

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Russia plays down coalition with West

*The Washington Post*

MOSCOW — The Kremlin on Friday played down the possibility of a grand coalition with the West to strike the Islamic State group in Syria, despite personal visits by French President Francois Hollande to both Washington and Moscow following a spate of attacks tied to the group.

“At the moment, unfortunately, our partners are not ready to work as one coalition,” Dmitry Peskov, President Vladimir Putin’s personal spokesman, told reporters during a conference call on Friday.

Peskov’s comments came less than 24 hours after Putin himself sounded hopeful notes at a meeting with Hollande in the Kremlin, where he said Russia “was ready to cooperate with the coalition which is led by the United States.”

But Russia has sought cooperation on its terms, providing diplomatic and now military shelter to Syrian President Bashar Assad and attacking rebel groups that include the Islamic State but also more moderate opponents of Assad backed by Western countries. President Barack Obama and other Western leaders have sought to bring Putin into a U.S.-led coalition instead, a force that Putin has called illegal because it is launching airstrikes in Syria without Assad’s permission.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius raised the prospect Friday that Assad’s troops could be used against the Islamic State group, but only in the context of a political transition in Syria that would remove Assad from power, French news media reported.

The opposing goals of Russia and Assad’s opponents burst into conflict on Tuesday, when Turkey shot down a Russian plane that was allegedly in its airspace. Russian and Turkish

### Deadly wave of airstrikes targets Raqqa

*Associated Press*

BEIRUT — A new wave of airstrikes targeting the Syrian city of Raqqa, the headquarters of the extremist Islamic State group and the focus of an international military campaign, killed at least eight people, including five children, Syrian opposition groups said Friday.

The strikes came as French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius declared that destroying the Islamic State headquarters and “neutralizing and eradicating” the extremist group is the main objective of the international campaign.

It wasn’t immediately clear who carried out the latest airstrikes. The city in northeastern Syria is the group’s de facto capital and has become the focus of international airstrikes in the wake of the Paris terrorist attacks and the bombing of a Russian jetliner over Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula. The Islamic State group has said it was behind both the Paris attacks and the downing of the Russian passenger plane.

A Raqqa-based activist group that reports on the Islamic State group, known as Raqqa Is Being Slaughtered Silently, said Friday that most of the casualties in the latest aerial bombardment occurred when warplanes tar-

geted the city’s Heten School. The school, like others in Raqqa, has been taken over by the Islamic State group.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights put the death toll at 12, including the five children. Conflicting casualty figures are common in the chaos of Syria’s civil war, now in its fifth year.

An Islamic State-affiliated agency, Amaq, published a video purporting to show nighttime explosions that lit up the Raqqa sky. The video showed a building and several cars on fire, and a man crouching over the bodies of five children. The agency claimed the casualties and destruction were caused by Russian airstrikes that targeted civilian areas.

In an interview with RTL radio, Fabius said that destroying the Islamic State group is an objective that all countries agree upon. Fabius said Putin agreed on the need to focus international efforts against the extremist group and that France is drawing up a map of other, moderate groups to protect them from warplanes. He also said the international coalition is focusing on oil convoys from the group’s territory, which provide a crucial source of income.

political analysts have said the plane was more likely targeted because Russia had been bombing Turkish-trained Turkmen rebels in Syria’s north.

One pilot of the Su-24 attack aircraft was killed after parachuting from the stricken plane. Another was rescued, but a Russian marine was killed in the operation.

Putin called the shutdown a “stab in the back” and has refused to take phone calls from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan since.

“There have been requests from Erdogan of a telephone conversation in the past two days,” Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters Friday, the Interfax news

agency reported. When asked why Putin had not taken those calls, he said, “We see Turkey’s nonreadiness to bring elementary apologies over the aircraft incident.”

Erdogan has also formally asked for a meeting with Putin when the two join other world leaders in Paris on Monday for the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference. Peskov said Putin has been informed of the request but has not said whether he would meet with Erdogan.

Russia is introducing widespread sanctions against the Turkish government because of the shutdown. The Russian government took aim at deep tourism ties between the two

countries on Friday, as Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced that Russia would cancel a free-visa regime with Turkey, a move that would likely be reciprocated by the Turkish government.

Putin’s two-month-old intervention in the Syrian civil war was seen as a way for Russia to break out of international isolation after the West imposed sanctions over Moscow’s 2014 annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea region and its backing of pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine. Peskov said Putin and Hollande on Thursday did not discuss the possibility of repealing the European Union’s financial and individual sanctions against Russia.

# France honors, mourns attack victims

Associated Press

PARIS — A subdued France paid homage Friday to those killed two weeks ago in the attacks that gripped Paris in fear and mourning, honoring each of the 130 dead by name as the president pledged to “destroy the army of fanatics” who claimed so many young lives.

With each name and age read aloud inside the Invalides national monument, the toll gained new force. Most, as French President Francois Hol-

lande noted, were younger than 35, killed while enjoying a mild Friday night of music, food, drinks or sports. The youngest was 17, the oldest 68.

Throughout Paris, French flags fluttered in windows and on buses in uncharacteristic displays of patriotism in response to Paris’ second deadly terrorist attack this year. But the mood was grim, and the locked-down ceremony at the Invalides national monument lacked the defiance of January, when a million people poured

through the streets to honor those killed by Islamic extremist gunmen.

Hollande, who in January locked arms with world leaders in a show of global unity against terrorism, sat alone in a hard-backed chair in the cavernous Invalides courtyard, the assembled mourners behind him as victims’ names were recited. France’s military provided the only images of Friday’s ceremony, and no one without an invitation was permitted inside.

The night of Nov. 13, three

teams of suicide bombers and gunmen struck across Paris, beginning at the national stadium — where Hollande was among the spectators — and ending in the storming of the Bataclan concert venue. In all, 130 people died and hundreds were injured.

The crowd at the stadium shakily sang France’s national anthem as they filed outside that night; a military band played the Marseillaise again on Friday, lingering slightly on the refrain: “Aux armes, citoyens!”

## Trump denies mocking disabled reporter

The Washington Post

A day after he was widely rebuked for mocking a reporter with a physical disability, business mogul and reality TV star Donald Trump on Thursday denied he had done so and accused the reporter of “using his disability to grandstand.”

Trump also demanded an apology from the reporter’s employer, The New York Times, which condemned Trump for ridiculing “the appearance of one of our reporters.”

The incident occurred Tuesday at a rally in South Carolina, as Trump was defending his recent claim that he had witnessed thousands of Muslims in New Jersey cheering

on Sept. 11, 2001, as the World Trade Center towers collapsed. Trump berated investigative reporter Serge Kovaleski for his recent recollection of an article he wrote a few days after the attacks, which Trump cited to defend his claim.

Trump appeared to mock Kovaleski’s physical condition; the reporter has arthrogryposis, which visibly limits flexibility in his arms.

“Now, the poor guy — you’ve got to see this guy, ‘Ah, I don’t know what I said! I don’t remember!’” Trump said as he jerked his arms in front of his body.

Trump has defended his recollections by citing a 2001 ar-

ticle by Kovaleski, who worked for The Washington Post at the time and wrote that “authorities detained and questioned a number of people who were allegedly seen celebrating the attacks and holding tailgate-style parties on rooftops while they watched the devastation on the other side of the river.”

Those allegations were never corroborated. In an interview on CNN this week, Kovaleski said he did not recall “anyone saying there were thousands, or even hundreds, of people celebrating.”

That is the statement that apparently drew Trump’s ire on Tuesday.

## Man jumps over fence at White House

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A man draped in an American flag climbed over the fence at the White House on Thursday, prompting a lockdown as the first family celebrated Thanksgiving.

The man was immediately apprehended and taken into custody pending criminal charges, the Secret Service said in a statement. The incident took place about 2:45 p.m.

An image of a man atop a section of fence in front of the North Lawn was posted on the website of TV station WJLA. Another showed the man standing on the lawn with his arms raised in victory.

Security personnel and guard dogs ran toward the man, and he lay on the grass awaiting them, witness Victoria Pena said.

The north and south fence lines at the White House were temporarily closed, Secret Service spokesman Robert Hoback said. In the hours after the incident, numerous armed security personnel were seen along the streets and sidewalks outside the executive mansion.

President Barack Obama and his wife and daughters were at the White House.

## Leader: US using money, sex to infiltrate Iran

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran’s top leader said Wednesday the United States is using “money and sexual attractions” to try to infiltrate the Islamic Republic and warned Iranians not to fall into the “enemy’s trap.”

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told Revolutionary Guard commanders that authorities should take concerns about “infiltration” seriously, and political

factions should not use the issue against each other.

“The enemy sets up a network within a nation and inside a country mainly through the two means of money and sexual attractions to change ideals, beliefs and consequently the lifestyle,” he said in comments posted on his website and broadcast on state TV.

His comments appeared to lend support to a recent wave

of arrests of pro-Western writers and journalists, which hard-liners in the judiciary and security services have said is necessary to prevent Western infiltration.

Iran’s moderate President Hassan Rouhani criticized the arrests earlier this month, saying hard-liners are “exaggerating the issue” and misusing Khamenei’s warnings as an excuse for the detentions.



# Panthers remain unbeaten

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — While Cam Newton was doing the twist for the undefeated Panthers, Tony Romo and the Cowboys were in no mood to dance.

The Carolina defense returned two of Romo's three interceptions for touchdowns before the Dallas quarterback re-injured the collarbone that sidelined him for seven games and the Panthers pushed their NFL-best winning streak to 15 games in the regular season with a 33-14 victory in their Thanksgiving debut Thursday.

Newton had his team's only offensive touchdown on a 4-yard run, and Carolina became the 16th team to start a season 11-0. The dual-threat star showed off a new celebration after catching grief in recent weeks for doing "the dab."

"Yeah, you know, I've got diverse dancing ability," Newton said after throwing for 183 yards and running for another 45. "I've got to switch it up sometimes. Back in the day, they used to do the twist."

Romo and the Cowboys are just twisting in the wind again. The 35-year-old quarterback with a surgically repaired back wasn't sure if he broke his left collarbone again, just as he did nearly 10 weeks ago at Philadelphia. More tests were planned for Friday.

But the Cowboys (3-8) could be facing a season-ending stretch without him after losing all seven games in his absence. The defending NFC East champions were already headed to an eighth loss in nine games a week after Romo ended the skid in his return at Miami.

Luke Kuechly intercepted two straight passes by Romo late in the second quarter, returning the first 32 yards for a touchdown. Kurt Coleman picked off Romo's second pass of the game and took it back 36 yards for the opening score.

"I'm just very disappointed in not giving our team a chance to win today," said Romo, who was 11-for-21 with 106 yards and a 27.2 passer rating. "They depend on me to go out there and perform at a certain level, and when I let them down, let our team down, our coaches, our fan base, everybody. That's what I did today, and I have to live with that."

Things to consider after Romo threw multiple pick-6s for the fourth time in his career:

**Romo outlook:** The four-time Pro Bowl player said the injury felt similar to the one in Philadelphia. Coach Jason Garrett said Romo would play if he was cleared even with the Cowboys unlikely to have a realistic shot to defend their division title.

On the second play for Dallas after Newton's score put Carolina up 30-6, Romo was hit by a blitzing Thomas Davis and went down much the same way he did in Philadelphia. He was replaced by Matt Cassel, who started four games in Romo's absence.

"It's in the same shoulder that he was out for ... so that is a concern from the standpoint of the games ahead," owner and general manager Jerry Jones said.

**Kuechly the Captain:** Carolina led 13-3 when Kuechly and the NFL's leading defense for takeaways put the Panthers

firmly in control.

The league's top tackler since joining the NFL in 2012, Kuechly dropped into coverage and easily stepped in front of a pass intended for Terrance Williams before churning up the left sideline and pushing Romo away as he crossed the goal line.

On the next play, Kuechly made a nifty over-the-head catch on a ball thrown to Jason Witten. The linebacker looked a little winded on the return, eventually settling for a 17-yarder that led to the third of Graham Gano's four field goals to put the Panthers up 23-3 at halftime.

"In my eyes, he will always be Captain America because he makes every play," Newton said. "He shows up. He prepares extremely well. That's what people really don't see about this whole team."

**Quiet Hardy reunion:** Dallas defensive end Greg Hardy had a quiet game against his former team, finishing without any tackles and missing most of the second half with an injury Garrett wouldn't specify. He missed the last 15 games last year with Carolina because of his domestic violence case. Hardy signed with the Cowboys as a free agent and served a four-game suspension to start this season.

**Moving the chains:** Newton had five first-down completions on third-and-5 or longer, and three of them went for 24 yards. Jericho Cotchery had four of the five catches, with one of the 24-yarders on third-and-17. Cotchery had a game-high 73 yards receiving.

# Stafford, Lions rip Eagles

Associated Press

DETROIT — After nearly a decade as Thanksgiving pushovers, the Detroit Lions have started playing their best in their holiday showcase.

Matthew Stafford threw for five touchdown passes — three to Calvin Johnson — and the Lions routed the Philadelphia Eagles 45-14 on Thursday. It was Detroit's third consecutive victory on Thanksgiving after nine straight losses.

"One of my favorite games to play in every year," Stafford said. "It's a big-time tradition being a Dallas kid growing up. I always watched football on Thanksgiving. I had a vested interest in it — it was a different team, but Thanksgiving football was always a big deal to me and my family."

The Lions snapped their run of Thanksgiving futility in 2013 when they beat Green Bay 40-10, outgaining the Packers 561-126. This game against the Eagles (4-7) was similar. Detroit (4-7) scored 38 consecutive points and cruised through most of the second half with the outcome all but assured.

Johnson came into the game with eight receiving touchdowns on Thanksgiving, the most in league history. He added three to that total in what was easily Detroit's most complete performance of the season.

"This is an unusual day, this is not a typical day," coach Jim Caldwell said after the Lions improved to 4-7. "Most games in this league are decided by a touchdown or less, and that's the norm."

Caldwell's future has been uncertain ever since the Lions got off to a 1-7 start. They fired their general manager and team president and have won three in a row since.

The Eagles (4-7) may be facing some changes of their own if they don't recover from this skid. They've lost three games in a row, allowing 45 points in each of the last two.

"I just think we got outcoached today and didn't do a very good job," Philadelphia coach Chip Kelly said.

Here are a few things we learned from Detroit's rout of the Eagles:

**Rising star:** Ziggy Ansah has become one of the game's top pass rushers. He had 3 1/2 sacks for the Lions and now has 11 1/2 on the season.

"The whole team came out here to play," Ansah said. "Defensively, we stopped them on the run, offense moved the ball, special teams gave us great field position, so overall I think it's a great team win."

**Other options:** Theo Riddick is somebody Detroit's opponents now have to account for. The unheralded RB caught five passes for 62 yards and a touchdown against the Eagles after a solid performance in a win over Oakland last weekend.

**Bleak:** The Eagles were only a game out of first place in the NFC East coming into the day, so their season isn't over, but this is not a team that looks ready to make any kind of December run. Philadelphia plays at New England next.

# Late stand helps Bears down Packers

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Standout quarterbacks of the Green Bay Packers' past and present gathered at Lambeau Field for a special Thanksgiving night celebration.

Jay Cutler and the Chicago Bears spoiled the fun and left rainy Green Bay on Thursday with a win.

Cutler threw for 200 yards and a score, and the Bears held off the Packers on fourth-and-goal from the 8 with 22 seconds left for a 17-13 victory. Chicago (5-6) has won three of its last four.

In his first year with the Bears, coach John Fox has instilled confidence in his team that it can hang tough in close games.

"We've been in a lot of games in the fourth quarter. We've won some and we've lost some," Cutler said. "But the thing of it is we've always been there, we've always had a shot."

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers took a shot to the back of his left arm near the elbow in the third quarter from linebacker Lamarr Houston while recovering a high snap. He said he lost feeling for a while in his left hand, gradually regaining full feeling in three fingers by the end of the game.

"It's my left hand, I'll be all right," said Rodgers, who was 22 of 43 for 202 yards

and a touchdown.

The passing game, though, continues to have issues.

Rodgers' throw to the end zone deflected off receiver Davante Adams' hands in the cold rain. James Jones couldn't hang onto a potential touchdown catch on third down.

Cornerback Tracy Porter intercepted Rodgers' pass with 3:19 left at the Bears 45 on the previous drive.

There were several other missed opportunities.

"I just think that I'm obviously going to have to make sure that my preparation is as high as it's ever been because we've got to get on the same page in the passing game," Rodgers said. Chicago (5-6) has won three of its last four. The defense made the biggest statement.

"A huge win for this team," safety Chris Prosinski said. "This isn't an easy place to win, so this is definitely one we're going to take into the next five weeks."

The Packers (7-4) lost their second straight home game, coming on a night when former quarterback Brett Favre's name and No. 4 were unveiled on the stadium facade next to the team's other retired numbers, a celebration that also included a visit from Hall of Fame quarterback Bart Starr.

Starr, 81, is one of the most beloved for-

mer players among Packers fans. He is recovering from two strokes and a heart attack.

**Jay's day:** In his four previous games at Lambeau Field, all losses, Cutler had thrown 12 interceptions. But under Fox and offensive coordinator Adam Gase, Cutler avoided throwing a pick.

Cutler finished 19 of 31.

"Looking at guys in that locker room that had been here for a minute and maybe not had great success here, Jay included. It was fun to watch," Fox said.

**Hold on:** Robbie Gould's 21-yard field goal in the fourth quarter for Chicago was the only scoring for either team in the second half of a game played in dreary conditions. It put ball security at a premium.

Eddie Lacy fumbled deep in Bears territory in the second quarter after getting hit from behind. Cutler cashed in on Chicago's next drive by finding Zach Miller for a 3-yard touchdown pass that tied it at 7 with 6:03 left in the half. Adams dropped another pass in the open on third-and-long in the first quarter.

**Hard running:** Lacy ran for 105 yards on 17 carries and scored on a 25-yard catch-and-run. After a long slump, Lacy rushed for at least 100 yards for the second straight game. For the Bears, Jeremy Langford had 48 yards and a touchdown on 12 carries.



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# Michigan State's Izzo gets 500th win in rout of Eagles

Associated Press

FULLERTON, Calif. — Denzel Valentine took his game to another level, scoring, rebounding and dishing off. His teammates followed his lead, making third-ranked Michigan State too much to handle.

Valentine had a triple-double of 29 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, and the Spartans beat Boston College 99-68 Thursday in an opening-round game at the DirectTV Wooden Legacy to give coach Tom Izzo his 500th career victory.

"It's Thanksgiving, when you're supposed to give thanks," Izzo said. "I'm thankful for the guys I got, the guys I have and all the people who have helped me have this special win."

Valentine helped the Spartans expand their 13-point halftime lead to 27 midway through the second half and they eventually led by 34. His second triple-double of the season was the first in the event's nine-year history.

Valentine's six three-pointers were one off his career high, and his points total was a career best.

Tum Tum Nairn added 13 points and eight assists for the Spartans, who shot 63 percent and dominated the boards 38-20. They hit 69 percent from the field in the second half.

"We were clicking on all cylinders," forward Matt Costello said.

After the final buzzer, Izzo's players

gathered around him at midcourt, holding up "Izzo 500" signs and posing for photos.

Eli Carter, a graduate transfer from Florida, led the Eagles with 22 points — one off his career high at BC.

The Spartans (5-0) next play Boise State (3-2) on Friday. The Broncos beat UC Irvine 71-64 in the day's first game at cozy Titan Gym on the campus of Cal State Fullerton.

Boston College (3-1) will play Irvine (4-1) on Friday.

After hitting consecutive three-pointers, Valentine backpedaled up the court smiling at Golden State Warriors star Draymond Green sitting courtside. Valentine converted a one-handed jam off a turnover and dashed over to high-five Green, clearly delighted by his alma mater's theatrics.

"Draymond being here is really special to me. I look up to a guy like him," Valentine said. "When he's in the gym I have to play well. I was really focused. My teammates wanted to play well. It was a special day."

Valentine scored 14 points in Michigan State's 25-11 run to open the second half. The Spartans made four straight three-pointers in the spurt, with Valentine hitting three in a row and passing to Bryn Forbes for the other.

The Eagles tried rallying from the perimeter, getting three straight threes while

closing to 80-59. It didn't help. Valentine sparked a 10-0 burst with a basket and an assist that pushed Michigan State's lead to 88-59.

"If there's a better team in the country, I haven't seen them play," Eagles coach Jim Christian said. "They have no bad possessions. They're very unselfish. They make the extra play."

The Spartans led 46-33 at halftime, getting 13 straight points from Valentine in a 23-13 run to close the half. He had eight points as the Spartans rattled off 10 in a row to launch the spurt that produced their largest lead of 15.

Michigan State shot 62 percent in the game's opening minutes and built a 19-10 lead before Valentine even made his first basket. The Eagles answered with a 10-4 run to close to 23-20 before Valentine's offensive outburst gave the Spartans a cushion.

Izzo became the 91st coach to record 500 career victories with at least 10 seasons in Division I. Davidson coach Bob McKillop stands at 499 wins with his next game on Saturday.

"Mike Krzyzewski is not sitting home shaking, but in some ways I got it better than anybody because it's the players I got," Izzo said, referring to the Duke coach whose 1,023 victories are the most in Division I history.

# Raiders outlast Horns

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Once again the Texas Tech Red Raiders were piling up points only to watch their defense wilt as an opponent matched them touchdown for touchdown.

This time, the Red Raiders finally got the fourth-quarter plays they needed — on both sides of the ball — to put away a wild 48-45 win over Texas on Thursday night, their first road win in the rivalry since 1997.

DeAndre Washington ran for 173 yards and two touchdowns and Texas Tech overcame a breakout performance from Longhorns freshman tailback Chris Warren III. Washington has 1,455 yards this season in an offense that also has a 4,000-yard passer in quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

"He's been phenomenal. On our offense, which is predominantly pass first, we've found ways to get him the ball. He's just a man on a mission," Texas Tech coach Kliff Kingsbury said.

Washington had to do everything he could to match Warren, who set a Texas freshman record with 276 yards rushing and scored touchdowns on runs of 91, 23, 21 and 8 yards. The 91-yarder in the second quarter was the fourth longest in Texas school history.

Texas rallied from 10 points down in the third quarter to take the lead, but Texas Tech got fourth-quarter touchdown runs by Justin Stockton and Jakeem Grant to help hold off the Longhorns.

Texas Tech (7-5, 4-5 Big 12) rolled up 665 total yards. The teams combined for nine touchdowns in the second half.

Mahomes passed for 372 yards and a touchdown for Texas Tech, which hadn't beaten Texas since 2008. Mahomes set up Stockton's go-ahead touchdown with a 40-yard pass to Grant to the Texas 1.

Texas quarterback Tyrone Swoopes, who came on for injured started Jerrod Heard in the second quarter, ran for 98 yards and two touchdowns.

The loss sent Texas (4-7, 3-5) to its second consecutive losing season under second-year coach Charlie Strong.

"You're looking at a young group. I think they will bounce back and learn and will only make them stronger," Strong said. "I was proud of how hard our players kept fighting, that's what you want to see."

**South Florida 44, Central Florida 3:** At Orlando, Fla., Quinton Flowers passed for three touchdowns and ran for two more to lead the Bulls past the Knights.

USF (8-4, 6-2 American Athletic Conference) won for the seventh time in its last eight games and still has a chance to play in the conference championship game if UConn beats Temple Saturday night. UCF (0-12, 0-8) finished the season winless for the second time in 11 years.

Flowers completed 14 of 21 passes for 176 yards and had 87 yards rushing on 18 carries. He had scoring passes of 26 and 1 yard to Sean Price and a 4-yarder to Chris Barr. Flowers scored on runs of 3 and 5 yards.

Marlon Mack picked up 102 yards on 18 carries for USF, his fourth straight game over 100 yards. Emilio Nadelman kicked field goals of 41, 43 and 44 yards.

# No. 8 Villanova struggles past Stanford

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jalen Brunson scored 18 points and No. 8 Villanova overcame a poor shooting performance against Stanford for a 59-45 win in the semifinals of the NIT Season Tipoff.

Brunson had the most productive game of his freshman season while the Wildcats (5-0) struggled from the floor at Barclays Center. They shot 30.6 percent but did enough to advance to the championship game Friday against Georgia Tech, which beat Arkansas 83-73.

Josh Hart added 10 points for Villanova but shot 4-for-12 and missed all five of his three-point attempts. Hart and Ryan Arcidiacono were a combined 6-for-24 shooting.

Leading scorer Marcus Allen had 12 points but was 3-for-12 for Stanford (2-3). Dorian Pickens added 11 points and 10 rebounds. The Cardinal shot 26 percent and committed 23 turnovers.

**No. 25 Texas A&M 62, No. 10 Gonzaga 61:** At Paradise Island, Bahamas, Danuel House scored 19 points and the Aggies edged the Bulldogs to advance to the championship game of the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Silas Melson missed a fadeaway jumper at the buzzer for the Bulldogs as time expired, with House contesting the shot.

Tonny Trocha-Morelos added 14 points for Texas A&M (6-0).

The game was tight throughout, with 12 ties and seven lead changes.

Gonzaga (3-1) led for much of the game but missed some key free throws down the stretch. After making six three-pointers in the first half, the Zags connected

on just three in the second.

Kyle Wiltjer led Gonzaga with 18 points. Josh Perkins added 15.

**No. 11 Arizona 75, Santa Clara 73 (OT):** At Fullerton, Calif., Gabe York scored seven of his 11 points in overtime, and the Wildcats escaped with a victory over the winless Broncos in the opening round of the DirecTV Wooden Legacy.

Ryan Anderson led Arizona (5-0) with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Mark Tollefsen added 13 points before fouling out in overtime, and Kaleb Tarczewski had 12 points and eight rebounds.

Jared Brownridge scored a career-high 44 points for Santa Clara (0-6), hitting seven three-pointers and making all 15 of his free throws. He surpassed James Harden's tournament record of 40 points set with Arizona State.

Brownridge's seventh three tied the game 73-all with 32 seconds left. York and Anderson each hit a free throw before Brownridge's desperation three-pointer from midcourt missed at the buzzer.

Jarvis Pugh missed two free throws that could have won the game in regulation for Santa Clara.

**San Diego State 72, No. 14 California 58:** Winston Shepard scored all 15 of his points during a second-half comeback and Skylar Spencer added 15 to help the Aztecs beat the Bears in the Las Vegas Invitational.

Ivan Rabb scored 18 to lead Cal (4-1).

**Monmouth 70, No. 17 Notre Dame 68:** At Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Justin Robinson scored 22 points, including two free throws with 3.6 seconds left, and the Hawks upset the Fighting Irish in the first round of the AdvoCare Invitational.

Monmouth (3-1) also got 15 points from Micah Seaborn.

Jackson had 20 points for Notre Dame (3-1).

**Syracuse 79, No. 18 UConn 76:** At Paradise Island, Bahamas, Michael Gbinije and Trevor Cooney each had 17 points, and the Orange beat the Huskies to reach the championship game of the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Tyler Lydon added 16 points off the bench. Gbinije also had seven assists.

Daniel Hamilton led UConn with 18 points. Sterling Gibbs and Rodney Purvis added 12 apiece.

**Southern Cal 72, No. 20 Wichita State 69:** At Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Freshman Bennie Boatright had a career-high 22 points and the Trojans beat the Shockers at the AdvoCare Invitational.

Wichita State (2-2) played without senior guard Fred VanVleet, who missed his second consecutive game with ankle and hamstring injuries. He twisted his ankle in the season opener Nov. 13 against Charleston Southern and then was limited by hamstring soreness four days later in a game with Tulsa.

USC (5-0) also got 15 points from Jordan McLaughlin. It's the Trojans' best start since opening the 2000-01 season 8-0.

**No. 23 Xavier 64, Alabama 45:** At Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Trevon Bluiett scored 15 points, J.P. Macura added 14 and the Muskateers beat the Crimson Tide in the first round of the AdvoCare Invitational.

Macura helped the Musketeers (5-0) overcome an early first-half deficit. Bluiett was part of a second-half surge that gave Xavier a comfortable advantage.