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US flies bomber over S. Korea

BY PAUL ALEXANDER
Stars and Stripes

North Korea's fourth nuclear test has quickly escalated into the most high-profile standoff with the belligerent, brain-washed country in three years.

The U.S. flew a B-52 bomber, which is capable of carrying nuclear weapons, from Guam for a low-level flight in the vicinity of Osan, South Korea, on Sunday, accompanied by South Korean F-15 and U.S. F-16 fighter jets. It later returned to base. The show of force, four days after North Korea announced it had conducted its fourth nuclear test, echoed a similar flight the last time the North carried out an underground nuclear blast in 2013.

"This was a demonstration of the ironclad U.S. commitment to our allies in South Korea, in Japan, and to the defense of the American homeland," Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., commander U.S. Pacific Command said in a statement. "North Korea's nuclear test is a blatant violation of its international obligations," Harris said. "U.S. joint military forces in the Indo-Asia-Pacific will continue to work with all of our regional allies and partners to maintain stability and security."

U.S. officials called the 2013 crisis the most intense — and dangerous — period on the peninsula in decades, with the North threatening to turn Seoul and major U.S. cities, including Washington, into seas of fire. South Korean troops already are on the highest alert, and both sides have resumed blasting propaganda on loudspeakers across the Demilitarized Zone.

The North's claim Wednesday that it tested a hydrogen bomb, which is potentially much more powerful than its previous plutonium or enriched-uranium weapons, has dramatically raised the stakes in the rocky effort to convince Pyongyang

N. Korea threat is main focus of Guam task force

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — The nickname for the anti-ballistic missile task force stationed here doesn't leave much doubt from what direction the threat is expected to come.

"We're the Musudan Manglers," Lt. Col. Jefferey Slowen said during a recent tour of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense unit, or THAAD, he commands.

Musudan is one of the names for the intermediate-range ballistic missiles possessed by North Korea, which potentially have the range to carry a nuclear warhead as far as the Philippines and Guam.

"That's what we concentrate heavily on," he said. "I'm not going to say it's only North Korea. We can protect against any threat that may come into Guam."

Even though some Pacific nations have felt threatened

by China's expanding navy and claims of sovereignty over disputed islands, it's North Korea that poses the imminent threat from inter-continental ballistic missiles. North Korea's unpredictable and sometimes paranoid leadership announced Wednesday that it had successfully tested a hydrogen bomb.

Nuclear experts are still assessing that claim, but the underground explosion is the latest reminder that there's a lot at stake.

"The THAAD missile battery is first and foremost a protection against a North Korean missile launch, which is the most realistic scenario one could imagine," Patrick M. Cronin, senior director of the Asia-Pacific Security Program at the Center for a New American Security, a Washington-based think tank, said during an interview before the North Korean test.

to end its nuclear program. Experts have strongly questioned Pyongyang's boast, which North Korean leader Kim Jong Un repeated Sunday.

"It is the legitimate right of a sovereign state and a fair action that nobody can criticize," the North's Korean Central News Agency quoted Kim as saying during a tour of the Armed Forces Ministry.

Despite its repeated threats, the North is claiming that it is building bombs — and missiles to carry them as far as

200 Ohio guardsmen deploying to Guam

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — More than 200 National Guardsmen from Ohio are heading to Guam this month to support a "theater security package" for U.S. Pacific Command.

The 112th Fighter Squadron from Toledo Air National Guard Base will deploy to Andersen Air Force Base — where it will be known as the 112th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron — to take over the theater security package mission from the 125th EFS out of Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, an Air Force statement said.

"The Air Force routinely deploys fighter aircraft to the region to provide PACOM and Pacific Air Forces with theater security packages, which help maintain a deterrent against threats to regional security and stability," the statement said.

Navy catamaran in Rota, headed to Africa

NAPLES, Italy — One of the Navy's high-speed catamarans has arrived in Rota, Spain, for a four-month deployment to African waters.

The USNS Spearhead is a first-in-class Expeditionary Fast Transport Vessel, a 2,500-ton aluminum catamaran designed to move people and cargo quickly between foreign shores. The Navy has received four of a planned 10 catamarans to date.

Lightweight, with a shallow draft and a 20,000-square-foot mission bay, the ships are considered ideal for noncombat roles, such as logistics, evacuations and moving small Marine units onto accessible shores. They've been deployed in recent years for exercises or training with countries in Africa and South America.

From staff reports

VA report: Care of ailing Marine botched

The San Diego Union-Tribune

An internal investigation by the Department of Veterans Affairs has found that the San Diego VA system botched its care of former Camp Pendleton Marine Jeremy P. Sears, who killed himself at an Oceanside, Calif., gun range in October 2014.

Since Sears' suicide at age 35, his family, friends and some veterans advocates have questioned how the VA handled his case. The combat veteran waited 16 months to hear that he would receive no disability pay after serving multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and being diagnosed with a brain injury.

Critics said the VA's medical and benefits divisions let Sears fall through the cracks and that more could have been done to save his life.

The investigation by the VA's own inspector general provides an official measure of confirmation. It's another black mark against the VA, a sprawling agency that has been under fire in recent years for a massive national claims backlog followed by whistleblowers exposing that administrators concealed long waits for medical care, in some cases to pocket performance bonuses.

Sears' story has attracted attention at the highest levels. Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein, of California, along with

VA Secretary Bob McDonald, requested a review after Feinstein's office learned of the suicide from coverage in *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. Her office planned to highlight the report this past weekend.

The investigation's conclusions show the VA is "still too often falling short in its mission," said Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The report reveals that San Diego VA doctors continued to prescribe a narcotic painkiller — hydrocodone, commonly known as Vicodin — for 22 months without any oversight, even though studies warn that chronic pain elevates risk of

suicide attempts. And high suicide risk makes use of hydrocodone less appropriate.

During Sears' use of hydrocodone for knee pain, he didn't get a suicide risk assessment. VA guidelines call for one to be completed when starting pain therapy and during regular installments afterward.

Jeff Gering, director of the VA's San Diego health care system while Sears was a patient there, said he had "significant concerns" about the investigation's conclusions. He noted that Sears canceled seven medical appointments — during which his primary care doctor could have taken the steps indicated in the report.

\$16.5M given to Marine scholarship fund

The Washington Post

Before he developed and marketed the citrus fruit beverage known to the world today as Capri Sun, Hans-Peter Wild was a child in Heidelberg, Germany, during World War II who always remembered the generosity of the U.S. troops stationed in his father's factory.

The Americans handed out chocolate and chewing gum, and those simple gestures, along with the Allies' victory that liberated Germany from Adolf Hitler's rule, stayed with

the boy.

Wild, who became a billionaire, said he believes that Germany owes a tremendous debt to U.S. troops, whose sacrifice brought prosperity and peace.

"The American military saved Germany from the Nazis," Wild said. "They forget so quickly what the Americans have done for us."

As an expression of his continuing gratitude, Wild has given \$16.5 million to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, a philanthropic or-

ganization based in Alexandria, Va., that provides educational financial support for the children of Marine and Navy veterans. Wild's gift, the largest ever for the foundation, will benefit 3,000 scholarship recipients during the coming decade, said President Margaret Davis.

Since its inception in 1962, the foundation has provided more than 35,000 scholarships. The recipients of Wild's scholarships are eligible for \$1,500 to \$10,000 in need-based aid, Davis said.

No Powerball lottery winner

Associated Press

No ticket matched all six Powerball numbers following the drawing for a record jackpot of nearly \$950 million, lottery officials said early Sunday, boosting the expected payout for the next drawing, set for Wednesday, to a whopping \$1.3 billion.

The winning numbers — disclosed live on television and online Saturday night — were 16-19-32-34-57 and the Powerball number 13. All six numbers must be correct to win, although the first five can be in any order. The odds to win the largest lottery prize in U.S. history were 1 in 292.2 million.

Officials with the Multi-State Lottery Association, which runs the Powerball game, said they expected about 75 percent of the possible number combinations would have been bought for Saturday night's drawing.

Since Nov. 4, the Powerball jackpot has grown from its \$40 million starting point as no one has won the jackpot.

New Navy ship named after Rep. John Lewis

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., has seen a lot in his time, but on Wednesday he added something brand new: a Navy ship named after him. "I was deeply moved today," he said.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus named the first ship of the next generation of fleet replenishment oilers USNS John Lewis.

Other ships in the class will be named after fellow civil right activists.

"A few weeks ago, the secretary of the Navy called the office and set up an appointment and I greeted him and met with him," Lewis said.

"He starts talking about naming ships and we started talking about the civil rights movement, what happened in

the Deep South. He went onto say, 'Congressman, I have this idea: I want to name a ship in your honor.'"

Lewis responded that he didn't know a ship could be named after a current member of Congress and "Mabus said, 'I'm the Secretary of the Navy and I can do it; please let us do it.' I teared up, I really cried, and he teared up," he recalled.

Steelers knock off Bengals

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Ben Roethlisberger couldn't throw. Antonio Brown couldn't stand without help.

And in the end, it didn't matter. The Pittsburgh Steelers are heading to Denver after the Cincinnati Bengals did what they always seem to do this time of year: they imploded.

Spectacularly.

Chris Boswell kicked a 35-yard field goal with 14 seconds remaining as Pittsburgh somehow pulled out an 18-16 victory in an — really, just pick whatever synonym for “ugly” that works — AFC wild-card game Saturday night.

Pittsburgh (11-6) moved into field goal position thanks to consecutive 15-yard penalties on the Bengals, one on linebacker Vontaze Burfict and another on cornerback Adam Jones. Burfict dropped his shoulder and hit a defenseless Brown in the helmet as the All-Pro receiver came across the middle, and Jones lost his cool after getting into it with Steelers assistant coach Joey Porter when Porter came onto the field as Brown was being tended to by trainers.

Boswell drilled his fourth field goal of the game on the next snap to give the Steelers their first playoff victory since the 2010 AFC championship.

“We won the game, that's all that matters,” Roethlisberger said.

Pittsburgh bolted off the field without so much as shaking hands while the Bengals vented their frustration after easily the most painful of their eight straight postseason losses. Jones took to Instagram calling out Porter, a post Jones

later deleted.

Cincinnati might want to do the same after somehow losing despite rallying from a 15-point deficit to have the lead and the in Pittsburgh territory and the lead with 1:30 to go.

Then the Bengals turned into ... the Bengals.

Jeremy Hill was stripped of the ball by Ryan Shazier while trying to run out the clock. The Steelers recovered at the Pittsburgh 9 and Roethlisberger and his aching right shoulder returned for a last-gasp drive. Unable to pass with any real authority, he still managed to get the Steelers near midfield with 22 seconds to go when he threw high to Brown in Cincinnati territory.

“It's hard to put into words,” said Hill. “Words don't do anything at this point. It's on me. I take full blame for it.”

He had plenty of help from two of his volatile teammates, both with a history of questionable decision-making.

Burfict, whose sack of Roethlisberger sent the quarterback to the locker room, lowered his shoulder as Brown landed. The linebacker earned a personal foul. Jones compounded the problem when he lost his cool while jawing with Porter, easily putting Boswell within field goal range after Cincinnati's eighth — and final — flag of a ghastly night that ended with an unthinkable collapse.

“We destructed on ourselves,” Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said.

Roethlisberger finished 18-for-31 for 229 yards and a touchdown in rainy conditions. Jordan Todman and Fitzgerald Toussaint combined for 123 yards rushing filling in for injured DeAngelo

Williams. Brown caught seven passes for 119 yards but was also diagnosed with a concussion.

Still, that production didn't look like it would be enough.

AJ McCarron put together an improbable comeback after Martavis Bryant's somersaulting touchdown grab gave the Steelers a 15-0 lead heading into the final quarter.

Cincinnati (12-5) ripped off 16 straight points, the last six on a 25-yard strike from McCarron to A.J. Green that put the Bengals in front. They missed the 2-point conversion but had seized momentum completely, something that seemed near impossible after running back Gio Bernard was knocked unconscious by Shazier and fumbled late in the third quarter, a hit that seemed to ratchet up a game that was already contentious.

When Burfict intercepted Landry Jones on Pittsburgh's possession after Green's score, Cincinnati and Lewis appeared ready to end the sixth-longest postseason drought in NFL history.

And just as suddenly as it appeared, the Bengals' resolve vanished.

Hill had the ball tucked in his left arm when Shazier somehow clawed it out as Cincinnati tried to bleed the clock and the Steelers recovered at the Pittsburgh 9 with 1:23 left.

Just enough time for Roethlisberger — with a hefty assist from the Bengals — to send the Steelers to Denver and a rematch with the Broncos, whom Pittsburgh beat 34-27 on Dec. 20 with Brock Osweiler at quarterback instead of Peyton Manning.

“There's no quit in this team,” Roethlisberger said.

Tigers-Tide clash in '08 began latest 'Bama run

Associated Press

The plan was for a Clemson coming out party.

The Tigers had finished strong in 2007 and entered the 2008 season with a Top 10 ranking. It seemed like the perfect time for the Tigers to take on a marquee Southeastern Conference opponent at an NFL stadium in a nationally televised game.

Turns out it was Nick Saban and Alabama that made the statement in the Georgia Dome.

Coming off a 7-6 season, the Crimson Tide crushed No. 9 Clemson 34-10 and Nick Saban's Alabama dynasty was born.

“I didn't expect that type of outcome,” said former Alabama quarterback and current ESPN and SEC Network analyst Greg McElroy. “Most people didn't expect that type of outcome.”

Alabama went on to play for the SEC championship that season and the Tide has done nothing but contend for national championships since. The loss led to changes at Clemson that ended up putting the Tigers on the path to playing for a national championship seven years later.

Saban and the Tide try to make it four titles in nine seasons Monday night in Glendale, Ariz., when they face No. 1 Clemson (14-0) again, this time in the College Football Playoff title game.

Saban came to Tuscaloosa, Ala., with great fanfare after a short stint with the Miami Dolphins. Alabama had spent years trying to re-create the Bear Bryant era with only scattered success.

The 10 years directly before Saban was hired were particularly frustrating. Only twice did Alabama win more than seven games, and four times the Tide finished with a losing record. The Tide went through five head coaches.

Saban's first year was not much to get excited about. The Tide went 7-6, with a four-game losing streak to end the regular season that included a home loss to Louisiana-Monroe.

McElroy said some of the upperclassmen in 2007 were not quite ready to do the work the new coach demanded.

“The talent to a certain extent wasn't overwhelming, but let's be honest, Nick Saban is demanding,” McElroy said. “To the point where it can wear you out from time to time. The thing that's fun, what makes it fun is you win.”

While that last meeting between the Tigers and Tide was just the beginning for Alabama, it was the beginning of the end for then-Clemson coach Tommy Bowden.

By midseason, Bowden was out and wide receivers coach Dabo Swinney was elevated to run the program.

Seven years since the last Alabama-Clemson game, both programs are as strong as they have ever been. On Monday night at the University of Phoenix Stadium, either Alabama adds to its dynasty or Clemson culminates its climb to the top.

Chiefs shut out Texans, get shot at Pats

Associated Press

HOUSTON — After 22 years without a playoff victory, the Kansas City Chiefs were determined not to give up the lead this time.

The Chiefs had enough points to win after jumping ahead 7-0 in the first 11 seconds, and they used relentless pressure, five turnovers and a ball-control offense to dominate the Houston Texans 30-0 in the wild-card round of the NFL playoffs on Saturday.

They were especially cognizant of not letting up after blowing a 28-point lead in a loss to the Colts in their last playoff appearance in 2013.

“What happened to us a couple years ago, everybody remembers that even the coaches included, so our entire mentality is about finishing,” quarterback Alex Smith said. “The mentality doesn't change.”

They finished off the Texans early, and they had the hometown fans booing by the second quarter. Texans quarterback Brian Hoyer had the worst game of his career with four interceptions and a fumble.

Houston's defense kept the Texans close in the first half, but J.J. Watt left with an injury in the third quarter,

Jadeveon Clowney never even put on his jersey and the Chiefs were able to close the game out in the second half.

The Chiefs extended their NFL-best winning streak to 11 games and will face New England on Saturday.

“We wanted to come in and dominate,” Chiefs safety Eric Berry said. “Right now we are locked in and ready for next week.”

On the opening kickoff, Knile Davis got three good blocks around the 10-yard line and then simply outran the rest of the defenders for the 106-yard kickoff return score, the second-longest kickoff return TD in postseason history.

“It was a huge deal, man. It set the tempo,” Davis said. “It quieted everybody, kind of made everybody relax.”

The defense took over after that, forcing Hoyer into a fumble and a three of his career-high four interceptions before halftime to help the Chiefs (12-5) take a 13-0 lead.

“I made some bad decisions that really hurt the team,” Hoyer said.

Houston coach Bill O'Brien said he never considered benching Hoyer, but backup Brandon Weeden told a different story, saying he was warming up late in the game.

“We had talked about me going in there

with Brian,” Weeden said. “Brian wanted to finish the thing out. I don't blame him.”

Smith threw a touchdown pass late in the third and Spencer Ware added a 5-yard TD run on the first play of the fourth quarter to make it 27-0.

Travis Kelce, who also had more than 100 yards receiving in the first meeting with the Texans this year, had another big day, finishing with eight receptions for 128 yards.

The victory breaks a streak of eight straight playoff losses by the Chiefs and is their first postseason win since beating the Oilers in Houston on Jan. 16, 1994. That team was led by Joe Montana and Marcus Allen.

“Was it 1994? I didn't feel it, but I know how important it is, too,” coach Andy Reid said. “You get to the playoffs, and first round, if things don't go well, that rips your heart out.”

Hoyer was 15 of 34 for 136 yards as Houston (9-8) lost a home playoff game for the first time. Hoyer's performance cast more doubt on his future as the starter.

Watt missed most of the second half after injuring his groin in the third quarter.



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Warriors handle Kings

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Even though this was a road game, the crowd enthusiastically cheered for the visiting Golden State Warriors — a common occurrence this season.

Stephen Curry made eight three-pointers and scored 38 points, Draymond Green added 25 and the Warriors defeated the Sacramento Kings 128-116 on Saturday night for their sixth consecutive victory.

The Warriors (35-2) broke loose for 36 points in the third quarter and built a 12-point lead. Curry had 14 in the fourth to hold off the Kings and complete an unbeaten three-game road trip.

It probably felt like a home game to the Warriors, off to the best start in NBA history. A boisterous Golden State rooting section cheered the team's every basket and even chanted "MVP! MVP!" when Curry was shooting free throws.

Sacramento is about 80 miles northeast of Golden State's home in Oakland.

"This was definitely a Warriors crowd. It's been that way on this road trip," forward Brandon Rush said. "Our fans are everywhere."

The Kings certainly noticed and naturally weren't too happy about a sellout crowd of 17,317 cheering more for the Warriors. Golden State swept the four-game season series and has beaten Sacramento 12 straight times.

"About 10 years ago it was Sacramento in Warriors' country (at the Oakland

Coliseum). So it is what it is," Kings forward Rudy Gay said. "They are a great basketball team now. I guess all the Warriors fans that are in Sacramento are riding the bandwagon just like everybody else."

Curry didn't disappoint his fan club. He made 12 of 21 shots, including 8 of 14 three-pointers. He also had 11 assists, six rebounds and was at his best in the fourth quarter when the Kings rallied.

Klay Thompson scored 15 points, Andre Iguodala had 13 and Rush added 11 for the Warriors. Golden State shot 56 percent and outrebounded the Kings 48-34.

Clippers 97, Hornets 83: Chris Paul had 25 points and seven assists, and the host Los Angeles Clippers extended their winning streak to eight games.

DeAndre Jordan, making a push for his first career All-Star selection, had 19 rebounds. It was the 11th straight game in double digits for the franchise's career rebounding leader.

Hawks 120, Bulls 105: Al Horford scored a season-high 33 points and had 10 rebounds, Paul Millsap added 18 points and host Atlanta beat Chicago.

Jimmy Butler scored 14 of his 27 points in the third quarter for Chicago, and Nikola Mirotic had 24 points. The Bulls had won six straight.

Raptors 108, 76ers 95: Kyle Lowry scored 10 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter and DeMar DeRozan added 19 to lead Toronto over host Philadelphia.

Jonas Valanciunas had 17 points for the Atlantic Division leaders, who will go for

their fourth straight win when they wrap up a six-game road trip against Orlando on Thursday in London.

Ish Smith scored a career-high 28 points and rookie Jahlil Okafor had 19 for Philadelphia, which dropped to 4-35.

Pistons 103, Nets 89: Andre Drummond had 23 points and 11 rebounds, and host Detroit pulled away at the beginning of the fourth quarter to beat Brooklyn for their third straight victory.

Reggie Jackson had 23 points and eight assists for Detroit, and Ersan Ilyasova added 19 points and 13 rebounds. The Pistons played without forward Marcus Morris, who sat out with left knee tendinitis.

Wizards 105, Magic 99: John Wall had 24 points and 10 assists to help Washington defeat host Orlando for the 12th straight time.

The victory ended a three-game losing streak for the Wizards, who got double-figure scoring from all five starters and reserve Gary Neal. Otto Porter, Jared Dudley and Neal each scored 16 points, Marcin Gortat had 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Garrett Temple added 11 points.

Jazz 98, Heat 83: Gordon Hayward scored a season-high 34 points and host Utah ended a three-game losing streak.

Hayward came out of the locker room after a passive first half and scored 18 points in the third quarter, including nine in a row to give the Jazz a 68-60 lead.

Ovechkin's 499th lifts Caps in OT

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Alexander Ovechkin scored his second goal of the game and the 499th of his career at 1:25 of overtime and the Washington Capitals rallied to beat the New York Rangers 4-3 on Saturday.

Nicklas Backstrom forced overtime by sliding the rebound of Justin Williams' shot under Henrik Lundqvist with 5.7 seconds left in regulation.

Braden Holtby prevented the Rangers from winning just seconds before Ovechkin scored. The Washington goaltender stopped Rick Nash in close and then combined with defenseman Nate Schmidt to stop Derek Stephan on the rebound attempt.

Ovechkin got the puck, skated the length of the ice on the left side before cutting across the middle and beating Lundqvist. Ovechkin will try to reach the 500-goal milestone on Sunday at home against Ottawa.

Williams also scored for the Capitals and Holtby made 23 saves.

Viktor Stalberg, Kevin Hayes and Oscar Lindberg scored for the Rangers.

Blues 2, Kings 1 (SO): Alex Pietrangolo tied it in the second period and Troy Brouwer got the deciding goal in the seventh round of the shootout to help St. Louis beat host Los Angeles.

Brian Elliott made 26 saves as the Blues snapped a five-game losing streak.

Senators 2, Bruins 1 (OT): Mark Stone scored 4:22 into overtime to lift Ottawa past visiting Boston.

Stone was able to put in his own rebound over a sprawling Tuukka Rask after being stopped the first time on a wrap-around attempt.

Hurricanes 4, Blue Jackets 3 (OT): Jordan Staal scored in overtime to help visiting Carolina recover after giving up a three-goal lead.

Cam Ward made 21 saves and the Hurricanes swept the home-and-home series.

Lightning 3, Canucks 2 (OT): Nikita Kucherov scored 3:50 into overtime to lift visiting Tampa Bay.

After an end-to-end 3-on-3 extra period, Kucherov finished it on a breakaway against Vancouver goalie Jacob Markstrom for his 16th of the season.

Penguins 3, Canadiens 1: Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 33 shots, Bryan Rust scored his first goal of the season to put Pittsburgh ahead in the second period, and the Penguins beat host Montreal.

Flyers 4, Islanders 0: Steve Mason stopped 20 shots for his third shutout of the season, and the 29th of his career, and led host Philadelphia over New York.

Wild 2, Stars 1: Devan Dubnyk made 34 saves, Thomas Vanek scored and visiting Minnesota beat Dallas.

Dallas didn't score until Jamie Benn got his 25th goal with 3:13 left in the third.

Sharks 7, Maple Leafs 0: Brent Burns started a four-goal, second-period outburst with a highlight-reel move and Matt Nieto scored a short-handed goal following a botched Toronto line change in host San Jose's most lopsided shutout since 2001.

Coyotes 4, Predators 0: Rookie goalie Louis Domingue got his sixth win in eight starts and Tobias Rieder had two goals and an assist to lead host Arizona.

USC tops No. 4 Arizona in 4 OT

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Elijah Stewart scored a career-high 27 points, including the go-ahead free throws with 22 seconds left in the fourth overtime, and Southern California beat No. 4 Arizona 103-101 on Saturday night to improve to 11-0 at home.

Arizona's Gabe York dribbled around as the clock wound down and lost the ball before the Wildcats recovered only to see Kadeem Allen's three-point attempt fall short at the buzzer.

Julian Jacobs added 18 points, and Jordan McLaughlin and Nikola Jovanovic had 17 each for the Trojans (14-3, 3-1 Pac-12). They hung in and hung on after blowing a 12-point lead with 5½ minutes to go in regulation.

Allonzo Trier scored 25 points and York added 21 for the Wildcats (13-3, 1-2).

No. 1 Kansas 69, Texas Tech 59: Frank Mason scored 17 points, Perry Ellis had 15 points and visiting Kansas (14-1, 3-0 Big 12) earned its 13th straight victory.

No. 2 Oklahoma 86, Kansas State 76: Buddy Hield scored 31 points to help host Oklahoma (13-1, 2-1 Big 12).

Hield followed last week's 46-point effort in a triple-overtime loss at No. 1 Kansas by making 11 of 14 shots, including 6 of 8 three-pointers. It was his eighth straight game with at least 20 points and his sixth this season with at least 30.

No. 3 Maryland 63, Wisconsin 60: Melo Trimble hit a long three-pointer with 1.2 seconds left to lift visiting Maryland.

Trimble finished with 21 points on 9-for-17 shooting in a game in which the Terrapins (15-1, 4-0 Big Ten) lost an eight-point lead with about 7 minutes to go.

Georgia Tech 68, No. 4 Virginia 64: Quinton Stephens, Adam Smith and Nick Jacobs each scored 16 points and host Georgia Tech upset Virginia.

No. 6 North Carolina 84, Syracuse 73: Isaiah Hicks scored 21 points and visiting North Carolina (15-2, 4-0 ACC) ruined Jim Boeheim's return to the bench.

Boeheim was back with the Orange after serving a nine-game suspension for NCAA violations.

No. 9 Kentucky 77, Alabama 61: Alex Poythress scored a career-high 25 points and had seven rebounds to help visiting Kentucky (12-3, 2-1 Southeastern Conference) rebound from an 85-67 loss to LSU on Tuesday night.

No. 12 Miami 72, Florida State 59: Sheldon McClellan scored 20 of his 21 points in the second half and host Miami (13-1, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) beat Florida State for its seventh straight win.

Baylor 94, No. 13 Iowa State 89: Johnathan Motley had a career-high 27 points and added 13 rebounds to help visiting Baylor upset Iowa State, handing the Cyclones (12-3, 1-2) their first home loss of the season.

No. 14 Duke 82, Virginia Tech 58: Marshall Plumlee scored a career-high 21 points to help host Duke (14-2, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) beat Virginia Tech.

No. 17 West Virginia 77, Oklahoma State 60: Jevon Carter scored 16 points and Jonathan Holton added 15 points and nine rebounds for host West Virginia (14-1, 3-0 Big 12).

No. 21 Texas A&M 92, Tennessee 88: Jalen Jones scored 27 points and made a tiebreaking basket with 1:28 left, helping visiting Texas A&M (13-2, 3-0) erase a 13-point, second-half deficit for

its sixth straight victory.

No. 22 South Carolina 69, Vanderbilt 65: Sindarius Thornwell had 19 points and eight rebounds and host South Carolina (15-0, 2-0 Southeastern Conference) remained undefeated.

No. 23 UConn 81, Memphis 78: Sterling Gibbs scored 26 points and host UConn (11-4, 2-1 American Athletic Conference) held off Memphis.

No. 24 Pittsburgh 86, Notre Dame 82: Michael Young scored a season-high 26 points for visiting Pittsburgh.

La Salle 61, No. 25 Dayton 57: Jordan Price had 17 points and Amar Stukes added 13 for host La Salle (5-8, 1-2 Atlantic-10).

Navy 71, Colgate 68 (OT): Shawn Anderson scored 21 points and Will Kelly added 12 points, eight rebounds and seven blocks as Navy beat host Colgate in overtime.

Will Kelly scored the only field goal for Navy (12-5, 3-1 Patriot League) in overtime as the Midshipmen shot 11-for-14 from the free-throw line in the extra session.

Army 73, Loyola (Md) 59: Tanner Plomb scored 22 points and grabbed eight rebounds to help lead Army to a victory over host Loyola (Md.).

Kyle Wilson finished with 15 points and Kevin Ferguson added 12 points and six rebounds for the Black Knights (11-5, 2-2 Patriot League).

Nevada 86, Air Force 63: Tyron Criswell scored 19 points and Nevada cruised to an 86-63 victory over Air Force on Saturday.

Trevor Lyons scored 10 points to lead Air Force (10-6, 1-2), which has lost back-to-back games since snapping its four-game win streak.