

Gunmen storm hotel in Mali

Dozens of hostages seized as Islamic extremists attack capital

The Washington Post

BAMAKO, Mali — Security forces hunted gunmen inside a luxury hotel in Mali's capital on Friday after attackers stormed past guards, killing at least 20 people and holding hostages as others among the 170 staff and guests fled for safety.

Hours after the standoff began, it appeared many people had managed to reach safety outside the hotel compound in a city that serves as a logistics hub for French forces helping fight Islamic insurgents.

The country's security ministry said at least 20 people had been killed. The Associated Press, citing U.N. officials, said 27 bodies were found and two extremists were killed.

Meanwhile, security forces tried to pin down the attackers. Officials said four gunmen were holed up in a hotel room, but that there were no hostages with them.

A group affiliated with al-Qaida, al-Mourabitou, said its followers were behind the attack, according to the Reuters news agency, but the claim could not be independently verified.

Mali has faced repeated attacks from militants linked to al-Qaida and other factions, but the Islamic State group does not have major footholds in the region.

Earlier, at least 80 captives managed to escape or were released by the attackers, state TV reported in Mali. Some were reportedly freed after being able to recite the Muslim profession of faith.

One Senegalese guest, Aissatou Gueye, was in her room when the attackers entered. Like many other guests, she was there to attend a large mining conference.

"They were asking people to recite the Quran, and if they do, nothing will happen to them," she told a reporter outside the hotel. Aissatou saw one person shot dead before she ran to safety.

The hotel operators said more than 135 people — including 125 guests — were believed held hours after the standoff began. The reason for the discrepancy in the counts was not immediately clear.

Among those who reached safety were five members of a six-member Turkish Airlines crew, the company said. Air France also said its 12-member crew at the Radisson Blu hotel in Bamako was safe. Six Americans also escaped, the U.S. military said.

US servicemember aids in evacuation

WASHINGTON — One U.S. servicemember aided Mali Special Forces on Friday morning as they responded to an attack by Islamic militants on a luxury hotel in the north African country, according to U.S. Africa Command.

The U.S. special operator helped his Malian counterparts as they moved hostages, including at least six Americans, to a secure location from the Radisson Blu hotel in the country's capital, Bamako, after militants stormed the building, AFRICOM spokesman Army Col. Mark Cheadle told reporters in Washington.

The Malian troops led the operation to clear the building, and no Americans were reported to have directly engaged with the militants, Cheadle said.

Meanwhile, all Department of Defense personnel — 22 military and civilian workers — in Bamako were accounted for and uninjured, a defense official said on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the situation. Five DOD personnel were at the hotel when the siege began.

Stars and Stripes

Traore, Mali's minister of security and civil protection.

He added that the attackers entered the hotel through a side entrance, "which makes us believe that they were familiar with the hotel."

Malian army commander Modibo Nama Traore said gunmen stormed the hotel shouting "Allahu Akbar" — "God is great" in Arabic — and then fired on the guards and began taking hostages, The Associated Press reported.

Radical Islamists with ties to al-Qaida have been active in Mali for years, occupying the northern part of the country for much of 2012. Even after they were forced out by a French-led military operation, militants have waged occasional attacks, including earlier this year on a hotel in central Mali and a military base in the south.

The Islamic State group, meanwhile, has sought to expand its presence across North Africa and beyond through alliances with militant factions. But the Islamic State group does not have significant footholds in West Africa.

France's Gendarmerie Nationale, the national police, said a team of special forces was en route to Mali.

U.S. forces joined anti-insurgent operations in Mali several years ago.

Foreigners are often targeted in Mali.

Yet militants had never before seized a target as prominent as the Radisson Blu, where foreign businessmen and diplomats are known to stay and dine.

Earlier this month the leader of Ansar Dine, one of Mali's main Islamist groups, released a statement encouraging attacks that would "push away the aggression of the French Crusader assailant" in the former French colony.

A contingent of French troops is stationed in Mali, and President Francois Hollande on Thursday praised the campaign against the Islamist insurgents.

"France is leading this war with its armed forces, its soldiers, its courage. It must carry out this war with its allies, its partners, giving us all the means available, as we did in Mali, as we are going to continue in Iraq, as we will continue in Syria," he said.

US sues contractor for Navy overbilling

BY ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A defense contractor overcharged the Navy millions of dollars for sewage removal and other services at ports around the globe, according to a federal complaint filed Wednesday.

The complaint against Inchcape Shipping Services adds the Justice Department as a plaintiff to an existing case filed by whistleblowers, who brought allegations of inflated invoices, double-billing, kickbacks and fraudulent practices against the ship husbanding services

contractor.

Inchcape, or ISS, also spent \$234,000 on entertainment expenses that “could constitute improper monetary arrangements with Navy officials,” the complaint said.

Inchcape, which owned multimillion-dollar Navy contracts in Africa, the Middle East and the Americas, is one of two major ship contractors to come under federal scrutiny recently.

Earlier this year, the president of Glenn Defense Marine Asia, which provided services in the Asia-Pacific for decades, pleaded guilty to bribing Navy officials in exchange for classified

information that led to as much as \$20 million in overbilling.

Inchcape denied the charges in a statement published Thursday in Heavy Lift and Project Forwarding International, a trade publication.

“ISS wholly refutes these historic allegations and disagrees that there has been wrongdoing,” the statement said. “The company sees no basis for the complaint and objects to the way the company has been characterized ... ISS will cooperate fully with the U.S. authorities and looks forward to presenting the full case during trial, where it will vigorously defend its good name.”

In the Persian Gulf, the Navy paid Inchcape \$280 million for services in 11 nations in 2005-14, according to a Justice Department statement. Inchcape “routinely inflated the prices on multiple vendor invoices by 15-20% or more and pocketed the difference as profit,” the statement said.

An audit found that Inchcape’s Dubai and Bahrain offices overbilled the Navy by more than \$5 million during operations from 2005 to 2008. When confronted with the audit, the company returned only \$362,000, according to the complaint.

slavin.erik@stripes.com

USS Milwaukee set to be commissioned

It still has that new car smell. Or more accurately, that new ship smell.

The Navy’s latest littoral combat ship, the USS Milwaukee, has undergone sailing trials on Lake Michigan since Marinette Marine shipyard workers finished construction in northeastern Wisconsin. But it’s not officially a part of the fleet until Saturday’s commissioning ceremony.

The oddly shaped gray vessel with its Navy Jack flying at half-mast in honor of the Paris terrorism victims has drawn

crowds since it docked Sunday afternoon on Milwaukee’s lakefront.

Designed for versatility and speed, littoral combat ships are a relatively new addition to the U.S. Navy built to operate close to shore and quickly switching from one combat mode to another by swapping out different equipment such as anti-mine or anti-submarine gear.

With the global rise of terrorist groups such as the Islamic State and al-Qaida rather than foes that fight with navies, Kendall G. Bridgewater was asked Monday about the relevance of ships like the USS Milwaukee.

From the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

USS Whirlwind commander removed

MANAMA, Bahrain — The commander of the USS Whirlwind, Lt. Cmdr. Bethany Busch, was relieved of her duties Thursday due to a loss of confidence in her ability to command, the Navy said.

Lt. Cmdr. Scott Whitworth, the squadron’s operations officer, has temporarily assumed command of the coastal patrol ship based at Naval Support Activity, Bahrain, home to the 5th Fleet, until the prospective commander arrives next month.

Busch was relieved by Cmdr. Jake Douglas, commander of

Patrol Squadron One.

Busch has been reassigned to the commander of Task Force Five Six in Bahrain, the Navy said.

The Navy could not provide further details while the investigation is underway, said Lt. Cmdr. Myers Vasquez, spokesman for Naval Surface Force, Atlantic.

Coastal patrol ships based in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility are tasked with escorting other ships, providing maritime security, protecting infrastructure and frequently participating in exercises with regional allies.

From staff reports

EU nations promise to stanch inflow of extremists

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — European Union nations promised Friday to quickly tighten the bloc’s vast external border to prevent more violent extremists from coming in, and French authorities reported that a third body had been found in a Paris apartment raided by police.

One week after coordinated attacks claimed by the Islamic State group killed 130 people in Paris, French Interior Minister

Bernard Cazeneuve and the other EU interior and justice ministers used an emergency meeting to push for the next steps to increase security and prevent more bloodshed.

“We have talked enough. We have to act. It’s not an option, it’s an obligation,” said Luxembourg’s Domestic Security Minister Etienne Schneider, who chaired the meeting in Brussels.

France and Belgium urged

their EU partners to tighten gun laws, toughen border security and choke off funds to extremist groups.

“Terrorists are crossing the borders of the European Union,” said Cazeneuve, underlining why the 28-nation bloc must move forward on a long-delayed system for collecting and exchanging airline-passenger information, data he said is vital “for tracing the return of foreign fighters” from Syria and Iraq.

The EU exchanges such information with the U.S., Australia and Canada, but has proved incapable of agreeing on a system for sharing data between its members.

France has called for inter-European flights to be included in the data sweep and wants the information it retains — names, credit-card details, itinerary and other personal data — to be kept for one year instead of one month.

Harper, Donaldson earn MVPs

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bryce Harper became the youngest unanimous Most Valuable Player winner in baseball history Thursday, capturing the National League award despite his Washington Nationals missing the playoffs.

Josh Donaldson took the American League MVP, earning the honor after helping boost the Toronto Blue Jays back into the postseason for the first time since 1993.

Harper turned 23 on Oct. 16, after the playoffs had already started. He got all 30 first-place votes from members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

The 2012 NL Rookie of the Year led the majors in slugging percentage and on-base average. The outfielder hit .330 with 42 home runs and 99 RBIs.

Harper was the first player from a Washington franchise to win an MVP — no one on the original or expansion Senators or Nationals had done it.

Harper was the fourth-youngest player overall to win an MVP, with Stan Musial, Johnny Bench and Vida Blue also 22 but not quite as old.

Arizona first baseman Paul Goldschmidt was second in the voting and Cincinnati first baseman Joey Votto was third.

Yoenis Cespedes, acquired by the Mets from Detroit at the July 31 trade deadline, finished 13th.

Harper put aside his injury problems from recent seasons and put up huge numbers. The banged-up Nationals didn't do nearly so well, starting the season as World Series favorites and finishing far out of contention.

Harper missed a lot of games in 2013 after a pair of run-ins with walls, then was sidelined for much of 2014 following a headfirst slide that hurt his thumb.

This year, Harper reported to spring training with one goal — the only number he focused on was games played.

Harper finished with a .649 slugging percentage and a .460 on-base average. He went into the final day of the regular season with a chance to win the NL batting title — Miami's Dee Gordon edged him — and scored a league-leading 118 runs.

The three-time All-Star also continued to draw fans in the Washington area and beyond. His constantly changing hairstyles are always getting attention and the selfie he took in the outfielder before a game at Nationals Park this season boosted his popularity even more.

His hitting, though, is what makes him so special.

"You could see throughout the season

what this guy meant to this ballclub. And don't forget, this guy carried us throughout the whole season," Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo said Wednesday.

"Every team that we played circled his name and said, 'This guy's not going to beat us.' And with that said, he beat a lot of teams. So it was a remarkable season. As we said at this time last year, I thought that 'Harp' was just scratching the surface of what he can be."

Donaldson received 23 first-place votes. Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout got the other first-place votes finished second for the third time — he won the award last year. Kansas City outfielder Lorenzo Cain was third.

Donaldson led the AL with 123 RBIs and topped the majors by scoring 122 runs. He hit 41 home runs and batted .297.

Traded from Oakland to Toronto last offseason, Donaldson joined a power-packed lineup that included Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion. The Blue Jays battered their way to the AL East title and led the majors in runs and homers, with Donaldson leading the way.

"I feel like I was able to take advantage of the opportunities put in front of me," Donaldson said on the MLB Network telecast of the awards.

Donaldson joined George Bell (1987) as the only Toronto players to win the MVP.

Jacksonville holds off Tennessee

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Rashad Greene fielded the line-drive punt, weaved through a few defenders, broke into the open field and nearly scored.

It was the big play the Jacksonville Jaguars needed to beat Tennessee. It was the key moment they had to have to gain ground in the muddled AFC South.

It came from a rookie, a guy who missed the previous seven games with a torn ligament in his left thumb.

It also made those mustard uniforms, at least for a second, look much more like gold.

"I just needed that ball and he gave it to me the way I wanted it," Greene said.

Greene returned the punt 63 yards, setting up Blake Bortles' 5-yard touchdown pass to Julius Thomas with 3:30 remaining, and the Jaguars held on to beat the Titans 19-13 on Thursday night.

"We've been in these one-possession games all season," coach Gus Bradley said. "Fortunately, we came out on the good end."

The Jaguars (4-6) won consecutive games for the first time since December 2013, and three victories in four games have put them squarely in the hunt for the division title.

The Titans (2-8) lost for the eighth time in nine games and spoiled interim coach Mike Mularkey's return to Jacksonville. Mularkey was fired after one season with the Jaguars, a 2-14 campaign in 2012.

For much of the night it looked as if Mularkey would celebrate a rare victory in Jacksonville, but Greene flipped the script. Bortles hit Thomas on the next play, putting Jacksonville ahead 16-13. It was an easy call for Bortles, who noticed linebacker Derrick Morgan lined up across from Thomas before the snap.

"One on one with really a defensive end," Bortles said. "That's kind of a mismatch."

Titans tight end Phillip Supernaw fumbled on the ensuing possession, leading to Jason Myers' career-high fourth field goal of the night and a six-point lead with 2:19 left.

The Titans advanced to the 23 with 5 seconds remaining, but Andre Branch sacked Marcus Mariota on the final play. Branch did his usual windmill dance as he was mobbed by teammates.

More things to know about the game:

Division race: The Jaguars closed in on co-division leaders Houston and Indianapolis, both 4-5, and have the easiest remaining schedule in the NFL. Jacksonville also has three of its next four at home. Potentially helping Jacksonville's chances, the Texans likely will be without quarterback Brian Hoyer (concussion) at least this week and the Colts could be without quarterback Andrew Luck (lacerated kidney) for multiple games. "We all know the situation with our division and we all know that it's wide open," Colvin said. "Any team can win it."

Orakpo shines: Titans linebacker Brian Orakpo finished with a sack, a forced fumble and a pass defense. He has at least one sack in four consecutive games.

Big Ten East title on line in Columbus

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The entire Big Ten season has been leading to this: No. 9 Michigan State vs. No. 2 Ohio State. Just about everything that has come before will either be validated or forgotten.

There have been a few bumps along the way and the biggest game on the regular-season schedule for both teams has lost some of its luster from when it looked like a potential 1-2 matchup in September.

But it is still a really big deal.

The loser cedes control of the Big Ten East title. Without that, there is no Big Ten championship, and without that, you might as well say goodbye to the College Football Playoff.

"All the goals are right in front of us," Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio said.

The first 10 games of the season for the Buckeyes (10-0, 6-0) seemed like preliminaries. Playing nothing but unranked teams, they haven't been nearly as dominant as expected for the first unanimous preseason No. 1 in the history of The Associated Press poll.

Still, they arrive at the make-or-break part of the season in position to repeat. With one good performance against the Spartans, all the angst about the Buckeyes goes away.

Of course, if Ohio State does not take care of business in the Horseshoe, then all the skeptics can claim that the Buckeyes have, indeed, been fraudulent all along.

"I think people are still unsure of what we got," running back Ezekiel Elliott said. "It's a game to go out there and show who we are and what we can do."

Michigan State (9-1, 5-1) lives in a perpetual state of proving its worthy of elite status. The Spartans are 13-point underdogs.

"We're used to it around here," center Jack Allen said. "Every big game we're in, we're always expected to lose, and feel like surprise a lot of people and make a lot of people look foolish."

The Spartans tussled into the fourth quarter with some weaker teams early in the season, needed a miracle to beat rival Michigan, and then lost at Nebraska on a debatable touchdown.

But if Michigan State can beat Ohio State for the second time in three years and end another 20-plus-game winning streak for Urban Meyer's Buckeyes, the blemishes will be hardly noticeable.

"I think we have talent to play with the top-10 teams in the country, I do," said Dantonio, whose team is 5-1 in its last six games against top-10 teams. "I don't think we have yet to put our best game in front of us, play our best game, where we're hitting on all cylinders."

Cook's health: Michigan State quarterback Connor Cook missed much of last week's game after taking a shot to his throwing shoulder.

He says he is fine and Dantonio has said Cook is a 9½ out of 10. Cook is an Ohio native who wasn't recruited by the Buckeyes, and the Spartans can't afford for him to be less than excellent on Saturday. Cook has passed for 2,482 yards, 21 touchdowns and four interceptions.

"What you want in a quarterback, you pretty much see in him," Ohio State co-defensive coordinator Chris Ash said.

Zeke's streak: Elliott has 15 straight games of at least 100 yards rushing, not including the 154 and two touchdowns in the 49-37 victory at Michigan State last year.

The Buckeyes have been one of the few teams to effectively run against Michigan State each of the last two years, when the Spartans had the top rush defense in the Big Ten and one of the best in the nation.

Even in Michigan State's 34-24 upset of the Buckeyes in the 2013 Big Ten championship game, Ohio State ran for 273 yards. That is the only game the Buckeyes have lost to a Big Ten opponent since Meyer became coach in 2012.

In the trenches: Michigan State's defensive line, led by defensive end Shilique Calhoun, is among the best in the nation and has helped the Spartans rack up 29 sacks, tied for 14th best in the country.

The Buckeyes have given up sacks in a little over 5 percent of their pass attempts, which ranks 45th in the country.

Streaks: Ohio State has won 23 games in a row, the longest streak in the nation, and 30 straight Big Ten regular-season games. The Buckeyes had won 24 straight when they lost to Michigan State in the conference title game two seasons ago.

The last three times an unbeaten Ohio State team played a late-season game (November or later) against Michigan State, the Spartans have won (1974, 1998 and 2013).



Ship's Store official new car program

Exclusive Navy at-sea offers:
www.navyauto.com or nasinfo@navyauto.com

Ovechkin breaks record, but Capitals fall to Stars

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A record-breaking night for Alex Ovechkin ended in disappointment for the sharp-shooting star and his Washington Capitals.

Ovechkin scored his 484th NHL goal, breaking Sergei Fedorov's mark for most by a Russian-born player, but the Dallas Stars bounced back to beat the Capitals 3-2 Thursday.

Ovechkin's goal came at 7:01 of the third period, knotting the score at 2. He converted a backhand pass from Nicklas Backstrom, shoving the puck into the left side of the net.

The sellout crowd stood and cheered, many of them chanting "Ovie! Ovie!" to celebrate the milestone. A video montage followed, concluding with Fedorov offering congratulations to the new Russian scoring champion.

"I think he wishes that we won the game, but obviously it's a huge accomplishment," Backstrom said. "I'm really happy for him."

Ovechkin had gone four games without a goal and missed several chances in this one before connecting.

"Sooner or later I knew it was going to come," he said.

So did his teammates, but that didn't lessen their enthusiasm.

"You'll see me jump 4 feet," coach Barry Trotz said. "Actually about 4 inches. It was pretty exciting for everybody because they knew that was a little bit of history."

Ovechkin scored No. 484 in his 777th game; Fedorov had 483 goals in 1,248 games.

"It's pretty crazy. When you take a step back and think about it, he's scored more goals than any Russian hockey player ever, and he's only 30 years old," Capitals defenseman Taylor Chorney said. "You know he's going to score a ton more goals and he's going to run away with that record."

Although Fedorov played most of his games with Detroit, he passed the previous record holder, Alexander Mogilny, with his 474th goal in Washington's 6-5 win over Dallas on Oct. 25, 2008 — the last time the Capitals beat the Stars.

In this one, Jason Spezza spoiled Ovechkin's big night at 11:10 of the third period, converting a turnover by Jason Chimera into the go-ahead goal.

"It was a nice night," Chimera said. "I (messed) it up, so my bad."

Dallas has won eight straight against the Capitals, including five in a row in Washington. Kari Lehtonen stopped 33 shots for the Stars, improving to 9-1 this season.

Lightning 2, Rangers 1: Valtteri Filppula scored a short-handed goal to snap a tie late in the third period as host Tampa Bay ended New York's nine-game winning streak.

In their first meeting since the Lightning beat the Rangers in Game 7 of last season's Eastern Conference final, Filppula scored with 1:05 to play off a 2-on-1 pass from J.T. Brown.

Tampa Bay also got a goal from Alex Killorn. Ben Bishop stopped Chris Kreider's penalty shot in the third and finished with 20 saves, improving to 9-0 against the Rangers in the regular season.

Dominic Moore scored for the Rangers, who fell one short of matching the franchise record of 10 straight wins accomplished in 1939-40 and 1972-73.

Blues 3, Sabres 2 (SO): Alexander Steen scored the only goal in a shootout and Jake Allen made 32 saves to lift host St. Louis over Buffalo.

The Blues have won seven straight and 17 of 19 against Buffalo since 1999.

Coyotes 3, Canadiens 2: Martin Hanzal and Shane Doan scored in the first period as visiting Arizona held on to beat Montreal.

Max Pacioretty and Dale Weise had the goals for the Canadiens (14-4-2), who have gone four games without winning in regulation. They have allowed 16 goals while going 1-2-1 during that stretch.

Sharks 1, Flyers 0 (OT): Melker Karlsson scored 3:45 into overtime and Martin Jones made 34 saves in his third shutout of the season, giving visiting San Jose a victory over Philadelphia.

Joonas Donskoi set up the game-winner on a 2-on-1 with Karlsson, who beat goalie Steve Mason. It was the fifth straight road win for the Sharks, who improved to 4-0 on their six-game road trip and 8-3 away from home this season.

Bruins 4, Wild 2: Loui Eriksson scored three goals as host Boston beat Minnesota.

Eriksson wrapped up his hat trick when he converted a perfect give-and-go from David Krejci early in the third period.

Penguins 4, Avalanche 3: Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin scored to help host Pittsburgh beat Colorado.

Malkin got his seventh goal of the season on a power play, and Crosby netted his third of the season, first in seven games and first at even strength this season. David Perron and Chris Kunitz also scored, and the Penguins won their second straight after dropping three of four.

Ducks 3, Panthers 1: Andrew Coglian and Cam Fowler scored to lift visiting Anaheim over Florida.

Jakob Silfverberg also had a goal for the Ducks, and Frederik Andersen stopped 23 shots. Anaheim won for the second time in six games.

Senators 3, Blue Jackets 0: Erik Karlsson scored twice and had an assist, and Craig Anderson made 25 saves as host Ottawa beat Columbus.

Anderson got his seventh win of the season and 30th career shutout. Kyle Turris scored an empty-net goal.

Curry's 40 helps GSW top Clippers

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — With an NBA championship in their back pocket, the Golden State Warriors never feel as though they're out of a game. Even when trailing by 23 in the first half.

Stephen Curry scored 40 points and the Warriors shot 8 of 9 on three-pointers in the fourth quarter to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 124-117 Thursday night for their 13th consecutive victory to start the season.

"Obviously, you don't get a trophy for it, but it's just a nice story line and a nice way to start the season," Curry said. "We want to enjoy this."

Klay Thompson added 25 points, Harrison Barnes had 21 and Draymond Green 19 for the Warriors, one of four teams in NBA history to open 13-0. The defending champs improved to 6-0 on the road while completing the biggest comeback in the league this season.

"We just continued to fight and even when they were hitting everything, it still never felt like they were just controlling the game," Green said. "When it's like that, you've got a shot at winning."

The Warriors were 11 of 15 from the field in the fourth, when they made nine of 10 free throws and outrebounded the Clippers 11-6.

"Those numbers are insane," said Clippers star Blake Griffin, who had 27 points but was limited to one free throw and three shots in the fourth. "They're the better team. We're trying to get to where they're at."

Chris Paul scored a season-high 35 points, including 18 while igniting the Clippers in the opening quarter after missing two games with a sore right groin. Jamal Crawford added 15 points.

Cavaliers 115, Bucks 100: LeBron James scored 27 points and Kevin Love added 22 points and 15 rebounds in host Cleveland's victory over Milwaukee.

Cleveland snapped a two-game losing streak and avenged a double-overtime loss in Milwaukee on Saturday night. The Cavaliers lead the Eastern Conference at 9-3.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored a career-high 33 points for Milwaukee, and the Bucks rallied from a 21-point deficit in the second quarter to cut the lead to 84-79 late in the third.

Anderson Varejao, who came off the bench to score nine points, helped Cleveland build the lead to 97-84. James scored six points and Love had a three-point play in that stretch.

J.R. Smith added 18 points for Cleveland.

Antetokounmpo was 12 of 15 from the field and made all eight of his free throws. Greg Monroe scored 17 points, and Khris Middleton added 15 for Milwaukee.

Heat 116, Kings 109: Chris Bosh had 23 points and 11 rebounds and Miami beat visiting Sacramento by taking advantage of star DeMarcus Cousins' one-game suspension.

Cousins, averaging 30.8 points in his last five games, was suspended for hitting Atlanta's Al Horford in the head with a forearm Wednesday night in the Kings' loss to the Hawks. The Kings are 0-5 without Cousins this season and 11-38 since he joined the team in 2010.

Dwyane Wade led Miami with 24 points, and Tyler Johnson had 19.

Sacramento's Rajon Rondo had a season-high 18 assists, 14 points and nine rebounds after having three triple-doubles in his previous four games. Marco Belinelli led the Kings with 23 points.

No. 6 UVA bounces back from first loss

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Anthony Gill scored 16 points, Malcolm Brogdon had 13 and No. 6 Virginia bounced back from its first loss of the season with an 82-57 victory over Bradley at the Charleston Classic on Thursday night.

The Cavaliers (2-1) fell at George Washington on Monday and opened this one a bit sluggish as if still dealing with that loss and trailed 22-19 in the opening half. That's when Virginia took off on an 18-3 run to put the game away.

The Braves (1-2) are one of the youngest teams in the country, starting four freshmen against the ACC powerhouse. Luuk Van Bree had 16 points — off four three-pointers — to lead Bradley.

No. 12 Arizona 88, Boise State 76: Gabe York scored a career-high 23 points, including four three-pointers, to lead four members of his team in double figures as the Wildcats pulled away in the second half to beat the visiting Broncos.

Freshman Allonzo Trier scored 11 of his 13 points in the second half for the

Wildcats (3-0) in their 41st consecutive home-court victory, the longest active streak in the country.

No. 14 Indiana 86, Creighton 65: James Blackmon Jr. scored 19 points and Thomas Bryant added 17 to help the host Hoosiers rout the Blue Jays.

Bryant dominated the middle as the Hoosiers (3-0) won their third in a row by more than 20 points.

No. 16 Utah 73, Texas Tech 63: At San Juan, Puerto Rico, Lorenzo Bonam scored a season-high 20 points to help the Utes hold off the Red Raiders in the opening round of the Puerto Rico Tipoff.

No. 17 Vanderbilt 79, Stony Brook 72 (OT): At Nashville, Tenn., Wade Baldwin IV came off the bench to score 21 and lead the Boilermakers to an overtime win over the Seawolves.

No. 22 Butler 93, Missouri State 59: Kelan Martin scored 18 points off the bench and the Bulldogs put on another offensive show to beat the Bears in the first round of the Puerto Rico Tipoff in San Juan.

No. 23 LSU 78, South Alabama 66: Ben Simmons scored 23 points and Antonio Blakeney had 22 to lead the host

Tigers to a win over the Jaguars in a regional round of the Legends Classic.

Service academies

Air Force 65, Mississippi Valley State 64: Trevor Lyons' buzzer-beater capped the Falcons' come-from-behind victory over the visiting Delta Devils in an Air Force Classic game on Thursday night.

Lyons scored 19 points on 4-for-11 shooting from the field and made 10 of 13 free throws. Hayden Graham added 14 points and Joe Tuss chipped in 6 points with 10 rebounds for Air Force (2-1).

Navy 67, USC Upstate 55: Shawn Anderson had 18 points as the visiting Midshipmen cracked the win column with a victory over the Spartans.

Anderson, a sophomore, shot 6-for-9 from the floor — including 2-for-2 from three-point range — and added five assists for the Midshipmen (1-2).

Tilman Dunbar scored 11 points and Jace Hogan 10 for Navy, which made 27 of 58 shots and led the entire game. Navy was up 34-19 at the half, its first halftime lead this season.