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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Air Force rescue operations moving to Italy

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — The Air Force is moving its search-and-rescue air operations from England to Italy, positioning them closer to potential trouble spots in eastern Europe and Africa.

The 56th and 57th Rescue Squadrons will start to relocate from RAF Lakenheath to Aviano in fiscal 2017.

“The relocation of our rescue airmen places them in a more strategic location to respond across Africa, Europe and Southwest Asia,” Gen. Frank Gorenc, U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa commander, said in a statement Friday.

The move is expected to bring about 350 additional airmen and family members to Aviano. Five HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters would make

the move.

Aviano, home to the 31st Fighter Wing and a few dozen F-16 Fighting Falcons, does not currently have any helicopters, though some Army helicopters have called the base home in the past.

Earlier this year, officials announced the planned relocation of the 606th Air Control Squadron from Spangdahlem, Germany, to Aviano — a move expected to bring about 300 more airmen and their families. There are currently about 4,200 active-duty personnel attached to the base, 3,000 dependents, and roughly 300 U.S. civilians and 600 Italian employees.

Lakenheath will see a shift in its population and missions as it absorbs various elements from nearby RAF Mildenhall, which has been scheduled for closure.

Both squadron commanders expressed enthusiasm about

the move in interviews Friday.

Lt. Col. Jose Cabrera, the 57th Rescue Squadron commander, said his pararescuemen — to number about 70 at Aviano — are required to train in various conditions and climates, and Aviano seems well-suited, with easy access to the Alps, Adriatic Sea and various Italian training grounds.

“It’s a good place for us to take advantage of,” he said.

Aviano also has the U.S. military’s largest heavy drop facility in Europe and is the launching pad for the Vicenza-based 173rd Airborne Brigade, whose members routinely jump into a nearby field from C-130s. Cabrera said his unit will be bringing boats and all-terrain vehicles that could be dropped from aircraft, and they’re just as adept at jumping from C-130s as they are from helicopters.

Though he’ll be at a different duty station himself by the

time the move takes place, he estimates about half the current squadron move south.

The 56th will bring about 50 pilots and crewmembers to Aviano, according to its commander, Lt. Col. Bernard Smith. Some maintainers will keep the helicopters in top shape.

Smith said he could “not offer enough praise” for the squadrons’ hosts in the U.K. but thinks the move to Aviano makes sense. “It definitely gets us further forward,” he said.

He visited Aviano recently and saw the Dolomite mountains. “As a helicopter pilot, I was drooling,” he said. “I’d love to get my guys more experience flying up there.”

New construction at Aviano will be needed to accommodate the squadrons and could take several years. But the base has started to prepare.

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Carter: US must be ready for Russia, China

BY TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — The United States must develop new strategies and weapons to challenge aggression from China and Russia, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Saturday at the Reagan National Defense Forum.

“That is a generational challenge, like it was in Reagan’s time,” Carter said during a speech at the forum held at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Center for Public Affairs. “In the face of Russia’s provocations and China’s rise, we must embrace innovative approaches to protect the United States.”

Carter’s speech follows a week of travel through Asia, where the contested waters of the South China Sea dominated the trip.

At the meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations in Malaysia, defense ministers failed to reach a consensus on territorial claims in the South China Sea. The matter became a behind-the-scenes power struggle between the U.S. and China, and the ministers ultimately abandoned a joint statement that traditionally ends the annual summit.

“We’re putting our best and newest assets in the region,” Carter said Saturday about tensions with China. “Qualitatively, we are making heavy

investments in capabilities of importance there: subsurface warfare, electronic warfare, space, cyber, missile defense, and more.”

The day after the ASEAN summit ended, Carter stood on the deck of the USS Theodore Roosevelt as the massive, nuclear-powered aircraft carrier sailed through the South China Sea, enforcing the U.S. stance on freedom of navigation in those waters.

On Russia, Carter said he would continue to welcome cooperation when possible, such as multination talks that include Russia and aim to inspire North Korea to surrender its nuclear ambitions.

Carter also spoke of Russia’s

increased aggressive behavior.

“The United States is accordingly making a number of moves in response, many but not all of which I can describe in this forum,” he said.

Carter did mention the United States sending additional tanks, aircraft and troops to defend eastern Europe.

“We do not seek a cold, let alone hot war with Russia,” Carter said. “We do not seek to make Russia an enemy. But make no mistake. The United States will defend our interests, our allies, the principled international order, and the positive future it affords us all.”

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Netanyahu, Obama to seek way forward

The Washington Post

President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will seek to move beyond the nasty public clash over the Iran nuclear deal and to restore a more transactional approach to the U.S.-Israeli relationship — including delicate conversations about possible expansion of military aid — when they meet in Washington on Monday.

Though they have sharply differing views on how to handle the current geopolitics of the Middle East and a history of sour relations, Obama and Netanyahu both are looking to set a course for the last year of the Obama presidency, which will also represent another critical period for Israeli security. The leaders plan to discuss how to counter Iranian aid to Hezbollah and Hamas; the Russian and Iranian efforts to prop up the Syrian regime; and steps that might demonstrate Netanyahu's commitment to a two-state solution even in the absence of negotiations with the Palestinian Authority.

The most tangible piece of the agenda is a 10-year memorandum of understanding on military cooperation between the two countries that would budget aid and lock in a plan for new weaponry to deal with what the administration agrees is a "dangerous neighborhood."

The leaders are being propelled by different forces. By reaffirming support for Israel's security, Obama is seeking to reassure Democrats who reluctantly backed the Iran deal despite their support for Israel and misgivings about the nature of the Iranian regime. By appealing to American Jews for unity, delivering speeches at conservative and liberal think tanks, and by drawing closer to Obama, Netanyahu will seek to solidify his political standing at home.

2 La. officers arrested after autistic boy shot, killed in car

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Two Louisiana law enforcement officers remained jailed Saturday while their colleagues tried to sort out the details that led to the death of a 6-year-old autistic boy and the severe wounding of his father in a hail of gunfire.

Derrick Stafford, 32, of Mansura, and Norris Greenhouse Jr., 23, of Marksville, each faced charges of second-degree murder and second-degree attempted murder. They were being held in the Avoyelles Parish jail.

The dead child was Jeremy Mardis, 6, who was in a car being driven Tuesday by his fa-

ther, Chris Few.

State police said Stafford is a full-time lieutenant with the Marksville Police Department; Greenhouse is a full-time city marshal. Both were working part time as deputy marshals in Marksville's Ward 2 when Tuesday's shooting broke out, state police said.

Any suspected motive for the shooting has not been made public. State police, who are investigating the shooting, said there so far has been no evidence found that Few had a gun.

There were initial reports Stafford and Greenhouse were among a group of marshals serving a warrant on Few. However, Col. Mike Edmonson,

superintendent of Louisiana State Police, said at a news conference Friday night that there was no evidence that a warrant had been issued. That remained the case Saturday, according to a state police spokesman, Trooper Scott Moreau.

Edmonson gave few details about the investigation or what led to Friday's arrest of the two law enforcement officers. He did say the probe included review of body cameras and 911 recordings.

"Six years old," Edmonson said of the child. "He didn't deserve to die like that."

He also called the video he reviewed "the most disturbing thing I've seen, and I will leave it at that."

Heckling of Trump on 'SNL' just a gag

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump hadn't gotten far into his opening monologue before trouble occurred. An off-screen heckler interrupted with a cry of "You're a racist!"

But the "heckler" was comedian Larry David, who before Trump arrived on stage had been seen impersonating Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders.

"Larry, what are you doing?" Trump asked with a trace of exasperation.

"I heard if I yelled that, they'd give me \$5,000," said David with a shrug, echoing an offer made publicly by one of the Hispanic groups protesting Trump's appearance.

"As a businessman," Trump told him, "I can fully respect that."

Trump's 90 minutes in the "SNL" spotlight followed weeks of growing anticipation, increasingly sharp criticism and mounting calls for him to be dropped from the show. One sketch imagined Trump two years into his presidency, savoring his many successes. By then, Syria is at peace. China is borrowing money from the U.S.

Did it all sound too good to be possible?

"If you think that's how it's going to be when I'm president, you're wrong. It's going to be even better," Trump said, addressing the audience.

Train hits trailer towing Army vehicle

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY

Stars and Stripes

Two people were killed and 17 injured when a passenger train struck a semitrailer towing a U.S. military vehicle near the Grafenwoehr training base in Germany, police said Friday.

The accident late Thursday killed the driver of the truck, a 30-year-old Romanian. A second body, believed to be that of the 35-year-old train engineer, was still lodged in the train as of Thursday evening, a police spokesman said. Sixteen passengers on the train were injured in the accident, four of them seriously enough to be hospitalized. None suffered life-threatening injuries. A passenger in the truck, another Romanian, suffered minor injuries. No Americans were involved in the crash.

The semitrailer was struck about 10 p.m. while stopped on a level railroad crossing near Freihung, on the base's southern boundary. The impact tore the truck cab from its trailer and dragged it along the track, destroying it. The trailer hardly moved at all, police said.

The Army truck was undamaged, said Lt. Col. Brian Carlin, spokesman for the training command at the base. The driver's navigation system appeared to have taken him in the wrong direction as he looked for the base, said Karl-Heinz Schoepf, a police officer in nearby Auerbach.

Swain, Navy upset No. 15 Memphis

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Navy ended whatever debate existed regarding where Memphis should be slotted in the College Football Playoff rankings.

Chris Swain ran for 108 yards and three touchdowns and the Midshipmen upset No. 15 Memphis 45-20 on Saturday night, ending the Tigers' winning streak at 15 games.

"I can't remember — off the top of my head — any bigger [win]," Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said before referring to Notre Dame and games against Army and Air Force. "It was a huge win for us."

Navy (7-1, 5-0 American Athletic) ended the Tigers' perfect season, dropped them from the top of the West Division and jeopardized their No. 15 ranking and 13th spot in the College Football Playoff poll. There was much discussion after the CFP rankings were released whether Memphis (8-1, 4-1) was not given a fair shake or ranked too high.

The Midshipmen remained tied with Houston atop the West Division. Navy has lost only twice in the last 15 games — both to Notre Dame.

"This is huge beating a ranked team on the road," quarterback Keenan Reynolds said. "A huge division game. We knew what we had to do to win. The defense got us a lot of turns and played their tails off. Holding that offense to 20 points is not an easy task."

DeBrandon Sanders ran for 82 yards and Navy's triple-option rushing attack had 374 yards against a Memphis defense that had only allowed 118.8 yards a game.

But it was a 75-yard scoring pass from Reynolds to Sanders with 6:43 left in the third quarter that gave the Midshipmen the lead for good at 24-17. The pass came on the first play from scrimmage after Memphis tied it at 17.

"They run a lot better and are a lot more athletic than anyone gives them credit for," Memphis coach Justin Fuente said. "They kicked our tail. ... They are a nightmare."

The Midshipmen beat a Top 15 team for the first time since Nov. 17, 1984, against then-No. 2 South Carolina, and accomplished the feat on the road for the first time since Sept. 21, 1974, against then-No. 8 Penn State.

Memphis' Paxton Lynch was 26-for-42

for 305 yards, but threw an interception, one of three Tigers turnovers. He entered the game with only one interception on the season.

Navy held Memphis, which entered the game averaging 47.9 points and 560 yards of offense, to 438 yards.

Navy cornerback Quincy Adams credited the offense with not only scoring, but avoiding turnovers and holding the ball. The Midshipmen controlled time of possession with 37 minutes.

"Whenever they're on the field so long, and we get ahead it makes it easier to frustrate the other team. With less possessions, they knew they had to score and throw the ball," Adams said.

In addition to Swain's scores and Sanders' scoring reception, Calvin Cass scored on an 8-yard run in the fourth quarter and Demond Brown added a 1-yard touchdown run to close the scoring.

Reynolds, tied with former Wisconsin star Montee Ball for the most career rushing touchdowns in NCAA history at 77, did not score.

Air Force 20, Army 3: Karson Roberts threw two TD passes to tight end Garrett Griffin, Air Force's defense turned in a

dominating performance and the Falcons won their school-record 11th straight home game by beating Army.

The victory makes Air Force (6-3) bowl eligible. Even more, the Falcons remain in the running for the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy, which is presented annually to the winning academy in the round-robin competition. Air Force lost to Navy earlier this season and needs the Black Knights (2-7) to beat the Midshipmen next month to retain the trophy.

These teams know each other so well that yards were hard to gain. Air Force's smothering defense limited Army to 169 total yards and just nine first downs.

With Army concentrating on big-play threats Garrett Brown and Jalen Robinette, Griffin found room to get open. He caught a 3-yard TD pass just before halftime and a 23-yarder to wrap up the win in the fourth quarter.

Roberts finished 7 of 10 for 156 yards.

Army's Ahmad Bradshaw was held to 42 yard rushing. He also completed 2 of 8 for 45 yards, including one to Edgar Poe that went for 33.

This was the 50th all-time meeting between the schools. Air Force leads the series 35-14-1.

How the AP College Football Top 25 fared

1 Ohio State (9-0) beat Minnesota 28-14. At Columbus, Ohio, Ezekiel Elliott ran 15 yards for a touchdown on Ohio State's only lengthy drive, and the Buckeyes weathered Minnesota's two fourth-quarter touchdowns.

Next: at Illinois, Saturday.

2 Baylor (8-0) beat Kansas State 31-24, Thursday. At Manhattan, Kan., Jarrett Stidham threw for 419 yards and three scores in his first start, Corey Coleman caught a pair of touchdown passes and Baylor held on for a victory.

Next: vs. No. 14 Oklahoma, Saturday.

3 Clemson (9-0) beat No. 17 Florida State 23-13. At Clemson, S.C., Deshaun Watson threw a go-ahead touchdown pass to Deon Cain, Wayne Gallman came through with a game-sealing score and Clemson held on to wrap up the Atlantic Coast Conference's Atlantic Division.

Next: at Syracuse, Saturday.

4 LSU (7-1) lost to No. 7 Alabama 30-16. At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Alabama's unrelenting defense smothered Leonard Fournette, who gained only 31 yards on 19 carries in the loss.

Next: vs. Arkansas, Saturday.

5 TCU (8-1) lost to No. 12 Oklahoma State 49-29. At Stillwater, Okla., Trevone Boykin passed for 445 yards and ran for 73 yards and two touchdowns in the loss. But he also threw a career-high four interceptions.

Next: vs. Kansas, Saturday.

6 Michigan State (8-1) lost to Nebraska 39-38. At Lincoln, Neb., Connor Cook threw for 335 yards and matched his career high with four touchdown passes in the loss.

Next: vs. Maryland, Saturday.

7 Alabama (8-1) beat No. 4 LSU 30-16. At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Derrick Henry ran for 210 yards and three touchdowns in the Crimson Tide's victory.

Next: at No. 24 Mississippi State,

Saturday.

8 Notre Dame (8-1) beat Pittsburgh 42-30. At Pittsburgh, DeShone Kizer threw five touchdown passes and ran for another score to help Notre Dame bolster its College Football Playoff resume. Kizer completed 19 of 26 passes for 262 yards with no turnovers for the Irish.

Next: vs. Wake Forest, Saturday.

9 Stanford (8-1) beat Colorado 42-10. At Boulder, Colo., Kevin Hogan threw two touchdown passes and had a scoring run in Stanford's victory. With his 32nd win, Hogan surpassed Andrew Luck as the school's winningest quarterback.

Next: vs. Oregon, Saturday.

10 Iowa (9-0) beat Indiana 35-27. At Bloomington, Ind., LeShun Daniels Jr. ran for two scores and injured quarterback C.J. Beathard threw the clinching touchdown midway through the fourth quarter to help keep Iowa unbeaten.

Next: vs. Minnesota, Saturday.

11 Florida (8-1) beat Vanderbilt 9-7. At Gainesville, Fla., Austin Hardin made a 43-yard field goal with 2:22 left and Florida wrapped up a spot in the Southeastern Conference championship game.

Next: at South Carolina, Saturday.

12 Oklahoma State (9-0) beat No. 5 TCU 49-29. At Stillwater, Okla., Mason Rudolph passed for 352 yards and five touchdowns and Oklahoma State upset TCU. James Washington caught five passes for 184 yards and three touchdowns for the Cowboys.

Next: at Iowa State, Saturday.

13 Utah (8-1) beat Washington 34-23. At Seattle, Gionni Paul returned a fumble 54 yards for a touchdown and set up another score with an interception in Utah's victory. Devontae Booker, who rushed for 150 yards, went over the 1,000-yard mark

for the season.

Next: at Arizona, Saturday.

14 Oklahoma (8-1) beat Iowa State 52-16. At Norman, Okla., Baker Mayfield completed 23 of 31 passes for 342 yards and three touchdowns and ran for a score in the win. Samaje Perine ran for 95 yards and a touchdown on 13 rushes.

Next: at No. 2 Baylor, Saturday.

15 Memphis (8-1) lost to Navy 45-20. At Memphis, Tenn., Memphis' Paxton Lynch was 26 of 42 for 305 yards, but threw an interception, one of three Tigers turnovers. The Midshipmen held the Tigers, which entered the game averaging 47.9 points and 560 yards of offense, to 438 yards.

Next: at No. 18 Houston, Saturday.

16 Michigan (7-2) beat Rutgers 49-16. At Ann Arbor, Mich., Jake Rudock threw for two touchdowns and a career-high 337 yards and ran for a score and a two-point conversion to lead the Wolverines.

Next: at Indiana, Saturday.

17 Florida State (7-2) lost to No. 3 Clemson 23-13. At Clemson, S.C., Sean Maguire started for a second straight game and it looked like he and Dalvin Cook might lead the Seminoles to an upset. Maguire drove Florida State to the Clemson 17, but Adrian Baker's interception ended the threat.

Next: vs. N.C. State, Saturday.

18 Houston (9-0) beat Cincinnati 33-30. At Houston, the Cougars overcame Gunner Kiel's 523 yards passing, forcing four straight incompletions on the final drive to preserve a victory and remain unbeaten.

Next: vs. No. 15 Memphis, Saturday.

19 Mississippi (7-3) lost to Arkansas 53-52, OT. At Oxford, Miss., Brandon Allen threw his sixth touchdown pass and then ran for a two-point conversion to lead Arkansas to an improbable overtime victory. Chad Kelly threw three touchdown

passes and ran for two scores for Ole Miss.

Next: vs. No. 4 LSU, Saturday, Nov. 21.

20 Toledo (7-1) lost to Northern Illinois 32-27, Tuesday. At Toledo, Ohio, Phillip Ely was 15 of 33 for 136 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions in the Rockets' loss.

Next: at Central Michigan, Tuesday.

21 North Carolina (8-1) beat Duke 66-31. At Chapel Hill, N.C., Marquise Williams threw for 404 of his school-record 494 yards by halftime in North Carolina's rout of Duke.

Next: vs. Miami, Saturday.

22 UCLA (7-2) beat Oregon State 41-0. At Corvallis, Ore., Josh Rosen threw two touchdown passes to Thomas Duarte and UCLA kept its Pac-12 title hopes alive. Rosen was 22-for-33 for 333 yards, with the freshman sitting out the fourth quarter.

Next: vs. Washington State, Saturday.

23 Temple (8-1) beat SMU 60-40, Friday. At Dallas, P.J. Walker threw four touchdowns passes and ran for another score and freshman Jager Gardner had a 94-yard scoring run, the longest in Temple history, in the Owls' victory.

Next: at South Florida, Saturday.

24 Mississippi State (7-2) beat Missouri 31-13, Thursday. At Columbia, Mo., Dak Prescott threw four touchdown passes and the Bulldogs got 100-yard receiving games from De'Runya Wilson and Fred Ross in the rain-soaked victory.

Next: vs. No. 7 Alabama, Saturday.

25 Texas A&M (6-3) lost to Auburn 26-10. At College Station, Texas, Aggies' quarterback Kyle Murray threw for 105 yards, but was intercepted three times in the loss to Auburn. Murray left after a hit to the head late in the third quarter.

Next: vs. Western Carolina, Saturday.



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Clemson, Alabama make case for playoffs

Associated Press

The playoff race cleared up pretty quickly. There is still plenty of time for things to get messy.

The first Saturday after the College Football Playoff rankings debuted separated some of the contenders from pretenders and provided a distinct pecking order for the teams vying to play for the national championship.

Clemson (9-0), which was tops in the first playoff rankings, cleared its toughest remaining hurdle by beating Florida State 23-13. The Tigers clinched a spot in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game and now have the smoothest road to the playoff.

Alabama (8-1) crushed LSU 30-16 and got some help from Arkansas to regain control of the SEC West. The playoff selection committee already liked the Tide, putting it No. 4, and now it doesn't have to fret over the fact that Alabama could have been left out of its conference title game. Derrick Henry and the Tide will most likely be in the playoff for a second straight season if they win out.

And to think, a few days ago, Alabama's ranking was considered controversial.

Ohio State (9-0) had another spotty effort against Minnesota, winning 28-14 without J.T. Barrett, but as long as the Buckeyes stay perfect through the Big Ten title game, they're in. Though the Buckeyes margin for error seems thin. One loss might be one too many, especially after Michigan State fell from the ranks of the unbeaten by losing at Nebraska.

If those three get through unscathed, spot No. 4 would likely go to either an undefeated Big 12 champion, a one-loss Pac-12 champion or Notre Dame if the Fighting Irish can win out. Important: Notre Dame (8-1) plays Stanford (8-1) to end the regular season for each team.

Oklahoma State suddenly looks like the favorite out of the Big 12, thanks to an impressive 49-29 victory against TCU in Stillwater and some fortuitous schedule-making. The Cowboys, who were the lowest ranked unbeaten Power Five team, get both Baylor and Oklahoma at home to close out their regular season.

Coach Mike Gundy's team started the season unranked, with all the attention going to the defending Big 12 co-champions, TCU and Baylor. The Cowboys spent much of the first two months of the season coming from behind and squeaking out victories.

The Cowboys undefeated record has mostly been met with shrugs. No more. The Cowboys should vault up the rankings this week.

"We felt a bit snubbed, but our body of work has and will put us where we need to be at the end of the day," Oklahoma State linebacker Chad Whitener, who intercepted two passes and ran one back for a touchdown against TCU, said.

Oklahoma State, though, has a Baylor-type problem when it comes to the playoff hunt. Oklahoma State's nonconference schedule this season was Central Michigan, Central Arkansas and UTSA. Not good. For the Cowboys to get in the playoff, it could be undefeated or bust. Same goes for unbeaten Baylor.

Remember, one loss was too many last year for the Big 12's top teams. Baylor finished fifth in the final playoff rankings and TCU was sixth.

Harden, Rockets edge Clippers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Seven games into the season, the Houston Rockets have already experienced more ups and downs than most teams. They lost their first three games and have turned things around to win four in a row.

Much of it is due to James Harden, who scored a season-high 46 points in his second straight game over 40 to help the Rockets beat the Los Angeles Clippers 109-105 Saturday night.

Harden made 13 of 14 free throws and was 5-for-10 from three-point range a night after he scored 43 in a 116-110 win at Sacramento.

"We got some open shots and I was just being aggressive," Harden said. "These last couple games when we have been playing well, our defense has led to easy buckets in transition for our offense, so that's what we have to hang our hat on."

Blake Griffin had 35 points and 11 rebounds for the Clippers, who played without Chris Paul. The star point guard sat out with a sore right groin as Los Angeles lost at home for the first time in four games.

"We needed to make things tougher for James," Griffin said. "We needed to make him drive, but he's good at that just like he's a good shooter. He had it going and we need to do a better job by committee."

Marcus Thornton added 16 points, and Dwight Howard had 20 points and 20 rebounds for the Rockets.

With Thornton and Harden hitting three-pointers, Houston led by 11 midway through the fourth.

"I thought our entire team played like they had cement boots on the first three games," Houston coach Kevin McHale said.

"We were just slow. When you watch the film we just looked sickly. We were able to turn the corner and get downhill."

Warriors 103, Kings 94: Stephen Curry scored 21 of his 24 points in the second half, leading the undefeated Warriors to the road win.

Golden State (7-0) is off to its best start since moving to the West Coast. The defending NBA champions are two wins away from matching the Philadelphia Warriors' 9-0 franchise-best start in 1960-61.

Klay Thompson scored 18 points and Andre Iguodala had 14 for Golden State, which has won 74 of its last 89 games dating to last season. Harrison Barnes scored 13 points on 4-for-17 shooting.

Marco Bellinelli and Rudy Gay each scored 22 points for the Kings, losers of five straight. Rajon Rondo had 14 points, 12 rebounds and 15 assists for his 23rd career regular-season triple double.

Hawks 114, Wizards 99: Kent Bazemore scored a career-high 25 points, and the host Hawks earned their seventh consecutive victory.

Paul Millsap had 21 points, seven rebounds and six assists for Atlanta, and Al Horford scored 14 points. Jeff Teague finished with 10 points, eight assists and five steals.

Otto Porter paced the Wizards with a career-high 23 points, but Washington committed 26 turnovers and was unable to stop Atlanta while it scored 39 points in the final quarter.

Jazz 89, Grizzlies 79: Trey Burke scored 24 points, including a career-high six three-pointers, and host Utah held on for the win.

The Jazz improved to 4-2 for their best start to a season since 2008-09.

Spurs 114, Hornets 94: Kawhi Leonard scored 23 points, LaMarcus Aldridge had 16 and the host Spurs pulled away for the win.

San Antonio made eight 3-pointers in the second half of its highest scoring game of the season. Patty Mills scored 15 points and Manu Ginobili added 13 for the Spurs, who have won both of their home games.

Mavericks 107, Pelicans 98: Deron Williams had 16 of his 19 points in the second half and Dirk Nowitzki scored nine of his 18 in the fourth quarter as the host Mavericks kept the Pelicans winless.

The Mavericks won their first game at home in three tries and dropped the Pelicans, who dressed only nine players, to 0-6.

Timberwolves 102, Bulls 93 (OT): Andrew Wiggins scored 31 points, leading the Timberwolves to the road win.

Karl-Anthony Towns added 17 points, 13 rebounds and four blocked shots for Minnesota, which had lost two in a row. Fellow rookie Nemanja Bjelica also scored 17.

Bucks 94, Nets 86: Greg Monroe had 20 points and eight rebounds, powering host Milwaukee to the win.

Monroe shot 8 of 16 from the floor and contributed his only two assists down the stretch for the Bucks, who handed the Nets their seventh straight loss to start the season.

Magic 105, 76ers 97: Elfrid Payton scored 20 points, and the balanced host Magic had seven players score in double figures in their third victory in four games.

Evan Fournier had 17 points for Orlando, and Victor Oladipo finished with 15 on 6-for-18 shooting. Dewayne Dedmon added 12 points, nine rebounds and three blocked shots.

Late goal boosts Canadiens past Bruins

Associated Press

MONTREAL — David Desharnais scored on a power play with 1:08 left in regulation to lift the Montreal Canadiens to a 4-2 victory over the Boston Bruins on Saturday night.

Max Pacioretty added an empty-netter 20 seconds later, and Tomas Plekanec and Lars Eller also scored for league-best Montreal, which has points in five straight games (4-0-1). Rookie goalie Mike Condon had 29 saves to improve to 6-0-1.

Loui Eriksson and Frank Vatrano scored for Boston, which has lost six straight against Montreal. Jonas Gustavsson also had 29 saves.

Desharnais was at the right side of the net to fire a rebound of a shot by Alex Galchenyuk into an open side for the game-winner.

Sabres 3, Canucks 2: Rasmus Ristolainen scored his second goal of the game with 16.8 seconds left to lead hshot Buffalo over Vancouver.

Canucks goaltender Ryan Miller played his first game back in Buffalo since being traded in February 2014, after more than 11 seasons with the Sabres.

Jamie McCabe also scored for the Sabres. Jack Eichel, the 18-year-old center Buffalo drafted with the No. 2 overall pick, had two assists and rookie goaltender Linus Ullmark made 35 saves.

Flames 5, Penguins 2: Johnny Gaudreau scored twice and had an assist and host Calgary ended Pittsburgh's six-game winning streak.

Sean Monahan and Sam Bennett each had a goal and an assist, Joe Colborne

also scored, and Mikael Backlund had three assists for Calgary. Karri Ramo had 23 saves to help the Flames win consecutive games for the first time this season and snap a nine-game losing streak against the Penguins.

Ducks 1, Sharks 0: Corey Perry scored on a breakaway early in the first period, Anton Khudobin made 31 saves and Anaheim beat host San Jose for its fourth straight win.

Khudobin got his first shutout since late February and his fifth career. The Ducks have rebounded nicely following a 1-7-2 start.

Wild 1, Lightning 0: Devan Dubnyk made 31 saves for his second shutout this season, and host Minnesota won its first game without injured forward Zach Parise.

Jared Spurgeon scored the lone goal for Minnesota, which lost Parise for at least a week due to a sprained MCL. Dubnyk posted his seventh shutout in 51 games for the Wild, who won for the sixth time in seven home games.

Capitals 3, Maple Leafs 2 (SO): Alex Ovechkin had a goal in regulation and scored in the fourth round of the shootout to lift host Washington.

Ovechkin made a quick move to the right on Toronto goalie James Reimer and flipped a shot past him for the first score of the tiebreaker. Washington goalie Braden Holtby then secured the win when he stopped Nazem Kadri's attempt with his right skate.

Hurricanes 3, Senators 2 (OT): Jordan Staal scored 2:51 into overtime to

lift Carolina past visiting Ottawa.

Justin Faulk also scored and Cam Ward stopped 19 shots for the Hurricanes, who improved to 12-0-2 in their last 14 home games against the Senators.

Flyers 3, Jets 0: Michal Neuvirth made 28 saves, Brayden Schenn and Wayne Simmonds scored on the power play and visiting Philadelphia ended a six-game losing streak.

Ondrej Pavelec stopped 20 shots for the Jets, who were shut out for the first time this season.

Blues 4, Predators 0: Jake Allen made 45 saves and visiting St. Louis scored three times in the third period to win for the fifth time in six games.

The shutout was the second of the season for Allen and the seventh of his career. Scott Gomez added a pair of assists.

Kings 4, Panthers 1: Drew Doughty and Anze Kopitar scored 55 seconds apart late in the second period to lead host Los Angeles.

Roberto Luongo stopped 31 shots, including a breakaway by Milan Lucic with 4:50 left in the second period to keep it tied 1-1. But the Kings outshot Florida 20-4 during that period and quickly grabbed a 3-1 lead.

Rangers 4, Coyotes 1: Antti Raanta shut out Arizona for all but the final 5 seconds and visiting New York won its fifth in a row.

Rantaa, backup to first-team goalie Henrik Lundqvist, had 39 saves. He has allowed two goals in his three games and has the Rangers' only shutout of the season.