

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, March 1, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Naval Forces Japan gets new commander

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Rear Adm. Matthew Carter assumed command of Naval Forces Japan on Sunday, according to a Navy statement.

Carter, who began his career flying P-3 anti-submarine and surveillance aircraft, arrives after a stint as commander of Patrol and Reconnaissance Group Pacific. Prior to that, he

held a similar command role for 5th Fleet and 7th Fleet out of Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan.

Carter becomes Naval Forces Japan's 33rd commander. He relieves Rear Adm. Terry Kraft, who is retiring this summer after 34 years of service.

Kraft, a former fighter pilot and aircraft carrier commander, was one of three rear adm-

irals censured by the secretary of the Navy last month for accepting gifts from defense contractor Glenn Defense Marine Asia between 2006 and 2007.

Federal prosecutors say that GDMA owner Leonard Glenn "Fat Leonard" Francis, who pleaded guilty to bribery charges in January, bilked the U.S. government out of more than \$20 million by overcharg-

ing the Navy for various services at ports in the Asia-Pacific region.

Although multiple Navy officials have been charged in connection with the bribery scandal, neither Kraft nor Rear Adms. Michael Miller and David Pimpo were found to have committed any crimes, according to a Navy statement issued in February.

## UN mission to Iraq says 1,103 killed in February

*The Associated Press*

BAGHDAD — The U.N. mission to Iraq said Sunday that violence claimed the lives of at least 1,100 Iraqis in February, including more than 600 civilians.

The U.N. Assistance Mission in Iraq said in a statement that 611 civilians were among 1,103 people killed last month, with the rest hailing from the security forces. It said at least 2,280 people were wounded, including 1,353 civilians.

January's death toll was at least 1,375.

The most violent city was the capital, Baghdad, with 329 civilians killed and 875 wounded, the mission said.

The U.N. numbers do not include the third of the country held by the Islamic State extremist group.

U.N. envoy Nickolay Mladenov blamed the deaths on the extremist group, government forces and pro-government Shiite militias.

"Daily terrorist attacks perpetrated by ISIL continue to deliberately target all Iraqis," Mladenov said in the statement, using an acronym for the

Islamic State group. "There are also concerning reports of a number of revenge killings by armed groups in areas recently liberated from ISIL."

He called on Iraq's fractured leaders to reconcile, saying "an exclusively military solution to the problem of ISIL is impossible."

The statement came a day after a series of attacks targeting public places and Shiite militia checkpoints in and around the capital killed at least 37 people. The deadliest, near the city of Samarra, saw two suicide car bombers attack

checkpoints manned by Shiite militiamen, killing 16 Shiite fighters and wounding 31.

Hours later, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the Samarra attacks in a statement posted on an account used by the militants.

The Islamic State extremist group and other Sunni insurgents seized control of much of western and northern Iraq last year. According to UNAMI, last year was the deadliest in Iraq since the peak of the country's sectarian conflict in 2006-07, with a total of 12,282 people killed and 23,126 wounded.

## Some Americans frustrated over Germany license issue

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany—Most Americans caught up in the driver's license dispute between the German and U.S. governments expressed anger Friday despite news that Germany will again recognize the U.S. forces license without an accompanying valid stateside license.

Most frustrated were those

who had spent hundreds of dollars to fly back to the U.S. to obtain or renew stateside licenses. German authorities said they would recognize only a legal combination of a valid stateside license and a U.S. Army Europe license.

The new policy was enforced starting in January in the state of Rheinland-Pfalz, home to the largest U.S. military community in the country.

"The German government

has put me through about six weeks of anxiety and torture, of being worried about driving, and a lot of money to get this resolved," said Jennifer Sherbert, an Army civilian financial counselor in Kaiserslautern.

Sherbert estimates the ordeal cost her \$1,500 in airfare, which included her flight to Virginia to get a license and her father's flight to Germany so he could drive her around and stay with her daughter while Sherbert

went back to the states.

"Some people still drove, but I wasn't willing to take that chance," she said. "It was too much of a risk for me."

Had she known Germany was going to drop the new policy, she would have waited until moving back to the states to get her license.

Reporter Marcus Kloeckner contributed to this report.  
svan.jennifer@stripes.com

## Netanyahu heads to US to address Congress

*The Associated Press*

BEN-GURION AIRPORT, Israel — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu headed to Washington on Sunday to press his case against an emerging deal on Iran's nuclear program in a contentious address to the U.S. Congress, which he said he is delivering out of concern for Israel's security.

The address has caused an uproar that has exposed tensions between Israel and its most important ally, the United States. In accepting a Republican invitation to address Congress, Netanyahu angered the White House, which was not consulted in advance of the invite, as well as Democrats who were forced to choose between showing support for Israel and backing their president.

Netanyahu plans to express his disapproval over a potential deal between Iran and world powers that he says falls short of preventing Tehran from having the ability to make an atomic bomb. A preliminary deadline is late this month.

### Paul wins CPAC straw poll

OXON HILL, Md. — Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., has won the Conservative Political Action Conference's annual presidential preference straw poll.

Pollsters announced Saturday afternoon that Paul had received 26 percent of the votes in the annual survey, giving him his third win in as many years.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker came in second, with 21 percent. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz came in third in the contest, with 11.5 percent, followed by retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, with 11.4 percent and, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, with 8.3 percent. All of the other names listed received less than 5 percent.

From The Associated Press

## Russians mourn slain Putin critic

*The Associated Press*

MOSCOW — Carrying flowers, portraits and signs that said "I am not afraid," thousands of Russians marched Sunday in Moscow to mourn opposition politician Boris Nemtsov, whose slaying on the streets of the capital has shaken Russia's beleaguered opposition.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has marginalized and intimidated his political opponents, jailing some and driving others into exile, since mass anti-Putin protests swept Moscow in 2011 and 2012. Nemtsov, 55, was among the few prominent opposition figures who had refused to be cowed.

The mourners on Sunday marched to the bridge near the Kremlin where Nemtsov was gunned down shortly before midnight Friday. The mood was somber, with a heavy police presence.

Ilya Yashin, a friend and fellow opposition leader, said he hoped the killing would not frighten people.

"Essentially it is an act of terror" Yashin told The Associated Press. "It is a political murder aimed at frightening the population, or the part of the popu-

lation that supported Nemtsov and did not agree with the government. I hope we won't get scared, that we will continue what Boris was doing."

The march could energize the opposition, but it could also prove to be a brief expression of emotions that dissipates in a climate of fear.

Russia's federal investigative agency said it was looking into several possible motives for Nemtsov's killing.

The first possibility, the Investigative Committee said, was that the killing was aimed at destabilizing the political situation in Russia and Nemtsov was a "sacrificial victim for those who do not shun any method for achieving their political goals."

This suggestion echoed comments by Putin's spokesman and other Russian politicians that the attack was a "provocation" against the state. The consensus of political commentators on state television was that the killing served the interests of Russia's enemies.

Yashin, however, said Russia's leadership and specifically Putin bore full political responsibility for Nemtsov's death.

"It was President Putin who created this atmosphere of hate in our country, the atmosphere of intolerance, which one way or another materialized in the bullet that killed my friend, Boris Nemtsov," Yashin said.

As a former deputy prime minister and longtime politician, Nemtsov retained strong ties among Russia's political and business elite, making his killing additionally shocking.

He was killed just hours after a radio interview in which he denounced Putin's "mad, aggressive and deadly policy of war against Ukraine." Nemtsov was working on a report presenting evidence that he believed proved that Russian servicemen were fighting with the separatists in Ukraine, despite official denials.

Yashin said it was unlikely the report would ever be published because investigators who searched Nemtsov's apartment after his death took away his laptop.

Kremlin propaganda had identified Nemtsov as among the leaders of a "fifth column," painting him as a traitor in the service of a hostile West.

## Nigerians kill girl thought to be bomber

*The Associated Press*

BAUCHI, Nigeria — A crowd beat to death a teenage girl accused of being a suicide bomber and then set her body ablaze Sunday, according to police and witnesses at a northeastern Nigerian market.

A second suspect, also a teenage girl, was arrested at Muda Lawal, the biggest market in Bauchi city.

A spate of suicide bombings has been blamed on Nigeria's Boko Haram Islamic extremist group, which wants to enforce strict Islamic law across Nigeria. The group has threatened to disrupt Nigeria's March 28 presidential and legislative elections, saying democracy is

a corrupt Western concept.

In Bauchi, the two girls aroused suspicion by refusing to be searched when they arrived at the gate to the vegetable market, said yam vendor Mohd Adamu. People overpowered one girl and discovered she had two bottles strapped to her body, he said. They clubbed her to death, put a tire doused in fuel over her head and set it on fire, he said.

It seems doubtful the girl was actually a bomber, as she did not detonate any explosives when she was attacked, said Police Deputy Superintendent Mohammad Haruna. He described her as the victim of "mob action carried out by an irate crowd."

Recently, some girls as young as 10 have been used to carry explosives that detonated in busy markets and bus stations, raising fears that Boko Haram may be using some of its hundreds of kidnap victims in bomb attacks. It's unclear whether such girls detonate explosions themselves or whether the bombs are controlled remotely.

President Goodluck Jonathan last week condemned the Boko Haram insurgents for choosing soft targets and said the series of bombings are a response to the Nigerian military's recent success in seizing back a score of towns that had been in the hands of the extremists for months.

# ASU fans get creative with distractions

*The Associated Press*

TEMPE, Ariz. — Swim caps peek out from behind a door a short jog away from the basketball court. It's nearly showtime, and three synchronized swimmers, young men wearing only trunks and fake beards, await their cue.

When called, they are to scramble to a spot behind the closest basket. Thousands of fans will be counting on them. One person — the player preparing to shoot important free throws — will be trying to ignore them.

Backstage, in a tunnel connecting the court to the bowels of the arena, there is one final rehearsal. The swimmers drop to the ground, kick their legs not quite in unison, then rise slowly until they are standing, bare shoulders touching, arms not so gracefully draped above their heads.

They exchange looks: not bad. But can they help Arizona State win the game?

Student sections throughout college basketball try to unnerve opposing shooters with bursts of noise or by waving their arms or props. What Sun Devils students, the 942 Crew, offer is more creative — and wacky — than that:

The Curtain of Distraction.

It rises during the second half of home games when the opposing team is shooting free throws toward the Arizona State

student section.

Just before the first shot, the curtain flashes open and an act appears. The skit, lasting about five seconds, might involve a celebrity impersonator, Shakespeare or a kitten. Most likely, it will include some type of shirtless gyrating.

The goal is to spook the shooter, to divert his attention just enough so that his shot clanks off the rim. And it works, the numbers suggest. Statistics show an extra miss or two per game — enough to swing some outcomes.

Surprise is key, and on this night the swimmers are the headliners. The theme is meant as a jab at the UCLA Bruins, whose home arena was flooded after a water main burst in July.

As the performers wait for a foul to be called, there are all the jitters of opening night on Broadway.

"It's a damn good thing we're not self-conscious," one of the swimmers says.

A whistle blows. A UCLA player will be heading toward the free-throw line.

From the tunnel, there is a mad dash toward the court.

**Attendance booster:** A few years ago, student attendance at Arizona State basketball games had fallen to what school officials called a "horribly bad" level.

The university responded with a marketing push designed to encourage stu-

dents to be more invested in the team. They created the 942 Crew. The number was roughly the capacity of the home arena's student section, rounded down to rhyme with "crew."

By the time last season came around, student attendance had nearly tripled from 2010 and there was a different goal. Somebody noticed that opposing teams were actually making more free throws when down at the student section end of the court. Embarrassing. Something had to be done.

Student leaders adopted a patron saint in Speedo Guy, a Duke fan whose antics famously helped the Blue Devils defeat rival North Carolina in 2003. Speedo Guy got Duke's typically raucous student section to fall silent, then stripped down to his swimming trunks. During a free throw, he crouched on his seat, then rose slowly — he compared it to a flower blooming — and started gyrating.

North Carolina missed both shots and a legend was born.

There were several brainstorming sessions as Arizona State plotted an adaptation. Finally, student Tim Schodt had a breakthrough: the curtain.

The students bought plastic piping, attached fabric and went about creating their acts. They made things up as they went, figuring they would push forward,

senior Ryan Dytrt recalls, "until we got in trouble, or until it exploded."

It exploded.

The core group of students who work on the performances has swelled to about three dozen. During last year's NCAA tournament, the curtain was shown briefly during a commercial. This season, the group has been profiled by media outlets from as far away as Italy.

With the added attention, the skits have become more topical and intricate.

**A professor's view:** Joan Vickers, a professor at Canada's University of Calgary, says the curtain works because it disrupts the crucial period before a shot, called the "quiet eye," when the brain calibrates for distance, direction, height and other factors.

When the curtain opens, it can disturb the shooter's brain calibration.

"It's a brilliant idea in terms of disrupting the neural networks underlying control of your whole shooting system for that particular shot," said Vickers, who pioneered research in the field. "Very rational."

This season, opposing teams have missed 5 percent more free throws in the second half than the first. Analyses by The New York Times and students at Harvard suggest that the curtain is worth between one and two points per game.

## BYU upsets No. 3 Gonzaga to snap Bulldogs' streak

*The Associated Press*

SPOKANE, Wash. — Kyle Collinsworth scored 20 points and BYU beat No. 3 Gonzaga 73-70 on Saturday night, ending the Bulldogs' school-record 22-game winning streak and likely costing them a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

Byron Wesley scored 17 points to lead Gonzaga (29-2, 17-1 West Coast Conference). The Bulldogs' 41-game home winning streak also ended.

Skyler Halford added 14 points for BYU (23-9, 13-5) and Chase Fischer had 13. The Cougars have won six in a row to preserve their NCAA tournament hopes.

Gonzaga used a 20-11 run to pull to 71-70 on Eric McClellan's free throws with 2.6 seconds remaining. The Cougars inbounded the ball to Ryan Andrus, who was fouled and made both free throws for a three-point lead with 1.5 seconds left. Kyle Wiltjer's shot from beyond midcourt bounced off the rim as time expired.

**No. 1 Kentucky 84, No. 18 Arkansas 67:** Andrew Harrison and Trey Lyles each scored 18 points and host Kentucky rolled past Arkansas to win the Southeastern Conference regular-season title.

The long-awaited marquee matchup of the SEC's top two teams belonged to the undefeated Wildcats (29-0, 16-0) on both ends as they earned their 46th league title and halted a three-game losing streak against the Razorbacks (23-6, 12-4).

**No. 2 Virginia 69, Virginia Tech 57:** Malcolm Brogdon scored 19 points and host Virginia assured itself at least a share of the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season championship.

The Cavaliers (27-1, 15-1) started the day with a two-game lead over second-place Duke with three games remaining in the regular season. One more victory will give them back-to-back regular season titles.

**No. 4 Duke 73, Syracuse 54:** Freshman Justise Winslow scored a season-high 23 points and Duke routed visiting Syracuse for its ninth straight win.

Jahlil Okafor added 13 points and 14 rebounds and Quinn Cook scored 17 points for the Blue Devils (26-3, 13-3 Atlantic Coast Conference).

**No. 6 Villanova 78, Xavier 66:** At Cincinnati, Kris Jenkins hit back-to-back three-pointers to start a late run and Villanova rallied to beat Xavier for its 10th straight victory.

**No. 7 Arizona 63, No. 13 Utah 57:** Gabe York scored five of his 12 points in the final 2 minutes and Arizona scored the last eight points to rally past host Utah.

**No. 8 Kansas 69, Texas 64:** Perry Ellis had 28 points and 13 rebounds and Kansas held on through a tense final minute to beat visiting Texas.

The Jayhawks (23-6, 12-4) remained a game clear of second-place Oklahoma with two games left in the Big 12 race.

**Kansas State 70, No. 12 Iowa State 69:** Wesley Iwundu capped a 22-9 run with a two-handed slam to lift host Kansas State past Iowa State.

**No. 11 Wichita State 74, No. 10 Northern Iowa 60:** Ron Baker scored 17 points and Wichita State beat visiting Northern Iowa to wrap up the Missouri Valley Conference regular-season championship.

**No. 14 Maryland 66, Michigan 56:** Melo Trimble scored 19 points and Maryland

beat visiting Michigan to complete an undefeated season at home in the Big Ten.

**No. 15 North Carolina 73, Miami 64:** Brice Johnson had five dunks and 22 points to help North Carolina end a streak of four consecutive losses against host Miami.

North Carolina (20-9, 10-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) reached 20 victories for the 11th time in 12 years under coach Roy Williams.

**No. 16 Oklahoma 67, TCU 60:** Buddy Hield had 21 points and a career-high 13 rebounds for host Oklahoma.

The Sooners (20-8, 11-5 Big 12) have won eight of nine to remain in strong position to claim at least a share of the conference title.

**No. 17 Louisville 81, Florida State 59:** Wayne Blackshear scored 18 points and Montrezl Harrell added 16 in Louisville's victory over host Florida State.

**No. 19 Baylor 78, No. 20 West Virginia 66:** Taurean Prince scored 20 points, Rico Gathers had 17 points and 10 rebounds to help host Baylor win its fourth consecutive game.

**Dayton 59, No. 22 VCU 55:** Jordan Sibert scored 19 points and Dayton held off host Virginia Commonwealth.

**No. 23 Butler 67, DePaul 53:** Kellen Dunham scored 24 points and visiting Butler beat DePaul to move into sole possession of second in the Big East.

**Boise State 56, No. 24 San Diego State 46:** Derrick Marks scored 18 points and Boise State rallied to stun host San Diego State, keeping the Aztecs from clinching at least a share of the Mountain West Conference title.

**Iowa 81, Penn State 77 (OT):** Iowa's

Aaron White scored 21 points, including six free throws in overtime, and the Hawkeyes were able to scrape past host Penn State.

**Lafayette 74, Army 64:** Dan Trist scored 24 points — 20 in the first half — and Lafayette held on to an early lead to beat visiting Army and clinch the No. 4 seed in the Patriot League Tournament.

Lafayette (17-12, 9-9) will play fifth-seeded Boston University on Thursday in the quarterfinals. No. 10 Army (15-14, 6-12) will open tournament play against seventh-seeded Navy on Tuesday.

**Utah State 74, Air Force 60:** Julion Pearre hit five three-pointers for 21 points, both career highs, to lead Utah State past host Air Force.

**Cincinnati 63, Tulane 47:** Octavius Ellis netted a double-double, scoring 14 points and grabbing 10 rebounds, as Cincinnati took an early lead and held it to beat host Tulane.

**LSU 73, Mississippi 63:** Tim Quarterman had 18 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, and LSU pulled into a fourth-place tie in the Southeastern Conference with a win over visiting Mississippi.

**Saint John's 81, Georgetown 70:** Phil Greene IV scored a career-high 26, and Sir'Dominic Pointer had a career-high tying 24 points while grabbing eight rebounds as host St. John's beat Georgetown.

**Navy 57, Loyola (Md) 47:** Worth Smith scored 20 points to lead Navy past Loyola-Maryland.

Brandon Venturini scored 11 points to become the 22nd Navy player to surpass 1,000 points.



## Ship's Store official new car program

Exclusive Navy at-sea offers:

[www.navyauto.com](http://www.navyauto.com) or [nasinfo@navyauto.com](mailto:nasinfo@navyauto.com)

# Rousey wins UFC bout in 14 seconds

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Ronda Rousey has stopped every opponent she has faced in her meteoric mixed martial arts career, so a first-round victory is no shock for the UFC's bantamweight champion.

Except nobody had finished a UFC title fight this quickly, and hardly anyone had ever done it with so much flair.

Rousey stopped Cat Zingano with an acrobatic armbar after just 14 seconds, dramatically defending her 135-pound title at UFC 184 on Saturday night.

Rousey's fifth title defense came before the sellout Staples Center crowd could process what it just witnessed. Those 14 seconds were action-packed, and Rousey delivered again.

"There's very few situations where a fight goes 14 seconds and the crowd is cheering and going crazy and looking at each other with their mouths open," UFC President Dana White said.

Rousey (11-0) earned the most impressive victory of her career with jaw-dropping speed, taking out the previously unbeaten Zingano with her signature armlock from an unlikely position.

Zingano (9-1) dropped Rousey on her head with a flying charge at the opening bell, but the champ used her peerless judo skills to flip Zingano onto her back. Rousey scampered into position to wrench Zingano's arm grotesquely — and just like that, the challenger tapped out.

Rousey wasn't surprised by the opening charge: She suspected Zingano might try to catch her unprepared. Rousey didn't expect to get turned upside-down, but

when it happened, the Olympic medal-winning judoka relied on instinct.

"I made that up on the fly, to be honest," Rousey said. "But it was kind of funny: We were going toward the ground, and I kind of reverted back to judo mode and was thinking, 'Don't touch your back. It's a point.' That's where the acrobatic thing came from, was thinking about not touching your back in judo."

Nobody in the women's sport can touch Rousey, the most dominant champion in MMA.

Rousey's last three fights have lasted a total of 96 seconds, including two bouts against previously unbeaten opponents. Her 14-second finish was a record for any UFC title bout, but she thought it only went to plan.

"That's not usually how you land an armbar at that angle, but it works," Rousey said.

Champion boxer Holly Holm made her much-hyped UFC debut with a split-decision victory over Raquel Pennington in UFC 184's penultimate bout as the world's dominant mixed martial arts promotion ended a two-year absence from Southern California, the home base of Rousey and numerous fighters.

But the night was a showcase for the star power of Rousey, who has become one of the UFC's most prominent fighters just two years after the promotion added women's bouts. Zingano was considered the most daunting active threat to Rousey's reign, but was obliterated.

Zingano chose the dubious strategy of charging and grabbing onto Rousey, whose judo skills make her practically unbeatable in a clinch.

"She's really good ... but that wouldn't happen again,"

Zingano said. "It was a knee and then a throw and then a scramble, and then she was wrapped around my arm. I got caught. I was ready to do a million different things. I planned on getting in a fistfight tonight."

For the first time in UFC history, two women's fights headlined a pay-per-view event. Although partly created by necessity when middleweight champion Chris Weidman was injured, that spotlight is the latest affirmation for women's MMA and Rousey — a movie star, a model and a celebrity who can sell out a large arena in her hometown.

The 33-year-old Holm (8-0) ended an 11-year pro boxing career in 2013 to concentrate on MMA. Although she did enough to win her UFC debut against the scrappy, undersized Pennington (5-6), Holm and White both said she needs a few more UFC fights before she can challenge for Rousey's belt.

Southern California fighters Tony Ferguson and Alan Jouban kicked off the pay-per-view card with dynamic first-round stoppage victories. Ferguson has won five straight bouts, while Jouban bounced back from a debatable loss with an impressive striking performance.

Although Los Angeles is the largest U.S. city that allows MMA competition, the UFC hadn't staged a card in the area since Rousey's debut with the promotion in Anaheim in February 2013. A mediocre card scheduled for Staples Center last summer was canceled when champion Jose Aldo was injured.

The extra publicity paid off: Rousey attracted a star-studded Hollywood crowd including Vin Diesel, Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Kiedis and Mickey Rourke.

## Flyers hold off Rangers

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Desperate for a post-season berth, the Philadelphia Flyers are treating every game as though they are already in the playoffs.

Michael Del Zotto's short-handed goal 1:19 into the third period lifted the Flyers to a 4-2 victory over the New York Rangers on Saturday night.

Matt Read, Michael Raffl and Wayne Simmonds also scored for the Flyers, who snapped a two-game losing streak and cooled off the Rangers.

Philadelphia remained six points behind Boston for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

"Huge two points," Del Zotto said. "We talked about it before the game that we needed to play with desperation and urgency, and we did that."

"It's the best time of year. We're competing for a playoff spot."

J.T. Miller and John Moore tallied for New York, which lost in regulation for the first time in 11 games (7-1-3) and had a five-game, road-winning streak snapped.

"We didn't have the puck a lot tonight, didn't win a lot of battles, and spent too much time in our own zone," Rangers captain Ryan McDonagh said.

Del Zotto netted the go-ahead goal when Sean Couturier sent a cross-ice pass to him for a wrist shot from a sharp angle over goalie Cam Talbot's glove.

"[Couturier] made a great pass, I picked my spot, and it went in for me," Del Zotto said.

Steve Mason kept the Flyers ahead by turning aside several shots during a late Rangers push when he made seven saves in 34 seconds. His best stops during the flurry with 7:30 minutes left came when he extended a pad to deny Moore and moved laterally to stop Rick Nash on the doorstep.

**Panthers 5, Sabres 3:** Jaromir Jagr made his Florida debut and Scottie Upshall scored the go-ahead goal with 5:58 left in the host Panthers' victory.

Acquired from New Jersey on Thursday for two draft picks, the 43-year-old Jagr had three shots on goal in a little over 17

minutes of ice time to help the Panthers outshoot the Sabres 47-14.

**Red Wings 4, Predators 3:** Tomas Tatar broke a tie on a power play at 9:06 of the third period to help visiting Detroit.

**Hurricanes 5, Islanders 3:** Jay McClement scored twice and Cam Ward made 21 saves as Carolina beat host New York for its third straight win.

McClement tied it 1-1 late in the first period and then scored again midway through the second for his sixth goal.

**Devils 2, Blue Jackets 0:** Andy Greene scored, Travis Zajac added an empty-net goal, and Cory Schneider made 33 saves for his fourth shutout of the season to lead New Jersey.

Playing their lone road game in a 10-game, 23-day stretch, the Devils won for the first time in four away games.

**Bruins 4, Coyotes 1:** Milan Lucic, Patrice Bergeron, Brad Marchand each had a goal and an assist, helping host Boston send Arizona to its ninth straight loss.

Zdeno Chara added a power-play goal and an assist for the Bruins.

**Canadiens 4, Maple Leafs 0:** Manny Malhotra scored his first goal with the Canadiens, Carey Price made 30 saves for his sixth shutout of the season, and host Montreal beat Toronto.

David Desharnais had two goals, and Tomas Plekanec also scored for Montreal (41-16-5), which has won four in a row and 14 of 19.

**Senators 4, Sharks 2:** Mike Hoffman scored a power-play goal to break a tie midway through the third period, and visiting Ottawa rallied from a pair of deficits to post its fifth straight win, beating reeling San Jose.

Hoffman added an empty-net goal, and Erik Karlsson and Mark Stone also scored for the Senators, who completed a California sweep.

**Wild 3, Avalanche 1:** Justin Fontaine broke a second-period tie, and Devan Dubnyk stopped 33 shots, leading visiting Minnesota over Colorado.

**Blues 2, Oilers 1:** Paul Stastny scored the winning goal with 5:40 left and added an assist as St. Louis edged host Edmonton.

## Spurs rout Suns to end long road trip

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — San Antonio is finally going home, and with a lopsided victory. Phoenix forward Markieff Morris left the locker room grumbling about Suns fans.

Kawhi Leonard had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and the Spurs dominated from the opening tip in a 101-74 rout Saturday.

The Spurs, playing the finale of their annual nine-game "rodeo road trip," were up 51-24 at the break, the fewest points in a half for the Suns in franchise history. San Antonio led by as many as 34 in the second half.

Marcus Morris scored 15 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, when Phoenix scored 33 to avoid breaking the team record for fewest points in a game — 68 against Kansas City 34 years ago.

"It's one of those games," Phoenix coach Jeff Hornacek said. "I guess the bright side is that they all played bad the same night."

Danny Green, Boris Diaw and Aron Baynes scored 12 apiece for the Spurs.

The 27-point margin matched the Suns' most one-sided loss of the season.

"It is just basketball," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "We just had a good night defensively and at the same time they had a poor night shooting. It happens. It has happened to us before and it is not a good combination when the other team is playing good 'D' and you can't make shots."

San Antonio fell two points shy of its largest victory of the season.

After the game, Markieff Morris was critical of what he perceived to be a lack of consistent fan support in Phoenix — and not just on this night.

"They don't boo but they don't cheer much, either," he said. "I know we're a lot better than that. I know Phoenix fans are a lot better than that. We have a lot of genuine fans that cheer for us, the ones that's in the first row, the second row, the

third row. But once you go up you feel like people are just at the game watching.

"I just think we expect more from the fans," he continued. "That's basically what I'm getting to. We expect more. We expect this to be a home-court advantage every time we step on the court no matter if we're playing Orlando or we're playing Cleveland."

There wasn't much reason to cheer. Phoenix shot 18.6 percent (8-for-43) in setting a club record for fewest points in a half. Phoenix's eight first-half field goals tied a franchise low. To make matters worse, the Suns lost newly acquired guard Brandon Knight in the first half with a hip pointer.

**Hawks 93, Heat 91:** Paul Millsap scored 22 points, Dennis Schroder added 16 points and 10 assists and the intentionally depleted Atlanta still had enough to beat host Miami.

**Knicks 103, Raptors 98:** Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 22 points, Langston Galloway made a clinching three-pointer and host New York ended a sad day for the franchise by handing Toronto its season-high fifth straight loss.

After beginning the night with a moment of silence for former Knicks forward Anthony Mason, who died Saturday at 48, the team finished it by celebrating its second straight victory.

**Wizards 99, Pistons 95:** John Wall scored 22 points, Nene added 21 and host Washington ended its six-game losing streak with a win over Detroit.

**Grizzlies 101, Timberwolves 97:** Marc Gasol had 27 points and 11 rebounds, and Mike Conley hit a big three-pointer with 30 seconds left to lift visiting Memphis.

**Nets 104, Mavericks 94:** Deron Williams scored 25 points and Thaddeus Young had 16 points and eight rebounds off the bench in visiting Brooklyn's victory.

**Jazz 82, Bucks 75:** Trey Burke had 23 points and six assists to help host Utah hold off Milwaukee.