

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, November 1, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## EUCOM boss: Strengthen presence in Europe

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. European Command boss Gen. Philip Breedlove is pressing the Pentagon for more Navy and intelligence-gathering assets in Europe, where a Russian buildup in the Mediterranean and Black seas represents a growing security challenge.

"There is a requirement for more," Breedlove said at a Pentagon briefing Friday. "And again, the processes for how we allocate those forces are going on in this building right now, and that is part of the reason I am home, to advocate for what I think is an increased need to address the Russian navy."

With Russia's intervention in Ukraine last year, unrest along ally Turkey's southern border

with Syria and concerns about a more active Russian navy in the eastern Mediterranean, security challenges are coming from multiple fronts for EUCOM and the U.S.-led NATO alliance.

"Europe isn't what it was 19 months ago or even six months ago," Breedlove said.

In addition to the demand for more Navy ships to contend with Russia, the U.S. will be beefing up its presence at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, where U.S. fighter jets are taking part in airstrikes against the Islamic State group, Breedlove said. One unnamed official told The Associated Press that additional F-15 fighters and A-10s eventually will be moved to Incirlik, likely from elsewhere in the region. In addition, the U.S. and NATO are examining ways to shore up

Turkey's air defense, though no final plans are in place, Breedlove said.

Breedlove said he was also advocating at the Pentagon this week for more U.S. intelligence and surveillance capacity in Europe.

"We have a lack of ability to see into Russia, especially at the operational and tactical level," Breedlove said.

U.S. military officials lamented their limited ability to anticipate Russian moves after downsizing the intelligence-gathering mission in Europe, which became less important after the end of the Cold War.

While such a shift made strategic sense at the time, a more assertive Russia means intelligence-gathering needs to shift back, Breedlove said.

There have been signs of some progress.

"The IC (intelligence community) already has made some fairly dramatic changes in the last several months," Breedlove said. "We're gently turning the nose of this ship to get back what we need to be looking at."

For the EUCOM mission, which only two years ago critics dismissed as a Cold War relic, the range of challenges has forced the military to adapt. Breedlove said he is coordinating with the Army to increase the presence of rotational forces in Europe and to strengthen rapid-response capabilities.

"We must continue to strengthen our deterrence," Breedlove said.

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## Warship honoring fallen Marine christened

*Associated Press*

BATH, Maine — First in English, then in Spanish, the mother of a fallen Marine who shielded his comrades from a grenade christened a new Navy destroyer in his honor.

The mother of Sgt. Rafael Peralta asked God to bless the ship named for her son and to keep safe all who serve on her.

The ceremony to christen the future USS Rafael Peralta paid homage to the slain Marine, who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service of a country to which he immigrated as a boy.

Peralta, who pulled a grenade against his body to protect his fellow Marines during combat with insurgents in Fallujah, Iraq, on Nov. 15, 2004, is believed to be the first serviceman born in Mexico to have a naval warship named in his honor.

"He believed more about the goodness than America than most Americans, to the point of fighting and sacrificing everything for what America stands for," Gen. Robert Neller, the Marine Corps commandant, said as he quoted from Peralta's former commanding officer from the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, the Hawaii-based "Lava Dogs."

Peralta came to the U.S. with his family, attended high school in San Diego, then enlisted on the day he received his green card. He hung only three things on his wall: the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and his Marine boot camp graduation certificate.

The sergeant was nominated for the Medal of Honor — the nation's highest military honor — after fellow Marines said he covered a grenade after being shot and wounded during close-

quarters combat. The defense secretary at the time ultimately rejected that honor because of questions over whether the mortally wounded Marine was conscious at the time.

The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer is one of a handful of Navy ships to be named for Mexican-Americans.

The USS Gonzalez bears the name of Sgt. Alfredo Cantu Gonzalez, a Marine who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam. The cargo ship USNS Benavidez is named for another Medal of Honor recipient, Raul Perez Benavidez. There's also a ship named for labor activist Cesar Chavez, a Navy veteran who died in 1993.

Bath Iron Works celebrated Peralta's heritage by printing Saturday's program in English and Spanish. And several speak-

ers directed their remarks to the Peralta family in Spanish.

As the ship's sponsor, Peralta's mother had the honor of christening the ship. Her daughters served as the ship's matron and maid of honor. Her other son, Ricardo Peralta, a former Marine, said his brother epitomized the Marine Corps motto: "Semper Fidelis," always faithful.

"He writes, 'I'm proud to be a Marine, a U.S. Marine, and to protect and defend the Constitution of America.' He said, 'You should be proud of being an American citizen,'" he said.

Cmdr. Brian Ribota, commanding officer of the warship, said, "I can't imagine growing up the way he did, coming across the border like he did, the sacrifices that he made," Ribota said. "To everyone on our crew, he's a hero. The bottom line is he's an American hero."

## Wreckage thought to be missing ship located

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Searchers using high-tech sonar have discovered the deep-water wreckage of a vessel believed to be the cargo ship *El Faro*, which went missing Oct. 1 with 33 crewmembers during Hurricane Joaquin, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board said late Saturday.

The federal agency said the wreckage is some 15,000 feet below the water's surface and its identity still must be confirmed by sending down a remotely operated deep-ocean vehicle.

The federal agency's statement added that experts aboard a specially equipped Navy vessel reported they located the wreckage at 1:36 p.m. EDT (1736 GMT) Saturday deep under water in the area of the ship's last known position. The wreckage was detected on the fifth of 13 surveying passes by that ship, USNS *Apache*.

The 790-foot *El Faro* was reported missing east of the Bahamas, according to the Coast Guard.

The NTSB said investigators will now seek to survey the debris and confirm the identity of the wreckage, adding that effort could begin as early as Sunday.

## USS Reagan arrives in S. Korea

By JAMES KIMBER  
*Stars and Stripes*

BUSAN, South Korea — The USS Ronald Reagan and three other Navy ships pulled into Command Republic of Korea Fleet headquarters Friday following joint exercises with the South Korean navy and a close encounter with two Russian planes.

The aircraft carrier, the guided-missile cruiser USS *Chancellorsville* and the guided-missile destroyers USS *Fitzgerald* and USS *Mustin* brought nearly 5,000 sailors to this southeast Korean port city for rest and recuperation, as well as community-relations events, such as celebrating Halloween with local children. Reagan is scheduled to remain in Busan until Wednesday.

"The U.S. and Republic of Korea share one of the stron-

gest alliances in the world," 7th Fleet commander Rear Adm. John Alexander said. "Our navies learn from each other, and we grow stronger as an alliance because of our routine exercises here in South Korea and the close relationship and ties that forge from operating at sea together."

The drills included anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare training, communication drills, air defense exercises and counter-mine planning in addition to routine joint nation exercises and a sailor exchange program, according to a U.S. Naval Forces Korea statement.

The visit caps a busy week for the Reagan and other members of the battle force. Two Russian Tupolev Tu-142 Bear aircraft flew as low as 500 feet and within one nautical mile of the Reagan off the eastern coast of the Korean Peninsula

on Tuesday morning. Navy officials said four F/A-18 Super Hornets took off from the Reagan's flight deck in response to the Russian approach.

The incident occurred at roughly the same time that the destroyer USS *Lassen* sailed within a 12-nautical-mile territorial zone claimed by China around Subi Reef in the South China Sea.

The U.S. undertook the "freedom of navigation" operation because it considers those waters international, though China condemned the move as a violation of its "indisputable sovereignty."

Following Korea, the Reagan will continue operations and scheduled exercises in the western Pacific before concluding its fall patrol later this year.

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## Russia: Plane broke up at high altitude

Associated Press

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — The Russian passenger plane that crashed in Egypt, killing everyone aboard, broke up at high altitude, Russia's top aviation official said Sunday.

The Metrojet plane, bound for St. Petersburg in Russia, crashed 23 minutes after it took

off from Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Saturday morning. The 224 people on board, all Russian except for four Ukrainians and one Belarusian, died.

Fragments of the plane were found scattered over a large area, indicating it disintegrated high in the air, said Alexander Neradko, head of Russia's fed-

eral aviation agency. Neradko, along with two Russian Cabinet ministers, were in Egypt inspecting the crash site in a remote part of the northern Sinai Peninsula, where Egypt is fighting an Islamic insurgency.

However, Neradko wouldn't comment on a possible reason for the crash, saying the probe was ongoing.

## China's ship killer making US Navy's job harder

Bloomberg News

HONG KONG — Increased interactions between the Chinese and the U.S. Navy in the contested South China Sea risk becoming more complicated by the increasingly sophisticated missiles being carried by submarines.

A new report to Congress assessing a Chinese submarine-launched missile known as the

YJ-18 highlights the danger, noting the missile accelerates to supersonic speed just before hitting its target, making it harder for a crew to defend their ship.

Defense chiefs from several countries in Southeast Asia have warned in recent months of the danger of undersea "clutter" as countries build up submarine fleets and the United States challenges China over

its claim to a large swath of the South China Sea. Last week's U.S. patrol inside the 12-nautical-mile zone that China claims around its man-made islands in the waters saw the USS *Lassen* shadowed by two Chinese naval vessels.

The YJ-18 missile can cruise at about 600 mph, or just under the speed of sound, only a few meters above the surface of the sea and then, about 20 nautical

miles from its target, can accelerate to as much as three times the speed of sound, according to an Oct. 28 report from the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

"The supersonic speed makes it harder to hit with onboard guns," according to commission Chairman Larry Wortzel. "It also makes it a faster target for radars."



# KC takes 3-1 Series lead on NY error

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Kansas City Royals keep finding new ways to win this October. And now with one more victory in November, they will be World Series champions.

Second baseman Daniel Murphy's error on Eric Hosmer's grounder in the eighth inning keyed yet another comeback for the tenacious Royals, and Kansas City startled the New York Mets 5-3 Saturday night to take 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven matchup.

Edinson Volquez returned Saturday from his father's funeral in the Dominican Republic and can pitch the Royals to their first crown in 30 years. He was to face Matt Harvey in a rematch of Game 1, when Volquez went six innings just hours after his dad died.

"What they did tonight, is what they've been doing the whole playoffs," Royals manager Ned Yost said.

"It's a group of guys that have the utmost confidence in themselves. I don't think at any point these guys thought that they were going to lose tonight," he said.

Seemingly spooked by the raucous New York crowd early on Halloween, the Royals rallied for the seventh time in 10 postseason wins this year, this one from a 3-2

deficit.

Rookie Michael Conforto homered twice as the Mets built their lead, helped when right fielder Alex Rios lost track of the outs on a sacrifice fly.

But as the calendar was an hour from flipping to a new month, Murphy's charmed October slipped away. So did the Mets' best chance at evening the Series, done in by the Royals' latest late surge.

"We certainly talked about it before, they truly don't ever stop," Mets manager Terry Collins said.

With runners on first and second on a pair of one-out walks by Tyler Clippard, Jeurys Familia relieved. So steady in his new role as closer this year, Familia had allowed Alex Gordon's ninth-inning, tying homer in a Game 1 loss.

This time, he came on with a 3-2 lead and got Hosmer to hit a soft grounder toward Murphy as 44,815 fans stood, waving their orange towels in hopes of an inning-ending double play.

But the slow chopper sneaked under the glove of the NL Championship Series MVP as he charged in. Murphy, who would've only had a play at first, appeared to glance at the runner and failed to get his mitt down. The ball rolled

and rolled toward right field, and Ben Zobrist raced home from second base as Familia crouched on the mound.

"In postseason, you can't give away outs. You've got to make outs. You can't give good teams opportunities to score extra runs, because they can do it," Collins said.

Surely no one in the Citi Field stands expected this scary ending. It got worse for the Mets in a hurry, too.

Mike Moustakas and Salvador Perez followed with RBI singles to break away.

Ryan Madson pitched a perfect seventh for the win, and Wade Davis worked two scoreless innings for his first save.

Not known for his defense, Murphy made every play look easy in the NLCS and almost single-handedly slugged the Mets to their first World Series since 1986 with seven homers in nine playoff games. He has slumped in the Fall Classic but had a one-out infield single in the ninth.

Yoenis Cespedes followed with another single, but was doubled off first base when Lucas Duda hit a liner to third and Moustakas tossed it to first to finish off another comeback for the Royals.

Kansas City looked as if it was under a spell in the first few innings, though, in falling behind 2-0 in the third.

## Curry rips Pelicans for 53

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Stephen Curry couldn't get the smile off of his face as he trotted back on defense.

He had just buried a 31-foot rainbow over 6-foot-10 Anthony Davis — a play he later referred to as "a dumb shot that went in."

"Everybody's having fun," Curry recalled. "I'm laughing at myself for taking the shot."

That's what it's like for a player who can't seem to do anything wrong.

Curry scored 53 points, breaking open a tight game with a 28-point third quarter, and the unbeaten Golden State Warriors defeated the winless Pelicans 134-120 in New Orleans' home opener Saturday night.

Curry outscored the Pelicans by two points in the third period, giving the reigning NBA MVP a career-high for scoring in a quarter. It also gave the Warriors a 105-91 lead, allowing Curry to rest for much of the fourth quarter.

"I've always had confidence. You just get better as a player and try to take it to another level. So that's what I'm trying to do this year," Curry said. "I'm blessed to be healthy. I'm feeling pretty energetic, pretty strong out there on the floor, playing free, just having fun, so usually good things happen when all that comes together."

If he had played more than 36 minutes, he might have shattered his current game career-high of 54 points. As it is, he's now the first player since Michael Jordan in 1989-90 to score 118 points in his team's first three games. That total included 25 in a victory in Houston on Friday.

"He completely took the game over," Warriors forward Draymond Green said. "The second night of a back-to-back, it's easy to say, 'Ah, we ain't got it. We're tired.' Not the way he took the game over."

Curry was 17-for-27 from the field, including 8-for-14 from three-point range, to go with nine assists and four steals. Five of his threes were from between 27 and 31 feet.

He also caused New Orleans problems with creative, weaving dribbles into the heart of the defense for driving layups.

"He's getting to the hole a lot better, picking and choosing his spots when to go. He's turning the corner like crazy," Green said of Curry. "Most importantly, I said it on the court to him, I said, 'Man, you're acting like this is your league.'"

Green scored 21 points and Klay Thompson added 19 for defending champion Golden State, which has won its first three games this season.

**Knicks 117, Wizards 110:** Carmelo Anthony scored 37 points and New York spoiled Washington's home opener.

Anthony hit a jumper with 1:35 to play to give New York a 108-106 lead. Langston Galloway added a three-pointer with 1:03 left to make it 111-106.

Anthony added two free throws with 20.4 seconds left for a 113-110 lead.

Washington failed to start a season 3-0 for the first time since 2005-06.

**Grizzlies 101, Nets 91:** Mike Conley scored 22 points, including 10 straight in the fourth quarter, and had eight assists to lead host Memphis.

Conley, who was 7-for-12 from the field, including 4-for-7 from outside the arc, scored his 10 straight points to hold off the Nets who were trying to rally from a double-digit fourth-quarter deficit.

**Jazz 97, Pacers 76:** Derrick Favors scored 18 points and Utah outscored host Indiana by 28 in the second half.

The Pacers led for almost the entire first half, but tables turned in the third quarter when Utah outscored Indiana 28-12 after trailing by seven at halftime. The Jazz (2-1) led by nine points at the end of the third quarter and by as many as 21 in the fourth quarter.

George Hill scored 17 points and Paul George added 16 for Indiana (0-3).

## Smith carries Chiefs over Lions in London

Associated Press

LONDON — When Alex Smith had no options left, he ran. And he ran far.

The Kansas City quarterback carried the ball five times and gained 78 yards, including a career-high 49-yard scramble in the second quarter that set up his 12-yard touchdown run.

With a comfortable lead in hand, Smith settled into his usual role, throwing for 145 yards and a pair of touchdowns to lead the Chiefs to a 45-10 victory over the Detroit Lions at Wembley Stadium in the last of three regular-season NFL games in London.

"We got a lot of guys with a lot of different strengths," Smith said. "We can present a lot to a defense. It's hard for them to defend."

De'Anthony Thomas, Charcandrick West and Spencer Ware also rushed for touchdowns — the first time the Chiefs had four different players rush for scores in the same game since 1960. Thomas ended up with 100 total yards, while West ran for 97. Travis Kelce and Jeremy Maclin caught the two TD passes in the second half.

"Alex was putting the ball on the money today and Charcandrick was running north," said Kelce, who had six receptions for 49 yards.

The Chiefs (3-5) were at Wembley for the first time, while the Lions (1-7) played in London for the second straight season.

The Lions were playing for the first time since offensive coordinator Jim Bob Cooter took over for the fired Joe Lombardi. And although the offense got moving on the opening possession, it stalled horribly after that.

Matthew Stafford threw for 217 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. Also, Calvin Johnson had 85 receiving

yards, while Joique Bell ran for 56. But after the Lions took a 3-0 lead on 35-yard field goal from Matt Prater, Detroit was hapless with the ball.

"Not a good outing, obviously. An understatement," Lions coach Jim Caldwell said. "We ran the ball decently early on, but we reached the point where we wouldn't be able to regain lost ground quickly enough to keep running."

The Kansas City pass rush posed huge problems for the Lions, and Stafford's two interceptions resulted in 10 points going the other way. He was sacked six times, including on fourth-and-8 near midfield early in the fourth quarter while trailing 31-3.

Smith also got tackled a few times, mainly because he was running effectively and picking up some key yardage. The QB helped set up the first touchdown by scrambling 8 yards for a first down. On the next play, Thomas ran in from the 10.

At the start of the second quarter, Smith ran for a career-high 49 yards to open a drive. On third-and-10 from the 12, Smith scrambled into the left corner to make it 14-3.

"He had some very positive yards for us at needed times," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "We know he can run. We don't really want him to run, but if it works out that way that's OK."

On the defensive side, Sean Smith and Justin Houston both picked off passes from Stafford. Smith's interception resulted in a 33-yard field goal from Cairo Santos. Houston's pick set up West's 8-yard TD run up the middle.

With the game out of reach, Stafford threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to Lance Moore. But Ware restored the 35-point lead with Chase Daniel in at quarterback by running in from the 4.



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# Reynolds ties mark in Navy's win

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — On his way to earning a place in the NCAA record book, Keenan Reynolds showed his potential as a head football coach.

Reynolds scored twice in the fourth quarter to tie the collegiate mark for career rushing touchdowns, and Navy set a school record with three 100-yard rushers in a 29-17 victory over South Florida on Saturday.

The Midshipmen never led until Reynolds bulled in from the 1 to make it 22-17 with 6:58 left. After South Florida fumbled the ensuing kickoff, Reynolds clinched it with another 1-yard touchdown run with 1:49 remaining.

Reynolds' final TD came on a fourth-and-goal after a sideline chat with coach Ken Niumatalolo.

"I was going to kick the field goal just to go up by eight," Niumatalolo said.

Reynolds would have none of it.

"I said, 'Coach, we don't need to kick a field goal here,'" Reynolds recalled. "'Let's don't give them any life. They're not going to stop us on the 1.'"

Reynolds was right. Following his full-back, the senior quarterback scored his 77th career rushing TD, tying former Wisconsin running back Montee Ball (2009-12) for most in NCAA history.

Reynolds didn't convince his coach to keep the offense on the field because of the record. He did it because it was the best way to assure Navy a victory.

"It's just a number," Reynolds said of his touchdown total. "At the end of the day, it was just about getting ahead and putting the game out of reach. We were able to execute that play. It's a big deal, obviously. I am very blessed and fortunate. But I always deflect the attention to my teammates because it's 11 guys out there working."

Nose guard Bernie Serra, who was in the room when Reynolds was talking, added this: "I hear him saying it's just a number. Yeah, it's a number — a really big number."

Reynolds finished with 117 yards rushing, Dishan Romine had 115 and Chris Swain totaled 131 for Navy.

The victory made the Midshipmen (6-1, 4-0 American Athletic Conference) bowl

eligible for the 12th time in 13 years. Navy has ties to the Military Bowl but could go to a more prestigious venue if it wins the AAC title game.

**Air Force 52, Hawaii 7:** The road had not been particularly kind to Air Force.

Despite having yet to hold a lead at any point of their three games away from home this year and making their longest road trip of the season, the Falcons made easy work of host Hawaii.

Jacobi Owens rushed for 137 yards and two touchdowns on a career-high 30 carries to help Air Force (5-3, 4-1 Mountain West) amass 576 yards of total offense, including a season-high 496 rushing, en route to its first road win of the year.

It was the second straight week that Air Force had two ball carriers go over 100 yards in a game. Timothy McVey ran for 113 yards and two late touchdowns.

The lone score for the Rainbow Warriors (2-7, 0-5) came on Keelan Ewaliko's 98-yard kickoff return late in the game.

It was the worst home loss in school history and the sixth straight defeat for Hawaii.

# Fleury, Penguins blank Leafs

Associated Press

TORONTO — Marc-Andre Fleury recorded his 40th career shutout, and the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-0 Saturday night in Phil Kessel's return to the Air Canada Centre.

Pittsburgh earned its fourth consecutive win and improved to 7-1-0 since losing its first three games of the season. Toronto kept Kessel, Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin off the scoresheet, but the Penguins stars had plenty of help in adding to the Leafs' early misery this season.

Chris Kunitz, Eric Fehr, Matt Cullen and Patric Hornqvist also scored for Pittsburgh.

Kessel had 395 points in 446 games for the Leafs. But he was dealt to Pittsburgh in July after president Brendan Shanahan said fans couldn't understand "people that go out and give half-efforts and that don't appear to enjoy playing here."

**Bruins 3, Lightning 1:** Jonas Gustavsson stopped 21 shots and Brett Connolly's power-play goal snapped a third-period tie, helping Boston remain unbeaten on the road.

Connolly scored during a 13-second 5-on-3 opportunity with just over 14 minutes remaining, and the Bruins extended their point streak to seven games (6-0-1) after opening the season with three consecutive losses.

**Blues 3, Wild 2 (OT):** David Backes scored at 4:26 of overtime for his second goal of the game, sending host St. Louis to the victory.

Backes had time to load up on a shot from the high slot, and he drove it past Devan Dubnyk off a setup from Ty Rattie.

**Stars 5, Sharks 3:** Antoine Roussel broke a third-period tie for the second time in three games, and host Dallas went on to the win.

John Klingberg's shot from the right point hit Sharks goalie Alex Stalock's pads and Roussel's skate, and the puck trickled across the goal line.

**Kings 4, Predators 3 (OT):** Jeff Carter scored at 4:42 of overtime, Tyler Toffoli continued his strong start with two more goals, and host Los Angeles extended its winning streak to seven games.

Rookie Andy Andreoff also scored, and Jonathan Quick made 31 saves.

**Red Wings 5, Senators 3:** Tomas Tatar, Gustav Nyquist and Danny DeKeyser each had a goal and an assist, lifting Detroit to the road win.

Detroit star Henrik Zetterberg collected his 500th career assist in the first period and his 800th point in the second period.

**Devils 3, Islanders 2 (SO):** Mike Cammalleri and Jacob Josefson scored in the shootout, and host New Jersey won for the sixth time in seven games.

John Moore and Bobby Farnham each scored their first goal of the season, and Cory Schneider made 24 saves.

**Capitals 2, Panthers 1 (OT):** Evgeny Kuznetsov scored for visiting Washington in overtime, and Alex Ovechkin had two assists.

Kuznetsov faked a pass to Ovechkin and then charged the net from the left side.

**Flames 5, Oilers 4:** Michael Frolik scored his third goal of the game with 8.7 seconds left, and visiting Calgary snapped a four-game losing streak.

**Jets 3, Blue Jackets 2:** Blake Wheeler and Bryan Little each had a goal and an assist, leading visiting Winnipeg to the win.

Rookie Andrew Copp scored his first career goal and Ondrej Pavelec had 19 saves.

## How the AP College Football Top 25 fared

**1 Ohio State (8-0) did not play.** At Columbus, Ohio, with an 8-0 record, the Buckeyes have earned the right to exhale. The bye week has been devoted to rest and recovery while maintaining sharpness in preparation for Minnesota next Saturday.

**Next:** vs. Minnesota, Saturday.

**2 Baylor (7-0) did not play.** At Waco, Texas, freshman QB Jarrett Stidham will get his turn as starter with the toughest stretch of the season ahead. Stidham takes over for injured Seth Russell.

**Next:** at Kansas State, Thursday.

**3 Clemson (8-0) beat N.C. State 56-41.** At Raleigh, N.C., Deshaun Watson threw five touchdown passes and ran for another score to keep the Tigers' record perfect.

**Next:** vs. No. 17 Florida State, Saturday.

**4 LSU (7-0) did not play.** At Baton Rouge, La., defensive coach Kevin Steele will face the most challenging test of his brief LSU career when the unbeaten Tigers travel to Tuscaloosa to take on Alabama.

**Next:** at No. 7 Alabama, Saturday.

**5 TCU (8-0) beat West Virginia 40-10, Thursday.** At Fort Worth, Texas, the Horned Frogs scored touchdowns on the first two drives of each half and scored 23 unanswered points. Trevone Boykin completed 32 of 47 passes and ran 11 times for 84 yards to push his career total to a TCU-record 12,041 total yards.

**Next:** at No. 12 Oklahoma State, Saturday.

**6 Michigan State (8-0) did not play.** At East Lansing, Mich., Coach Mark Dantonio gave the team time off from practice during the bye week in order to prevent any further injuries before facing Nebraska on Saturday.

**Next:** at Nebraska, Saturday.

**7 Alabama (7-1) did not play.** At Tuscaloosa, the Crimson Tide get a week of rest, fine tuning and extra film study before the big SEC West rendezvous at Alabama's Bryant-Denny Stadium on Saturday.

**Next:** vs. No. 4 LSU, Saturday.

**8 Stanford (7-1) beat Washington State 30-28.** At Pullman, Wash., Conrad Ukropina kicked a 19-yard field goal with 1:54 left to lift Stanford. Washington State's Erik Powell hooked a 43-yard attempt wide right as time expired for the Stanford win.

**Next:** at Colorado, Saturday.

**9 Notre Dame (7-1) beat No. 21 Temple 24-20.** At Philadelphia, DeShone Kizer hit Will Fuller with a 17-yard touchdown pass with 2:09 left, KeiVarae Russell picked off a pass to end the last threat, and Notre Dame escaped with a win.

**Next:** at No. 23 Pittsburgh, Saturday.

**10 Iowa (8-0) beat Maryland 31-15.** At Iowa City, Iowa, Desmond King had an 88-yard interception return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter and Iowa improved to 8-0 overall and 4-0 in the Big Ten.

**Next:** at Indiana, Saturday.

**11 Florida (6-1) beat Georgia 27-3.** At Jacksonville, Fla., Kelvin Taylor ran for 121 yards and two touchdowns and Florida moved a step closer to the Southeastern Conference championship game.

**Next:** vs. Vanderbilt, Saturday.

**12 Oklahoma State (8-0) beat Texas Tech 70-53.** At Lubbock Texas, Mason Rudolph and J.W. Walsh each threw two touchdown passes, Raymond Taylor ran for two scores and Oklahoma State rallied for the win.

**Next:** vs. No. 5 TCU, Saturday.

**13 Utah (7-1) beat Oregon State 27-12.** At Salt Lake City, Devontae Booker ran for 121 yards and a touchdown, and Travis Wilson completed 14 of 17 passes for 198 yards and a touchdown and ran for 56 yards and a score in Utah's win.

**Next:** at Washington, Saturday.

**14 Oklahoma (7-1) beat Kansas 62-7.** At Lawrence, Kan., Baker Mayfield completed 27 of 32 passes for 383 yards and four touchdowns for the Sooners.

**Next:** vs. Iowa State, Saturday.

**15 Michigan (6-2) beat Minnesota 29-26.** At Minneapolis, Wilton Speight came off the bench and threw a 12-yard touchdown to Jehu Chesson with under 5 minutes to play and Michigan stopped Mitch Leidner on a sneak as time expired.

**Next:** vs. Rutgers, Saturday.

**16 Memphis (8-0) beat Tulane 39-13.** At Memphis, Tenn., Paxton Lynch threw for 343 yards and a touchdown and ran for 43 more yards to help Memphis earn its 15th straight victory.

**Next:** vs. Navy, Saturday.

**17 Florida State (7-1) beat Syracuse 45-21.** At Tallahassee, Fla., Sean Maguire, who started in place of Everett Golson, completed 23 of 35 passes for 348 yards and three touchdowns for the Seminoles.

**Next:** at No. 3 Clemson, Saturday.

**18 Houston (8-0) beat Vanderbilt 34-0.** At Houston, Greg Ward Jr. threw a touchdown pass and ran for a score to help Houston reach 8-0 for the fourth time in school history and first time since 2011.

**Next:** vs. Cincinnati, Saturday.

**19 Mississippi (7-2) beat Auburn 27-19.** At Auburn, Ala., Laquon Treadwell caught a 21-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter and Mississippi kept its Southeastern Conference title hopes alive.

**Next:** vs. Arkansas, Saturday.

**20 Toledo (7-0) did not play.** At Toledo, Ohio, the unbeaten Rockets have a tough stretch ahead with Northern Illinois the first of four MAC games in November that will determine who will represent the West Division in the title game.

**Next:** vs. Northern Illinois, Tuesday.

**21 Temple (7-1) lost to No. 9 Notre Dame 24-20.** At Philadelphia, the Owls pushed the Fighting Irish to the brink and took the lead with 4:45 left on Austin Jones' 36-yard field goal. But DeShone Kizer came right back with a long scoring drive.

**Next:** at SMU, Friday.

**22 Duke (6-2) lost to Miami 30-27.** At Durham, N.C., Corn Elder took Miami's eighth lateral of a wild final kickoff return and brought it back 75 yards for a touchdown to give Miami an unbelievable victory.

**Next:** at North Carolina, Saturday.

**23 Pittsburgh (6-2) lost to North Carolina 26-19, Thursday.** At Pittsburgh, Pitt started the game with a drive that lasted 8:19, but had to settle for Chris Blewitt's 44-yard field goal. It was the Panthers' only points of the first half.

**Next:** vs. No. 9 Notre Dame, Saturday.

**24 UCLA (6-2) beat Colorado 35-31.** At Pasadena, Calif., Soso Jamabo rushed for the go-ahead touchdown with 8:28 to play, and UCLA blew an 18-point lead before escaping with a victory.

**Next:** at Oregon State, Saturday.

**25 Mississippi State (6-2) did not play.** At Starkville, Miss., The Bulldogs will use their bye week to try and get healthy. MSU has two home games remaining following a month-long home stand.

**Next:** at Missouri, Thursday.