

STARS AND STRIPES®

Friday, January 29, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Carter seeks more leave time for women

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Thursday that he intends to give 12 weeks of paid maternity leave to female servicemembers and will work to boost time off for paternity leave and adoptions.

Carter also said he intends to expand health care coverage to include more benefits for women trying to get pregnant. He also will direct the military services to expand the hours that military child care facilities are open and the number of children that can be accommodated.

“As we introduce today’s reforms, our calculation is quite simple. We want our people to be able to balance two of the most solemn commitments they could ever make: a commitment to serve their country and a commitment to start and support a family,” Carter said Thursday at a Pentagon news

briefing.

The proposals are part of Carter’s ongoing effort to modernize the military and to make it more competitive as it seeks to retain and recruit quality forces. He’s already pushed past Marine Corps objections to allowing women to apply for combat jobs and has expressed a willingness to consider allowing transgender people to serve openly.

Officials who weren’t authorized to discuss the plans publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity said the military service chiefs and leaders largely endorsed the changes. There were concerns, however, expressed mainly by the Army and the Marine Corps about the impact of any significant increase in maternity leave.

The maternity leave issue is complicated by the fact that Navy Secretary Ray Mabus already increased paid time off for Navy and Marine Corps forces in July from six weeks to 18 weeks. The Marine Corps

and the Army, however, raised worries about extending leave to 18 weeks, contending it would keep key combat support troops off their jobs for too long and make it difficult to cover their posts by shifting personnel.

Carter’s decision to settle on 12 weeks would force the Navy to scale back its 18-week leave and make accommodations for servicemembers who might have already planned or started the longer time off.

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, which represents post-9/11 veterans, said it was disappointed by the move and that it will break faith with female Marines and sailors. The group urged the DOD and White House to intervene and ensure their leave time is not reduced.

“As a former naval officer and a parent, I am particularly disappointed by this six-week loss in maternity leave for Marines and sailors,” said Matt Miller, chief policy officer for IAVA. “It’s critical that the Defense

Department preserves and improves the system of support for military families, and those who continue to face challenges in finding and paying for quality child care.”

The planned increase for paternity leave would go from 10 days to 14 days. Also, officials said Carter wants to expand the three-week leave for an adoptive parent and allow the second parent to take off two weeks if that person is also in the military.

The paternity and adoption leave changes would require approval from Congress.

The child care plan would increase the minimum time the facilities are open from 12 hours to 14 hours. Carter also wants the services to modernize and improve the child care system to reduce waiting lists and increase the number of children who can be served.

Stars and Stripes reporters Tara Copp and Travis J. Tritten contributed to this report.

Iran says it flew drone over US aircraft carrier

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran flew a surveillance drone over a U.S. aircraft carrier and took “precise” photographs of it as part of an ongoing naval drill, state television reported Friday. The U.S. Navy said an unarmed Iranian drone flew near French and American carriers on Jan. 12, but couldn’t confirm it was the same incident.

The reported overflight by the unmanned aircraft came after a series of naval incidents between Iran and the U.S. in the greater Persian Gulf, including test rocket fire by the Islamic Republic and its brief capture of American sailors who strayed

into its territorial waters.

The Associated Press could not independently verify the footage, which shows the drone taking video as it flies over the flight deck of an aircraft carrier. Cmdr. Kevin Stephens, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy’s 5th Fleet based in Bahrain, said an unarmed Iranian drone flew near the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle and “directly over” the USS Harry S. Truman on Jan. 12 as the vessels were in international waters in the Persian Gulf.

He said the drone “posed no danger to the ship,” as the unmanned aircraft was unarmed and the carrier wasn’t conduct-

ing flight operations at the time. It was unclear under what conditions the Navy would have prevented the overflight.

“It was, however, abnormal and unprofessional,” Stephens said. He added that the U.S. Navy was “not in a position to verify the authenticity of the video, as there are countless examples of similar footage to be found on the Internet.”

The report by state television said the drone flight occurred on the third day of the naval exercise, suggesting it happened Friday. Later, its website and the semiofficial Fars news agency, which is close to Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guard, pub-

lished footage it said was of the drone’s flight.

The footage showed the drone launch and later hover above what appeared to be an aircraft carrier underway in a body of water. The footage zoomed into a row of fighter jets on the carrier’s deck. There were no identifying marks visible on the carrier.

Adm. Habibollah Sayyari, the commander of Iran’s navy, called the drone overflight “a sign of bravery.” It “allowed our men to go so close to the warship and shoot such a beautiful and accurate footage of the combat units of the foreign forces,” he told state television.

Navy commander guilty in 'Fat' Leonard case

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — A Navy commander who has been one of the last holdouts fighting bribery charges in the "Fat" Leonard scandal pleaded guilty Thursday.

Cmdr. Michael Misiewicz, who is accused of diverting Navy ships to numerous Southeast Asian ports manned by Navy contractor "Fat" Leonard Francis, pleaded guilty in San Diego federal court to conspiracy to commit bribery and bribery of a public official.

Seven others, including Francis and former and current Navy members and employees, have pleaded guilty in the still-unfolding case. Misiewicz's plea leaves one remaining defendant fighting a bribery charge — Paul Simpkins, a former Department of Defense official who once oversaw Navy contracts in Southeast Asia.

However, federal prosecutors indicate more charges

could still be on the horizon as the investigation continues.

Misiewicz, who managed operations on the USS Blue Ridge, the flagship of the Navy's 7th Fleet, is one of the highest-ranking officials to be implicated in the scandal. He is accused of accepting bribes of prostitutes, luxury hotel stays and travel expenses for helping bolster Francis' contracting company, Glenn Defense Marine Asia. The company provides services and goods for visiting ships such as trash removal, security and food.

The first sentencing in the case occurred last week. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Dan Layug received two years and three months in prison for swapping classified information for bribes of cash and gadgets.

On Friday, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Todd Dale Malaki was set for sentencing. Misiewicz is to be sentenced April 29.

Official: Jets caused sonic booms off East Coast

TRENTON, N.J. — Sonic booms heard and felt along the eastern shoreline were caused by military fighter jets conducting tests, officials said.

An F-35C, which has a top speed of nearly 1,200 mph, and an F-18 from Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland were conducting supersonic testing off the coast Thursday

afternoon, according to a Navy spokeswoman.

Residents reported hearing loud booms and feeling the ground and buildings shake from New Jersey to Long Island. The booms were heard as far away as Connecticut.

Navy spokeswoman Connie Hempel said supersonic tests flights are done almost daily in the same area but that most sonic booms aren't felt on land.

From The Associated Press

Judge reverses VA executive's demotion

By DIANNA CAHN

Stars and Stripes

PHILADELPHIA — An administrative judge has reversed the demotion of one of two Department of Veterans Affairs senior executives accused of using their positions to transfer to easier jobs at the same salary and to receive huge relocation packages.

Kim Graves, director of the St. Paul, Minn., regional benefits office, was demoted and transferred earlier this month. The appeals judge in Chicago issued her ruling Wednesday, just as a similar hearing began in Philadelphia for senior executive Diana Rubens, who also was demoted.

After a full day of testimony before the Merit Systems Protection Board, Rubens took the stand Thursday morning, spending four hours answering questions about allegations that as the undersecretary for field operations in Washington, D.C., she used her power to become director of the Philadelphia regional office and to collect an incentive package of nearly \$275,000.

The charges Rubens is fighting were less severe than the conclusions in the initial VA Inspector General report. Instead, Rubens was accused of using poor judgment that gave the appearance that she had not acted in the best interests

of veterans.

In testimony that ranged from emotional to apologetic, Rubens cried as she spoke about her service and admitted that parts of her answers during the investigation were inaccurate. She said that having read her IG testimony 10 to 15 times, and having reviewed binders of notes, emails and documents, she realizes she made mistakes.

Part of the charges against her focused on the reassignments of regional office directors from Philadelphia and St. Paul. Email showed that Rubens had been involved in those moves in the spring of 2014, discussing salaries and incentive packages with the two men and signing their relocation documents. At the same time, one was holding the job she wanted and the other had expressed interest in the Philadelphia opening at the same time that she did. He ended up going to Baltimore.

Rubens told the judge Thursday that she did not know St. Paul Director Antoine Waller had been interested in the Philadelphia job, even though she told the IG investigator she knew that Waller was "not enthusiastic" about Baltimore. Rubens said she felt ambushed by the investigation. She said she came to the interview unprepared and without legal counsel, and was caught off guard and misspoke.

Navy to begin exercise with East Africa nations

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The Navy will kick off its annual maritime exercise with East African nations on Saturday.

Based out of hubs in Djibouti and Seychelles, the eight-day exercise Cutlass Express encourages neighboring coun-

tries to work together on issues such as piracy and illegal fishing and to better coordinate policing of territorial waters.

Participants will train to board ships and conduct maritime air patrols and search-and-rescue operations.

Seventeen nations are scheduled to participate, to-

gether with forces from the European Union; the International Maritime Organization; and Combined Task Force 150, the multinational maritime force focused on counterterrorism.

Now in its fifth year, the exercise is one of four African exercises held annually by U.S.

Naval Forces Europe-Africa, based in Naples.

Because few African nations can field significant maritime forces, the Navy has encouraged better surveillance of coastal areas through radar and satellite coverage and shared computer applications.

news@stripes.com

GM Elway gave Broncos extreme makeover after Super Bowl loss

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Two years ago, the Denver Broncos touted the highest-scoring offense the league had ever seen, a record-breaking bunch that piled up 606 points in steamrolling to the Super Bowl.

It all imploded during a stunning 43-8 loss to the Seattle Seahawks and their "Legion of Boom" secondary.

As he slogged through the rubble of yet another Super Bowl landslide, general manager John Elway, who lost three of them by a combined 96 points before capping his Hall of Fame career with back-to-back rings, embarked on an extreme makeover.

He transformed his offensive juggernaut into a defensive powerhouse like Seattle's, maybe better.

The defense that will line up for Denver on Feb. 7 against Cam Newton and the Carolina Panthers includes just three starters from the Broncos' last Super Bowl appearance: linebacker Danny Trevathan and linemen Malik Jackson and Sylvester Williams.

Two months after that 35-point whooping, Elway signed thumpers DeMarcus Ware, T.J. Ward and Aqib Talib to free-agent contracts worth \$109.5 million combined.

Von Miller and Chris Harris Jr. each visited Dr. James Andrews for ACL surgeries, then rehabbed together, pushing each other back into All-Pro form. And Derek Wolfe recovered from a seizure disorder that also rendered him a helpless sideline spectator during that nightmare in New Jersey.

Then, Elway got lucky. Twice. All Big-Ten cornerback Bradley Roby of

Ohio State was expected to go to a re-builder as a consensus top-15 talent in the 2014 draft. But he found himself in Denver at No. 31 after a couple of run-ins with the law that hurt his draft stock but didn't scare away Elway.

Roby, suspended for the Buckeyes' first game his senior season after being accused of getting in a bar fight, resolved a citation for operating a vehicle while under the influence just before draft weekend by pleading guilty to a reduced charge.

Roby began his NFL career by declaring "I'm not a bad guy."

He said the bouncer was the aggressor in the bar brouhaha, and that he was asleep behind the wheel, not driving drunk.

"I can honestly say in those situations I have never committed a crime. I'm going to rest my case on that," he said. "I'm not a bad guy, not a guy you have to worry about off the field."

He's a guy opponents have had to worry about aplenty on the field.

Teaming with Talib and Harris, Roby gives the Broncos the best cornerback combo in the league.

Last year, lightning struck again.

When a state trooper found marijuana in his car after stopping him for speeding just four days before the NFL Draft, Shane Ray knew he hadn't helped himself.

His misdemeanor citation certainly wound up costing him financially after he fell from a projected top-10 pick all the way to No. 23. The Broncos traded up to grab the SEC defensive player of the year.

And like Roby a year earlier, Ray suddenly found himself in an ideal situation.

"If you're going to fall," said his mother, Sabrina Johnson, "who better to catch

you than John Elway?"

And who better to learn from than Miller and Ware?

Instead of serving as a cornerstone for a rebuilding franchise, Ray is playing for a Super Bowl-bound team alongside a pair of top pass rushers he's long admired.

Recreational pot shops are almost as common as 7-Elevens in Denver. While that might have seemed like a problem waiting to happen, Elway dismissed any such notion, stressing that while cannabis is cool in Colorado, "it's still illegal in the NFL."

Ray, subjected to random drug testing from the get-go, insisted he was no pothead and vowed to put his marijuana mistake behind him. Like Roby, Ray has been a model citizen and teammate. He teamed with Shaq Barrett, an undrafted free agent who transformed himself from a practice squad player last year into a pass-rushing menace. The two combined for 9½ sacks.

When the Broncos inquired about Browns left tackle Joe Thomas at the trade deadline, any chance of bolstering Denver's O-line was scuttled when Cleveland asked for Barrett.

Together, Ray and Barrett provided a second wave of pass-rushing pressure that kept Miller and Ware fresh for the kinds of performances Denver's defense provided Sunday, when the Broncos hit Tom Brady 23 times.

Roby made the game-saving interception of Brady's 2-point conversion attempt to tie it with 12 seconds left, sending Denver back to the Super Bowl — this time with the defense Elway so desperately desired.

Murray advances to final

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Now that he has reached the Australian Open final for the fifth time, Andy Murray has a more anxious wait than ever to see if he can break his drought.

No. 2-ranked Murray had a 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-2 win over No. 13-seeded Milos Raonic in a momentum-swinging match that finished just before midnight Friday.

Murray, who has lost all four previous finals he has contested at Melbourne Park, will play the championship decider on Sunday night against five-time champion Novak Djokovic, who has never lost a title match at Rod Laver Arena.

"Five finals is a great achievement. I have to be proud of that achievement," Murray said. "Doesn't matter what's happened in the past. What matters is what happens Sunday."

Three of Djokovic's wins in Australia have come in finals against his old friend Murray, every odd-numbered year since 2011.

Murray had more to contend with against Raonic, who was playing in only his second Grand Slam semifinal, and aiming to be the first Canadian man to reach the final of a major.

In an unusual start, the first seven points of the match went against serve, with Raonic breaking at love and then facing triple break point before holding for a 2-0 lead. It was Raonic's only service break of the match, with Murray fending off six other break-point chances.

Raonic was hampered by an adductor problem in his upper right leg from late in the third set. He needed a medical time out, and later in the fourth set had a massage from the trainer.

After having his serve broken to open the fifth set, Raonic walked back to his chair and angrily smashed his racket on the hard court surface twice, breaking it.

Murray went on a run of winning 20 of 25 points to go ahead 4-0 and all but clinch the four-hour match, and a spot in a ninth Grand Slam final.

Murray's older brother Jamie is in the doubles final with Bruno Soares against Daniel Nestor and Radek Stepanek on Saturday, giving the Scottish siblings the distinction of being the first brothers to appear in the singles and doubles finals at the same major in the Open era. The men's doubles decider follows the women's final between six-time champion Serena Williams and No. 7-seeded Angelique Kerber.

In the women's doubles final Friday, the No. 1-ranked team of Martina Hingis and Sania Mirza beat the Czech pair of Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka 7-6 (1), 6-3 to extend their winning streak to 36 matches on the way to a third Grand Slam title together.

Mirza couldn't extend her run in mixed doubles, losing with her partner Ivan Dodig of Croatia 7-5, 7-6 (4) to Elena Vesnina and Soares in the semifinals later Friday. Vesnina and Soares will play American Coco Vandeweghe and Horia Tecau of Romania in Sunday's final.

Fast starts have been key for Panthers

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Denver Broncos may want to make sure they get off to a fast start if they hope to beat the Carolina Panthers in the Super Bowl.

Cam Newton and the Panthers have been dominant in the first half of their postseason games, outscoring Arizona and Seattle by a combined margin of 55-7.

That's been the norm this season for the Panthers.

They doubled the output of their opponents in the regular season, outscoring them 265-121 in the first half.

Newton said it has nothing to do with rah-rah pre-game speeches, attributing the team's fast starts to preparation.

"Our coaches do an unbelievable job with preparing us for the moment," Newton said. "Coach (Ron Rivera) has a saying, 'You don't have to be prepared today, nor tomorrow, but you have to be

prepared to play on Sunday.' So, that's kind of been our philosophy in staying in the same groove and the process — and hopefully that it carries over to the game."

It certainly has Denver quarterback Peyton Manning's attention.

"As you watch the game unfold, you see the scoreboard and it's just 7-0, it's 14-0," Manning said. "It's like the guy singing the National Anthem is still on the field, you know, the game hasn't started yet."

"So, they feed off each other, is what you gather from the film. The offense takes advantage of the turnovers that the defense gets them. That's the sign of a great football team." It has worked well for Carolina, especially in the playoffs.

The fast-starting Panthers have scored six touchdowns and two field goals in 13 first-half possessions in the postseason. Carolina's defense has also scored with Luke Kuechly returning an interception

for a TD against the Seahawks.

The Broncos would certainly prefer not to dig themselves a hole in the Super Bowl like they did two years ago when fell behind 22-0 at halftime to the Seahawks and lost 43-8.

But this year's team has shown a penchant for orchestrating some quality comebacks.

The Broncos are the only team in NFL history ever to overcome 14-point deficits in one season against three playoff-bound teams — New England, Kansas City and Cincinnati.

Denver cornerback Aqib Talib said the Broncos must match Carolina's energy.

"They're playing great football right now," Talib said. Newton "is throwing the ball amazing, and then you know what he can do with his legs. He's the best of both worlds. He's probably the most dangerous quarterback in the NFL right now."



Ship's Store official new car program

Exclusive Navy at-sea offers:

www.navyauto.com or nasinfo@navyauto.com

Raptors stretch streak to 10

Associated Press

TORONTO — The 10-game winning streak the Toronto Raptors are on now is all part of the process coach Dwane Casey put in place five years ago.

"He told us to stick to everything he's showing us and teaching us from the beginning," DeMar DeRozan said. "It's big, look at us now. We just beat some record today, just stuff like that."

Kyle Lowry had 26 points and 10 assists, DeRozan also scored 26 points and the Raptors beat the New York Knicks 103-93 on Thursday night for the longest winning streak in franchise history.

Jonas Valanciunas added 11 points and 18 rebounds for the Raptors on the day DeRozan was chosen to join Lowry at next month's All-Star Game in Toronto.

"Words can't explain it, especially with the rough time I had last year, going down with the injury," DeRozan said. "But everything is a process. Nothing was ever given to me. I had to work for every single thing I accomplished, individually and team-wise. It was rough but I think that's made me into the person and player I am today."

Lowry shook off a sprained left wrist sustained in Tuesday's win over the Washington Wizards to add 10 assists.

"He looked pretty good, OK, healthy and fresh," Casey said. "It is still sore. but we can't dismiss the fact these young men have strung together 10, the first time in 20 years. It's not the end-all but it's an accomplishment."

Arron Afflalo had 20 points for the undermanned Knicks, who matched a season high with a fourth straight loss. New York was without starters Carmelo Anthony, Kristaps Porzingis and Jose Calderon.

Coach Derek Fisher was particularly critical of the fact that his team, which came into the game shooting an NBA-best 81.3 percent from the free-throw line, could only convert 50 percent of its 20 shots Thursday.

"We didn't do enough things to win regardless of who suits up," Fisher said. "Simple things, we missed free throws

again tonight. We've been a great free throw-shooting team all season; didn't have the focus necessary to make those free throws. Offensive rebounding again hurt us a little bit. We had our chances; we couldn't capitalize."

Bulls 114, Lakers 91: Jimmy Butler had 26 points and 10 assists, and Chicago opened its longest road trip of the season by beating spiraling Los Angeles.

Pau Gasol had 21 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists while facing Kobe Bryant for the final time at Staples Center and the first time anywhere since the 7-foot Spaniard left the Lakers as a free agent in 2014.

Bryant scored 10 points on 4-for-13 shooting after sitting out the previous game for the Lakers, who lost their season-worst eighth straight game to drop to 9-39.

Bryant and Gasol had a seven-year partnership that produced two NBA championships and three trips to the finals.

Pelicans 114, Kings 105: Ryan Anderson tied his career high with 36 points and host New Orleans beat Sacramento for its sixth victory in eight games.

The Pelicans won despite the absences of newly named All-Star Anthony Davis, who suffered a concussion on Monday night, and Tyreke Evans, who has right knee tendinitis. Jrue Holiday had 25 points and eight assists for New Orleans, while Norris Cole had 17 points and 10 assists.

Bryce Dejean-Jones, making his first NBA start, added 14 points.

DeMarcus Cousins had 26 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings, who have lost three straight. Ben McLemore added 26 points for Sacramento and Rajon Rondo 17 points and 15 assists.

Kings associate head coach Chad Iske stood in for head coach George Karl, who was out sick.

Grizzlies 103, Bucks 83: Jeff Green scored 21 points, Marc Gasol added 15 points and eight rebounds, and Memphis pulled away in the second half to beat visiting Milwaukee.

Courtney Lee, Tony Allen and Matt Barnes added 13 points for Memphis, with

all Barnes' coming in the fourth, when he connected on four three-pointers.

Greg Monroe led the Bucks with 21 points and Khris Middleton added 15 points and six assists. Michael Carter-Williams finished with 10 points.

Memphis shot 48 percent for the game, including 10 of 28 from outside the arc. Meanwhile, the Bucks missed 15 of their 16 3-point shots and finished at 37 percent overall.

Nuggets 117, Wizards 113: Danilo Gallinari scored 26 points and hit four of his five three-pointers to lead visiting Denver over reeling Washington.

After the Wizards, who have lost five of six, clawed back from an 18-point, third-quarter deficit to tie the game at 99-all, Gary Harris and Gallinari hit consecutive three-pointers for a 105-99 lead with 3:16 to go.

Emmanuel Mudiay added 20 points for the Nuggets, who rebounded from Wednesday night's loss in Boston with a sharp performance from the 3-point line, going 9 for 18.

Garrett Temple had 20 points for Washington, which put seven players in double figures. John Wall, chosen an NBA All-Star for the third time in his career, had 17 points, nine assists and seven rebounds, but shot just 5-for-17 from the field and missed five of his seven three-point attempts.

Pacers 111, Hawks 92: Monta Ellis scored 25 points and Myles Turner added 20 in his first NBA start to lead host Indiana past Atlanta.

The Pacers snapped a three-game losing streak by outscoring the Hawks 23-2 over the final 5 minutes, 34 seconds.

Atlanta was led by Indianapolis native Jeff Teague, who had 20 points, and Al Horford, who had 14. It was the Hawks' second loss in two nights. After spending most of the final three quarters playing catch-up, the Hawks finally took a 90-88 lead when Horford made a nifty cut for a dunk with 5:55 left in the game.

But the Pacers retook the lead with a 12-0 run flurry and limited Atlanta to only one more basket.

Maryland knocks off No. 3 Iowa

Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Robert Carter Jr. and Rasheed Sulaimon each scored 17 points, and No. 8 Maryland used a late charge to beat No. 3 Iowa 74-68 on Thursday night, ending the Hawkeyes' nine-game winning streak.

The Terrapins led 62-60 before freshman center Diamond Stone dunked off a pass from Jake Layman with 1:24 left. After a steal on the other end by Melo Trimble, Jared Nickens made a layup for a six-point lead.

Maryland (18-3, 7-2 Big Ten) made the margin stand up by making eight free throws over the final 49 seconds. Coming off a defeat at Michigan State on Saturday, the Terrapins improved to 10-0 following a loss over the last two seasons.

Peter Jok scored 14 points for the Hawkeyes (16-4, 7-1), who lost for the first time since Dec. 10. Adam Woodbury had 11 points and 10 rebounds before fouling out with 2:47 left.

Hawkeyes star Jarrod Uthoff, who entered with a Big Ten-leading 18.9 points per game average, missed all five of his field-goal attempts in the first half and finished with nine points on 2-for-13 shooting.

The defeat comes in Iowa's first game since climbing to No. 3 in the rankings, its highest position since 1987.

No. 12 Michigan St. 76, Northwestern 45: Denzel Valentine made five of his team's season-high 16 three-pointers and the visiting Spartans clamped down on the cold-shooting Wildcats.

Valentine finished with 19 points, seven assists and six rebounds as Michigan State (18-4, 5-4 Big Ten) beat Northwestern for the seventh straight time.

Northwestern (15-7, 3-6) shot a season-low 20.7 percent from the field in its fourth consecutive loss. It finished with more free throws (17) than field goals (12).

Bryant McIntosh had 14 points on 4-for-15 shooting for the Wildcats.

No. 23 Oregon 83, No. 18 Arizona 75: Dillon Brooks scored 24 points and the Ducks ended the Wildcats' 49-game home winning streak.

Dwayne Benjamin added 15, Elgin Cook 13 and Tyler Dorsey 12 for Oregon (17-4, 6-2 Pac-12), which entered the game tied for first in the Pac-12.

Ryan Anderson scored 22 and Gabe York 18 for Arizona (16-5, 4-4), which lost at home for the first time since California beat it 77-69 on Feb. 10, 2013. It was the longest active home winning streak in the country.

The Ducks outscored Arizona 19-11 over the final 6½ minutes.

The Wildcats committed 19 turnovers to Oregon's six.

Syracuse 81, No. 25 Notre Dame 66: Trevor Cooney scored 22 points to lead four three of his teammates in double figures, and the host Orange beat the Fighting Irish.

It was the fourth victory of the season over a ranked team for Syracuse (14-8, 4-5 ACC), which built a 44-27 halftime lead and was not threatened in the second half by Notre Dame (14-6, 5-3), which played without injured point guard and leading scorer Demetrius Jackson.

The loss snapped the Irish's four-game win streak.

V.J. Beachem led Notre Dame with 22 points on 5-for-8 shooting from beyond the arc, four in the second half, while Steve Vasturia finished with 16 points.

Goalies brace for new All-Star format

Associated Press

Roberto Luongo knows better than to believe his 72 career shutouts will make much of a difference at the NHL All-Star festivities this weekend.

"You don't prepare for it," the Florida Panthers goalie said shortly after moving into 11th place on the career shutout list following a 4-0 win over Chicago last week. "It's an All-Star Game. I'm not going to take it seriously. I'm going to enjoy the weekend and have some fun trying to put on a show for the fans."

Goalies haven't traditionally been the stars of the All-Star Game, a trend that's expected to continue Sunday, when the league brings its newly introduced 3-on-3 overtime format to Nashville, Tenn.

If this regular-season is an indication, the game will be wide open, featuring end-to-end action and numerous break-away and odd-man rushes.

"There's probably going to be a lot of goals," Maple Leafs All-Star forward Leo Komarov said.

"Maybe 4-on-4 would be better," joked Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen. "It's going to be wild."

Teams of players representing each of the four divisions will square off in two

20-minute, 3-on-3 semifinals. The winners will advance to a 20-minute championship, with the winning team splitting \$1 million in prize money.

3-on-3 fatigue? Capitals coach Barry Trotz expressed concern as to whether the 3-on-3 format might expose players to injuries.

"You take a shot, miss the net or you get a great offensive chance, now there's a race all the way back," Trotz said. "When you're fatigued, you can probably blow a groin or something."

By the numbers: In replacing the 4-on-4 format this season, 3-on-3 action has delivered on the NHL's objective to increase the number of games decided in overtime.

Through Monday, 108 games have ended in overtime versus 62 decided in a shoot-out, according to STATS. Last season, 136 games ended in OT and 170 by shootout.

In 2010-11, a league-high 148 games out of 297 were decided in overtime.

A vote for John Scott: Sabres forward Zemgus Girgensons plans to tune in and watch the All-Star Game for the first time because of John Scott. Girgensons got to know Scott and the player's sense of humor when they were teammates in Buffalo two years ago.

"A lot of people will watch the game because of him," Girgensons said. "And when they see interviews and stuff with that guy, people are going to love that. You need guys like that. He's probably one of the funniest guys."

Scott's selection through a fan vote was questioned because he's a sparingly used tough guy. Scott's now playing in the minors after being traded to Montreal.

Girgensons, Buffalo's 2013 first-round draft pick, became an internet sensation last year, when fans in his native Latvia rallied to vote him into the All-Star Game in Columbus, Ohio.

Girgensons favors All-Star selections being made by a players' vote.

Streaking: Sharks forward Joe Thornton has two goals and 12 assists during a 10-game point streak that coincides with San Jose's 8-0-2 run. On Tuesday night, he became the 33rd player to reach 1,300 career points.

Slumping: The Wild enter the All-Star break having gone 1-6-1 in their past eight, including two shootout losses.

Leaders: Points, Patrick Kane (Chicago), 73; Goals, Kane, 30; Short-handed goals, Jean-Gabriel Pageau (Ottawa), 5; Game-winning goals, Joe Pavelski (San Jose), 8; Assists by a goalie, Lehtonen, 3.