

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Former Marine reunited with family

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Former U.S. Marine Amir Hekmati said Tuesday that knowing he had the support of his fellow Marines helped sustain him through more than four years of captivity in an Iranian prison.

“I didn’t want to let my fellow Marines down and the reputation of the Marine Corps, so I tried my best to keep my head up and withstand all the pressures that were put upon me, some of which were very inhumane and unjust,” Hekmati told reporters Tuesday at an impromptu news conference outside Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, where he and two other former prisoners were transferred Sunday for evaluation after their release.

“Hearing about some of my fellow Marines supporting me really gave me the strength to put up with over four years of some very difficult times that me and my family went

through,” Hekmati said.

Regaining his freedom was “like being born again,” said Hekmati, who was held for 4½ years in Iran.

He was held the longest of four Iranian-Americans who were released by Iran this past weekend after a historic nuclear agreement that will bring billions of dollars in sanctions relief to Iran took effect.

The U.S. agreed to release seven Iranians in exchange for the release of the four.

Hekmati, 32, of Flint, Mich.; Christian pastor Saeed Abedini, 35, of Boise, Idaho; and Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian, 39, of Marin County, Calif., arrived in Germany on Sunday after departing Iran early the same morning on a Swiss plane and a stopover in Geneva. They are currently being evaluated at Landstuhl, the largest U.S. military hospital overseas.

A fourth American released in the deal, Nosratollah Khosravi-Roodsari, chose to remain

in Iran, U.S. officials said.

Hekmati said he was concerned the Iranians could make last-minute demands that would thwart the deal for their release. The men waited nearly 2½ days before they were allowed to board a Swiss plane that took them out of Iran.

“That’s when we knew we were leaving,” Hekmati said. “As soon as we got out of Iranian air space, champagne bottles were popped.”

Hekmati spent much of his imprisonment in solitary confinement, Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Mich., who had campaigned for Hekmati’s release, said at a news conference at Landstuhl Monday. Kildee, along with Reps. Jared Huffman, D-Calif., and Robert Pittenger, R-N.C., came to visit the men upon their release.

“Re-entering into the world as a free person will take more than just a deep breath,” Kildee said. “It will take a little bit of help. It starts here (but) it will go on for a long time.”

Asked Tuesday how he felt, Hekmati said: “I am well and I’m only going to get better, I hope. This has really been an exceptional time for me.”

Kildee said Hekmati would be going home soon, that it was a “matter of days.”

Hekmati and the two other freed prisoners at Landstuhl are voluntarily undergoing a battery of medical tests and psychological evaluations, a process that can take five to 10 days.

None of the men is reported to be suffering any acute medical conditions, Kildee and the other congressmen said Monday.

Kildee hailed the agreement that led to the prisoner release as “a victory for diplomacy.”

But Pittenger said he was concerned that the U.S. agreed to let go “criminals” who broke U.S. law, and worried that such a swap could jeopardize the safety of Americans traveling in some foreign countries.

However, he said of Iran’s release of the four, “We do rejoice in this moment.”

## Life rafts found but Marines still missing off Hawaii

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Searchers have recovered all four life rafts that were aboard the two Marine helicopters that crashed last week off the Hawaiian coast during a nighttime training mission, but there is still no sign of the 12 missing Marines.

The fourth raft was recovered late Monday near Kahuku on northeastern Oahu Island, a III Marine Expeditionary Force statement said. Kahuku is about 15 miles from where the two heavy lift CH-53E Super Stallion aircraft crashed

late Thursday off the island’s north-facing shore.

“There is no indication from the sightings that any survivors have been aboard any of the life rafts,” a Coast Guard statement read.

The search-and-rescue efforts led by the Coast Guard entered a fifth day Tuesday. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Sara Mooers said Monday that searches have covered more than 21,000 square nautical miles spanning the western coast of Oahu to the island’s northeast corner, near where the fourth raft was found.

Multiple state, local and U.S. military agencies have been ac-

tive in the search from the air, on land, and above and below the ocean’s surface, Mooers said.

Marine Capt. Timothy Irish said Monday that aircrews wear personal flotation devices with their flight suits and get additional training on top of survival swimming training.

The missing Marines are assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Airlift Wing at Marine Corps Base Hawaii on Oahu and were conducting routine training.

The missing Marines were identified as Maj. Shawn M. Campbell, 41, College Station,

Texas; Capt. Brian T. Kennedy, 31, Philadelphia, Pa.; Capt. Kevin T. Roche, 30, St. Louis, Mo.; Capt. Steven R. Torbert, 29, Florence, Ala.; Sgt. Dillon J. Semolina, 24, Chaska, Minn.; Sgt. Adam C. Schoeller, 25, Gardners, Pa.; Sgt. Jeffrey A. Sempler, 22, Woodruff, S.C.; Sgt. William J. Turner, 25, Florala, Ala.; Cpl. Matthew R. Drown, 23, Spring, Texas; Cpl. Thomas J. Jardas, 22, Fort Myers, Fla.; Cpl. Christopher J. Orlando, 23, Hingham, Mass.; and Lance Cpl. Ty L. Hart, 21, Aumsville, Ore.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## Frey, Eagles co-founder, dies

*The Washington Post*

It was 1971 and Jackson Browne was working on a song and just couldn't finish it. Frustrated, he told his buddy, Glenn Frey, to give it a try. And with a single phrase — "it's a girl, my Lord, in a flatbed Ford" — Frey invented the California, country-rock sound and launched one of the biggest bands of all time.

"Take It Easy," recorded by the Eagles and released in 1972, rose to No. 12 on the pop charts and introduced the world to the Detroit-born singer with the bloodshot eyes and outlaw moustache. The song also marked the beginning of a sometimes glorious, sometimes dysfunctional reign for the Eagles, a band that would sell more than 150 million records.

Frey, 67, died Monday of what the band said were complications from rheumatoid arthritis, acute ulcerative colitis and pneumonia. His death came less than six months after Frey and the Eagles, which he co-founded with singer Don Henley, wrapped their latest tour. Frey's indulgences in the 1970s — drugs and women, mainly — were well known. But he became a health nut after the band's breakup in 1980. Frey struggled with intestinal problems over the years, which he blamed, in part, on the dam-

age done to his body during the band's heyday.

In 1986, he missed a reunion with longtime bandmate Henley at a benefit concert in California because of an intestinal disorder. An attempt to re-form the Eagles in 1990 was put off, in part, because of surgery to remove a large part of Frey's intestine. And in 1994, their "Hell Freezes Over" reunion tour was interrupted by Frey's bout with diverticulitis. The tour resumed the following year. Last year, the Kennedy Center decided to postpone the band's award as an honoree because Frey needed surgery.

Henley, in a statement, described Frey as a brother and credited him with being "the one who started it all."

"He was the spark plug, the man with the plan," Henley said. "He had an encyclopedic knowledge of popular music and a work ethic that wouldn't quit. He was funny, bullheaded, mercurial, generous, deeply talented and driven. He loved his wife and kids more than anything. We are all in a state of shock, disbelief and profound sorrow."

In addition to "Take It Easy," Frey sang lead on "Peaceful Easy Feeling," "Already Gone," "Tequila Sunrise," "Lyn' Eyes," "New Kid in Town" and "How Long."

## Study questions link between pot use, IQ drop

NEW YORK — A new analysis is challenging the idea that smoking marijuana during adolescence can lead to declines in intelligence.

Instead, the new study says, pot smoking may be merely a symptom of something else that's really responsible for a brainpower effect seen in some previous research.

It's not clear what that other factor is, said Joshua Isen, an author of the analysis. But an adolescent at risk for smoking pot "is probably going to show this IQ drop regardless of whether he or she is actually smoking marijuana," said Isen, a lecturer in psychology at

Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

The study was released Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Some prior research has led to suggestions that the developing adolescent brain is particularly vulnerable to harm from marijuana.

Studying the topic is difficult because children can't ethically be randomly chosen to either take illicit drugs or abstain for years so that their outcomes can be compared. Scientists have to assess what people do on their own.

From The Associated Press

# Japan's calls for China to stay out of waters rebuffed

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Chinese officials have brushed off Japan's calls to stay out of its territorial waters in the East China Sea as tensions between the historical adversaries appear to be ramping up again.

Speaking Friday to reporters in Beijing, a spokesman for China's Defense Ministry reiterated previous government assertions that China does not recognize Japan's claims to the disputed Senkaku islands — called Diaoyu by the Chinese — and would continue to traverse the waters.

China's response came just days after Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force could be dispatched to patrol the territory surrounding the islands if China's repeated incursions did not cease. China entered the Japanese-controlled waters with armed vessels for the first time Dec. 26 and again on Jan. 8.

"The Chinese People's Liberation Army will resolutely safeguard China's national sovereignty and security interests," a Defense Ministry spokesman said, according to China's state media. "The Diaoyu Island and its affiliated islets are China's inherent territory since ancient times. China's navigation and patrol activities in the relevant waters near the Diaoyu Islands are completely legitimate, and we call on the Japanese side not to confuse the right and wrong on the issue of the Diaoyu Islands."

Nakatani had declined to speak of hypothetical situations and did not detail Japan's exact response. However, Chinese state media reported that

Japan plans to deploy naval warships to ask the Chinese to vacate the area if their vessels enter waters within 12 nautical miles of the disputed islands.

Japanese defense officials declined to comment, and U.S. naval forces in Japan deferred comment to Pentagon officials, who could not be immediately reached due to the U.S. holiday on Monday.

The U.S. has a mutual defense treaty with Japan and likely would be pulled into any dispute between the quarreling neighbors. Security experts said little would change because of the exchange, but it was a positive step for Japan.

"China's reaction is a good sign. It means that Japan's message got across," said Toshiyuki Shikata, a retired Japan Ground Self-Defense Force lieutenant general who works as a professor at Teikyo University in Tokyo.

China cannot concede the issue because it would look weak in other territorial disputes, Shikata said. Meanwhile, Japan has to prevent China from establishing the islands as its own because they could be lost forever.

The Senkaku islands are strategically important to Japan. They are rich in resources and serve as a protracted buffer to its much larger neighbor to the west.

The Chinese have designs on the islands as they continue to swallow up Asia-Pacific territory to fuel what many experts say is unsustainable economic growth. That, in turn, has led in recent years to a dramatic modernization of their military.

China has claimed disputed islands and waters throughout the region, creating potential threats to freedom of navigation along key trade routes.



# Nadal, Halep exit Aussie Open

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Rafael Nadal lost in the first round of a major for only the second time in his career, beaten in five sets by Fernando Verdasco at the Australian Open in a reversal of their epic, 5-hour, 14-minute semifinal here seven years ago.

Verdasco rallied from a 2-1 deficit and recovered a break in the fifth set to claim a 7-6 (6), 4-6, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2 win in 4 hours and 41 minutes on Tuesday, only his third victory in 17 matches against his fellow Spanish lefthander.

Nadal won his only Australian title in 2009 after beating Verdasco in the semifinals. The 14-time major winner's only other first-round exit in a Grand Slam was at Wimbledon in 2013 when he lost in straight sets to No. 135-ranked Steve Darcis of Belgium.

"It's a hard and painful loss," the fifth-seeded Nadal said. "He was playing amazing in the last set ... more aggressive than me. He took more risks than me, and he won. Probably he deserved."

There were two big upsets in the women's draw, with No. 2 Simona Halep and seven-time Grand Slam winner Venus Williams losing in the first round.

Halep, the 2014 French Open finalist, lost 6-4, 6-3 to Zhang Shuai for her third first-round loss at Melbourne Park in the past five years, but giving the No. 133-ranked Chinese qualifier her first win at a Grand Slam after 14 losses.

"It's OK. I don't want to make this match like dramatic," said Halep, who refused to blame an Achilles tendon problem that forced her out of a warmup event for her earlier loss.

Verdasco went for everything on his ground strokes, ripping 90 winners against only 37 for Nadal as he worked to the extremes to unsettle his former No. 1-

ranked rival.

"To win against Rafa here coming from two sets down is unbelievable," the 32-year-old, No. 45-ranked Verdasco said. "I think I played unbelievable — the fifth set from the break that he made me, I just started hitting winners. I don't know how, just, you know I was closing the eyes and everything was coming in and I keep doing it and I was doing well."

Stan Wawrinka, who beat Nadal in the 2014 Australian final, and four-time runner-up Andy Murray advanced, along with Lleyton Hewitt, the two-time major winner who is playing his 20th and last Australian Open tournament before retiring.

French Open champion Wawrinka was leading 7-6 (2), 6-3 when his opponent Dmitry Tursonov retired with what appeared to be an upper leg injury.

After beating Halep, Zhang burst into tears when asked about breaking the drought.

"I think in my life, it's the best tennis," she said. "To win against a top-two player, I'm so happy, so excited."

Williams lost 6-4, 6-2 to Johanna Konta, her eighth first-round loss at a major.

No. 3 Garbine Muguruza and No. 7 Angelique Kerber advanced along with two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka, who closed play on center court with a 6-0, 6-0 rout of Alison Van Uytvanck.

The upset results took some focus off the match-fixing allegations that have overshadowed the first two days of the season's first major.

No. 2-ranked Murray opened with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 win over Alexander Zverev, checked to see there were no urgent calls from home — his wife is expecting their first child next month — and had to answer questions immediately about the reports.

"I just think that it should be tennis that does a better job of explaining," Murray said. "You have to be proactive with things like this and go and speak to the players rather than them reading about it in the newspapers or listening to it on the TV or the radio."

The BBC and BuzzFeed News published reports Monday alleging match-fixing had gone unchecked in tennis. The reports alleged 16 players, all ranked in the top 50 at some stage and half of them playing at the Australian Open, had repeatedly raised suspicion because of their results but had not been sanctioned. No players were identified.

The governing bodies for tennis rejected the claims, but Murray thought the authorities could be doing more to combat the potential for corruption.

Murray finds it "hypocritical" authorities are trying to stamp out match-fixing run by gambling syndicates but have partnered with a major gambling company that is now advertising on the Australian Open's show courts.

He said the sport was sending mixed messages by allowing betting company William Hill to become one of the Australian Open's sponsor's this year and advertise on the tournament's three main show courts.

For the first time at Melbourne Park, electronic advertising boards at Rod Laver Arena, Margaret Court Arena and Hisense Arena display the name "William Hill" during breaks in play.

"I'm not really pro that," Murray said. "I think it's a little bit hypocritical. You know, because I don't believe the players are allowed to be sponsored by betting companies, but the tournaments are. I don't really understand how it all works. I think it's a bit strange."

## Rose headed to Reds' Hall of Fame in June

CINCINNATI — Pete Rose is getting a hall of fame induction: in the Cincinnati Reds' team hall, during a weekend of honors this summer in his hometown that will include retiring his No. 14.

The Reds' announcements Tuesday came after MLB commissioner Rob Manfred last month rejected Rose's application for reinstatement to baseball. Manfred concluded that baseball's career hits leader hasn't shown evidence of "a reconfigured life" and continued to gamble, even while seeking to end the lifetime ban imposed in 1989 for betting on numerous Reds games while playing for and managing the team.

Reds' chief executive Bob Castellini said Manfred approved the team's plans to honor Rose, 74. The June 24-26 events will also feature a 40-year reunion of the 1976 world champion Reds, on-field ceremonies, and a team hall of fame banquet in which Rose will be awarded the red sports coat its members wear.

Castellini said there are plans, although the timetable is uncertain, of adding a Rose statue to those of all-time Reds greats outside Great American Ball Park. His "Big Red Machine" teammates Johnny Bench, Joe Morgan and Tony Perez already have statues.

Rose is joining those three National Hall of Famers in the 85-strong Reds' hall that includes the late manager Sparky Anderson and much of the rest of the '75-'76 team.

The Reds will host the San Diego Padres during Rose's induction weekend. That's the team he broke Ty Cobb's career record against in 1985 with hit No. 4,192. The 17-time All-Star ended his career with 4,256 hits.

In other baseball news:

■ Left-hander Wei-Yin Chen has finalized an \$80 million, five-year contract with the Miami Marlins. The Marlins announced the agreement Tuesday.

Chen, who is expected to be the No. 2 starter behind ace Jose Fernandez, went 46-32 with a 3.72 ERA in four seasons with the Baltimore Orioles.

■ The Detroit Tigers have agreed to a \$132.75 million, six-year contract with free-agent outfielder Justin Upton, according to a person with knowledge of the deal.

The person spoke Monday night on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been announced. The deal was pending a physical, and Upton can opt out after two seasons.

## NASCAR expands Chase format to 2 other series

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR is expanding its Chase format to include its feeder series.

NASCAR Chairman and CEO Brian France announced Tuesday that the Xfinity Series and the Camping World Truck Series will begin using a Chase format in 2016, mostly mirroring the playoff-style setup used to determine the Sprint Cup champion the last two years.

The lower-tier series will feature a seven-race Chase to decide its champion. The Cup series uses a 10-race format.

All three series will crown a champ at Homestead-Miami Speedway. However, all three will begin at different tracks: Chicago (Sprint Cup), Kentucky (Xfinity) and New Hampshire (Trucks).

The Associated Press

## Eagles announce Pederson's hiring

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Eagles are sort of going back to their glory days.

Doug Pederson, who helped groom Donovan McNabb for the starting quarterback job and a successful playoff run, was hired Monday to be Philadelphia's coach.

Pederson was Kansas City's offensive coordinator under Andy Reid for the past three seasons.

"Doug is a strategic thinker, a compelling leader and communicator, and someone who truly knows how to get the best out of his players," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said. "All of these factors were what initially attracted us to Doug and we believe that he is the right man to help us achieve our ultimate goal."

Pederson accepted the offer to become Philadelphia's coach last week. The team had to wait for the Chiefs to be eliminated from the playoffs before making it official.

Pederson started nine games at quar-

terback for the Eagles in 1999 when Reid was a first-year coach and McNabb was a rookie.

He prepared McNabb to take over later in the season and the Eagles started a string of playoff appearances the following year.

Pederson returned to Philly a decade later as an assistant under Reid and helped Michael Vick have his best season in 2010.

Pederson followed Reid to Kansas City in 2013 and was promoted to offensive coordinator.

Pederson replaces Chip Kelly, who was fired one game before completing his third season.

As the Chiefs offensive coordinator from 2013-15, Pederson helped guide Kansas City to a 31-17 regular-season record and playoff appearances in 2013 and 2015.

The Chiefs didn't rank higher than 21st in total yards in any of his three seasons, but overall were first in the NFL in rushing touchdowns (54), third in yards per carry (4.6) and seventh in total yards rushing

(6,018).

Pederson is credited with developing quarterback Alex Smith, a former No. 1 overall pick by San Francisco.

Under Pederson's guidance, Smith had three consecutive 3,000-yard seasons, threw the second-fewest interceptions among quarterbacks with more than 1,000 attempts (20) and ranked fourth among all quarterbacks with 1,183 yards rushing.

Pederson played 10 NFL seasons almost exclusively as a backup quarterback. He was with Miami, Green Bay, Philadelphia and Cleveland. He was 2-7 as a starter for the Eagles. The following year with Cleveland, he went 1-7 as a starter.

Pederson played for Don Shula, Mike Holmgren and Reid. He played behind Brett Favre, Dan Marino, McNabb and Jim McMahon.

The Eagles finished 7-9 this past season. Kelly was 10-6 in each of his first two seasons and won a division title in 2013 before going 6-9 this season. He was hired to coach the 49ers last week.



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# Warriors demolish Cavaliers

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Stephen Curry didn't smell champagne. Blood was in the air.

Curry scored 35 points in three quarters, Andre Iguodala added 20 and Golden State returned to the arena where it won the NBA championship last season and embarrassed the Cleveland Cavaliers 132-98 on Monday night.

The Warriors built a 30-point lead in the first half, pushed their advantage to 43 after halftime and bounced back from a shocking loss in Detroit over the weekend by winning their fifth straight over Cleveland.

Only a late flurry of points helped the Cavs avoid their worst home loss in franchise history.

"They did what they wanted," LeBron James said.

Curry made seven three-pointers — his last put the Warriors ahead by 40 late in the third quarter — and the reigning league MVP seemed right at home in Quicken Loans Arena, where the Warriors clinched their first title since 1975 last June. On Sunday, Curry said he hoped the visitor's locker room "still smells a little bit like champagne."

That aroma had long dissipated, but the Warriors looked thirsty for more bubbly. Curry downplayed his champagne boast.

"The last time I was there we had a trophy, we had champagne and we had goggles," Curry said, recalling last season's Game 6. "We had a good time."

With Curry leading the charge, the Warriors overwhelmed the Cavs, who lost at Golden State 89-83 on Christmas Day and could do little to stop the defending champions.

James scored 16 for Cleveland, which just went 5-1 on its longest road trip this season. And like last season's Finals, James didn't have much help. Kyrie Irving had eight points on 3 of 11 shooting and Kevin Love had three points in 21 forgettable minutes.

"I'm not going to put too much into it," James said. "Against the top teams, you want to play well and we haven't done that. We're 0-3," James said, referring to

Cleveland's record against Golden State and San Antonio, the West's top powers. "We got a long way to go. Tonight was an example of how far we have to go to get to a championship level."

A frustrating night for the Cavs bubbled over in the third quarter when J.R. Smith lowered his shoulder and charged into Harrison Barnes, flattening the Warriors forward. Smith, who arrived at the arena less than an hour before tip-off, was called for a Flagrant 2 foul and ejected.

Cavs coach David Blatt said he was not aware of Smith's tardiness.

"If that's so, it's not a good thing for sure," Blatt said.

Smith was gone when Cleveland's locker room opened for reporters.

Draymond Green added 16 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds for the Warriors, who rested their starters in the fourth.

Curry quickly reminded an amped-up Cleveland crowd what he did to the Cavs last summer by burying a three-pointer on his first shot.

Golden State was just warming up.

Green's three-pointer put the Warriors up by 16, and Curry scored a three-point play to give Golden State a 23-point lead.

On Cleveland's next possession, James was backing down in the lane when Curry came up from behind, stripped the ball and went the length of the floor for an easy layup to make it 57-32.

**Clippers 140, Rockets 132 (OT):** Sharp-shooting J.J. Redick scored a career-high 40 points and host Los Angeles made a franchise-record 22 three-pointers in an overtime victory against Houston.

Redick connected on his first five attempts behind the arc and finished 9-for-12 on three-pointers, tying Caron Butler's club record for threes and coming within three makes of the NBA game record shared by Kobe Bryant and Donyell Marshall.

**Hornets 124, Jazz 119 (2OT):** Kemba Walker scored a franchise-record 52 points for host Charlotte.

Walker made 16 of 34 shots from the field, including six of 11 three-pointers and broke the franchise mark of 48 points

set by Glen Rice on March 6, 1997, in an overtime win against Boston.

**Knicks 119, 76ers 113 (2OT):** Carmelo Anthony returned from a two-game absence and made a tying three-pointer with 3.4 seconds left in regulation, and host New York beat Philadelphia.

Anthony was just 7-for-28 after sitting out with a sprained right ankle, but he made a three-pointer from straight away over Nerlens Noel after the Knicks were on the verge of losing a game they led by 18 points in the third quarter.

**Raptors 112, Nets 100:** Kyle Lowry scored 13 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter, DeMar DeRozan scored 30 points and host Toronto matched a season high with its fifth straight win.

**Mavericks 118, Celtics 113 (OT):** Dirk Nowitzki scored 31 points for host Dallas, and Deron Williams had 10 of his 20 points in overtime.

The Mavericks rallied from a six-point fourth-quarter deficit and then hit their first four three-pointers to open overtime.

Nowitzki scored 14 points in the fourth and seven in overtime.

**Trail Blazers 108, Wizards 98:** C.J. McCollum made six three-pointers and scored 25 points, helping visiting Portland hold off Washington.

The Wizards rallied from 17 down to take the lead in the third quarter. The Blazers responded with a 23-1 run.

**Grizzlies 101, Pelicans 99:** Marc Gasol had 16 points and 10 rebounds, leading balanced Memphis to the home victory.

Matt Barnes, Jeff Green and Courtney Lee also had 16 points apiece for Memphis, which has won three in a row and five of six.

**Bulls 111, Pistons 101:** Pau Gasol had 31 points and 12 rebounds for visiting Chicago.

Detroit guard Kentavious Caldwell-Pope received two technical fouls and was ejected.

**Hawks 98, Magic 81:** Al Horford scored 15 points, Paul Millsap had 13 points and 12 rebounds, and host Atlanta won its second straight.

# Iowa St. upends No. 1 OU

Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — Another No. 1 team came to the state of Iowa.

Another No. 1 team left with a loss. Georges Niang scored 22 points, Monte Morris added 20 and No. 19 Iowa State beat top-ranked Oklahoma 82-77 on Monday night, its first win over a No. 1 team since toppling Wilt Chamberlain's Kansas Jayhawks in 1957.

Morris had a jumper, a key rebound and two free throws in the final 21 seconds for the Cyclones (14-4, 3-3 Big 12), who were actually slight favorites at home.

It was the third time a No. 1 team lost within Iowa's borders this season. Northern Iowa beat North Carolina and Iowa beat Michigan State.

"Basketball is alive and well here. Basketball is at an elite level in Iowa," said Niang, who grew up in Massachusetts.

Oklahoma, which moved to No. 1 earlier Monday for the first time in 26 years, didn't go down quietly. Isaiah Cousins hit a three with 41 seconds left to tie the game at 75.

But Morris drilled a step-back jumper for the lead, and Abdel Nader's free throws with 3.1 seconds to go put it out of reach.

Buddy Hield scored 27 points and Cousins had a career-high 26 for the Sooners (15-2, 4-2). They could make a case for retaining the top spot with a win Saturday at No. 13 Baylor.

Oklahoma's two losses came in two of the toughest places to play in the country. The Sooners fell in triple overtime at Kansas in arguably the best game of the season so far.

Iowa State nearly beat Oklahoma on the road in the Big 12 opener earlier this month. The Cyclones led for 30 minutes, but Morris missed a wide-open three with 6 seconds left and the Sooners escaped 87-83.

**No. 22 Purdue 107, Rutgers 57:** Freshman Caleb Swanigan had 12 points and 13 rebounds, and the Boilermakers held a 63-23 advantage on the boards in handing the Scarlet Knights their worst home loss.

Rutgers' previous worst loss at home was a 111-69 decision to Lafayette on March 3, 1956.

The 107 points tied a season high for Purdue and the 50-point margin of victory was its biggest of the season and its biggest ever in a Big Ten game.

**Monmouth 85, Siena 69:** Justin Robinson had 23 points, Deon Jones scored 16 of his 21 points in the second half and the host Blue Hawks beat the Saints for their fifth straight win.

Monmouth started the first and second halves with 15-4 runs — the latter for a 56-40 lead. Robinson, Jones and Micah Seaborn each made a three-pointer during the second-half spurt.

Je'lon Hornbeak chipped in 10 points for Monmouth (14-4, 6-1 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference).

**Valparaiso 96, Youngstown State 65:** Alec Peters and Darien Walker scored 18 points apiece to help lead the visiting Crusaders to a dominating victory over the Penguins.

Peters, who had 15 in the first half, made seven of 11 from the floor and nailed all four attempts from beyond the arc. Walker made six of nine field goals, including four of five from long range. Jubril Adekoya added 12 points and Vashil Fernandez picked up his second straight double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

# Stastny leads Blues to rout of Penguins

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Paul Stastny and the rest of the Blues' top line turned in a clutch performance Monday night.

Stastny had a goal and three assists, and linemates Alexander Steen and Troy Brouwer each added a goal and an assist for St. Louis in a 5-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

"We talked a little bit before the game that the last few games we've been a little bit stagnant," Brouwer said, "so we wanted to be a difference-maker tonight and we were."

Stastny's four-point game, his first since signing with the Blues before last season, fueled the line's eight-point effort.

"I think we just work for each other," Stastny said. "We're getting more and more comfortable. I think we've had chances and today they started falling."

Vladimir Tarasenko and Kevin Shattenkirk also scored for the Blues, who have won four of five following a five-game losing streak. Brian Elliott followed up his career-high 46 saves Saturday by stopping 36 shots against Pittsburgh.

"He's competing at a very, very high level now," St. Louis coach Ken Hitchcock said. "He's taking advantage of a situ-

ation that was thrust upon him, but his competitive level's as high as I've seen it right now. It's really good to see."

Evgeni Malkin and Chris Kunitz scored, and Kris Letang had two assists for the Penguins. They have lost three of four.

"We didn't execute like we wanted to," Penguins center Sidney Crosby said about his team's play in the third period. "Especially after we did in the first and second. We need to give a bigger push than that with a tied game in the third. They were better in the third, I thought. The first two periods we gave ourselves a good chance, but the third period was kind of the story of the game."

Steen scored first, with 8 minutes left in the opening period, after Zatkoff left the crease to challenge Brouwer for a puck. Stastny then fed a pass in front and Steen, who hit the post earlier, buried it for his 14th of the season.

The Penguins tied it with Kunitz's eighth of the season, on a breakaway after a spring pass from Letang with 1:57 remaining in the first. Crosby picked up the secondary assist, giving him six points (two goals, four assists) in four games.

**Oilers 4, Panthers 2:** Taylor Hall snapped a scoring drought with two goals, Cam Talbot stopped 30 shots and

visiting Edmonton added to Florida's slide.

Teddy Purcell had a goal and two assists for Edmonton, which led 3-0 after two periods and then withstood a Florida rally in the final 20 minutes. Jordan Eberle also scored for the Oilers.

**Senators 4, Sharks 3 (SO):** Zack Smith tied the game with a short-handed penalty shot and Mika Zibanejad scored the lone goal in the shootout to help Ottawa rally past host San Jose.

Max McCormick and Bobby Ryan scored to stake the Senators to a 2-0 lead, but Ottawa once again needed a late comeback two days after scoring four third-period goals to win 5-3 in Los Angeles.

**Avalanche 2, Jets 1:** Carl Soderberg had a goal and an assist to help Colorado defeat host Winnipeg.

Jarome Iginla scored his 13th of the season and Semyon Varlamov made 36 saves for the Avalanche.

**Sabres 2, Coyotes 1:** Jack Eichel had a goal and an assist, Chad Johnson made 26 saves and visiting Buffalo beat struggling Arizona.

Jamie McGinn also scored and Rasmus Ristolainen had two assists for the Sabres, who have won two straight and four of five following a six-game skid.