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Navy considers expanding paternity leave

Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — The Navy's top officer said Tuesday the service is considering extending paternity leave for new fathers.

The Navy currently awards married fathers up to 10 days of paid leave upon the birth of a child.

In July, the Navy tripled paid maternity leave for female sailors and Marines to 18 weeks.

A female sailor asked Navy Adm. John Richardson dur-

ing a meeting with hundreds of servicemembers at a Pearl Harbor pier whether the Navy might increase paternity leave as well.

Richardson said it was something officials in Washington were now discussing.

Richardson and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens called about 10 sailors who became new fathers within the past year to the front of the pier and asked them how much paternity leave the Navy should offer.

The group quickly discussed the issue, and then replied their consensus was that the Navy should give 30 days of paternity leave.

Richardson said he'll take that opinion back to Washington.

He said their view was consistent with other thoughts he has heard on the issue, with many saying paternity leave should last about three weeks to 30 days.

Richardson held the "all hands call" meeting during

his first trip to Hawaii since he became chief of naval operations last month.

He stopped in the islands at the beginning of a two-week trip to Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Bahrain and Italy.

Other topics during the meeting with sailors addressed developing more comfortable boots, flame resistant uniforms, re-enlistment bonuses and proposed changes to retirement programs.

Navy: Lack of budget means delayed bonuses, PCS

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Sailors can expect delays in re-enlistment bonuses and duty station moves as Congress continues to hash out a fiscal 2016 budget.

The Navy is paying for both items on a month-to-month basis under a budget resolution passed Oct. 1 in lieu of a full-funding measure. The stop-gap forces the service to carefully consider who receives money when, Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Bill Moran told sailors here Wednesday.

Moran also said that expanding sailor paternity leave — a prospect raised Tuesday by his boss, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson — would be a lengthy process that would require congressional approval and buy-in from other services.

"We're a long ways from that," Moran said.

During his visit to the Naples base — home to the U.S. 6th

Fleet and the Navy command overseeing Europe and Africa — Moran answered sailors' questions on everything from the proposed 401(k)-style retirement option included in the pending defense bill to whether future Navy regulations might allow beards.

Those with the highest priority for the re-enlistment bonus include anyone facing a hard End of Active Service deadline, those re-enlisting to fulfill obligated service and nuclear-trained sailors. Orders for military moves, known as permanent change of stations, or PCS, will go first to sailors deployed as individual augmentees and to those assigned to fleets and other operational units.

Richardson, who is visiting Hawaii and overseas bases after beginning his tour as CNO earlier this month, asked sailors for their opinion on the right amount of paternity leave and said officials were working on the issue, according to

an Associated Press report.

Moran stressed Wednesday that while the change to maternity leave was a matter of Navy policy, federal law restricts leave for married fathers.

A former P-3 pilot now in his third year as head of the Navy's personnel issues, Moran has focused on incentives — including increased sea-duty pay — to bolster retention and push more sailors to sea. He's also advocated for more flexibility in the service's rigid talent-management system.

One of his efforts, an expansion of a sabbatical program that would allow high-performing sailors to leave the service for as long as three years, is included in the defense authorization bill now awaiting the president's signature. President Barack Obama has threatened to veto the measure for an unrelated issue.

Other efforts are being led by the Pentagon, including permission to scrap high-year tenure, a military rule that lim-

its the time a military member can remain in service without advancing in rank. Moran has said the "up-or-out" concept forces sailors into a limited set of career options. Sailors in Naples asked about changes to the military retirement system included in the defense authorization bill, which would create a 401(k)-style plan for new sailors beginning in 2018 and lower the amount of the 20-year pension.

Moran stressed that sailors serving today would be grandfathered into the current 20-year pension plan and that some would be given the option of enrolling in the new plan, as well.

One issue not up for debate, the admiral said, is that beards will remain out of to the Navy.

"If you want to grow a beard, go do something else for a living," Moran said.

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Clinton, Sanders dominate, spar in Democratic debate

The Washington Post

LAS VEGAS — Hillary Rodham Clinton and Bernie Sanders clashed here Tuesday night over national security, the economy, big banks and gun-control policy in a spirited but largely civil debate that underscored competing approaches to helping the middle class and leading the country.

Clinton and Sanders, the two leading candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination, have generally avoided direct engagement along the campaign trail. But in their first face-to-face encounter, they were quick to challenge each other with surprisingly sharp and pointed language.

Early in the debate, Clinton seized on Sanders' record on gun control, arguing that he had not been strong enough in standing up to the National Rifle Association. She also upbraided the independent senator from Vermont, who

describes himself as a democratic socialist and who favors a series of big government programs, as unrealistic.

"I'm a progressive who likes to get things done," she said.

Sanders fired back at Clinton over the use of military force, calling her proposal for a no-fly zone in Syria a bad idea and pointing out that she had supported the Iraq War with her vote in 2002. Sanders described the invasion as "the worst foreign policy blunder in the history of the country."

Clinton and Sanders were at the center of attention on the stage in Las Vegas, but three other candidates — former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley; former Sen. Jim Webb, of Virginia; and former Rhode Island senator and governor Lincoln Chafee — sought to intrude, looking to give their lagging campaigns a boost before the biggest national audience they've had all year.

Jurors order Wis. gun shop to pay two injured officers

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Jurors ordered a Wisconsin gun store to pay nearly \$6 million on Tuesday in a lawsuit filed by two Milwaukee police officers who were shot and seriously wounded by a gun purchased at the store.

The ruling came in a negligence lawsuit filed by the officers against Badger Guns, a shop in suburban Milwaukee that authorities have linked to hundreds of firearms found at crime scenes. The lawsuit said the shop ignored several warning signs that the gun used to shoot the officers was being sold to a so-called straw buyer who was illegally purchasing the weapon for someone else.

Officer Bryan Norberg and former Officer Graham Kunisch were both shot in the

face after they stopped Julius Burton for riding his bike on the sidewalk in the summer of 2009. Investigators said Burton got the weapon, a Taurus .40-caliber handgun, a month before the confrontation, after giving \$40 to another man, Jacob Collins, to make the purchase at the store.

Jurors sided with the officers, ruling that the store was negligent. Jurors ordered the store to pay Norberg \$1.5 million, Kunisch \$3.6 million and punitive damages of \$730,000.

Burton pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree attempted intentional homicide and is serving an 80-year sentence. Collins, the man who purchased the gun, got a two-year sentence after pleading guilty to making a straw purchase for an underage buyer.

Carter: US will fly, sail where lawful

BY TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy will not be deterred from conducting a close patrol of China's man-made Spratly Islands if it chooses, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter said Tuesday.

"We will fly, sail, and operate wherever the international law permits and we will do that at the times and places of our choosing, and there's no exception to that," Carter said in Boston, where he and Secretary of State John Kerry were meeting with their Australian counterparts. "Whether it's the Arctic, or the sea lanes that fuel international commerce widely around the world, or the South China Sea.

Carter said the United States wants China and the other countries to halt reclamation

and militarization activities on the Spratly Islands, a collection of islands, rocks and elevated coral reefs.

According to a recent maritime report by the Department of Defense, there are more than 200 Spratly land features, though that figure varies based on how geographers count them.

China, Taiwan and Vietnam each claim all of the Spratly land features.

But it's China's rapid buildup of an airstrip on the Fiery Cross Reef that has generated the most concern. U.S. officials have begun briefing their Pacific allies on the proposed sail, which could come as close as 12 nautical miles to the Chinese buildup, according to news reports. Every nation can claim up to 12 nautical miles from its coast as sovereign territory.

Pakistani leaders knew bin Laden was nearby?

The Washington Post

A former Pakistani defense minister appeared to confirm on Indian television on Tuesday that both his country's senior military and civilian leadership knew of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden's presence in their country at the time of his death in 2011. Bin Laden was killed after his compound in Abbottabad was raided by U.S. Navy SEALs.

It's an open secret that elements within Pakistan's military and political establishment must have been aware of bin Laden's location and perhaps even helped him to safe haven in the years after the United States launched its invasion of Afghanistan and global war against al-Qaida.

In the months and years

since, though, Pakistani officials have remained largely tight-lipped about how bin Laden could have ended up finding such cozy sanctuary on Pakistani soil. But there have been tacit admissions.

Earlier this year, Lt. Gen. Asad Durrani, a former Pakistani spy chief, said it was "probable" that the country's main military intelligence organization, known as the ISI, knew of bin Laden's whereabouts and was possibly keeping him as leverage for future dealings with Washington.

This week, Chaudhry Ahmed Mukhtar, Pakistan's defense minister between 2008 and 2012, told Indian TV station CNN-IBN that they knew that bin Laden was in Pakistan.

Cubs head to their 1st NLCS since '03

Associated Press

CHICAGO — When it was over, Anthony Rizzo jumped around Wrigley Field and hugged everyone in sight. The moment was in his grasp, and he was determined to hold onto it for as long as possible.

The All-Star slugger endured several seasons of losing with the Chicago Cubs before they finally got into the playoffs again, and he was more than ready to enjoy the franchise's first appearance in the NL Championship Series in more than a decade.

"Obviously times weren't easy the last few years, but with all the talent we had and all the talent we were building, everyone knew that the Cubs were coming," a drenched Rizzo said as he celebrated Chicago's clinching 6-4 victory over St. Louis in the NL Division Series on Tuesday, "and we're here, and hopefully we can keep this thing going."

Rizzo, Javier Baez and Kyle Schwarber

homered as the Cubs finished off the rival Cardinals with their third consecutive win, leading to a wild scene on the inside and outside of their century-plus-old neighborhood ballpark. It was the first time they had clinched a postseason series at Wrigley, and the North Siders savored the accomplishment — at least for one night.

Much of a raucous, towel-waving crowd of 42,411 lingered as manager Joe Maddon posed for a selfie with his wife, and Jon Lester sprayed champagne with his young son. Rocker Eddie Vedder partied on the mound.

President Barack Obama — who roots for Chicago's other team — got in on the celebration, too, tweeting his congratulations and noting "even @whitesox fans are rooting for you!"

"We're going to celebrate this. We deserve to celebrate this," Rizzo said. "It's been a long time coming for this city, and hopefully it's just a sign of things to

come."

The victory in Game 4 allows Chicago to line up ace pitchers Jake Arrieta and Jon Lester for the beginning of the NLCS this weekend. The Dodgers beat the Mets 3-1 on Tuesday night and will play Game 5 of their division series on Thursday in Los Angeles.

The winner hosts the Cubs on Saturday in the opener of Chicago's first NLCS since 2003.

"This obviously right now is very rewarding, but we have a couple more series and hopefully we can celebrate like this two more times," Chicago third baseman Kris Bryant said.

The Cubs had a string of five consecutive losing seasons before they went 97-65 this year. But it was only good enough for third in the competitive NL Central, with St. Louis winning a major league-best 100 games and Pittsburgh finishing second.

The NL playoffs opened with Arrieta

tossing a five-hit shutout in the wild-card game against the Pirates, and the Cubs just kept on rolling against the Cardinals. After a 4-0 loss to John Lackey in the series opener, Rizzo and company clubbed 10 homers in the last three games.

"It's a shame that three of the best teams in baseball, one is only moving on to the championship series," Rizzo said. "I've said that all along, two unbelievable clubs we just beat, the Pirates, who have an unbelievable organization and the same with the Cardinals. We just beat a really good team."

St. Louis, which had made it to the NLCS for four straight years, also was impressed.

"I will be shocked if they're not in the World Series or winning it," Cardinals rookie Stephen Piscotty said. "They're playing well. You got to tip your hat."

Dodgers top Mets to force Game 5

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Short rest has never been the issue for Clayton Kershaw in October. Winning when he couldn't afford to lose, that was the problem.

Kershaw finally came through with the season on the line Tuesday night, saving Los Angeles from another early playoff exit by pitching the Dodgers to a 3-1 victory over the New York Mets that forced their NL Division Series to a deciding Game 5.

Working on only three days' rest, Kershaw shut down the Mets for seven innings and Justin Turner delivered a key hit against his former team. The series shifts back to Los Angeles on Thursday night, with fellow Dodgers ace Zack Greinke scheduled to start against Jacob deGrom. The winner will host the wild-card Chicago Cubs in the NL Championship Series opener Saturday.

"Definitely happy to be going back home," Kershaw said. "They like us a little better there."

Still the target of chanting Mets fans, Chase Utley watched from the bench again as the Dodgers did enough at the plate to hand hometown rookie Steven Matz his first loss in the majors.

Unable to muster much offense themselves, the Mets squandered their only chance to close out the series at home.

"I wish we could have won it here," David Wright said, "but Clayton Kershaw was just a beast tonight."

The reigning NL MVP and three-time Cy Young Award winner snapped a five-start losing streak in the playoffs — the longest in Dodgers history.

"I'm actually really happy for him. I mean, this kid is tremendous. Everything that you're supposed to be, he is," Dodgers

manager Don Mattingly said. "This guy's an animal, the way he works, represents us, the game of baseball, himself. I mean, he's really a credit to the game, and so you're really happy for him to be able to do that tonight."

After dropping the series opener 3-1 to deGrom, Kershaw was 1-6 with a 4.99 ERA in 12 career postseason outings, including nine starts. He lost elimination games each of the past two years, once on three days' rest. But this time, Kershaw was just as dominant as he normally is during the regular season.

"There's no curse or anything," he said. "Just got to get through the seventh."

He struck out eight, walked one and yielded only three hits, quieting another revved-up crowd at Citi Field as the night wore on. Daniel Murphy hit his second solo homer off Kershaw in the series, both coming in the fourth inning.

Kenley Jansen got four outs for his second save. With two runners on in the eighth and the count full, he retired Murphy on a fly to right. The right-hander then worked a 1-2-3 ninth as the Dodgers ended a seven-game losing streak in road playoff games.

Kershaw improved to 1-1 with a 1.89 ERA in a trio of playoff starts on three days' rest.

With a \$290 million payroll that's \$66 million higher than any other team, the Dodgers are seeking their first pennant since winning the 1988 World Series. They've captured three straight NL West titles but won only one playoff series during that span — in part because Kershaw got little run support in four consecutive postseason losses to St. Louis.

But after Los Angeles allowed 13 runs to the Mets in Game 3, Kershaw restored order when his team absolutely needed it.

Injury-prone Cards no match for Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — All those injuries finally caught up to the St. Louis Cardinals. It's going to be one long winter for Yadier Molina and the team that led the majors with 100 wins.

Stephen Piscotty hit a two-run homer for the second straight day, but John Lackey lasted just three innings and St. Louis was eliminated with a 6-4 loss to the Chicago Cubs in Game 4 of the NL Division Series on Tuesday.

Kevin Siegrist served up two home runs, including a massive drive to right by rookie Kyle Schwarber in the seventh for Chicago's 10th homer in its third straight victory. Despite owning the best record in baseball for most of the season, the Cardinals were no match for the powerful Cubs in a rare playoff failure for one of the majors' most successful franchises.

"You can judge us however you want," manager Mike Matheny said. "We've got to look in the mirror. Once again, it doesn't always matter how it's perceived by everybody else."

Molina could only watch as the Cardinals were knocked out in the first round of the playoffs for the first time in their active run of five consecutive postseason appearances. The All-Star catcher was scratched with weakness in his left thumb after he gamely tried to play with a strained ligament that sidelined him for the last part of the regular season.

"I tried everything," Molina said. "That's why I didn't play."

Molina planned to see a doctor Wednesday. He said he might have made the injury worse when he played in Game 3; he winced on a swing-and-miss in the fourth inning of Monday night's loss, and then was removed for a pinch hitter in the sixth.

Molina is one of baseball's best defensive catchers, and he hit .270 with 61 RBIs this season. Tony Cruz got the start behind the plate and contributed an RBI double, but Molina's absence was notable while the Cubs kept pounding the Cardinals pitchers.

St. Louis overcame several injuries to key performers while storming to its third consecutive NL Central title. But it missed electric right-hander Carlos Martinez against the slugging Cubs, while banged-up Jon Jay got just one at-bat after returning late in the year and Matt Adams was left off the postseason roster entirely due to injury.

Matheny decided to go with Lackey on short rest with St. Louis facing elimination, and it looked like a smart decision when the right-hander struck out his final two batters in a perfect first.

But the second inning quickly got away from Lackey, who was visibly angry after yielding a two-out RBI single to pitcher Jason Hammel.

"If I had that one pitch to go back, I would definitely do something different," Lackey said. "That pitch kind of hung over the plate."

Javier Baez followed with a three-run homer to right, giving the Cubs a 4-2 lead and sending a charge through the frenzied crowd of 42,411 at Wrigley Field.

The collapse in the second wasted a fast start for St. Louis, which grabbed a 2-0 lead when Piscotty connected on Hammel's fourth pitch of the game. Piscotty, who made his major league debut on July 21, also hit a two-run homer in the Cardinals' 8-6 loss on Monday night.

Cruz's clutch double got St. Louis within one in the sixth, but he was cut down at home by outfielder Jorge Soler when he tried to score on Brandon Moss' tying RBI single.



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Florida goes with Harris at QB

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida quarterback Treon Harris was never really out of the mix.

Coach Jim McElwain regretted keeping Harris on the bench in a 14-9 win at Kentucky last month and got him on the field briefly in each of the past two games.

So starting Harris at No. 6 LSU on Saturday night won't be a total shock for the eighth-ranked Gators, who will be without suspended quarterback Will Grier for the rest of the season. It might even back up McElwain's insistence that he had two quarterbacks capable of winning in the Southeastern Conference.

"I hope it looks better," McElwain said Monday when asked whether the offense will look the same with Harris taking snaps. "We didn't produce much in the second half [at Missouri], so the expectation is to be better every week."

McElwain nipped Grier's performances in each of his five starts, saying he rushed throws, missed open receivers

and left points on the field.

McElwain surely will do the same to Harris, who started the season opener and came off the bench the following week against East Carolina. Harris hasn't thrown a meaningful pass since. That will change against the Tigers (5-0, 3-0 SEC).

Harris, who was suspended for Florida's game against Tennessee, has completed 19 of 27 passes for 269 yards and two touchdowns this season. He also had 63 yards rushing and no turnovers.

"We were putting things in for him as we kind of go," McElwain said. "Going into this, I felt that we've had two really good quarterbacks. Now it's Treon's opportunity to take the reins and run with it. He'll do a great job. ... Obviously he has a different skill set. He can do some things with his feet that are different."

The Gators (6-0, 4-0) might not want Harris scrambling too often or taking too many hits. After all, they have little depth behind him. Former Vanderbilt quarterback/receiver Josh Grady will serve as Florida's backup. Grady has thrown eight passes in four seasons and two of those

resulted in interceptions.

"We've got to move forward and we've got to all get behind Treon and rally him up and tell him he's got our support," defensive tackle Jon Bullard said. "I'm really not worried about it, honestly. He's a gamer. He's showed that. He's proved it. ... I'm not really stressing. I told him today, I tapped him and I'm like, 'I'm behind you. Let's go. Take care of the ball and we're going to be all right.'"

Grier was suspended Monday for one year for violating the NCAA's policy on performance-enhancing drugs. Grier failed an NCAA drug test in the past two weeks and said Monday he took an over-the-counter supplement that "had something in it."

Florida, which declined to reveal the banned supplement, will appeal in hopes of getting Grier's suspension reduced.

So Harris getting thrust back into the starting lineup is par for the series.

"He's really ready," Gators tight end Jake McGee said. "He's a heck of a quarterback who has been in a lot of big games. He's a heck of a player."

Bucs RB reverts to top form

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A rejuvenated Doug Martin is healthy for the first time in three years and not the least bit surprised that he's re-establishing himself as one of the top running backs in the NFL.

Neither are the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2-3), who are off to their best start since 2012, when the soft-spoken, versatile fourth-year pro was a rookie and finished third in the league in total yards from scrimmage.

"I never doubted myself," Martin, coming off consecutive 100-yard rushing performances that not only bolstered his confidence but showed how much a productive running game can mean to a young quarterback.

Jameis Winston failed to take advantage of Martin rushing for 106 yards and a touchdown against Carolina two weeks ago, throwing four interceptions and losing a fumble in a 14-point loss to the Panthers.

The No. 1 overall draft pick rebounded from his worst outing as a pro, serving as more of a game manager and putting the ball in Martin's hands early and often during Sunday's 38-31 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars.

The 5-foot-9, 215-pound running back responded with 123 yards rushing and three touchdowns, scoring on a pair of 1-yard runs and using a nifty cut to get into the end zone on a 10-yard reception.

"When I go into a game, I just think about if I do my job and play hard, then everything else will fall into place," Martin said. "Find a way to do my job and just keep on punching and something eventually is going to pop."

The Bucs ran for a season-best 183 yards against the Jaguars, relieving some of the pressure off Winston to carry the offense.

The rookie attempted just 19 passes, completing 13 while throwing for 209 yards and one touchdown without an interception. Tampa Bay ended a stretch of 25 consecutive games with at least one turnover.

"Of course the running game is a quarterback's best friend," coach Lovie Smith said Monday. "That and the check-down ... and we were able to get all that going."

Three years ago, Martin rushed for 1,454 yards and 11 touchdowns as a rookie. The Pro Bowl selection also had 49 receptions for 472 yards and one TD to rank third in the NFL in total yards from scrimmage behind Adrian Peterson and Calvin Johnson.

After injuries limited him to 17 games and a combined 950 yards rushing over the past two seasons, Martin reported to training camp this summer feeling as good physically as he had since entering the league as a first-round draft pick out of Boise State.

He looked good in practice and even better in preseason games, spawning hope that he could revert to the form of his stellar rookie season.

With 405 yards on 90 carries through five games, Martin is tied for second with Atlanta's Devonta Freeman and Arizona's Chris Johnson behind NFL rushing leader Matt Forte.

The 26-year-old has 11 receptions for 94 yards and is sixth in the league in total yards from scrimmage.

"Doug ain't no joke, man. ... I tried to tell you all what I saw in the offseason and camp," Bucs defensive tackle Gerald McCoy said.

Spezza's hat trick lifts Stars over Oilers

Associated Press

DALLAS — Jason Spezza, 13 years into his NHL career, took the spotlight from the kid.

Spezza scored three goals, including the tiebreaker late in the third period, and the Dallas Stars spoiled Connor McDavid's first NHL goal with a 4-2 victory over the Edmonton Oilers on Tuesday night.

Spezza's go-ahead goal for a 3-2 lead with 4:30 remaining came moments after Kari Lehtonen stopped Nail Yakupov on a breakaway. Lehtonen made his season debut after backing up Antti Niemi in the first two games.

"The breakaway save was a game-saver for us," Spezza said. "He stops the breakaway, we go down the other way and score. That's the hockey game. That's a huge save. Big time."

The Stars had 52 shots, their most since getting 55 in a 3-3 tie with Los Angeles on Nov. 8, 1995. Spezza finished off the hat trick with an empty-net goal.

Anders Nilsson made 48 saves in his first appearance for Edmonton, but he couldn't stop Spezza when the Dallas forward took a dump-off pass from Antoine Roussel in the slot.

"Credit to all the zone time we had," Spezza said. "It felt like we had the puck a lot tonight. Sometimes it follows you a little more. The power play we moved around pretty good. We didn't score a power-play goal, but we got good looks."

McDavid, the 18-year-old who was selected No. 1 overall in the June draft, scored in the second period to pull the Oilers even at 2 after they had fallen behind 2-0.

McDavid almost scored Edmonton's first goal when he appeared to tip a shot by defenseman Oscar Klefbom, who got credit for the goal.

But McDavid didn't have to wait much longer, redirecting a long shot by Andrej Sekera past Lehtonen less than 2 minutes later midway through the second period.

"It's something that I'll remember for the rest of my life," McDavid said. "But like you said, obviously, not the way you want to end that game but pretty special to get it right away."

McDavid struggled in the faceoff circle again, winning just three of nine to put him at 8-for-33 for the season. He had

three shots in 16 minutes.

Canadiens 3, Penguins 2: Tomas Fleischmann finished an odd-man rush with his first goal of the season early in the third period and Montreal beat host Pittsburgh.

Fleischmann scored off a feed from David Desharnais to help Montreal wrap up its season-opening trip at 4-0-0 and drop Pittsburgh to 0-3-0.

Sharks 5, Capitals 0: Martin Jones made 31 saves for his second straight shutout and San Jose took advantage of Alex Ovechkin's absence from host Washington's lineup.

The Sharks improved to 3-0-0 and have outscored their opponents 12-1. Jones allowed a goal on the first shot he faced this season, but has blanked opponents for the following 178 minutes, 11 seconds.

Matt Nieto and Chris Tierney each had a goal and an assist, and Joe Thornton, Mike Brown and Tomas Hertl added goals.

Ovechkin missed the game because of personal reasons. The Capitals sent out a note on Twitter about 35 minutes before the game saying the Russian star would not play.

Canucks 3, Kings 0: Ryan Miller made 15 saves in his 36th career shutout, Adam Cracknell scored his second goal in two games, and visiting Vancouver beat winless Los Angeles.

Alexander Edler scored and Derek Dorsett added an empty-net goal for the Canucks, who followed up a 2-1 shootout win over Anaheim on Monday night by improving to 3-0-1.

Miller is off to a strong start after matching his career high with six shutouts last season, his first with the Canucks. Jonathan Quick stopped 23 shots for struggling Los Angeles, which has been outscored 11-2 while losing three straight home games to open the season.

Predators 3, Devils 1: Pekka Rinne made 22 saves and Nashville ran its season-opening winning streak to three with a victory over struggling host New Jersey.

Roman Josi had a power-play goal in the first period and added a short-handed empty netter in the third. Eric Nystrom also had an empty-net goal for the Predators, off to their best start since 2010-11.

Rinne has played a major role in that success, allowing only two goals so far. Playing his club-record 384th game, he lost his shutout when Kyle Palmieri scored on a power play with 1:40 left.

New Jersey has lost all three if its games, leaving the tandem of general manager Ray Shero and coach John Hynes looking for their first wins since taking over in the off season.

Panthers 4, Hurricanes 1: Connor Brickley scored his first NHL goal, Alexander Barkov gave his team a two-goal lead 50 seconds later in the third period and Florida beat host Carolina.

Nick Bjugstad opened the scoring in the first period, former Hurricanes forward Jussi Jokinen added an empty-net goal with 1:47 left, and Al Montoya made 25 saves to help Florida improve to 2-1-0.

Jaromir Jagr assisted on Barkov's goal for his 1,809th career point.

Elias Lindholm scored for Carolina in the second period, and Eddie Lack made 22 saves in his first start of the season. The Hurricanes dropped to 0-3-0.

Jets 4, Rangers 1: Brian Little scored twice, Michael Hutchinson made 40 saves and Winnipeg beat host New York to finish 3-1-0 in its opening trip.

Nikolaj Ehlers and Mark Stuart also scored for the Jets.

Mats Zuccarello scored for New York, and Henrik Lundqvist made 24 saves. The Rangers dropped to 3-1-0.

Red Wings 3, Lightning 1: Henrik Zetterberg had a goal and an assist, Jimmy Howard made 20 saves and host Detroit beat Tampa Bay to improve to 3-0-0.

Gustav Nyquist and Kyle Quincey also scored for Detroit.

Ryan Callahan scored for Tampa Bay, and Ben Bishop made 21 saves. The Lightning are 3-1-0.

Blues 4, Flames 3: Colton Parayko scored his first two NHL goals to lead visiting St. Louis past Calgary.

The 22-year-old defenseman broke a 2-2 tie on a power play at 4:47 of the second period on a 55-foot wrist shot that eluded goalie Jonas Hiller. Parayko scored again with 32 seconds left in the second on another long shot, this one changing directions slightly on the way and slipping under Hiller's arm.