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Admiral sees no change in Iran's behavior

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran's landmark nuclear deal with world powers has done little to stop the country from pursuing activities beyond its shores that the U.S. considers destabilizing, the U.S. naval commander charged with securing the waters around the Arabian Peninsula said Sunday.

Vice Adm. Kevin Donegan, commander of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, made the comments during an interview with The Associated Press at the opening day of the Dubai Airshow.

He was careful not to underplay the significance of Tehran's willingness to come to the negotiating table to hammer out a deal completed in July that gives it broad sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

But he noted that other actions such as attempts to smuggle military equipment to Yemen and harassing ships transiting the Gulf continue just as they did before the agreement.

"We're still concerned about Iran's behavior overall. Positive about the nuclear agreement, but concerned ... about some of their malign behavior related to other things unrelated to the nuclear issue," he said.

Aside from the nuclear negotiations, "I don't know that we've seen a change in behavior," he added, speaking aboard a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol plane on display at the biennial show.

Donegan, a former Navy fighter pilot and aircraft carrier commander, took over as head of the 5th Fleet in September.

The naval force is based in the tiny Gulf island kingdom of Bahrain, just off the coast of Saudi Arabia. It is responsible for operations in a 2.5 million-square-mile area that includes the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf and the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway wedged between Iran and Oman that is the route for nearly a third of all oil traded by sea.

In September, a ship assigned to a multinational naval

force led by the 5th Fleet commander intercepted a vessel carrying anti-tank missiles and other equipment believed to be from Iran.

That seizure came months after the U.S. sent an aircraft carrier and a guided-missile cruiser to the Arabian Sea amid concerns that a convoy of Iranian cargo ships was sending combat vehicles and other military equipment to Shiite rebels in Yemen.

"We don't think that was the only shipment that was working its way to Yemen," Donegan said. He declined to elaborate.

Iran acknowledges supporting the Yemeni rebels but denies it provides them any military aid.

In the run-up to the nuclear deal, Iranian forces seized a Marshall Islands-flagged cargo ship, claiming that the shipping company that chartered it owed money to an Iranian firm.

Days after the ship was released, an Iranian naval patrol opened fire on a Singapore-flagged commercial ship in the Persian Gulf. That incident was

apparently linked to a financial dispute stemming from damage to an Iranian oil platform.

U.S. Navy ships continue to face occasional harassment from Iranian patrols, Donegan said. While most encounters with the Iranians are professional, they occasionally get too close in ways that are "unsafe," he said.

"The behavior we've seen is about what we've come to expect," he said. "They'll like to intercept our ships, especially the combatants, as they're going through the straits or in other places in the Gulf. They like to show that they can shoot weapons when they're in proximity."

In the heavily trafficked Strait of Hormuz, Iranian vessels have occasionally approached commercial ships passing through and have told them they must fly an Iranian flag to ensure their safe passage, Donegan added.

For the first time since 2007, the United States has no aircraft carrier stationed in the Gulf.

Obama, Israeli PM stress need for Mideast peace

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday insisted they had not given up on the pursuit of Middle East peace, even as the prospect of an elusive agreement between Israelis and Palestinians appears further out of reach.

Obama and Netanyahu's meeting at the White House marked the first time the two leaders have talked face to face in more than a year. Their relationship

has long been marred by tension, most recently over the U.S.-backed nuclear deal with Iran.

Ahead of Netanyahu's arrival in Washington, U.S. officials made clear the White House does not expect peace to be achieved before Obama leaves office in January 2017.

Speaking to reporters ahead of their private meeting in the Oval Office, Obama said he instead would seek Netanyahu's thoughts on ways to lower tensions between Israelis and Palestinians and to get the par-

ties "back on a path towards peace."

Netanyahu declared, "We have not given up our hope for peace." He emphasized that his preference was for a two-state solution, but gave no ground on the Israelis' long-standing conditions for achieving that outcome.

Monday's meeting comes amid a fresh burst of violence between Israelis and Palestinians. Israel has accused Palestinian political and religious leaders of inciting the violence, while Palestinians say the vio-

lence is due to a lack of hope for gaining independence after years of failed peace efforts.

Even with no chance of significant progress on Mideast peace, the fact that Obama and Netanyahu met at all is seen as an important step. Tensions between the longtime allies boiled over earlier this year as Obama and international partners finalized the Iranian nuclear accord, a high-stakes agreement Netanyahu furiously tried to stop, even delivering a speech to Congress to urge lawmakers to block its implementation.

Mission in Iraq, Syria pressures Congress

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the fight against the Islamic State group, members of Congress talk tough against extremism, but many want to run for cover when it comes to voting on new war powers to fight the militants, preferring to let the president own the battle.

They might not be able to avoid a vote for long.

The U.S. military intervention in Iraq and Syria is creeping forward, putting more pressure on Congress to vote on a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force. It would be the first war vote in Congress in 13 years.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., a leading force for a new authorization measure, said the reluctance to vote runs deep and that many in Congress prefer to criticize President Barack Obama's policy in Iraq and Syria without authorizing or stopping the fight.

"There is sort of this belief that if we do not vote, we cannot be held politically accountable. We can just blame the president," Kaine said.

"We are forcing people to be deployed far from home in a theater of war, and risking their lives and losing their lives, and members of Congress are like, 'I'm afraid of this vote because somebody might try to hold me accountable for it.'"

The vote in 2002 to authorize the invasion of Iraq was politically perilous for many lawmakers — and is shadowing 2016 presidential candidates today.

To fight the militants, Obama has relied on congressional authorizations given to President George W. Bush for the war on al-Qaida and the invasion of Iraq. Critics say the White House's use of post-9/11 congressional authorizations is a legal stretch at best.

101st soldiers to deploy to Iraq

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army's 101st Airborne Division Headquarters will deploy early next year to Iraq to lead the American efforts to train Iraqi Security Forces to combat the Islamic State group, the Army has announced.

About 500 soldiers from the Fort Campbell, Ky.-based division will deploy to Iraq and Kuwait to serve as the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command-Iraq. It will be the unit's second major overseas deployment in the past year. It returned in February from a five-month deployment in Liberia to assist in West Africa's Ebola fight.

The upcoming deployment is part of a regular rotation of division headquarters, the Army said Friday in a statement. The 101st will replace the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based 82nd Airborne Division Headquarters.

Since June, the 82nd has led the efforts of about 3,500 American troops to train ISF units, which are battling Islamic State militants, mostly in the country's north.

Maj. Gen. Gary J. Volesky, the division commander who led them during its deployment to Liberia, said his soldiers have known about their next rotation since late summer.

"Operation Inherent Resolve has been the focus of the 101st Airborne Division Headquarters for the last three months,"

Volesky said in a statement. "Going back to 1942, Screaming Eagle soldiers have always answered our nation's call to duty with pride and tenacity."

While the 101st's headquarters has served two previous deployments to Iraq — during the initial invasion in 2003 and in northern Iraq from 2005 to 2006 — its mission will be different this time. It will provide command-and-control operations for American troops — primarily the Fort Drum, N.Y.-based 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division — who are training tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers as they prepare to take part in offensives against the Islamic State group in such major cities as Ramadi, Beiji, and eventually Mosul.

Navy missile test off Calif. prompts calls

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Navy fired an unarmed missile from a submarine off the coast of Southern California on Saturday, creating a bright light that streaked across the state and was visible as far away as Nevada and Arizona.

A Navy spokesman told The San Diego Union-Tribune that the Navy Strategic Systems Programs conducted the missile test at sea Saturday from the USS Kentucky, a ballistic missile submarine.

Cmdr. Ryan Perry said the launches are conducted on a frequent basis to ensure the continued reliability of the system and that information about such test launches is classified prior to the launch.

The lack of information about the streak of light about sunset led to a flurry of calls to law enforcement agencies and lit up social media as people posted photos and video of the celestial sight.

Julien Solomita just happened to be shooting some

video footage when his group saw something odd in the sky.

"It was very wild watching this in the sky," he said in an email to The Associated Press. "I can't really say what I thought it was because I've never experienced anything remotely close to it."

The test was conducted in the Pacific Test Range, a vast area northwest of Los Angeles where the Navy periodically test-fires Tomahawk and Standard cruise missiles from surface ships and submarines.

Afghan leader condemns slayings of seven Shiites

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Monday condemned the gruesome slayings of seven members of an ethnic Shiite minority abducted in a southeastern province where rival Taliban factions are fighting one another.

The headless bodies of four men, two women and a child — all members of the Hazara

minority — were found late Saturday in the Arghandab district of Zabul province, which borders Pakistan.

Zabul provincial governor Mohammad Anwar Ishaqzai has blamed the Islamic State group for the abductions and the killings. He said the victims had been kidnapped in neighboring Ghazni province during the past six months.

Ghani's office said he was "profoundly saddened" by the killings and would convene a

security meeting Tuesday on the case.

Zabul has been the scene of deadly clashes between rival Taliban factions in recent days, with a new splinter group believed to have been boosted by followers of an Islamic State affiliate said to have a presence in Zabul.

Ishaqzai, the provincial governor, said three days of fighting there have left between 60 and 70 dead on both sides.

From The Associated Press

Panthers hand Packers another loss

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Cam Newton was determined to protect the Carolina Panthers' house on Sunday at all costs.

That meant the fifth-year quarterback tearing down a large Green Bay Packers banner before the game that was hanging over the inside wall of the stadium — and later taking down the Packers by throwing for three touchdowns and running for another in a 37-29 win.

Newton threw for 297 yards as the Panthers (8-0) took an important step toward securing home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs. Every other NFC team has at least two losses, including the Packers (6-2).

Carolina has now won 12 straight regular-season games, including seven straight at home.

"There was a Green Bay banner in Bank of America Stadium — and that just doesn't match," Newton said. "... We take pride in having an edge and playing in Bank of America Stadium and playing in front of the Carolinas every week, and it's something that I feel it was my due diligence to protect" the stadium.

Carolina led by 23 points in the fourth quarter before Aaron Rodgers rallied

Green Bay and nearly gave the Packers a chance to extend the game into overtime.

Rodgers threw for 369 yards and four TDs, but couldn't take advantage of one of Newton's few mistakes: an interception with 3:38 left in the game that gave the Packers the ball at the Carolina 22. Down by 8, Rodgers fourth-and-goal pass from the Carolina 4 was intercepted by linebacker Thomas Davis.

It capped a frustrating day for the Packers. Rodgers was so annoyed he threw his tablet on the ground on the sideline after watching the replay.

"We had an opportunity for a pitch-and-catch touchdown, and I got scared by something," Rodgers said. "I can't explain. It was a mistake for me, and something I'll think about on the ride home. I don't know who was in my face; all I know is I had Randall (Cobb) wide open for a touchdown."

Earlier in the game, Julius Peppers refused to give the ball back to Newton after the quarterback scored a touchdown, instead electing to toss the ball down the field in the opposite direction. Newton retrieved the ball and gave it to a fan.

And, down by 37-14 in the fourth quarter, Ha Ha Clinton-Dix began jawing at

Peppers, who was seated on the bench. Peppers stood up and talked back before B.J. Raji stepped in, shoving Clinton-Dix backward.

"It doesn't concern me," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "It's football. Things happen on the sidelines. It's a product of us not playing to our standard. Sometimes things like that happen. I have no concerns."

It was the second straight game the Panthers nearly surrendered a commanding fourth quarter lead. Carolina lost a 17-point lead on Monday night to Indianapolis before rallying to win 29-26 in overtime.

"We make it tough, I don't know why," Panthers tight end Greg Olsen said. "It's almost like we like torturing ourselves."

Coach Ron Rivera said the Panthers can't put themselves in that position.

"When you have somebody down you have to make plays and put them away," Rivera said.

Carolina outscored Green Bay 24-0 in the second period to open a 27-7 halftime lead behind three Newton scores.

The dual-threat quarterback was dominant in the first half, throwing for 209 yards and two touchdowns and rushing for 37 yards and another score.

The Packers opened the game in man coverage and Newton made them pay right away by finding huge holes to run through for big gains.

Carolina also had a bevy of big plays in the passing game.

Carolina's first score was set up by a 59-yard pass to Jericho Cotchery. Newton gave Carolina the lead for good at 10-7 with a 52-yard pass to rookie Devin Funchess leading to a 7-yard TD pass to Greg Olsen. Later, he came back with a 39-yard touchdown strike to Philly Brown with 41 seconds left in the half.

He also scored his 38th career TD rushing in the first half, moving into a tie for second place all-time among quarterbacks with Kordell Stewart. Only Steve Young (43) has more.

Newton repeatedly went after rookie cornerback Damarious Randall, and the Panthers kept pressure on Rodgers all day.

Still, Rodgers wouldn't give in.

His 29-yard TD pass to James Starks and a 2-point conversion to Davante Adams cut the lead to 15. Then, on fourth-and-14, Rodgers rolled to his left evading three pass rushers and fired over the middle on the run to James Jones for a 36-yard completion to keep Green Bay's hopes alive.

Brown lifts Steelers as Big Ben hurt again

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers injury list has grown so long this season, guard Ramon Foster joked the football gods must be ticked at his team.

Doesn't seem quite so funny anymore, not with the franchise quarterback hurt again and his immediate status uncertain.

Ben Roethlisberger hopped to the sideline with a busted left foot midway through the fourth quarter of Sunday's 38-35 victory over the Oakland Raiders, his face a mix of frustration and pain after all 265 pounds of Oakland defensive end Aldon Smith landed on Roethlisberger's leg during a sack.

By the time backup Landry Jones engineered a late drive to set up Chris Boswell's 18-yard game-winner, Roethlisberger was already out of the stadium to get his foot examined. The extent of the damage wasn't immediately known, but it seems unlikely he'll be available next Sunday against Cleveland, putting the offense and Pittsburgh's playoff hopes again in the hands of Jones.

The former Oklahoma star was passable last month while filling in as Roethlisberger dealt with a sprained left knee. Jones rallied Pittsburgh past Arizona on Oct. 18 but was largely ineffective in a loss to Kansas City a week later. He appeared just fine during his brief appearance against the Raiders, completing 4 of 6 passes for 79 yards, including a 57-yard hookup with Antonio Brown that put Boswell in position to snap Pittsburgh's two-game losing streak.

"It gives you confidence," Jones said. "The more you can play, the more you can get in, the more confidence you get."

Having Brown around certainly helps. All the All-Pro wide receiver did was set franchise marks for receptions (17) and yards receiving (284) while adding 22 yards rushing.

"It just makes life easy," Jones said. "If you get man-to-man and he gets matched up outside, there's not a lot

of reading going on. You're going to try and fit the ball in there."

Colts 27, Broncos 24: At Indianapolis, Andrew Luck threw two touchdown passes and Adam Vinatieri made a tie-breaking 55-yard field goal with 6:13 to play. Indianapolis ended a three-game losing streak and stayed atop the AFC South by ruining Peyton Manning's return to Indy again. It was their first win outside the division.

Denver (7-1) was the only unbeaten team to lose this weekend.

Patriots 27, Redskins 10: Julian Edelman and LeGarrette Blount scored touchdowns before visiting Washington ran its second play.

Tom Brady completed 26 of 39 passes for 299 yards and two touchdowns, including an 8-yarder to Edelman on the opening drive. New England (8-0) then pulled off a surprise onside kick, but that drive stalled when Edelman fumbled.

Eagles 33, Cowboys 27 (OT): Sam Bradford threw a 41-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Matthews in overtime and visiting Philadelphia handed Dallas its sixth straight loss, the Cowboys' longest losing streak in 26 years.

Matthews broke away from Byron Jones and ran past safety J.J. Wilcox on the first possession of overtime. Matthews had nine catches for 133 yards.

Titans 34, Saints 28 (OT): Tennessee rookie Marcus Mariota came back from his recent injury to pass for 371 yards and four touchdowns, including a 5-yard scoring pass to Anthony Fasano in overtime, and the visiting Titans snapped a six-game skid.

The Saints (4-5), who had won three in a row, led 21-10 but could not put away the Titans (2-6), who turned in a feisty performance in their first game since coach Ken Whisenhunt was fired and replaced by Mike Mularkey.

Vikings 21, Rams 18 (OT): Adrian Peterson rushed for 125 yards on 29 carries, helping set up Blair Walsh's 40-yard field goal in overtime after host Minnesota quarterback Teddy Bridgewater left with a concussion early in the fourth quarter.

In a predictably grind-it-out game between similarly constructed teams, the Vikings (6-2) ended Todd Gurley's streak of games with 125-plus yards rushing at four. Gurley gained 89 yards and a touchdown on 24 attempts for the Rams (4-4), who received the overtime kickoff but went three-and-out.

Bills 33, Dolphins 17: Sammy Watkins had a career-best performance in leading host Buffalo. He made eight catches for 168 yards and a 44-yard touchdown that broke open the game late in the third quarter. Rookie running back Karlos Williams scored twice and LeSean McCoy also scored on a 48-yard run.

Buffalo (4-4), coming out of its bye week, won for the first time in four home games.

49ers 17, Falcons 16: Blaine Gabbert threw a pair of second-quarter touchdown passes to Garrett Celek for undermanned host San Francisco.

Making his first start in more than two years, Gabbert didn't take a sack behind an offensive line that has faced heavy scrutiny all year. Celek made TD catches of 1 and 11 yards to give him three on the year and San Francisco's stout defense flustered Matt Ryan despite the patchwork use of backups because of a rash of injuries.

Jets 28, Jaguars 23: Ryan Fitzpatrick threw two touchdown passes while playing with a torn ligament in his left thumb, Chris Ivory ran for two scores and host New York took advantage of late mistakes by Jacksonville.

Brandon Marshall had a 20-yard TD catch after the Jets (5-3) recovered a muffed punt late in the fourth quarter, helping New York end a two-game skid in a messy performance by both sides.

Giants 32, Buccaneers 18: At Tampa, Fla., Eli Manning threw for two touchdowns, helping the first-place New York Giants rebound from last week's debacle at New Orleans.

Josh Brown booted four field goals for the Giants (5-4), including fourth-quarter kicks of 53 and 44 yards that gave New York some breathing room after the Bucs (3-5) pulled within two points.



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Johnson charges to Texas win

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Brad Keselowski was dominating at Texas, leading lap after lap and getting oh so close to a victory that would have given him one of the four championship-contending spots in the Chase for the Sprint Cup finale.

Until Texas fall favorite Jimmie Johnson came charging after the final restart.

Keselowski led a track-record 312 of 334 laps Sunday after starting from the pole, but couldn't keep Johnson from winning the Texas fall race for the fourth straight year.

"Just one step short of having the awesome day we needed to have," Keselowski said. "I'm not sure exactly how to feel about it at the moment. The 48 car had so much speed those last 10 laps."

With the already-eliminated Johnson getting his 75th career victory, three spots are still up for grabs at Phoenix, the last race before the Nov. 22 finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway. The only championship contender set is retiring four-time champion Jeff Gordon, the Martinsville winner last week and Johnson's teammate at Hendrick Motorsports.

Kyle Busch leads the points race for at least two of the spots, ahead of defending Chase champion Kevin Harvick and Martin Truex Jr. Carl Edwards is next, followed by Keselowski, Kurt Busch and Joey Logano.

"It's not a must-win situation for us like it is for some other guys," said Kyle Busch, who finished fourth Sunday. "Couldn't be more pleased with the position we got right now."

After the final restart with 18 laps left, Keselowski and Truex were side-by-side,

and even made contact at one point before Truex went in front very briefly.

Keselowski almost as quickly got back in front, and Johnson also went charging past Truex into second place and right on the leader's tail. Truex lost his power steering in those closing laps, and slipped to finish eighth.

Johnson kept pushing and on the backstretch on lap 331, he finally got past when Keselowski got really loose out of the second turn. Johnson went on to win by more than a second.

"That was the first I had seen him that vulnerable all day. I just kept the pressure on him, kept searching for line," Johnson said.

"I did everything I could to hold him off but he was way faster that last run," Keselowski said. "As I sit right now, and maybe I'll change my mind, I don't know what I would have done differently, or could have done differently."

Minutes after the race, suspended driver Matt Kenseth tweeted, "Good work @JimmieJohnson! Textbook pass for the win at the end of the race when someone is trying to take your lane. #quintessential"

After Logano chalked up contact with Kenseth at Kansas last month as aggressive racing for a win, NASCAR chairman Brian France referred to the move as "quintessential."

Logano got knocked from first to last among the eight championship contenders after being intentionally wrecked by Kenseth at Martinsville a week ago as payback. NASCAR then suspended Kenseth for two races, and his appeals were denied.

Logano's title shot took another huge hit when he had a blown tire after only 10 laps at Texas, where he finished 66 laps

back in 40th place.

Johnson led only six laps to get his fifth win of the season, his first in 20 starts and one within Dale Earnhardt for the seventh-most in NASCAR history. The No. 48 Chevrolet also won the spring race at Texas and is the first driver to win three consecutive Cup races at the high-banked, 1½-mile track.

Harvick finished third, even after he twice had to come in to replace punctured tires after running over something on the track, and having to drive one-handed for a long stretch when he was having to hold on to the shifter to keep his car from popping out of gear.

"We just kept gouging away and everything worked out in the end," Harvick said.

Logano kept the No. 22 off the wall after spinning on the backstretch, but there was still significant damage to the rear fender and the inside of the car. He was 64 laps back when he returned to the track.

"The left rear tire came apart and shredded everything inside the car," Logano said. "It did a lot more damage than just the tire blowing apart."

The only one of the title contenders who finished outside of the top nine at Texas, Logano will have to win next week to get to the finale with a championship shot for the second year in a row.

Kenseth's streak of 571 consecutive starts, which was the second-longest active streak behind the Gordon's 795 in a row. Johnson and Ryan Newman have each started 502 consecutive races since the 2002 Daytona 500.

Camping World Truck Series points leader Erik Jones took over in Kenseth's No. 22 Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing, and the 19-year-old driver finished 12th.

Knicks hold off Lakers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kobe Bryant shared a lengthy embrace with Carmelo Anthony and made his way toward the exit, tapping his chest and waving to the fans.

It may have been goodbye for now.

Quite possibly, it was goodbye for good.

Bryant got the cheers but not the victory in what might have been his last game at Madison Square Garden, as the New York Knicks beat the Los Angeles Lakers 99-95 on Sunday.

He already loved the place even before scoring his first point in the NBA here nearly two decades ago, and the only thing that's changed now is how much the fans love him back.

"I can remember my first game coming in here, not knowing what the hell to expect and what to do, but just being in such a great arena," Bryant said, "and then to be here 20 years later and to have that happen feels amazing."

Bryant finished with 18 points, far off the 30.7 per game he had been averaging here and fewer than half the 40 or more he managed on three occasions during a series of highlights in the arena.

The 37-year-old star, who hasn't said if he will retire after this season, missed two shots and twice fouled Anthony during New York's 11-0 run that turned a three-point deficit into a 98-90 lead.

Jose Calderon, Robin Lopez and Langston Galloway all scored 14 points for the Knicks, who snapped a three-game losing streak with their first home victory of the season.

Bryant shot 6-for-19, but the poor finish can't take away all the other memories he has here.

He scored his first NBA point here on a free throw on Nov. 5, 1996, in his second game. He played in his first All-Star Game here in 1998, and scored 61 points here on Feb. 2, 2009, a record since surpassed by Anthony.

Cavaliers 101, Pacers 97: LeBron James scored 29 points playing with a bruised quadriceps, and host Cleveland earned its sixth straight win.

James took a knee to the leg Friday and said he would get round-the-clock treatment so he could play against the Pacers. The treatment paid off as James hit seven free throws down the stretch and found Kevin Love for two key baskets in the final 27 seconds.

Pistons 120, Trail Blazers 103: Andre Drummond had 29 points and 27 rebounds, Reggie Jackson scored a career-high 40 points and visiting Detroit rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Portland.

Jackson had 26 points in the fourth quarter alone and the Pistons outscored the Blazers 41-11 in the final period.

Heat 96, Raptors 76: Chris Bosh scored 23 points, Hassan Whiteside added 20 points and 11 rebounds, and host Miami rolled in the second half to beat Toronto.

Dwyane Wade scored 12 and Tyler Johnson added 10 for Miami, which outscored the Raptors 30-16 in the third and then put the game away with an 18-3 run in the fourth.

Thunder 124, Suns 103: Kevin Durant had 32 points and 11 rebounds, and host Oklahoma City beat Phoenix to snap a three-game losing streak.

Russell Westbrook had 21 points, 13 assists and six rebounds, and Enes Kanter had 21 points on 9-for-10 shooting for the Thunder, who forced 23 turnovers and outrebounded Phoenix 52-33.

Devils top Canucks in overtime

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — The New Jersey Devils lost 32 overtime games over the past two seasons, more than any other team in the Eastern Conference.

Things have gone a little better this season.

Kyle Palmieri scored on the power play with 1:27 left in overtime and the Devils endured a rally by the Vancouver Canucks for a 4-3 victory on Sunday night.

The Devils have won five straight games that have headed to overtime since losing to the Sharks in a shootout on Oct. 16.

"It was nice to make one count there in the end," Mike Cammalleri said.

The Canucks made it 3-3 with consecutive goals by Alexander Edler and Sven Baertschi 2:07 apart in the second period, with Baertschi tying it with 5:54 left.

Between those goals, fights broke out pitting Derek Dorsett against Jordin Tootoo and Jake Virtanen against Bobby Farnham.

After the game, Tootoo claimed Alexandre Burrows made disparaging comments about his "personal life and family" while both were serving penalties. Tootoo released a book last year detailing his struggles with alcoholism following his brother Terence's suicide in 2002.

Keith Kinkaid made 28 saves, and Cammalleri, Adam Henrique and Sergey Kalinin also scored for New Jersey. The Devils have won four of their past five games and eight of 10 since a 0-3-1 start.

Ryan Miller made 24 saves, Chris Higgins also scored and Vancouver lost its third

straight.

"The close games, they have been slipping away from us," Baertschi said. "There's reasons for it. It might be tiny little mistakes."

Higgins scored 2:20 into the game, but then Henrique and Cammalleri got goals later in the first and Kalinin made it 3-1 midway through the second.

Henrique scored his team-leading seventh of the season with a short-handed goal 5:18 in. The tally ended a sequence which began with Travis Zajac forcing a neutral-zone turnover before carrying the puck into the offensive zone. Zajac skated down the right wing, opening a lane down the middle for Henrique. From there, he took a pass from Zajac and beat Miller with a deke.

Cammalleri snapped the tie with 3:28 left on a backhand from the slot.

Virtanen appeared to tie it for Vancouver moments later, but Devils coach John Hynes challenged the call and a video review showed Burrows in the crease, causing the on-ice call to be overruled.

Stars 4, Red Wings 1: Patrick Sharp and Valeri Nichushkin scored in the first period and Dallas had two empty-net goals in a victory over host Detroit.

Kari Lehtonen stopped 10 of 11 shots in the first two periods and finished with 21 saves for Dallas.

Jimmy Howard stopped 20 shots for the Red Wings before getting knocked out of the game midway through the third period. Dallas center Jason Spezza's right knee connected with the left side of Howard's head as he skated toward the front of the crease. After Howard

was evaluated on the ice, Petr Mrazek replaced him.

Blackhawks 4, Oilers 2: Patrick Kane had a goal and three assists, rookie Artemi Panarin scored twice in the first period and Corey Crawford made 34 saves to lead Chicago past visiting Edmonton.

Artem Anisimov added a power-play goal with 5.1 seconds left. The Blackhawks ended a two-game slide and won for just the second time in six games.

Kane extended his point streak to 10 games. He has seven goals and 10 assists during the run.

Cam Talbot made 24 saves and the Oilers dropped their second straight without injured rookie Connor McDavid.

Bruins 2, Islanders 1: Ryan Spooner and Patrice Bergeron scored, Tuukka Rask made 36 saves and Boston beat host New York to snap a three-game losing streak.

Spooner opened the scoring with a power-play goal on a two-man advantage 13 minutes in. He finished a pretty passing play with a shot past goaltender Jaroslav Halak from the doorstep for his third of the season. David Krejci and Bergeron provided assists.

Bergeron scored with 5:47 left in the second on a point shot that was deflected in. Officials originally said the puck went in off Brad Marchand and awarded him the goal, but it was later changed to Bergeron's score after replays showed the pick tipped off defenseman Nick Leddy.

Former Bruin Johnny Boychuk scored for the Islanders on a two-man advantage with 6:42 left in the third.