

STARS AND STRIPES®

Friday, March 11, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Many Marines object to women in combat

The Washington Post

A survey of nearly 54,000 members of the Marine Corps found that two out of three male Marines and one out of three female Marines were opposed to opening all combat jobs to women, underscoring the depth of opposition the service faces as it is required to begin fully integrating them this year.

The survey was carried out in 2012 by the think tank CNA, but the results were withheld from the public as the Defense Department announced in January 2013 that it would open all combat jobs following a lengthy research period that ended last fall. Defense Secretary Ash Carter made the change official in December, giving the services until this spring to begin fully integrating women.

The survey results, released to The Washington Post through the Freedom of Information Act, were not among the dozens of documents detailing the Defense Department's research on the subject that were released by the Pentagon following Carter's announcement in December. They are outlined in a 338-page report titled "Assessing the Implications of Possible Changes to Women in Service Restrictions," and in part could explain why the Marine Corps was the only service to petition Carter to keep some of its combat jobs closed, including infantry and reconnaissance.

"Overall, we found that, among male respondents, those in the officer ranks from second lieutenant (O-1) through colonel (O-6) and those in the enlisted pay grades of corporal (E-4) and sergeant (E-5) were consistently the most opposed to prospective policy changes," the report said.

Among women, officers who obtained the rank of at least major were the most likely to be in favor of opening all com-

First female candidates could start SEAL training in August

The San Diego Union-Tribune

The first female Navy SEAL candidates could arrive at pre-training as early as mid-May, and the Marines will start sending women ground combat candidates to boot camp as soon as April, according to time lines released Thursday by the Defense Department.

That would mean the first women could start the infamously tough SEAL training course in Coronado, Calif., in late August — potentially being assigned to SEAL teams as early as October 2017, if they make the cut.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter's office said he has approved implementation plans by each of America's armed services to allow women in nearly 220,000 previously closed combat jobs.

It's a move building since 2013, when then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced that he would lift the ban on women in combat. Many observers see it as an acknowledgment that women have proven themselves in the line of fire during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

"Having reviewed their exceptionally thorough work, I am pleased all of the services developed plans that will effectively carry out this change and make us even better in the future," Carter said in a statement.

A Marine Corps spokesman said recruiters are poised to offer ground combat contracts to potential female recruits as soon as they get the signal from Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller.

Women who want to seek ground combat jobs will have to pass the same, rigorous, initial strength test taken by men, including three pull-ups, among other things. Females who don't want to become infantry Marines aren't required to do pull-ups at present.

bat jobs to women. About 53 percent of them signaled support. About 51 percent of lower-ranking officers said they were in favor of women serving in combat arms jobs, but the number dipped to about 41 percent of female corporals and sergeants and about 37.5 percent of enlisted staff noncommissioned officers.

Opposition was stiffest among Marines who have served in the all-male infantry, which regularly performs long

combat patrols on foot while carrying up to 100 pounds of weapons, equipment and armor. The study found that 76.5 percent of Marines who served in infantry units were opposed to opening ground combat jobs to women. Opposition to opening all combat jobs to women was still significant among male Marines who did not serve in ground combat assignments, with 22.4 percent in favor of including women and 56.4 percent opposed.

The survey also highlighted a variety of cultural issues. Nearly 90 percent of male Marines said they were concerned about intimate relationships between Marines in the same combat unit becoming a problem, and more than 80 percent said they were concerned about false sexual assault allegations, fraternization and women receiving preferential treatment.

The top concerns listed by female Marines were enemy forces targeting them as potential prisoners of war, the risk of sexual assault or harassment and intimate relationships becoming a problem. More than 70 percent of female Marines who took the survey cited each of those as an issue.

The survey was requested by Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, a career infantry officer who was then the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps. Dunford went on to become the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan and then commandant of the Marine Corps. He became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff last fall. Many of the same issues were raised in the results of a survey carried out among elite members of U.S. Special Operations Command, including Navy SEALs, Army Green Berets and Special Operations Marines, released in December.

The exact percentage changes periodically but roughly 7 percent of Marines are women.

Some critics have said that the Marine Corps is due for a culture change. Among them are Lt. Col. Kate Germano, who was relieved of command at Parris Island, S.C., after pushing her staff to demand the same effort from male and female recruits. She has argued repeatedly in recent months that the service does not hold women to the same standards.

Scaparrotti tabbed as EUCOM, NATO leader

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — The White House nominated Army Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti on Friday as the next head of European Command and as Supreme Allied Commander of NATO.

Scaparrotti is currently commander of United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea. If his nomination is confirmed by the Senate, he is expected to assume command in Europe this spring.

NATO approved Scaparrotti's role as SACEUR during a meeting at alliance headquarters in Brussels on Friday.

The job of EUCOM and NATO military chief has taken on added significance during the past two years as allies

adapt to a new security environment. For allies, Russia's intervention in Ukraine in 2014 altered the landscape, upending old Cold War assumptions about the potential for military conflict in Europe.

Scaparrotti will replace Gen. Philip Breedlove, who will retire after nearly 40 years in uniform. Breedlove has led NATO forces at a time of transition, pivoting from a heavy focus on counterinsurgency in Afghanistan to more traditional, high-end fighting skills. Tensions with Russia have added urgency to that shift.

Before leading in Korea, Scaparrotti, a 1978 graduate of West Point, held command posts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As EUCOM chief, Scaparrotti will oversee about 70,000 U.S. troops permanently stationed in Europe.

Whistleblowers rip VA wait-time investigations

USA Today

WASHINGTON — Employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs who blew the whistle on the manipulation of scheduling data to falsely reflect shorter wait times are blasting investigations of their complaints, saying they were not thorough enough and the practice is still continuing in some VA facilities.

"My office has just been crazy busy with providers, schedulers, coming to me and saying, 'Hey, we're still manipulating, and the intimidation is still active,'" said Germaine Clarno, a social worker and union representative at a suburban Chicago VA Medical Center.

"I can promise you that it is still going on at facilities across this country," said Shea Wilkes, co-director with Clarno of a group of more than 40 whistleblowers from VA medical

facilities in more than a dozen states.

The VA's inspector general last week began releasing the findings of 77 wait-time investigations following a Freedom of Information Act request from USA Today. In the 38 cases released so far, investigators found improper scheduling in 21 of them.

The problems included schedulers entering the next available date as a veteran's desired date, thereby reflecting no wait time. In some cases, they found managers directing them to do it. In others, VA staff had lists of patients outside the system, which meant their actual wait time was unknown.

In most cases, however, the investigators concluded the practices were due to confusion and a lack of training rather than deliberate manipulation to mask wait times.

Wounded Warrior execs fired in wake of spending flap

The (Jacksonville) Florida Times-Union

The Wounded Warrior Project fired two top officials in the wake of news reports accusing the group of wasteful spending.

Chief executive officer Steven Nardizzi and chief operating officer Al Giordano are no longer with the organization, according to a statement released by the veteran support group's board late Thursday.

The statement said the organization needed new leadership to strengthen some policies and procedures while also helping to "restore trust in the organization among all constituencies."

The board created an "Office of the CEO" that will be led by board Chairman Anthony Odierno working with top members of the current executive team.

"It is now time to put the organization's focus directly

back on the men and women who have so bravely fought for our country and who need our support," Odierno said after the board meeting.

Since relocating its headquarters to Jacksonville, Fla., in 2006, Wounded Warrior has rolled up huge fundraising numbers and climbed to the No. 38 ranking on Forbes magazine's list of the nation's biggest charities. About half of the nonprofit's roughly 600 employees work in Jacksonville and the rest are spread across 23 other offices nationwide.

In late January, CBS News and The New York Times unloaded in-depth reports on the organization that raised questions about whether the organization spends too much on its own staff, such as an annual "all hands" event at the five-star Broadmoor Resort in Colorado.

US: Militants' chemical weapons production cut

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. has "disrupted and degraded" the Islamic State group's ability to produce chemical weapons by launching multiple airstrikes in Iraq based on information provided by a militant leader who was captured last month and turned over to the Iraqi government, Pentagon officials said.

"We feel good about the damage we've done to the program," Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said. He declined to say which elements of the militants' chemical weapons program were struck or how severely

they were damaged. "I'm not going to say we knocked it out in full, but we feel confident that we made a difference."

Cook said Sulayman Dawud al-Bakkar, whom he described as the Islamic State group's "emir of chemical and traditional weapons," gave up important information about the chemical weapons program during interrogations after being captured in February. Cook declined to say more about the capture, but other defense officials have said al-Bakkar, also known as Sleiman Daoud al-Afari, was captured by U.S. special operations forces in northern Iraq.

QB Osweiler spurns Super Bowl champions for Texans

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans weren't letting Brock Osweiler escape.

Sure, the Denver Broncos were eager to hold onto the free agent quarterback with Peyton Manning now in retirement. So the Texans had to be super aggressive to get Osweiler.

"As with anything, if there's more than one person that wants it, it's probably going to cost you more," Texans owner Bob McNair said Thursday. "They wanted him ... the price kept going up and I think they finally figured out we weren't going away. We were prepared to do whatever it took to get the deal consummated."

What it took was to give a man with only seven NFL starts a four-year, \$72 million contract, making him one of the league's highest-paid players.

McNair wasn't too concerned about the money he had to spend to get Osweiler, and beamed as the pair posed with the QB's crisp, new No. 17 jersey.

"We just want to get better every day," McNair said. "Certainly this is a day when we got a lot better."

Osweiler agreed to leave the Broncos when free agency began despite being the presumed replacement when Manning retired on Monday.

Wearing a red tie and a perfectly tailored suit, Osweiler commanded the room with the ease of a politician. He spent almost four minutes reading a statement in which he thanked the Broncos and virtually every coach he's ever had.

He said he called Denver general manager John Elway to tell him he planned to sign with the Texans as soon as he decided on Wednesday.

"It was a very difficult decision," he said of leaving Denver. "In fact it was the most difficult decision of my life. I'm very thankful. I'm very appreciative for every-

thing that the Denver Broncos organization has done for me, but at this point in time in my career, I feel like the Houston Texans give me the best opportunity to be successful."

The Texans were looking to upgrade after Brian Hoyer's struggles last season, particularly his turnover-filled performance in their wild-card playoff loss to Kansas City. The Texans, who have a long history of quarterback woes, have never advanced past the divisional round of the playoffs.

"Obviously we had a need at the quarterback position," general manager Rick Smith said. "With the level of success we've been able to have over the last few years, we haven't had consistent play at the quarterback position. We haven't had consistency at the quarterback position, and we really feel like the move to add Brock gives us that stability, and hopefully that will allow us to advance a little bit further than what we've done before."

Osweiler joins a team with Defensive Player of the Year J.J. Watt and receiver DeAndre Hopkins, who was third in the NFL with 1,521 yards receiving last season.

It was clear how Osweiler feels about Hopkins when his name was mentioned on Thursday.

"You can see it in my smile," he said, adding they've already chatted about where they'll work out together. "It's very exciting ... what DeAndre brings to the game is truly special. To have the opportunity to play with a football player like that, that's what gets a quarterback out of bed in the morning."

Houston also added running back Lamar Miller, center Tony Bergstrom and guard Jeff Allen in free agency, and re-signed tackle Chris Clark, punter Shane Lechler and kicker Nick Novak.

Miller replaces franchise rushing leader

Arian Foster, who was released after a series of injuries in recent years.

The Texans got a firsthand look at Miller last season when he ran for 175 yards, including an 85-yard touchdown burst, and had a 54-yard TD reception in an embarrassing 44-26 loss to the Dolphins last season. McNair joked he didn't recognize Miller when he first saw him on Thursday.

"Because I'm so used to looking at his back. That's all I saw in Miami," McNair said with a laugh.

Osweiler appeared in eight games with seven starts last season for the Broncos. He threw for 1,967 yards and 10 touchdowns with six interceptions last season.

After sitting behind Manning for more than three years, he started the last seven games of the 2015 regular season, but was benched in favor of Manning for the postseason.

He said his benching didn't factor in his decision to leave Denver and that he had no hard feelings about the move.

"That's football," he said. "Guys get ... benched, replaced, they get injured, another guy comes in and becomes the starter. That happens all the time. Bottom line is I always want what's best for the team, and as long as the football team is winning games I'm happy."

The 6-foot-7, 240-pound Osweiler was drafted in the second round in 2012 out of Arizona State.

Osweiler insists he doesn't feel any added pressure because of the size of his contract.

"The Houston Texans are already a great football team, nobody needs to come in here and work a miracle," he said. "I'm just going to try to be the best me I can possibly be to add to this football team."

No reinstatement for Russian track team

MONACO — Russia's track and field federation has not yet done enough to reform its anti-doping program in order to have its athletes reinstated to global competition, the International Association of Athletics Federations said Friday.

The sport's world governing body said it will likely decide in May whether Russian athletes will be readmitted or not in time for the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in August.

IAAF President Sebastian Coe made the announcement at the end of a two-day council meeting in Monaco, saying the Russian federation, known as RUSAF, had not yet satisfied the conditions for reinstatement.

"While progress has been made, the council unanimously agreed that the Russian authorities need to undertake further significant work to satisfy the reinstatement conditions," Coe said. "RUSAF should not be reinstated to membership of the IAAF at this stage. The task force will report at the next council meeting."

The next meeting will be held on an unspecified date in May, where a final decision is likely to be made on whether Russian athletes will be eligible to compete in Rio.

"I think you should conclude that these decisions will be taken at that point," Coe said.

The IAAF suspended Russia in November after an independent report by a World Anti-Doping Agency panel detailed systematic corruption and doping cover-ups in the country. The IAAF laid down a series of criteria for the Russians to meet before they can be eligible for readmission.

Jordan fired as Rutgers men's basketball coach

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Eddie Jordan has been dismissed as Rutgers basketball coach, Rutgers athletic director Patrick Hobbs said.

The firing comes less than 24 hours after Nebraska defeated the Scarlet Knights in the opening round of the Big Ten tournament.

The loss ended an injury-plagued season in which Rutgers (7-25) won just one conference game. The win came against an under-manned Minnesota on the final day of the regular season.

The win ended a 32-game losing streak in the conference and a 17-game overall skid. The 17-game streak was the longest losing streak in program history, dating back to 1906.

In other college basketball news:

■ UCF has fired basketball coach Donnie Jones following a loss to Tulane in the American Athletic Conference Tournament.

UCF athletic director Danny White made the announcement Thursday night, shortly after the Knights lost 65-63 in the first round of the conference tournament in Orlando. UCF lost nine of its final 10 games this season and finished 12-18, including 6-12 in league play.

From The Associated Press

Browns release troubled QB Manziel

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Johnny Football has been tossed aside.

Quarterback Johnny Manziel, the scrambling, Heisman Trophy-winning college star who hasn't come close to matching his hype in the NFL, was released Friday by the Cleveland Browns following two turbulent and troubling seasons.

Manziel's unceremonious exit — the team sent out a brief statement with a few stats and no comment — ends a drama-filled stay in Cleveland for the 23-year-old, who faces an uncertain future on and off the field.

The Browns drafted Manziel in the first round in 2014, hoping he could not only be their long-term solution at quarterback but revive a sluggish franchise.

Instead, he was a two-year headache

that wouldn't go away.

The Browns supported him as long as they could, but his decision to skip the team's season finale against Pittsburgh — he had a concussion at the time — for a trip to Las Vegas and a second domestic incident in three months was more than the team could tolerate and they dumped Manziel, who went 2-6 as a starter.

In other NFL news:

■ A person with direct knowledge of the decision has told The Associated Press that Buffalo Bills receiver Chris Hogan has signed a three-year, \$12 million contract offer extended to him by the New England Patriots.

■ Linebacker Sean Weatherspoon is returning to the Atlanta Falcons after spending his first four seasons with the team.

The Falcons have agreed to terms with Weatherspoon, who played in 14 games

with Arizona in 2015. He was Atlanta's first-round draft pick in 2010.

■ Receiver Brian Quick has re-signed for one year with the Los Angeles Rams.

The 6-foot-4 Appalachian State product hasn't lived up to the huge expectations he had in St. Louis as the first pick of the second round in the 2012 draft. The Rams are hoping for a breakthrough on the West Coast.

■ The Seattle Seahawks agreed to terms with wide receiver Jermaine Kearse on a three-year deal on Thursday night, becoming the third player Seattle has brought back this week.

■ Restricted free agent RBC.J. Anderson has received an \$18 million, four-year offer sheet from the Miami Dolphins.

Anderson rushed for 720 yards last year for the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos, who have five days to match.



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Kansas rolls over Kansas St.

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Not long ago, Kansas coach Bill Self had an official who calls games all over the country pay his team the ultimate compliment while simultaneously offering a somber warning.

"He said, 'When you're on, you're as good as anybody,'" Self recalled after watching his team dismantle Kansas State in the Big 12 Tournament. "'And when you're off, you really fall off.'"

The top-ranked Jayhawks were decidedly on in their 85-63 quarterfinal victory Thursday.

Perry Ellis scored 21 points and Frank Mason III added 16 as the regular-season champions built a 45-30 halftime lead, then quickly stretched the advantage past 20. Kansas coasted the rest of the way to a semifinal matchup Friday night with No. 22 Baylor, which handled No. 23 Texas earlier in the day.

"They played at a very, very high level," Kansas State coach Bruce Weber said.

The eighth-seeded Wildcats (17-16) were led by Justin Edwards, who hit five threes and had 23 points. But the senior guard didn't get nearly as much help as he had in a first-round victory over Oklahoma State.

Wesley Iwundu and D.J. Johnson scored 10 apiece, but freshman forward Dean Wade — who had a career-high 20 against the Cowboys — was held to five points on 1-for-6 shooting. Fellow freshman Barry Brown was 1-for-8 from the field and managed only three points in 26 minutes.

"We came into the tournament and got a win right off the bat. Losing to the No. 1 team in the country, I don't think that's a bad loss in anyone's book," Edwards said.

Kansas State has never beaten Kansas in nine tries in the Big 12 Tournament.

The Jayhawks, potentially playing for the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament, certainly looked the part before a heavily pro-Kansas crowd. They shot 57 percent from the field, had the edge in rebounding, assists and steals, and protected the ball so well Kansas State never made much of a run.

The few times the Wildcats mounted a

charge, Ellis or Mason was there to answer it.

The biggest highlight may have come when Ellis soared for an alley-oop pass and slammed it down midway through the second half, sending the crowd in Sprint Center buzzing and giving Kansas a 55-37 lead. Edwards kept trying to shoot Kansas State back in the game, but the rest of the Wildcats looked spent from their game against the Cowboys down the stretch. Kansas merely had to protect the basketball in the final minutes to wrap up its 12th consecutive victory.

"There's no doubt it's a factor, we played a hard-fought game last night," Weber said. "It just seemed like we were a step behind everything. They got into transition, got some layups, starting feeling good, and then started to make shots. It made it tough on us, no doubt."

No. 3 Villanova 81, Georgetown 67: At New York, Josh Hart scored 25 points, Ryan Arcidiacono added 19 points and six assists, and the Wildcats pulled away from the Hoyas in the second half to open their bid for consecutive Big East Tournament titles.

No. 4 Virginia 72, Georgia Tech 52: At Washington, with its typical stingy defense, plus 26 points from conference player of the year Malcolm Brogdon, the Cavaliers moved into the ACC Tournament semifinals by beating the Yellow Jackets.

No. 5 Xavier 90, Marquette 72: At New York, Trevon Bluiett matched his career high with 24 points and the Musketeers dominated from start to finish in a victory over the Golden Eagles in the quarterfinals of the Big East Tournament.

No. 6 Oklahoma 79, No. 21 Iowa State 76: At Kansas City, Mo., Buddy Hield scored 39 points, Ryan Spangler made a series of critical plays down the stretch and the Sooners beat the Cyclones in the Big 12 Tournament quarterfinals.

No. 7 North Carolina 88, Pittsburgh 71: At Washington, the Tar Heels got off to a fast start at the ACC Tournament as the regular-season champions routed the Panthers to take the first step toward their first conference title since 2008.

No. 8 Oregon 83, Washington 77: At Las Vegas, Chris Boucher had 19 points

and 11 rebounds, and the Ducks withstood a late flurry to hold off the Huskies in the Pac-12 Tournament quarterfinals.

No. 9 West Virginia 86, TCU 66: At Kansas City, Mo., Devin Williams had 18 points and 11 rebounds to lead a balanced attack, and the Mountaineers never trailed in a victory over the Horned Frogs in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 Tournament.

No. 11 Miami 88, Virginia Tech 82: At Washington, Sheldon McClellan scored 21 points and fellow senior guard Angel Rodriguez had 19 to help the Hurricanes beat the Hokies in the ACC Tournament quarterfinals.

No. 12 Utah 80, Southern California 72: At Las Vegas, Kyle Kuzma broke out of a scoring slump at just the right time, missing one shot while scoring 23 points to help lift the Utes to a win over the Trojans in the Pac-12 quarterfinals.

No. 15 Arizona 82, Colorado 78: At Las Vegas, Allonzo Trier scored 23 points, Ryan Anderson had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and the Wildcats held on to beat the Buffaloes in the Pac-12 Tournament quarterfinals.

Notre Dame 84, No. 19 Duke 79: At Washington, looking exhausted down the stretch, the Blue Devils gave away a 16-point, second-half lead against the Fighting Irish and lost in overtime in the ACC Tournament quarterfinals.

Illinois 68, No. 20 Iowa 66: At Indianapolis, Jalen Coleman-Lands scored 17 points and Malcolm Hill broke a tie with a 16-foot jumper with 1:14 to go, helping the Illini fend off the Hawkeyes' frantic comeback for a stunning upset in the Big Ten Tournament.

No. 22 Baylor 75, No. 23 Texas 61: At Kansas City, Mo., Taurean Prince had 24 points and 13 rebounds, Rico Gathers added 13 points and the Bears' baffling zone defense shut down the Longhorns in a victory in the Big 12 Tournament quarterfinals.

No. 24 California 76, Oregon St. 68: At Las Vegas, Ivan Raab scored two big baskets late to finish with 21 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, helping the Golden Bears outlast the Beavers in the Pac-12 quarterfinals.

LeBron, Kobe bid farewell

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — LeBron James savored every bump from Kobe Bryant in the low post. He relished every down-court sprint, every big shot — and even the fake that left him sailing helplessly through the air while Kobe pivoted around him for a layup.

The farewell duel between two of the greatest players in NBA history was quality entertainment, even for the two men involved.

"I wish I could play against him every single night," James said. "Just that competitive juice, that feeling of just going against one of the greatest, you can never take that for granted."

James scored 24 points while sharing a court with Bryant for the final time, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 120-108 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday night.

Bryant, who will retire after the season, had 26 points on 11-for-16 shooting. He ignored his constantly sore right shoulder to make sure he didn't miss his 32nd meeting with James on an NBA court, albeit never in the playoffs.

"It was just fun," Bryant said. "I enjoy the physicality of it. Playing against him is fun because of his size. It's always fun to bump with him and to have that physicality, backing him down and driving and bumping. That's fun."

After a pregame chat and hug with the crowd on its collective feet just to watch pregame warmups, Bryant and James both had vintage individual moments in the final edition of this friendly rivalry.

Kyrie Irving scored 26 points and Channing Frye had 21 for the Cavaliers, who have won on the first two stops of their four-game West Coast road trip. Irving needled Bryant after a short free throw, and Kobe responded by guarding the youngster.

Spurs 109, Bulls 101: Kawhi Leonard had 29 points, LaMarcus Aldridge added 26 points and 10 rebounds and San Antonio won its 31st straight at home to open the season, upending short-handed Chicago.

Tony Parker added 20 points and had 12 assists for San Antonio, which has won 40 straight at home going back to last season. The Spurs have their best start after 65 games at 55-10.

Derrick Rose and Pau Gasol had 21 points each for the Bulls.

Raptors 104, Hawks 96: DeMar DeRozan had 30 points and five rebounds to help Toronto beat visiting Atlanta.

Toronto turned the ball over nine times before the game was 13 minutes old, but did a much better job of holding onto it the rest of the way in winning its second straight and 14th of 15 at home.

Kyle Lowry had 19 points and seven assists for the Raptors, and Luis Scola had 10 points and 12 rebounds. Al Horford led Atlanta with 20 points.

Nuggets 116, Suns 98: Emmanuel Mudiay scored a career-high 30 points in a matchup of rookie guards and host Denver beat Phoenix for its third straight victory.

Nikola Jokic added 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Will Barton had 17 points and eight rebounds.

Phoenix rookie Devin Booker had a career-high 35 points in the loss. Booker scored 25 points in the second half when the Suns made a run to briefly lead.

Subban injury overshadows Habs' win

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Montreal defenseman P.K. Subban was taken off the ice on a stretcher after being hit on the side of the head by a teammate, overshadowing the Canadiens' 3-2 victory over the Buffalo Sabres 3-2 on Thursday night.

The Canadiens said Subban was taken to a hospital for further testing and that he had normal movement in his extremities.

Subban was injured late in the third period when teammate Alexei Emelin ran into him, knocking him on the side of the head with his back side while retrieving the puck in Montreal's corner. Subban was nearly motionless on the ice for about 10 minutes while doctors and trainers tended to him.

Alex Galchenyuk scored twice for the Canadiens, Torrey Mitchell added a goal, and Mike Condon made 36 saves for his 17th victory of the season, best among rookie goaltenders.

Nicolas Deslauriers and Brian Gionta scored for Buffalo, and Robin Lehner stopped 31 shots.

Panthers 6, Senators 2: Jaromir Jagr scored twice and Vincent Trocheck had a goal and three assists to lead host Florida

past Ottawa.

Jonathan Huberdeau had a goal and an assist, and Aaron Ekblad and Jussi Jokinen also scored for the Panthers. Roberto Luongo stopped 26 shots.

Erik Karlsson and Zack Smith scored for Ottawa, which has lost five of six. Craig Anderson made 25 saves in his first start after missing four games with a knee injury.

Oilers 2, Wild 1: Rookie sensation Connor McDavid scored the go-ahead goal with 7:29 left, lifting visiting Edmonton over Minnesota.

With Wild defenseman Jared Spurgeon trying to slow his rush, the 19-year-old McDavid reached out and snapped the puck underneath goalie Darcy Kuemper's arm to give the Oilers the lead. McDavid has four goals in the last six games.

Lauri Korpikoski scored in the first period and Cam Talbot made 29 saves for the Oilers, who won for the fifth time in their last seven games.

Red Wings 3, Jets 2: Justin Abdelkader scored the tiebreaking goal late in the third period to help host Detroit snap a three-game losing streak.

Dylan Larkin and Jonathan Ericsson also scored and Petr Mrazek stopped 23 shots

for the Red Wings.

Marko Dano and Tyler Myers scored for Winnipeg and Michael Hutchinson finished with 32 saves.

Hurricanes 3, Bruins 2 (OT): Phillip Di Giuseppe scored on a rebound 1:30 into overtime and visiting Carolina beat Boston.

Di Giuseppe had a wide-open net when Boston goalie Tuukka Rask couldn't corral the rebound on Jeff Skinner's breakaway.

The officials reviewed the play for a few minutes before ruling there was no interference when Skinner made contact with Rask outside the crease.

Devils 3, Sharks 0: Keith Kinkaid made 30 saves for his second career shut-out and Travis Zajac scored twice to lead visiting New Jersey past San Jose.

Devante Smith-Pelly and Zajac scored on successive shots for New Jersey that came more than 18 minutes apart as the Devils opened a three-game California swing by winning for the third time in 11 games. Zajac also added an empty-net goal to help New Jersey match last season's win total of 32 to move within five points of Pittsburgh for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.