

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, November 5, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Iraqi forces clear buildings in Mosul

*Associated Press*

MOSUL, Iraq — Iraqi special forces cleared buildings on Saturday in neighborhoods they had entered in eastern Mosul a day earlier, after pushing out Islamic State militants in their drive to take back the city, as new images emerged of the barriers the extremist group mounted to obstruct the troops' advance.

Fighting continued in the morning, with both sides firing mortars and automatic weapons on each other's positions, while the Iraqi troops also responded with artillery. Clashes were most intense in the al-Bakr neighborhood. Sniper duels played out from rooftops in the mostly residential areas, where the majority of buildings are two stories high.

"Daesh is in the city center, and we must be very careful as our forces advance," said Maj. Gen. Sami al-Aridi, of the Iraqi special forces, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group. With more densely packed neighborhoods ahead, his forces will be challenged to avoid higher military and civilian casualties.

As he spoke, dozens of civilians in the Tahrir and Zahara districts emerged from their homes, some of them carrying white flags, and headed toward the troops to be evacuated from the battlefield.

The special forces launched a two-pronged assault deeper into Mosul's urban center on Friday, unleashing the most intense street battles against Islamic State militants since the offensive to retake the city began nearly three weeks ago. At least seven special forces troops have been killed in the fighting.

More than 3,000 Iraqi troops took part in the assault under heavy U.S.-led coalition air support, but the pace of the fight also slowed as Iraqi forces moved from fighting in more rural areas with few civilians to the tight, narrow streets of Mosul proper. At least seven suicide attackers in explosives-laden vehicles attacked troops on Friday, five of whom were killed before nearing their targets.

The operation to retake Mosul is expected to take weeks, if not months. Moving from neighborhood to neighborhood in house-to-

house battles through warrens of booby-trapped buildings is time consuming, and Iraq's military has repeatedly opted for slower operations in an effort to minimize casualties.

Some 1 million civilians still remain in the city, complicating the advance. Islamic State militants have driven thousands of residents deeper into the city's built-up areas to be used as human shields, while hundreds of others have fled toward government-controlled territory and thousands have headed west into Syria.

On Saturday, recent satellite images emerged showing that the extremists have set up formidable defenses designed to bog down advancing forces, including rows of concrete barricades, earth berms and rubble blocking key routes leading to the core of the city.

Mosul is the last major Islamic State stronghold in Iraq, and expelling the militant group from the city would be a major blow to the survival of its self-styled "caliphate" that stretches into Syria.

## Civilians join fight against Islamic State

*Los Angeles Times*

SALHIYA, Iraq — A group of civilians took up arms and joined the fight against the Islamic State group on Friday as Iraqi forces continued to close in on Iraq's second-largest city, defense officials said.

"There is a demonstration from within Mosul, on the (east) side," said Brig. Gen. Tahsin Ibrahim, spokesman for Iraq's ministry of defense. "Some of them have guns — they have AKs and pistols," he said.

A number of civilians have organized into a unit that is "inside now fighting against ISIS," Ibrahim said. "We have contact with them and the news is very good."

Iraqi forces have said civilian support will be crucial to retaking the Islamic State's stronghold

in Iraq, but they cautioned that civilian combatants will face the same challenge Iraqi troops face: how to fight the group without risking the lives of innocents.

Since the Mosul offensive began Oct. 17, Iraqi forces and their allies have surrounded the city of 1.2 million without mass casualties. But they are struggling to cope with an elusive enemy that blends in with civilians, takes them hostage and executes those who get in their way.

Iraqi counterterrorism forces Friday entered the eastern Mosul neighborhoods of Adl, Entisar, Karama, Nur and Qahira, Ibrahim said. They were heading for one of the five bridges that span the Tigris River, which bisects the city.

U.S. Air Force Col. John Dor-

rian, spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq, said significant progress has been made.

"Some Iraqi forces have reached Mosul and others continue advancing toward the city, making steady progress as (Islamic State) is forced to fall back," he said. "The advance of the Iraqi security forces on Mosul further complicates the enemy's ability to command and control its fighters."

Six young men crossed the Tigris River on Friday to the newly freed village of Salhiya. As Iraqi troops watched their approach, it seemed they could have been Islamic State fighters, or fleeing civilians.

They didn't carry white flags. But they were unarmed.

Soldiers detained the men as suspects.

"We know very well many ISIS (fighters) run away with the people," Maj. Gen. Najim Jabouri said as he watched the men being interrogated.

Police concluded the men might be refugees, and relaxed a bit. They would have to run the list of names past locals to be sure.

On their drive out to the post, officials had handcuffed and detained another suspect, an elderly man whom they would also investigate, Brig. Gen. Firas Bashar said. He said they have arrested more than 100 Islamic State suspects in the area.

"The civilians always are coming to us with information," he said, although he allowed that sometimes informants are falsely fingering those against whom they have grudges.

# Deadly Afghanistan operation came as Taliban planned attack

BY PHILLIP WALTER  
WELLMAN

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban militants were planning a major offensive on the northern city of Kunduz when Afghan and NATO forces launched the operation against them Thursday that resulted in the deaths of two U.S. soldiers, several Afghan commandos and more than 20 civilians, officials said.

The operation came in response to credible reports that the insurgents were organizing an attack from the Buze Kandahari village, just outside Kunduz, Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Dawlat Waziri said Saturday.

“The reports suggested that the Taliban were planning another siege of Kunduz city from this area,” Waziri said during a news conference in Kabul.

Last month, Taliban fighters briefly infiltrated parts of Kunduz, Afghanistan’s fifth-largest city. Fighting has continued on the city’s outskirts and in Kunduz province. The insurgents

occupied the entire city last year before being expelled by government forces.

The Pentagon on Friday identified Capt. Andrew D. Byers, 30, of Rolesville, N.C., and Sgt. 1st Class Ryan A. Gloyer, 34, of Greenville, Pa., as the two U.S. soldiers who were killed in the operation. Byers and Gloyer were assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Carson, Colo.

Waziri said that Afghan forces provided initial air support for the operation, which began at 3 a.m. on Thursday, but U.S. airstrikes were requested after the Afghan and U.S. forces came under fire.

Taliban commanders Mullah Zia-ur-Rahman, Mullah Mansour, Mullah Ahmadyar and Qari Bilal were killed in the fighting, as were several of Zia-ur-Rahman’s family members, who were in the house, Waziri said.

Twenty-four civilians, including women and children, were killed, according to Kunduz police spokesman Hijratullah

Akbari.

Many residents in the area were outraged by the civilian deaths and appeared to blame them on the United States. Videos posted online of a protest in Kunduz city show people chanting, “Death to America.”

Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, spokesman for U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, said during Saturday’s news conference that it was “very likely” the operation resulted in civilian casualties and that an investigation was underway. He could not say whether U.S. airstrikes were likely responsible for the civilian deaths.

U.S. Defense Department officials said Byers and Gloyer had left a helicopter and were moving on foot with Afghan forces toward the house of Zia-ur-Rahman when they came under enemy fire. Four other U.S. servicemembers were injured in the fighting.

Both American soldiers killed in the operation were awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart medals posthumously, The Associated Press reported.

## Shooting in Jordan under investigation

*The Washington Post*

AMMAN, Jordan — At least three U.S. military trainers in Jordan were fatally shot by security forces Friday when their vehicle failed to stop at the gate of a military base, Jordanian and U.S. officials said.

The U.S. military servicemembers “came under fire” as they approached a Jordanian training facility, said Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook. Few other details about the incident were given. Cook said U.S. and Jordanian authorities were investigating the cause.

Earlier, Jordan’s military said there was “an exchange of gunfire” after the vehicle’s driver ignored demands to stop outside an air base in southern Jordan. A Jordanian officer was injured, the statement said.

Other details of the incident at the King Faisal Air Base were not immediately clear. Investigators were trying to piece together the events, including whether a possible miscommunication was to blame.

Jordan is a close ally of the United States, and military training by U.S. personnel is common. Jordan is also part of the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in neighboring Syria.

The U.S. Embassy in Amman said in a statement it was “in contact with the appropriate Jordanian authorities, who have offered their full support.”

A U.S. diplomat in Amman, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters, said American and Jordanian officials “do not believe” the incident was terrorism-related, but he offered no further details.

The King Faisal base, about 150 miles southeast of Amman and near the border with Saudi Arabia, has long been used for joint exercises between Jordan and its various allies, including the United States, Great Britain and Saudi Arabia.

## Trailblazing veterans share stories of war

BY NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Korean War veteran James McEachin and Vietnam War veteran Vincent Okamoto said they felt a calling to join the military, deciding as children that they wanted to serve.

Each enthusiastically enlisted in the Army during a time of war and each had unique experiences because of their race. McEachin, who is African-American, was part of one of the first desegregated Army units, and Okamoto is the most highly decorated Japanese-American to survive the Viet-

nam War.

McEachin and Okamoto shared their experiences Saturday morning at a gathering of mostly military academy students at the annual American Veterans Center conference.

Both men were set to receive awards from the center on Saturday night, McEachin for distinguished service in the Korean War and Okamoto for distinguished service in Vietnam.

“In our society, some men are lionized for their great wealth or their political power or their social position,” Okamoto said. “Some are renowned for their athletic ability. Others are

courted celebrity status as film stars and rock icons. Of all the titles in the world, the proudest of that is veteran. Because it refers to an individual who is willing to give up everything for America.”

McEachin has published several books and short stories and has worked as an actor and screenwriter. Okamoto went on to be a superior court judge for Los Angeles County.

McEachin earned the Silver Star and Purple Heart, and Okamoto the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts.

# 1 NYPD officer killed, 1 hurt in shootout

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A police sergeant was shot and killed and a second one was wounded Friday in a gunfight on a street with an armed man who had broken into his estranged wife's home, officials said.

The gunman also was killed in the exchange of shots that took the life of Sgt. Paul Tuozzolo, a 19-year veteran of the New York Police Department and the father of two young children.

"The city is in mourning, and the family of the NYPD is in mourning," Mayor Bill de Blasio said at a news conference held at a Bronx hospital.

The mayor called Tuozzolo "a very good man, a devoted man, a man who committed his life to protecting all of us."

The other wounded sergeant, Emmanuel Kwo, was undergoing treatment for a gunshot

wound to the leg, officials said.

The violent encounter began to unfold at 2:45 p.m., when a woman called police and said a Long Island man, Manuel Rosales, had forced his way into an apartment where his estranged wife and their 3-year-old son were staying. Rosales stayed for hours before fleeing, police said.

Officers saw his car a few minutes later about a half-mile away. As several officers approached the car, Rosales started shooting with a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol, police said.

Tuozzolo was shot at close quarters, police Commissioner James O'Neill said.

"There's nothing worse than a day like today," O'Neill said.

News helicopter footage of the scene showed the red SUV that Rosales had been driving mounted on a sidewalk, pinned

between a flatbed truck and a police vehicle.

Gary Mayo, a city worker, who lives near the scene, was home on a day off when he heard five or six booms.

"That doesn't sound like firecrackers," he said he thought.

From the terrace of his fourth-floor apartment he saw a swarm of police cars going to a nearby street and could tell whatever happened was "something really big," he said.

Rosales, 35, had a history of 17 arrests, some related to domestic disputes, and had served time in state prison for possession of stolen property.

A court issued an order in January 2015 telling him to stay away from his wife.

In July, he was arrested in Bay Shore and was accused of violating that order by grabbing her hair and yanking her head back and forth.

He was scheduled to appear in court on Long Island on Nov. 16 on a charge of violating a protective order.

A lawyer who previously represented Rosales said he wasn't violent but declined to comment further.

Tuozzolo is the fifth New York Police Department officer to be fatally shot in the line of duty in the last two years.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, said in a statement that Tuozzolo had "made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty."

Nassau County Police Benevolent Association president James Carver issued a statement Friday night saying, "It is a sad day for law enforcement."

He said Tuozzolo was a Long Island resident and that the PBA would do whatever it could to support his family and that of Kwo.

## Russian state-owned media backs Trump for president

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian state-owned media does little to hide its preferences in the U.S. presidential election.

News reports about the race for the White House on Russian television devote most of their time to elaborating on Donald Trump's allegations that Hillary Clinton is corrupt and the election is rigged.

"Clinton has a choice. Either she gets the presidency or she goes behind bars," pro-Kremlin journalist Dmitry Kiselyov said during his Sunday program on the state-controlled Vesti channel. He told viewers, Clinton has the full backing of the U.S. security services, "oligarchic" corporations and the media.

Other reports on the Kremlin-controlled TV channels that are the primary source of

news for most Russians have highlighted concerns about Clinton's health, linked her to sex scandals and suggested the Democratic Party is "panicking" over recent polls.

"My colleagues at these channels completely back Trump and show all the bad things about Clinton," said Aleksei Venediktov, the editor of liberal Russian radio station Ekho Moskvyy.

The Russian media is pushing Trump's candidacy "very, very aggressively," according to a European Union official who monitors the Russian media and spoke on condition of anonymity.

In contrast, negative stories about Trump often get light-hearted coverage. Reporting fresh allegations of sexual abuse against Trump on Oct. 15, the Vesti channel aired a segment called "Too many

p-----" set to jaunty music that took viewers through allegations of sexual misconduct by former President Bill Clinton and some claims against Trump.

In recent weeks, Russian media attention has concentrated on apparent flaws in the U.S. election process, echoing Trump's claims that the election is rigged.

Also repeated frequently are claims by Trump that the U.S. has 1.8 million dead people registered to vote. They're called "dead souls," a reference to a famous 19th century Russian novel by Nikolai Gogol.

Russian television channels say what Kremlin officials cannot afford to while the outcome of the election is still unknown, according to Venediktov.

"The Russian media is always one step ahead," he said.

## Fox apologizes for inaccurate report

NEW YORK — Fox News Channel apologized Friday for an inaccurate report that Hillary Clinton would likely be indicted as a result of an investigation by the FBI into the Clinton Foundation.

Fox's Bret Baier, who initially reported on the case Wednesday, said Friday that "it was a mistake, and for that I'm sorry."

Clinton's critics have accused her family of giving donors special access to the State Department when Clinton was secretary of state.

Fox's report, less than a week before Election Day, was a potential bombshell — if it held up. Baier began walking back his report the next day.

"Indictment obviously is a very loaded word ... and no one knows if there would or would not be an indictment no matter how strong investigators feel their evidence is," he said.

From The Associated Press

## Ex-Calif. police captain to be charged in sex case

Associated Press

MARTINEZ, Calif. — A Northern California prosecutor said Friday that he's charging a retired police captain with misdemeanor solicitation of a prostitute, but found no other criminal conduct within his jurisdiction in a wide-ranging police sexual misconduct case involving more than two dozen officers.

Contra Costa County District Attorney Mark Peterson said that sexual encounters between a teenage prostitute and several officers in his county were consensual and didn't involve the exchange of money or explicit promises of help.

The district attorney in neighboring Alameda County last month said she would charge seven current and former officers implicated in the scandal and said there appeared to be evidence of criminal conduct in Contra Costa County. On Friday, Peterson said none was found after reviewing 19 interviews of the teen conducted by six law enforcement agencies.

Peterson declined to name the retired Oakland Police captain until the man is formally charged next week. Peterson said the man is in his 80s and had retired long before his encounter with the teen, who is the daughter of an Oakland Police dispatcher.

The 19-year-old woman has filed legal actions against several Northern California cities and police departments, saying she was sexually exploited by more than two dozen officers while she worked as a prostitute. The cities have yet to respond to the claims, which are precursors to lawsuits.

The woman's allegation has roiled the Oakland Police Department, which cycled through three police chiefs in under two weeks before the city administrator took over leadership of the department when the scandal surfaced publicly in June. The scandal surfaced after a federal judge who monitors the long-troubled department ordered internal affairs to look deeper into an officer's suicide note in which he discussed his and colleagues' relationship with the woman. The officer killed himself in September 2015.

The woman said she is no longer a prostitute and said some of the sex occurred before her 18th birthday. She also said she traded sexual favors for tip-offs of prostitution stings and protection from arrest.

The Alameda County district attorney last month said some current and former officers will be charged with crimes, including two officers facing counts of having sex with an underage person.

## Climate accord now an international law

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The Paris Agreement to combat climate change became international law on Friday — a landmark deal about tackling global warming amid growing fears that the world is becoming hotter even faster than scientists expected.

So far, 96 countries, accounting for just over two-thirds of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, have formally joined the accord, which seeks to limit global warming to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit. More countries are expected to come aboard in the coming weeks and months.

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon commemorated the event, talking with civil society groups at U.N. headquarters in New York to hear their concerns and visions for the future.

"Today we make history in humankind's efforts to combat climate change," Ban said before opening the meeting.

He praised the civil groups for mobilizing hundreds of millions of people to back fighting climate change but warned the outcome remained uncertain.

"We are still in a race against time. We need to transition to a low-emissions and climate-resilient future," Ban said.

"Now is the time to strengthen global resolve, do what science demands and seize the opportunity to build a safer more sustainable world for all."

Scientists praised the speed at which the agreement, signed by over 190 parties in December in Paris, has come into force, saying it underscores a new commitment by the international community to address the problem that is melting polar ice caps, sending sea levels rising and transforming vast swaths of arable land into desert.

But environmentalists say the agreement is just the first step of a much longer and complicated process of transitioning away from fossil fuels, which currently supply the bulk of the planet's energy needs and also are the primary drivers of global warming.

While the Paris agreement is legally binding, the emissions reductions that each country has committed to are not. Instead, the agreement seeks to create a transparent system that will allow the public to monitor how well each country is doing in meeting its goals in hopes that this will motivate them to transition more quickly to clean, renewable energy like wind, solar and hydropower.

## NTSB: Failed jet engine disk showed signs of fatigue

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An engine disk that broke apart and forced an American Airlines jet to abort a takeoff in Chicago in late October shows signs of fatigue cracking, according to a preliminary report released Friday by accident investigators.

A high-pressure turbine disk in the Boeing 767's right engine broke into four pieces, which shot out of the engine's housing. Investigators have recovered about 90 percent of the disk,

and an examination shows evidence of an anomaly where the fatigue cracking begins, the National Transportation Safety Board report said.

Metallurgical examinations of the disk are underway to determine what caused the cracking, the report said. The anomaly was inside the disk, rather than on its surface, where it would be visible. Such anomalies are usually the result of a manufacturing defect.

The engine involved in the Oct. 28 incident is a General

Electric Co. CF6-80. In a letter Friday to owners of the same engine type, GE said one engine containing a "closely related" part was still being used. GE said it was working with the operator of that engine, whom it did not identify, to remove the part.

A GE spokesman said he did not know which airline had an identical engine disk to the one that failed on the American jet.

Disk pieces were spewed up to a half-mile away, and a fierce fire enveloped the right side of

the plane after the failure. The plane was traveling at 154 mph and was seconds from lifting off from O'Hare International Airport for Miami when pilots slammed on the brakes.

The fire was fed by a pool of jet fuel that formed under the wing when the plane came to a stop.

All 161 passengers and nine crew on American Airlines Flight 383 were evacuated. Twenty-one people suffered injuries, mainly from the evacuation down inflated ramps.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman accused of stealing a forklift

**WY** CHEYENNE — Police said a Wyoming woman drunkenly commandeered a state-owned forklift to move her own van that was blocking her driveway.

Ashley Basich, 49, was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol and having an open intoxicant. She posted \$950 bail and is scheduled to be arraigned Nov. 21.

Police in Cheyenne said Basich's neighbors reported that she was drinking a beer as she moved the van with a front-end loader forklift late Saturday. Authorities said she took the forklift from the Wyoming State Forestry Division, where she works.

## Election attracts first ghoulish candidate

**ME** BANGOR — An election cycle some have described as a fright appears to have attracted its first actual ghoul.

Signs are popping up around Bangor advertising the campaign of Pennywise, the creepy clown from Stephen King's 1986 novel "It." The signs beseech residents to "Vote Pennywise" and include a picture of the clown showing his toothy smile.

What post Pennywise is running for is left unclear. The signs have been popping up around the downtown area of the city, the third largest in Maine.

King lives in Bangor and posted a picture of himself alongside one of the signs via his Twitter account.

## Police believe known con man fled shack

**CO** DENVER — A long-time con man most

famous for entering Princeton University in the late 1980s by posing as a self-taught ranch hand has been arrested in Aspen, where he had been squatting in an illegally built shack on the side of a ski mountain.

Thursday's arrest at the Pitkin County Library marked the latest chapter in a long history of fraudulent behavior by James Hogue, 57, who gave officers a fake name before confessing his identity, Aspen police detective Jeff Fain said.

The nationally known impostor was being held in the Pitkin County Jail on an outstanding theft warrant, and police said he faces additional charges.

## 911 caller: How many legs on an octopus?

**SC** ROCK HILL — A Rock Hill man has been arrested after authorities say he drunkenly called 911 twice to ask irrelevant questions that included, "How many legs does an octopus have?"

Citing jail records, news outlets reported that John D. Barron, 69, was charged Thursday with unlawful use of 911 and resisting police.

A police report says Barron first called the dispatchers late Wednesday asking about octopus anatomy. Officers responded to Barron's home and found him to be very intoxicated. They warned him not to call 911 again unless it was for an emergency, but a short time later Barron did just that, this time wondering "if the Russian alphabet was the same as the English alphabet."

Police returned to Barron's home and arrested him.

## Police: Kids left in car while mom shoplifted

**VT** ESSEX JUNCTION — Authorities said a

woman arrested on a shoplifting charge at a Vermont mall and taken to a police station never said her children were alone in her car — until a shopper called.

South Burlington police said the boys, ages 2 and 4, were left unattended Thursday at the University Mall parking lot for about 45 minutes. Three doors were locked; the driver's door was left unlocked.

The boys' mother, Shanna Jacobs, 34, of Colchester, was arrested outside a store and brought to the police station. The call came after that.

Jacobs was cited on charges of retail theft and cruelty to a child. The children weren't hurt and were released back into her custody. The Children and Family Services Department was notified.

## 'James Bond Gang' members take pleas

**NJ** HACKENSACK — An original member of a now-defunct New Jersey burglary ring known as the "James Bond Gang" has accepted a plea deal.

The Record reported Bruce Anderson, 49, pleaded guilty on Thursday to theft, trafficking stolen property and money laundering charges.

The newspaper said four of Anderson's associates also accepted plea deals Thursday in connection with 30 break-ins in 2014.

Prosecutors will ask that Anderson serve seven years behind bars. His attorney will ask for a three-year term at his January 2017 sentencing.

Authorities said the group broke into luxurious homes in Bergen, Somerset and Morris counties and stole cash, jewelry and other valuable items.

The group got its nickname by equipping a BMW getaway

car with secret compartments, a retractable license plate and mounted halogen lights meant to blind pursuers.

## Women on horseback struck, man charged

**MI** CASSOPOLIS — A man is facing charges after authorities say he intentionally struck two women on horseback with a vehicle in southwestern Michigan.

The Cass County prosecutor's office said Adam Robert Biek faces assault with intent to do great bodily harm, malicious destruction of property, driving on a suspended license and other charges. He was arraigned Thursday and returns to court Nov. 16.

Authorities said Biek surrendered Wednesday after barricading himself in his Cass County home. According to authorities, the Dowagiac man struck the women on Tuesday night. Prosecutors said at least one woman and one horse had minor injuries.

## iPads stolen at school Halloween event

**VT** BERKSHIRE — Police in Vermont have arrested a man suspected of stealing three iPads from an elementary school classroom during a Halloween trick-or-treating event.

The principal at Berkshire Elementary School reported the theft after reviewing footage from a security camera. Police identified the suspect as Jeremy Humphrey, 38.

A search warrant was executed Wednesday at Humphrey's home in Berkshire. He was cited on suspicion of burglary and violating conditions of release.

From wire reports

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# QBs aren't afraid to throw at top CBs

Associated Press

Revis Island has become a popular destination.

Ignoring Richard Sherman, Josh Norman, Patrick Peterson and Aqib Talib, and Chris Harris Jr. is a thing of the past.

Opposing quarterbacks and offensive coordinators no longer are sacrificing the portion of the field patrolled by star cornerbacks. And we're not only talking about teams with outstanding receivers such as the Falcons (Julio Jones), Bengals (A.J. Green) and Giants (Odell Beckham Jr.).

Just about everyone is willing to attack the "shutdown" guys these days, though in a limited capacity.

"There are only certain routes you are going to throw against these guys," says former standout defensive back Herm Edwards, who also was a successful coach before heading to the ESPN studios. "Sometimes you get the matchup of the best receivers on a guy you can't stay away from, the No 1 guy. You can't ignore that side (of the field) all day long.

"The rules of the game re-

ally have given the offense an advantage, especially with pass interference. Now, with the back-shoulder throw that has become a staple of the passing game, you have something to use against them. If they play a lot of bump-and-run coverage, and you go at these guys, you can attack them in a technique they might be vulnerable at.

"But you have to find certain situations and plays where there are opportunities. You're not going to make a steady diet of it."

Although the rock-star CBs certainly want you to come their way.

"I welcome it. I welcome every challenge," says Norman, 2015 All-Pro who has struggled with penalties and has been kept plenty busy this season, his first with Washington. "If you throw the ball (at me) you're only feeding the beast. I enjoy those challenges because I get excited. I'm playing the game. Sitting over there and not playing the game is boring. I don't like it. ... Not throwing the ball, I've got to find something else to do."

No boredom this year. According to Football Outsiders, which tracks how often defenders are targeted — although the numbers can't fully account for zone defenses or for passes behind the line of scrimmage — Norman has been targeted 42 times in eight games. Revis, once the measuring stick for cornerbacks but clearly on the decline now, has been thrown at 33 times in eight games. For Sherman, it's 39, and for the Denver pair: 39 for Harris, 36 for Talib.

Tennessee CB Jason McCourty has been challenged the most, 50 times.

Against the Broncos, it's pretty much impossible to avoid testing Harris or Talib, unless teams want to simply throw to the backs and tight ends all day. Does anyone think the Raiders this Sunday will shut down Amari Cooper and Michael Crabtree in their aerial games so they can avoid Harris and Talib?

One strategy, relatively but not entirely new in the NFL that teams employ to throw off cornerbacks is the back-shoul-

der throw. Edwards says that has become a dynamic weapon when performed accurately.

"It used to be that the hardest thing to cover was underthrown balls," Edwards explains. "Then coaches began to think, 'So why not start throwing back-shoulder fades?' When the quarterback and the receiver have that chemistry going, this is that option can't be stopped."

Edwards points to Charles Woodson and Ronnie Lott as two greats who made the transition from cornerback to safety, something he could see 10-year veteran Revis doing at some point.

For now, Revis, who has allowed 12.4 yards per completion, second-highest in the NFL behind Buffalo's Stephon Gilmore's 12.5, is staying put. So are Sherman, Norman, et al.

Talib would have it no other way.

"I've been in the league for nine years," he says. "It's nothing new, I've been getting interceptions and I still get balls thrown at me. That's just the NFL."

## Raiders preparing to face Broncos on big stage

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Playing in high-profile NFL games is old hat for the Denver Broncos after two trips to the Super Bowl in the past three seasons.

It's a new experience for the Oakland Raiders, who have spent more than a decade at the bottom of the standings and far from the limelight of hyped primetime games.

For the first time since 2006, the Raiders are on the NFL's premier Sunday night stage when they play the Broncos for first place in the AFC West on Sunday.

"This is the natural progression in building a good football team," Raiders coach Jack Del Rio said. "We should expect to be in these games. We're going

to expect to win these games. Then we're going to have more of these kinds of games."

The game offers an intriguing matchup with Derek Carr and Oakland's high-powered offense coming off a record-setting performance in last week's 30-24 overtime win at Tampa Bay, and facing Von Miller and the league's most dominant defense. Both teams are 6-2, a half-game ahead of the Kansas City Chiefs in the division.

The Pittsburgh Steelers and Baltimore Ravens feature in another terrific NFL rivalry, but one that has lost a bit of steam this season with both clubs struggling and banged up. Even so, the winner will be in first place.

The big question for Pittsburgh, which leads the AFC

North despite its mediocre 4-3 record, is whether quarterback Ben Roethlisberger has recovered enough from his left knee surgery two weeks ago to play. Another mystery in the Steel City is whether the defense, ranked a disturbing 27th, can get stingy again.

Baltimore comes off a bye after four straight defeats, but it generally has defended Steelers receiver Antonio Brown well.

The Philadelphia Eagles and New York Giants both go into their NFC East rivalry game with 4-3 records, two games behind first-place Dallas with nine games to go. The chance is there to get back to the playoffs.

But both teams are challenged offensively.

Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz is last in the NFL, averaging 4.97 yards per completion. They have only one offensive play for more than 30 yards in the past four games.

If the Giants' offense is going to wake up, Eli Manning and the receivers are going to have to do the job. The running game is last in the NFL, averaging 70.3 yards. In the previous four games, New York has gained 78, 43, 38 and 36 yards on 70 carries. Rookie Paul Perkins may get more carries this week.

With Detroit coming to town, the Minnesota Vikings can be comforted from having won 16 of their past 18 at home against the Lions. None, though, was in the new stadium.

# Lakers win, hold Curry without a three

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — While the Los Angeles Lakers shouted and shoved each other with elation, Luke Walton managed to look unsurprised by the incredible upset unfolding before them.

The Los Angeles Lakers were battering the mighty Golden State Warriors. Walton's championship-tested former team just couldn't catch up to his young, hungry new squad.

Although it's far too early in the season to truly celebrate anything, Walton thinks the Lakers' future is fascinating.

Lou Williams scored 10 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, and the Lakers snapped Stephen Curry's NBA-record streak of 157 games with a three-pointer during their 117-97 victory Friday night.

"It obviously feels better be-

cause they're the best," Walton said. "They're as good as it gets. ... But it was just good to see the progress continuing."

After his first meeting with his former team and his coaching mentor, Steve Kerr, Walton claimed the win meant nothing special to him — but he could understand why the Lakers and their fans might feel differently.

Los Angeles has made a habit of surprising the Warriors recently, but as Williams put it: "This one was valid."

"We've got a lot of young talent here," Williams added. "Finally it's starting to look like we have some pieces in the right places."

**Raptors 96, Heat 87:** DeMar DeRozan scored 34 points and reserve Terrence Ross added 20 as host Toronto beat Miami.

It was a team-record fifth

straight 30-plus-point game for DeRozan, the NBA's leading scorer coming into the game averaging 36.3 points. Mike James had four straight 30-plus-point games for Toronto in 2005.

**Knicks 117, Bulls 104:** Kristaps Porzingis had 27 points and Carmelo Anthony added 25 to lead New York in the triumphant return of Derrick Rose and Joakim Noah to Chicago.

Rose, the Bulls' first-round draft pick in 2008, finished with 15 points and 11 assists, while Noah, a 2007 first-rounder, had 16 points and nine rebounds. They teamed up to play a familiar two-man game late as New York held off a Chicago rally.

**Wizards 95, Hawks 92:** Bradley Beal scored 20 of his 28 points after halftime, and host Washington finally gave new coach Scott Brooks his first victory with the team.

**Suns 112, Pelicans 111 (OT):** Devin Booker scored 38 points, including an improbable jumper that tied the score as regulation expired and visiting Phoenix kept New Orleans winless.

**Hornets 99, Nets 95:** Kemba Walker scored a season-high 30 points and visiting Charlotte improved its best start in 16 years to 4-1.

**Clippers 99, Grizzlies 88:** Chris Paul had 27 points and 11 assists, Blake Griffin added 14 points and 10 rebounds to lead visiting Los Angeles.

**Trail Blazers 105, Mavericks 95:** Damian Lillard scored 27 of his season-high 42 points in the second half as Portland sent host Dallas to its first 0-5 start in franchise history.

**Spurs 100, Jazz 86:** Kawhi Leonard scored 29 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as visiting San Antonio beat Utah.

## Blue Jackets end Canadiens' regulation streak at 10

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Montreal Canadiens were the last team in the NHL to lose a game in regulation this season — and they did it in historic fashion Friday night.

And the Columbus Blue Jackets made a little history of their own.

Cam Atkinson, Nick Foligno, Scott Hartnell and Josh Anderson each scored two goals as Columbus swamped Montreal 10-0, matching the biggest loss in the Canadiens' storied history and breaking the Blue Jackets' franchise record.

Montreal lost by 10 goals for the fifth time and the first since an 11-1 loss to Detroit in February 1995. The Canadiens dropped to 9-1-1.

"I don't think you're going to forget one like that," Montreal wing Brendan Gallagher said. "We got taught a lesson here tonight. We had it coming. Last game we were sloppy, we got away with it. Tonight we didn't."

Sergei Bobrovsky made 30 saves, and Seth Jones and David Savard added goals to help the Blue Jackets improve to 5-3-1. Columbus eclipsed its previous record offensive output of eight goals in a game.

After surrendering 13 goals in 10 games before Friday, Montreal gave up eight to Columbus in the first two periods, half of them on power plays. Sixteen Columbus players picked up at least one point.

"There's nothing positive about tonight — nothing," Montreal coach Michel Therrien said.

The Blue Jackets banged away at Al Montoya, Montreal's backup goalie who started in place of Cary Price in the first game of a back-to-back set. On a power play with 9:04 left in the first, Foligno tapped it out from behind the net to Atkinson, who picked up his third goal of the season and later got his fourth.

Seth Jones found the net just 58 seconds later from the left circle on a pass out from behind the goal line from Anderson to

make it 2-0.

Savard scored for Columbus again with 5:54 left in the first — with a bit of luck. Savard was shooting inside to Matt Calvert, but the puck hit the skate of Montreal's Jeff Petry and trickled through the legs of Montoya. The goal was Savard's first of the season and Markus Nutivaara got an assist, his first NHL point.

Atkinson scored his second goal of the night 4:01 into the second period on a put-back after Gagner's shot bounced off Montoya's pads.

**Jets 5, Red Wings 3:** Brandon Tanev scored his second goal of the game and his NHL career with 1:16 left to help Winnipeg beat Detroit on Gordie Howe night at Joe Louis Arena.

Tanev broke a tie on a breakaway, beating Petr Mrazek on the glove side. Tanev's first goal tied it at 3 with 7:36 left.

Patrik Laine, Mark Scheifele and Nikolaj Ehlers also scored for Winnipeg. Connor Hellebuyck, from the Detroit-area

suburb of Commerce Township, stopped 30 shots.

Luke Glendening, Henrik Zetterberg and Justin Abdelkader scored for Detroit.

**Ducks 5, Coyotes 1:** Rickard Rakell had two goals and an assist, John Gibson stopped 21 shots and host Anaheim beat Arizona.

Kevin Bieksa, Jakob Silfverberg and Antoine Vermette also scored for the Ducks.

Jamie McGinn scored for Arizona. Louis Domingue stopped 18 of 21 shots in the first period before being replaced by Justin Peters, who gave up two goals on 12 shots over the final 40 minutes.

After stewing over consecutive home defeats in which they were outscored 9-1, the Ducks responded with a dominant opening 20 minutes in which they thoroughly controlled play.

Bieksa and Rakell scored 2:54 apart midway through the first, and Silfverberg made it 3-0 in the final minute of the period.

# No. 24 Boise State wins with rushing game

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Boise State coach Bryan Harsin hasn't hesitated to call for featured running back Jeremy McNichols to get the ball 40 times in a game.

On Friday night, Harsin found he's got another talented running back in Alex Mattison. And he's only a freshman.

McNichols ran for 158 yards and two touchdowns, Mattison had a career-high 100 yards rushing on 18 carries and one touchdown, and No. 24 Boise State beat San Jose State 45-31.

The Broncos (8-1, 4-1) had two players over 100 yards on the ground in one game for the first time since Nov. 8, 2014, against New Mexico.

"(Giving Mattison more carries) was predetermined on our part," Harsin said. "We knew he was ready for his opportunity. But it's not just about running the ball. It's also about being able to protect the quarterback in different looks.

"McNichols can't carry the ball like he has every single game. We're trying to spread the wealth a little bit among those guys."

San Jose State (3-7, 2-4), looking to get consecutive wins for the first time this season, finished with 495 yards of offense behind Kenny Potter's 23 of 36 passing for 278 yards.

After suffering a gut-wrenching loss last week to Wyoming on a safety in the waning minutes of the game, Boise State looked sluggish in the first quarter as it held a 7-6 lead.

However, the Broncos got the spark they needed with a little razzle dazzle. On fourth-and-12 from their 37, Broncos punter Sean Wale took the snap and raced 29 yards for a first down.

"Finally after four years, I had a chance to do something so I had to make the most of it," Wale said. "It was my one chance to shine, and I certainly wasn't sliding. But I didn't really know what to do once I got into the open field."

Three plays later, Mattison scored on a 19-yard run to extend Boise State's lead to 14-6.

"It could've been a stop on downs for us if we'd been able to make the play," Spartans coach Ron Caragher said. "But we

didn't and it changed the momentum of the game."

"I was very proud of this team's response after last week's loss," Harsin said. "We have to stay focused on what we can control and try to go out and play our best each and every week."

San Jose State kept the pressure on Boise State, edging within 14-13 with 10 minutes remaining in the first half. But that was as close as the Spartans would get as the Broncos took control of the game.

"Boise State learned a powerful lesson last week, and they got back to running the football and controlling the line of scrimmage behind their big offensive line," Caragher said.

Boise State, which finished with 517 total yards of offense, had a season-high 298 yards rushing. McNichols' performance was his seventh 100-plus yard game this season and fourth in a row.

Malik Roberson led the Spartans on the ground with 109 yards and a touchdown, his second 100-yard game of the season.

# Beholder edges out Songbird in Breeder's Cup upset

Associated Press

ARCADIA, Calif. — For the last quarter of a mile, Songbird and Beholder refused to yield. They ran neck-and-neck, with their Hall of Fame jockeys looking for the tiniest edge.

Gary Stevens, aboard Beholder, called it "just a street fight."

The 6-year-old mare landed the final blow, with Beholder edging Songbird by a nose in the \$2 million Distaff on opening day of the Breeders' Cup on Friday at Santa Anita.

Even jockey Mike Smith had to agree it was "an amazing, amazing race" after his 3-year-old filly Songbird lost for the first time in 12 races.

"It was fun to be part of a battle," Stevens said. "The show that those two just put on is worth the price of admission for everybody that showed up. This was horse racing at its best."

It was a thrilling finish to the four Cup races, three of which involved New York-based long

shots winning on an 80-degree day.

Nine Cup races will be run on Saturday, capped by the \$6 million Classic in which California Chrome is the early favorite.

Beholder ran 11/8 miles in 1:49.20 and paid \$8.60, \$3.60 and \$3 as the 3-1 third choice.

"I've had some good feelings in racing, but this is tops right here," said Stevens, a three-time Kentucky Derby winner.

It was Beholder's third Cup victory, having won the Distaff in 2013 and the Juvenile Fillies in 2012. She was supposed to have run in last year's Classic at Keeneland against male horses, but developed a fever.

The Distaff was Beholder's final career race, ending on her home track, where she was never worse than second in 16 starts at Santa Anita. She finished with 18 career victories. The 6-year-old mare is a three-time Eclipse Award winner.

"She was really at her best," Hall of Fame trainer Richard Mandella said. Songbird returned \$3.20 and \$2.80 as the

even-money favorite. The loss spoiled her 11-0 career record.

"You saw the real Beholder show up today, maybe even the best race she ever ran in her life," Smith said, "and she had to do it to beat us."

When the winning photo was shown on the video board, the announced crowd of 45,763 roared at the slight margin between Beholder and Songbird, who was along the rail with Beholder on her outside.

"It was closer than I thought it was," Stevens said.

Songbird set the pace through the early stages of the race, with I'm a Chatterbox and Beholder in close pursuit.

On the far turn, I'm a Chatterbox and Beholder both went after Songbird but by the top of the stretch it was a two-horse duel between Beholder and the 3-year-old filly. They kept it up through the stretch, with neither horse willing to give an inch. Nor were their jockeys: the 53-year-old Stevens and 51-year-old Smith.

"I put my head in front and

Songbird came back again," Stevens said. "She put Songbird away three different times through the stretch, and she kept coming back, like she wouldn't go away."

Smith thought he could put a length or two between his filly and Beholder when they got to the far turn.

"But, man, she jumped on me," he said of Beholder. "I couldn't do it."

Stevens let out "a pretty loud holler" just past the finish line.

"Coming down the stretch, I was riding with my head down, riding for all I was worth," he said. "I was thinking that finish line has got to be coming."

Mandella earned his ninth career Cup victory, along with sharp farewell from Beholder.

"She kicked me on the way up," he said. "She's 90 percent of the time the sweetest thing you could find. The other 10 percent is dynamite."

Forever Unbridled was another 1 1/4 lengths back in third and paid \$4.40 to show.