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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

US servicemember dies in Yemen raid

Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — The U.S. military said Sunday that one servicemember was killed and three others were wounded in a raid in Yemen targeting its local al-Qaida branch, marking the first known combat death of a member of the U.S. military under President Donald Trump.

“Americans are saddened this morning with news that a life of a heroic servicemember has been taken in our fight against the evil of radical Islamic terrorism,” Trump said in a statement.

The raid left about 30 people dead, including women and children, according to an al-Qaida official and a news service linked to the terrorist group. One of the children killed was Anwar, the 8-year-old daughter of Anwar al-Awlaki, a radical Yemeni-American cleric killed in a U.S. airstrike in Yemen

in 2011, according to the girl’s grandfather.

Nasser al-Awlaki told The Associated Press that Nora was visiting her mother when the surprise predawn raid took place on Sunday.

U.S. Central Command said in a statement that a fourth servicemember was injured in a “hard landing” in a nearby location. The aircraft was unable to fly afterward and was “intentionally destroyed.”

It said militants from al-Qaida’s branch in Yemen, formally known as al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, were killed in the assault and that U.S. servicemembers taking part in the raid captured “information that will likely provide insight into the planning of future terror plots.”

A U.S. defense official said the raid was approved by Trump. Former President Barack Obama had been briefed on it before he left office on Jan. 20, but for operational reasons it

was not ready to be executed before he departed, according to the official, who was not authorized to discuss details beyond those announced by the Pentagon and so spoke on condition of anonymity.

Yemeni security and tribal officials said the raid in Yemen’s central Bayda province killed three senior al-Qaida leaders: Abdul-Raouf al-Dhahab, Sultan al-Dhahab and Seif al-Nims.

The al-Dhahab family, who are the late al-Awlaki’s in-laws, is considered an ally of al-Qaida, which is now chiefly concentrated in Bayda province. A third family member, Tarek al-Dhahab, was killed in a U.S. drone strike several years ago.

It was not immediately clear whether the family members were actual members of al-Qaida.

An online news service linked to al-Qaida in Yemen likened the raid to a “massacre against

Muslims” and said U.S. warplanes were first seen in the sky above the area at 9 p.m. Saturday and that the raid began at 2 a.m. Sunday, with 16 missiles hitting three houses near Yakla village in Radaa district.

A two-hour gunbattle ensued after American servicemembers landed on the ground, it said. About 30 men, women and children were killed in the raid, it added.

The killed and wounded included some Saudis present at the site, according to the Yemeni officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief journalists.

An al-Qaida official sent to the AP Cairo photos purportedly showing the bloodied bodies of several children killed in the raid, along with houses that had bullet holes.

The official requested anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Trump orders plan to defeat Islamic State

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Saturday ordered the Pentagon to devise a strategy to defeat the Islamic State group and restructured the National Security Council to include his controversial top political adviser and he forged a partnership with Russian President Vladimir Putin in their first official phone call.

Trump and Putin spoke for one hour and vowed to join forces to fight terrorism in Syria and elsewhere, according to the White House and the Kremlin, signaling a potential shift in U.S.-Russian relations.

Meanwhile, Trump signed a presidential memo directing the Pentagon to submit a plan

within 30 days to defeat the Islamic State group, an effort to make good on his campaign promise to more aggressively confront Islamist terrorism than President Barack Obama did.

Even before Saturday’s order, military officials had been at work developing potential actions for Trump and Defense Secretary James Mattis to consider. Those include potentially deploying additional advisers to Iraq and Syria, allowing U.S. military personnel to accompany local forces closer to the front lines, and delegating greater decision-making power to field commanders.

As he signed his directive at his desk in the Oval Office,

Trump said: “I think it’s going to be very successful. That’s big stuff.”

Counseling Trump in the effort will be Stephen Bannon, the White House chief strategist whose influence inside the administration is expanding far beyond politics. In an executive order, Trump reorganized the National Security Council to, along with other changes, give Bannon a regular seat on the principals committee — the meetings of the most senior national security officials, including the secretaries of defense and state.

Trump’s order also states that the director of national intelligence and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs will sit on

the principals committee only when the issues to be discussed pertain to their “responsibilities and expertise.” In the previous two administrations, both were included as regular attendees.

The changes affirm the ascent of Bannon, the former executive chairman of Breitbart, a conservative website that is popular with white nationalists, who has emerged as Trump’s political consigliere and the keeper of the president’s populist flame.

In their call, Putin and Trump discussed Ukraine and Syria, and they agreed to build stronger economic ties between the U.S. and Russia, according to a statement issued by the Kremlin.

Some in GOP question immigration order

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's immigration order is getting pushback from some Republicans in Congress, even as officials from Trump's administration insist it's a small price to pay to keep the nation safe.

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, said Sunday that it would be best for the new president to "slow down" and work with lawmakers on how best to tighten screening for foreigners who enter the United States.

Portman said everyone should "take a deep breath and come up with something that makes sense for our national security" and reflects the fact that "America's always been a welcoming home for refugees and immigrants." He said America is "this beacon of hope and opportunity for the rest of the world" and should remain that way.

The comments came the morning after a federal judge issued an emergency order temporarily barring the United States from deporting people from seven majority Muslim nations subject to Trump's travel ban. The judge said travelers who had been detained had a strong argument that their legal rights had been violated.

The Department of Homeland Security issued a state-

In Mosul, indifference, shock over Trump's temporary ban

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — President Donald Trump's executive order temporarily banning citizens from Iraq and six other Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States was met with mixed reactions in Mosul, where Iraqi soldiers are working closely with a U.S.-led coalition in a tough fight against the Islamic State group.

But while many Iraqi soldiers said they were shocked by the news, others brushed it aside, explaining that in the long run, it may be better for their country to prevent

the highly educated from immigrating abroad.

"When he made this decision, he destroyed us," said Iraqi special forces Cpl. Ali Latif, whose unit works closely with U.S.-led coalition forces in the fight against the Islamic State group in Mosul. "I heard the news, that many people were stopped in airports; why would [the United States] do this?"

The foreign relations committee of Iraq's parliament is asking the government to impose a similar visa ban on Americans trying to enter Iraq, according to member Hassan Shwerid.

ment early on Sunday that said the court ruling would not affect the overall implementation of the White House order and that the order affected a relatively small number of travelers who were inconvenienced by security procedures upon their return. Trump's aides insist the judgment has little impact.

Trump's order, which also suspends the U.S. refugee program for 120 days and bars the

entry of Syrian refugees indefinitely, has sparked major protests, including at several of the nation's international airports. It also puts Republicans who criticized Trump's initial campaign proposal to block foreign Muslims from entering the country in a tough spot.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he supports more stringent screening mechanisms but cau-

tioned that Muslims are some of the country's "best sources in the war against terror."

"I think it's a good idea to tighten the vetting process. But I also think it's important to remember that some of our best sources in the war against radical Islamic terrorism are Muslims, both in this country and overseas," he said. McConnell stressed the need "to be careful as we do this," and said it would be up to the courts to decide "whether or not this has gone too far."

Trump, meanwhile, took to Twitter to defend his actions, and his aides insisted the new measures were a small price to pay to keep the nation safe.

"Our country needs strong borders and extreme vetting, NOW," Trump wrote.

The emergency order was issued by U.S. District Judge Ann Donnelly in New York on Saturday night after lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union filed a court petition on behalf of people from the seven predominantly Muslim nations who were detained at airports across the country as the ban took effect. The order barred U.S. border agents from removing anyone who arrived in the U.S. with a valid visa from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen. It also covered anyone with an approved refugee application.

Navy to release new 'green cammies' this fall

BY TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

The Navy's new "green cammies" and several other uniform updates are on track to be released this fall.

The Navy Working Uniform Type III will be introduced Oct. 1 at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill., a recent administrative message said.

Sailors now have the option of wearing either the blue or green camouflage uniforms, but will be required to own the new

clothing by Oct. 1, 2019, when the blue uniform will no longer be authorized. The new uniforms are tentatively scheduled to arrive at Navy Exchange centers this fall, the message said.

The blue uniform, known as Type I and nicknamed "blueberries," was issued in July 2010 as the Navy's only authorized work uniform. It was widely panned by sailors as uncomfortable, heavy and unsafe near fire.

The blue uniforms are being phased out partly because of

sailors' complaints, former Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said in an August statement.

"They want uniforms that are comfortable, lightweight, breathable ... and they want fewer of them," he said.

Black leather safety boots will remain standard for the green camouflage uniform, but commanding officers may authorize the optional wear of the Navy-certified desert tan or coyote brown, rough-side-out leather nonsafety boots when safety

boots are not required.

Sailors are also allowed to wear a coyote-brown command ball cap in lieu of a blue cap.

The Navy's message also said the new Navy fitness suit, previously scheduled to be released last October, has been pushed to an April release date.

The message added that female chiefs and officers are authorized to wear men's service-dress blue trousers while the Navy continues to work on redesigning women's pants.

Marine looking to save lives through innovation

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Cpl. Matthew Long took an unusual path to developing life-saving medical equipment for fellow Marines. It started in Okinawa when he was fixing engines as a motor transport mechanic.

Long is a winner in this year's Marine Corps Logistics Innovation Challenge. The competition was launched in June by Lt. Gen. Mike Dana, deputy commandant of installations and logistics, with the goal of making advancements in technology and improving capabilities and processes.

Long designed a tear-proof package that slips into a Marine's flak jacket behind the ceramic plates meant to stop bullets and shrapnel. When ruptured, the package releases a clotting agent and a painkiller to stop the bleeding and numb the pain, combatting shock

instantly.

"If a Marine goes down in a hot zone, the corpsman can't get to him," Long said. "We rely solely on the corpsman unless you can self-treat. The whole idea behind this is immediate first aid."

Long's proposal was among 300 that the Marine Corps received and one of 26 chosen for development. Other winning entries, announced late last year, include adaptable and affordable 3-D printed drones, wrist computers and fractal antenna fabrication.

Long is awaiting orders to go to one of several stateside laboratories — such as the U.S. Army Research Laboratory or the National Security Technology Accelerator — that have volunteered to help develop the ideas.

Long, 20, hails from Moultrie, Ga., and said his family's military roots go back to Confederate Marines during the Civil War. Growing up, he always

knew he would join the Marine Corps after high school.

He said because of his lineage, he is hardwired into the military mindset of "always being in the fight."

The idea for the innovation just came to him — then he talked to his mother, an emergency paramedic, to get it just right. He sketched diagrams of his design, down to the correct mixtures of a clotting agent and a powdered painkiller that has yet to be determined. He said it will have to be a highly sophisticated cocktail of ingredients that is strong enough to treat for shock and weak enough that it doesn't slow the heart rate.

Long hopes the innovation saves lives and turns into the feather in his cap that will allow him to advance and make the Marine Corps a career.

"All my family has served," he said. "There's no other place in this world for me than right here doing what I am. I was bred to do Marine Corps things."

New photos of Hiroshima bombing unveiled

BY LEON COOK
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum has unveiled 10 newly discovered photographs related to the city's 1945 atomic bombing, including one of the mushroom cloud taken from the Enola Gay.

That image from the Library of Congress is believed to be the third photo of Hiroshima's atomic cloud taken by the B-29 Superfortress crew, said museum curator Ryo Koyama.

The photo shows what looks like the frame of an airplane window and the entire mushroom cloud rising over the Japanese city. The cloud is in two sections with a horizontal split between the sections, a characteristic visible immediately after a nuclear weapon is detonated.

"With the new photograph, we can compare and examine how the mushroom cloud changed," Koyama told Stars and Stripes on Thursday via telephone. "It also showed that there is a chance of finding more photographs and that it's worth searching for."

The images are the result of an exhaustive search by Koyama and another staff member, who traveled to the U.S. in November to look for photos related to the bombing at the Library of Congress, the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington and the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

The pair sent back more than 2,000 images to compare with the museum's collection, which is estimated at 70,000 photographs.

Many of the photos turned out to be duplicates of ones already in the museum's collection, Koyama said.

Other photographs the museum displayed Tuesday show Hiroshima after the bombing and U.S. servicemembers visiting the devastated city.

PACOM head to attend Cobra Gold opening

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The opening ceremony for next month's Cobra Gold exercise in Thailand will be attended by the head of Pacific Command, the highest-level U.S. officer to join the annual event since a military coup ousted the Southeast Asian nation's government three years ago.

Some see Adm. Harry Harris' attendance at the Feb. 14 opening for the 10-day drills as a thawing of U.S.-Thai relations.

"This is clearly a further step toward a renormalization of the security relationship," said Gregory Poling, an Asia expert with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank. "I think what PACOM is trying

to do is send a message that we want to get over this hump."

The Thai military also views Harris' visit as a leap forward.

"It is not common for an officer of Adm. Harris' rank to attend these sorts of events," Gen. Thanchaiyan Srisuwan, head of Thailand's Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Reuters. "It is a good signal for Thai-American relations and shows that the U.S. has given importance to this region and this exercise."

Thailand's citizens spent the fall mourning the October death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who reigned for seven decades over a constitutional monarchy disrupted numerous times by coups.

The 2014 coup, led by Gen. Prayut Chan-o-cha, left U.S. officials in a quandary over par-

ticipating in Cobra Gold, which began in 1982 and is among the largest exercises in which America participates.

The U.S. pressed the junta for a speedy return to elected government; however, the date for elections has been repeatedly pushed back.

In a gesture of its disapproval, the U.S. curtailed Cobra Gold participation in 2015, sending only 3,600 troops — about 7,000 fewer than the year before. Roughly the same number will participate this year, said Melissa Sweeney, spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok.

The U.S. will also continue to limit the exercise's scope to humanitarian-assistance and disaster-relief drills and military medicine, Poling said.

Trump offers glimmer of hope for base protesters in Okinawa

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Okinawa's governor plans to travel to Washington to lobby the new White House administration against relocation plans for a U.S. air base within the southern island prefecture.

The election of Donald Trump brought supporters of Gov. Takeshi Onaga and anti-base activists a glimmer of hope for changes to U.S. policy that could halt base construction plans decades in the making.

Onaga will arrive Monday and stay until Saturday, said a spokesman for the Okinawa Prefectural Government's military affairs office. Onaga plans to meet with senior officials of the State and Defense departments and members of Congress, although the meetings have yet to be scheduled. The governor will voice his opposition to mov-

ing Marine Corps Air Station Futenma from busy Ginowan to the island's remote north.

Trump's security policy in the Asia-Pacific region remains speculative.

Critics of the U.S. force posture on Okinawa have seized on Trump's domestic emphasis as a signal that he could roll back current plans.

Trump's "core policy is what is best for America's interests," said Masaaki Gabe, a professor of international relations at the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, who favors a lesser U.S. presence. "Alliance is of least interest to him, so if Japan does not meet his demand to increase its financial contribution, the situation on Okinawa might change."

Gabe said that while most Okinawans want Futenma off the island, they do not want the U.S. military gone completely.

Opinions about American bases and a wish list for Trump

change the farther south you go in Japan.

Yoshitaka Nakayama, mayor of Ishigaki — an island about 250 miles south of Okinawa's main island and 150 miles from Taiwan's east coast — said he wants the U.S.-Japan alliance to remain strong under Trump.

"I ask the new [U.S.] government to make it clear once again that the bilateral security pact covers the Senkaku islands," he said.

Secretary of State-designate Rex Tillerson reaffirmed a commitment to defend the Senkakus, which are administered by Japan but claimed by China, during confirmation hearings this month.

Okinawans also said they wanted to see Trump address noise concerns and fears over the Osprey, which has been at the center of recent crashes and incidents. They want him to pursue dialog with China to increase regional stability.

Voting for Socialist candidate in France

Associated Press

PARIS — French voters on Sunday were electing the Socialist candidate who will face a tough battle against rivals from the far left, the far right and the political center in the presidential election this spring.

The Socialist primary runoff offered a stark choice between two candidates — Benoit Hamon and former Prime Minister Manuel Valls — on opposite poles of the beleaguered party, with sharply different plans for France.

The increasingly uncertain presidential race was rocked last week by ethics questions faced by conservative candidate Francois Fillon, a former prime minister. Financial prosecutors are investigating an allegedly fake but handsomely paid job as a parliamentary aide held by his wife, Penelope.

With a headline-grabbing proposal to pay all French adults a modest monthly stipend, Hamon, 49, emerged from obscurity on the Socialist left to win the primary's first round against six other candidates last weekend.

In the sometimes testy primary campaign, Valls, 54, emphasized his experience in government. As prime minister from 2014 to 2016, he was on the front lines of France's response to gun and suicide-bomb attacks that killed 147 people in Paris in January and November 2015. He also was in office in July 2016 when a man drove a truck into crowds in Nice, killing 86 people.

But Valls' close association with chronically unpopular President Francois Hollande, who isn't seeking a second five-year term, has made him vulnerable in a race against Hamon, who quit Hollande's government in 2014 amid infighting over economic policies.

Netanyahu: US embassy should be in 'capital'

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that the U.S. Embassy in Israel should be moved to Jerusalem, injecting himself once again into a charged campaign trail promise of President Donald Trump.

Netanyahu's comments at his weekly Cabinet meeting appeared aimed at countering reports that Israel was concerned about the fallout of such a move, which is opposed by the Palestinians and has sparked fears of a renewed outbreak of violence.

"I would like to clarify unequivocally that our view has always been, and continues to be, that the United States' embassy should be here in Jerusalem," Netanyahu said. "Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, and it is appropriate that not only the American Embassy will be here but that all embassies will move here, and I believe that in due course, most will come here, to Jerusalem."

Currently, nearly all foreign embassies are in the coastal city of Tel Aviv because their countries have refrained from recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital until its status is resolved in future peace talks.

Israel has called for the embassies to be relocated but hasn't pushed hard for it.

But Trump's rise has emboldened Israel's nationalists. His campaign platform made no mention of a Palestinian state, a cornerstone of two decades of international diplomacy in the region, and he has signaled he will be far more tolerant of Israeli settlement construction.

Both his designated ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, and his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, now a top aide and Mideast envoy, have deep ties to the settler movement. A delegation of settler representatives was invited to Trump's inauguration.

The Palestinians want the West Bank and East Jerusalem — areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war — for their hoped-for state. Former President Barack Obama considered the building of settlements an obstacle to peace and frequently criticized their construction. But Trump did not comment when Israel announced a major housing drive last week.

At the Cabinet meeting, Netanyahu also said his government planned to introduce a bill to legalize dozens of West Bank settlement outposts later this week.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Carjacking attempt with dummy a prank?

NC NEWPORT — Authorities say what first appeared like an attempt to carjack a woman in North Carolina with a dummy dressed in children's clothing now appears to be a prank.

Carteret County deputies told media outlets that three children, ages 10, 14 and 17, put the dressed-up dummy in a road in the middle of the night hoping a driver would run over it and freak out.

Authorities say a woman saw the dummy before hitting it and slowed down. Deputies say two men in dark hoodies approached and pulled her door handles and she sped away and called 911.

Investigators are talking to prosecutors about whether to file charges against the three children.

14K gallons of sewage goes into water system

FL TITUSVILLE — Authorities along the Space Coast say a broken sewer pipe accidentally released 14,000 gallons of raw sewage into a storm water system that flows into the Indian River Lagoon.

Florida Today reported Friday that the sewer line broke on Tuesday and that the release wasn't stopped until about four hours later. The break took place just north of City Hall in Titusville.

The release is only the latest into water systems leading to the biologically-diverse Indian River Lagoon. Earlier this month, Melbourne was fined almost \$4,000 after 400,000 gallons of raw sewage spilled into the Eau Gallie River last November.

Lombardi ring sold for over \$50K at auction

WI GREEN BAY — Vince Lombardi's 1956 New York Giants World Championship ring generated the most money at a recent auction of his memorabilia.

USA Today Network-Wisconsin reported the ring sold for more than \$50,100. Lombardi was the Giants' offensive coordinator and became head coach of the Green Bay Packers in 1959.

The seven Lombardi-related items raised a total of nearly \$127,600.

The other items included a George Halas Night Patek Philippe wristwatch, a congratulatory telegram from President John F. Kennedy, a Green Bay Packers 14-karat gold and diamond cuff link, a Green Bay Packers 14-karat gold and diamond pendant, a Bishop's Charity Game Bulova wristwatch, and New York Giants handwritten playbook notes.

Decades-old slaying of singer's ex solved

CA LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles County authorities said they've solved the 1976 rape and killing of the ex-wife of Righteous Brothers singer Bill Medley.

The Sheriff's department announced Friday that investigators have identified a suspect in the death of Karen Klaas by using DNA from a relative of the suspect. Authorities won't name that suspect or say whether they've made an arrest.

Klaas was attacked in January 1976 as she returned to her home in Hermosa Beach near Los Angeles.

The 32-year-old was sexually assaulted and strangled with her pantyhose. She never re-

gained consciousness and died in a hospital a few days later.

State considers end to switchblade knife ban

CO DENVER — Colorado lawmakers are moving forward with a bill to repeal the state's ban on switchblade knives enacted in 1963.

The folding knives that users can open with one hand by pressing a lever or a button have been legalized in 11 states in recent years, but 14 states still have bans in place.

Switchblades gained infamy after they were featured in the legendary Broadway musical "West Side Story" and in Hollywood films.

That spooked lawmakers, who banned the knives.

Supporters of the repeal say switchblades are useful tools and can help save lives because users only have to use one hand to open them instead of two as with other folding knives.

Reward boosted for missing salamanders

TX SAN MARCOS — A reward for the return of hundreds of endangered salamanders missing for two months from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aquatic center in Central Texas has been boosted to \$15,000.

Some 253 Texas blind salamanders and 110 San Marcos salamanders vanished Thanksgiving Day from the center in San Marcos. The center was closed that day and there's no sign of forced entry.

The center's director, Ken Ostrand, told San Antonio television station KSAT he and his staff catch the amphibians in springs, caves or wells and breed them in case they go extinct in the wild.

Firehouse robbed as firefighters save life

NJ JERSEY CITY — A firehouse in Jersey City was burglarized while firefighters were saving a life.

Officials said the burglar made off with wallets, cash, credit cards and other personal items at the Jersey City Fire Department's Tower Ladder 4 near Dwight Street on Thursday night.

Fire Chief Darren Rivers said firefighters were rescuing a 16-year-old boy from the third floor of a burning building.

They returned to the firehouse and discovered they had been burglarized.

2 cities donate to African sister cities

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Two New Mexico cities are donating emergency response equipment to their sister cities in Africa.

Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry said New Mexico's largest city will donate firefighting gear along with a retired firetruck to the community of Lusaka in Zambia.

In 2014, Lusaka became Albuquerque's 10th sister city and first on the African continent.

The city of Clovis in eastern New Mexico donated a retired ambulance to its Zambian sister city of Kasama.

A Zambian delegation attended Wednesday's announcement. They presented the New Mexico officials with a check to cover the cost of shipping the donated vehicles and equipment.

From wire reports

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Federer tops Nadal to win Aussie Open

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Roger Federer won his 18th Grand Slam title and put some extra distance on the all-time list between himself and Rafael Nadal, the man he beat 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 in a vintage Australian Open final on Sunday night.

It was the 35-year-old Federer's first major title since Wimbledon in 2012, his first in Australia since 2010, and it reversed the status quo against his nemesis, Nadal.

"Against Rafa it's always epic," Federer said after Sunday's victory. "This one means a lot to me because he's caused me problems over the years."

Federer had lost six of the previous eight Grand Slam finals he'd played against Nadal and was 11-23 in their career meetings. He also hadn't beaten the left-handed Spaniard for a major championship since Wimbledon in 2007.

Both players were returning from extended layoffs — Federer for six months after Wimbledon with an injured left knee; Nadal for a couple of months with an injured left wrist — and were seeded 17th and ninth, respectively.

"It's been a different last six months, I wasn't sure I was going to make it here but here I am — we made it," Federer said after

accepting the trophy from Australian great Rod Laver, who lends his name to the main stadium at Melbourne Park.

"I would have been happy to lose too, to be honest. The comeback was perfect as it was. Tennis is a tough sport, there's no draws. If there was going to be one, I would have been happy to have it tonight and share it with Rafa, really."

Federer had lost six of the previous eight Grand Slam finals he'd played against Nadal, and had only previously beaten the left-handed Spaniard in 11 of their 34 matches.

Nadal remains equal second with Pete Sampras on the all-time list, with the last of Nadal's 14 majors coming at Roland Garros in 2014.

He missed his chance to be the first man in the Open era to win each of the four Grand Slams twice. Instead, Federer became the first man in the Open era to win three Grand Slam titles at least five times (Wimbledon 7 titles, U.S. Open 5, Australian Open 5 and French Open 1).

After four sets where the momentum swung alternately from one player to the next, the fifth had all the tension and drama that these two players are famous for.

Nadal went up an early break and it seemed as if the injury time-out Federer

needed after the fourth set may have been an indicator of things to come.

But the Swiss star rallied, and broke back in a pivotal sixth game and took control in a period when he won 10 straight points.

Nadal saved three break points in the eighth game but lost momentum again when Federer finished off a 26-shot rally — the longest of the match — with a forehand winner down the line.

Consecutive forehand errors gave Federer the pivotal break for 5-3, but Nadal made him work for the very last point.

Serving for the match, Federer had to save two break points with an ace and a forehand winner.

At deuce, he was called for a double-fault but challenged the out call on his second serve. The call was overturned, and he got to play two.

Not long after, he fired an ace to get his second match point and hit a forehand crosscourt winner to finish off.

His celebrations were delayed, though, when Nadal challenged the call. Federer watched the replay on the tournament screen, and leaped for joy when it showed his last shot was in. His 100th match at the Australian Open ended with his fifth title at Melbourne Park.

Big goalie, little kid lead NHL All-Star skills contest

BY GREG BEACHAM

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Big Mike Smith and little Ryker Kesler stole the show at the NHL All-Star Skills Competition.

The towering Arizona goalie scored a 188-foot goal during the Four Line Challenge on Saturday night, and the 6-year-old son of Anaheim Ducks center Ryan Kesler scored on Montreal goalie Carey Price during the Shootout.

The Atlantic Division won the overall competition and chose to face the Metropolitan Division on Sunday in the second semifinal period of the All-Star Game, which was changed last year to a 3-on-3 tournament among teams from each of the NHL's four divisions.

NHL scoring leader Connor McDavid won the Fastest Skater competition, and Montreal defenseman Shea Weber had the hardest shot in the All-Star field for the third consecutive season, albeit with his lowest speed yet. Pittsburgh captain Sidney Crosby won the Accuracy Shooting competition, and he joined Weber and

Boston's Brad Marchand as the only adults to score in the shootout.

The event ended with a shootout competition between the Atlantic and Pacific teams, but just four of the 20 skaters scored. One of them was Ryker, who beat the grinning Price five-hole and celebrated with a two-fisted pump that he learned from his All-Star dad, who filmed him on his phone.

"I was more nervous than him watching," Ryan Kesler said.

The best early moment belonged to Smith, who lived every goalie's dream when he shot a puck from the crease into a tiny slot at ice level in the middle of the far net. Before Ryker Kesler seized control of the shootout, Smith's goal was the most memorable moment of this relaxed Saturday afternoon of annual silliness preceding the game Sunday.

"I didn't really have a strategy," Smith said. "I was really focused on just hitting the board, but it kind of curled in at the last second, and I couldn't believe it, to be honest. I was just as shocked as everyone else."

Smith's shot was the highlight of the Four Line Challenge, the newest addition to the Skills Competition. Essentially a version of the on-ice promotions all around the world that turn hockey into a variant of miniature golf, the NHL stars largely missed the tiny targets until Smith let loose with his stunner.

Ryker Kesler also got his dad's turn in the Four Line Challenge, but missed from mid-ice.

Turns out he was just getting warmed up.

McDavid, who's only 14 years older than Ryker, also added another honor to his rapidly growing list, easily beating his seven competitors in a lap around the ice to prove his superior speed. He beat Colorado speedster Nate MacKinnon during their head-to-head race, but fell just short of Dylan Larkin's NHL speed record during his second lap.

The Edmonton Oilers captain was set to appear in his first All-Star Game on Sunday after missing last year's festivities due to a broken collarbone.

No. 2 Kansas rallies past No. 4 Kentucky

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Second-ranked Kansas missed all of its three-point attempts in the first half, and still the Jayhawks kept on shooting.

That confidence paid off in one of college basketball's toughest, loudest environments.

Josh Jackson calmly made consecutive three-pointers to jumpstart the Jayhawks, Frank Mason III had 21 points and Kansas beat No. 4 Kentucky 79-73 on Saturday in the SEC-Big 12 Challenge.

The Challenge's marquee

matchup between college basketball's two winningest programs ended with the Jayhawks earning their second straight win over the Wildcats on Kentucky's home floor.

Three-point shooting was critical for Kansas (19-2). It shook off an 0-for-8 first half to make five of 11 after halftime, starting with Jackson's back-to-back baskets, which provided the first of several leads in a back-and-forth half. Kansas led throughout the final seven minutes.

The Jayhawks shot 59 percent in the second half, and

Jackson finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

"I find making threes gets kind of contagious," the freshman said. "I think it kind of opened it up for us a little bit."

Kansas got this big victory at the end of a tumultuous week for the program.

After the Jayhawks' 85-69 loss Tuesday night at No. 18 West Virginia, campus police in Lawrence announced they were investigating an alleged rape of a 16-year-old girl at the team's dormitory. Coach Bill Self said on Thursday that the investigation had become a "major dis-

traction." Self also suspended forward Carlton Bragg Jr. this week for a violation of team rules that he said wasn't connected to the investigation.

Mason had 13 second-half points and Landen Lucas contributed 13 points — including a layup with 4:41 remaining to cap an 11-0 run for a 69-59 lead — and five rebounds before fouling out. Kentucky (17-4) got within 77-73 before Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk's two free throws with 16 seconds left sealed the hard-fought win.

Gonzaga improves to 22-0 as other top teams fall

Associated Press

MALIBU, Calif. — Gonzaga sure tried to present itself as the top team in the country Saturday night.

Now to see if they've convinced the voters.

The No. 3 Bulldogs are the last unbeaten team in the country and looked every bit of it in a dominant 96-49 victory over outmanned Pepperdine.

Gonzaga pushed its record to 22-0 (10-0 West Coast Conference), and after No. 1 Villanova and No. 2 Kansas both lost last week, it could lead the AP Top 25 for only the second time in school history.

The Bulldogs completely controlled Pepperdine (6-16, 2-8 West Coast Conference), using a commanding height advantage to jump out to 27-8 lead and never looked back.

Center Przemek Karnowski, at 7-foot-1 and 300 pounds, had six inches and at least 50 pounds on his defenders. He connected on 8 of 11 shots to lead the Bulldogs with 16 points. Zach Collins, a 7-footer, had 14 points and six rebounds.

Syracuse 82, No. 6 Florida State 72: Andrew White scored 24 points, John Gillon had 21 points and matched his career high with 11 assists, and the host Orange earned their first win over a ranked team.

Tyler Lydon had 14 points, 11 rebounds and a career-high six blocks for Syracuse (13-9,

5-4 Atlantic Coast Conference), which led 44-26 at halftime.

Dwayne Bacon and Jonathan Isaac each had 19 points for Florida State (18-4, 6-3).

No. 5 Baylor 78, Mississippi 75: Manu Lecomte scored 17 points, leading the visiting Bears in the SEC-Big 12 Challenge.

Baylor (20-1) rallied from a 15-point deficit in the first half to win its fifth straight game.

Miami 77, No. 9 North Carolina 62: Freshman Bruce Brown scored a career-high 30 points, and the host Hurricanes snapped North Carolina's seven-game win streak.

The Tar Heels' point total was a season low and 27 below their average, and they shot only 35 percent.

Colorado 74, No. 10 Oregon 65: Derrick White scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half, keying the Buffaloes' upset that snapped the Ducks' 17-game winning streak.

Xavier Johnson added 13 points for Colorado (12-10, 2-7 Pac-12)

Georgetown 85, No. 11 Butler 81: L.J. Peak scored 22 points and Jessie Govan beat the shot clock with a key three-pointer with 1:03 left for Georgetown.

Govan and Rodney Pryor each finished with 20 points for the Hoyas (12-10, 3-6 Big East).

Kelan Martin scored 22 points for Butler (18-4, 7-3).

Georgia Tech 62, No. 14 Notre Dame 60: Josh Okogie made a fast-break layup as time expired, Tadic Jackson had a career-high 25 points and host Georgia Tech earned another surprising victory over a ranked opponent.

Notre Dame's Matt Farrell went up for a short jumper but missed off the rim with 7 seconds remaining.

No. 15 Wisconsin 61, Rutgers 54: Ethan Happ scored seven of his career-high 32 points in overtime, helping the Badgers get the win at Madison Square Garden.

Happ was the only player for Wisconsin (18-3, 7-1 Big Ten) to shoot above 50 percent; the Badgers shot 33.3 percent (20-for-60) from the field, including a 3-for-25 performance from three-point range.

No. 16 Creighton 83, DePaul 66: Khyri Thomas scored 18 points and Marcus Foster had 15, leading Creighton to the win at home.

Justin Patton added 14 points as the Bluejays (19-3, 6-3 Big East) won for the first time in three games since star point guard Maurice Watson Jr. was shelved by a major knee injury.

No. 17 Duke 85, Wake Forest 83: Luke Kennard hit a three-pointer with 6.6 seconds left, helping Duke rally for the road win.

Kennard finished with 34 points — one shy of his career high.

No. 18 West Virginia 81, Texas A&M 77: Jevon Carter had 19 points and nine rebounds, helping the host Mountaineers hold on for the win.

West Virginia opened a 51-31 lead on Daxter Miles Jr.'s three-pointer early in the second half. But the Mountaineers needed two free throws by Esa Ahmad with 4.4 seconds left to finish off the Aggies.

No. 21 Saint Mary's 72, Santa Clara 59: Jock Landale had 20 points and 11 rebounds and Saint Mary's held off a late charge by host Santa Clara.

The Gaels (19-2, 9-1 West Coast Conference) won their fourth straight game and beat Santa Clara for the 14th time in their past 16 meetings.

No. 22 Maryland 85, Minnesota 78: Justin Jackson had a career-high 28 points and 10 rebounds, making all five of his three-point attempts, and visiting Maryland (19-2, 7-1) earned its sixth straight win.

No. 23 South Carolina 63, Missouri 53: Sindarius Thornwell had 16 points and 11 rebounds and the host Gamecocks (17-4, 7-1 SEC) beat Missouri.

No. 25 Florida 84, Oklahoma 52: Kevarrius Hayes scored a career-high 20 points to help Florida roll to the road win in the Big 12-SEC Challenge.

Long's gamble on Pats paying off

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — There was a time when Chris Long didn't think this opportunity would ever come.

A time when words like "playoffs" and "Super Bowl" seemed like unattainable unicorns that the 31-year-old Patriots defensive lineman might never touch. Eight years in the NFL spent on underperforming teams, and having seasons potholed by injuries have that effect.

So when the veteran was asked this week whether the chance to earn a ring was on his mind when he signed with the Patriots this offseason, he didn't hesitate to answer.

"It's the whole reason I came here," he said. "Everybody wants to win. That's the bottom line. When you're making a decision as an older player of where you want to be, you want to be in situations like this with opportunities like this. We've earned the opportunity ... Whatever we do with it, that's up to us."

Next weekend's Super Bowl matchup with Atlanta will also be a chance for him to match the Super Bowl ring won by his father, Hall of Famer Howie Long, who won a title with the Los Angeles Raiders in 1984.

The elder Long will have a unique vantage point to watch his son as an analyst for Fox, which has the broadcast rights for

the game. But Chris said it shouldn't affect him.

"Not a ton. It just means he's there," he said. "We'll see each other. But we're not big on the sentimental stuff."

While Howie Long was an integral part of the Raiders' defense, Chris has embraced being a role player on a New England defense that's really void of any big names.

With 35 tackles, four sacks and fumble recovery, he is having his best year since 2013 when he recorded 40 tackles and 8½ sacks.

He also helped steady a New England defense that started the season without linebacker Rob Ninkovich, who was serving a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's policy on performance enhancing substances.

Ninkovich returned in October, but it only slightly diminished Long's role.

The pair has since become fast friends. The buddy system, it turns out, can be invaluable in New England's demanding environment.

"He's older like me," Long said about the 32-year-old Ninkovich. "He's played here a long time so he's helped me understand the intricacies of the scheme, the different things that you're going to be asked to do. ...It helps a lot."

Ninkovich said they bonded easily.

"This league isn't easy year in and year out, just the grind of it and everything that

you have to fight through," he said. "So to see him come here and really just jump right into the system and the Patriot Way, and get to playoff game, and get to an AFC championship and now to a Super Bowl — I'm just very happy for him."

It's also helped that Long's the healthiest he's been in three seasons.

Selected second overall in the 2008 draft, Long appeared in 16 games each of his first six seasons in the league.

That changed in 2014 when he missed all but six games following left ankle surgery. He returned in 2015, but a right knee injury caused him to miss a total of four games.

At age 30, it looked like Long's opportunities would be finite entering free agency. But a call from Bill Belichick just a few weeks shy of his 31st birthday changed everything.

Long saw it as maybe his last chance to make a meaningful postseason run.

"For me, playing in an AFC championship was, on a scale from 1 to 10, a 12 for me. So I'm already in the extra numbers," he said. "It's all far beyond anything that I've done before. So, I feel like I'll be all right."

Long said he's planning to take in every morsel of football he has left this season.

"Any player that's been through ups and downs, and everybody in this league has injuries, whatever," he said. "Things can change quickly, and luckily I never gave up on it."

Curry leads Warriors past Clippers

Associated Press

OAKLAND, California — Stephen Curry scored 25 of his 43 points in the third quarter following his first buzzer-beater of the season at the end of the first half to lead the Golden State Warriors to their ninth win in 10 games, 144-98 over the Los Angeles Clippers on Saturday night.

Curry's 51-foot shot was the spark on a night that began with his playing status in doubt because of a sore left quadriceps muscle. After testing his leg in warmups, Curry was cleared to play and showed no signs of being slowed by the injury, hitting nine 3-pointers.

Kevin Durant added 23 points, and Klay Thompson

had 16 to give Golden State its eighth straight win over its Southern California rival.

Celtics 112, Bucks 108 (OT): Isaiah Thomas had 37 points, and Jae Crowder scored four of his 20 points on free throws in the final 28 seconds of overtime to help Boston beat host Milwaukee.

Boston won its third straight after squandering a 16-point second half lead and a 42-point first quarter, its best of the season. The Bucks have lost three in a row and eight of nine.

Heat 116, Pistons 103: Goran Dragic scored 23 points and Miami beat visiting Detroit to push the NBA's longest current winning streak to seven games.

Miami was 11-30 at the mid-

way point of its season — and hasn't lost since.

Timberwolves 129, Nets 109: Karl-Anthony Towns had 37 points and 13 rebounds to lead host Minnesota past Brooklyn.

Andrew Wiggins added 23 points and four assists, and Zach LaVine scored 20 points for the Timberwolves. They have won seven of their last 10 games.

Kings 109, Hornets 106: DeMarcus Cousins had 35 points and 18 rebounds, and visiting Sacramento handed Charlotte its fourth straight loss.

Cousins scored the go-ahead basket with 14.3 seconds left on a driving layup. The Hornets had a chance to take the lead in

the closing seconds, but Frank Kaminsky shot an airball on a three-pointer.

Nuggets 123, Suns 112: Danilo Gallinari scored 32 points and Denver took advantage of a third-quarter parade to the free throw line to beat host Phoenix for the second time in three nights.

Kenneth Faried had 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Nuggets, winners of three straight and seven of their last nine.

Grizzlies 102, Jazz 95: Zach Randolph scored a season-high 28 points in visiting Memphis' victory over Utah.

Mike Conley added 23 points, and Marc Gasol had 18. Rodney Hood led the Jazz with 20 points.