

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Thursday, October 22, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## American dies in hostage rescue in Iraq

BY TARA COPP

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A U.S. special operator was killed Thursday during a raid to free captives from an Islamic State-controlled prison in northern Iraq, the Pentagon confirmed.

The rescue took place near the town of Hawijah, after U.S. and Iraqi officials received “information that the hostages faced imminent mass execution,” Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said. The operation freed 70 hostages, 20 of whom were members of the Iraqi Security Forces, and a number of Islamic State fighters were killed, he said.

The operation on Thursday marks the first time an American has been killed in combat in Iraq since the U.S. withdrawal in 2011. It also raised questions about whether the U.S. forces were operating beyond the “train, advise, assist” mission that President Barack Obama authorized when the United States began attacks

against the Islamic State group last year.

When Obama sent more troops to Anbar province in June, he emphasized “American forces will not be returning to combat in Iraq.”

In Thursday’s operation, the United States provided helicopter transport, airstrike support, intelligence and advice to peshmerga forces who took the compound.

Dozens of U.S. forces and peshmerga fighters were transported in five U.S. special operations helicopters for the prison raid, a U.S. defense official said on the condition that he not be named. At the compound, the forces came under fire from Islamic State fighters.

At a briefing Thursday, Cook said some of the U.S. operators assisting in the rescue were on the ground at the prison. The U.S. forces were in a support role, with the peshmerga taking the lead into the compound, he said.

“It was in that role that this soldier was wounded,” Cook said.

The Pentagon could not say whether U.S. forces were on the ground fighting at the prison with the peshmerga or remained with the helicopter transport.

Five Islamic State fighters were taken prisoner and are being held by the peshmerga.

During the raid, the special operator was shot, the defense official confirmed. He was transported to Irbil for medical care, where he died, the official said.

Four peshmerga were wounded, Cook said.

There are about 3,500 U.S. troops deployed to Iraq to advise, train and assist Iraqi Security Forces as they work to retake Islamic State-controlled territory. Based on information provided by the Department of Defense as of Thursday, there have been no other U.S. servicemember deaths in Iraq as a result of hostile action since U.S. forces returned last year for Operation Inherent Resolve.

copp.tara@stripes.com  
Twitter: @TaraCopp

## Heavy helmet causing ejection dangers in F-35

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The head of the F-35 Joint Program Office on Wednesday said the heavy, futuristic helmet of its advanced Joint Strike Fighter is causing a variety of problems during ejections and has led to a higher risk of injury for some pilots.

Lt. Gen. Christopher Bogdan told a House Armed Services panel that his office is now trying to shave about 6 ounces from the 5.4-pound, \$400,000 helmets to reduce potentially fatal neck injuries for lightweight pilots who eject from the aircraft, which is now the most expensive weapons system in U.S. history.

The committee called for

a public briefing after the Air Force, which is still testing the F-35, announced this month that it would restrict pilots weighing less than 136 pounds from flying any of its 79 aircraft. It also said pilots between 136 and 165 pounds face a higher risk of critical injury from the F-35 than from the older fighter jets that it is slated to replace.

The Marine Corps cleared the F-35 for combat in July.

“This [ejection seat] is supposed to be life-saving and not life-threatening,” Rep. Mike Turner, R-Ohio, said.

Bogdan said it discovered problems with the heavy helmets last winter and continued testing in August resulted in the ban on lighter pilots. Those

weighing less than 136 pounds cannot safely wear a helmet that is more than 4.8 pounds.

“If [the pilot] steps to the airplane, he or she has a 1 in 50,000 chance of hurting their neck from an ejection,” he said.

Pilots between 136 and 165 pounds have less risk, about 1 in 200,000, of having their heads snapped forward or backward, according to Bogdan.

The program office so far has been unable to make a production model of the helmet — widely heralded for technology allowing pilots to see through the airframe around them — at the weight required to keep servicemembers safe, Bogdan said.

“It will take about another

year for us to finish that and ensure every helmet is less than 4.8 pounds,” he said.

The F-35 is designed to take over a variety of combat operations from other U.S. aircraft, and military planners say it will ensure military air superiority in the decades to come. It is a vision that Congress has deeply invested in with continued support of a program that has ballooned to \$400 billion and has suffered numerous delays and setbacks.

“This is far more expensive than any of us anticipated, but we are far enough down the line that we have to make this work,” said Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass.

tritten.travis@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Travis\_Tritten

# WikiLeaks publishes CIA director's emails

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The WikiLeaks organization posted material Wednesday from what appears to be CIA Director John Brennan's personal email account, including a draft security clearance application containing personal information.

The material presumably was taken in a compromise of Brennan's email account by a hacker who told The New York Post he is a high school student protesting American foreign policy. The hacker claimed he posed as a Verizon employee and tricked another employee into revealing Brennan's personal information.

Brennan was seeking a security clearance while applying for a job as White House counterterrorism adviser.

It was not immediately clear whether any national security information was compromised in the release of the clearance application, which includes his wife's Social Security number and the names of people Brennan worked with over a long prior career at the CIA.

A CIA statement called the hack a "crime."

"The Brennan family is the victim," the agency said in an unattributed statement, in keeping with agency policy. "This attack is something that could happen to anyone and should be condemned, not promoted. There is no indication that any the documents released thus far are classified. In fact, they appear to be documents that a private citizen with national security interests and expertise would be expected to possess."

The documents all date from before 2009, when Brennan joined the White House staff; before that, he was working in the private sector.

Aside from the partially completed clearance application, none of the documents appears to be sensitive.

The documents include a partially written position paper on the future of intelligence, a memo on Iran, a paper from a Republican lawmaker on CIA interrogations and a summary of a contract dispute between the CIA and Brennan's private company, the Analysis Corp., which had filed a formal protest after losing a contract dealing with terrorist watch lists.

# Coalition hits insurgents' cash-cow oil field in Syria

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S.-led coalition forces in Iraq and Syria carried out a large-scale attack on Syria's Omar oil field as part of its mission to target the Islamic State group's ability to generate money, a coalition spokesman said Thursday.

Operations officer Maj. Michael Filanowski told journalists in Baghdad that airstrikes late Wednesday struck Islamic State-controlled oil refineries, command-and-control centers and transportation nodes in the

Omar oil field near the town of Deir el-Zour. Coalition spokesman Col. Steve Warren said the attack hit 26 targets, making it one of the largest set of strikes since the air campaign was launched last year.

The refinery generates between \$1.7 million and \$5.1 million per month for the Islamic State group.

"It was very specific targets that would result in long-term incapacitation of their ability to sell oil, to get it out of the ground and transport it," Filanowski said.

# Clinton: Military did all it could during Benghazi attack

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday told a House investigative panel that the military did everything possible to get to the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi during a deadly 2012 attack.

The former secretary of state, who is now a Democratic candidate for president, said response units were too far away to reach the scene because allied revolutionary forces in control of Libya had rejected the presence of foreign troops in the country.

After 17 months of investigative work, the House Select Committee on Benghazi, led by Republicans, called Clinton to testify in a showdown over the embassy attack by armed militants, which appeared to catch the United States flatfooted and left the ambassador and three other Americans dead.

"Our military did everything they could; they turned over every rock ... It was beyond the geographic range," Clinton said Thursday during questioning.

Clinton said the State De-

partment had taken a known risk by operating in Libya, where the revolution to overthrow longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi and the opposition backed by the U.S. had resisted allowing military personnel for embassy sites.

No U.S. servicemembers were stationed at the embassy when armed militants flooded into the State Department compound and set fire to it during the nighttime attack on Sept. 11, the anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens died in the fire along with another State Department official, Sean Smith.

Embassy personnel retreated to a nearby CIA compound as the attack continued. Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty, former Navy SEALs working as CIA contractors, were killed while defending that compound.

Clinton faced lengthy, more pointed questioning from Republican committee members over her handling of the incident, which has drawn intense criticism since it occurred.

## 2 killed, 2 wounded in Sweden school stabbing

A knife-wielding, masked man stabbed four people Thursday at a school in southern Sweden, killing a teacher and a student before being shot dead by police, authorities said. One student thought the man had something to do with Halloween.

Students fled from the Kronan school in Trollhattan, near Goteborg, Sweden's second-largest city, as the attack took place in a nearby cafe just after

10 a.m., police said. The school has 400 students ranging from pre-school to high school.

Police arrived to find one male teacher already dead and three other people seriously wounded — two male students ages 11 and 15 and another male teacher, police spokesman Thomas Fuxborg told The Associated Press. Police fired two shots, one of which hit the attacker, he said. One student and the attacker, a 21-year-old from Trollhattan, died later at the hospital, authorities said.

From The Associated Press



# Mets complete NLCS sweep of Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Two sweet swings by Lucas Duda put New York in position for a playoff sweep of the Chicago Cubs, and Daniel Murphy finished the job for the Mets.

Next up is a trip to the World Series.

Murphy homered for a record sixth consecutive postseason game, and the Mets brushed aside the Cubs 8-3 Wednesday night, capping a National League Championship Series in which New York never trailed.

"I can't explain it. It's such a blessing to contribute to what we've been able to do," Murphy said.

Duda hit a three-run homer in the first inning and a two-run double in the second, silencing a crowd of 42,227 desperately hoping for the beginning of an epic comeback in Game 4.

Not this time. Not with New York's array of power arms, and Murphy swinging a hot stick that made him the NLCS MVP.

The Mets advanced to the World Series for the first time since they lost to the crosstown Yankees in five games in 2000. They will play at either Toronto or Kansas City in Game 1 on Tuesday night; the Royals lead 3-2 in the ALCS.

The first big question for New York is the health of center fielder Yoenis Cespedes, who left in the second inning with soreness in his left shoulder. Any health issue for the slugger could be a big factor in the next round.

see sweep on page 31

"Cespedes' shoulder is going to be OK," manager Terry Collins said. "They didn't think there was any damage."

The Cubs, meanwhile, still haven't won the crown since

1908. Manager Joe Maddon's wild-card bunch surged into this series, but was overmatched and fell behind in the first inning of every game.

"They smothered us early and that's always a great game plan," Maddon said.

When Dexter Fowler looked at a called third strike for the final out, Jeurys Familia dropped to his knees in front of the mound and then hopped up for a hug from catcher Travis d'Arnaud. They were soon joined by the rest of their jubilant teammates in the infield grass.

By wrapping it up fast, the Mets can now set up their imposing rotation how they want for the World Series. Jacob deGrom, Matt Harvey and Noah Syndergaard will all be on full rest, and then some.

"This is a long time coming," third baseman David Wright said.

Right when it looked as if his historic streak was coming to an end, Murphy connected for a two-run drive to center against Fernando Rodney in the eighth inning. The second baseman raised his right arm as he rounded first after his seventh homer of the playoffs — the string includes a shot in the deciding Game 5 of the division series at Dodger Stadium last week.

Murphy, who was tied with Carlos Beltran for the postseason homer streak, finished with four hits and batted .529 (9 for 17) in the series.

D'Arnaud also homered as the Mets won their fifth pennant. Bartolo Colon pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings for his first playoff win since 2001, for Cleveland at Seattle. The 14 years, 12 days between postseason victories for the 42-year-old right-hander snapped the major league record of exactly 14 years for Milt Wilcox, according to

STATS.

Rookie Kris Bryant hit a two-run homer for Chicago in the eighth, but it was way too late for the Cubs in their first appearance in the NLCS in 12 years. The Cubs shut out Pittsburgh in the wild-card game and eliminated rival St. Louis in the division series, but were unable to mount much of a challenge against the Mets' talented pitching staff.

"I think we're in a place nobody expected us to be and we can be proud of that," Bryant said. "We were four wins away from going to the World Series. I think a lot of people didn't really expect us to be here."

The Cubs also loaded the bases with no outs in the fourth, and came away with only one run on Kyle Schwarber's grounder to first. Starlin Castro lined right to Wright at third on a hard smash for the first out.

While the Mets' pitching dominated much of the series, it was clear the Cubs were in trouble after aces Jon Lester and Jake Arrieta dropped the first two games in New York. Kyle Hendricks lasted just four innings on Tuesday night, and Jason Hammel was even worse in Game 4.

With two out and a runner on in the first, Hammel walked Cespedes before Duda hit a long drive to center for his first playoff homer. D'Arnaud followed with a shot to right for the Mets' second set of consecutive homers in playoff history, joining Darryl Strawberry and Kevin McReynolds in Game 4 of the 1988 NLCS against Los Angeles.

Hammel was replaced by Travis Wood after a one-out walk in the second, and Duda drove home two more runs with a double into the gap in right-center. Duda was just 3-for-24 in the playoffs coming into the night.

## Toronto forces Game 6 in ALCS

Associated Press

TORONTO — Marco Estrada took the mound with one task: Save the season for the Toronto Blue Jays.

He did it, pitching one-hit ball into the eighth inning to give Toronto's tattered bullpen a rest, and the Blue Jays beat the Kansas City Royals 7-1 Wednesday to close to 3-2 in the best-of-seven American League Championship Series.

"It's the start that we needed," short-stop Troy Tulowitzki said. "They're a great team over there. We know that. But this guy kept them off balance and allowed the offense to settle in and get some runs."

Tulowitzki provided three of those runs. He broke the game open with a bases-clearing double off Kelvin Herrera in the sixth, giving him seven RBIs in the series. Edwin Encarnacion had walked with the bases loaded against Edinson Volquez, who seemed flustered by a couple of close calls against the Royals.

Kansas City totaled 22 runs and 30 hits in the first two games in Toronto, but Estrada faced the minimum 20 batters before Lorenzo Cain walked with two outs in the seventh. Closer Roberto Osuna was perfect in the ninth.

Yordano Ventura will start for the defending AL champions on Friday in Game 6 against David Price, the Game 2 loser.

Estrada, a 32-year-old free-agent to be, kept the bullpen door closed for most of the afternoon, a day after Kansas City romped 14-2 in a game that saw infielder Cliff Pennington pitch in the ninth.

"This time around I had a better fast-

ball command," said Estrada, who gave up three runs in the opener. "That was the key to this game." Toronto is trying to become just the 13th team to rally and win among 80 who trailed 3-1 in a best-of-seven postseason series. It has happened four of 17 times in the LCS, including when the Royals bounced back against the Blue Jays in 1985 en route to Kansas City's only World Series title. In this year's best-of-five Division Series, Toronto fell behind 0-2, then won three straight against Texas.

Before 49,325 roaring fans, Chris Colabello's solo homer into the left-field seats in the second gave Estrada a lead. It was the only mistake by Volquez, the Game 1 winner.

Estrada didn't make a miscue until Salvador Perez homered with two outs in the eighth. Estrada retired his first nine batters, ending at four Alcides Escobar's record streak of leading off playoff games with hits.

Escobar, who entered 9-for-15 (.600), got Kansas City's first hit when he opened the fourth with a ground single past a diving Tulowitzki.

Zobrist promptly grounded into a double play to second baseman Ryan Goins.

"He was really good today," Escobar said. "He threw the ball down, down and away, down and in. He didn't miss many pitches today."

Kansas City had no other runners until Cain walked with two outs in the seventh. Price was up in the bullpen, but Estrada got Eric Hosmer to fly out.

Volquez allowed just two singles after Colabello connected but lost the strike zone in the sixth.

Ben Revere led off with a walk and Volquez hit Josh Donaldson with the first pitch. In August, Volquez hit Donaldson in a testy game that included a benches-clearing scum.

He then walked Jose Bautista in a 10-pitch at-bat on a knuckle curve that looked to get a piece of the plate.

"I thought the pitch to Bautista was definitely a strike," Royals manager Ned Yost said.

Yost shouted from the dugout for Perez to appeal to first base on ball four, thinking Bautista may have swung. But it was too loud in the closed-roof stadium for Perez to hear.

"We were trying to get their attention to get him to appeal it," Yost said. "I don't know if he was arguing the pitch, I don't know what he was talking about."

Encarnacion walked on another pitch that upset Volquez and Yost. Volquez turned his back to plate umpire Dan Iassogna as Revere jogged home for a 2-0 lead. It was his last batter.

"When you lose your fastball command, it's hard for the umpire to give you the close pitches," Volquez said.

Herrera relieved and struck out Colabello. With the crowd chanting "Tu-lo! Tu-lo!" Tulowitzki sent a drive to the center-field wall, sending fans into a towel-waving frenzy.

Bautista and Donaldson had consecutive doubles off Danny Duffy in the seventh to make it 6-0, and Kevin Pillar doubled in a run in the eighth.

Cain's Royals-record 13-game postseason hitting streak was snapped. He went 0-for-3.

## Mattingly, LA part ways

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Don Mattingly won't return as manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers next year after agreeing with his bosses that he and the team needed a fresh start.

Mattingly said Thursday in a statement distributed by the team that it's "the right time and right move for both parties."

Los Angeles was 446-363 in five years under Mattingly, finishing with a winning record in every season and claiming the last three NL West titles. But the Dodgers have not reached the World Series since winning the championship in 1988.

The 54-year-old ex-Yankees star ranks sixth in wins among Dodgers managers.

After the Dodgers lost 3-2 to the New York Mets in a decisive Game 5 of the NL Division Series, Mattingly met with president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman, general manager Farhan Zaidi and Josh Byrnes, senior vice president of baseball operations over the last week.

"We all felt that a fresh start would be good for both the organization and me," Mattingly said. "We talked about several scenarios, including my returning in 2016. However, I believe this is the right time and right move for both parties."

The franchise with baseball's highest payroll, a record \$289.6 million as of the end of the regular season, managed just two playoff victories this year.

L.A. reached the playoffs in three straight years for the first time but won just one series, beating Atlanta in the division series two years ago.



## Ship's Store official new car program

Exclusive Navy at-sea offers:

[www.navyauto.com](http://www.navyauto.com) or [nasinfo@navyauto.com](mailto:nasinfo@navyauto.com)

# Is Baylor's Coleman top player?

Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Corey Coleman leaps after catching a short pass near the sideline, and the defender diving at him whiffs while tumbling to the ground. Baylor's 5-foot-11 receiver then lands on his feet, dodges another flailing defensive back with a stutter-step slide and gains 30 yards before slipping out of bounds.

Even when not adding to his FBS-leading and school-record 16 touchdown catches, Coleman proves hard to tackle while creating more highlights for the second-ranked Bears.

"He's a hard matchup, because he's very explosive and he's very passionate and he's very talented," Baylor coach Art Briles said.

West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen, on the opposing sideline Saturday to see Coleman's nifty elusion and three touchdowns, was more direct in his assessment.

"The best player in college football," Holgorsen said. "You can put me on record for that."

Only halfway through the regular season for Baylor (6-0, 3-0 Big 12), Coleman has already surpassed the previous school record of 14 TDs in 2011 by current Tennessee Titans receiver Kendall Wright. The FBS record is 27 by Troy Edwards for Louisiana Tech in 1998, and Jerry Rice also had 27 for FCS Mississippi Valley State in 1984.

Of the 252 FBS and FCS teams this season, only 25 have more TD passes than Coleman has caught by himself.

"It's great that I broke the record. But it's really not about that to me. It's about winning," Coleman said. "And whatever I

can do to help this team win and get in the playoffs, then it's my job and I'm going to do it 100 percent."

Coleman is doing that, with at least 100 yards receiving and a touchdown in seven consecutive games, going back to last season's Cotton Bowl after the Bears were the first team left out of the initial College Football Playoff. He has multiple touchdowns in the past five games, and plenty of did-you-see-that moves.

"He's as dynamic as anybody I've seen," Kansas coach David Beaty said. "He's got unbelievable top-end speed."

His third touchdown against the Mountaineers came on fourth down, when Coleman caught an inside slant, put on the brakes and took a step back. The defensive back slipped and fell, leaving Coleman a clear path to the end zone for a 33-yard touchdown. There were also non-scoring plays of 50 and 42 yards among his 10 catches for 199 yards.

"He can start and stop with anybody. He'll catch the ball at a dead stop, and then outrun your entire defense," Texas Tech coach Kliff Kingsbury said. "What I was more surprised by was his size and physicality. He's very well-put together, and he's a strong kid."

Coleman was one of Baylor's top recruits in 2012 out of Richardson, Texas, in the Dallas area. He redshirted that season because of a lingering hamstring issue that affected him in practice.

While a humbling experience for the kid who had hoped to have an immediate impact, Coleman got stronger and more explosive in that time.

"It really helped me get back close with God, honestly. It gave me some time to think and learn some stuff," Coleman said. "It got me in the weight room. I didn't

really lift weights till I got to Baylor."

Coleman said he is now over 190 pounds as a junior, and his body fat has dropped from 9 to 6 percent while bulking up from the 169 pounds he was when he got to Waco.

"We knew he's a special player," Briles said. "You can have a lot of passion, you can have a lot of toughness, you can have a lot of energy, you can have a lot of spirit, but if you don't have talent, then you're still going to be normal. He's got all that with talent, and that's what allows him to separate and be different."

## No. 6 Clemson hits road

CLEMSON, S.C. — No. 6 Clemson is hitting the road, stepping out of its comfort zone and focused on duplicating the success the Tigers have had at home.

The Tigers (3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) have started 6-0 for the third time in five seasons with all but one of their contests in the cozy confines of Memorial Stadium. Now, they're faced with back-to-back road trips, starting Saturday at Miami (4-2, 1-1).

Clemson co-offensive coordinator Jeff Scott said the players seem prepared to take on the challenges that come with playing away from Death Valley, where the Tigers have won a school-record 14 straight at home with last week's 34-17 win over Boston College.

Clemson struggled in its lone chance off campus, holding off Louisville 20-17 in a way-closer-than-expected contest on national TV where the Tigers figured to make their case as one of the country's top teams.

# NFL's unbeaten face tests

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — The knock on both the Packers and Broncos, 6-0 teams with byes this weekend before their showdown in Denver on Nov. 1, is that they've fattened up on the league's bottom-feeders.

That argument could be made about any of the NFL's five unbeaten teams, really — and that's about to change over the next two weeks when they'll either burnish their credentials or fall from the ranks of the undefeated.

The league's two 5-0 teams, Carolina and New England, have big tests this weekend. The Panthers host the Eagles (3-3), who are tied atop the NFC East after their big win over the Giants, and the Patriots host the New York Jets (4-1).

The league's trio of 6-0 teams all have this weekend off and will take perfect records into November. The Bengals visit Pittsburgh (4-2) on Nov. 1 before the Packers and Broncos meet on Sunday Night Football.

"It's a huge game," Broncos cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said. "People keep thinking that our team is just a fluke and we haven't played anybody. It's a good game to kind of see where we're at."

And show everyone else, added Denver linebacker Von Miller.

"I still don't think that we're getting all the love that we should get," Miller said, even though Denver's No. 1-ranked defense has collected 26 sacks and 18 takeaways. "We play Green Bay, Sunday Night Football, we'll be able to prove our point."

The Fab Five all have skeptics to win over, apparently.

The combined records of all five unbeaten teams' opponents are below .500 and only the Patriots and Broncos have beaten a team with a winning record.

The Patriots beat the Steelers in the season opener and two other opponents, the Bills and Colts, are right at .500. Overall, New England's opponents are a respectable 13-16.

That's by far the best mark by opponents for any of the five teams who have yet to lose.

The Broncos beat Minnesota (3-2) but also count three of the league's 1-5 teams among their victims, and their opponents are 10-24 overall.

The Packers' opponents are 11-24 and none of them have won more than twice. Neither have Carolina's, whose opponents are a combined 9-20, although you can put their last-minute win at Seattle (2-4) last week in the impressive category no matter the Seahawks' record.

Cincinnati's opponents are 11-24, with Buffalo (3-3) the only team not currently under .500.

So, yes, they've all fattened up a little on the also-rans. But that's the nature of the NFL.

Before losing Dez Bryant and Tony Romo to injury, Dallas sure didn't have the look of a sub-.500 team heading into Week 7. Neither did the Ravens before losing Terrell Suggs or the Seahawks before misplacing their mojo.

And Denver's first three games were against the Ravens, Chiefs and Lions, a trio that averaged 10 wins last year and didn't look like they'd be a combined 3-15 at this point.

Still, the Broncos are getting the most scrutiny of the unbeaten clubs even though they're the first team since Indianapolis in 2009 to win four games in the first six weeks of a season.

# Giroux's OT goal lifts Flyers over Bruins

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins seemed ready to put this one away before Philadelphia backup goaltender Steve Mason came up with a terrific save. It sparked a Flyers' comeback.

Claude Giroux's second goal, coming on a power play 2:09 into overtime, lifted the Flyers to a 5-4 win over the Bruins on Wednesday night.

With the Flyers trailing 4-2 midway into the third, Boston forward David Pastrnak shot to a wide-open side of the net. Mason quickly moved across to his right and flashed his glove, barely pulling the puck out of the air before it crossed the line.

Mason was hoping it could spark the team.

"Yeah, you know, it sometimes doesn't always shake out that way, but you hope that it can provide some momentum," he said. "We can't go out there and provide a big hit or fight or score goals, so goal-tenders making timely saves are kind of their way of chipping in and fortunately tonight it went our way."

The Flyers overcame that two-goal deficit with Wayne Simmonds hitting the tying shot. Giroux then one-timed it past Tuukka Rask from the left circle for the winner. The Bruins were short-handed with Ryan Spooner off for hooking.

Pierre-Edouard Bellemare and Sam Gagner also had goals for the Flyers, who won after dropping a 2-1 decision at home against Dallas a night earlier.

Chris Kelly, Jimmy Hayes, Brett Connolly and Patrice Bergeron scored for the Bruins, who have lost their first four games at home this season.

"When you score four goals you should have more than enough to win a game," Bergeron said. "Too many slow reactions defensively and lack of communication and poor decisions. It ends up hurting us big time."

Philadelphia's starting goaltender Michal Neuvirth left the game after the first period. GM Ron Hextall told the media it was an "upper body injury."

In relief, Mason stopped 16 shots. Rask made 32 saves.

"I wouldn't call it a struggle," said Rask, who has allowed 21 goals in four home games. "But, then again, you let in five, four goals every game. Can't be pretty happy about that."

Simmonds beat Rask with a blistering wrist shot from the left circle, tying it with 9:36 to play. Giroux had sliced it to 4-3 at 7:48.

Boston moved ahead 3-2 when Loui Eriksson's shot caromed into the net off Kelly's skate. It came despite the Bruins skating shorthanded after Zac Rinaldo was given a five-minute major for charging and a game misconduct on a hit to Flyers center Sean Couturier along the boards at the end of the first.

"There's no place for that hit," Flyers coach Dave Hakstol said.

The Flyers were held without a shot on goal during their five-minute advantage. Hayes beat Mason between the pads on a tough-angle shot from the bottom of the right circle, making it 4-2.

Bellemare's hustle goal made it 1-0 midway into the first when he backhanded in his own rebound, but Connolly's goal tied it when he slipped the rebound of Bergeron's shot into the net from the edge of the crease.

Less than two minutes later, Gagner fired a wrist over Rask's right shoulder to make it 2-1.

Bergeron scored a power-play goal when he batted a rebound out of the air from the edge of the crease at 17:24.

**Oilers 3, Red Wings 1:** Connor McDavid scored his fourth goal of the season to help host Edmonton beat Detroit.

The No. 1 overall draft pick, McDavid beat Petr Mrazek with a deke on a breakaway to give the Oilers a 2-0 lead at 6:34 of the second period. He also has two assists in his first seven games.

**Sabres 2, Maple Leafs 1 (SO):** Evander Kane tied it with 4:29 left with his first goal for Buffalo, and Matt Moulson and Tyler Ennis scored in the shootout to beat visiting Toronto.

Kane pushed a wrist past goalie Jonathan Bernier. Buffalo acquired Kane from Winnipeg in February, but he was unable to play until this season after having shoulder surgery.

Chad Johnson made 23 saves to help Buffalo improve to 2-4.

P.A. Parenteau scored for Toronto, and Bernier made 34 saves.

**Hurricanes 1, Avalanche 0 (OT):** Victor Rask scored 1:49 into overtime to end Carolina's 10-game losing streak in Colorado.

Cam Ward made 26 saves in his first shutout of the season and 23rd of his career.

Colorado's second group in the extra period got caught on the ice, leading to the goal. Ryan Murphy fed Rask in the slot, and Rask took the puck to the front of the net and beat Semyon Varlamov with a backhand. Varlamov finished with 18 saves.