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Turkey retaliates after deadly bombing

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey lashed out Monday at Kurdish targets, bombing military positions in northern Iraq and rounding up dozens of militants at home after a suicide car bombing in the heart of the capital drew the country even deeper into the complex Syrian conflict.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said there were “strong indications” that Sunday’s attack was carried out by the rebels of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

Davutoglu added that authorities had detained 11 people directly connected to the suicide bombing near two bus stops that killed 37 people. DNA tests were underway to identify the bomber and another body believed to be that of a person who assisted, he said, and a senior government official has said the bomber was a woman.

“There are very serious, almost certain indications that point to the separatist terror organization,” Davutoglu said in reference to the PKK.

Turkey has been battling the PKK, a Kurdish group fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey, for three decades. A fragile, 2½-year peace process broke down in July. Turkey says the PKK was inspired by the success of the Kurdish militia forces in Syria against the Islamic State group in the city of Kobani and elsewhere. The PKK blames Turkey for failing to deliver on promises.

More than 200 people have died in five suicide bombings in Turkey since July that were blamed either on the Kurdish rebels or the Islamic State group. Sunday’s attack was the second suicide bombing in the capital: A Feb. 17 attack for which a PKK offshoot claimed responsibility killed 29 people.

Bill Park, a lecturer on Turkish foreign policy and security at King’s College London, said Ankara’s aggression toward

the Kurds in Syria has angered Kurds inside Turkey and inspired attacks.

“Bombings in Turkey now look like a campaign, and we have to assume that there will be more,” he said.

If the bombing was the work of a PKK-affiliated group, it could mark a shift in tactics since the group had previously targeted Turkey’s security forces instead of civilians, said Otso Iho, a senior analyst at IHS Jane’s Terrorism and Insurgency Centre.

Turkey considers the PKK and the Kurdish militia in Syria to be one and the same and has been pressing its U.S. allies to stop helping the Syrian Kurds. Washington considers the PKK a terrorist organization but has backed the Kurdish militia in Syria, a strategy that has been effective in fighting the Islamic State group.

Both the U.S. and Turkey generally have good relations with the Kurds in northern Iraq; Monday’s airstrikes in northern Iraq targeted PKK

bases rather than installations of the Iraqi Kurds.

Nine F-16s and two F-4 jets raided 18 PKK positions, including the Qandil mountains, where the group’s leadership is based, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported. Ammunition depots, bunkers and shelters were among the targets.

Police carried out raids in the southern city of Adana, detaining 38 suspected PKK rebels, while 15 suspected Kurdish militants were detained in Istanbul, the agency reported.

Turkey already had plans for large-scale operations against Kurdish militants. Anadolu said an operation in Nusaybin, on the border with Syria, began Monday, while tanks were deployed for another operation in the town of Yuksekova, near the border with Iraq.

Authorities also imposed a curfew in the city of Sirnak, near the Iraqi border, signaling the military was preparing an offensive there as well.

Sailor charged with raping Japanese woman at hotel

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A Navy sailor assigned to Camp Schwab has been charged with raping a Japanese woman in an Okinawa hotel, a case that could inflame tensions on the tiny island prefecture, if history is any indication.

Japanese police say Seaman Apprentice Justin Castellanos, 24, found the female tourist, from the mainland city of Fukuoka, intoxicated and asleep in the hotel’s hallway, took her into his room and raped her between

1 a.m. and 4 a.m. Sunday.

A friend of the woman, who is in her 40s, reported the alleged incident, and police took in Castellanos for questioning. He was placed under arrest at the police station, and the case was referred to prosecutors Monday afternoon. Police say Castellanos denies the allegations.

Okinawa has been the site of several high-profile sexual assaults, including a case involving two Navy reservists in late 2012 that led to a curfew for all U.S. servicemembers in Japan. The curfew, slightly relaxed in 2014, remains in effect.

“The incident is extremely de-

plorable,” Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said during a news conference Monday. “Japan filed a strong protest with the U.S. Embassy. At the same time, we called for enforcement of strict discipline and preventive measures.”

U.S. Forces Japan did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Capt. Jeff Davis, a spokesman for the Pentagon, said Monday that Castellanos is in Naha police custody.

Davis was unaware of whether the incident has sparked changes to off-base privileges. “That would be the purview

of the commanders on the ground,” he said.

Suga deflected questions at the news conference on whether the incident would affect the planned relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, which has been the target of small but vocal protests. But Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga, who has been openly critical of the relocation plan, condemned the incident Monday.

“It was a serious crime that violated women’s human rights, which is never to be tolerated,” Onaga was quoted as saying by a spokesman. “I am indignant.”

USS Barry joins fleet in Yokosuka

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy welcomed the destroyer USS Barry to its Japan-based fleet Monday, giving the force a seventh ballistic missile defense-capable ship in the midst of North Korean boasts about advances in its nuclear weapons program.

Ballistic missile defense ships, or BMDs, are among the most oft-deployed ships in the Navy. On top of that, sailors say the operational tempo at Yokosuka is one of the Navy's most demanding.

The USS Barry and the USS Benfold, which arrived in October, each come equipped with new versions of the Aegis combat system, which includes significant upgrades on the bridge, in engineering and in the combat information center.

"We have much more capacity now that Benfold and Barry are here," said Capt. Christopher Sweeney, commodore of the Yokosuka-based Destroyer Squadron 15. "We know the operational availability will go up, and the sustainment will become a little easier now that Barry is here."

Having enough ships to fill commander requests has been a challenge for the Navy in recent years, particularly for submarines, BMD ships and surface ships deploying in carrier strike groups. During a House subcommittee meeting in June, Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Va., reviewed a list of BMD-capable ships averaging 9.2 months of deployment, a figure the Navy wants to reduce to seven months across the BMD-capable fleet.

There are 33 BMD-deployable ships, but the Navy says it needs 40 to fill its requests and to hold down deployment times. Nine of those 40 ships would be Japan-based, according to a December 2015 Congressional Research report. The service would have 39 ships ready to deploy by 2020 at current shipbuilding and maintenance rates, according to the report.

In recent years, the Navy has moved several of its most advanced ships and air assets to the Asia-Pacific region. The shift coincides with rising tensions in the East and South China seas as China and its increasingly advanced military clash with the U.S. and other nations over freedom of navigation and territorial rights.

The additions also come amid a series of announcements and threats directed at the U.S. by North Korea.

DPRK Today, a Pyongyang-run website, published a story Sunday claiming that North Korean nuclear weapons could reach New York City.

Iraq general says member of Islamic State surrenders

Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq — A Palestinian-American member of the Islamic State group gave himself up to Iraqi Kurdish forces in the country's north on Monday, an Iraqi Kurdish general said, a rare instance of a voluntary surrender of a militant fighting with the extremist group in Iraq.

The man had been "lurking near the peshmerga lines" since late Sunday night, according to Maj. Gen. Feisal Helkani of the Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga forces, which are playing key role — along with the Iraqi military — in battling the extremist Islamic State group.

Helkani said his troops first tried to shoot the man, assuming he was a would-be suicide bomber.

"Then in the morning, he walked across and gave himself up," Helkani said, adding

that the man is a Palestinian-American who was fighting with the Islamic State group in Iraq. The surrender took place on the front lines near the town of Sinjar, which was retaken by Iraqi forces from Islamic State group militants late last year.

Helkani identified the man as Mohammed Jamal Amin and said he was carrying with him a large amount of cash, three cellphones and three forms of identification, including a U.S. driver's license. The Islamic State group fighter is currently being held by the peshmerga troops for interrogation, Helkani added.

The Iraqi Kurdish general did not provide further details or a hometown for the man, but a photograph of the Islamic State group fighter's American driver's license was posted on social media sites, identifying him as Mohamad Jamal Khweis, 27, from Alexandria, Va.

Tuesday primaries key as Trump eyes GOP endgame

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican front-runner Donald Trump faces a week of critical primary elections that could see his political dominance grow at the risk of even wider party divisions in one of the most chaotic presidential campaigns in generations.

Perhaps most crucial is Tuesday's winner-take-all contest in Ohio, where the billionaire real estate mogul is up against the state's popular governor, John Kasich. Trump has called the governor "a baby," and Kasich has suggested that Trump and the violence at some of his rallies represent a "dark side" of American society.

Also at stake Tuesday are Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina and Florida, with the total number of delegates in play accounting for more than a quarter of the 1,237 necessary for the party's nomination.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz argues that only he can keep Trump from reaching the required majority of delegates, while Florida Sen. Marco Rubio tries merely to remain relevant, hoping home-state voters defy the polls and give him a reason to stay in the race.

Trump tried Sunday to shift attention away from the intense criticism that followed Friday's harrowing scenes in Chicago, where he canceled a scheduled rally amid sometimes-violent confrontations among his supporters, protesters and authorities. At a Saturday rally, a protester stormed the stage as Trump spoke, only to be subdued by Secret Service agents.

"We're not provoking. We want peace. ... We don't want trouble," Trump told a crowd in Illinois at one of three events he held Sunday, with occasional interruptions from protesters. None led to violence.

A skeptical Kasich reversed his monthslong practice of avoiding the topic of Trump. Speaking with The Associated Press, he read a list of Trump quotes compiled by an aide that included comments that his audiences should "hit back" a little more and that he'd like to "punch" a protester "in the face."

Among the Democrats, Hillary Clinton carries an edge of more than 200 pledged delegates into Tuesday's contests and effectively could block rival Bernie Sanders' path to victory with a sweep of the large states on Tuesday.

Oregon, Virginia edge out Michigan State for coveted No. 1 seeds in NCAA Tourney

Associated Press

A topsy-turvy season in college basketball delivered a few more twists when the brackets came out Sunday.

Exhibit A: Oregon and Virginia are No. 1 seeds, while Michigan State is not.

Exhibit B: Monmouth and Valparaiso aren't part of March Madness, but Michigan and Syracuse are.

As usual, the NCAA selection committee released a 68-team bracket with its fair share of surprises. This year, the debate started right away, when the committee named Pac-12 champion Oregon a top seed in the West, ACC runner-up Virginia a top seed in the Midwest and made Tom Izzo's Spartans, champs of the Big Ten, a "2."

They'll decide it on the court, starting Tuesday with a pair of opening-round games. The main draw begins Thursday at eight sites. The Final Four is April 2 and 4 in Houston.

In a season in which six teams held the top spot in The Associated Press poll — one short of the record — there was no doubt there would be some debate about who belonged in the four top spots. That Big 12 and Atlantic Coast Conference champions Kansas and North Carolina earned two of the spots wasn't that surprising. The rest of it raised eyebrows.

The head of the selection committee, Oklahoma athletic director Joe Castiglione, lauded Oregon's third-rated strength of schedule (as of Sunday) and No. 2 ranking in the RPI, along with its regular-season

and tournament titles in the Pac-12. He said Michigan State was the fifth overall seed.

"Very close. It was a vigorous debate," Castiglione said. "We know how good a team they are. ... It was just a close call and the committee felt Michigan State was fifth."

But there were no easy choices for the committee this season, and the way the big slate of conference tournaments played out only emphasized the way this season has gone. Of the 31 postseason tournaments, top seeds only won 10.

That gave automatic spots to bubble teams (or less) such as Fresno State, Gonzaga and Connecticut, while squeezing out a few bubble spots — even though there were two more available this season because Louisville (and Rick Pitino) and SMU (and Larry Brown) are both ineligible.

Among those sitting out include Monmouth, which played a killer nonconference schedule but lost too many games to bad teams; St. Mary's, which won the regular-season title in the West Coast Conference but didn't play a tough enough schedule; and Valpo, which ranked 49 in the RPI but had only four wins against top 100 teams.

Of the at-large teams, 25 came from teams from the Power Five conferences, with 11 from the smaller conferences. Of the last eight teams to make it, the count was 4-4, with Michigan, Vanderbilt and Syracuse among the most hotly debated among the bigger teams.

"In the past, the committee has taken teams with wins, especially road wins,"

said Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim, whose team's wins away from home against Duke, Texas A&M and UConn made up for the fact that the Orange (19-13) has lost five of its last six. "I'm not sure there's anyone on the bubble who had as good of road wins as we did."

Boeheim missed the first nine games of the season, while serving a suspension for committing NCAA violations, but Castiglione said that didn't much factor into bringing Syracuse in.

Castiglione said the last bubble team to make it was Tulsa, which plays Michigan on Wednesday.

Other notables from the bracket:

Kentucky: Two things stood out about the Wildcats. First, their possible second-round matchup against border rival Indiana, a team they don't schedule in the regular season. Second, their No. 4 seeding, one spot worse than Texas A&M, the team the Wildcats beat in the SEC tournament title game. Coach John Calipari was outspoken, as usual: "Did we not play a basketball game against them today?" Calipari said. "When you mis-seed a team, it's not the team you hurt, it's the teams they play that you hurt. But at the end of the day, they're not stealing my joy."

Kansas: If there's a favorite in this year's tournament, it's the Jayhawks, who won both the regular-season and tournament titles in the nation's toughest conference, and also come in on a 14-game winning streak. "You obviously have to be healthy, catch a few breaks and have your best players perform," said Jayhawks coach Bill

Self. "With most teams, it comes down to making shots. That's as big a key with us as any."

Future pros: The mock drafts project Ivan Rabb and Jaylen Brown as potential top-10 picks later this year. Both play for Cal. So, did the fourth-seeded Bears underachieve by going 23-10 and finishing tied for third in the Pac-12? We'll find out Friday when they open against No. 13 Hawaii. Other tournament players who could be starring on an NBA team near you: Brandon Ingram (Duke), Kris Dunn (Providence) and shooting guard Buddy Hield (Oklahoma), the nation's second-leading scorer at 25 points a game.

UConn, UCAN?: When UConn won the title two years ago, the Huskies were a bubble team that caught fire at the right time. Sound familiar? Courtesy of the 70-foot miracle shot by Jalen Adams that pushed the conference semifinal against Cincinnati into a fourth overtime, the Huskies didn't have to sweat Selection Sunday. They're a No. 9 seed (they were a "7" in 2014) and will open against Colorado, with a possible meeting against Kansas up next.

Welcome back: Oregon State is back in the tournament for the first time since 1990. Last time the Beavers made it, Gary Payton was closing out a college career, about to be an NBA star. This time, it's Payton's son, Gary Payton II, leading the team into the spotlight. Payton II is averaging nearly 16 points a game for Oregon State, a No. 7 seed that faces No. 10 VCU on Friday.

Opening-round teams scramble to book travel

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — For teams that got a coveted spot in the NCAA Tournament, finding out where and who they're playing was not the end of selection-night drama.

It was only the beginning. And that's especially true for eight teams that are opening-round bound.

Scenes such as one at Florida Gulf Coast were playing out at plenty of schools Sunday night. It was nearly 10 p.m. Sunday and people in three different offices at FGCU are calling the school's top donors, asking if they want to be part of the team's travel party for Tuesday's game against Fairleigh Dickinson in Dayton, Ohio. If those fans were willing, they could have a seat on the charter and stay in the team hotel for as long as the trip lasts.

Meanwhile, in another office, Billy Blood — the Chief Financial Officer for FGCU athletics — is simultaneously working his office phone, his cellphone and emails, trying to actually secure that plane and those hotel rooms. He's exhausted; his tie is loosened, he's rubbing his eyes and he has no idea how long any of this will take.

"Details," he groans, to no one in particular.

He wasn't complaining, and no one else at the other schools facing opening-round games — FDU, Vanderbilt, Wichita State, Michigan, Tulsa, Holy Cross and Southern — likely were either. They play Tuesday or Wednesday, while the rest of the field of 68 starts Thursday or Friday.

"Quick, whirlwind here," said Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings, whose Commodores play Wichita State in the second game Tuesday night. "That's a quick turnaround time to get yourself ready and get travel arrangements and practice and preparation and all the things you need to do. It's the fastest night of the year in college basketball if you make the tournament."

It was also going to be a late night for everyone involved.

There's scouting reports to prepare, tickets to deal with, hotel room lists, meals to order, practices to schedule, contingency plans made in case your team wins, contingency plans made in case your team loses, along with arrangements for the band, cheerleaders, fans, managers and administrators.

Most of the 68 teams in the tournament knew, or had at least a reasonably strong

sense, that they were getting in before seeing their names on the CBS bracket (or the version that leaked on the Internet during the selection show broadcast). But without the pertinent details — date, site, opponent — not much could be done on a logistical front until Sunday night.

"We went through this three years ago," said Ken Kavanagh, FGCU's athletic director, referring to when the Eagles became national sweethearts with their "Dunk City" run to the Sweet 16 as a No. 15 seed in 2013. "So most of us understand what happens."

Some FGCU players knew that they were going to play FDU in the opening round before the actual announcement, thanks to that bracket getting leaked and widely distributed on Twitter. But with the realization that a chance to play North Carolina is now one win away, the excitement was real.

So at 6:40 p.m., exactly 48 hours before FGCU will play in the tournament's very first game, the behind-the-scenes work was starting in earnest.

FGCU coach Joe Dooley and his staff met while a member of the school's video staff loaded tons of FDU clips onto Dooley's laptop. Dooley stayed in his tiny office for hours afterward, trying to put

together a game plan while across the hall administrators figured out their own plan.

They ate cold macaroni and cheese and sipped diet soda. In between bites, one small problem kept causing their plans to be ripped up every few minutes.

They couldn't get a plane.

Seven of the eight teams headed to Dayton had the same issue when they huddled for a logistical conference call around 8:30 p.m. — there were no arrangements for anyone's charter yet. Michigan was the lone exception, because the Wolverines are headed to Dayton by bus.

Finally, after five hours of trying, Blood got his plane secured around 11:30 p.m.

"A plethora of emotions," Blood said as Sunday night turned to Monday morning. "But having success and getting to the tournament make the long hours and the weekends, the nights, the holidays spent working all worth it. I'll go home, shower, pack, feed my newborn daughter, kiss my wife, sleep for a few hours and then back here. Good times."

Great times, actually. The tournament awaits.



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Harvick edges Edwards at Phoenix

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — For the second time in a month, two cars crossed the finish line seemingly together and no one was sure who won.

Electronic scoring and slow-motion replays put Kevin Harvick in a familiar spot on top at Phoenix International Raceway, and NASCAR celebrated another thrilling race to start the season.

Harvick and Carl Edwards twice bumped on the final lap before Harvick inched over the finish line first by 0.01 seconds in an overtime finish Sunday for his record eighth Sprint Cup victory at the mile oval.

It was the same margin of victory as Denny Hamlin's over Martin Truex Jr. last month in the Daytona 500.

"That's really what NASCAR racing is all about," Harvick said. "You're coming to the checkered flag and he wants to win for his team and I want to win for my team. There's a lot on the line."

Harvick had the lead off a late restart, but Edwards had two fresh right-side tires and made it a side-by-side duel.

"I knew he was better through [Turns] 3 and 4," Harvick said. "That was not the car that I wanted to see behind me."

Harvick, on the high side, turned into Edwards' door first to try to slow his momentum. Edwards returned the favor in what he called "a drag race," but came up just short.

"If we had one more lap, I could have passed him clean," Edwards said. "But it just wasn't going to work without bumping him. So I decided to hit him as hard as I did. I really didn't want to wreck him. I thought I moved him enough to get by, but it's just racing."

Harvick made up for qualifying 18th by shooting toward the front early in the race. He took the lead for good in the No. 4 Chevrolet when he immediately passed Edwards on a restart with 77 laps to go.

Harvick built a lead approaching 3 seconds before Kasey Kahne hit the wall with six laps left to bring out the caution.

Harvick crew chief Rodney Childers decided to stay on the track while Edwards and others took on two tires.

Harvick had enough fuel for the extra two laps, but needed to do some banging to hold off Edwards' Toyota.

"I don't think there's any real love lost between the two of us," Harvick said. "I knew that I was going to get hit and I'm going to hit him."

"I don't want to spin him out, but you definitely want to rough him up because that's not the guy I want to lose to and I know he doesn't want to lose to me."

It was another success for NASCAR's new downforce and aerodynamic packages. Used for the first time on a mile-track, it helped produce plenty of passing and only a handful of tire issues on long green-flag runs.

Harvick led a race-high 139 laps in the closest finish in track history. It's tied for seventh-closest overall since NASCAR began electronic scoring in 1993.

Hamlin recovered from an early pit penalty to finish third. Kyle Busch, his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate, started from the pole and led the first 77 laps before ending up fourth.

Dale Earnhardt Jr., who ended Harvick's four-race winning streak at Phoenix with a rain-shortened victory in November, was fifth.

Two days after a scary crash in which he pulled off his steering wheel in qualifying, Jimmie Johnson finished 11th.

Harvick found another way to win at his favorite track. He's won five of the past six races and six of eight at Phoenix.

"I just like racing here," Harvick said. "It's just one of those places where I feel

like I've been here enough times to where I can move around and find something to make our car work."

Steering wheel: Drivers crowded around Johnson backstage before the pre-race introductions as he visually explained how his steering wheel came off before a scary wreck in Friday qualifying.

Johnson was unhurt. Starting 38th in a backup car, Johnson spent most of the race near the front.

No repeat: Brad Keselowski, who won last week at Las Vegas, was running 10th when his right rear tire blew to end his chances. He finished 29th.

That's hot: Richard Childress Racing drivers Ryan Newman hit the wall in the third turn on the 53rd lap. Teammate Paul Menard did the same 54 laps later. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. wrecked after that. Braking issues leading to melted tire beads caused all three crashes, according to Goodyear.

Stewart's sub: Ty Dillon, filling in for the injured Tony Stewart, finished 15th in his second race in the No. 14.

Danica update: Danica Patrick never threatened, but her 19th-place finish was her best of the season.

Sharp-shooting Cavs cruise

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — LeBron James scored 27 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers buried the Los Angeles Clippers with three-pointers in a 114-90 victory Sunday, tying their season high with 18 from long range.

J.R. Smith and Kyrie Irving added 17 points each and Channing Frye had 15 on a season-high-tying five three-pointers for the Eastern Conference leaders.

The Cavaliers won their third straight and improved to 7-2 against the Clippers at Staples Center since the 2006-07 season. Cleveland is 20-6 against the West, including 10-4 on the road.

J.J. Redick scored 19 points, and Chris Paul added 17 points and 10 assists for the Clippers.

Knicks 90, Lakers 87: Jose Calderon hit a three-pointer with two-tenths of a second left to lift visiting New York past Los Angeles.

Carmelo Anthony scored 12 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter for New York.

He shot 10-for-20 and had 12 rebounds.

Kobe Bryant had 14 points in his 29th and final head-to-head matchup in the regular season with Anthony. The Lakers had a combined 16-13 record in those games against the Knicks and Denver Nuggets.

Bucks 109, Nets 100: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds, nearly getting his fourth triple-double in the last 11 games by half-time as Milwaukee beat host Brooklyn.

Antetokounmpo already had 12 points, nine assists and eight rebounds by the half on his way to becoming the first Bucks player with four triple-doubles in a season. All of them have come since Feb. 22.

Jabari Parker added 23 points, and Khris Middleton had 19 points to help the Bucks win their third straight game. Brook Lopez scored 20 points for the Nets.

Hawks 104, Pacers 75: Al Horford and Paul Millsap each scored 18 points and Kyle Korver added 14 as Atlanta used a blistering third quarter to rout visiting

Indiana.

The Hawks went on a 20-0 run and finished the third period with seven threes, the last coming by reserve forward Kris Humphries to make it a 34-point lead. Atlanta has won five of its last six.

Indiana rookie Myles Turner, who scored a team-high 19 points, was the only starter for either team to play in the fourth. All-Star starting forward Paul George finished with just seven points for the Pacers, almost 19 below his team-leading average, on 3-for-15 shooting.

Jazz 108, Kings 99: Derrick Favors had 28 points and 14 rebounds and Gordon Hayward scored 27 points in Utah's victory over host Sacramento.

The Jazz won their second straight game by setting the tone early, coming out with energy against the lethargic Kings and leading by 18 points after one quarter. The lead remained in double figures for much of the game before the Kings made it somewhat close in the fourth.

Montoya leads 1-2 finish for Penske

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — There seemed little doubt that a Team Penske driver would win the IndyCar season-opening race even after Will Power was sidelined Sunday with a concussion.

Juan Pablo Montoya won on the streets of St. Petersburg for the second consecutive year to continue the Team Penske dominance at this event.

The win by Montoya was the eighth in 12 tries for Penske drivers. Simon Pagenaud finished second to make it a 1-2 Penske finish, but Ryan Hunter-Reay spoiled the sweep by passing Helio Castroneves with three laps remaining.

Castroneves finished fourth as Chevrolet and Penske drivers took three of the top four spots. Hunter-Reay in third was the highest-finishing Honda. Mikhail Aleshin and Takuma Sato were fifth and sixth for Honda.

But it was a Penske show the entire weekend, and the four drivers dominated nearly every session to set up the eventual victory. Team Penske, which is celebrating its 50th year of racing, has a record 179 wins in open wheel racing.

The day got off to a rocky start for the Penske organization, though, because pole-sitter Power was diagnosed with a concussion that made him a Sunday morning scratch.

Oriol Servia was brought in to replace Power. He started last in the field and made up a good bit of position but was involved in an eight-car accident that relegated him to an 18th-place finish.

Montoya, meanwhile, led the final 25 laps and beat Pagenaud by 2.3 seconds to win for the second year in a row.

Penguins surge past Rangers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Conor Sheary scored twice and Matt Cullen had the go-ahead goal in the third period in the short-handed Pittsburgh Penguins' 5-3 victory over the New York Rangers on Sunday.

The Penguins star Evgeni Malkin is out six to eight weeks after sustaining an upper-body injury Friday night in a victory Columbus. He is second on the team with 27 goals and 31 assists in 57 games.

Patric Hornqvist also scored, Sidney Crosby added an empty-netter for his 29th of the season, and Marc-Andre

Fleury made 24 saves for the Penguins.

Derick Brassard scored his team-leading 25th goal for the Rangers. Ryan McDonagh and Chris Kreider also scored and Derek Stepan had two assists.

Lightning 4, Blue Jackets 0: Ben Bishop made 37 saves, Steven Stamkos had two goals and an assist and Tampa Bay beat host Columbus to stop a three-game losing streak.

It was Bishop's fourth shutout of the season and No. 16 for his career. Ondrej Palat had a goal and an assist, and Vladislav Namestnikov also scored.

Tampa Bay moved into a tie with idle

Florida for second in the Atlantic Division with 85 points, but Nikita Kucherov and Valtteri Filppula left with injuries.

Maple Leafs 1, Red Wings 0: Jonathan Bernier made 38 saves for his 12th career shutout, leading visiting Toronto past Detroit.

It marked the Maple Leafs' second shutout of the Red Wings in the last 30 years. The last time was Curtis Joseph's 3-0 victory on Dec. 6, 2000, in Detroit.

Michael Grabner scored with 30 seconds left in the second.

Petr Mrazek made 26 saves for the Red Wings.