

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## US, Russia trade jabs over Syria mission

*The Washington Post*

During a two-day period early this week, the United States reported that coalition aircraft had conducted 23 strikes in Syria, destroying about three dozen Islamic State vehicles, buildings and tactical units.

During the same two days, Russia said its aircraft had hit 472 “terrorist objectives” in Syria, including an Islamic State oil depot, an “oil production plant” and 80 tank trucks.

The numbers were fairly typical of descriptions separately released nearly every day by the U.S.-led coalition and the Russian Defense Ministry. In the eight weeks since Russia began air operations in Syria, its military claims to have flown many more missions than the United States, and destroyed thousands of targets.

Russia’s efforts, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem said in Moscow on Wednesday, have been “100 times greater than what is being done by the United States of America and their allies against terrorism.”

Beneath public presidential statements and diplomatic exchanges, the U.S. and Russian militaries have lobbed a steady stream of verbal brickbats at each other since Russian operations in Syria began on Sept. 30.

The two countries have repeatedly criticized each other’s tactics, munitions and goals.

More important, charges of outright lying about what each side is doing illustrate the difficulties of Russia and the United States ever cooperating in operations against the Islamic State. That objective seems even further away this week after the shutdown of a Russian aircraft

by coalition member Turkey.

The U.S. military says that Russia has consistently exaggerated both its activities and successes in Syria, and that the majority of its attacks have not even been aimed at the Islamic State but have targeted coalition-backed opponents of its ally, Syrian President Bashar Assad.

In response, Russia has accused the United States of sour grapes and said the Americans are lying about what Russian planes are hitting. “These statements are ... made without presenting any proofs, with no specific facts, and citing unspecified sources,” the Defense Ministry said this week, and Russia can back up all its reported operations with “objective control data.”

Most recently, the U.S.-led coalition command ridiculed a Russian claim to have destroyed

500 Islamic State oil tankers in one operation, just after the Americans said U.S. planes had wiped out 116 tank trucks.

“We didn’t go through the effort ... to do a detailed battle damage assessment” of the Russian strikes, Col. Steve Warren, the Baghdad-based coalition spokesman, said Wednesday. After looking at a Russian-released video, he said, “unless the Russians are counting, you know, flattened tires and chipped paint, it’s simply impossible that they were able to destroy 500 trucks, particularly using the imprecise and, you know, dumb bombs, dumb munitions that they used.”

On Monday, the Russian Defense Ministry upped the ante, saying that over a five-day period, Russian aircraft had “destroyed over 1,000 petrol tank vehicles.”

## Report: SEALs drowned while holding breath

*The Virginian-Pilot*

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — A pair of Navy SEALs who drowned in a training pool at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in April were practicing holding their breath underwater after explicitly being told not to do so by the facility’s manager, according to a Navy investigation.

Documents released by the Navy in response to a Freedom of Information Act request said there were no witnesses to the drownings and a surveillance video at the pool didn’t show the deaths, either, making it impossible to determine precisely what happened.

The report’s conclusion is based largely on what witnesses saw before and after the men were found at the bottom of the Combat Swimmer Training

Facility. The pool, just short of Olympic size, is used by Naval Special Warfare Group 2 for formal training and is open to SEALs and others attached to their units for workouts on their own time, although underwater breath-holding isn’t permitted during individual swims.

Petty Officers 1st Class Brett Allen Marihugh and Seth Cody Lewis were using the pool on their own time and not as a part of a command-sponsored training. No lifeguards were on duty.

“They were qualified swim buddies, yet both drowned during off-hour physical conditioning in a combat swimmer trainer facility because they knowingly disregarded breath holding safety guidance,” wrote Rear Adm. Brian Losey, commander of Navy Special Warfare Command. “This high-risk

evolution should only take place in a controlled environment under supervision of qualified trainers with appropriate life-saving equipment at the pool or if essential during a mission.”

The drownings led to new safety guidelines that are supposed to be implemented by Naval Special Warfare Command by Dec. 15. They include putting extra attention on the dangers of breath-holding.

Witness statements included with the investigation say Marihugh and Lewis were seen holding their breath underwater while hanging onto the side of the pool as they looked up at a wall clock. Other sailors briefly spoke with the pair before leaving the facility to tell Marihugh and Lewis to put away some 10-pound dive bricks when they were finished.

“They did not verbally ac-

knowledge us because they were holding their breath looking at the clock but nodded and gestured that they understood,” said one witness, whose name was redacted.

That witness said that when he came back 15 minutes later, he saw the pair at the bottom of the pool with a brick near their torsos.

Marihugh and Lewis were taken to civilian hospitals, where they were pronounced dead.

Marihugh, 34, was from Livonia, Mich., and joined the Navy in 2007 after serving in the Marines. Lewis, 32, was from Queens, N.Y., and also a former Marine who joined the Navy in 2007. Both men deployed multiple times and earned the Bronze Star.

## China, Djibouti in talks over naval center plan

Associated Press

BEIJING — China said Thursday it is in talks with Djibouti about setting up a naval logistics center in the Horn of Africa nation to service Chinese anti-piracy patrols, raising the sensitive issue of whether Beijing will seek military bases overseas.

China currently has no foreign military bases and has consistently said in the past it would not seek them. When asked Thursday whether the plans amounted to a military base like those maintained by the U.S., Britain and others, Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Wu Qian declined to say. He referred to the logistics center as “facilities.”

Wu said China hopes the center could ease difficulties in refueling and replenishing Chinese navy ships and provide

recreation for officers and sailors taking part in anti-piracy missions in the Gulf of Aden. China has sent more than 60 ships to the waters of the coast of Somalia on 21 separate missions since December 2008.

The logistics center “will play a positive role for the Chinese armed forces to effectively fulfill its international obligations and maintain international and regional peace and stability,” Wu said.

Along with the anti-piracy patrols, China has committed troops to regional U.N. peace-keeping missions in South Sudan, Mali and elsewhere.

Strategically located Djibouti, with a population of less than 1 million, hosts the headquarters of the U.S. Africa Command’s Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. Former colonial ruler France also maintains a large military presence there.

## Demonstrations to target Chicago shopping area

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Small groups of demonstrators gathered throughout the day Wednesday to protest the death of a black teen shot 16 times by a white police officer, and they urged supporters to join them in trying to shut down Chicago’s famous Michigan Avenue shopping district during the Black Friday shopping bonanza.

About two dozen protesters gathered outside Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s office a day after authorities released the graphic video, footage that President Barack Obama said “deeply disturbed” him.

The video shows officer Jason Van Dyke, who was charged Tuesday with first-degree murder, firing an entire magazine of ammunition into Laquan McDonald, 17.

The protesters held banners showing photos of other black

people fatally shot by police in Chicago and elsewhere. Several said they were parents of black men killed by Chicago officers.

“You cannot kill our children and expect us to be quiet any longer,” protester Quovadis Green said. “It is unacceptable.”

Activist Mark Carter called on people to “rise up” and to shut down the Magnificent Mile shopping area Friday. Protesters also planned to target the Board of Trade and other landmarks in the coming days, he said.

Carter and others want the Department of Justice to investigate the Chicago Police Department and its history of covering up bad behavior.

The Urban League of Chicago joined in the call for a federal investigation, alleging a pattern of “discriminatory harassment” against black people.

## Turkey: Audio proves Russian pilot warned

Associated Press

Turkey has released audio recordings of what it says are the Turkish military’s repeated warnings to the pilot of the Russian plane before it was shot down at the border with Syria — audio that grows increasingly more agitated.

The recordings, made available to The Associated Press on Thursday, indicate the plane was warned several times Tuesday that it was approaching Turkey’s airspace and was asked to change course, but there is no indication of a Russian reply.

Turkey shot down the Russian Su-24 bomber Tuesday, insisting it had violated its airspace despite repeated warnings. It was the first time in half a century that a NATO member had shot down a Russian plane.

A surviving Russian pilot has denied that his jet veered into Turkey’s airspace and rejected Turkey’s claim that it had issued repeated warnings to the Russian crew.

The downing prompted dueling comments Thursday

from the two countries’ leaders. While Russian President Vladimir Putin complained that Turkey still hadn’t apologized for downing the plane nor given assurances that “the culprits of this crime” will be punished, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was in no mood to apologize.

Erdogan instead lashed out at Russia, accusing it of using its fight against the Islamic State group in Syria as a pretext to target opposition groups, including the Turkmen, in a bid to strengthen Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Erdogan said Turkey had not specifically targeted Russia when it shot down the plane, saying it was “an automatic response” in line with its rules of engagement.

“Faced with the same violation today, Turkey would give the same response,” Erdogan said. “It’s the country that carried out the violation which should question itself and take measures to prevent it from happening again, not the country that was subjected to a violation.”

## White House: States can’t refuse to accept refugees

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amid a growing political controversy, the Obama administration on Wednesday reminded state officials across the country that states do not have legal authority to refuse to accept Syrian refugees.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement said in a letter to state resettlement officials that states may not deny services to refugees based on a refugee’s country of origin or religious affiliation.

States that do not comply with the requirement would be breaking the law and could be subject to enforcement action, including suspension or termination of the federally funded program, according to the letter, signed by the office’s director, Robert Carey.

The letter came after more than two dozen governors, mostly Republicans, vowed to block efforts to resettle Syrian refugees in their states following the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks in Paris.



# Big games may see backup QBs

Associated Press

The Big 12 championship could be decided by backup quarterbacks — as could a few other rivalry games this weekend.

Quarterback injuries are looming over several games and in many cases coaches tend to be coy about the status of their key players. Michigan State gave no clue that Connor Cook was not going to play against Ohio State until he didn't.

A look at the teams entering a critical week with quarterback questions.

## No. 5 Oklahoma

Things seem to be looking up for Baker Mayfield, who went through concussion protocol after taking a shot to the head against TCU last Saturday.

Bob Stoops said he expects his star quarterback to play against No. 9 Oklahoma State in Stillwater on Saturday. A victory gives the Sooners the Big 12 title and a good chance to be part of the College Football Playoff. Mayfield also has Heisman Trophy hopes and one more big game could send him to New York for the award ceremony on Dec. 12.

Trevor Knight would fill in for Mayfield if he has any setbacks this week.

## No. 6 Michigan State

Cook said after the Ohio State game he

was having some pain in his right shoulder so we'll see if he is ready to go against Penn State on Saturday. The Spartans only need to win Saturday to lock up the Big Ten East and play in the conference title game.

If coach Mark Dantonio and his staff can come up with a plan to win at Ohio State without Cook, beating the Nittany Lions (7-4) with Tyler O'Connor and Damion Terry should be more than doable.

## No. 7 Baylor

The Bears went to third-stringer Chris Johnson, who had been moved to receiver earlier this season, in their win against Oklahoma State when Jarrett Stidham went down with a leg injury. And Baylor rolled to a victory that kept its Big 12 and playoff hopes alive.

The Bears bring those hopes to No. 15 TCU on Friday night, and Stidham's status is at best uncertain.

"Right now, doesn't look real good. I would have him as questionable," coach Art Briles said Monday.

## No. 15 TCU

The Horned Frogs know all about playing a third-string quarterback. With star Trevone Boykin (ankle) out last week, TCU used two of his backups — Bram Kohlhausen and Foster Sawyer — and still nearly beat the Sooners in Norman.

Coach Gary Patterson said Boykin returned to practice on Sunday.

"He's doing his best to try and get back," Patterson said.

If Boykin, who was a Heisman contender before his injury, can't go, Kohlhausen will likely get the nod, Patterson said.

## No. 20 Washington State

Cougars quarterback Luke Falk was carted off the field with a scary-looking head injury last week against Colorado.

Washington coach Mike Leach goes to the extreme when it comes to not talking about injuries, but the Falk situation was serious enough for the athletic director to say Monday that the school was following concussion protocols. His status for the Apple Cup game against Washington was uncertain.

## Wisconsin and Minnesota

Paul Bunyan's Axe is on the line and bowl eligibility for the Gophers — and both quarterbacks are dealing with injuries.

Wisconsin's Joel Stave took a hit that left him woozy at the end of the Northwestern game, leaving him iffy for the rivalry game.

Minnesota's Mitch Leidner tweaked his left ankle in last week's win against Illinois and said he was hopeful he would be ready to go.

# Navy aiming for title

Associated Press

HOUSTON — There is no time for No. 21 Houston to feel sorry for itself.

After Connecticut spoiled their unbeaten season last week, the Cougars head into Friday's regular-season finale with the unenviable job of trying to slow down No. 16 Navy.

Houston coach Tom Herman said the 20-17 loss to the Huskies was tough, but Houston (10-1, 6-1 American) has to get over it quickly.

"It is a little bump in the road," Herman said. "We have a short week and don't have time to mope. The guys certainly mourned the loss on Saturday night, as they should, and it hurt really bad, especially considering where we were at this point in our season."

The winner of the Houston-Navy game will be the American's West Division champion and host either Temple or South Florida Dec. 5 in the conference championship. Herman said the Cougars' goal was not to go 12-0 but to win the league title.

"We started with those goals from the beginning of the season, and it's still there," Houston offensive lineman Alex Cooper said. "We put ourselves in a position to control our own destiny, so we're really happy about that. We take care of this game and we'll represent the West Division in the championship."

Navy (9-1, 7-0) has won five straight since a 41-24 loss to Notre Dame. Quarterback Keenan Reynolds owns the FBS record with 82 career rushing touchdowns and is two away from the record for most touchdowns in Division I history set by Georgia Southern's Adrian Peterson and Towson's Terrance West.

"Although they are diversified, even more so than some, everything goes through that quarterback; he is a dude," Herman said of Reynolds. "He is arguably one of the greatest college players in the history of the game when you look at his numbers and what he has been able to accomplish throughout his career at Navy. He is a very highly acclaimed quarterback, and rightly so."

**More Reynolds:** Reynolds' 82 career total touchdowns are second in NCAA FBS history, just one behind Wisconsin's Montee Ball. In his career, Reynolds has rushed for a school-record 4,195 yards, passing Napoleon McCallum last Saturday for the school record. Reynolds currently has the fifth-most rushing yards in NCAA history by a quarterback.

**Turnover problems:** Houston has been good about creating turnovers this season, ranking second nationally with 27 turnovers forced, but against Connecticut, the Cougars gave the ball away four times and did not force a turnover. "I have never won a football game in all my years as a coach, and I polled our entire staff, and not one of us has ever won a game where you lost the turnover battle by four, and we lost four to nothing in the turnover battle," Herman said.

# Roles reversed for Clemson, South Carolina

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Things have changed quickly in the Clemson-South Carolina rivalry.

It was only two years ago the Gamecocks and coach Steve Spurrier joyously celebrated a fifth straight win over the Tigers, a streak so odious to Clemson fans that more than a few wondered if coach Dabo Swinney was the man for the job.

Now, it's Swinney on top, leading the nation's No. 1 team into Saturday's last game with South Carolina (3-8) and into a likely College Football Playoff berth.

Spurrier? The only glimpse fans at Williams-Brice Stadium will get of him is on the 80-foot poster outside the arena.

Spurrier resigned in October, leaving a South Carolina team that won 11 games three straight seasons from 2011-13, but now has struggled to find its footing under interim coach Shawn Elliott.

The low point so far was Saturday, the Gamecocks falling to FCS opponent Citadel 23-22 — the first Southeastern Conference team to lose to a lower division foe since 2010.

"This is probably the lowest our team has been in the locker room," Gamecocks receiver Pharoh Cooper said.

There's a chance things could get worse with how Clemson (11-0, No. 1 CFP) is rolling.

The Tigers had a seventh straight game with 500 yards of offense, a program first. Quarterback Deshaun Watson has ascended up the Heisman Trophy contender rankings and put on another dazzling display in a 33-13 win over Wake Forest that wrapped up the Tigers' first-ever 8-0 Atlantic Coast Conference season.

Watson, who played with a torn ACL when Clemson snapped the five-game streak to South Carolina last fall, will not discount the Gamecocks' intensity and desire simply because of the Citadel loss.

"It's the same way as if they were 11-0 just like us," Watson said. "It's a rivalry and we know they're going to give their all."

That's difficult for some South Carolina supporters to accept.

The Gamecocks opened the Elliott era with a satisfying 19-10 home win over Vanderbilt, but have fallen short since in losing four straight. The team appeared to show improvement and fight as it closed the SEC season with losses by a combined 20 points to Texas A&M, Tennessee and Florida. Things fell apart in distressing fashion against the Citadel.

More disheartening for the Gamecocks and their fans was the miracle touchdown to Cooper, a 94-yard strike on fourth down with less than a minute left, that was overruled because of a false start penalty.

Many wearing garnet and black in the crowd — and perhaps on the sideline — might be ready to move on to Spurrier's permanent replacement.

Not Elliott, not yet. "This is going to be a fun week," he said Sunday. "It's going to give us a chance to get a lot of things off our minds."

There's one thing on Clemson's mind — keep chalking up victories. A win over South Carolina would complete the Tigers' first undefeated regular-season since 1981. With Ohio State's loss, Clemson has the country's longest win streak at 14 games.

Clemson's high-powered offense is ranked 14th nationally and the South

Carolina defense is 89th in the FBS, leading many to expect an epic blowout even more lopsided than 2003's 63-17 Tigers win revered or reviled — depending on which side of the aisle you're on — in rivalry history.

For Swinney, it's about ending a three-game losing streak at Williams-Brice.

"We've had some great games with them, but we haven't done a good job," Swinney said. "We are going to have to do a good job this week."

The Tigers see the Gamecocks as a pit stop on the way to bigger things. They'll face North Carolina for the Atlantic Coast Conference championship on Dec. 5 and then, if successful, await their berth in the playoffs.

"I went in there and talked to the players and said, 'We may not always be perfect, we make mistakes, but we win,'" Swinney said. "To win 20 out of 21 and 14 in a row, it speaks volume for the type of guys we have, but also for the kind of culture that we have created."

Swinney promises his top-ranked Tigers won't lose focus, not this week with so much still left to accomplish.

Yes, a second straight win after South Carolina's unprecedented run of five straight victories from 2009-13 would be wonderful, Swinney said. But staying on course and primed for the College Football Playoff is job one for the country's No. 1 team.

"All we've gotten done so far is in the rearview mirror," Swinney said Tuesday. "It's what's next."

"I do believe our guys recognize what we have in front of us," Tigers defensive coordinator Brent Venables said.



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# Kansas edges Vanderbilt

Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii — Wayne Selden Jr. and Frank Mason III quickly hatched a plan for sharing the MVP award at the Maui Jim Maui Invitational.

Selden scored 25 points on 8-for-11 shooting, and the Jayhawks beat No. 19 Vanderbilt 70-63 on Wednesday for the tournament title.

"It's a lot of fun," Mason said of being co-MVPs. "I definitely think Wayne deserves it, the way he played throughout the tournament. But we just happened to get the win as a team, and we're looking forward to it next game."

Selden then revealed the plan. "We're going to share the trophy," he said. "It will be in my room for a month, and go across the hall to his room for another month. We'll just keep rotating it."

Selden was 4-for-6 from three-point range. He also had seven rebounds.

The Jayhawks (4-1) did what no other team in the field could do, take a lead over the Commodores (5-1). It didn't happen until the second half but when they got it they extended it to as many as 13 points.

Kansas trailed by 10 points midway through the first half and the Jayhawks were able to cut the lead to 30-26 at halftime.

They took control with their offense, shooting 62.5 percent (15-for-24) in the second half. They got the lead for the first time with 18:16 to play on a jumper by Mason, and Vanderbilt never was in front again.

**No. 2 Maryland 86, Rhode Island 63:** At Puerto Aventuras, Mexico, Melo Trimble scored 17 points on 7-for-7 shooting, and Maryland beat Rhode Island in the Cancun Challenge.

Trimble, who was named tournament MVP, also went 3-for-3 at the line and grabbed six rebounds. Rasheed Sulaimon also scored 17 points on 6-for-7 shooting, and Robert Carter had 15.

After playing three straight games that required a second-half comeback to get the victory, Maryland (5-0) was in control throughout against the Rams (3-2).

**No. 6 Duke 80, Yale 61:** Freshman Brandon Ingram scored 15 points and played a key role in the defensive switch that helped host Duke get the win.

Matt Jones had 17 points and Grayson Allen scored 15 for the Blue Devils (5-1), while Ingram sparked Duke out of a lethargic start with his pressure as the front man after the switch to a 1-3-1 zone defense.

**No. 10 Gonzaga 80, Washington 64:** At Paradise Island, Bahamas, Kyle Wiltjer scored 24 points and Domantas Sabonis had 17, leading Gonzaga to the win in the first round of the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament.

The Bulldogs led by 17 at halftime and were ahead by 24 early in the second half.

Washington shot just 25.7 percent (19 of 74) from the field. Andrew Andrews and Dejourne Murray each had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Huskies.

**No. 12 Virginia 80, Lehigh 54:** Malcolm Brogdon scored 23 points, and host Virginia earned its fourth consecutive victory.

Darius Thompson added 12 points for Virginia, and Marial Shayok had 11. Anthony Gill scored 10 points.

The Cavaliers (5-1) shot 52.3 percent (34 for 65) from the field. They also outscored the Mountain Hawks 42-14 in the paint.

Tim Kempton and Kyle Leufroy each scored 14 for Lehigh (0-5), which committed 17 turnovers leading to 25 points for Virginia.

**UNLV 72, No. 13 Indiana 69:** At Lahaina, Hawaii, Patrick McCaw scored 20 points and UNLV hung on through the frantic final seconds for the victory in the fifth-place game of the Maui Jim Maui Invitational.

The Runnin' Rebels (5-1) bounced back from their opening loss to UCLA with wins over Chaminade and the Hoosiers (4-2), who leave Hawaii with just one win.

Indiana trailed by 15 points in the first half and turned on some solid defense to get back in the game. The Hoosiers closed to 55-53 with 8:20 to play. The Runnin' Rebels then went on a 12-1 spurt.

**No. 18 UConn 74, Michigan 60:** At Paradise Island, Bahamas, Daniel Hamilton had 16 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, and UConn beat Michigan in the opening round of the Battle 4 Atlantis.

The Huskies (4-0) dominated most of the second half, leading by as many as 19. The lead dissipated down the stretch, but they were able to get some clutch baskets in the final minutes.

**No. 21 Oregon 91, Arkansas State 68:** Dwayne Benjamin scored 25 points for host Oregon, and Chris Boucher had 17 points and a school-record nine blocks.

Tyler Dorsey added 15 points and Elgin Cook had 13 for the Ducks (5-0), who made 20 of 24 free throws in the second half.

Devin Carter led the Red Wolves (2-3) with 22 points, including 14 in the first half. Donte Thomas added eight points and Anthony Livingston had 11 rebounds.

**No. 25 Texas A&M 84, Texas 73:** At Paradise Island, Bahamas, Danuel House had 19 points, Anthony Collins scored 15 and Texas A&M beat Texas in the opening round of the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Texas A&M's victory stopped a five-game winning streak in the series for the Longhorns.

**Navy 75, UMBC 54:** Kendall Knorr scored a career-high 18 points on 7 of 12 shooting with four three-pointers and visiting Navy beat University of Maryland-Baltimore County to win its third straight.

Will Kelly made 7 of 12 field goals for 14 points, Tilman Dunbar added 13, and the Midshipmen made 7 of 13 from long distance and outshot the Retrievers 57 percent to 34 percent from the floor.

**Colorado 81, Air Force 70:** Josh Scott scored 21 points and Josh Fortune added a season-high 18 as host Colorado beat Air Force.

Air Force's Hayden Graham was in the scrum wrestling for the ball with Colorado's Tory Miller, when he felt the sting of a bite on his shoulder during the second half.

Miller was ejected with 12:25 left to play for a flagrant-2 foul after the tussle.

# Sixers remain winless

Associated Press

BOSTON — Isaiah Thomas scored 30 points, Jae Crowder hit a go-ahead three-pointer and the Boston Celtics rallied to beat Philadelphia 84-80 on Wednesday night, handing the 76ers their 16th straight loss to open the season and record-tying 26th in a row overall.

Philadelphia tied the major U.S. professional sports futility mark set by the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1976-77 and matched by the 76ers in 2013-14. They are two losses away from tying the then-New Jersey Nets' NBA-worst mark of 18 losses to open a season.

Evan Turner added 16 points for Boston, which trailed by five with just under 3 minutes left. The 76ers scored three points in the final 6:13.

**Raptors 103, Cavaliers 99:** Kyle Lowry scored 27 points, DeMar DeRozan added 20 and host Toronto beat Cleveland for its third straight victory.

LeBron James had 24 points, eight assists and six rebounds for the Cavaliers, who lost their third straight road game.

**Timberwolves 99, Hawks 95:** Zach LaVine had 18 points, six assists and five rebounds, and host Minnesota swept the season series with Atlanta.

**Spurs 88, Mavericks 83:** Kawhi Leonard scored 26 points and host San Antonio beat Dallas.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points and seven rebounds in his return from a two-game absence because of a mild left ankle sprain.

**Jazz 102, Clippers 91:** Gordon Hayward scored 14 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter and visiting Utah beat slumping Los Angeles.

**Hornets 101, Wizards 87:** Jeremy Lamb had 18 points and seven rebounds, Nicolas Batum added 16 points and 11 assists and host Charlotte beat Washington.

The Hornets overcame a late nine-point deficit and set a franchise record by holding the Wizards to six points in the fourth quarter.

**Grizzlies 102, Rockets 93:** Jeff Green scored 20 points and Courtney Lee had 10 of his 17 in the fourth quarter to help visiting Memphis beat struggling Houston.

**Kings 129, Bucks 118:** Rudy Gay scored 36 points and visiting Sacramento beat Milwaukee for its second road victory.

**Pistons 104, Heat 81:** Andre Drummond had 18 points and 20 rebounds and host Detroit routed Miami to end a two-game skid.

**Pelicans 120, Suns 114:** Anthony Davis tipped in a missed shot with 20.6 seconds left for the go-ahead basket and visiting New Orleans pulled away to beat Phoenix.

**Thunder 110, Nets 99:** Kevin Durant scored 30 points, Russell Westbrook added 27 points and 13 assists and host Oklahoma City beat Brooklyn.

**Magic 100, Knicks 91:** Victor Oladipo scored a season-high 24 points, and Nik Vucevic added 22 points and 12 rebounds in host Orlando's victory over New York.

# Habs lose Price, rally past Rangers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — When star goalie Carey Price exited after two periods with a recurring injury, the Montreal Canadiens responded.

Devante Smith-Pelly and Alex Galchenyuk scored in the opening 1:29 of the third, and Montreal beat the New York Rangers 5-1 Wednesday night in a matchup of the top two teams in the Eastern Conference.

"You want to keep your foot on the pedal," said Smith-Pelly, who did not know Price was hurt until backup Mike Condon led the team onto the ice with the Canadiens leading 2-1. "Obviously, we knew they were going to come out hard in the third and with a big push and we'd have to score early and kind of take the wind out of them."

The Canadiens did just that in snapping the Rangers' nine-game winning streak at home and handing them only their second loss in 12 games.

The Canadiens have handed the Rangers (16-4-2) two of their four losses in regulation this season. The only concern for Montreal after the game was Price, who stopped 22 shots in the first two periods.

Coach Michel Therrien said the 2015 NHL MVP and Vezina Trophy winner was sidelined by the same lower-body injury that kept him out for eight games earlier this month.

**Blackhawks 5, Sharks 2:** Patrick Kane had two assists to extend his career-best scoring streak to 17 games, leading Chicago over host San Jose.

**Senators 5, Avalanche 3:** Shane Prince had two goals and an assist for his first NHL points, and Ottawa held on to defeat host Colorado.

**Coyotes 4, Ducks 2:** Antoine Vermette scored twice in Arizona's victory over visiting Anaheim.

Anaheim twice cut Arizona's lead to one on third-period goals by Sami Vatanen and Ryan Kesler before Vermette put it away with an empty-netter.

**Penguins 4, Blues 3 (OT):** Evgeni Malkin scored 1:03 into overtime and Sidney Crosby broke out with two goals to lift host Pittsburgh over St. Louis.

**Lightning 2, Kings 1 (SO):** Valtteri Filppula scored the game-winning goal in the third round of a shootout to lift Tampa Bay over visiting Los Angeles.

**Predators 3, Sabres 2:** Mike Fisher

ended his team's franchise-record scoring drought in the first period and Nashville beat host Buffalo to end a three-game losing streak.

**Bruins 3, Red Wings 2 (OT):** Frank Vatrano scored his second goal of the game at 3:32 of overtime, giving visiting Boston a victory over Detroit.

**Capitals 5, Jets 3:** Evgeny Kuznetsov had one goal and two assists and Dmitry Orlov broke a tie late in the second period to lift Washington over visiting Winnipeg for its third straight win.

**Hurricanes 4, Oilers 1:** Elias Lindholm scored the go-ahead goal midway through the second period, Cam Ward made 30 saves and host Carolina beat Edmonton.

**Islanders 3, Flyers 1:** Jaroslav Halak made 17 saves and Kyle Okposo put New York ahead early in the second period to beat visiting Philadelphia.

**Blue Jackets 2, Devils 1:** Matt Calvert scored the tiebreaking goal late in the second period and Sergei Bobrovsky made 27 saves to help Columbus beat host New Jersey.

**Canucks 3, Wild 2:** Radim Vrbata scored twice, Jannik Hansen once and visiting Vancouver held off Minnesota.