

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Scores dead in Paris massacre

French president calls Islamic State attacks 'act of war,' vows 'merciless' response

Associated Press

PARIS — French President Francois Hollande said Saturday that France would wage “merciless” war on the Islamic State group after the jihadis claimed responsibility for a gun and bomb rampage targeting the vibrant cafes, bars and clubs of Paris — an attack on the heart of the City of Light that killed more than 120.

Grief, alarm and resolve spread across Europe as officials raced to piece together information on the attackers. Officials said one was a young Frenchman known to the authorities; a Syrian passport found near the body of another was linked to a man who entered the European Union through a Greek island last month.

Hollande said at least 129 people died Friday night when attackers launched gun attacks at Paris cafes, detonated suicide bombs near France's national stadium and killed hostages inside a concert hall during a rock show. At least 352 people were hurt, 99 of them critically.

“These places are the places we visit every week,” said Ahsan Naeem, 39, a filmmaker who has lived in Paris for seven years. “Streets we walk every day. ... All those places will have been full of my people. My friends. My acquaintances.”

Hollande, who declared three days of national mourning and raised the nation's security to its highest level, called the carnage “an act of war that was prepared, organized, planned from abroad with internal help.”

Hollande said France would increase its military efforts to crush the Islamic State group. He said France — which is part of a U.S.-led coalition bombing suspected Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq and also has troops fighting militants in Africa — “will be merciless toward the barbarians of the Islamic State group.”

The group claimed responsibility in an online statement in Arabic and French circulated by supporters. It was not immediately possible to confirm the authenticity of the admission, which bore the group's logo and resembled previous verified statements from the group.

The statement mocked France's involvement in air attacks on suspected Islamic State bases in Syria and Iraq, noting that France's air power was “of no use to them in the streets and rotten alleys of Paris.”

Many of Paris' top tourist attractions closed Saturday, including the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre Museum and the Disneyland theme park east of the capital. Some 3,000 troops were deployed to help restore order and reassure a frightened populace.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve announced that all public demonstrations would be banned until Thursday, and local governments would have the option to impose nightly curfews.

The attacks, on an unusually balmy November Friday evening, struck at the heart of Parisian life: diners in cafes, concertgoers watching a rock band, spectators at a soccer match.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said the

Targets include bars, concert hall, stadium

Associated Press

A stadium, a concert hall, a succession of cafes and bars around Paris: Attacks on several sites around the French capital left more than 120 people dead Friday night. Here's a look at some of the targets:

■ **Le Bataclan:** One of the best-known popular music venues in Paris, the Bataclan attracts a range of bands and was set to host California-based band Eagles of Death Metal on Friday night.

The attackers first sprayed cafes outside the concert hall with machine-gun fire, then went inside and opened fire on the panicked audience, according to the Paris police chief.

As police closed in, the attackers detonated suicide vests, killing themselves and setting off explosions.

Video shot posted by newspaper Le Monde Saturday captured some of that horror as dozens of people fled from gunfire outside the Bataclan down a passageway to a side street.

At least one person lies writhing on the ground as scores more stream past, some bloodied or limping. The camera pans down the street to reveal more fleeing people dragging two bodies along the ground. A woman and two others can be seen clinging to upper-floor balcony railings in an apparent desperate bid to stay out of the line of fire.

A tall, sturdy 38-year-old concertgoer named Sylvain collapsed in tears as he recounted the attack, the chaos and his escape during a lull in gunfire.

“First I heard explosions, and I thought it was firecrackers,” he said.

“Very soon I smelled powder, and

I understood what was happening. There were shots everywhere, in waves,” he said.

■ **Stade de France:** Two suicide attacks and a bombing were carried out simultaneously near the national soccer stadium, where France and Germany were playing an exhibition match.

The attacks occurred near two of the stadium entrances and at a nearby McDonald's restaurant, according to Gregory Goupil, of the Alliance Police Nationale, whose region includes the area around the stadium.

He said at least three people died in the attacks.

French President Francois Hollande, who often attends national matches, was evacuated from the stadium. The 80,000-seat venue was built for the 1998 World Cup.

■ **La Belle Equipe:** The sidewalk terrace of this cafe on Rue de Charonne was showered with gunfire, killing as many as 18 people, according to the Paris prosecutor.

Emergency workers covered bodies splayed on the sidewalk of the traditional Parisian cafe, whose name is a play on the expression “Le Belle Epoque.”

■ **Le Carillon and Le Petit Cambodge:** Le Carillon, a bar-cafe, and the nearby Cambodian restaurant Le Petit Cambodge were apparently both targeted with gunfire, killing about 14 people and leaving several gravely injured, according to the prosecutor.

They are at the junction of Rue Bichat and Rue Alibert.

Witnesses said they heard what sounded like fireworks before they realized the gravity of the situation and tried to hide or flee.

EUCOM seeking to account for personnel

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. European Command's top officer said the military is prepared to offer support if needed to ally France in the wake of the Friday terrorist attacks in Paris that killed more than 120 people.

EUCOM also is working to verify that all Defense Department personnel are safe and accounted for. So far, there are no indications that military members were snared in the attack, EUCOM said.

“My deepest sympathies go out to the people of Paris and France, and all those impacted by these horrific

terror attacks,” EUCOM commander Gen. Philip M. Breedlove said. “We will assist in any way our military can. We will continue to stand beside our oldest NATO ally to deter, disrupt and defeat terrorists who threaten our values, freedoms and our way of life.”

On Saturday, U.S. Army Europe asked its commanders to account for all their personnel.

Tenant commands and mission support elements are to ensure all soldiers, civilians and contractors are accounted for, USAREUR said in a memo issued to staff.

The Army also is assessing whether additional force-protection measures are required, USAREUR stated.

places attacked are ones Parisians love, where they celebrate diversity.

“It is this Paris that was hit, probably because this example of living together, which is so strong in our city, is unbearable for fanatical people,” she said.

Parisians expressed shock, disgust and defiance in equal measure. Some areas were quiet, but hundreds lined up outside a hospital near the Bataclan concert hall, scene of the worst violence, to donate blood. As a shrine of flowers expanded along the sidewalk, a lone guitarist sang John Lennon's peace ballad, “Imagine.”

Authorities said eight attackers died, seven in suicide bombings, a new terror tactic in France. Police said they shot and killed the other assailant.

Prosecutor's office spokeswoman Agnes Thibault-Lecuire said authorities couldn't rule out the possibility that other militants involved in the attack remained at large.

Authorities in Belgium conducted raids in a Brussels neighborhood Saturday and made several arrests linked to the Paris attacks. Justice Minister Koen Geens told the VRT network that the arrests came after a car with Belgian license plates was seen close to the Bataclan theater.

French officials said a suicide bomber at the concert hall was identified as a young Frenchman flagged in the past for links with Islamic extremist activity, and a Syrian passport was recovered from the remains of another suicide bomber outside the stadium.

Officials in Greece said the attacker with the Syrian passport had entered in October through Leros, one of the islands that tens of thousands of people fleeing war and poverty in Syria and elsewhere have been using as a gateway to the European Union in recent months.

If the attack does involve militants who traveled to Europe amid millions of refugees from the Middle East, the implications could be profound.

Poland's prospective minister for European affairs, Konrad Szymanski, said that in light of the attacks, Poland would not comply with an EU plan to accept refugees unless it received “guarantees of security.”

The attack brought an immediate tightening of borders as Hollande declared a state of emergency and announced renewed border checks along frontiers that are normally open under Europe's free-travel zone.

The Paris carnage was the worst in a series of attacks claimed by the Islamic State group in the past three days. On Thursday, twin suicide bombings in Beirut killed at least 43 people and wounded more than 200, and 26 people died Friday in Baghdad in a suicide blast and a roadside bombing that targeted Shiites.

The militants also suffered significant reversals, with Kurdish forces launching an offensive to retake the strategic Iraqi city of Sinjar and the U.S. military saying it had likely killed Mohammed Emwazi, the masked British-accented militant known as “Jihadi John” who is seen in grisly Islamic State group beheading videos.

US strike targets Libyan Islamic State chief

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. military conducted a rare airstrike in Libya on Friday, the Pentagon announced, targeting the top Islamic State leader in a country where the group has made gains during the past year.

The Pentagon is assessing the results of the operation.

The target of the attack was Abu Nabil, an Iraqi national who served as an al-Qaida operative before emerging as a senior Islamic State leader in Libya. His death

would strike a blow to its ability to operate in the country.

"While not the first U.S. strike against terrorists in Libya, this is the first U.S. strike against an ISIL leader in Libya and it demonstrates we will go after ISIL leaders wherever they operate," Peter Cook, Pentagon press secretary, said in a statement Saturday.

Cook added that the strike was authorized before Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris that killed more than 120 people.

The Pentagon said Nabil's death would damage the group's ability to recruit mem-

bers, to establish bases in Libya and to plan external attacks on the United States.

There also are indications Nabil was the spokesman in the February 2015 execution of Egyptian Coptic Christians, which the Islamic State group broadcast, much like other high-profile executions in Syria.

Still, the group has proven itself resilient when it comes to replenishing its ranks. U.S. officials have said hundreds of top leaders have been killed during a year of strikes against fighters in Syria and Iraq, but the group remains entrenched in both countries and has spread out into Libya.

Spy saga's Pollard set for release from prison

BY ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jonathan Pollard, the Navy intelligence analyst whose 1985 arrest for selling secrets to Israel set off a sensational spy saga, is scheduled to be released from federal prison this week, marking the end of a three-decade diplomatic burr in the relationship between the two allies.

Pollard, 61, had been serving a life sentence but was granted parole this year under sentencing rules in place at the time of his prosecution that made him presumptively eligible for release this month.

Although the decision from the U.S. Parole Commission came at about the same time as a sharp disagreement between the U.S. and the Israeli governments over a nuclear deal with

Iran, officials from both countries have denied the release was in any way tied to that arrangement or was intended as a concession to Israel.

The release, scheduled for Friday, caps a case that divided public opinion in Israel and America and has been a periodic source of legal and diplomatic wrangling between the two countries.

Pollard's plans aren't immediately clear. His lawyers said after the parole decision in July that he had lined up a job and housing in the New York area. They said he will be required to remain in the United States for five years, although they called on President Barack Obama to grant him clemency and permit him to move to Israel immediately.

But the White House quickly shot down that prospect.

San Francisco tour bus crash injures 20 people

SAN FRANCISCO — What began as a serene tour through one of the nation's most picturesque cities turned into a two-block ride of terror when an open-air tour bus careened wildly out of control in San Francisco's Union Square, running down a bicyclist, striking

two pedestrians and smashing into several moving cars before it plowed into scaffolding lining a construction site.

Twenty people were hurt, six critically, when the big, blue bus with at least 30 people aboard raced through one of the city's most popular tourist destinations Friday afternoon, leaving chaos and carnage in its wake.

From The Associated Press

Phoenix VA employee put on leave in costume flap

BY HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

An employee of the scandal-plagued Phoenix Veterans Affairs Health System has been placed on leave for wearing a Halloween costume to work that appeared to mock a disabled Marine veteran who faced retaliation for reporting mishandling of suicidal vets.

A supervisor also was placed on administrative leave, and outside investigators have been brought in, Phoenix VA spokeswoman Jean Schaefer said in an interview with Stars and Stripes.

"We are appalled by it," she said.

The incident happened just before Halloween at the office where addiction specialist and whistleblower Brandon Coleman works. Coleman earlier was suspended from his job after reporting that suicidal patients were being neglected and left to walk out of the hospital without proper care. He has since filed for federal whistleblower protection.

According to Coleman and Jared Kinnaman, a co-worker who witnessed the costume, social worker Jeremy Pottle showed up to work wearing a blond wig with a ponytail, a fake, light-colored beard, fake

tattoos and a pillow under his shirt to give the appearance of a paunch.

"I've never been more angered or saddened at the same time, in everything I've been through for the last year," said Coleman, who also sent a complaint to VA Secretary Bob McDonald. "It just shows that retaliation is alive and well in Phoenix."

Reached by telephone, Pottle did not confirm or deny what had happened.

"You probably want to talk to Brandon," he said. "Brandon's a co-worker. I got a lot of respect for him."

When pressed about whether he wore the costume, he said, "You need to talk to public relations on that."

When asked whether Pottle was the employee accused of mocking Coleman, Schaefer said she could not specify but that the personnel actions were based on Coleman's account.

The Phoenix VA is where revelations of patients dying while languishing on secret wait lists helped spark a crisis in health care that cost former VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and Phoenix VA Director Sharon Helman their jobs.

Retaliation against employees who speak up against malfeasance has been common.

Previewing the NFL red carpet

Associated Press

The Associated Press will announce its 2015 NFL awards the night before the Super Bowl. With the schedule halfway done, here's a look at the top performers so far.

MVP

Almost exclusively a quarterback's award these days — in the past eight seasons, only Peterson in 2012 was a non-QB winner.

So which quarterback? Consensus so far, it seems, has Tom Brady over Carson Palmer and Andy Dalton.

"Tom Brady, no question," Hall of Fame receiver James Lofton says.

"There really is no close No. 2," Dan Pompei of Bleacher Report suggests. "It's amazing how so much has changed around Brady over the years, but he continues to make the Patriots' offense almost impossible to contain."

Offensive player

Often this is as much a statistical award as anything. The usual quarterbacks are in the running, from winning teams (Brady, Dalton), to guys such as Philip Rivers, who's performing wonders for the also-ran Chargers. Absolutely worthy are Falcons running back Devonta Freeman, who leads the NFL in touchdowns; teammate WR Julio Jones, who has been uncoverable; another sensational wideout, Houston's DeAndre Hopkins; and Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski, as dominant as any player at any position.

"On a team with no other threats at receiver, Kyle Shanahan keeps scheming up ways to get Jones the ball and he's taking advantage — on pace for 142 catches for 1,829 yards and 11 touchdowns," says Tom Pelissero of USA Today.

Defensive player

Until they were somewhat exposed in Indianapolis Sunday, the Broncos seemed to have the front-runners — Von Miller, DeMarcus Ware, Aqib Talib and Chris Harris Jr.

All figure to bounce back, although Ware is now battling a back injury.

The other truly noteworthy defensive performances have come from Carolina, which has a slew of big-play artists led by Josh Norman, the definition of a shutdown cornerback this season. Linebackers Luke Kuechly and Thomas Davis also have been special.

"It has been impossible to miss the emergence this season of Norman as the game's premier cover man," Sports Illustrated's Don Banks says.

"He has played the cornerback position about as well as it can be played," Pompei adds. "Aqib Talib was a contender for this award until his penalties against the Colts."

Offensive rookie

Looks like a two-man race between Oakland receiver Amari Cooper and St. Louis running back Todd Gurley.

In supporting Cooper, Lofton argues that the Alabama product "could have made (former Raiders' overall No. 1 draft pick) Jamaricus Russell look good."

In supporting Gurley, Bob Glauber of Newsday counters, "He's performing like a once-in-a-decade running back so far, and it's all the more impressive that he's doing it a year removed from ACL surgery."

Defensive rookie

A much more wide-open field than for the offensive honors — and they represent nearly every position.

Jets lineman Leonard Williams, linebackers Jordan Hicks of the Eagles (done for the season with a pectoral injury), Eric Kendricks of the Vikings, Kwon Alexander of the Buccaneers, and Stephone Anthony of the Saints, and cornerback Marcus Peters of the Chiefs have stood out.

"This linebacker is fast and is going to gain more notice in the second half of the season," ESPN's John Clayton says of Alexander.

As for Williams, Glauber offers: "The Jets were fortunate that Williams dropped all the way to No. 6 overall in the draft, and he

has fit in seamlessly to help a defense that has been transformed from a year ago."

Comeback player

A sentimental choice might be Eric Berry, whose courageous return from lymphoma is the feel-good story of the year. And Berry has played well enough to be a co-favorite with Arizona quarterback Carson Palmer, who comes off a second long rehab from knee surgery and has the Cardinals looking like a Super Bowl contender.

"I have debated Adrian Peterson's eligibility for this award, but I can't justify it, given he is coming back from a mess of his own making," Pelissero says. "Carson Palmer gets my vote for returning from knee reconstruction at age 35 and leading a Cardinals offense that has outscored everybody but the Patriots so far."

Coach

At the top of the list has to be the guys guiding the three remaining undefeated teams. Of those, who is doing more with less than Ron Rivera in Carolina?

"Carolina is a very tough out this season, and the Panthers are now on a ridiculous 12-1 run including playoffs since the final month of the 2014 regular season," points out Banks.

Cincinnati's Marvin Lewis, a prime example of why coaching stability is wise, deserves plaudits. So do two coaches turning around struggling franchises: Dan Quinn in Atlanta and Jack Del Rio in Oakland.

Assistant coach

Among the dozen or so noteworthy candidates, two stand out: Broncos defensive coordinator Wade Phillips and Bengals offensive coordinator Hue Jackson. Both are veterans at their craft, former head coaches who do their best work with one unit.

"The job Wade Phillips has done is very impressive," says Pompei. "Jackson, though, has done the most difficult thing a coach can do — help transform a quarterback."

USC hangs on to beat Colorado

Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Defensive tackle Delvon Simmons stuck out his big, right arm to show off the bruise from blocking a field goal.

Proud of that mark? "Oh, yeah," he replied.

Simmons forced a fumble in addition to blocking a kick, Cody Kessler threw three touchdown passes in the second half and Southern California hung on to beat Colorado 27-24 on a frigid Friday night.

Trailing by two touchdowns in the first half to a 16-point underdog, the Trojans (7-3, 5-2 Pac-12) woke up on offense and scored 24 straight points. It was their 10th straight victory over Colorado (4-7, 1-6).

"I told them that in 21 years of football, I've never been more proud of a group," USC interim coach Clay Helton said. "They'll never forget this moment, what we've been through this season. ... That's what is really cool — kids who refused to fail."

Kessler gave the Trojans their first lead on a 2-yard pass to tight end Taylor McNamara late in the third quarter. The defense preserved the win by forcing a fourth-down incompletion on Colorado's final possession with 1:59 remaining.

"It was obviously not the start we wanted," said Kessler, who threw for 204 yards, three TDs and one interception. "We were down going into halftime, but coach Helton came in and got the guys pumped up. We talked about it and figured out what we were going to do."

Colorado turned to freshman quarterback Cade Apsay when Sefo Liufau left with a foot ailment in the second quarter. It was announced after the game that Liufau had a Lisfranc injury. He will need surgery and miss six-to-eight months.

"I feel bad for Sefo," Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre said. "It's a tough deal."

After suspension by IAAF, Russia promises reforms

MOSCOW — The Russian Olympic Committee promised Saturday to lead efforts to reform the country's scandal-hit athletics federation as the country faces possible exclusion from Olympic track and field.

Russia was suspended by a 22-1 vote Friday by the governing council of the IAAF, track and field's governing body, four days after a World Anti-Doping Agency report accused the country of operating a vast state-sponsored doping program.

"The Russian Olympic Committee is ready to take the initiative on reforming (the Russian athletics federation), in accordance with IAAF requirements and anti-doping legislation," ROC president Alexander Zhukov said in a statement.

— Associated Press

Three players accept qualifying offers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Houston outfielder Colby Rasmus, Baltimore catcher Matt Wieters and Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Brett Anderson became the first three players to accept qualifying offers from their teams rather than remain free agents, and Boston obtained closer Craig Kimbrel from San Diego.

The trio of free agents, who agreed to the \$15.8 million, one-year contracts Friday, were among 20 players given the offers Nov. 6. Another in the group, Toronto pitcher Marco Estrada, agreed to a \$26 million, two-year contract that was announced just before the 5 p.m. EST deadline to accept qualifying offers.

None of the 34 qualifying offers was accepted in the first three years of baseball's current collective bargaining

agreement. The qualifying offer salary is determined by the average of the highest 125 contracts in the major leagues.

Among those who turned down the offer this year were second baseman Daniel Murphy (Mets) and right-hander Ian Kennedy (Padres). When a player fails to accept a qualifying offer and signs a big league contract elsewhere before June's amateur draft, his former team gets an additional high selection as compensation. The signing club loses a top pick.

In a trade that followed this week's general manager's meetings, new Red Sox president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski made his first big move to rebuild the franchise after its third last-place finish in four years. The Red Sox sent outfielder Manuel Margot, infielders Javier Guerra and Carlos Asuaje, and left-hander Logan Allen to the Padres for

Kimbrel, a four-time All-Star. Only Asuaje and Margot made it as high as Double-A last season. Kimbrel, 27, went 4-2 with a 2.58 ERA in 61 appearances last season.

Among the free agents, the 29-year-old Rasmus hit .238 with a career-high 25 homers and 61 RBIs in his first season with the Astros. He had seven homers over 27 at-bats in his last nine games, including four in six postseason games.

Wieters played in 75 games last season after elbow ligament replacement surgery in 2014. He batted .267 with eight homers and 25 RBIs.

Anderson, a 27-year-old lefty, was 10-9 with a 3.69 ERA.

The 32-year-old right-hander Estrada went 13-8 with a 3.13 ERA in 2015, setting career bests for wins, ERA and opponents' batting average. He was 2-1 with a 2.33 ERA in the playoffs.



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Flames dump Capitals in OT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In his third NHL season, 21-year-old Sean Monahan is showing the Calgary Flames he's on the verge of becoming a true star.

Monahan scored his second goal of the game 1:40 into overtime to give the Flames a 3-2 win over the Washington Capitals on Friday night.

It was Monahan's sixth goal of the season, including four in the last four games.

Last year, Monahan had 31 goals, and Calgary coach Bob Hartley has encouraged him to shoot more, and he's getting terrific results.

"The way that he's striding — like he's a powerful skater. When his feet are moving like they're moving now, he's definitely going to be a threat," Hartley said.

In overtime, Monahan took a pass from TJ Brodie and beat Phillipp Grubauer from right in front. Washington coach Barry Trotz challenged the goal, claiming that Monahan was offside, but the goal was quickly confirmed.

"It's something we're pretty good at. We're confident out there and we know how to play smart and manage the puck well," Monahan said.

Michael Frolik also scored for Calgary and Karri Ramo stopped 34 shots.

Michael Latta and Jay Beagle had the goals for Washington, and Grubauer finished with 26 saves.

Alex Ovechkin again failed in his attempt to pass Sergei Fedorov for most goals by a Russian-born NHL player. Since scoring his 483rd career goal on Nov. 7 to tie Fedorov, Ovechkin has gone scoreless in three straight games.

Blue Jackets 2, Penguins 1: Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 28 shots and narrowly missed his 12th career shutout as visiting Columbus held off Pittsburgh.

Scott Hartnell scored his team-leading eighth goal to help the Blue Jackets improve to 5-5 under John Tortorella.

Brandon Saad picked up his sixth with a power-play goal in the second period that gave Columbus a 2-0 lead.

Marc-Andre Fleury made 26 saves for the Penguins but Pittsburgh went 0 for 6 on the power play.

Patric Hornqvist deflected a shot from the point past Bobrovsky with 52 seconds remaining to spoil Bobrovsky's shutout bid. Hornqvist appeared to tie it with 13 seconds left but the referees waved it off after ruling Hornqvist intentionally kicked the puck into the net.

Sharks 3, Red Wings 2: Joe Pavelski scored his ninth goal of the season, Martin Jones made 26 saves and visiting San Jose beat Detroit.

Melker Karlsson and Matt Nieto also scored for the Sharks, who improved to 7-1 in Detroit since the 2010-11 season.

Tomas Tatar and Teemu Pulkkinen scored for the Red Wings, and Jimmy Howard finished with 11 saves.

Pavel Datsyuk made his season debut for Detroit after missing the first 15 games due to off-season ankle surgery. He received a standing ovation when coming onto the ice for his first shift.

Islanders 4, Ducks 1: Frans Nielsen scored twice in the third period, backup goalie Thomas Greiss stopped 24 shots, and visiting New York beat Anaheim.

Brock Nelson and Cal Clutterbuck also had goals for the Islanders, who won two of three on a California road trip.

Nelson, who had the Islanders' only goal in a 2-1 loss at Los Angeles on Thursday night, has scored in consecutive games for the first time since last Dec. 2-4.

Corey Perry scored for the Ducks, who were coming off consecutive overtime losses at home against the Coyotes and Oilers. Anton Khudobin finished with 25 saves.

Cavaliers win 8th straight

Associated Press

NEW YORK — LeBron James scored 31 points, Mo Williams made a tiebreaking jumper with 41 seconds left and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the New York Knicks 90-84 on Friday night for their eighth straight victory.

Cleveland remained unbeaten since dropping its opener at Chicago and matched its best start through nine games at 8-1.

Williams scored Cleveland's final six points, finishing with 20.

Carmelo Anthony scored 26 for the Knicks, but 22 came in the first half and his only field goal in the second half was a follow dunk as James kept his friend in check when it mattered.

Arron Afflalo had 14 points for the Knicks.

Nicolas Batum scored 12 of his 28 points in the third quarter and was 5 of 6 from 3-point range for Charlotte. Kemba Walker had 16 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

Charlotte trailed for most of the fourth quarter, but Jeremy Lamb scored eight straight points to pull the Hornets within 88-87 with 5:54 left.

Thunder 102, 76ers 85: Russell Westbrook had his second straight triple-double and Oklahoma City beat visiting Philadelphia.

Westbrook stepped up while top scorer Kevin Durant sat out with a strained left hamstring. Westbrook finished with 21 points, a career-high 17 rebounds and 11 assists for the 21st triple-double of his career. It was his third in his past four games against Philadelphia.

Bulls 102, Hornets 97: Jimmy Butler had 27 points, Pau Gasol added 19 points and 13 rebounds and host Chicago beat Charlotte.

Nuggets 107, Rockets 98: Danilo Gallinari had 27 points, Will Barton scored a career-high 26 and host Denver beat Houston to spoil the return of Ty Lawson.

Kings 111, Nets 109: DeMarcus Cousins had 30 of his season-high 40 points in the second half and added 13 rebounds, Rajon Rondo had a triple-double and host Sacramento beat Brooklyn.

Grizzlies 101, Trail Blazers 100: Zach Randolph's put-back basket with less than a second left and a season-high 31 points from Marc Gasol led Memphis to a victory over visiting Portland.

Mavericks 90, Lakers 82: Zaza Pachulia notched his sixth double-double in nine games and host Dallas sent Los Angeles to its fourth straight loss.

Pacers 107, Timberwolves 103: Paul George scored 29 points, Monta Ellis added 24 points in his best game this season and Indiana beat visiting Minnesota for its sixth win in seven games.

Celtics 106, Hawks 93: Isaiah Thomas scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half and added 10 assists as host Boston recovered from early shooting troubles to beat Atlanta.

Raptors 100, Pelicans 81: Jonas Valanciunas had 20 points and 10 rebounds, DeMar DeRozan added 15 points and 11 assists and Toronto pulled away in the second half for a win over visiting New Orleans.

Magic 102, Jazz 93: Evan Fournier scored 21 points and host Orlando raced out to a big early lead to defeat Utah.

Top 25 matchup at Camp Foster canceled

Associated Press

CAMP FOSTER, Japan — Pittsburgh and Gonzaga made a long trip to Japan to play a college basketball game. It must have seemed a lot longer when they only got to play 20 minutes.

The Armed Forces Classic between No. 9 Gonzaga and the Panthers was canceled at halftime because of slippery conditions on the court at Foster Field House on Okinawa.

Japan Standard Time is 14 hours ahead of the Eastern Time zone, meaning the game was played on Saturday morning in Japan.

Pittsburgh was leading 37-35 at halftime and the second half never got started.

Both coaches expressed disappointment with the decision, but agreed it had to be made.

"The way the court was, we just couldn't finish it," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "It was about who didn't fall down, that's what the game was coming down to. Whoever didn't fall was probably going to make a play. We tried and the officials called it. I don't know what else to do."

Pitt coach Jamie Dixon said it was still a once-in-a-lifetime experience in more than one way.

"It was tough, coming this far. But we came for the experience, we came for the Marines and we're certain we accomplished that goal," Dixon said. "We came for a win, too, and I guess we got half a win."

No. 1 North Carolina 91, Temple 67: At Annapolis, Md., Kennedy Meeks had 25 points and 11 rebounds to help the Tar Heels launch a season of lofty expectations with a victory over the Owls.

No. 2 Kentucky 78, Albany 65: Jamal Murray scored 13 of his 19 points in the second half, reserve Derek Willis got the host Wildcats going with a career-high 14 in the first against the Great Danes.

No. 3 Maryland 80, Mount St. Mary's 56: Jake Layman scored 16 points, Melo Trimble had 14 and the host Terrapins beat the Mountaineers.

No. 4 Kansas 109, Northern

Colorado 72: Brannen Greene hit all five of his three-point attempts and had 18 points, and the host Jayhawks pounded the Bears.

No. 5 Duke 92, Siena 74: Grayson Allen scored 20 of his 26 points in the first half, and the host Blue Devils beat the Saints in the first round of the 2K Classic.

No. 6 Virginia 86, Morgan State

48: Mike Tobey had 15 points and eight rebounds and the host Cavaliers shook off early shooting problems to beat the Bears.

No. 7 Iowa State 68, Colorado 62: At Sioux Falls, S.D., Georges Niang scored 17 points, and the Cyclones held off the Buffaloes to win coach Steve Prohm's debut.

No. 10 Wichita State 83, Charleston Southern 63: Ron Baker scored 15 points, freshmen Landry Shamet and Eric Hamilton each added 13 and the host Shockers beat the Buccaneers.

No. 11 Villanova 91, Fairleigh Dickinson 54: Daniel Ochefu scored 16 points, and freshman Jalen Brunson added 12 points and four assists to help the host Wildcats beat the Knights.

No. 12 Arizona 79, Pacific 61: Ryan Anderson had 18 points and 12 rebounds in his debut for the host Wildcats.

No. 13 Michigan State 82, Florida Atlantic 55: Matt Costello had 15 points and Denzel Valentine added 13, leading the host Spartans past the Owls.

No. 14 California 97, Rice 65: Tyrone Wallace had 20 points, eight assists and six rebounds, and the host Golden Bears opened with an impressive win.

No. 15 Indiana 88, Eastern Illinois

49: James Blackmon Jr. scored 17 points, Kevin "Yogi" Ferrell added 13 and the host Hoosiers routed the Panthers.

No. 16 Utah 82, Southern Utah 71: Jakob Poeltl scored a career-high 26 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and blocked four shots, helping the host Utes beat the Thunderbirds.

Western Illinois 69, No. 17 Wisconsin 67: Garrett Covington hit two free throws

with 10.2 seconds left, and the visiting Leathernecks shocked the Badgers.

No. 18 Vanderbilt 80, Austin Peay

41: Luke Kornet had 13 points and 13 rebounds and the host Commodores routed the Governors in the opening round of the Maui Invitational.

No. 19 Notre Dame 87, St. Francis, Pa. 56: Demetrius Jackson scored a career-high 27 points to lead the host Fighting Irish.

No. 20 UConn 100, Maine 56: Sterling Gibbs scored 20 points, Shonn Miller had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and the host Huskies rolled over the Black Bears.

No. 21 LSU 81, McNeese State

70: Antonio Blakeney had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and fellow freshman Ben Simmons added 11 points, 13 rebounds and five assists for the host Tigers.

No. 22 Baylor 97, Stephen F. Austin

55: Rico Gathers scored 18 points, and Lester Medford had 13 points and nine assists for the host Bears.

No. 23 Purdue 81, North Carolina A&T 40: Kendall Stephens and Ryan Cline each made four three-pointers, and the host Boilermakers beat the Aggies in the Naismith Hall of Fame Tipoff Classic.

No. 25 Michigan 70, Northern Michigan 44: Caris LeVert scored 18 points, and the host Wolverines led from the start against the Division II Wildcats.

Service academies

Army 93, Ferrum 54: Kevin Ferguson scored 18 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead the host Black Knights past the Panthers.

Florida 59, Navy 41: The Gators won their first game under coach Mike White, using a strong defensive effort and a double-double by reserve Devin Robinson to beat the host Midshipmen.

Southern Illinois 77, Air Force 75: Mike Rodriguez scored 15 points and the host Salukis overcame a 15-point second-half deficit to beat the Falcons in the season opener for both teams.