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Turkey downs Russian fighter plane

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey shot down a Russian fighter plane it said had crossed into its territory from Syria on Tuesday, killing at least one of the two pilots and marking the first time in half a century that a NATO member has downed a Russian plane.

The long-feared incident highlighted the growing complexity of Syria's civil war, as multiple groups with clashing alliances fight on the ground and the sky is crowded with aircraft bombing various targets. It immediately prompted fierce reaction from Moscow.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called Turkey's action a "stab in the back by the terrorists' accomplices" and warned of "significant consequences," while Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov canceled a trip to Turkey that had been planned for Wednesday.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called on all parties to be prudent and to contribute to reducing tensions.

"As we have repeatedly made clear we stand in solidarity with Turkey and support the territorial integrity of our NATO ally, Turkey," Stoltenberg told a news conference after an extraordinary meeting of the alliance's decision-making North Atlantic Council, called at Turkey's request.

He called for "calm and de-escalation, and renewed contacts between Moscow and Ankara."

Turkey said two SU-24 planes ignored several warnings that they were nearing, and then intruding into, Turkish airspace. In a letter to the U.N. Security Council and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, it said the planes disregarded warnings and violated Turkish airspace "to a depth of 1.36 miles and 1.15 miles in length for 17

Breedlove visits troops in Poland amid tensions

Stars and Stripes

ZAGAN TRAINING AREA, Poland — Sitting down for lunch under a tent with a group of American infantrymen at this sprawling Polish base, Gen. Philip Breedlove apologized for being late; he had just learned that NATO ally Turkey had shot down a Russian fighter jet.

Between watching U.S. tanks conducting live-fire training, NATO's supreme allied commander was briefed by aides on the latest developments.

"My phone has been going all day long," Breedlove told the soldiers as they ate a lunch of Polish soup and stewed beets.

Breedlove — the head of U.S. European Command — was in Poland as part of a three-day trip that will also take him to the Baltics, where he will visit American soldiers, leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday.

As Breedlove flew east from his headquarters in Belgium, fresh tensions along the Turkish border with Syria were a reminder of the security problems the U.S. now faces to the south, where the Islamic State group operates on NATO's doorstep and Russia's presence has grown.

Breedlove did not offer a formal statement on the incident along the Turkish border, where events were only beginning to unfold as the general's plane touched down in Poland. But the incident prompted an emergency NATO meeting in Brussels late Tuesday. Turkey said the Russian plane had violated Turkish airspace, which Russia denied.

seconds" just after 9:24 a.m.

It said one of the planes then left Turkish airspace, and the other one was fired at by Turkish F-16s "in accordance with the rules of engagement" and crashed on the Syrian side of the border.

Russia insisted the plane stayed over Syria, where it was supporting ground action by Syrian troops against rebels.

Rebel forces fired at the two parachuting pilots as they descended and one died, said Jahed Ahmad, a spokesman for the 10th Coast Division rebel group. The fate of the second pilot was not immediately known.

Later Tuesday, Russia's military said that one of two of its

helicopters that were searching for the jet's crew in Syria was shot down by rebel fire and one serviceman was killed. The rest of its crew were evacuated and taken back to the air base used by Russia in Syria.

A U.S. defense official in Washington confirmed the Russian plane entered Turkish airspace before Turkey shot it down. The official, who was not authorized to discuss details of U.S. knowledge about the incident and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Russian plane flew across a 2-mile section of Turkish airspace, meaning it was in Turkish airspace only for a matter of seconds.

Turkey and Russia have long

been at odds over the crisis in Syria, where Turkey has been seeking the ouster of President Bashar Assad — an important Russian ally.

Turkey has also voiced concern over Russia's bombing of Turkmen areas in Syria and the fact that the Russian operations have complicated the possibility of creating a safe zone in northern Syria to protect civilians as well as moderate rebels fighting Assad.

The creation of a safe zone has been a long-term Turkish goal.

"We will never tolerate such atrocities as happened today and we hope that the international community will find the strength to join forces and fight this evil," Putin said.

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu insisted his country has the right to take "all kinds of measures" against border violations, and called on the international community to work toward "extinguishing the fire that is burning in Syria."

Despite the harsh words, some analysts believe that Russia and Turkey have reasons not to let the incident escalate.

"Relations have been very strained between Russia and Turkey of late, so Moscow will be trying its utmost to contain the damage this might cause," said Natasha Kuhrt, lecturer in International Peace and Security at King's College London.

Ian Kearns, director of the European Leadership Network, a London think-tank, said the Russian-Turkish economic relationship, including in the energy field, is important to Moscow.

Also, Russia and the West appeared to be moving toward an understanding of their common strategic interest in eradicating the Islamic State group following the bombing of a Russian airliner over Sinai on Oct. 31 and the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris.

4 killed in helo crash at Fort Hood

Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — Four people were killed when a helicopter crashed during a training exercise at Fort Hood in Texas, U.S. Army officials said.

The Black Hawk went down about 6 p.m. Monday in the northeast portion of the sprawling military post about 60 miles north of Austin.

Emergency crews conducted an extensive search of the area before finding the wreckage and the crewmembers dead at the scene, according to a Fort Hood statement.

Post officials did not release the names of the victims, saying Tuesday that their identities would be made public 24 hours after the families have been notified. Officials said the crew was assigned to Division West, First Army, and was on a routine training mission when the helicopter crashed.

The cause of the crash was unknown. Fort Hood officials said a panel would be assigned to investigate.

No further details were available.

Fort Hood covers 214,000 acres, making it one of the largest Army posts in the country. More than 135,000 acres are reserved for training purposes.

US, France allied in terrorism fight

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pledging solidarity after the Paris attacks, President Barack Obama promised Tuesday to work with France and other allies to intensify the U.S.-led campaign against the Islamic State group, saying America will not be cowed by the scourge of terrorism.

“We cannot succumb to fear,” Obama said, standing alongside French President Francois Hollande after they met at the White House to discuss the anti-ISIS mission. “Make no mistake, we will win, and groups like ISIL will lose.”

Hollande’s trip to Washington was part of a diplomatic push to get the U.S. and other nations to bolster efforts to destroy the militant group that has claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks.

Hollande emerged from his meeting with Obama saying that France and the United States had agreed to step up a “joint response,” including new efforts to target terrorists’ financial networks, take back Islamic State-controlled territory, scale up efforts in Syria and Iraq and increase intelligence sharing.

The U.S. and France “share the determination to fight terrorism anywhere,” Hollande said, through a translator.

The French president had planned to urge Obama to work

with Russia to build a new coalition to fight the extremists.

But Hollande’s mission quickly became entangled with the fallout from a Russian military plane downed by Turkey — an incident with echoes of the Cold War.

The shootdown underscored what some see as a need for better coordination among the sprawling cast of interests engaged on the battlefields and in the skies above Iraq and Syria.

Even before the incident between Turkey and Russia, Hollande faced a tough challenge in getting Obama to agree to a partnership with Moscow. The U.S. is deeply skeptical of President Vladimir Putin’s motivations, given his longstanding support for Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Nearly five years of clashes between Assad’s government and rebel forces have created a vacuum that has allowed the Islamic State to thrive. The group appears to now be focusing on targets outside its base in Syria and Iraq, including attacks in Lebanon and Turkey and the downing of a Russian airliner over Egypt.

Given the rash of attacks, Obama is now facing increased pressure at home and abroad to ramp up U.S. efforts to destroy the militants. So far, Obama is resisting calls to significantly escalate his approach.

Suspect questioned; Brussels still bracing

PARIS — French authorities on Tuesday questioned a top suspect linked to attackers who terrorized Paris, while Belgium’s capital remained locked down under threat of a possible similar attack.

Jawad Bendaoud, the only person in France known to be facing potential terrorism charges directly linked to the Nov. 13 Paris attacks that killed 130 people and wounded hundreds, was handed over Tuesday morning to an anti-terrorism judge in Paris, according to a judicial official.

Bendaoud was detained last week for providing lodging to the suspected mastermind of the attacks, which were claimed by the Islamic State group, in an apartment in a Paris suburb. Police raided the apartment Nov. 18 and three people were killed, including suspected attacks orchestrator Abdelhamid Abaaoud. Bendaoud, 29, acknowledged in a television interview giving shelter to two people from Belgium, but said he didn’t know who they were or what they planned.

Brussels remained at its highest alert level Tuesday after Prime Minister Charles Michel cited a “serious and imminent threat” to the city.

From The Associated Press

Taliban take prisoners after Afghan helo crash-lands

BY JOSH SMITH

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A helicopter carrying Afghan forces crash-landed in Afghanistan’s northern Faryab province Tuesday and several on board were taken captive by the Taliban, Afghan and U.S. officials said.

The helicopter, a white MI-17, was hit by a rocket before it crash-landed in the Ghaztepa area of Pashtunkot district,

which has been controlled by Taliban for the past month, said Mohammed Reza Rezayee, spokesman for the Afghan National Army 1st Brigade, 209th Corps. There was a heavy Taliban presence in the area, he said. The Afghan army sent forces to rescue those on board, but the relief team was stopped about 2 miles from the scene by Taliban resistance.

A witness said the helicopter caught fire after landing and there were three dead at

the scene and 14 captured. The Associated Press, quoting a member of the Faryab provincial council, reported 16 were captured.

Col. Mohammed Bahadur, Afghan Air Force spokesman, said the helicopter was operated by a private company, not the Afghan military.

A senior defense official at the Pentagon, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the helicopter was piloted by two contractors who were neither

Afghan nor American, but their nationality was not known. He said the contractors were among those captured.

“We have received reports of a helicopter crashing in Faryab Province. We have no reports of Americans on board,” said Michael T. Lawhorn, spokesman for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, in Ghazni province, a director from the national tax office was dragged from his car and shot by insurgents, the AP reported.

Patriots still perfect at 10-0

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — James White filled in for Dion Lewis. Danny Amendola replaced Julian Edelman. Tom Brady was just his usual self. Brady completed 20 of 39 passes for 277 yards, then threw in a personal dig at Buffalo coach Rex Ryan on Monday night as the New England Patriots beat the Bills 20-13 to remain on course for their second perfect regular season in nine years. Lining up under center, Brady began barking out an unusual signal: "Rex Ryan! Rex Ryan!" Asked if there was a message in it, the Patriots quarterback struggled to suppress a smile. "We have a lot of unusual terms," Brady said. "I think we run the gamut. So we've got to get creative and think of different things. That one is pretty unique." Ryan was less troubled about any personal slight than losing to his longtime nemesis for the 11th time in 15 games. "He likes me, I know that," said the coach, who was 4-9 against New England as the New York Jets coach before getting swept in his first season with Buffalo. The Bills (5-5) had their two-game winning streak snapped and lost to Brady for the 25th time in 28 games. Here are some other things we learned from the Patriots' victory over the Bills:

Next man up: Brady hit White for a 20-yard score that was the first touchdown of the running back's career. White added a 6-yard run in the third quarter to give New England (10-0) the lead for good. Amendola, who took over as the Patriots' No. 1 receiver because of last week's injury to Julian Edelman, caught nine passes for 117 yards before leaving with a knee injury of his own. "We were down to two healthy receivers," Brady said. "You get pretty limited in things you can do pretty quickly."

Running away: The Patriots lead the AFC East by five games with six to play. Buffalo and Miami are each 5-5. "At the end of the day, they find ways to win," Ryan said. "That's what championship teams do. We're not at that level, but I promise you we'll get there."

Official mess: The refs blew one play dead by mistake. Then when Sammy Watkins crawled out of bounds untouched near midfield on the final play of the game, the official signaled for the clock to run. Referee Gene Steratore told a pool reporter that it was decided that Watkins "gave himself up in the field of play." The inadvertent whistle came on a 14-yard pass to Amendola when the official apparently thought Brady stepped out of bounds. After a long discussion, the ref-

eree announced that 14-yard reception counted, with a 15-yard penalty for interference from the Bills coaching staff. "That's one of the craziest I've ever seen," said Bills running back LeSean McCoy, who ran 20 times for 82 yards and a 27-yard touchdown. McCoy also caught six passes for 41 yards to surpass 100 yards from scrimmage for the fourth straight game. **Oddities:** That drive ended with an even rarer mistake: Stephen Gostkowski's first missed kick in 51 weeks. There were other oddities in the game, including Brady's fourth interception of the season; another was negated by offsetting penalties. The Patriots even failed to score in the fourth — the first time they were shut out in a quarter since the first one of the season. But the strangest event might have been the two fumbles on a single punt. Leodis McKelvin fielded a punt but coughed up the ball 2 yards later. New England's Jonathan Freeny picked it and rumbled 5 yards before he lost the ball and it bounced out of bounds. **Shouldering the load:** Tyrod Taylor was 20 of 36 for 233 yards for Buffalo. He remained in the game after apparently injuring his shoulder late. "I asked him at the end of the game, but he said, 'No, Coach. I'm ready to go,'" Ryan said. "I was going to go with (EJ Manuel), but he said he was ready to go."

Baylor still has title shot

Associated Press

WACO, Texas — While needing some help and probably about to use its third starting quarterback, No. 7 Baylor still has a chance to win its third consecutive Big 12 title. A win over previously undefeated Oklahoma State kept the Bears (9-1, 6-1) in the Big 12 race, and depending on the outcome of other games around the nation, maybe still in position for a playoff spot. "We do like the fact that it's late in the season, and we're still in the hunts — with an s," coach Art Briles said Monday. "We know it's hard for everybody to look at you and you to deliver week after week after week. ... Of course, we haven't done anything yet and haven't finished. But at least up to this point, we're still standing pretty solid." The Bears first have to win Friday night at No. 15 TCU (9-2, 6-2), when sophomore Chris Johnson likely gets his first career start for Baylor after throwing two touchdowns in relief of injured freshman starter Jarrett Stidham in a 45-35 win at Oklahoma State last Saturday. Since a tiebreaker will be used and no more co-champions are declared in the Big 12, Baylor could become the champ again by winning its last two games — against TCU, then Dec. 5 at home against Texas — and if No. 9 Oklahoma State (10-1, 7-1) wins Saturday night at home over No. 5 Oklahoma (10-1, 7-1), the team that gave Baylor its only loss less than two weeks ago. "After that OU game, we felt a lot of people were writing us off as a team and a contender," senior linebacker and leading tackler Grant Campbell said. "We wanted to prove people wrong this past week taking down an undefeated team in Stillwater. Our goals have not changed." Stidham was already dealing with a sore back before the Oklahoma State game. He banged his throwing (right) hand early Saturday, then right before halftime had his leg rolled up on in what was initially described as an ankle injury. Briles said Monday that it was more an issue of the bone in his lower leg and termed Stidham as "very questionable" to play against TCU. The coach also said he was uncertain about Big 12 rushing leader Shock Linwood because of a knee and ankle issue. Stidham has started Baylor's three games since junior Seth Russell, then the top-rated FBS passer, got hurt Oct. 24 and had season-ending neck surgery. Johnson, who had been working as a receiver since before the season, was then moved back to quarterback to prepare as Stidham's backup. Johnson was 5 of 10 for 138 yards and the two TDs against Oklahoma State, even though his practice reps before that had been with the second-teamers and not the regular starters. Briles said the Bears were starting the week preparing for Johnson to start Friday, and that they had options for backups.

Don't write these 3 teams off just yet

Associated Press

Like Dikembe Mutombo waving his finger at anyone so unwise to challenge him in the paint, several NFL teams sent reminders Sunday that they're still viable in the playoff race. Green Bay, Seattle and Indianapolis delivered the messages loud and clear. The most emphatic statement was made by the Packers, on the road against a quality opponent and archrival that had overtaken the Pack in the NFC North. Green Bay physically slammed around the Vikings; it was the Packers' best performance in more than six weeks. Green Bay (7-3) had lost its previous three and Minnesota (7-3) had won five in a row. "We have a lot of veterans around here, so we knew how to approach a game like this," defensive tackle B.J. Raji said. "We have been so used to being the hunted in the division, and now that we were the hunters it feels good to have come out on top in this one." The Packers held Adrian Peterson to 45 yards on the ground and the Vikings to 94 yards rushing in all. Quarterback Teddy Bridgewater gained 43 of those on frantic scrambles. He also was sacked six times and harassed a whole bunch more. With the ball, Eddie Lacy re-emerged with 100 yards rushing, Aaron Rodgers was efficient enough despite several dropped passes, and there were no turnovers. Mason Crosby made all five field-goal tries.

Point well made by the Packers: We're still in charge here. "We've been taking it in the chin the last couple weeks, rightfully so the last few weeks," Rodgers said. "We had a couple real poor performances. This was an important week for us, we stuck together." "We had some good conversations about what it's going to take to get this 'W,' and be standing here and have this feeling right now which is a great feeling to be back in first and kind of control our own fate from here." The Colts are in the same position in the AFC South: tied with Houston at 5-5, and in control because they have a victory over the Texans and are 3-0 in the division. Indianapolis' past two wins were its most impressive of what has been a disappointing 2015. The Colts beat Denver in likely Peyton Manning's last regular-season visit, went on a bye, then rallied in a big way to take down the Falcons in Atlanta. The latter win came with Matt Hasselbeck, probably the NFL's best backup quarterback, moving to 3-0 this season when standing in for an injured Andrew Luck. "I think we just keep scratching and clawing and doing what we can," said Hasselbeck, who never envisioned playing such a key role at age 40 on a team that has progressed one step deeper in the playoffs the past three years with Luck. "These are not perfect circumstances, you would love to have your starting quarterback playing. You would love to

have a lot of different things." What the Colts have is a solid system built by coach Chuck Pagano, and enough depth to overcome some key injuries. They'll need to be as healthy as possible for the stretch run, but they reminded everyone in their past two games that they're still around. Indeed, they get Houston at home and only Pittsburgh on the remaining schedule has a winning record. Seattle (5-5) is the most dangerous .500 team in the league. Considering that Tampa Bay is the only other 5-5 club in the NFC and Atlanta is fading quickly, the two-time defending conference champion Seahawks certainly bear watching. It's highly possible that Sunday's demolition of San Francisco is the beginning of Seattle's revival for a second straight season. With Marshawn Lynch ailing, the Seahawks have found a clone in rookie Thomas Rawls. Russell Wilson comes off his best passing game of the season and is using all of his targets. The offensive line has been a problem that still must be solved. And the defense needs to step up the way it is capable of doing in a closing stretch that features tough opponents in Pittsburgh, Minnesota and NFC West leader Arizona. But there's a feeling that these are still the resourceful and ultra-aggressive Seahawks, despite their recent issues. "We need to find the consistency that gives you a chance to make some noise later on," coach Pete Carroll said. "We're OK about starting right now."



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LeBron matches Robertson milestone

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — No player in NBA history stuffed a stat sheet quite like Oscar Robertson. The “Big O” was a triple-double machine.

On Monday night, LeBron James moved into his rarefied air.

James joined Robertson on an exclusive list and Kevin Love scored a season-high 34 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers remained unbeaten at home with a 117-103 win over the Orlando Magic.

James had 15 points and 13 assists and joined the legendary Robertson as the only players in history to rank in the top 25 in career points and assists.

“He’s a guy who laid the foundation,” James said of Robertson, “and I’m just trying to carry it on.”

With his fifth assist, James moved past Norm Nixon (6,386) into 25th place and moved alongside Robertson, who finished his Hall of Fame career with 26,710 points and 9,887 assists. James will soon eclipse Robertson’s scoring total and the unselfish superstar is a good bet to pass him on the assist list as well.

James fittingly distributed praise to those who helped him reach the milestone.

“I give all the credit to the two great franchises I’ve been a part of and the players and the teammates and the coaching staffs that I’ve played for so far that have allowed me to go out and do the things I’ve done in my career,” he said. “So none of that would be possible without them.”

Love scored 27 in the first half — 17 in a row in one stretch for the Cavs, who made 18 three-pointers and improved to 8-0 at home.

Andrew Nicholson scored 18 and Evan Fournier had 13 points for the Magic. Orlando has dropped 11 straight to Cleveland.

James came in needing 21 points to surpass Reggie Miller (25,279) for 18th place on the career scoring list. While he didn’t quite catch Miller, he moved into the company of Robertson, a do-it-all guard who is sometimes overlooked when some fans debate the game’s top players.

James knows better.

“If you are a true basketball fan and you know the history of the game, there is no way he can ever be lost,” James said. “In our league too much is trying to compare greats to greats instead of just accepting and acknowledging and saying, ‘Wow, these are just great players.’”

Cavs coach David Blatt was not aware James matched Robertson until after the game.

“That gives me chills to even hear that,” Blatt said. “That’s an amazing, amazing accomplishment.”

J.R. Smith scored a season-high 26 and Matthew Dellavedova, starting in place of injured Mo Williams and playing with a sore leg, added 15 for Cleveland.

James passed Nixon with five minutes left in the second quarter, when he drove the lane and flicked a pass into the right corner to Love, who knocked down one of his six three-pointers.

It was Love, with some help from James, who brought Cleveland back with a one-man scoring spree in the second quarter.

Timberwolves 100, 76ers 95: Andrew Wiggins scored 17 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter to help host Minnesota keep Philadelphia winless on the season.

Kevin Garnett had eight points and 10 rebounds and the Timberwolves (6-8) dropped Philadelphia to 0-15 and avoided another embarrassing home loss to the Sixers, who snapped an 0-17 start to last season at Target Center.

Jahlil Okafor had 25 points, 12 rebounds and two blocks

for Philadelphia and thoroughly outplayed No. 1 overall pick Karl-Anthony Towns, who played just 19 minutes because of foul trouble.

Spurs 98, Suns 84: Kawhi Leonard had 24 points and 13 rebounds as host San Antonio shut down Phoenix.

The Suns were averaging 106.5 points, but were held to season low for points and committed a season-high 28 turnovers.

Tony Parker had 20 points and eight assists for San Antonio, which is off to an 11-3 start.

Thunder 111, Jazz 89: At Salt Lake City, Kevin Durant had 27 points and six rebounds in his return to the Oklahoma City lineup from a hamstring injury.

Durant was 10-for-13 from the field in his first game since he got hurt Nov. 10 at Washington. Russell Westbrook narrowly missed his third triple-double of the season with 20 points, seven rebounds and nine assists.

Heat 95, Knicks 78: Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh each scored 16 points as host Miami ended New York’s four-game winning streak.

Goran Dragic had 13 points and nine assists for the Heat, who went on a 36-8 run in the first half.

Bucks 109, Pistons 88: Greg Monroe had 20 points and 13 rebounds to lead host Milwaukee in his first game against his former team.

The Bucks had seven players score in double figures, including each of their starters.

Hornets 127, Kings 122 (OT): Kemba Walker scored 39 points as host Charlotte battled back from 22 points down in the second half to beat Sacramento in overtime.

It was the second-largest comeback in franchise history.

Marquette tops No. 22 LSU

Associated Press

NEW YORK — For three days, Marquette stewed over an ugly home loss while preparing to face the nation’s top freshman.

The Golden Eagles were able to rebound by starting off well and finishing down the stretch, though the ending was hardly easy.

Jajuan Johnson hit the winning free throws with 10.8 seconds remaining and Marquette survived the frenetic finish to defeat No. 22 LSU 81-80 on Monday night in the semifinals of the Legends Classic. The Golden Eagles will face Arizona State in Tuesday’s championship game after the Sun Devils beat North Carolina State 79-76.

“Our guys did a great job in preparation,” Golden Eagles coach Steve Wojciechowski said. “We won this game because of what we did over the last 48 hours and the fact that they stepped up and made big plays. Everybody that was in the game for us made a winning play and that was really encouraging.”

Marquette nearly blew a 10-point lead and allowed LSU freshman Ben Simmons to collect 21 points and 20 rebounds in front of 51 NBA scouts.

“A very difficult matchup,” Wojciechowski said. “Obviously he’s a very unique player. He’s a very talented player because of his size and athleticism and his ability to handle the ball. He’s a unique matchup but I thought overall our guys did a good job against him.”

Simmons shot 6-for-14 and made 9 of 11 free throws as LSU shot 37 percent from the floor. Tim Quarterman scored 20 points while Antonio Blankeney added 14.

“Marquette did an excellent job of coming out and punching first, getting a 10-point lead right at the beginning of the game,” LSU coach Johnny Jones said. “From there we were fighting an uphill battle.”

Wake Forest 82, No. 13 Indiana 78: Bryant Crawford’s driving layup with 3.2 seconds to play gave Wake Forest the lead in the opening round of the Maui Jim Maui Invitational.

Crawford, a freshman point guard, had the ball at the top of the key for about 8 seconds before he put his head down and used a screen by Devin

Thomas to drive to the basket to give Wake Forest (3-1) the lead.

No. 3 Michigan St. 89, E. Michigan 65: Javon Bess scored nine of his 13 points in the first half and matched a season high with six rebounds to help the host Spartans pull away.

No. 4 Iowa State 83, Chattanooga 63: Naz Mitrou-Long scored 24 points, Georges Niang added 19 and the host Cyclones earned their third straight win.

Monte Morris had 14 points and 10 assists for his second career double-double with the Cyclones (3-0). They celebrated their highest ranking since the 1996-97 season by hitting a season-high 14 threes — including six from Mitrou-Long.

No. 5 Kansas 123, Chaminade 72: Wayne Selden Jr. and Sviatoslav Mykhaliuk both scored 18 points to lead seven Jayhawks in double figures as they cruised past Chaminade in the opening round of the Maui Jim Maui Invitational.

No. 9 North Carolina 80, Northwestern 69: At Kansas City, Mo., Justin Jackson had 21 points and 13 rebounds to lead a balanced effort for the Tar Heels, who bounced back from a surprising loss at Northern Iowa over the weekend to win in the CBE Classic semifinals.

No. 14 California 89, Sam Houston State 63: Freshman forward Jaylen Brown had 18 points and 11 rebounds, and Tyrone Wallace helped key a big first-half run that led the host Golden Bears to their fourth straight win.

After opening with four relatively easy opponents, Cal will play San Diego State on Thursday night in the semifinals of the Las Vegas Invitational and then either West Virginia or Richmond on Friday.

No. 19 Vanderbilt 92, St. John’s 55: Jeff Roberson had 11 points and 13 rebounds for Vanderbilt, which opened the game with a 27-4 run en route to a victory over St. John’s in the opening round of the Maui Invitational.

No. 23 Xavier 78, Northern Kentucky 66: At Cincinnati, Trevon Bluiett had 14 points and a career-high 16 rebounds for his second career double-double, and the Musketeers — playing as a ranked team for the first time in four years — pulled away from Northern Kentucky.

Lundqvist leads NY, shuts out Predators

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Derek Stepan and the New York Rangers are well aware who is most responsible for their sensational start.

Henrik Lundqvist made 31 saves in his second shutout of the season and New York beat the Nashville Predators 3-0 Monday night for its ninth straight victory at home.

“Look around the league and you see guys putting up huge offensive numbers, playing great hockey. It’s no different [than] what [Lundqvist] is doing for our team,” Stepan said. “We’ve played some good hockey (and) at times we had [Lundqvist] play some good hockey for us.”

Stepan, Rick Nash and Kevin Hayes scored for the Rangers, who won for the 11th time in 12 games overall and improved to 16-3-2. New York’s 34 points are tied with Dallas and Montreal for most in the NHL.

The shutout was the 57th in regular-season play for Lundqvist and his second against Nashville.

The previous time the Rangers won nine in a row at Madison Square Garden was during the 1971-72 season.

Pekka Rinne made 19 saves for the Predators..

Kings 3, Panthers 1: Jonathan Quick bounced back from a poor performance and Alec Martinez scored the go-ahead goal late in the second period to lift visiting Los Angeles over Florida.

Bruins 4, Maple Leafs 3 (SO): David Krejci scored the only goal in a shootout and Patrice Bergeron extended his point streak to eight games as Boston beat host Toronto to sweep a home-and-home series.

Blues 2, Sabres 1: Troy Brouwer and Robby Fabbri scored third-period goals that pushed St. Louis past host Buffalo.

Jake Allen made 24 saves in the win, the Blues’ second against Buffalo in the last week..

Flyers 3, Hurricanes 2 (OT): Rookie defenseman Shayne Gostisbehere scored 24 seconds into overtime on a power play to give host Philadelphia a victory over Carolina.

Brayden Schenn and Claude Giroux had goals in regulation for the Flyers, who snapped a scoreless drought that reached nearly 3 hours while earning just their third win in 14 games.

Capitals 1, Oilers 0: Dmitry Orlov scored with 6:32 left in the third period and Braden Holtby made 33 saves as Washington edged visiting Edmonton.

Avalanche 4, Jets 1: Cody McLeod scored the tiebreaking goal early in the third period to help Colorado beat host Winnipeg.