

STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Retirement overhaul set to roll out in '18

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Congress approved a historic overhaul of the military retirement system Tuesday, all but ensuring it will become law and the Defense Department will begin the rollout.

But troops will not get access to the new 401(k)-style retirement accounts that are the centerpiece of the overhaul until 2018. In the meantime, some key issues such as new programs to educate servicemembers on the tricky world of investing and retention bonuses still need to be worked out, according to the Military Officers Association of America, the country's largest officer advocacy group.

The new blended system of accounts and pensions will replace the current retirement system, which pays out only after two decades of service, and is included in the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act. Following a vote in the Senate, the annual defense policy bill is now on its way to President Barack Obama, who is expected to sign it.

"I would argue this is the most significant reform legislation that has been passed in 30 years," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a lead architect of the legislation, said during the floor vote Tuesday.

The \$607 billion NDAA bill will modernize the 70-year-old military pensions and extend retirement benefits to include the

more than 80 percent of troops who now leave the service with no pension, McCain said.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., ranking member on the Armed Services Committee, said the reforms will put the DOD on better financial footing and set the stage for further overhauls in military pay and benefits.

Troops will not see any of the retirement changes for two years.

New recruits who sign up beginning in October 2017 will automatically have 3 percent of their pay diverted into a Thrift Savings Plan account, which the DOD will match with an amount equal to 1 percent of their pay. After two years of service, the DOD match could be increased by another 5 percent of pay.

"Anybody who comes in after that date will automatically be in the system, they won't have a choice," said Steve Strobebridge, director of government relations at the MOAA.

Those future servicemembers will be able to adjust their contribution amounts or opt out of the system, but only after completing financial literacy training at their first permanent duty station.

The 20-year pensions will remain for all but they will not be as lucrative for future servicemembers. To support the new retirement accounts, future pensions will be worth only 80 percent of their current value.

Troops who are already in the military and have less than 12 years of service can choose the assured pensions or opt into the new blended program, which will look very similar to the 401(k) accounts that are the norm in the civilian world.

About 50 percent of those troops can choose to opt in during a one-time signup window through 2018, according to congressional research estimates, but participation will come with the same financial risks inherent with investment accounts, Strobebridge said.

During a financial downturn, investment accounts can lose money and novice investors sometimes fearfully pull out their funds — a mistake that can actually cause significant setbacks, Strobebridge said.

Servicemembers also might have unreasonable expectations about the profit possible on investments in the short term, he said.

Another concern is the changes could be an incentive for some troops to leave the military earlier, instead of pushing ahead to the 20-year mark, Strobebridge said.

To counter that, the overhaul calls for a cash bonus for troops who reach 12 years of service and agree to sign on for at least another four years. Active-duty personnel will be eligible for a bonus of between 2.5 months and 15.5 months of basic pay. Reserve members could get half a month's pay or up to 6.5 months.

Former servicemembers to spend Veterans Day volunteering

BY HEATH DRUZIN

Stars and Stripes

Instead of taking off Wednesday, hundreds of former servicemembers across the country will roll up their sleeves and pick up shovels, paintbrushes and ladles to mark Veterans Day.

As part of The Mission Continues, veterans will organize into "platoons" to focus on community service at projects in 22 cities. The nonprofit's efforts will include a special dinner at a St. Louis veterans home for WWII veterans, a softball field makeover at a Detroit public

school and painting the interior of a veterans homeless shelter in Portsmouth, Va.

The Mission Continues uses community service to help veterans leaving the service transition to civilian life while retaining some of the structure and values that they cherished in the military, said Brian Wilson, The Mission Continues' national service platoon manager.

"As much as veterans want to be thanked for their service, we want to be useful," he said. "When you come back home and take off that uniform and

put the boots away, you wake up in the morning and say, 'OK, what am I going to do today that matters to my community and my country?'"

In Washington, Andy Ludin's The Mission Continues platoon will install grill pits, build game tables and restore the neighborhood basketball court at Congress Park in the city's Congress Heights neighborhood, a historically disadvantaged corner of the city. The projects give veterans an opportunity to give back but also connects them to their communities, said Ludin,

an Air Force veteran.

"We're all veterans and we just want to continue to serve," he said. "It's just a special day for veterans and we celebrate that with community service."

Nonveterans are invited to all of the events, which Wilson said double as vehicles to break down barriers between civilians and current and former servicemembers. Wilson said people who haven't been in the military or in combat might never understand that world, but he thinks veterans telling their stories can bring them closer to their neighbors.

AF vows to aid allies on new weapons

By CHRIS CHURCH
Stars and Stripes

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The Pentagon is looking into speeding up approval of foreign military sales as allies look to replenish stocks of precision weapons they are using up in campaigns against Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq and Houthi rebels in Yemen, Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James said Tuesday.

“That’s a key message that I’m going to be taking back to Washington, and it’s one that we are working pretty hard,” she told reporters at the Dubai Airshow.

Partners in the Persian Gulf have been conducting multiple airstrikes against the Islamic State as well as fighting the Houthi rebels in Yemen. The Saudi-led bombing campaign in Yemen has been criticized by human rights groups for killing large numbers of civilians in repeated strikes against urban targets.

James said the Air Force is taking seriously the desires of both the defense industry and partner countries for a quicker approval process.

DOD extends Turkey travel ban to Nov. 20

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The Defense Department on Tuesday extended an existing ban on personnel traveling to Turkey because of increased concern about possible attacks on Americans.

Active-duty troops, military contractors and civilian employees are all barred from unofficial travel to or within Turkey until Nov. 20, U.S. European Command said. After that date unofficial travel will still require general officer approval, it said. The restriction also applies to ship-to-shore travel from those on cruises that stop in Turkish ports.

A previous EUCOM ban had been in place until Monday, but a continued threat of violence has prompted military leaders to continue the prohibition.

“The extremely volatile threat environment in the Republic of Turkey continues to evolve and currently represents a significantly increased collateral and possible direct, attack threat to Department of Defense (DOD) personnel, facilities and installations in Turkey,” U.S. Army Europe said in a statement.

U.S. forces in Turkey are tak-

ing part in operations against Islamic State militants across the border in Syria and Iraq.

The military began halting travel to the country’s southeastern region in August, shortly after U.S. aircraft began conducting strikes from Incirlik Air Base.

In September, the Defense and State departments offered dependents of personnel stationed at Incirlik Air Base and the nearby city of Adana the option of returning to the United States. Last week, the Air Force also extended voluntary leave from Incirlik for another 30 days, giving family members more time to depart.

“This decision was not reached easily; it is based on the current security environment, the continuation of military operations and keeping our dependents’ best interests at the front of our decision-making process,” Col. John Walker, 39th Air Base Wing commander, said in a statement. “The safety and security of my airmen and their families is one of my top priorities.”

So far, 68 command-sponsored dependents from 29 families have used the early departure program.

40 Colo. sheriffs oppose hosting Gitmo detainees

Associated Press

DENVER — Forty sheriffs in Colorado wrote to the White House to oppose any plan to move detainees from the detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to prisons in the state.

The sheriffs argued in the letter sent Monday that Colorado would be in danger if the Pentagon sends Guantanamo detainees to either of two prisons under consideration in the central part of the state.

Although the prisons are capable of securing the detainees, the action would attract “sympathizers who would mount an attack ... or commit other acts of terror,” the lawmen wrote.

“We believe it would be dangerously naive not to recognize that a civilian prison with an untold number of enemy combatant inmates, located in our state, would provide a very tempting target for anyone wishing to either free these detainees or simply wishing to make a political statement,” the sheriffs wrote.

It was sent a day before Congress overwhelmingly passed a defense spending bill Tuesday that would bar President Barack Obama from moving Guantanamo detainees to U.S. soil. The White House has hinted the president could use his executive authority to accomplish the move, regardless of what Congress does.

The letter was signed by many of Colorado’s 64 sheriffs. The top signer is Fremont County Sheriff James Beicker, whose county includes the two facilities under consideration — Colorado State Penitentiary II and the Federal Correctional Complex, known as Supermax.

Supermax already houses some of the country’s most dangerous criminals, including Unabomber Ted Kaczynski and Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. Terrorists such as Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person convicted in civilian court of the Sept. 11 attacks, and Ramzi Yousef, mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, also reside there.

Remains of 7 Pearl Harbor ‘unknowns’ ID’d

Associated Press

HONOLULU — The remains of seven crewmembers missing since the USS Oklahoma capsized in the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor have been identified, the military said Monday.

The names of the servicemen identified using dental records will be released after their families have been notified.

In June, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency began digging up the remains of nearly 400 USS Oklahoma sailors and Marines from a veterans cemetery in Honolulu where they were buried as “unknowns.”

Within five years, officials expect to identify about 80 percent of the Oklahoma crewmembers still considered missing.

The military says it started the project because advances in forensic science and technology are

improving the ability to identify remains.

On Monday, officials exhumed the last four of 61 caskets containing unknown people from the Oklahoma. Many of the caskets include the remains of multiple individuals.

Families will have the option of receiving remains as they are identified or waiting until the agency has more pieces of a body or even a complete skeleton. Navy casualty officers will let families know their options.

Altogether, 429 men on board the World War II battleship were killed. Only 35 were identified in the years immediately after.

Identification work will be conducted at agency laboratories in Hawaii and Nebraska. DNA analysis will be conducted at the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

Miller, Bears edge Chargers

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Zach Miller leaped, snagged Jay Cutler's pass with his right hand and tumbled into the end zone.

A big-time play in another close finish for the Chicago Bears, who beat the staggering San Diego Chargers 22-19 on Monday night.

"Jay made a great throw and I was able to go up and get it. After that, I went unconscious," Miller said about his game-winning catch with 3:19 left.

Miller's TD reception and a two-point conversion run by rookie Jeremy Langford, subbing for the injured Matt Forte, gave the Bears (3-5) their first lead of the night.

Cutler calmly led the Bears on the winning 10-play, 80-yard drive after the Chargers opened a 19-14 lead on rookie Josh Lambo's 22-yard field goal. Two plays before the TD throw to Miller, Cutler was hit and still completed a 12-yard pass to Alshon Jeffery on third-and-6.

"The safety flew over the top and it was just a matter of waiting for Zach to get past the linebacker," Cutler said. "I left it high on him, and he made a heck of a catch. It couldn't have happened to a better guy. For him to come up with a catch, it was something special."

Here are some things that stood out in the Bears' victory:

Another close one. Chicago's last five games have been decided by three points or fewer, including consecutive losses to Minnesota and Detroit before the trip to San Diego.

Cutler, who had an interception returned 68 yards for a touchdown by Jason Verrett and lost a fumble, kept attacking San Diego's depleted secondary, completing 27 of 40 passes for 345 yards.

"We have got to figure out how to win in the fourth quarter," Cutler said. "We have talked about it. We've won games in the fourth quarter, we've lost in the fourth quarter. That's what the NFL is about. You have to play your best in the fourth quarter, and that's what coach (John) Fox has talked about. It's good that it happened today, but we have to continue it."

Record. Cutler's two TD passes broke the franchise record, giving him 139 with the Bears. He had been tied with Hall of Famer Sid Luckman.

Cutler broke the franchise record for touchdown passes when he found Martellus Bennett for a 1-yard score midway through the second quarter.

Cutler had been tied with Luckman with 137 with the Bears. Cutler began his career with the Broncos. Luckman threw his final touchdown pass as a member of the Bears on Sept. 17, 1950.

Bad bolts. San Diego (2-7) lost its fifth straight game for its longest skid since

dropping six straight in 2011. It's the longest losing streak in coach Mike McCoy's three seasons.

San Diego's Philip Rivers was 26-for-42 for 280 yards. It was the first time in six games that he didn't throw for more than 300.

"When you lose five in a row it's pretty sickening," Rivers said. "When it's like this you kind of want to dig a hole and hide for a little while."

Oops. Rivers threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Gates in the fourth quarter but it was nullified when right guard D.J. Fluker was whistled for being an ineligible receiver downfield. The Chargers had to settle for Lambo's 22-yard field goal.

Earlier in that drive, wide receiver Stevie Johnson spiked the ball after making a catch for a first down at the 4 and was whistled for delay of game.

Injuries. Verrett hurt his groin one play after his pick-six and came out, but remained on the sideline. Cornerback Patrick Robinson left with a neck injury.

Wide receiver Malcom Floyd, who is playing his last season, injured his left shoulder while diving trying to make a catch. Eight days earlier, San Diego's Keenan Allen, one of the NFL's leading receivers, suffered a season-ending lacerated kidney when he landed hard at the end of a spectacular touchdown catch in a loss at Baltimore.

Vikings satisfied with wins

Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — The Minnesota Vikings have topped 30 points once this season, the only time they've won a game by more than 10.

As tough of a defense as they've developed, they're in the middle of the pack in the NFL in sacks. They haven't forced many turnovers not scored a touchdown on that side of the ball.

Adrian Peterson leads the league with 758 yards rushing, but he's just 18th with an average of 4.5 yards per attempt.

The only number that matters, of course, is 6-2. The record is sharp, even if the results haven't looked pretty.

"I'd much rather have some big wins, but hey, a win is a win," coach Mike Zimmer said, the day after a 21-18 decision in overtime against St. Louis.

"I think the more you win, the more you learn how to win. It's important. It does a lot of things, for not only the team and the franchise but for the fans and everything else. We've still got a long, long way to go before anybody tells us anything. We're still kind of the guys in the low-rent district. We've just got to keep fighting."

Half of their remaining games, including two against rival Green Bay, are against teams that are also 6-2. Three of those are on the road. The schedule also includes matchups with defending NFC champion Seattle. This weekend, they'll take a West Coast trip to play improved Oakland.

The Vikings haven't picked up many style points, so they'll still be considered underdogs to overtake the NFC North from the Packers despite being tied at the top of the division at the midpoint of the season.

But this team's ability to win without those aesthetics ought to also be a reason to take them seriously as a contender.

"We're probably not going to go up and down the field like the 'Greatest Show on Turf,'" Zimmer said, alluding to the nickname given to the high-scoring Rams teams from 1999-2001. "This is how we're built to win right now."

The Vikings are tied for second in the NFL with an average of 17.4 points allowed per game. They're also second on third downs, with an opponent's conversion rate at 29.7 percent. No team in the league has taken fewer penalties. The special teams have been superb.

"It's important for me that, this football team, when our fans watch us on Sunday they say, 'Wow, I can't wait to get back and watch this team again, the way they play, the way they fight, the way they do things right,'" Zimmer said. "I think they're starting to believe in us a little bit. We've still got a long way to go, but at least we're in the hunt."

One of those keys to remaining relevant, of course, is beyond any team's control: staying healthy. The Vikings suffered some concerning injuries against St. Louis, starting with a concussion for quarterback Teddy Bridgewater.

Zimmer said he believes Bridgewater will be "good to go" against the Raiders.

Missouri athletes latest to prompt change

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — College athletes are learning the power of teamwork goes beyond scoring touchdowns and winning conference titles.

The Missouri football team banded together to add some high-profile heft to a campus protest that resulted in Monday's resignation of Tim Wolfe, the president of the state university system. Wolfe was under scrutiny for how he handled complaints about racism and other student-welfare issues, and he was out of a job just two days after the football players indicated they wouldn't practice or play unless changes were made.

That plan included skipping Saturday's game against BYU in Kansas City, which would have cost the school more than \$1 million.

It was an extraordinary declaration of solidarity coming at a time when the leaders of college sports are adjusting to more empowered and outspoken athletes than they've seen in years, emboldened by court victories against the NCAA — and now with the ability to vote on NCAA legislation — and more vocal than ever thanks to social media.

"These black football players understood that they have the power," said Shaun Harper, executive director for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania. "That is so rare. I don't know another class of black people on a university campus that

has as much power as these guys, who generate millions of dollars for their institutions and billions of dollars for their athletic conferences. Not in our modern history have we seen black students collectively flex their muscle in this way."

Harper authored a 2013 study on black male athletes and racial inequities in Division I sports. According to the study, blacks make up 63 percent of Missouri's football and men's basketball players, but less than 3 percent of the total undergraduate population.

The rise of the empowered college athletes goes beyond race but there is no denying black athletes have been leading figures in some of the most significant recent examples.

Two seasons ago at Grambling, a historically black school, players refused to play a game against Jackson State because they were upset about the firing of a coach, long bus trips to games and poor facilities. The university then committed more than \$30,000 to make improvements to the weight room.

Last year, football players at Northwestern, led by quarterback Kain Colter, who is black, tried to unionize team members. Colter's efforts ultimately failed, but many of the benefits the movement sought — guaranteed four-year scholarships and athletic scholarships that cover the full cost of attendance — are now a reality across wide swaths of Division I.

In March, Oklahoma's football team re-

fused to practice for a week after members of the local Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity chapter were caught on video singing a song that used a derogatory term for black people and referenced lynching.

Sooners linebacker Eric Striker, who is black, responded with an angry call for change and became a de facto spokesman for the team. Striker's teammate, center Ty Darlington, said he's not sure what would have happened if the SAE incident had occurred during the season, like Missouri's situation.

At Oklahoma, football coach Bob Stoops supported his players and even joined in when they decided to hold a silent protest instead of practicing.

At Missouri, coach Gary Pinkel not only supported a group of about 30 players who announced they would boycott football, but he gathered the whole team the next day and united them all for the cause.

Receiver J'Mon Moore said he was the first player to visit the protesters last week in the tent city that had popped up on Carnahan Quad. Moore promised his support to Jonathan Butler, the grad student who decided he would not eat until Wolfe stepped down, and then shared his experience with his roommate, Anthony Sherrills.

Moore and Sherrills then spoke to defensive back Ian Simon and defensive end Charles Harris and a desire to support Butler began to spread.



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Russia slammed over doping

Associated Press

GENEVA — Russia's status as a sports superpower and its participation in track and field events at next year's Olympics came under threat Monday after a report accused the Russians of widespread, state-supported doping reminiscent of the darkest days of cheating by the former East Germany.

The findings by a commission set up by the World Anti-Doping Agency were far more damaging than expected. It means that two of the world's most popular sports — soccer and track and field — are now mired in scandals that could destroy their reputations.

The WADA investigation's findings that Russian government officials must have known about doping and cover-ups, with even its intelligence service, the FSB, allegedly involved, threatened to severely tarnish President Vladimir Putin's use of sports to improve his country's global standing. Russia hosted the last Winter Olympics in Sochi in 2014 and will hold the next World Cup in 2018.

"It's worse than we thought," said Dick Pound, an International Olympic Committee veteran who chaired the WADA probe. "It may be a residue of the old Soviet Union system."

Putin's spokesman said the allegations detailed in the commission's report are not supported by evidence, while an increasing number of senior officials hinted at a conspiracy to vilify Russian sports.

"As long as there is no evidence, it is difficult to consider the accusations, which appear rather unfounded," Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

The 323-page report said that in Russia, "acceptance of cheating at all levels is widespread." Among its findings:

■ Moscow testing laboratory director Grigory Rodchenkov ordered the "intentional and malicious destruction" of 1,417 doping control samples to deny evidence for the investigation.

■ FSB agents regularly visited the lab, routinely questioned its staff and told some of them not to cooperate with WADA as part of "direct intimidation and interference by the Russian state" with the lab's work. Staff at the lab believed their offices were bugged by the FSB.

■ FSB agents even infiltrated Russia's

anti-doping work at the Sochi Olympics. One witness told the inquiry that "in Sochi, we had some guys pretending to be engineers in the lab, but actually they were from the Federal Security Service."

■ "Widespread inaction" by track and field's governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations, and Russian authorities allowed athletes suspected of doping to continue competing. "The Olympic Games in London were, in a sense, sabotaged by the admission of athletes who should have not been competing," the report said.

The WADA commission, set up after a German TV documentary last year alleged widespread Russian doping and cover-ups, recommended that WADA declare the Russian athletics federation "noncompliant" with the global anti-doping code, and that the IAAF suspend the federation from competition.

The IAAF responded by saying it will consider sanctions against Russia, including a possible suspension that would ban Russian track and field athletes from international competition, including the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. IAAF President Sebastian Coe gave the Russian federation until the end of the week to respond.

"If they are suspended — and it sounds like the IAAF is moving in that direction already — and they are still suspended, at the time of Rio, there will be no Russian track and field athletes there," Pound said in an interview with The Associated Press after the release of the findings.

He said Russia's doping could be called state-sponsored. The commission said its months-long probe found no written evidence of government involvement, but it added: "It would be naive in the extreme to conclude that activities on the scale discovered could have occurred without the explicit or tacit approval of Russian governmental authorities."

"They would certainly have known," Pound said.

To the AP, he added: "We have finally identified one of the major powers as being involved in this. It's not just small countries or little pockets. This is a major sporting country. It's got to be a huge embarrassment."

Vladimir Uiba, head of the Federal Medical-Biological Agency that provides medical services to Russian national team competitors, said the report is part

of a "politically motivated" campaign linked to the crisis in Ukraine.

Russian athletes suspected of doping are also likely to keep their medals because canceling any results would require "a huge number of legal proceedings," Uiba told the Interfax news agency.

Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko, whose ministry was accused by the WADA probe of giving orders to tamper with anti-doping tests, insisted Russia's problems are no worse than in other countries. Russia is being persecuted, he said, telling the Interfax news agency: "Whatever we do, everything is bad."

He threatened to cut all government funding for anti-doping work, saying "if we have to close this whole system, we would be happy to" because "we will only save money."

Mutko, who is also a FIFA executive committee member and heads the committee organizing soccer's 2018 World Cup in Russia, denied any wrongdoing to the WADA panel, including knowledge of athletes being blackmailed and FSB interference.

Pound said Mutko must have known.

"It was not possible for him to be unaware of it," Pound said. "And if he was aware of it, he was complicit in it."

Pound said there may still be time for Russia to avoid the "nuclear weapon" of a ban from the Olympics if it starts reforming immediately. That work will take at least "several months," and "there are a lot of people who are going to have to walk the plank before this happens," he said.

"I think they can do it. I hope they can," he added.

More potentially damaging revelations are to come, and the crisis in athletics might ultimately trump even the criminal investigations into alleged corruption at FIFA.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which brought down Lance Armstrong in another case that shattered public faith in sports, was damning in its response to the findings.

If Russia has created an organized scheme of state-supported doping, then they have no business being allowed to compete on the world stage," USADA CEO Travis Tygart said.

Clippers get past Grizzlies

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Clippers got drawn into playing the Grizzlies' grinding style and still managed to eke out a victory.

J.J. Redick scored six straight points in the final 55 seconds to rally Los Angeles to a 94-92 victory Monday night, snapping a two-game skid.

"We made the game a lot harder than it was supposed to be," said DeAndre Jordan, who had 13 points and 12 rebounds. "Being able to finish the game shows our maturity. I don't think we would have won this game a few years ago."

Blake Griffin had 24 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers during a back-and-forth game in which neither team led by more than eight points.

"Once you get in that type of game you just have to win," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "We played their game and won but that's not the way we want to play."

Redick finished with 16 points, including a go-ahead three-pointer and then all three free throws after being fouled by Tony Allen to put the Clippers ahead 90-86.

Zach Randolph scored 26 points for the Grizzlies, who dropped their third in a row. Marc Gasol added 18 points but had a couple of costly misses at the foul line in the closing seconds, and Mike Conley had 16.

Warriors 109, Pistons 95: Stephen Curry overcame his worst shooting of the season to score 22 points as Golden State remained the NBA's only unbeaten team.

Curry missed five of his first seven shots and finished 7-for-18 from the floor while being held under 30 points for only the third time this season. The reigning MVP also had five assists and five rebounds.

Klay Thompson added 24 points, Harrison Barnes had 12, Andre Iguodala scored 13 and Leandro Barbosa had 10, including five straight to help the Warriors pull away in the fourth quarter.

Golden State's 8-0 start is the second-best in franchise history. The Philadelphia Warriors won their first nine games in 1960-61.

Reggie Jackson, coming off a career-high 40-point night in Portland, scored 20 points for Detroit (5-2).

Timberwolves 117, Hawks 107: Andrew Wiggins tied a career high with 33 points, Karl-Anthony Towns added 17 and visiting Minnesota blew a 34-point lead before snapping Atlanta's seven-game winning streak.

Bulls 111, 76ers 88: Nikola Mirotic had 20 points and 10 rebounds and Pau Gasol scored 16 points to lead visiting Chicago past winless Philadelphia.

Philadelphia (0-7) has lost 17 straight games dating to March 27. The 17-game skid matches the fourth-longest mark in franchise history.

Nuggets 108, Trail Blazers 104: J.J. Hickson scored 19 points and rookie Emmanuel Mudiay hit two game-sealing free throws with 18.3 seconds remaining, helping Denver beat visiting Portland.

Spurs 106, Kings 88: Kawhi Leonard scored 24 points, and Tim Duncan had 11 points and 14 rebounds as San Antonio beat host Sacramento.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 16 points and nine rebounds and the Spurs outscored the Kings 34-19 in the fourth quarter.

Pacers 97, Magic 84: Paul George made a pivotal go-ahead basket late and finished with 27 points to lead host Indiana over Orlando.

Boedker lifts Coyotes over Ducks in OT

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — After Ryan Getzlaf inexplicably left the puck sitting at the Arizona blue line in overtime, Mikkel Boedker gratefully accepted the gift and exchanged it for a big road win for his Coyotes.

Boedker scored on a breakaway 1:18 into OT after an atrocious turnover by the Ducks' captain, and the Coyotes snapped Anaheim's four-game winning streak with a 4-3 victory Monday night.

Getzlaf attempted a drop pass to Corey Perry during the 3-on-3 extra period. Instead, he ended up setting the puck on a virtual tee for Boedker, who completed Arizona's rebound from an early two-goal deficit and Sami Vatanen's late tying goal for Anaheim.

"Obviously, getting down 2-0 is not ideal, but we felt good the whole game," Boedker said. "It was a turnover, obviously, so you just want to make sure you just get away from him. I made a nice move on Freddie (Andersen) there and was lucky enough to put it home."

Rookie forward Max Domi scored twice during a three-goal second period for the Coyotes, who won for just the fourth time in 11 games. Anders Lindback made 33 saves and Anthony Duclair also scored in the dominant middle period for Arizona, which has won twice in Anaheim already this season.

Vatanen scored with 8:17 remaining in regulation, while Chris

Stewart and Ryan Kesler scored in the opening minutes for the Ducks, who hadn't lost in November after a 1-7-2 October. Frederik Andersen stopped 24 shots, but his teammates struggled during their third game in four nights. For whatever reason, we seemed a little out of sync tonight as a line, as a unit," Getzlaf said. "I thought (Perry) was coming inside. He went outside. That was the case all night. ... I don't know what happened tonight. As a line, we didn't carry our weight."

Indeed, the turnover capped a dismal night for the Ducks' top line of Getzlaf, Perry and Patrick Maroon, which went minus-4 with a combined one shot on goal.

"They weren't very good," Anaheim coach Bruce Boudreau said. "You can call it whatever you want. ... You don't drop-pass to nobody. You don't do it."

Anaheim scored its first two goals 66 seconds apart on its first three shots of the night, including Kesler's first regular-season goal in 17 games since March.

Duclair ended his seven-game scoring drought with his fourth goal in two games against the Ducks. Domi then got his sixth and seventh goals 3:55 apart, putting the Coyotes ahead on a sharp-angle shot with 7.4 seconds left in the second period.

"They like this building," Coyotes coach Dave Tippett said of Duclair and Domi, who has four points in two games against Anaheim.

"That's a great hockey team over there," Domi said. "We know how good they are and what they're capable of doing, so for us to come in here and steal a win is just great."