missing eight games with a strained back and knee.

After going scoreless in the third quar-

ter, James scored 12 in the fourth as the Cavs kept their momentum rolling.

"We're a confident bunch," James said. "But for us, we're a humble bunch. It's one game versus a very experienced team, a very talented team, a very good team that's been together for a while. It shows that we can match up with some of the high-caliber teams."

Kevin Durant scored 32 with nine assists and Russell Westbrook had 22 points for the Thunder, who went 3-2 on their longest road trip this season. Dion Waiters, acquired from Cleveland in a three-way trade earlier this month, added 14, but the Thunder shot only 39 percent and couldn't get big shots to go down.

Hawks 112, Timberwolves

100: Paul Millsap scored 20 points and Al Horford added 19 as Eastern Conference-leading Atlanta topped visiting Minnesota, extending the Hawks' club record with their 16th straight win.

Heat 96, Bulls 84: Hassan

Whiteside had an unconventional triple-double with a team-record and career-high 12 blocks to go with 14 points and 13 rebounds to help visiting Miami.

Pacers 106, Magic 99: David West scored 20 points and reserve Damjan Rudez added a career-high 18 as visiting Indiana ended a seven-game losing streak.

Clippers 120, Suns 100: Blake Griffin and Chris Paul scored 23 points each as Los Angeles used a 15-0 fourth-quarter run to beat host Phoenix.

Pelicans 109, Mavericks

106: Anthony Davis capped a 28-point, 10-rebound outing with go-ahead free throws in the final seconds and a pivotal steal, as host New Orleans won its third straight.

Warriors 114, Celtics 111: Stephen Curry had 22 points and 11 assists, and Klay Thompson scored 31 points as host Golden State beat Boston

for its 19th consecutive home win.

Wizards 117, Nuggets 115

(OT): John Wall scored six of his 19 points in overtime and had 16 assists as visiting Washington beat Denver.

Rockets 99, Lakers 87: James Harden had 37 points and eight rebounds as visiting Houston rolled past the Lakers, sending Los Angeles to its eighth straight defeat.

Raptors 114, Pistons 110:

Jonas Valanciunas had 20 points and 11 rebounds, DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points and host Toronto held on down the stretch to beat short-handed Detroit.

Spurs 101, Bucks 95: Tim Duncan had 20 points and 11 rebounds, Kawhi Leonard added 19 points and 14 rebounds and host San Antonio rallied in the second half.

Duke's Coach K reaches 1,000 wins

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Make no mistake: Mike Krzyzewski is proud of his 1,000 wins. Just don't expect him to keep chasing milestones much longer.

"There's an end in sight. I'm going to be 68 next month. It'll end sooner than later," he said.

Krzyzewski became the first NCAA Division I men's coach to get 1,000 wins when No. 5 Duke surged past St. John's late in the second half Sunday for a 77-68 victory at Madison Square Garden.

Tyus Jones scored 22 points and the Blue Devils (17-2) went on an 18-2 run down the stretch to put Coach K in four figures on his first try.

"There will be others that win more, but it is kind of neat to be the first one to 1,000," he said.

Coach K. How grand, indeed.

Jahlil Okafor had 17 points and 10 rebounds, combining with Jones and Quinn Cook (17 points) to fuel the decisive spurt after Duke trailed by 10 with 8:15 remaining.

No. 2 Virginia 50, Virginia

Tech 47: Justin Anderson scored eight of his 12 points during a late 12-0 run and the visiting Cavaliers edged the Hokies.

No. 4 Villanova 71, Creighton

50: Darrun Hilliard scored a season-high 24 points to lead the host Wildcats over the Blue Jays.

No. 8 Notre Dame 81, North Carolina State 78, OT: Jerian Grant scored 25 points and blocked a last-second shot that helped the Fighting Irish beat the host Wolfpack.

No. 10 Louisville 80, Pittsburgh 68: Terry Rozier scored 26 points and the visiting Cardinals pulled away from the Panthers.

No. 12 Utah 77, Washington

56: Dakarai Tucker scored a career-high 19 points, Brandon Taylor added 14 and the host Utes beat the Huskies.

No. 13 Maryland 68, Northwestern 67: Melo Trimble scored 27 points, and a tip-in by Dez Wells with 1.4 seconds left capped a furious

comeback that enabled the Terrapins to squeeze past the visiting Wildcats.

No. 14 Wichita State 74, Drake 40: Ron Baker scored 15 points and the host Shockers breezed past the Bulldogs for their 26th straight win in the Missouri Valley Conference.

No. 20 Northern Iowa 54, Illinois State 53: Nate Buss hit a three-pointer with 5 seconds left and the Panthers edged the host Redbirds.

Ohio State 82, No. 23 Indiana

70: D'Angelo Russell scored 22 points and added 10 assists, Jae'Sean Tate added a career-high 20 points, and the Buckeyes defeated the visiting Hoosiers.

Butler 77, No. 24 Seton Hall

57: Andrew Chrabaszcz scored 15 of his 16 points in the first half to lead the host Bulldogs past the Pirates.

Offense rules in NHL's All-Star game

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The NHL Foundation agreed to donate \$200 for each shot on goal at the league's All-Star Game on Sunday night.

It ended up being a bonanza for charity. In the biggest offensive display in the exhibition game's 60-year history, the 92 shots cost the NHL \$18,400.

John Tavares of the New York Islanders matched a record with four goals, and Team Toews beat Team Foligno 17-12 on Sunday in the highest-scoring NHL All-Star Game.

The game likely will also cost the NHL's goalies and defensemen a lot of sleepless nights.

In addition to the garish goal total, 25 players had at least two points and eight had at least four.

"We had so many good players on each team," said Philadelphia Flyers forward Jake Voracek, who tied another record with six points. "There's going to be a lot of goals."

Debate for MVP: Tavares may have tied the goal output of legends Wayne Gretzky (set in 1983) and equaled by Mario Lemieux (1990) — and also tied by Vincent Damphousse (1991), Mike Gartner (1993) and Dany Heatley (2003) — but he wasn't the game MVP.

That honor went to hometown favorite Ryan Johansen, the Blue Jackets' center, who had two goals and two assists — for the losing team.

The MVP was determined by a vote of fans on Twitter.

Broken records. It was the most goals in an All-Star Game, eclipsing the 26-goal burst in North America's 14-12 victory over the World in 2001.

Voracek's six points tied another mark set by Pittsburgh's legendary Lemieux.

Best moment. Late in the second period, during a scrum in front of the net, Ovechkin and Nick Foligno pretended to mix it up with Calgary's Mark Giordano and Chicago's Brent Seabrook.

They sort of traded awkward hugs. Then everyone separated and cracked up as they skated to the benches.

Williams sisters advance in Australia

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — The Williams sisters are back in the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam, and neither one is there just to watch.

Venus Williams continued her impressive career resurgence at the Australian Open with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-1 win over sixth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska on Monday night, reaching the last eight at a major for the first time since the 2010 U.S. Open.

Younger sister, Serena Williams, was supporting her and cheering for her from the stands at Rod Laver Arena, just hours after she had to dig deep for a 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 comeback win over Garbine Muguruza on the same court.

The sisters haven't both advanced this far at a major since Serena won Wimbledon in 2010, their careers seemingly veering off at opposite trajectories.

Serena has won five Grand Slam titles in the interim, lifting her tally to 18, while seven-time major winner Venus has labored for years since being diagnosed in 2011 with Sjogren's syndrome, which causes fatigue and inflammation. She'd only been beyond the third round once at a Grand Slam event since the start of 2011, and many thought she'd never return to the last eight.

The 34-year-old Venus next face Madison Keys, a 19-year-old American who was inspired to play tennis by watching the Williams sisters.

Serena, a five-time Australian Open winner, next faces Dominika Cibulkova, who reproduced the kind of tennis that took her to the final here last year as she beat two-time champion Victoria Azarenka 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. Keys advanced to her first Grand Slam quarterfinal with a 6-2, 6-4 win over good friend and fellow American

Madison Brengle.

Serena had difficulty breathing at times Monday, and coughed throughout the match, later saying she'd been sick for a couple of days.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic had a 6-4, 7-5, 7-5 win over Gilles Muller to reach the quarterfinals at a 23rd consecutive major. Next up, he faces No. 8 Milos Raonic, who moved into the last eight in Australia for the first time with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-7 (7), 6-3 win over No. 12 Feliciano Lopez.

Defending champion Stan Wawrinka advanced by beating Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 7-6 (2), 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (8) and No. 8 Raonic posted a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-7 (7), 6-3 win over No. 12 Feliciano Lopez. Spurred on by hundreds of flag-waving Japanese supporters at Rod Laver Arena, No. 5-ranked Kei Nishikori had little trouble in a 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 win over No. 9 David Ferrer.