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# Inconsistent judgment

## Documents reveal military's chaotic record on prosecuting sexual assault

By YURI KAGEYAMA AND RICHARD LARDNER  
The Associated Press

**A**fter a night of heavy drinking at the Globe and Anchor, a watering hole for enlisted Marines in Okinawa, Japan, a female servicemember awoke in her barracks room as a man was raping her, she reported. She tried repeatedly to push him off. But wavering in and out of consciousness, she couldn't fight back.

A rape investigation, backed up by DNA evidence, ended with the accused pleading guilty to a lesser charge, wrongfully engaging in sexual activity in the barracks. He was reduced in rank and confined to his base for 30 days, but received no prison time.

**Nearly two-thirds of the 244 troops whose punishments were detailed in records obtained by the AP were not incarcerated.**

Fast forward a year, the Marine then performed oral sex on the victim "for approximately 20 minutes against his will," records show. The accused insisted the sex

was consensual, but he was court-martialed and sentenced to six years in prison, busted to E-1, the military's lowest rank, and dishonorably discharged.

The two cases, both adjudicated by the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, are among more than 1,000 reports of sex crimes involving U.S. military personnel based in Japan between 2005 and early 2013. Obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, the records open a rare window into the world of military justice and show a pattern of random and inconsistent judgments.

The Associated Press originally sought the records for U.S. military personnel stationed in Japan after attacks against Japanese women raised political tensions there.

They might now give weight to members of Congress who want to strip senior officers of their authority to decide whether serious crimes, including sexual assault cases, go to trial.



Tina Wilson, a victim of sexual assault while serving in the Navy, is seen outside her brother's home in Del City, Okla., in January.

Nick Oxford/AP

## Afghan troops worry about possible US pullout

By KEVIN SHEFF  
The Washington Post

**ZABUL, Afghanistan** — The Afghan soldiers fighting the Taliban have grown confident in their ability to combat an agile insurgency. But for those on the front lines, one question casts a shadow over the young army's progress.

What if the United States — and its funding — vanish from Afghanistan?

That outcome has become increasingly probable with President Hamid Karzai's refusal to

**“If the international community leaves, there is no question that we will lose ground to the Taliban. It's the biggest worry for every soldier now.”**

Col. Mohammad Dost  
battalion commander in Zabul province

sign a bilateral security agreement that would allow the United States to maintain a small military presence here beyond 2014. Now, Afghan troops are

beginning to raise their voices against Karzai, demanding at great personal risk that he sign the pact.

“If the international com-

munity leaves, there is no question that we will lose ground to the Taliban,” Col. Mohammad Dost, a battalion commander in Zabul province, said in an interview. “It's the biggest worry for every soldier now.”

In recent weeks, soldiers have voiced that concern in local television interviews and in newspaper op-eds, despite not being authorized by the government to speak on the topic. For some, the consequences have been grave.

SEE WORRY ON PAGE 2

# QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"It's guarded optimism. We are a long way from where we need to be, but we have to start with some sort of a raindrop."**

—Willits, Calif., City Councilman Bruce Burton, who was happy to see water levels in a local reservoir and his backyard pond creeping up after a weekend storm soaked drought-stricken California

See story on Page 9

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# MIDEAST

## Worry: Afghans predict Taliban gains if foreign troops leave

FROM FRONT PAGE

"As everyone wants the agreement to be signed, we also call for its signing," Gen. Momand Katawazai told TOLO News, a Kabul-based television station, last month.

Days later, officials at the Defense Ministry told Katawazai that he shouldn't bother coming to work anymore. He hasn't been formally fired but expects to be. "It's been a huge headache," he said.

In the past few years, it was extremely unusual for an Afghan military officer to publicly criticize the Afghan government. But even though Katawazai got into trouble, other soldiers have continued speaking out.

"If the Americans leave, Afghanistan will be a lone sheep, left in the desert for the wolves to eat," Capt. Abdul Zahir said in an interview in Zabul.

"Without the BSA, our arms will be cut off," said Sgt. Maj. Wahid Wafa, referring to the accord by its initials. "We will be come victims of the Taliban."

Military officers have passed messages like those up the chain of command, all the way to Defense Minister Bismillah Khan Mohammadi, who discussed the agreement early last month at a meeting with the top Afghan field commanders, according to U.S. and Afghan officials.

Mohammadi declined to comment for this report.

The United States has spent more than \$50 billion to build a 352,000-person Afghan security force during the past decade.

If the two countries don't sign a security pact, U.S. officials say



KEVIN SIEFF/The Washington Post

**Capt. Abdul Zahir, seen using a military radio last month in the Nawa district of Afghanistan's Ghazni province, believes his country "will be a lone sheep, left in the desert for the wolves to eat" if the United States withdraws all its troops.**

they will be unable to keep even a small group of military advisers in Afghanistan. Perhaps more importantly, the absence of an agreement probably would keep the United States from providing funds to the Afghan security forces.

Maintaining those forces will cost about \$4 billion per year. In 2013, the Afghan government collected about \$1.7 billion in revenue and had to rely overwhelmingly on foreign aid to fund its public institutions.

The U.S. military estimates that the Afghan government can afford to pay only about 12 percent of the annual cost of the Afghan forces in the next few years.

Afghan soldiers rattle off the resources they would lose if the U.S. military departs without leaving a residual force — support from American jets and helicopters, logistical assistance and artillery training, among other things. The lack of financial aid would create an even more dire problem.

"If no one pays our salaries, the Taliban will grow even stronger than us, thanks to Pakistani as-

sistance," said Capt. Mohammad Nabi. Like many Afghans, he believes the Pakistani government funds, or at least tacitly supports, the insurgency. Pakistan denies doing so.

The bilateral security agreement is a constant topic of conversation among soldiers, while on base or during missions.

On a recent multi-day operation in Zabul, Afghan soldiers huddled around a television each night, listening for news about the accord.

U.S. officials say it is theoretically possible that Congress could appropriate funding for Afghan forces even if a bilateral security agreement isn't signed. But without American troops on the ground, any U.S. oversight of that money would be difficult, if not impossible.

The United States and NATO had long envisioned leaving about 12,000 troops beyond 2014 to continue advising Afghan forces and to conduct counterterrorism operations. Now, recognizing that plans for such a force may fall through, the coalition has accelerated some of its training

programs.

Its advisory program with the Afghan air force, for example, was due to last until 2017. That mission has been retooled so it can be completed in abbreviated form by the end of the year, according to British Royal Air Force Air Commodore David Cooper, the NATO-led coalition's director of air support.

Like the Afghan officers, U.S. military officials recognize that a total withdrawal would leave the Afghan forces strapped.

"We've worked very hard to build the Afghan security forces. Giving them the ability to sustain themselves in the future is going to be critical," said Col. David Lapan, a spokesman for the U.S.-led International Security Assistance Force.

"We still need to mature the systems, the processes and the institutions that are necessary to sustain a modern national army and police force," he said. "We need to address shortfalls in leadership and training, and in capabilities such as aviation, intelligence, medical and logistics."



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## PACIFIC

# Record: Analysis shows little progress in bringing Japan sex assault cases to court-martial

## FROM FRONT PAGE

The AP analysis found the handling of allegations verged on the chaotic, with seemingly strong cases often reduced to lesser charges. In two rape cases, commanders overruled recommendations to court-martial and dropped the charges instead.

Even when military authorities agreed a crime had been committed, the suspect was unlikely to serve time.

Nearly two-thirds of 244 servicemembers whose punishments were detailed in the records were not incarcerated. Instead they were fined, demoted, restricted to their bases or reprimanded from the military. In more than 30 cases, a letter of reprimand was the only punishment.

Among the other findings:

- The Marines were far more likely than other branches to send offenders to prison, with 53 prison sentences out of 270 cases. By contrast, of the Navy's 203 cases, more than 70 were court-martialed or punished in some way. Only 15 were sentenced to time behind bars.

- The Air Force was the most lenient. Of 124 sex crimes, the only punishment for 21 offenders was a letter of reprimand.

- Victims increasingly declined to cooperate with investigators or recanted, a sign they may have been losing confidence in the system. In 2006, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, which handles the Navy and Marine Corps, reported 13 such cases; in 2012, it was 28.

Taken together, the sex crime cases from Japan, home to the largest number of U.S. military personnel based overseas, illustrate how far military leaders have to go to reverse a spiraling number of sexual assault reports.

In one case, a woman alleged that a sailor raped her. Later, she confronted him in a recorded conversation. She accused him of pushing her down "for sex purposes," after which he apologized for hurting her "in that way."

An Article 32 hearing, the military's version of a grand jury, recommended a court-martial on rape charges, but the commanding officer said no. The charges were dropped.

"How many more rapes do we have to endure to wait and see what reforms are needed?" asked U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., who heads the Senate Armed Services' personnel subcommit-

tee. She leads a group of lawmakers from both political parties who argue that further changes to the military's legal system are needed.

"The department has been very transparent that we do have a problem," Air Force Col. Alan Metzler said. "We have owned that. We have been public about it."

Metzler, deputy director of the Defense Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, said the changes in military law and policy made by Congress and the Pentagon are creating a culture where victims trust that their allegations will be taken seriously and perpetrators will be punished. The Pentagon noted that the cases in Japan preceded reforms it implemented in May.

The military is making progress, Metzler said. The number of sexual assault cases taken to court-martial militarywide has grown steadily, from 42 percent in 2009 to 68 percent in 2012, according to department figures. In 2012, of the 238 servicemembers convicted, 74 percent served time.

That trend is not reflected in the Japan cases. Out of 473 sexual assault allegations against sailors and Marines between 2005 and 2013, just 116, or 24 percent, ended up in courts-martial.

Further, the 238 convictions are a small number compared with the estimated 26,000 sex crimes that may have occurred that year across the military, according to the department's anonymous survey of military personnel. Sex crimes are vastly underreported in both military and civilian life.

The top U.S. officer in Japan, Lt. Gen. Salvatore Angelillo, said the military takes the issue of sexual assault "very seriously."

"Sexual assault is a crime and a contradiction to everything we stand for," he said.

The NCIS provided more than 600 case files — seven years of detailed but heavily redacted executive summaries of sex crime reports. The four military branches provided another 400 files covering narrower time frames.

The Pentagon has said its commanders have been using nonjudicial punishment less frequently in recent years. The documents show that in Japan at least, U.S. commanders are using that authority more often. That is especially true in the Navy, where



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., chair of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel, has crafted a bill that would reform how serious criminal allegations in the military are prosecuted.

## “How many more rapes do we have to endure to wait and see what reforms are needed?”

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y.  
Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel

in 2012 only one case led to court-martial. In the 13 others, commanders used nonjudicial penalties rather than ordering trials.

### The civilian approach

The authority to decide how to prosecute serious criminal allegations would be taken away from senior officers under a bill crafted by Gillibrand and expected to come before the Senate as early as this week. The legislation would place that judgment with trial counsels who have prosecutorial experience and hold the rank of colonel or above.

Senior U.S. military leaders oppose the plan, saying it would undermine the ability of commanders to ensure discipline within their ranks.

"Taking the commander out of the loop never solved any problem," said U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a former Air Force lawyer who is the personnel subcommittee's top Republican. "It would dismantle the military justice system beyond sexual assaults. It would take commanders off the hook for their responsibility to fix this problem."

Graham, a member of the Air Force Reserves who is an instructor at the service's judge advocate general school, said victims of sexual assault have a far better chance of getting justice than do

victims whose cases are handled by civilian courts.

But research by Cassia Spohn, a professor of criminology and criminal justice at Arizona State University, found that civilian courts prosecute sexual assault cases at a higher rate than the military — 50 percent compared with 37 percent.

Spohn cautioned that comparing the two sectors is a dicey exercise.

State and local prosecutors typically file charges only in cases they have a solid chance of winning. Conversely, the military may be able to secure at least mild punishment, such as a reduction in rank or loss of pay, in a weaker case because they have more options to penalize.

The military leadership's time to solve the crisis on its own has run out, according to Pentagon critics. A string of episodes in which senior officers were caught behaving badly is further proof that serious crimes should be dealt with outside the chain of command, they say.

"There is a perception out there right now that the military is out of control," said K. Denise Rucker-Krepp, a former Coast Guard officer and attorney. "You are not going to attract the best and the brightest if people believe that if you go into the military you are going to be sexually assaulted."

Mark Russell, a psychologist and former Navy commander who was stationed in Japan, said putting commanders in charge of deciding how to proceed with sex abuse allegations can conflict with the unit's mission.

"The mission trumps every other aspect of military life, including sometimes, legal justice and moral standing," Russell, now a professor at Antioch University

in Seattle, wrote in an email. "A climate emerges, whereby individuals may feel they can act with impunity, especially in the case ... where it may be 'he said, she said,' with 'good workers' often given the benefit of the doubt."

Many of the Japan cases involved an accuser who said he or she was sexually abused while too drunk to consent, or even unconscious. That makes it all the more difficult to determine whether a crime occurred.

"Weakness is a great fear in the military and something to be avoided," Russell wrote. "Therefore, women (or men) who go out drinking and are raped are often viewed as culpable for having been 'weak and vulnerable.'"

The documents analyzed by the AP do not reveal whether certain commanders had a tendency to punish outside the courts-martial process. Names of the accusers, the accused and commanders are all deleted — for privacy, the military said.

### Repercussions in Japan

When compared with broader statistics released annually by the Pentagon, the documents suggest that U.S. military personnel based in Japan are accused of sex crimes at roughly the same rate as their comrades around the world.

But bad behavior here by American sailors, Marines, airmen and soldiers can have intense repercussions in this conservative, insular country, an important U.S. ally. That is especially true on the island of Okinawa, home to barely 1 percent of Japan's population but about half of the roughly 50,000 U.S. forces based in the country.

SEE RECORD ON PAGE 4

“Taking the commander out of the loop ... would dismantle the military justice system beyond sexual assaults. It would take commanders off the hook for their responsibility to fix this problem.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.  
Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel

PACIFIC

# Report: Servicemembers most likely to abuse their own military comrades

FROM PAGE 3

Sex crimes against Okinawans have become major news stories and added fury to protests against the U.S. military's presence on the island.

But the documents show that as it is at U.S. bases everywhere, U.S. servicemembers who commit sexual assaults are most likely to abuse their own comrades.

More than three dozen NCIS case summaries describe investigations that appeared to indicate a sex crime but were resolved using lesser charges or simply dropped with little or no explanation.

### A doctor's case

Such is the case for an investigation that began in January 2008 against a Navy doctor who would go on to sexually abuse women in the military until his clinical privileges were suspended in 2009.

Airman Tina Wilson's name is redacted from the report, but she spoke up a day after she went to the health clinic at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, a U.S. base southwest of Tokyo, to have a dressing changed following surgery on her tailbone.

In Wilson's sworn statement to NCIS and other records, the doctor, Lt. Cmdr. Anthony L. Velasquez, walked over to look at the wound as a corpsman took care of the dressing. Then Velasquez announced that the results were in from a staph infection test and that he was going to check Wilson's lymph nodes.

He checked her neck, then went under her shirt and ran his hands up the sides of her torso. Then he asked Wilson, whose pants were unzipped because of the dressing change, to lie on her side. He felt her left hip bone, then slid his hand down the front of her pants and under her panties.

Wilson pulled up her pants and, confused and shaken, headed for the door.

"I saw Dr. Velasquez smile and wink at me on the way out," her sworn statement reads. "He was by the computer getting hand sanitizer. The whole exam, he didn't wear gloves."

The NCIS document summarizing the investigation prompted by Wilson's complaint shows that three other women subsequently came forward saying Velasquez had touched them inappropriately.

Nevertheless, after 10 months, the investigation was closed with no action. According to the document, Yokosuka Naval Hospital declined to take any action against the doctor, and the Navy legal services office in Yokosuka determined the case would not be forwarded to Navy officials in San Diego who oversee medical operations in Japan.

Finally, in 2010, after accusations from more than two dozen women, the Navy filed multiple counts of sexual misconduct and other charges against Velasquez.

Most of the charges were dropped under a plea deal. Velasquez served a week in the brig, was dismissed from the Navy, lost his license to practice medicine, and was required to register as a



Protesters in Okinawa, Japan, demonstrate in March 2008 against the U.S. military over the alleged rape of a 14-year-old girl.

sex offender.

Retired Rear Adm. Richard B. Wren, the former commander of Navy forces in Japan who oversaw Velasquez's court-martial, did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

Wilson, 27, left the Navy, distraught over how her case had been handled.

### No legal jurisdiction

The U.S. military has come under fire even when it did not have legal jurisdiction in a sexual assault case.

Catherine Fisher, an Australian and longtime Japan resident, accused the Japanese and U.S. governments of "harboring the suspect" after she was raped, allegedly by an American sailor, in 2002. Japanese prosecutors refused to pursue criminal charges for undisclosed reasons, but in 2004 the Tokyo District Court ruled in a civil case that Fisher had indeed been sexually assaulted and awarded her \$30,000 in damages.

By then, the accused, Blake T. Deans, had left the country. Fisher and her attorneys said the Navy was aware of the Japanese court case against Deans but gave him an honorable discharge and allowed him to leave the country without informing the court or her.

SEE RECORD ON PAGE 5



A C-130 transport plane takes off from U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, Japan, in 2012. An investigation by The Associated Press has shown that Marines are far more likely than other military branches to send sex offenders to prison.

**YES**

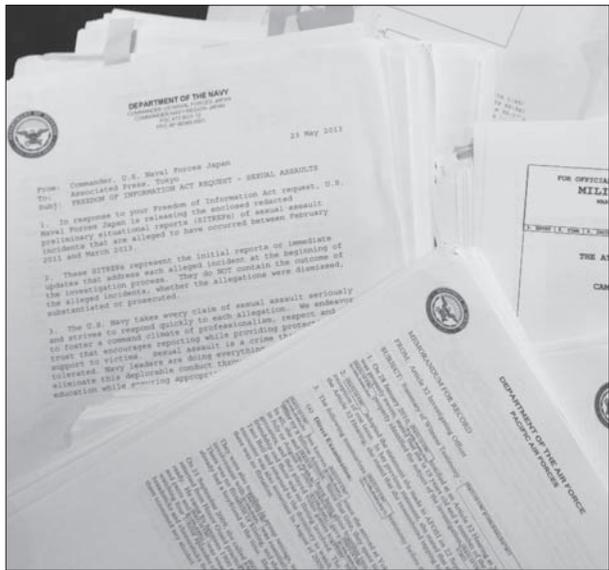
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SHIZUO KAMAYASHI/AP

**Under the Freedom of Information Act, The Associated Press obtained from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Naval Criminal Investigative Service more than 1,000 summaries of sex crime cases involving U.S. military personnel stationed in Japan.**

# Findings paint a troubling picture of how military handles sexual offenses

The Associated Press

Hundreds of records detailing sex crime investigations involving U.S. military personnel stationed in Japan show most offenders were not incarcerated, suspects received light punishments after being accused of serious violations, and victims increasingly were wary of cooperating with investigators.

According to the Department of Defense documents:

■ **Navy use of nonjudicial punishment is on the rise.** Data from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, which handles the Navy and Marine Corps, show that Navy commanders in Japan increasingly are resolving sexual assault cases through nonjudicial punishment rather than courts-martial. From 2006 to 2009, they favored courts-martial, but from 2010 to 2012 they were three times more likely to choose nonjudicial punishment. In 2012, just one Navy sex abuse case went to a court-martial, while 15 were handled through nonjudicial punishment.

■ **Most of those accused of sex offenses don't get prison time.** The NCIS documents show that out of 473 Marines and sailors accused of sex offenses, 179 were given some punishment, and 68 went to prison. Marines were accused more frequently than sailors, though they are stationed in Japan in similar numbers. Marines were three times more likely to get prison sentences, which sailors received in only 15 cases over more than seven years. The Air Force data showed that out of 124 airmen accused over five years, 17 received prison time and 42 received some other punishment. In 21 Air Force cases, the sole punishment was a letter of reprimand.

■ **Lesser charges are common.** In 46 Marine cases and 22 Navy cases, those initially accused of a violent sex crime ended up being punished

for nonviolent or nonsexual offenses. The most common such charges were assault, failure to obey orders, adultery, having sex in barracks and fraternization.

■ **Most of the victims are in the military.** Of more than 620 serious sex crime allegations against military personnel, at least 323 of the alleged victims also were in the military. Civilians were the accusers in 94 cases, but in nearly 200 cases the alleged victim's status was unclear. Among U.S. military sexual assault reports worldwide in the 2011-12 fiscal year, 2,949 of the 3,604 victims were servicemembers, according to the department's annual report to Congress on sexual assault in the military.

■ **More victims are giving up pursuing their cases.** The NCIS data show a growing number of accusers dropping out of investigations, either by recanting the allegations or simply declining to cooperate further. In 2006, 13 accusers recanted or stopped cooperating, and 28 did so in 2012. The Air Force data showed a decline, and the Army data was incomplete.

The Associated Press obtained more than 1,000 summaries of sex crime cases involving U.S. military personnel stationed in Japan, following Freedom of Information Act requests filed with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and NCIS.

More than 600 of the documents come from the NCIS, which investigates Navy and Marine Corps cases. They cover allegations of sex crimes filed between mid-2005 and early 2013. More than 400 additional documents came from the Air Force, covering cases from 2005 to 2010, the Army (2006-12), the Marines (2009-12) and the Navy (2011-2013). The AP reviewed all the documents but did not use the Marine or Navy data to compile overall statistics, to avoid duplicating parts of the more extensive and detailed NCIS data.

# Report: Reforms to military legal system aim to reverse upward trend in sex assaults

FROM PAGE 4

U.S. military officials refused to disclose his whereabouts, citing privacy concerns, she said. A spokesman for U.S. Forces Japan declined to comment on Fisher's case and said the command does not track the whereabouts of former servicemembers.

Fisher tracked Deans down in Milwaukee, and sued in Wisconsin Circuit Court. In 2012 to claim the damages awarded in Japan. Last year, she won, but settled for \$1 — to make a point.

Deans denied he assaulted Fisher but acknowledged in the U.S. settlement "the evidence may prove otherwise," according to documents provided by his attorney, Alex Flynn. "Mr. Deans has paid that dollar and the matter is now concluded," Flynn said.

Not for Fisher, who became an advocate for rape victims in Japan. "Governments get out there and say, 'We are against rape, and we are doing everything we can,' but in fact they are not," she said. "And by not allowing rape victims to receive justice, it's just going on in the same pattern."

After a long and contentious debate, Congress late last year passed numerous changes to the military's legal system in an effort to combat the epidemic of

sexual assaults.

The defense policy bill scaled back but did not eliminate the role senior commanders play in sexual assault cases. Officers who have the power to convene courts-martial were stripped of their authority to overturn guilty verdicts reached by juries, and should they decline to prosecute a case, a review of the decision must be conducted by the service's civilian secretary.

The argument for keeping commanders involved in sexual assault cases received a boost from a panel of experts, which said last month that there is no evidence that removing commanders from the process will reduce sex crimes or increase the reporting of them.

"I don't know how we can trust our commanders to train our sons and daughters to fight and win our nation's war and yet not trust them to provide and establish a command climate that provides each and every soldier a safe working environment," said retired Gen. Ann Dunwoody, the Army's first female four-star.

Gillibrand and her supporters argue that the cultural shift needed to lower the incidence of sexual assault in the military won't happen if commanders retain their current role in the legal system.

"Skippers have had this authority since the days of John Paul Jones and sexual assaults still occur," said Lory Manning, a retired Navy captain and senior fellow at the Women in the Military Project. "And this is where we are."



Fisher

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PACIFIC



JOSHUA WAHL/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The amphibious assault ship USS Essex rests in its berth at Fleet Activities Sasebo as snow falls over Japan's Kyushu region.

# Former DODEA director rebuked

By PATRICK DICKSON  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense Inspector General released a report Friday saying that the former education activity director for Pacific schools violated ethics regulations by having a relative of a subordinate switch tires with her to pass a Japanese vehicle safety test.

According to the report, Diana Ohman, who ran the DOD dependent schools in Asia from 2009 until she resigned in 2011, failed a vehicle inspection on her 1998 BMW Z3 because the tires were 1/4-inch wider than allowed. Ohman "used her official position to induce the [redacted word] of a subordinate to exchange the wheels and tires of his car with the wheels of Ms. Ohman's car in order for her car to pass a mandatory vehicle inspection."

The report says Ohman violated standards of the Joint Ethics Regulation, United States Forces Japan regulations and the Status of Forces Agreement, among others, but the IG ruled that because she compensated the man — it is unclear from the heavily redacted report whether he was a spouse or other male relative — he did not receive an "improper gift."

Ohman was given a chance to comment on the report in June 2012 and agreed with the conclusions in the report. She apologized for acting "in a manner inconsistent with DoD ethics rules."

While with DODEA, she served for a decade as the area director for Europe before switching positions in 2009 with then-Pacific schools director Nancy Bresell.

Ohman, who oversaw 48 military schools and about 24,000 students in the Pacific, told staff in October 2011 she was leaving to work for the Department of Veterans Affairs as Midwest regional director of national cemeteries and monuments, according to DODEA-Pacific public affairs.

Ohman was not mentioned in any investigation. Because Ohman is no longer employed by DOD but is still in the federal government's Senior Executive Service, the IG recommended only that the Office of Personnel Management be notified of "substantiated misconduct."

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Ohman

## Rare heavy snowstorm shocks many in Tokyo

By ERIK SLAVIN  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOHAMA, Japan — One of the strongest snowstorms to hit the Tokyo area in years brought transportation and other services to a halt at U.S. military bases throughout the Kanto region over the weekend.

A heavy snow alert was issued for the first time in 13 years for Tokyo's 23 wards, according to media reports. The heavy snowfall and gale-force winds came as a shock to many in an area that had been experiencing an extremely mild winter. Earlier in the week, temperatures had soared into the mid-60s.

By 6 p.m. Saturday, Naval Air Facility Atsugi, in western Kanagawa prefecture, reported 10 inches of snowfall, with a prediction of 6 more inches overnight.

Tokyo easily surpassed 4 inches for the first time in 16 years, according to the Asahi Shimbun. Japanese meteorologists forecast up to 8 inches by Sunday morning, with more in western Tokyo and Kanagawa.

Japanese broadcaster NHK reported at least 89 weather-related injuries in the greater Tokyo area as of Saturday afternoon. In

central Japan near Ishikawa, two senior citizens were killed in a head-on vehicle collision amid icy conditions, NHK reported.

More than 47,000 homes lost power in Tokyo and Kanagawa prefectures as of Saturday evening, according to Tokyo Electric Power Co. The numbers included 11,700 outages in Yokosuka city, as well as 2,300 in Akishima city and 100 houses in Tachikawa. Both locations are near Yokota Air Base.

Residents and workers at Yokosuka Naval Base reported partial outages Saturday evening.

Bases throughout the area closed commissaries, base exchanges and other services by Saturday afternoon. NAF Atsugi closed its East Gate and a portion of South Perimeter Road, from its skeet range to the Japanese Self-Defense Ground Forces Gym, until further notice.

Yokota closed at 10:30 a.m. and asked that only mission-essential personnel be out on the streets, according to its Facebook site. Other bases put out similar cautionary messages.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.  
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SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

A youngster sleds down a hill at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Sunday.

## Veterans' DEERS enrollment suspended in Philippines

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
Stars and Stripes

Military retirees in the Philippines may have a new reason to feel snubbed. Late last month, the U.S. Embassy in Manila dropped the news it will no longer be able to issue military IDs or enroll vets and their family members in DEERS, the overarching computer network that allows access to benefits.

The reason is equipment problems. And there is nobody on the embassy staff anyone who can do the work.

It will be at least a month before the problem is solved. The suspension could be due to the same budget cuts

hitting across the military, but the embassy hasn't responded to requests for more information.

For now, at least 50 people are on a waiting list at the Manila Retired Activities Office. There is a backlog of another 150 or so waiting on IDs and DEERS enrollment in Angeles City. Many will either have to go abroad to Guam or Singapore or wait until the embassy fixes the problem.

The 11,000 or so retirees and dependents living in the Philippines have had a collective chip on their shoulder for a long time. Their Tricare medical insurance — a prized benefit coveted

by many who have put in decades of services — has been a bureaucratic mess for a decade or more. Now they have been involuntarily enrolled in a countrywide Defense Health Agency experiment aimed at improving the dysfunctional system, which may or may not be a success.

Many say they just want the benefits promised to them while serving. Often they feel like they're left on their own to scrape up whatever they can. The embassy suspension of ID and DEERS service is not likely to improve that perception.

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# EUROPE



MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden High School's academic team tries to figure out a math problem in the final round of the DODDS-Europe "brain bowl" Friday.

## Wiesbaden 'brain bowl' champ again

By MATT MILLHAM  
Stars and Stripes

OBERHAMBACH, Germany — Wiesbaden High School on Friday won its second consecutive "brain bowl," barely edging a SHAPE school team from Belgium that climbed to the final after being relegated to the consolation bracket.

"Going in to that, I was really, really nervous," said SHAPE senior Brooke Lynnalls, whose team couldn't recover after Wiesbaden grabbed the lead seconds before time expired.

The annual competition, which this year included 20 schools from DODDS-Europe and an American-heavy academy on the Continent, is part "Jeopardy," part team competition. In a match, two schools pit their four-student teams against one another in two 10-minute halves.

The time goes quickly, but the points add up fast. The SHAPE team built an early lead over Wiesbaden in the final, going up 80-15 before the first half expired.

When play resumed, Wiesbaden stormed back into contention. The comeback was partly due to the SHAPE team's nerves, but mostly a result of the quick-thinking Jared Lanterman, one of two sophomores on Wiesbaden's four-man squad.

Lanterman split most valuable player honors for the two-day All Europe Academic Games with AFNORTH senior Evan Bell, who led the team that handed Wiesbaden its only loss of the tournament.

AFNORTH, from the Netherlands, stumbled on its path to the finals, falling to SHAPE in a quarterfinal. SHAPE came from behind in that win, repeatedly beating Bell and his teammates to the buzzer. Contestants can buzz to answer as soon as the moderator starts asking a question. Often, students buzz with just snippets of infor-

mation suggesting what the question might be.

"A lot of it is just speed," Bell said. "Because so many of the teams that I saw when I was watching some of the competitions, it wasn't that they didn't know the information, it was just by like a millisecond difference" in ringing in that made the difference.

Speed certainly appeared to be the deciding factor in Wiesbaden's victory as well.

With less than 20 seconds left on the clock and trailing by five points, Lanterman looked focused as the moderator began to read what would turn out to be the last question of the tournament.

All the moderator got out was, "Which group on the periodic table is made up of alkali..."

Lanterman buzzed in with a response, "One."

The moderator started to read another question about American literature, but before he could finish, time was called.

And like that, the 27th "brain bowl" was over.

"I'm pretty positive that if he had finished that question about strange literary characters, I probably would have gotten that because I'm very good with books," Lynnalls said. She and her teammates were happy to finish second — the highest SHAPE has ever placed in the event.

Lanterman said there's a lot of pressure on competitors to give correct answers, even though teams don't lose points for being wrong. He got a few glances from teammates and his coach for incorrect responses, he said. But he also got something else — a share of the MVP award.

"I think it means that I've earned the respect of the people in attendance, and that I've shown that I understand a wide variety of knowledge from a lot of topics," Lanterman said.

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# Some apprehensive over birthing center's closing

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — What's it like for an American woman to give birth in an Italian hospital? Depends on whom you ask, and when it happened.

At a town hall meeting last week at which U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza doctors discussed the coming closing of the garrison's birthing center and the move to once again send pregnant soldiers and spouses "downtown," two women described very different experiences.

Tamara Paruzzo said hers — 15 years ago, before the garrison birthing center was built nearly a decade ago — was grim. Six laboring women were crammed into one room at San Bortolo hospital, doctors and nurses spoke little English and pain relief was unavailable, she said. When one of the laboring women started screaming, a nurse told her, "Shut up, you're scaring the other patients," Paruzzo said.

Alexa Simmons, a civilian who gave birth there last year, said the experience was as pleasant as giving birth can be.

She had a private room for labor and delivery, her husband was with her; she receives an epidural to block pain, some staffers spoke English and they were all quite nice, she said.

Afterward, instead of her newborn being whisked off to a nursery, as Paruzzo's had been, "My baby almost never left my sight," Simmons said.

Col. Andrew Barr, commander of the U.S. Army Health Clinic on base and the man in charge of managing the reduction in the clinic's maternity and same-day surgery services, said he sympathized with Paruzzo.

He said the Italian hospital had come a long way in 15 years to accommodate the American way of birth, that Simmons' experience was now the norm and that was one reason the Army had decided to close the base birthing center.

The other reasons were that volume at the center had always been, and remains, low — some 10 to 15 births a month — making its costs too high in an age of austerity.

"Funding in the Army and the practice of medicine changes over time," Barr said. "It's a very difficult decision the Army Medical Command had to make."

The birthing center is scheduled to close in mid-June. It opened in 2005 at a cost of \$3.2 million while much of the country's military population was deployed to Afghanistan, the war in Iraq was in full swing, and money flowed freely into Army coffers.

Many pregnant soldiers and Army wives were uncomfortable delivering in the Italian hospital.



NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

The Army will no longer provide maternity care and delivery on Caserme Ederle in Vicenza, Italy, beginning in June.

"That was a tremendous dissatisfier," Brig. Gen. David Rubenstein, then commander of the European Regional Medical Command, said in a 2007 interview at the Army's Heidelberg, Germany, hospital.

Gen. B.B. Bell, former USA-REUR commander, "heard it over and over, and he decided women in Italy would have that," Rubenstein said.

The next year, Heidelberg stopped providing maternity care, sending pregnant women to German doctors instead. Officials said the reason was dwindling patient numbers, fewer resources and superlative local care. At the time, Heidelberg was delivering an average 36 babies a month.

Vicenza officials are organizing tours in March of the San Bortolo hospital, where high-risk preg-

nancies have historically been referred because of neonatal intensive care capabilities. There are also university hospitals in nearby Padova and Verona, but Barr said few Americans had delivered there.

One potentially significant difficulty remains, Barr said. San Bartolo, like other Italian hospitals, but unlike American hospitals, does not allow prospective fathers into the delivery room when a Caesarian section is performed. C-sections are not uncommon.

An Aviano Air Base facility, along with the Army's one remaining European hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, are supposed to provide an option for Vicenza women who'd rather not deliver at San Bortolo. They may choose to "stork-nest" in those locations for a couple of weeks before their due dates, then be delivered by Americans.

One woman wondered whether expectant soldiers' unit commanders would really approve that option, and, although the "stork-nesting" women would be on medical TDYs, fathers would most often have to request regular leave to attend the births.

Barr said 62 pregnant women were expected to give birth on base before June 1. Sixty-two more are expected to deliver after June 1.

The last possible time a woman in labor will be admitted to the center is June 11, at noon, Barr said. That plan took into account a woman who might labor for 18 hours — "God forbid," Barr said — then be delivered by C-section, then be discharged by June 15 when the Army mandated the doors to the center must close.

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## NATION

# Holder: Same-sex marriage ruling applies to Justice

By PETE YOST

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In an assertion of same-sex marriage rights, Attorney General Eric Holder is applying a landmark Supreme Court ruling to the Justice Department, announcing that same-sex spouses cannot be compelled to testify against each other, should be eligible to file for bankruptcy jointly and are entitled to the same rights and privileges as federal prison inmates in opposite-sex marriages.

The Justice Department runs a number of benefits programs, and Holder said same-sex couples will qualify for them. They include the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund and benefits to surviving spouses of public safety officers who suffer catastrophic or fatal injuries in the line of duty.

"In every courthouse, in every proceeding and in every place where a member of the Department of Justice stands on behalf of the United States, they will strive to ensure that same-sex marriages receive the same privileges, protections and rights as opposite-sex marriages under

federal law," Holder said Saturday in prepared remarks to the Human Rights Campaign in New York. The advocacy group works on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equal rights.

Just as in the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, the stakes in the current generation over same-sex marriage rights "could not be higher," said Holder.

"The Justice Department's role in confronting discrimination must be as aggressive today as it was in Robert Kennedy's time," Holder said of the attorney general who played a leadership role in advancing civil rights.

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin said Holder's "landmark announcement will change the lives of countless committed gay and lesbian couples for the better. While the immediate effect of these policy decisions is that all married gay couples will be treated equally under the law, the long-term effects are more profound. Today, our nation moves closer toward its ideals of equality and fairness for all."

Holder's speech was criticized by the conservative National Or-



J. SCOTT APPLHEWIT/AP

**Attorney General Eric Holder has announced same-sex marriage rights will be applied in all Justice Department matters.**

ganization for Marriage.

"This is just the latest in a series of moves by the Obama administration, and in particular the Department of Justice, to undermine the authority and sovereignty of the states to make their own determinations regulating the institution of marriage," said Brian Brown, the group's president. "The changes being proposed here to a process as universally relevant as the criminal justice system serve as a potent reminder of why it is simply a lie to say that redefining marriage doesn't affect everyone in society."

On Monday, the Justice Department will issue a policy memo to its employees instructing them to give lawful same-sex marriages full and equal recognition, to the greatest extent possible under the law.

Holder's address is the latest application of a Supreme Court ruling that struck down a provi-

sion in the Defense of Marriage Act defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. The decision applies to legally married same-sex couples seeking federal benefits.

After the Supreme Court decision last June, the Treasury Department and the IRS said that all legally married gay couples may file joint federal tax returns, even if they live in states that do not recognize same-sex marriages. The Defense Department said it would grant military spousal benefits to same-sex couples. The Health and Human Services Department said the Defense of Marriage Act is no longer a bar to states recognizing same-sex marriages under state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management said it is now able to extend benefits to legally married same-sex spouses of federal employees and annuitants.

# US to get debt limit of about \$17.2T on Friday

By ANDREW TAYLOR  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government is getting a new borrowing cap Friday, almost four months after Washington defused October's government shutdown and debt crisis.

The new cap on borrowing is expected to be about \$17.2 trillion. It means Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew will have to employ bookkeeping maneuvers to keep the government functioning until Congress further raises the borrowing limit.

In a letter Friday to congressional leaders, Lew warned that he has less maneuvering room now than he had last year, when such "extraordinary measures" bought five months of time for the government to keep borrowing at the previous \$16.7 trillion debt ceiling.

Lew said that he could not be confident that the extraordinary measures would last beyond Feb. 27.

"At that point, Treasury would be left with only the cash on hand and any incoming revenue to meet our country's commitments," Lew said. He said the cash on hand likely will total about \$50 billion.

He said that IRS payments of tax refunds can total as much as \$10 billion to \$15 billion on a single day and the government's total daily expenditures can be as high as \$60 billion on certain days.

"If Treasury has insufficient cash on hand, it would be impossible for our nation to meet all of its obligations for the first time in history," Lew said. Without enough money to meet interest payments on current debt, the government would be forced into a market-rattling default.

Lew said "time is short," especially given that Congress is scheduled to be out of session during part of the next three weeks.

respectfully urge Congress to move as quickly as possible, raise the debt limit and provide certainty to the economy and to financial markets," Lew said.

Republican officials said their House leadership is inclined to add legislation to the debt limit measure that would restore a full cost-of-living increase in retirement benefits that are collected by veterans younger than 62.

# Obama easing immigration rule on terrorism support

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration has eased the rules for would-be asylum seekers, refugees and others who hope to come to the U.S. or stay here and who gave "limited" support to terrorists or terrorist groups.

The change is one of President Barack Obama's first actions on immigration since he pledged during his State of the Union address last month to use more executive directives.

The Department of Homeland Security and the State Department now say that people considered to have provided "limited material support" to terrorists or terrorist groups are no longer au-

tomatically barred from the U.S.

A post-Sept. 11 provision in immigrant law known as terrorism-related inadmissibility grounds, had affected anyone considered to have given support. With little exception, the provision has been applied rigidly to those trying to enter the U.S. and those already here but wanting to change their immigration status.

For Morteza Assadi, 49, a real estate agent in northern Virginia, the law has left him in a sort of immigration purgatory while his green card application has been on hold for more than a decade.

As a teenager in Tehran, Iran, in the early 1980s, Assadi distributed fliers for a mujahedeen group that opposed the government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini

and was at one time considered a terrorist organization by the U.S. government. Assadi said he told the U.S. government about his activities when he and his wife applied for asylum in the late 1990s. Those requests later were granted and his wife has since become a U.S. citizen. Assadi's case has remained stalled.

Assadi said he only briefly associated with the group, which was removed from Washington's list of terrorist organizations in 2012, and that he was never an active member or a contributor to its activities. Now he hopes the U.S. government will look at his teenage activities as "limited."

The Homeland Security Department said in a statement that the rule change, which was an-

nounced last week and was not made in concert with Congress, gives the government more discretion, but won't open the country to terrorists or their sympathizers. People seeking refugee status, asylum and visas, including those already in the United States, still will be checked to make sure they don't pose a threat to national security or public safety, the department said.

In the past, the provision has been criticized for allowing few exemptions beyond providing medical care or acting under duress. The change now allows officials to consider whether the support was not only limited but potentially part of "routine commercial transactions or routine social transactions."

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## NATION

# Parched California welcomes weekend storm

The Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Californians accustomed to complaining about the slightest change in the weather welcomed a robust weekend storm that soaked the northern half of the drought-stricken state Saturday even as rain and snow brought the threat of avalanches, flooding and rock slides.

In Willits, one of 17 rural communities that California's Department of Public Health recently designated as dangerously low on water, City Councilman Bruce Burton said he was cheered seeing the water levels in a local reservoir and his backyard pond creeping up and small streams flowing again. The city in the heart of redwood country usually sees about 50 inches of rain a year and was expected to get about 4 inches by Sunday.

"It's guarded optimism. We are a long ways from where we need to be, but we have to start with some sort of a raindrop," Burton said.

The storm that moved in Thursday, powered by a warm, moisture-packed system from the Pacific Ocean known as a Pineapple Express, dropped more than 11 inches of rain on Marin



Jeff Chiu/AP

**A woman crosses Market Street in San Francisco in the rain Saturday. A storm that moved in Thursday deposited much-needed rain and snow in California's northern half.**

County's Mount Tamalpais and on the Sonoma County town of Guerneville by late Saturday afternoon, National Weather Service forecaster Bob Benjamin said. Meanwhile, San Francisco, San Jose and other urban areas

recorded 1 to 3 inches of rain. With areas north of San Francisco forecast to see another few inches by Sunday, the downpour, while ample enough to flood roadways and prompt warnings that parched streams could be deluged

to the point of overflowing, by itself will not solve the state's drought worries, National Weather Service hydrologist Mark Strudley said. "The yearly rainfall around here, depending on where you were, was less than 10 percent of

normal," he said. "The additions from this last series of storms and the totals are taking a dent out of it, but it is not a significant dent."

The storm deposited a foot of snow for Lake Tahoe ski resorts that have relied on man-made snow for much of the season, and elevations above 7,500 feet were expected to get another foot or two by Sunday, said Holly Osborne, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Sacramento.

The additions, which followed some brief periods of snow in the last week, already have improved the outlook for the Sierra Nevada snowpack, which provides about a third of California's water supply. When state surveyors last checked on Jan. 30, the snowpack was at 12 percent of normal for this time of winter. By Saturday, it was at 17 percent of normal.

"At least we are getting something versus nothing," Osborne said.

Forecasters hope the storm prevents an end to the persistent dry weather that has plagued the state for months and contributed to its drought emergency. Light precipitation is forecast for Wednesday and Thursday, and another storm is possible next weekend.



Matt Rourke/AP

**Linesmen work to repair wires Friday in Downingtown, Pa., after an ice storm that broke down trees and limbs.**

## 78K still without power

The Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA** — Utility crews restored power to thousands of Pennsylvania homes Saturday and early Sunday, yet some customers in the dark for days after a tree-snapping ice storm may not regain power until early next week.

About 78,000 customers in Pennsylvania and Maryland remained without power early Sunday, and faced the prospect of yet another day without electric heat or light.

The majority of them are in the Philadelphia area, with utility PECO reporting about 77,500 outages as of 1 a.m., down from

about 155,000 earlier Saturday.

The latest outages include nearly 39,000 customers in hard-hit Chester County, or more than one in five customers.

Montgomery County had about 19,000 customers without electricity, while Bucks County had less than 16,000.

PECO spokesman Greg Smore said weakened trees and limbs continue to fall, creating new obstacles. The company expects to restore power to everyone by Monday.

Maryland officials reported 500 outages.

More than 1 million customers lost power at the storm's peak.

## 1 person missing after dive into Arkansas river to avoid wreck

By KELY P. KISSEL

The Associated Press

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** — A search was called off because of darkness early Saturday night for one of two people who jumped from an interstate bridge in southwestern Arkansas into an icy river to avoid a jackknifed 18-wheeler that was skidding toward them.

The search for the missing person along the Little Red River was to resume Sunday morning, according to Keith Stephens, a spokesman for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, which was leading the search.

"The water is 25 feet or less, so it's pretty shallow," Stephens said. "But the current is pretty high from the snow and ice from the storms."

The missing person's name was not released.

Three people were outside their vehicles after an earlier accident on the icy Interstate 30 bridge near Fulton, Ark., when a commercial truck jackknifed and slid toward them. Two people leapt over the guardrail and into the water during 29-degree weather.

One person was recovered almost immediately, according to Arkansas State Police spokesman Bill Sadler.

Game and Fish Commission employees and water rescue units from Hempstead and Miller counties were called to the scene.

The bridge eventually was cleared and traffic flowed again, though roads were treacherous. Snow swept into Arkansas from

Texas and Oklahoma on Friday, generally leaving 2-4 inches in a swath from the Ouachita Mountains to near Memphis, Tenn. Schools dismissed early, but in the Little Rock metro area the snow came late in the evening rush hour and tied up traffic for hours.

"They need to pay attention to these hills," said Mark Townsend, of Little Rock, who bought chains Saturday morning. In the bank parking lot where he abandoned his Cadillac overnight, he worked to connect the chains to his rear tires and said he had gotten within a mile of home Friday night before traffic snarls ended his commute.

"The city should have been salting this last night," Townsend said. "Out here there's nothing but hills. The city could have responded better."

Kindy Cean left an SUV in the same parking lot and walked an hour to the Embassy Suites hotel less than a half-mile away. She also recovered her car Saturday morning.

"This caught us off guard.

They told us we were going to get a dusting," she said, waiting for the last bit of snow to melt off her windshield.

"I got to right there," she said, pointing to an interstate exit ramp 200 yards away. "It took me 10 minutes to get here. I promised the Lord, 'If you let me get through this without hitting anybody, I'll just park the thing.'"

Little Rock officials said the city closed five roads at one point because they were either blocked by abandoned cars or were unsafe, but all but one had been reopened by Saturday afternoon.

"At this time, I encourage citizens to exercise extreme caution if they must get out on the roads," City Manager Bruce T. Moore said in a statement Saturday. He said 40 workers were out Friday night to address the storm and that 70 were on duty Saturday morning. Workers were scraping and salting the roads and putting down sand.

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## WORLD

# China: US remarks play up tensions, not constructive

The Associated Press

BEIJING — China rejected U.S. allegations that it is using vague territorial claims to gradually assert control in the disputed South China Sea and in turn accused Washington of exaggerating tensions in the region.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei urged the U.S. to take a "rational and fair attitude" and reiterated China's position that its claims are based on history and international law. In a statement Saturday, Hong said some U.S. officials' remarks were not constructive and that "playing up tensions" was not conducive to maintaining peace and stability.

The United States said Wednesday that actions by China have raised concerns it is trying to assert control over an area covering roughly 80 percent of the South China Sea despite the objections of its neighbors.

The resource-rich waters are dotted with reefs and islands sub-

ject to multiple disputes involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Daniel Russel, the top U.S. diplomat for East Asia, described in congressional testimony actions by China that are raising tensions, including restricting access to a contested reef and imposing fishing regulations in disputed waters.

He said an agreement between China and Southeast Asia's regional bloc on a code of conduct to regulate behavior in the South China Sea is long overdue. China has been reluctant to negotiate with the group as a whole, preferring to deal with nations bilaterally.

Hong said China has been committed to resolving maritime disputes with "directly concerned parties" and that it attaches great importance to implementing a code of conduct with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.



Abner Auang burns a Chinese flag Thursday to express support for Philippine President Benigno Aquino III and his government's efforts to stand up to China's "bullying" over disputed islands in the South China Sea.

BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

## Egypt: Brotherhood formed military wing

CAIRO — Egypt's Interior Ministry has accused the ousted president's Muslim Brotherhood group of forming a military wing to stage attacks on security forces.

In a televised statement, ministry spokesman Hani Abdel-Latif named 12 people he said belonged to the alleged military wing. He said five were arrested and aired what he said was one of their confessions. He said the group, headed by the Brotherhood province's leader, killed five policemen in a drive-by shooting last month in the southern province of Beni Suef.

The Muslim Brotherhood group has been branded as a "terrorist" organization after a series of bombings that rocked the country since the ouster of Mohamed Morsi in a military coup in July. An al-Qaida-inspired group claimed responsibility for most of the attacks.

## Saudi Arabia: Death toll from fire falls to 13

RİYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi officials said Sunday that the death toll from a hotel fire in the western city of Medina has fallen to 13.

The governorate's office had previously announced 15 deaths in Saturday's blaze based on initial hospital reports that were incorrect.

The Egyptian consul general in the western Saudi city of Jiddah said nine of the 13 killed were Egyptian pilgrims, among them at least two children.

## South African leader's son tied to fatal crash

JOHANNESBURG — South African media say a son of President Jacob Zuma is being investigated for culpable homicide, or negligent killing, after his luxury car collided with a minibus taxi on Feb. 1, killing one woman.

Brig. Neville Malila, a provincial police spokesman, said Sunday that one person died and two were injured in a road accident on Feb. 1. He declined to reveal the names of the drivers who were involved, pending an investigation of a possible case of culpable homicide.

South Africa's Sunday Times newspaper reported that Zuma's son, Duduzane, was driving a Porsche when the accident happened in Sandton, an affluent area of Johannesburg.

## Indian Kashmir under curfew amid strike

SRINAGAR, India — Thousands of Indian troops fanned out across Indian-controlled Kashmir on Sunday, detaining about 200 separatist activists to prevent protests during a three-day strike to mark the execution anniversary of two separatists in New Delhi, officials said.

Many parts of the Himalayan region were under curfew, with major roads blocked by razor wire and barricades, as authorities sought to prevent anti-India protests and possible violence. Inspector General Abdul Gani Mir said.

From The Associated Press

# Tokyo governor chosen as anti-nuke vote is split

BY YURI KAGEYAMA

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Yoichi Masuzoe, a former health minister backed by Japan's ruling party, won Tokyo's gubernatorial election Sunday, defeating two candidates who had promised to end nuclear power.

Masuzoe's victory was declared in exit polls on public broadcaster NHK within minutes after voting closed. Masuzoe, 65, appeared smiling before cameras, with his supporters shouting "Banzai," and he promised to make Tokyo "the No. 1 city in the world."

The ballot was widely seen as a test for Japan's public opinion on atomic power in a nation shaken by the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

But the anti-nuclear camp was divided between two candidates — former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and human rights lawyer Kenji Utsunomiya.



KOJI SASAHARA/AP

Yoichi Masuzoe, a former health minister, won Tokyo's gubernatorial election Sunday.

Masuzoe garnered about 30 percent of the vote, according to NHK exit polls. Hosokawa and

Utsunomiya got about 20 percent each, indicating that if the anti-nuclear vote had been united, a

win by either might have been possible.

Official vote tallies were not expected until Monday.

Masuzoe was backed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who wants to restart the 50 nuclear reactors that were idled following the Fukushima disaster.

Hosokawa was backed by former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who pushed for zero nuclear power.

The public has been worried about safety after the multiple meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi plant. Throngs of protesters have periodically gathered outside government buildings and marched in parks, demanding an end to nuclear power.

Tetsuro Kato, professor of political science at Waseda University in Tokyo, said the anti-nuclear vote suffered because voters could not agree on one candidate.

# Russia, Japan seeks to resolve lingering islands dispute

BY CAROL J. WILLIAMS

Los Angeles Times

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe continued their quiet negotiations Saturday to bring an end to their nations' World War II dispute over four Pacific islands, a disagreement that has hampered relations

between the two nations for nearly 70 years.

Amidst shifting diplomatic dynamics in the Asian Pacific region, Putin and Abe met on the fringes of the Winter Olympic Games in the southern Russian resort of Sochi to discuss improving trade ties and how to resolve conflicting sovereignty claims to the islands.

No breakthrough agreements

were reached between the two countries, which both count as a regional rival. But the positive spin attached to the fifth Putin-Abe meeting in just more than a year heralded new possibilities to put an end to one of the region's longest-running disputes.

Abe was quoted by reporters in Sochi as saying the pace of nego-

tiations over the islands in recent months "has been very fast" and that Tokyo is keen to maintain that momentum.

Likewise, Russian media cast the meeting as another advance in warming ties between Moscow and Tokyo.

The Saturday summit ended in agreement that Putin will visit Japan later this year.

# STARS AND STRIPES

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

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Ernie Gates

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## Cuts mean no lockbox is safe

I had to wait until after the State of the Union address to be done and hear the Republican rebuttal to see what would be mentioned about the injustice that was levied against the military veterans and their families when it came to their retirement benefits. Did you know that the approved cuts to the annual cost of living adjustment for military retirees with 20 years of service will be an average cash loss of \$80,000 or more for each affected enlisted retiree and more than \$140,000 for each affected officer?

Why they chose these particular cuts is beyond me. Why didn't Congress go after the billions of dollars in tax loopholes (corporate welfare) that benefit the richest 1 percent? Why didn't they cut the billions of dollars in agrubusiness subsidies that go to the corporate-run farms? Those in Congress have chosen to take from those who cannot afford to lose a dime and continue to protect the 1 percent, who definitely can live with a cut.

You all have already seen or heard about the so-called "We're sorry" or "Trust us, we didn't mean it" bills being brought up or talked about to reverse the cuts, but military veterans should have never been put in this position in the first place.

If they do reverse the cuts, that is great. The language should also read in the bill that the veterans' benefits shall never be touched, but if they have to be touched the corporate welfare tax loopholes should be cut first.

Just look at how the government has raided the other so-called "lockbox" for the Social Security Trust Fund and the Thrift Saving Program (G Fund) of billions of dollars. Once they start, they will not stop. Don't ever let this issue go away without strong opposition.

And one last thing for the government to

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dip its hands into is the newly introduced MyRA (see TSP G Fund). Don't be fooled again.

**Chief Petty Officer Gabriel Rodriguez**  
 Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan

## Vets deserve to keep benefits

Rudyard Kipling, one of the most famous authors from Great Britain, highlighted in his poem "Tommy" that when the nation wages war the soldier is revered but after the war he is shunned. The recent cuts to cost-of-living adjustments have apparently drawn support from politicians, military leaders and a host of defense pundits who postulate that unless personnel costs are reduced our nation's military will cease to function. This dire warning seems to echo Kipling's poem. I suppose the more things change, the more they stay the same. The idea that the nation's budget woes can be fixed by cutting veterans' benefits is shameful and not supported by the facts.

The proposals for cuts go beyond reducing the COLA. They include eliminating commissaries, changing the retirement system, raising Tricare premiums and deductibles. There is even talk of making some of the adjustments means-based, meaning if you earn more retirement you

# Navy stronger because of civil rights pioneers

By RYAN MEHAN  
 This month is Black History Month and this year is the 50th anniversary of the civil rights movement.

Every year I have been in the Navy. I have watched this month go by with more or less indifference, but this year I feel differently for a couple of reasons.

First, I am now the proud father of a mixed-race son, and thinking about what he may have to confront because of the way he looks and the ways he is categorized as he grows up is a new concern in my life.

The second reason is a little more complicated. It has to do with my future in the Navy. I have been thinking a lot about what it means to be a sailor in the U.S. Navy, how proud I am of that fact, how much responsibility I feel, and what it is to be a leader both in this organization and in life.

Perhaps more than any other job, as members of the U.S. military we represent our country to the world. When we are abroad and people see us, they don't say to themselves, "There goes another American," they say, "There goes the United States." Since the media tend to focus on the sensational, which usually means bad, a lot of us start to feel like the whole world hates us. But in reality, if you talk to people one on one, not only is that not the case, but you will find that, for most of the world, our country is still seen as a promised land, a place of limitless opportunity, unimaginable wealth and most importantly, freedom.

Why do you think we enjoy this reputation? Not because we continue to segregate our races, deny women and people of color the vote, and incarcerate whole communities out of fear, greed and hate. No, it is

**One of the things that really impressed me with the Navy when I joined was how diverse it is. It is a beautiful thing.**

because of the honor, courage and commitment of the thousands who took part in the civil rights movement that we can hold our heads high today and say we are proud to be American, a nationality that truly represents diversity and equality.

It's worth it to take a moment and think about how amazing the civil rights movement really was. When we go out and represent, and fight for, the United States, part of what encourages us and gives us strength is knowing that we have the full support of our government and the American people.

So imagine what it took for those people, primarily black, in the 1960s, to walk out in the streets knowing that their government does not support them and most Americans either hate them or are completely indifferent (and who knows which of those feelings is worse). Men, women and children, radically outnumbered, and often poor, set out to break down a wall of ignorance, brutality and bigotry that had been established and reinforced for generations, and they did it knowing full well that they might be beaten, thrown in prison forever, and/or killed, with very little opportunity for justice. If this is not the ultimate example of honor, courage and commitment, I don't know what is.

pay more for the same benefit. I hope the next time I shop at Wal-Mart they don't charge me more for bread and milk because I have a higher salary than the person next to me. This idea seems somewhat un-American.

The same military and political leaders who support these cuts often say that less than 1 percent of the American population has volunteered to serve the nation during these troubling times since 9/11. It is hard to fathom how that small percentage of dedicated and faithful volunteers are breaking the budget. I am all for trimming defense spending and even paying a fair rate for certain benefits, but I would strongly suggest first eliminating the waste, fraud and abuse that exist in our government programs.

The fundamental issue is the nation keeping its promises to its veterans. Making adjustments after the fact is not keeping faith with those who have served. I suggest making all the adjustments to personnel costs to those who join the military from this point forward. Clearly outline the benefits in the prospective volunteer's contract. Then the nation can see if the volunteer force is viable under these new budgetary constraints.

As Kipling so aptly said, "While it's Tommy this an' Tommy that an' Tommy fall be'ind, but it's please to walk in front, sir when there's trouble in the wind." There will be trouble in the wind again. I am thankful for an honor of serving my country for more than 35 years and greatly appreciate the benefits afforded to me and my family. All veterans want to do our part to ensure we maintain a strong military and reduce the nation's budget deficit, but our nation can do better than to look to our servicemembers past and present to resolve the budget problems.

**Lt. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon (retired)**  
 Orlando, Fla.

What's more they went without weapons, armed only with intelligence, determination, passion and love.

One of the things that really impressed me about the Navy when I joined was how diverse it is. Look around and you will see people of just about every ethnic and racial background imaginable. It is a beautiful thing.

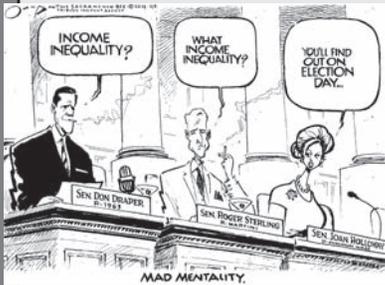
And, yet, last we think that we have arrived at the promised land already, I would challenge every one of you to open your eyes to the bigotry and inequality that is still rampant and can be confronted. As diverse as we are, our Navy can often end up a front line for the prejudices people bring with them from home. The transition from civilian to true blue sailor is not always as smooth as we could hope. The folks who put their lives on the line during the civil rights movement laid the foundation, but it is up to us to continue the fight.

Every one of us who values integrity, equality and moral strength, every one of us who likes to put on the uniform each day and think, "I represent progress, goodness and the power of positive change," every one of us is indebted to those people who fought in the civil rights movement and made it possible for us to feel truly proud of representing the United States of America. With this in mind, I ask every active-duty servicemember who has Black History Month pass them by each year of their service without so much as a nod of respect to now take some time and think about how important it really is, to all of us, regardless of skin color.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Mehan is stationed at Camp Courtney, Okinawa.

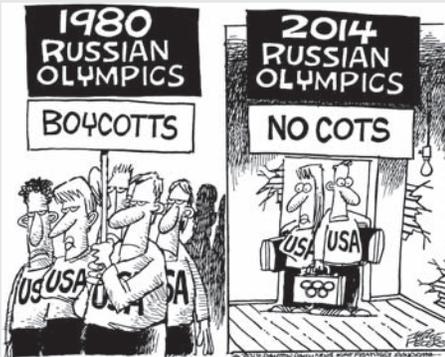
# Looking at the news

## A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



**MAD MENTALITY.**

JACK OHMAN/Tribune Content Agency



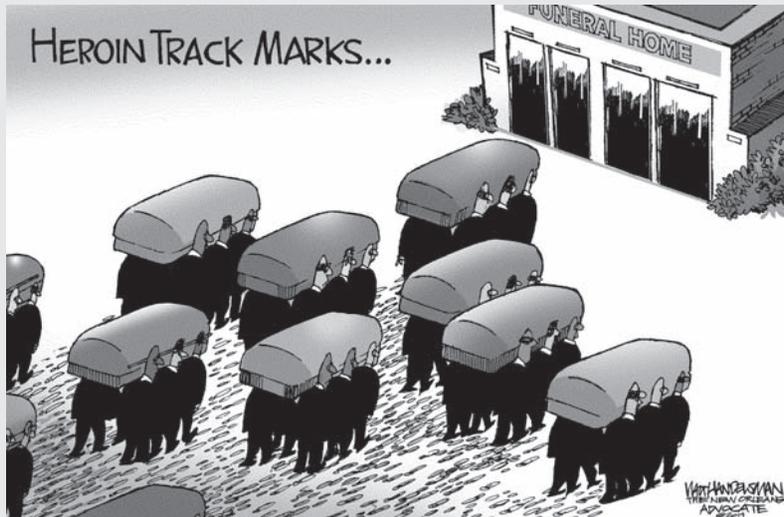
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## SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

# Timing DEATH

Study: People slow to react are more likely to die prematurely

By MELISSA HEALY  
*Los Angeles Times*

Whether you're naked and hungry on the savannah, driving in traffic or at the controls of your favorite video game, being slow to react can get you eaten, injured or splattered across the screen.

While we intuitively know this, a new study offers dramatic evidence of how much speed of response still matters: In men and women from ages 20 to 59, slower-than-average reaction time turned out to be a pretty good predictor of premature death.

The new research, published recently in the journal PLoS One, was large, simple and highly revealing. Between 1988 and 1994, researchers gave 5,134 Americans adults under 60 a very straightforward test of reaction time. The participants, all part of a large federal study of American nutrition and health, were seated at a computer and told to push a button immediately upon seeing a 0 on the screen in front of them. There was no practice period; a participant's average over 50 trials was computed, and he or she had just a few seconds between those 50 trials.

The researchers measured the range of reaction times across the group. They computed a "standard deviation" — a unit of measure that marks the extent to which an individual's performance departs from the group's average. They took note of the "variability" of each participant's response time — how widely reaction time fluctuated in the course of their 50 tries.

Then they waited close to 15 years to see who in this relatively young group of Americans would die, and of what.

## Consistent results

Because the participants had been recruited for an ongoing study of health and nutrition, the researchers had a wealth of health-related information on them. They could use that data to adjust for risk factors such as age, gender and ethnicity.

In all, 378 of the participants died during a follow-up period that averaged 14.6 years — 104 of cardiovascular deaths and 84 of cancer deaths.

When the researchers — all from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland — went back to compare participants' response times with their likelihood of being among the dead, they detected a clear pattern: For those with slow reaction times, each standard deviation that separated an individual's performance from the group's average increased his or her likelihood of dying by 25 percent.

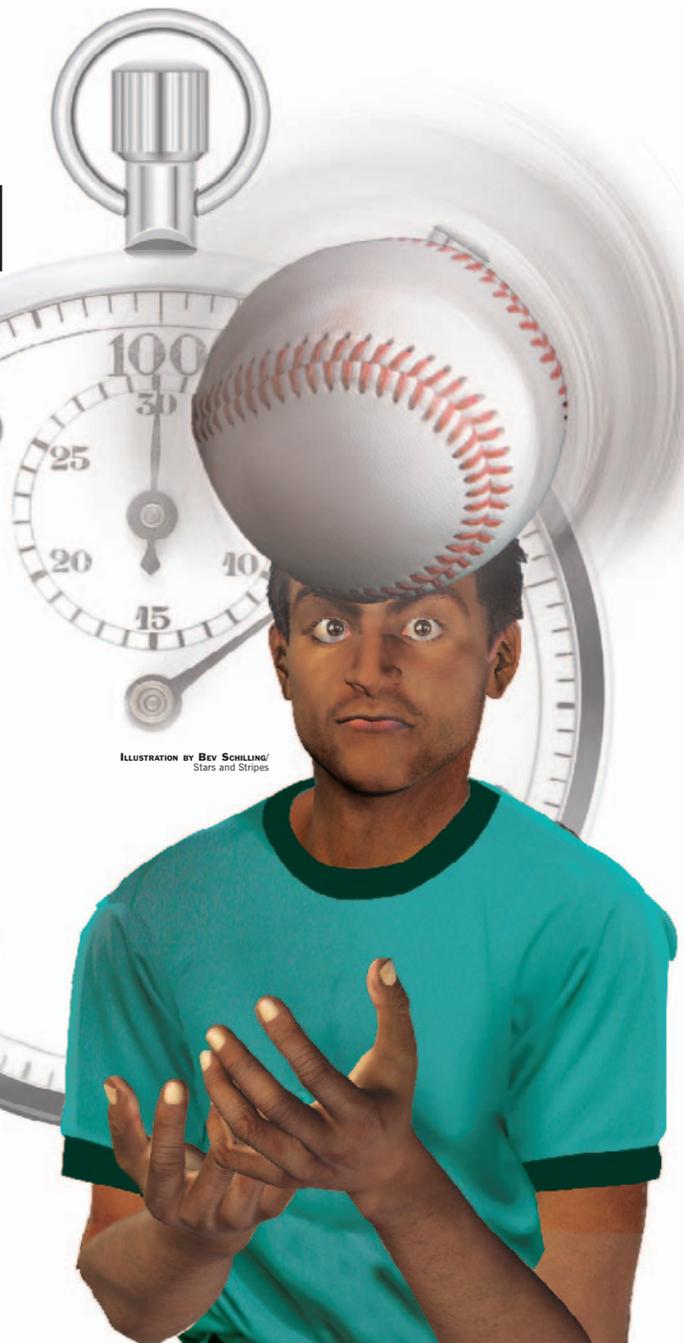
Those who were slower than the group average by four standard deviations were twice as likely as those whose performance was average to have died over the 15-year follow-up period.

High variability in response time was also linked to a higher risk of death in the study. But those with high variability in response time also tended to be the same people whose response time was slower than average.

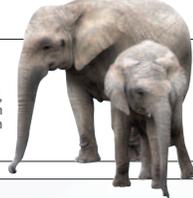
The authors noted that response time and variability were as powerful at predicting the likelihood of death as was another influential risk factor for death: smoking.

Response speed was much more likely to predict cardiovascular death than it was to predict death by cancer. This suggests that long before a stroke or heart attack fells its victim, the creeping progress of narrowing arteries, inefficient blood flow and weakening hearts might be signs of a slowing of response time, the study authors wrote.

ILLUSTRATION BY BEV SCHILLING/  
Stars and Stripes



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP



## Prison escapee says it was 'relatively simple'

**MI** IONIA — A convicted killer who escaped from a Michigan prison said it “was relatively simple.”

Michael Elliot, 40, was discovered missing Feb. 2 during an inmate count after escaping from the Ionia Correctional Facility, 30 miles east of Grand Rapids.

He was arrested Monday in a stolen vehicle in Indiana.

The Detroit Free Press said Saturday that Elliot used his one phone call to discuss the escape with the newspaper.

Elliot told the Free Press he dived into the snow, put on a white ski mask made from thermal material, crawled to a fence and went under it.

He said it took at least 30 minutes to escape and another hour to run to the city of Ionia. He jumped into the snow every time he saw a car.

## 2 endangered whooping cranes shot; 1 killed

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — Someone shot a pair of endangered whooping cranes that had been building practice nests in southwest Louisiana, killing the female and seriously injuring the male, state wildlife officials said Friday.

They were the only birds that had formed a mating bond last year, though they were too young to produce eggs, said Robert Love, of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

“It’s just sickening,” he said.

Whooping cranes are among the world’s largest and rarest birds, with only about 600 alive today — all descended from 15 that lived in coastal Texas in the 1940s. They are protected under state and federal laws.

## Naval Air Station: Jets caused resort tremors

**MD** OCEAN CITY — The Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland said two Navy fighter jets conducting routine flight tests off the coast caused the sonic booms felt in Ocean City that some people thought were an earthquake.

Connie Hempel, public affairs officer for the air station, said Friday that the jets, an F-35C and an F/A-18, conducted the tests from 9:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. Thursday. She said the flights in the Atlantic Test Ranges off the coast of Maryland and Virginia conducted tests requiring the supersonic speeds, causing the booms.

Ocean City officials received dozens of calls from residents starting about noon who said they felt tremors and shaking and heard a loud boom.

## Seattle win costs owner of furniture store \$7M

**TX** HOUSTON — Seattle’s victory in the Super Bowl has cost Houston furniture store mogul Jim McIngvale some \$7 million.

McIngvale is the owner of one of the nation’s largest independent furniture stores, Gallery Furniture. He promised custom-

## THE CENSUS

**3** The number of minutes spent in labor before a mother elephant, Shanti, delivered her 385-pound baby calf, named Duncan, at the Houston Zoo. Shanti carried Duncan for 23 months before giving birth early Friday. Duncan was Shanti’s fourth calf. Zoo Director Rick Barongi told the Houston Chronicle that zoo staff was pleased with Duncan’s health and that he was nursing a lot.



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN B. MORTON/AP

## Firefighters battle waterside blaze in Ga.

**Above:** Firefighters battle a blaze in a warehouse at the Georgia Ports Authority Ocean Terminal in Savannah, Ga., on Saturday. A Ports Authority spokesman said all port workers were safe and accounted for after the fire broke out. **Right:** Visitor Nancy West, right, of Tybee Island, Ga., and her friend, Chris Rawlings, of Savannah, watch firefighters battle the blaze.



ers who spent at least \$6,000 in the weeks before the game and took delivery before Superbowl Sunday’s game that he’d refund their purchase cost if Seattle won. The Seahawks routed Denver 43-8.

McIngvale said Monday his accountant is “pulling his hair out.” He said he didn’t do well financially but did build his brand. He said the promotion was not covered by insurance.

## Man accused of biting stranger’s nose jailed

**ME** AUBURN — A former Maine man charged with nearly biting off the nose of a stranger dancing at a Lewiston bar has been sentenced to a year in jail.

Todd Lyons, formerly of Mechanic Falls, was sentenced Friday after pleading no contest to aggravated assault.

Prosecutors said Lyons, 33, bit

the nose of Ryan Zinninger, of Greene, in November 2011 at Pub 33 while Zinninger was dancing with friends, the Sun Journal reported.

Police said the tip of Zinninger’s nose was bitten off almost completely. He was taken to a hospital where he received 12 stitches.

## Man accused of taking \$23K in valets’ tips

**NY** MINEOLA — A manager of a parking-attendant company has been charged with stealing \$23,541 in tips from parking valets at a mall on Long Island.

Joseph Benevento, 32, of East Rutherford, N.J., was arraigned Saturday on charges he stole tips from parking valets at two restaurants at the Roosevelt Field Mall in Garden City.

Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice said Benevento forced the valets to give him

a percentage of their tips every week or lose their jobs.

Benevento pleaded not guilty to the charge of fourth-degree grand larceny. He is due back in court Tuesday.

## Ambulance hijacked; worker asleep inside

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — Authorities said an Albuquerque ambulance worker catching some sleep in the back of his vehicle woke up to find himself the victim of a carjacking.

Police arrested a man and a woman accused of driving off in the ambulance around 3 a.m. Saturday while it was parked outside Lovelace Medical Center in downtown Albuquerque.

Police spokesman Elder Guevara said the employee was asleep in the vehicle’s rear but was able to jump out when the ambulance slowed near an intersection.

Officers then pursued the am-

bulance, which finally came to a rest after authorities used spikes to deflate the tires. Police have not released the names of the suspects or the victim, who was not injured.

## Few clues in case of possible cougar attack

**CA** PERRIS — A week after an attack on a Southern California man, DNA tests to determine whether he was mauled by a mountain lion proved inconclusive, the victim remains too injured to be interviewed and the suspected cat hasn’t been found.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Lt. Patrick Foy said samples gathered from Raymond Navarro, 48, and his Riverside County campsite have not been good enough to get conclusive results.

From wire reports

FACES



Matt McClain/The Washington Post

George Clooney, left, and his longtime producing partner, Grant Heslov, talk about "The Monuments Men." The movie tells of the U.S. Army's Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives unit that, in the waning days of World War II, sought to rescue art looted by the Nazis.

# Clooney to the rescue

## Movie star's vision, charisma keeping part of Old Hollywood alive

By ANN HORNADAY  
The Washington Post

**F**un fact about George Clooney: He's a hugger. Meeting someone for the first time, he brushes right past an extended hand and instead delivers a warm embrace, a gesture that somehow suggests both the proprietary confidence of celebrity as well as its utter dismantlement.

Even when dressed casually, Clooney, 52, manages to exude preternatural charisma and self-assurance. There might not be another actor alive who so thoroughly personifies movie stardom, or deploys it so adroitly — as commodity, means of production and public trust.

On this day, Clooney has joined his longtime producing partner, Grant Heslov, to talk about their latest film: "The Monuments Men," about the U.S. Army's Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives unit that, in the waning days of World War II, sought to rescue millions of pieces of art looted by the Nazis. The film marks Clooney's fifth directorial effort, and he also stars, heading up a cast that includes Matt Damon, Bill Murray, John Goodman, Bob Balaban, Jean Dujardin and Cate Blanchett. "The Monuments Men" represents the kind of film that Clooney and Heslov have been dedicated to making since forming their company, Smokehouse Pictures, in 2006.

"Our whole theory has been, let's try to force-feed the kind of films that aren't gonna get made unless we make them," Clooney explained. Working with lean budgets, deferring their own salaries and asking their actors to work for fractions of their going rates, Clooney and Heslov have specialized in the kind of movies that studios have largely abandoned in favor of comic-book franchises and

cartoons. Their first film, "Leatherheads," was a screwball comedy inspired by Depression era classics: "The Men Who Stare at Goats," which Heslov directed, was a gonzo war comedy. "The American," starring Clooney as a taciturn hit man, owed its reflective mood and brooding silences to Antonioni; both "The Ides of March" and "Argo," the latter being their biggest hit to date, recalled the taut political thrillers of the 1970s.

Indeed, watching Clooney's character, George L. Stout, scrambling around Europe trying to save artistic treasures from Hitler's all-encompassing, destructive clutches, it's possible to read "The Monuments Men" as an allegory for Clooney's own mission, as he valiantly tries to save the archaic genres and sometimes risky, subversive material that seems increasingly endangered by Hollywood's corporate agenda.

"It's hard," Clooney admitted. "We have deals where we go, 'So our back end is nothing.' But [we say], 'Let's keep doing these until they don't let us do them anymore.'" When Clooney talks about the back end, he refers to a strategy of leveraging his star power that he didn't invent but has nonetheless potentially reinvigorated over the past several years, agreeing to waive or dramatically reduce his usual \$15 million salary in favor of a percentage of the film's revenues. It was that strategy that allowed films such as "Syriana," "Michael Clayton," "Up in the

Air" and "The Descendants" to be made.

It's also a strategy borne of what might be called the "After Batman" era of Clooney's career, which hit a painful pivot point in 1997, when he starred in "Batman & Robin" — for those keeping score at home, the most universally panned installment of the ever-expanding franchise.

His breakout feature roles — "One Fine Day," "From Dusk Till Dawn" and "The Peacemaker" — all came about because he was eager for the work and what looked like juicy roles. "And then I get a call, 'Do you want to be in "Batman"?' And I'm like, 'Yeah.'"

"With all of those things, it was just me as an actor going, 'Look at the part,'" Clooney said. "And after I got killed for 'Batman & Robin,' I realized I'm not going to be held responsible just for the part anymore. I'm going to be held responsible for the movie. And literally, I just stopped. And I said, it now has to be only screenplay. Because you cannot make a good film from a bad screenplay."

The next movies Clooney did were "Three Kings," "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" and "Out of Sight," directed by David O. Russell, the Coen brothers and Soderbergh, respectively. "Those were all great screenplays," Clooney said. "And great directors."

"The Monuments Men" marks a rare foray into optimistic, family-friendly filmmaking for Clooney and Heslov, both of whom are attracted to tough-minded, skeptical, even cynical movies. They made a pact on the last day of shooting, Clooney says, to go back to the dark side for their next project.

"We want it to be low-budget, dark, screwy," Clooney said. "... We want to have those scenes [like in "The Ides of March"] in the kitchen with Ryan Gosling and myself, where it's just as dark and cruel as it can possibly be. We like that world a lot."

# Fox cancels 'X Factor'

From wire services

Fox has X'd out "The X Factor."

Once seen as the next "American Idol," Fox has canceled the "The X Factor" after three seasons of shuffling judges and low ratings for the musical talent show.

Simon Cowell, who left "American Idol" for "The X Factor," will now focus his efforts on the U.K. version of the show.

"Last year, for a number of reasons, I had to make a decision to return to the U.K. version of 'The X Factor' in 2014," Cowell said in a statement.



Cowell

That would seem to contradict what Cowell said two months ago, when he told reporters that "The X Factor" would return for a fourth season.

Fox Entertainment President Kevin Reilly said, "Unfortunately, there is no 'X Factor' without Simon Cowell, but we understand and support his decision to focus on the international formats and on the next phase of his personal life. We wish him the very best, and it's our sincere hope that we work together again soon."

The singing competition series has played musical chairs with its judging panel since its launch. Its original panel included Cowell, his former "American Idol" pal Paula Abdul, veteran record label executive L.A. Reid and British pop star Cheryl Cole. The latter was dropped a few days into the job, replaced by singer Nicole Scherzinger.

The next two seasons saw singer Demi Lovato, Britney Spears, Kelly Rowland and Paula Rubio rotate through the panel.

## Wendy Williams' items go to Smithsonian

Talk show host Wendy Williams is giving part of her diva act to the Smithsonian to be part of a growing collection of items from daytime television.

During an episode of "The Wendy Williams Show" on Friday, Williams is donating her blazzed pink microphone and other items to the National Museum of American History.

The gift includes the dress and shoes Williams wore for the show's first photo shoot, a wig and wide head, a skirt and a light-up "diva fan" with Williams' signature catchphrase "How you doin'?"

The museum says Williams is the first talk show host to donate objects to the entertainment collection. Her TV show premiered in July 2009 and is currently in its fifth season.

## Other news

Maxine Kumin, a prolific New England poet and U.S. poet laureate who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for her work "Up Country," has died. She was 88.



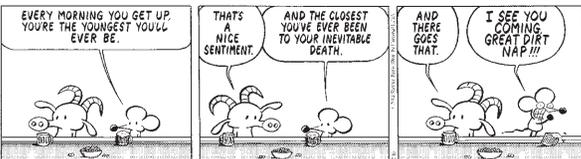
Frazz



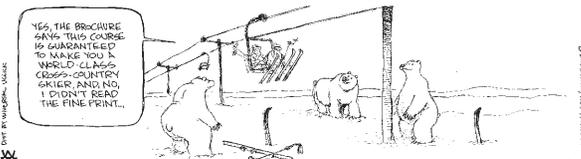
Bertie the Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



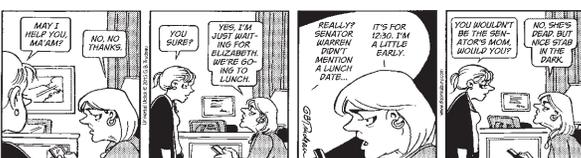
Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- 1 Molokai neighbor
- 5 Blond shade
- 8 Word before "fall"
- 12 Script
- 14 Chantilly, e.g.
- 15 Like navel oranges
- 16 Open slightly
- 17 Dos Passos trilogy
- 18 Reach
- 20 Wobbly dessert
- 23 Summertime pest
- 24 Vacationing
- 25 Overcast
- 29 Jewel
- 32 Say something
- 30 Tamera Mowry's twin
- 32 Gender-neutral
- 34 Chutzpah
- 35 Some deer
- 36 Revellie instrument
- 37 Endorsed a passport
- 40 — tai (cocktail)
- 41 Catch sight of
- 42 Like some stockings
- 47 Sheltered from the storm
- 48 Allow to go bareback
- 49 Laschivuk
- 50 Household critter
- 51 Tofu source

DOWN

- 1 CIA forerunner
- 2 Expert
- 3 "— Haw"
- 4 To excess
- 5 Vicinity
- 6 Bro counterpart
- 7 Cries of adoration
- 8 Nebraska river
- 9 Hindu royal
- 10 Antioxidant berry
- 11 Sea bird
- 13 As well
- 19 Chat
- 20 Binge
- 21 Rams' mates
- 22 Hobbling
- 23 Surmise
- 25 Accelerates
- 26 Unescorted
- 27 Window ledge
- 29 — gin fizz
- 31 Beer kin
- 32 Looked inside?
- 34 Merchants' groups
- 36 The Crimson Tide
- 37 Scallopini base
- 38 Capri, for one
- 39 Jet forth
- 40 Spar
- 43 Opposite WSW
- 44 Tokyo's old name
- 45 Crafty
- 46 Vast expanse

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	C	A	R		H	A	L	S		B	R	A				
A	R	C	O		O	R	E		O	R	I	P				
G	O	N	G		T	I	N		I	N	S					
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					R	H	O		O	R	O					
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						R	O	T		A	R	M				
					O	G	R	E		H	A	W	O	P	A	H
					V	I	G	E		L	E	V	I	O	R	G
					E	V	E		A	N	O	N		R	O	O
					R	E	D		S	A	N	G		E	D	G

2-10

CRYPTOQUIP

ANGO WKGXJFMOPG DQMKJ  
 XJFJBNFOR D BMLSMJGU.  
 AMKTP XDIFOR "IGX" QG  
 DO DPLFXXFMO MS WKFTJ?  
**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** POPULOUS TENNESSEE TOWN WHERE EVERYONE'S FAVORITE FOOD ITEM IS WHIPPED POTATOES: MASH-VILLE.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals A

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**STARS AND STRIPES**



COLEGE BASKETBALL

Roundup

Gators roll over Tide for 15th straight victory

The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Scottie Wilbekin scored 16 points, leading all five starters in double figures, and No. 3 Florida beat Alabama 78-69 on Saturday for its 15th straight victory. The Gators (21-2, 10-0 Southeastern Conference) handled the Tide (9-14, 3-7) for the second time in 16 days and extended a school record for consecutive home wins to 29. Florida shot 62 percent from the field and finished with 22 assists.

No. 4 Wichita St. 82, Northern Iowa 73: Tekele Cotton scored 18 points and missing Wichita State (25-0, 12-0 Missouri Valley Conference) beat Northern Iowa (11-13, 5-7), checking perhaps its toughest remaining hurdle for an unbeaten regular season.

No. 5 San Diego St. 73, Nevada 58: Xavier Thomas scored 17 points. Winston Shepard had 16 and host San Diego State (21-1, 10-0 Mountain West) beat Nevada (12-12, 7-4) to tie the school record with its 20th straight win.

SMU 76, No. 7 Cincinnati 55: Nick Russell had 15 points to go with several big steals and SMU (19-5, 8-3 American Athletic

Conference) stayed undefeated at home by ending Cincinnati's (22-3, 11-1) 15-game winning streak. No. 8 Kansas 83, West Virginia 69: Andrew Williams scored 19 points and Wayne Selden had 17 for host Kansas (18-5, 9-1 Big 12), which padded its lead in the Big 12 standings with the win over West Virginia (14-10, 6-5).

No. 17 Iowa 85, No. 10 Michigan 67: Roy Devyn Marble scored 22 of his 26 points in the first half for host Iowa (18-6, 7-4 Big Ten) in its win over Michigan (17-6, 9-2). Aaron White added 11 points and eight rebounds for the Hawkeyes.

No. 11 Duke 89, Boston College 68: Jabari Parker set career highs with 29 points and 16 rebounds, and Quinn Cook hit five three-pointers and scored 21 points as Duke (19-5, 8-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) coasted over Boston College (6-17, 2-8).

No. 13 Saint Louis 65, La Salle 63: Jordair Jett scored 19 of his 25 points in the second half, including the game-winning basket with four seconds left, and visiting Saint Louis (22-2, 9-0 Atlantic 10) extended its school-record winning streak to 16 games by beating La Salle (12-11, 4-5).

Kansas St. 74, No. 15 Texas 57: Marcus Foster scored a career-high 34 points on 13-for-16 shooting as host Kansas State (16-7, 6-4 Big 12) ended Texas' (18-5, 7-3) seven-game winning streak.

No. 16 Iowa St. 84, TCU 69: Melvin Ejim hit 20 of 24 shots in scoring a Big 12-record 48 points and grabbed a career-high 18 rebounds to lead host Iowa State (8-4, 6-4 Big 12) over Texas Christian (9-13, 0-10).

No. 18 Kentucky 69, Mississippi St. 59: Julius Randle scored 16 points and fellow freshman James Young added 11 for Kentucky (18-5, 8-2 Southeastern Conference) in a win over host Mississippi State (13-10, 3-7).

Texas Tech 65, No. 19 Oklahoma St. 61: Oklahoma State star Marcus Smart shoved a fan behind the basket in the waning seconds of Texas Tech's (12-11, 4-6 Big 12) win over the Cowboys (7-7, 4-6).

No. 20 Virginia 64, Georgia Tech 45: Sophomore guard Malcolm Brogdon scored 14 points and tied his career high with 11 rebounds as visiting Virginia (19-5, 10-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) closed the game on a 22-1 run to beat Georgia Tech (11-12, 3-8).

No. 21 Oklahoma 88, Baylor 72: Isaiah Cousins scored 15 of his career-high 21 points in the second half to help host Oklahoma (18-6, 7-4 Big 12) beat Baylor (14-9, 2-8).

No. 24 Memphis 60, No. 23 Gonzaga 54: Chris Crawford and Michael Dixon Jr. had 11 points apiece as host Memphis (18-5) scored the final 10 of the game to defeat Gonzaga (21-4).

No. 25 Pittsburgh 62, Virginia Tech 57 (2 OT): Cameron Wright scored four of his 18 points in the second overtime to help Pittsburgh (20-4, 8-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) beat Virginia Tech (8-15, 1-10) and snap a two-game home losing streak.

Navy 79, Army 57: Worth Smith had 23 points Saturday as Navy (8-15, 3-9 Patriot League) ended its six-game losing streak and dominated Army (12-11, 8-4) in the annual Star Game.

After trailing 31-30 with 2:36 left in the first half, the Midshipmen outscored Army 42-15 to take a 72-46 lead on Earl McLaurin's third three-point shot of the game. McLaurin entered the game with only three on the season.

Navy had six different players make three-pointers and was 11

of 20 from three-point range. The Midshipmen also had assists on 23 of their 30 field goals. Kendall Knorr and Brandon Venturini scored 17 and 12 points, respectively, and each had eight assists.

Tanner Plomb had 17 points and Dylan Cox added 10 for the Knights who failed to close within one game of the conference leaders after American University lost its second straight and dropped to a tie with Boston University at 10-2 in the league.

Colorado St. 68, Air Force 56: J.J. Avila scored 20 points and Jon Ocutus added 18 as Colorado State (14-10, 5-6 Mountain West) rallied back from a 10-point deficit to beat Air Force (9-13, 3-8).

Ocutus' first three-pointer snapped a tie with 3:39 to play. His second three-pointer 1:44 later stretched the lead to 62-53.

Colorado State led at the 15:16 mark of the first half and then trailed by as much as 10 points until a dunk by Gerson Sants with 7:21 remaining in the game.

Avila scored 13 of his 20 points in the second half, and ended the game with 13 rebounds.

Tre' Coggins led the Falcons with 19 points, including five three-pointers.

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Grid of classified ads for Europe including categories like Clothing, Computers, Furniture/Appliances, Home Electronics, Person to Person, House Unfurnished, Sporting Goods, Miscellaneous, Collectibles, Musical Instruments, Toys, Travel, and more.

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# SCOREBOARD

## Sports on AFN

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## Golf

### Pebble Beach Pro-Am

**Saturday**  
At Pebble Beach, Calif.  
p-Pebble Beach 6:30 live, par-72  
Columbus 54, Rodgers 54, 55  
m-Montey Peninsula: 6:30 live, par-71

Purse: \$24 million	
Partial Third Round	
Jimmy Walker	59-69-67=202
Tim Wilkinson	67-72-69=208
Hunter Mahan	58-68-72=208
Richard H. Lee	65=72-75=209
Phil Mickelson	66=70-75=210
Blake Adams	69-69=210
Kevin Na	72-68=210=5
Ryan Palmer	72-69=210=5
Pat Perez	69=70-75=210
Michael Thompson	65=72=70=211
Brendon Todd	70-68=211=4
Dustin Johnson	68=72=70=211
Brian Garnett	75-68=211=4
Robert Coles	70-70=211=4
Jim Herman	70=70=71=211=4

### Leaderboard at time of suspended play

KIS- THRU	
1. Jimmy Walker	-13
2. Hunter Mahan	-13
3. Tim Wilkinson	-13
4. Hunter Mahan	-13
5. Phil Mickelson	-13
6. Pat Perez	-13
7. Kevin Na	-13
8. Ryan Palmer	-13
9. Jim Herman	-13
10. Blake Adams	-13

### Allianz Championship

**Saturday**  
At The Old Course at Broken Sand  
Dun Laoghaire  
Purse: \$1.6 million  
Yardage: 6,800 Par: 72  
Second Round

Michael Aul	69-69=129
Scott Dunlap	63-69=132
Chen Song Lu	68-64=132
Yoon Kyung-Eun	67-65=132
Jay Haas	65-64=132
Lee Tran	67-65=132
Gary Koch	66-66=133
Chloe Park	67-66=133
Brad Bryant	67-66=133

### Joburg Open

**Saturday**  
At Johannesburg  
At Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Club  
Joburg Open  
East Course: 7:00 yards, par-71  
West Course: 7:25 yards, par-71  
Purse: \$1.6 million  
Third Round

T. Aiken, South Africa	70-65=135
J. Walters, South Africa	64-70=134
Chen Song Lu, South Korea	65=69=134
Finlayson, Finland	65=69=134
A. Forsyth, Scotland	64-70=134
C. Coetzee, South Africa	65=69=134
David Horsey, Australia	70-63=133

### Ladies Australian Masters

**Saturday**  
At RACV Royal Pines Resort  
Racine Coast  
Purse: \$337,820  
Yardage: 6,470 Par: 73  
Third Round  
amateur

Stacy Lewis, U.S.	69-67=127
Chylene Lee Bregman, S. Africa	69-67=127
Lucy Liu, Australia	70-60=130
Camilla Lennarth, Sweden	71-67=130
Trish Johnson, England	71-67=130

### College baseball

#### Saturday's scores

Armstrong Atlantic 3, Barton 0  
Augusta 4, West Georgia 1-13  
Belhaven 7, Coker 3-Stockton 3-1  
Belmont Abbey 3-8, St. Anselm 1-6  
Newman 5, Southern 1-3  
Davenport 9, Union (Ky.) 2  
10-20, Johnson 2, Catawba 1  
Guilford 10, Berry 9  
Hamden-Sydney 6-7, Marymount 0-0  
Le 9, Kentucky St. 1  
Millersville 7, Winston-Salem 4  
10-20, Johnson 20, Johnson 20  
Mount Olive 14, Shepherd 3  
10-20, Johnson 20, Johnson 20  
St. Catherine 7, Freed-Hardman 3  
game 2  
Shawnee St. 9-4, Bryant 4-2  
Stillman 6-1, Eskine 2-8  
10-20, Johnson 20, Johnson 3-3  
SOUTHWEST  
Concordia (Austin) 11-10, Southwest-ern 2  
FAREWEST  
Westmont 6-3, Vanguard 2-5

## College basketball

### Saturday's men's scores

**EAST**  
Binghamton 73, Maine 58  
Boston U. 88, Lafayette 54  
Brown 77, Dartmouth 61  
Bryant 78, Mount St. Mary's 75  
CCNY 61, Fairleigh Dickinson 96, OT  
Castleton St. 137, Green Mountain 97  
Catholic 67, Drew 60  
Colgate 71, NYack 71  
Colgate 63, American U. 10  
20-20, Bonaventure 69  
Dominican (NY) 90, Wilmington (Del.) 77  
Drexel 78, James Madison 60  
8-9, Boston College 68  
E. Tennessee 71, Wentworth Tech 61  
Franklin & Marshall 74, Washington (Mo.) 57  
Franklin Pierce 74, Assumption 70  
George Mason 74, Duquesne 68  
George Washington 93, Fordham 67  
Georgetown 71, Butler 63  
Georgetown 67, Albany (N.Y.) 54  
Hobart 89, Vassar 52  
Hofstra 61, UNC Wilmington 52  
Mass.-Lowell 71, UMass 61  
Lehigh 66, Loyola (Md.) 52  
Lynchburg 90, Thomas (Maine) 61  
Mass.-Boston 74, UMass 61  
Mount St. Mary's (N.Y.) 89, Mount St. Vincent 61  
Navy 73, Army 57  
New Hampshire 73, Stony Brook 69  
New York 69, New England 64  
Old Dominion 70, York 56  
9-8, American International 65  
Penn. 68, Columbia 60  
6-6 Pittsburgh 62, Virginia Tech 57, 2OT  
Princeton 69, Cornell 69  
Quinnipiac 82, Rider 61  
Rutgers 77, St. Francis (N.Y.) 50  
S.C. Connecticut 97, LeMoyne 75  
Saint Joseph's 69, VCU 62  
Louisville 64, La Salle 63  
Scranton 77, Susquehanna 73  
St. Francis 3, New Hampshire 75  
St. Francis (Pa.) 74, Brock 69  
St. John Fisher 81, Ithaca 71  
St. Michael's 66, St. Peter's 64  
St. Rose 78, New Haven 74  
Towson 68, Conn. of Charleston 61, OT  
Wake Forest 62, Sacred Heart 55  
William & Mary 82, Northeastern 70  
Yale 74, Harvard 67

**SOUTH**  
Alabama St. 75, MVSU 70  
Arkansas 77, Vanderbilt 75  
3-0 North Georgia 69, Middle Tennessee 60  
Belmont 93, Austin Peay 96  
Bluefield 77, Cumberland (Tenn.) 53  
6-0 Georgia 89, Alabama St. 75  
Brigadiergate (Va.) 76, Emory & Henry 63  
Campbellsville 74, Georgetown (Ky.) 68, OT  
Carson-Newman 81, LeNor-Rhyme 76  
Catawba 106, Tusculum 87  
Coker 69, Carolina 67, Longwood 58  
Coppin St. 58, Md.-Eastern Shore 50  
Cumberland 88, St. Catherine 60  
Davidson 65, Furman 50  
Delaware St. 61, SC State 53  
5-0 Wake Forest 67, Longwood 58  
East Carolina 81, UTSA 71  
Edwards Water 61, Fisk 54  
6-0 Georgia Southern 99  
Erkane 76, Lees-McRae 74, 3OT  
7-0 82-80  
Florida 78, Alabama 69  
Florida Gulf Coast 73, North Florida 46  
Gardner-Webb 80, High Point 76  
George 62, Texas A&M 50  
Georgia Southern 79, E. Tennessee 68  
Hampton 63, Howard 47  
Jackson St. 71, Alcorn St. 61  
Kentucky 81, Mississippi St. 99  
Kentucky St. 81, Miles 72  
Kennesaw State 87, Trevecca Nazarene 66  
King (Tenn.) 115, Mount Olive 95  
Louisiana 89, Auburn 89  
LeMoyne-Owen 67, Lane 65  
6-0 Union 78, Tennessee 75  
Louisiana Tech 90, North Texas 75  
Marion Methodist 99, Loyola No 10  
7-0 82-80  
Maryville (Tenn.) 89, Lagrange 78  
Oglethorpe 69, Georgia 69  
Middle Tennessee 70, FIU 68  
Milligan 88, Bryan 65  
Newberry 11, Missouri 88  
Morehead St. 86, E. Kentucky 79  
North Carolina 82, UNC Asheville 65  
NC A&T 84, Florida Tech 45  
NC Central 77, Bethune-Cookman 54  
NC State 5, Miami 55  
Newberry 92, Lincoln Memorial 92  
North Carolina 82, Morgan St. 70  
Northwestern St. 86, Nichols St. 73  
Pikeville 78, Lindsey Wilson 70  
Reid 69, Presbyterian 65  
Randolph-Macon 84, Lynchburg 72  
8-0 82-80  
South Florida 78, SC-UPstate 76  
Samford 92, Chattanooga 88, OT  
Southern 83, Xavier (Ind.) 72  
Southern U. 104, Grambling St. 54  
Tennessee 82, Jacksonville 82  
Tenn. Wesleyan 83, St. Andrews 67  
Tennessee 72, South Carolina 53  
Tennessee Tech 72, Jacksonville St. 60  
Thomas More 93, Liberty & Jefferson 66  
UNC Asheville 75, Washington 74  
UTEP 63, Old Dominion 49  
Virginia Tech 69, Charleston Southern 84  
Vt. 61, Florida Tech 45  
W. Carolina 84, Appalachian St. 75, OT  
W. Virginia 62, Salem 62  
Winthrop 88, Campbell 62  
Wofford 77, The Citadel 56

### MIDWEST

Augsburg 102, Macalester 52  
Aurora (Ill.) 65, Carthage 58  
Aurora 78, Marian (W.V.) 73  
Baker 96, Graceland 50  
Bowling Green 79, Marquette 67  
Bethany Lutheran 92, Northland 68  
Cleveland State 75, Hartwick 68  
Buffalo 79, Cent. Michigan 70  
Calvin 68, Adrian 55  
Cardinal Strick 70, Robert Morris-Chicago 71  
Cleveland (W.V.) 69, Cornell (Iowa) 49  
Chicago St. 81, UMKC 74  
66-66  
Concordia (Wis.) 69, Duquesne (Ill.) 62  
Cornerstone 76, Concordia (Mich.) 44  
Cupper-Stockton 93, Evangel 92  
Davenport 77, Aquinas 64  
Hillsdale 70, Kent St. 53  
Edgewood 86, Rockford 73  
Ferris St. 74, N. Michigan 65  
Findlay 71, Tiffin 64  
Gustavus 62, Carleton 57  
Hillsdale 87, Ohio Dominican 56  
Hope 88, Albion 73  
Iowa 85, Michigan 67  
Iowa St. 84, TCU 69  
Kansas, West Virginia 69  
Kansas St. 74, Texas 87  
Lake Superior St. 82, Northwood (Mich.) 70  
Madonna 87, Siena Heights 41  
Malone 84, Ashland 75  
Marquette 79, New England 60  
Michigan Tech 76, Grand Valley St. 71  
8-0 82-80  
Milwaukee Engineering 80, Benedictine (Ill.) 74, OT  
Minnesota 80, Minn. St.-Moorhead 67  
Minn. St.-Mankato 109, Sioux Falls 64  
Minnesota 66, Indiana 60  
Minn. St. 87, Minn.-Crookston 64  
Missouri 62, St. Louis 61  
Nebraska 38, Northwestern 49  
Nebraska-Omaha 71, W. Illinois 60  
North Carolina 74, Brock 69  
North Central (Minn.) 82, Crown Point 87  
Northwestern (Ohio) 30, Minn.-Moorhead 85  
2-0 82-80  
Ohio 82, Miami (Ohio) 75  
Ohio St. 67, Purdue 49  
Ohio St. 81, Alma 80  
Park 67, William Woods 58  
Purdue 91, Monmouth 70  
S. Dakota 83, LIU Post 54  
SIU Edwardsville 69, Illinois 68  
SIU-Edwardsville 64, UT-Martin 78  
SIU-Minnesota St. 68, Concordia (St. P.) 57  
Saginaw Valley St. 70, Wayne (Mich.) 57  
St. Cloud St. 76, Northern St. (SD) 58  
St. Olaf 72, St. John's (Minn.) 61  
St. Thomas 89, St. Mary's 67  
St. Thomas (Minn.) 92, St. Mary's (Conn.) 89  
St. Xavier 94, Judson 43  
Toledo 80, Ball St. 73  
Trenton 69, Kalamazoo 68  
Upper Iowa 84, Augustana (SD) 79  
Viterbo 85, AIB 52  
Wash. Tech 74, Lake Erie 52  
Wichita St. 8, Iowa 72  
Winn-Dixie 79, Waynesburg 61  
Wis. Lutheran 91, Concordia (Ill.) 80  
Wittenberg 69, Dakota 66  
Wis.-LaCrosse 85, Wis.-Platteville 70  
Wis.-Parkside 76, Rockhurst 63  
Wis.-Stout 57, Wis.-Oshkosh 52  
Wis.-Whitewater 77, Wis.-Superior 44  
Xavier 59, Peabody 67

**SOUTHWEST**  
Ark.-Pine Bluff 64, Alabama A&M 61  
Ark.-Pine Bluff 64, Auburn 89  
Incarnate Word 89, Houston Baptist 88  
Louisiana-Lafayette 67, Texas 56  
New Orleans 88, Cent. Arkansas 79  
North Texas 88, Baylor 80  
Ora Roberts 71, St. Louisiana 54  
Prairie View 85, Texas Southern 77  
SMU 76, Cincinnati 55  
Sam Houston St. 84, Lamar 70  
Arkansas 81, Austin 74  
Texas A&M 87, Abilene Christian 69  
Texas Tech 85, Oklahoma St. 61  
10-20  
Texas Tech 79, UALR 78  
FAREWEST  
Arizona St. 79, Gonzaga 72  
BYU 68, San Francisco 67  
CS Northridge 92, Cal St.-Fullerton 83  
Colorado St. 68, Air Force 56  
Fresno St. 75, South Dakota 61  
Fresno St. 82, San Jose 52  
Grand Canyon 79, CS Bakersfield 70  
Idaho 79, Cal State-Northeast 52  
Idaho 70, Texas-Pan American 63, OT  
Long Beach St. 88, UC-Riverside 62  
Montana 84, Utah 69  
New Mexico St. 92, Seattle 77  
North Dakota 80, Idaho 77  
Oregon 87, North West U. 52  
Pacific 82, Loyola Marymount 72  
Pepperdine Tech 72, Jacksonville St. 62  
Saint Mary's (Cal) 69, Pepperdine 67, OT  
San Diego St. 73, Nevada 58  
Santa Clara 69, San Diego 63  
San Diego 81, UC Davis 59  
UCLA 83, Southern Cal 73  
UNLV 48, Wyoming 46  
Weber State 88, Weber State 63  
Utah 76, Boise St. 70  
Wolver 79, N. Colorado 65

### Saturday's women's scores

**EAST**  
American U. 75, Colgate 57  
Army 54, Navy 48  
Bardonia 61, Lafayette 59  
Brown 71, Dartmouth 55  
Bryant 81, Colby 50  
Clemson 72, Wake Forest 99  
Dayton 87, Duquesne 77  
Fairleigh Dickinson 66, Xavier 58  
Fairleigh Dickinson 82, Wagner 70  
Fordham 67, George Washington 58  
Georgetown 66, Xavier 58  
Harvard 58, Yale 57  
Iona 11, Manhattan 67  
La Salle 50, Rhode Island 42  
Lehigh 50, Loyola (Md.) 47  
Mount St. Mary's 99, LIU Brooklyn 60  
Penn 70, Columbia 63  
Princeton 71, Cornell 56  
Robert Morris 101, St. Francis (N.Y.) 95, 2OT  
Siena 76, St. Peter's 54  
St. Bonaventure 88, UMass 66  
St. Francis (Pa.) 89, Sacred Heart 80  
St. John's 85, Providence 65  
West Virginia 84, Kansas St. 44  
SOUTH  
Arkansas St. 88, Georgia St. 75  
Bethune-Cookman 66, NC Central 60, 2OT  
Chattanooga 69, Appalachian St. 41  
Coppin St. 80, Md.-Eastern Shore 64  
Davidson 75, UNC Asheville 66, OT  
E. Kentucky 69, Morehead St. 66, OT  
East Carolina 83, UAB 73, OT  
Florida Gulf Coast 76, SC-UPstate 69  
Florida 80, Wofford 72  
Howard 64  
High Point 81, Coastal Carolina 73  
Indiana 54, Alcorn St. 64  
Jacksonville 56, North Florida 51  
Jacksonville St. 74, Tennessee Tech 67  
Kent State 53, N. Kentucky 39  
Liberty 66, Charleston Southern 45  
MVU 55, Alabama 26  
Marshall 69, Louisiana Tech 55  
Mercer 76, Lipscomb 27  
Middle Tennessee 65, Rice 54  
NC A&T 82, Florida A&M 77  
Norfolk St. 64, Morgan St. 63  
Northwestern St. 76, Nichols St. 60  
Presbyterian 66, Longwood 61  
Radford 55, Gardner-Webb 56  
SC State 64, Delaware 62  
Saint Louis 65, George Mason 62  
Salem St. 64, W. Carolina 69  
South Florida 89, UCF 54  
Southern Miss. 72, Charlotte 52  
Tennessee 87, Grambling St. 72  
Tenn. St. 80, TSU 55  
Tennessee 96, Austin Peay 71  
2-0 82-80  
Winn-Dixie 62, UNC Asheville 55

**MIDWEST**  
Akron 27, W. Michigan 66  
Wright 79, W. Michigan 66  
Butler 74, Marquette 70  
Cleveland St. 100, Wright St. 93  
Detroit 80, Milwaukee 68  
Drake 80, Illinois 55  
Eastern Michigan 56, Missouri 48  
Evansville 59, N. Iowa 59  
Green Bay 81, Ill.-Chicago 54  
Indiana 79, Cincinnati 41  
IPFW 57, N. Dakota St. 51  
Marquette 76, Dakota 66  
Indiana 76, Wisconsin 69  
Nebraska 76, Michigan St. 56  
North Dakota 64, Ohio St. 59, OT  
Oakland 87, Youngstown St. 67  
SIU-Edwardsville 67, UT-Martin 62  
WKMC 84, Chicago 69

**SOUTHWEST**  
Ark.-Pine Bluff 64, Alabama A&M 62  
Ark.-Pine Bluff 64, Auburn 89  
Cent. Arkansas 67, New Orleans 30  
Idaho 85, Texas-Pan American 52  
Lamar 70, Sam Houston St. 45  
North Texas 68, Old Dominion 52  
Ora Roberts 81, St. Louisiana 78  
Rutgers 65, SMU 64  
Stephen F. Austin 69, McNeese 52  
49  
Tul 72, Texas Tech 66  
Texas A&M-CC 74, Abilene Christian 71  
Texas Southern 74, Prairie View 70  
Texas St. 70, Louisiana-Lafayette 64  
Texas Tech 88, UTSA 54  
UALR 58, W. Kentucky 51  
UTEP 83, FIU 62

**Cal State West**  
BYU 73, San Francisco 66  
Boise St. 83, Utah St. 62  
Brigham Young 67, Grand Canyon 70  
CS Northridge 76, Cal St.-Fullerton 50  
Colorado St. 68, Utah 69  
Colorado St. 88, Air Force 28  
E. Washington 71, Montana 61  
Gonzaga 88, Loyola Marymount 51  
Long Beach St. 65, UC-Riverside 52  
N. Colorado 70, Weber St. 63  
New Mexico St. 81, San Diego St. 59  
New Mexico St. 86, Seattle 81  
Oregon St. 74, Utah 69  
Oregon St. 75, Colorado 63  
Oregon St. 75, Saint Mary's (Cal) 71  
Portland 78, Pepperdine 59  
Portland St. 72, Montana 52, 61  
Portland St. 58, UC Davis 59  
San Diego 72, Santa Clara 44  
Santa Clara 58, Fresno St. 66  
Southern Cal 68, UCLA 73  
UC Irvine 79, UC Davis 57  
Wyoming 82, UNLV 56

## Deals

### Saturday's transactions

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**  
CUBS - Agreed to terms with RHP Jeff Samardzija on a one-year contract.  
GIANTS - Agreed to terms with LHP Paul Maholm on a one-year contract.  
MIAMI MARLINS - Agreed to terms with RHP Justin Upton on a one-year contract. Designated OF Jimmy Paredes for assignment.  
MILWAUKEE BREWERS - Designated RHP Donovan Drake for assignment.  
**NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
CHICAGO BEARS - Signed WR Joe Anderson.  
**GOLF**  
USGA - Elected Thomas J. O'Toole Jr. president.  
**HOCKEY**  
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS - Returned D Tim Erwin and Cody Goloubou on loan to Springfield (AHL).  
MILWAUKEE BREWERS - Recalled F Colton Sissons from Milwaukee (AHL).  
SAN JOSE SHARKS - Reassigned F John McCarthy to Worcester (AHL).  
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING - Reassigned D J.C. Comtois to Syracuse (AHL).  
**COLLEGE**  
ARKANSAS - Named Robb Smith defensive coordinator.  
**College hockey**  
**Saturday's scores**  
Castleton St. 4, UConn 1  
American International 5, Army 4, OT  
Bentley 4, UConn 1  
Boston College 3, Princeton 3  
St. Joseph's 2, St. Hampshire 1  
St. Lawrence 3, Quinnipiac 2  
Robert Morris 5, MIT 3  
Utica 4, New York State 2  
UMass-Lowell 5, UMass 3  
Union (N.Y.) 2, 2-0  
**MIDWEST**  
St. Schotastic 1, OT  
W. Michigan 3, Miami (Ohio) 2  
Ferris St. 2, N. Michigan 1  
Alaska Anchorage 2, Alaska Superior 2  
2-0 St. 2, Michigan St. 2, OT  
50 wins  
1-0 in 50  
Michigan Tech 10, Ala.-Huntsville 4  
1-0  
Minn. St. (Mankato) 3, Bemidi St. 2  
Nebraska-Omaha 3, Michigan Tech 3  
Note Name 3, Maine 2  
St. Cloud St. 4, Denver 2  
**FAREWEST**  
Air Force 2, Mercyhurst 0

**Tennis**  
**Fed Cup**  
WORLD GROUP  
First Round  
Italy 2, United States 0  
USA: Venus Williams  
Cleveland  
SURFING  
World Indoor  
Karin Knapp, Italy 61, Christina McHale, United States, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.  
Cliff Davidson, USA 61, Madison Keys, United States, 6-2, 6-1.

**Royal Guard Open**  
**Saturday**  
At Club Naval de Campo Las Salinas  
Cabo Roig, Spain  
Purse: \$467,800 (WT250)  
Surface: Hard-Indoor  
Singles  
Semifinals  
Leonardo Mayer, def. Santiago Giraldo, Colombia, 7-6 (7), 6-3.  
Cliff Davidson, USA 61, Madison Keys, United States, 6-1, 6-7, 6-5.

**PBZ Zagreb Indoors**  
**Saturday**  
At Dom Sportova  
Zagreb, Croatia  
Purse: \$554,000 (WT250)  
Surface: Hard-Indoor  
Singles  
Semifinals  
Marin Cilic, def. Bjorn Phau, Germany, 6-3, 6-4.  
Tommy Haas (J.), def. Gerardy Danies, Britain, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.

**Open St. of France**  
**Saturday**  
At Arena Montpellier  
Montpellier, France  
Purse: \$554,000 (WT250)  
Surface: Hard-Indoor  
Singles  
Gael Monfils (5), France, def. Jerzy Janowicz (6), Poland, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4).



# HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE



Joshua L. DeMorris/Stars and Stripes

**Wiesbaden's Joseph Spiszer puts Kaiserslautern's Lawrence Abbott in a cradle in the 138-pound final at the sectional tournament at Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Saturday. Spiszer won the weight class.**

## D-I teams pull their weight

### Wiesbaden, K-town rack up qualifying slots for championships

By GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Family members, fans and resting wrestlers from host Kaiserslautern and nearby Wiesbaden crowded the stands Saturday, leaving limited room for the smaller schools that filled out the field of the DODDS-Europe central sectional qualifier.

The scene was much the same on the mats below. Representatives of the Division I Warriors and Raiders won a combined 26 of the 34 automatic European championship berths handed out at the event, one of three qualifying meets Saturday that determined much of the field for the DODDS-Europe championships set for Friday-Saturday at Wiesbaden.

The host team made sure it will be well-represented. The Warriors qualified at least one wrestler in 13 of 14 weight classes, missing out only in the 120-pound ranks. Their total of 15 automatic qualifiers edged Kaiserslautern's 11 for the meet's high tally.

Under DODDS Europe rules, weight classes with four or more wrestlers awarded automatic qualifying berths to the top three wrestlers. In weight classes with three or fewer contenders, however, only the champion automatically advanced.

It's in those latter classes that Wiesbaden excelled. Warriors won all four such classes Saturday, ranging from 106-pound winner Dominic Vatcher to 285-pound champ Adam Beasley.

Warriors 220-pound Hunter Lunasin fought off an early-match barrage to score a win over Baumholder's Nobleman Soule, avoiding what would have

been just his second loss of the season and securing his spot in next week's tournament.

"I worked my way up from a bridge and was able to get out," Lunasin said.

The Warriors' strongman's only loss this season came to Patch's Will Miller, and Lunasin looks forward to a rematch next weekend.

"He's my top goal right now," Lunasin said. Kaiserslautern's tally included first-place finishes by Carlos Muniz at 113 pounds, Matt Fischer at 120 and Arvin Hrushka at 170.

Muniz, a freshman, came into the meet confident despite his relative inexperience.

"I started down here," said Muniz, motioning with his hand to indicate his humble beginnings. "And now I'm up top. I've been trying as to improve as much as I can."

Baumholder, Black Forest Academy and Hohenfels each notched two automatic qualifiers apiece, while Ansbach and Incirlik secured one each. Rota was shut out.

Incirlik's Eli Spencer finished first at 182 pounds, the only weight-class winner not affiliated with Kaiserslautern or Wiesbaden.

Those who missed Saturday's cut aren't necessarily done for the season. A panel led by DODDS-Europe athletic director Karen Seadore will meet early this week to determine wild-card entries and finalize the European championship field. A maximum of 12 wrestlers will be selected in each weight class, though some likely won't have that many entries.

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# Royals, Lancers dominate sectional

By ADAM L. MATHIS  
Stars and Stripes

STERREBEEK, Belgium — Division I teams filled many of the European championship wrestling slots up for grabs at Brussels American School on Saturday.

The Brigands hosted 123 matches that went largely to Ramstein and Lakenheath, with the Royals taking first in eight brackets and the Lancers taking three. Steve Kennedy, the Ramstein coach, was pleased with how well his team did. And while he did not think it affected its performance, Kennedy did wish his team could have met the Lancers before Saturday.

"I think every Division I school should wrestle one-another at least once ... [a season] but that's not always possible," Kennedy said.

Facing new competitors seemed to have no effect on one of Ramstein's top performers, Eric Carter. He said the new faces made no difference for him in winning the 152-pound bracket.

"It's just like a regular meet," Carter said. "I mean, I just come out there and try to do my best that I can. It's not really different for me."

That wasn't the case for everyone, though.

Aaron Norton, one of the Brigands' top wrestlers, took first at

138 during last week's meet at Lakenheath, but came in third this time after losing to Ramstein's Andre Rios in the third round.

"My coaches said that no matter what team or where they're from ... 99 percent of this sport is all mindset," Norton said. "And it is a bit mind-boggling to think that you haven't wrestled these guys and it might have an effect on you going to Europeans, but overall in Europeans you're going to wrestle someone you haven't wrestled before."

Ramstein and Lakenheath took 31 of the 40 automatic qualifying spots. Alconbury qualified three, AFNORTH and SHAPE each had two, and Brussels and Bitburg each had one.

Despite the number of qualifiers from Ramstein, Kennedy, the defending European champion, isn't as confident as he was at this point last year. He said the Royals have a lot of inexperienced wrestlers and other Division I schools are looming.

"We wrestled the other teams and Patch is extremely strong," Kennedy said. "For somebody to catch them they're going to have to have the biggest day of the tournament and Patch is going to have to have one of their worst."

"But, we're not done," Kennedy added.

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Adam L. Mathis/Stars and Stripes

**Lakenheath's Grant Barkhurst gets control of Ramstein's Stan Cruz during a 106-pound final on Saturday. Barkhurst won the match.**

## With numbers to back it up, Patch looks like the favorite

By JASON DUHR  
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — There's something to be said about quantity when it comes to wrestling in DODDS-Europe. But quality certainly helps as well.

Patch, one of two Division I schools from Germany to make a rare trip south of the Alps to attend the sectionals in Italy, proved Saturday it had both.

"You can definitely tell the difference by just looking at the teams," Vicenza's Marshall Perfetti said, while comparing Patch to the Italian schools. "You can tell they are a very disciplined team and even though they are a big team, they're united!"

The Panthers brought 27 wrestlers to Saturday's match and a total of 23 of them

would earn an automatic spot at the European Championship in Germany.

"Some say it's unfair to have a larger school in the competition," Aviano head coach Robin Clement said. But he's not one of them. "If you're going to call the Europeans a championship, you have to have the best wrestlers there and I think today's competition put the best players out there."

One qualifier, who didn't take first or second, still stood out from the others.

"They treat me just like they treat everyone else," Patch junior McKenna Fields said. "Not like a female — but like another opponent."

Fields is no stranger to wrestling. In fact, this is the third year she's earned a spot at the championship meet in Germany.

"It's a bit intimidating being the only girl, because all eyes are going to be on you, but it makes for a great opportunity to show people girls can do it as well," Fields said about the sectional qualifier.

While Patch stood out by sheer numbers alone, it wasn't the only one to send qualifiers up north.

Naples' Miles Davis, Jordan Hoffman and Josh Hensly all took second place, each falling to a Patch wrestler.

If anyone overcame the odds during the meet, it would have to be Aviano's Daniel Dinges, who has battled Vicenza's Perfetti for the last two years and until Saturday, had never beaten him.

Dinges took the 160-pound match 15-7 to claim a spot in the finals. But Vilseck's Will Peters proved to be too much.

While Dinges enjoyed the opportunity to compete against the usual competitors — and win — he said the wrestlers from Patch and Vilseck definitely made the competition tougher.

"They're just aggressive, they're out there winning it — it's tough," Dinges said. New to wrestling in Europe, but not new to wrestling, Peters was an all-state wrestler from Georgia last year and has high hopes for Europeans.

"I've got confidence, but I don't want to change it to cockiness," Peters said. "I have a lot of work to do and with the help of my teammates, I hope to be ready."

Vilseck had four first-place finishes and one third. Naples had five qualifiers, Vicenza four and Aviano three.

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# HIGH SCHOOLS: DODDS-PACIFIC

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND

# Daegu boys, Seoul American girls win titles

They took the first step by taking their respective Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference Blue Division basketball tournament titles.

But Daegu's boys and Seoul American's girls know much work lies ahead, especially after last year's Far East disappointments.

Torian James scored the game-tying three-pointer and game-winning foul shot in the closing seconds as the Warriors boys ended the Falcons' three-year title reign 60-59 on Saturday.

Seoul American's girls had an easier time in their championship game, beating Daegu 37-29.

The Warriors boys also had momentum entering Far East as the top seed in Division II last year but crashed out in two games and finished ninth.

"We have to make the same commitment to running our team offense and doing what's right," coach Phillip Loyd said.

Seoul American's girls also entered last year's Far East Division I tournament on the momentum of their KAIAC tournament championship, but failed to capitalize on it, finishing fifth.

Falcons girls coach Jesse J. Smith said one thing working in the two teams' favor is there's a week break between KAIAC and Far East this year.

In 2013, the teams went straight from KAIAC to their respective Far East tournaments, quite a travel undertaking, Smith said.

"With one week in between, hopefully, that will make a difference," Smith said. "It's up to them. They gotta want it."

**Guam:** Austy Hines and the Panthers put the misery of a three-game losing streak behind them with a pair of victories over the weekend.

Hines combined for 22 points and 19 rebounds as Guam beat Simon Sanchez 53-48 and then defeated St. John's 58-42.

**Kadena:** Likewise, the Panthers girls made it three wins in its past four games over the Dragons in their season series, but again, it didn't come easy for Kadena.

The Panthers had to come from behind to beat Kubasaki 57-55 behind Alicia Vaughan's 16 points.

**Kubasaki:** Nick Ashley posted 19 points, Kareem Key added 17 more and DeQuan Alderman hit for 15 as the Dragons beat Kadena 74-60, taking the Okinawa season series from the Panthers 3-1.



MYLISSA MACLIN/Special to Stars and Stripes

**Daegu's Torian James shoots against Seoul American's Deon Johnson as Shawn Horne and Dominique Conley and Daegu's Will Steele watch in Saturday's championship game of the Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference Blue Division boys basketball tournament at Daejon, South Korea.**

**Osan:** The only other DODDS Korea team to field a full lineup besides Seoul American won two of three dual meets in the final weekend of four-way dual tourneys, beating Humphreys 54-11 and then defeating Daegu 55-10.

**Humphreys:** Former Osan Cougars' 180-pounder Austin Rudd, capped an unbeaten regular season by pinning Osan's Daniel Nazzano and Daegu's Gabby Ramos and beating Seoul's Jahdai Winn by technical fall.

**Yokota:** The Panthers boys rebounded from a 49-40 loss at St. Mary's, their first of the season, by pounding Christian Academy Japan 66-27 at home. Jadan Anderson led the Panthers with 24 points in the game.

**Kinnick:** Down at the heels for much of the season, the Red Devils boys basketball team got just its second win in 13 games, rallying for a 53-50 win over E.J. King at Iwakuni, trailing by seven points in the

final minutes. On the girls' side Alyshia Allison led Kinnick to a sweep of their two games, including winning a 17-11 defensive struggle with M.C. Perry.

**E.J. King, Edgren:** The next action for the Cobras and Eagles comes on the mat, with the start of the Far East wrestling tournament Thursday-Saturday at Yokota. That's followed by the Far East Division II basketball tournaments, girls at Daegu and boys

**M.C. Perry:** Victory finally came for the Samurai girls, who won for the first time in 14 tries 26-21 over E.J. King behind Ani Erhart's double-double of 17 points and 15 boards. The boys played bonus basketball for the second straight week, beating Kinnick 77-71. Vincent Emiliano scored 27 points, hitting four three-pointers.

**Zama:** The champion at again for the Trojans at the CAJ Invitational was Jacob Scott at 148 pounds.

... After a week-end off, the girls basketball team is back in action with home games Tuesday and Thursday against St. Maur and Seisen International schools. Zama's boys don't play until Feb. 11 at home against Yokota.

— Dave Orauer

## Scoreboard

### Wrestling

#### South Korea

Seoul American 41, Osan 22  
Seoul American 57, Humphreys 5  
Seoul American 61, Daegu 0  
Osan 54, Humphreys 11  
Osan 55, Daegu 10  
Humphreys 15, Daegu 14

### Basketball

#### Boys

#### South Korea

Osan American 53, Taejon Christian International 47  
Yongsan International-Seoul 55, Seoul Foreign 38

Daegu 70, Humphreys 61  
Seoul American 78, Osan 33  
Daegu 68, Yongsan 67  
Seoul Foreign 65, Humphreys 53  
Seoul Foreign 52, Taejon Christian 37  
Yongsan 56, Osan 53  
Daegu 60, Seoul American 59

#### Okinawa

Kubasaki 74, Kadena 60  
**Guam**  
Guam 53, Simon Sanchez 48  
Guam 58, St. John's 42

#### Japan

Matthew C. Perry 68, Nile C. Kinnick 49  
Kinnick 53, E.J. King 50  
American School in Japan 73, Christian Academy Japan 61  
Perry 77, Kinnick 71  
Perry 52, King 43

#### Girls

#### South Korea

Taejon Christian 37, Osan 32  
Seoul American 40, Yongsan 9  
Seoul Foreign 59, Humphreys 28  
Daegu 57, Taejon Christian 28  
Seoul American 45, Seoul Foreign 41  
Seoul American 45, Yongsan 36  
Osan 47, Humphreys 36  
Seoul Foreign 41, Taejon Christian 33  
Seoul American 37, Daegu 29

#### Okinawa

Kadena 57, Kubasaki 55  
**Japan**  
Kinnick 41, King 29  
Kinnick 17, Perry 11  
Perry 26, King 21  
ASU 61, CAJ 25

Zama 40, Seisen International 38

NHL

Roundup

# Blues reach break with win over Jets

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — To stay a step ahead of goaltenders, T.J. Oshie mixes up his shots in shootouts.

It worked Saturday, with Oshie and Vladimir Tarasenko scoring in the tiebreaker to give the St. Louis Blues a 4-3 victory over the Winnipeg Jets.

"I try to switch it up," Oshie said. "I know they watch video just like we do so I try to be unpredictable out there. I've scored a couple on backhands, three or four in the 5-hole and a couple using the forehead."

Alexander Steen missed on the first attempt. Then came Oshie.

The crowd chanted "USA!" as Oshie skated on AI Montoya and beat him. Tarasenko then scored, giving the Blues the victory in their final game before the Olympic break. Tarasenko is 3-for-5 in shootouts.

Whichever way he goes, Oshie is getting the job done. He is 7-for-10 in shootouts.

"It's just a fun part of the game where you've been doing it at the end of practices with goalies since you're a kid," Oshie said. "It's something I've had fun doing."

Blues goalie Brian Elliott stopped Bryan Little and Andrew Ladd in the tiebreaker. They were combined 9 for 14 before misfiring against Elliott.

Coach Ken Hitchcock said there is a "calmness" on the bench when it comes to time for a shootout.

"That's what is intriguing for me," Hitchcock said. "First of all, we can go deep cause we have people who are good at it that are down the ladder. But we've also got those three guys who are pretty golden for us to be honest. We know we're going to get a goal from one of the three for sure."

Brendan Morrow, Derek Roy and Jaden Schwartz scored in regulation for the Blues, 15-0-1 against Central Division rivals. They are 22-5-3 at home and 39-12-6 overall.

Mark Scheifele scored twice, and Dustin Byfugien added a goal for Winnipeg.

"We know we played a good game and it came down to a shootout as a tough way to end it," Scheifele said. "We know we can play with every team in this

league and to lose in a shootout to a team like that is obviously good but we know we could have won that game."

**Canadians 4, Hurricanes 1:** David Desharnais scored twice and visiting Montreal beat Carolina. Montreal left wing Max Pacioretty sustained a lower-body injury with 7:30 left in the first period when he was checked into the goal by Carolina's Brett Bellemore and did not return. The U.S. Olympic hockey team member said the move was precautionary.

**Maple Leafs 3, Canucks 1:** Phil Kessel scored the go-ahead goal midway through the third period as host Toronto handed Vancouver its seventh straight loss. Mason Raymond and James van Riemsdyk also scored in the third for Toronto and Jonathan Bernier made 23 saves.

**Bruins 7, Senators 2:** Patrice Bergeron scored twice and added an assist as host Boston goes into the Olympic break with a win over Ottawa.

**Flyers 2, Flames 1:** Brayden Schenn and Scott Hartnell scored goals, Ray Emery stopped 32 shots and host Philadelphia beat Calgary for their fourth straight win.

**Lightning 4, Red Wings 2:** Alex Killorn scored a tiebreaking goal late in the third period, Ondrej Palat had two goals and host Tampa Bay beat Detroit in the Red Wings' 6,000th regular-season game.

**Capitals 3, Devils 0:** Julien Brouillette broke a scoreless tie with his first NHL goal midway through the third period. Braden Holtby stopped 25 shots as host Washington beat New Jersey.

**Avalanche 5, Islanders 2:** Matt Duchene scored a pair of goals 2:44 apart in the second period as visiting Colorado beat New York.

**Ducks 5, Predators 2:** Ryan Getzlaf scored twice, Jonas Hiller made 36 saves and NHL-leading Anaheim beat host Nashville to snap a three-game losing streak.

**Stars 2, Coyotes 1:** Kari Lehtonen made 26 saves as host Dallas beat Phoenix. Lehtonen, a Finnish Olympian, received plenty of help from the Stars' defense and from goals by Ray Whitney and Russian Olympian Valeri Nichushkin.

## Scoreboard

Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Boston	57	27	16	14	83	196/138
Tampa Bay	58	33	20	5	71	168/145
Montreal	58	31	21	6	70	163/143
Florida	60	32	22	6	70	178/182
Ottawa	59	26	22	11	63	169/191
Toronto	58	22	29	7	51	139/183
Carolina	57	15	38	4	38	110/172
Metropolitan Division						
Pittsburgh	57	15	38	4	38	116/138
N.Y. Rangers	59	32	24	3	67	155/146
Philadelphia	60	31	24	5	63	162/159
Washington	58	29	24	5	63	167/161
San Jose	59	27	23	9	63	171/175
Chicago	57	28	22	6	64	145/147
New Jersey	59	22	31	6	51	136/166
N.Y. Islanders	60	22	30	8	52	164/200

Western Conference						
Central Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
St. Louis	57	39	12	6	84	196/135
Colorado	58	31	14	14	84	207/163
Minnesota	58	37	16	5	79	174/153
Dallas	58	27	21	10	64	164/147
Winnipeg	60	28	26	6	62	168/175
Nashville	59	25	24	10	64	160/180
Pacific Division						
Anaheim	59	37	16	6	87	196/147
San Jose	59	32	22	5	80	175/142
Los Angeles	59	31	22	6	68	139/128
Vancouver	58	27	24	7	61	163/159
Edmonton	60	27	24	9	63	146/160
Calgary	60	23	33	4	47	153/199

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

**Friday's games:**  
 N.Y. Rangers 4, Pittsburgh 3, SO  
 New Jersey 2, Edmonton 1, OT  
 Carolina 5, Florida 2  
 Phoenix 2, Chicago 0  
 St. Jose 3, Columbus 2  
**Saturday's games:**  
 St. Louis 4, Winnipeg 3, SO  
 Philadelphia 2, Calgary 1  
 Boston 7, Ottawa 2  
 Toronto 3, Vancouver 1  
 Montreal 4, Carolina 1  
 Tampa Bay 4, Detroit 2  
 Colorado 5, N.Y. Islanders 2  
 Washington 3, New Jersey 0  
 Anaheim 5, Nashville 2  
 Dallas 2, Phoenix 1

## Saturday Blues 4, Jets 3 (SO)

Winnipeg	1	1	1	0-3
St. Louis	2	0	1	0-4

**First Period—1:** St. Louis, Morrow 10 (Tarasenko, Roy, Pietrangeli), 2:38. Winnipeg, Scheifele 12 (Getzlaf, Boggsian), 12:33. St. Louis, Roy 9 (Morrow, Pierson), 17:38.

**Second Period—4:** Winnipeg, Scheifele 13 (Wheeler, Thornburn), 10:22.

**Third Period—5:** St. Louis, Schwartz 19 (Jackson, Berglund), 3:4. Winnipeg, Byfugien 14 (Wheeler, Enstrom), 13:43 (pp).

**Shootout—Winnipeg 0** (Little NG, Ladd NG), St. Louis 2 (Steen NG, Oshie G, Tarasenko G).

**Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 8**, 11-9-31. St. Louis 7, 6-10-26.

**Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg 1** (1-0-1).

**Goalies—Winnipeg,** Montoya 10-4-2 (26 shots-23 saves). St. Louis, Elliott 15-4-0 (28).

## Bruins 7, Senators 2

Ottawa	0	1	1-2
Boston	2	2	3-7

**First Period—1:** Boston, Bergeron 15 (Soderberg, Eriksson), 11:36 (pp). 2-3. Boston, Kelly 4 (Waroszko, Eriksson), 16:26.

**Second Period—3:** Boston, Bergeron 16 (Marchand, D.Hamilton), 4:55. 4, Ottawa, Ryan 21 (Turris, Conacher), 17:5. Boston, Ignina 17 (Krejci, Krug), 18:18.

**Third Period—4:** Boston, Lucic 17 (Ignina, Krejci), 3:35. Boston, Marchand 19 (Smith, Bergeron), 8:26. 8, Ottawa, Wheeler 4 (E.Korostoff, Spera), 15:06 (pp). 9. Boston, Soderberg 9 (Rittman, Wheeler), 19:24 (pp).

**Shots on Goal—Ottawa 6** 1-4-8-24. Boston 11-15-42.

**Power-play opportunities—Ottawa 1** of 3; Boston 1 of 4.

**Goalies—Ottawa,** Anderson 19-12-8 (33 shots-28 saves), Lehner (3:35 third, 9-7, 2-10, 1-10, 1-10).

**St. Louis** 15-65 (17,565). T-2,26.



CHRIS LEE, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

St. Louis Blues right wing T.J. Oshie scores a shootout goal past Winnipeg Jets goaltender AI Montoya during Saturday's game at Scottrade Center in St. Louis. The Blues won 4-3 in a shootout.

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Colorado	1	0	1	0	0	2-2
N.Y. Islanders	1	0	2	0	0	2-5

**First Period—1:** Colorado, Mackinnon 22 (Lundeskog, Holden), 13:04.

**Second Period—2:** Colorado, Duchene 18 (Parekuta, Barrie), 7:40. 3. Colorado, Duchene 19 (Barrie, McGinn), 10:33.

**Third Period—4:** N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 24 (Bailey, Visnovsky), 11:27 (pp). 5. N.Y. Islanders, Visnovsky 2 (Okposi, Vaneck), 12:24 (pp). 6. Colorado, Lundeskog 18 (Benoit), 19:13 (en). 7. Colorado, Stearn 17 (Barrie), 19:58 (en).

**Shots on Goal—Colorado 6** 10-10-26. N.Y. Islanders 2 4-15-22.

**Power-play opportunities—Colorado 0** of 2; Islanders 2 of 6.

**Goalies—Colorado,** Girard 9-4-0 (32 shots-30 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Nabokov 10-12-5 (25-22). T-2,260.

## Maple Leafs 3, Canucks 1

Vancouver	1	0	0-1
Toronto	0	0	3-3

**First Period—1:** Vancouver, Kesler 20 (Higgins, Edler), 19:38.

**Third Period—3:** Toronto, Raymond 16 (Kutny, Sochi), 7:23. 3. Toronto, Kessel 31 (Bokaz, Gleason), 10:03. 4. Toronto, van Riemsdyk 24 (Kessel, Sochi), 12:05.

**Shots on Goal—Vancouver 12** 6-15-33. Toronto 8 5-11-24.

**Power-play opportunities—Vancouver 0** of 2; Toronto 0 of 3.

**Goalies—Vancouver,** Luongo 19-16-6 (24 shots-21 saves). Toronto, Bernier 22-16-5 (33-32). T-2,260.

## Canadians 4, Hurricanes 1

Montreal	0	2	2-4
Carolina	0	1	0-1

**Second Period—1:** Carolina, Bowman 4 (Nash, Faulk), 5:42. 2. Montreal, Desharnais 10 (Bourque, Gallagher), 17:52. 3. Montreal, White 2 (Markov), 19:17.

**Third Period—4:** Montreal, Desharnais 11 (Gallagher, Beaulieu), 6:15. 5. Montreal, Duchene 14 (Prust, White), 17:43 (en).

**Shots on Goal—Montreal 10** 6-18-24. Carolina 7 14-22-31.

**Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0** of 1; Carolina 0 of 2.

**Goalies—Montreal,** Price 26-17-5 (32 shots-31 saves). Carolina, Khudobin 13-6-0 (21-19). T-2,229.

## Stars 2, Coyotes 1

Phoenix	0	0	1-1
Dallas	1	1	0-2

**First Period—1:** Dallas, Whitney 7 (Jo. Benn, Dillon), 2:10.

**Second Period—2:** Dallas, Nichushkin 13 (New Year, Suter), 12:06.

**Third Period—3:** Phoenix, Vrblata 15 (Vermeto, Whitney 2-6).

**Shots on Goal—Phoenix 4** 10-13-27. Dallas 14 17-12-37.

**Power-play opportunities—Phoenix 1** of 4; Dallas 0 of 5.

**Goalies—Phoenix,** M.L. Letton 22-17-9 (33 shots-31 saves). Dallas, Smith 22-15-10 (21-19).

T-18,532 (18,532). T-2,335.

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## SPORTS BRIEFS

# Source: Pistons fire Cheeks in first season

The Associated Press

A person familiar with the decision says the Detroit Pistons have fired coach Maurice Cheeks.

The person spoke Sunday to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the move had not been announced.

Cheeks lasted a little more than his season in his first year in Detroit.

The Pistons are 21-29 and in ninth place in the Eastern Conference, entering Sunday.

Cheeks previously led Portland and Philadelphia, a team he helped win an NBA title with as a point guard.

The Pistons gave him his third shot to be an NBA head coach in June, but didn't let him finish one season with the disappointing team that made moves to make a push to earn a spot in the playoffs for the first time since 2009.

## Tiger's niece earns first professional tour win

GOLD COAST, Australia — Cheyenne Woods won the Australian Ladies Masters on Sunday for her first major professional tour victory, holding off 17-year-old Australian amateur Minjee Lee by two strokes.

The 23-year-old Woods, Tiger Woods' niece, closed with a 4-under 69 at Royal Pines to finish at 16-under 276. Lee also shot 69 in the event sanctioned by the European and Australian tours.

Woods birdied the par-5 15th to open a two-stroke lead, hitting a wedge from about 120 yards to 4 feet. On the par-5 18th, she matched Lee with a birdie, holing out from 1½ feet.

From Phoenix, Woods is the daughter of Earl Dennison Woods Jr., Tiger Woods' half brother.

Woods turned professional in 2012 after an All-America career at Wake Forest and her only previous pro victory came in 2012 in a SunCoast mini-tour event. In December, she missed the cut in the LPGA Tour's qualifying tournament in a failed bid to earn a spot on the circuit.

In other golf news:

■ Jimmy Walker had a hot hand in the cold wind Saturday and built a six-shot lead in the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Walker made his first bogey of the tournament, and that hardly slowed him. He countered with five birdies in 30 mph gusts at Monterey Peninsula for a 4-under 67, leaving him on the verge of his third PGA Tour victory this season. He was at 13-under 202.

Tim Wilkinson of New Zealand had a 69 and Hunter Mahan had a 72, both at Monterey Peninsula. They were at 208.

■ Michael Allen birdied four of his last eight holes for a 3-under 69 and a one-stroke lead over Scott Dunlap and Chien Soou Lin in the Allianz Championship at Broken Sound in Boca Raton, Fla.

## Source: Cooter leaving Broncos for Lions

DENVER — A person with

knowledge of the situation says Denver assistant Jim Bob Cooter is expected to leave the Broncos to coach quarterbacks for the Detroit Lions.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Saturday because the Lions have not announced Cooter's hiring.

Cooter was an offensive assistant for the staff that led Denver to an AFC championship last season. He'd previously worked for the Kansas City Chiefs and Indianapolis Colts.

Detroit has been putting together a new staff after coach Jim Schwartz was fired and replaced by Jim Caldwell. Offensive coordinator Joe Lombardi said Friday he thought the team was in the process of hiring a quarterbacks

coach, but wasn't sure of the exact timetable.

## Cashner wins, Pestano loses salary arbitration

NEW YORK — San Diego's Andrew Cashner won and Cleveland's Yinnie Pestano lost as pitchers split decisions Saturday in baseball's first salary arbitration cases in two years.

Cashner will make \$2.4 million rather than the club's offer of \$2,275,000 — the smallest gap this year among cases that didn't settle. Pestano, among four Indians left in arbitration, will make \$975,000 instead of his request for \$1.45 million.

Cleveland outfielder Michael Brantley and right-handers Justin Masterson and Josh Tomlin

are among the 13 players left in arbitration from among the 146 who filed last month, and hearings are scheduled through Feb. 20.

Right-hander Jeff Samardzija and the Chicago agreed Saturday to a one-year deal worth \$5,345,000. He had asked for \$6.2 million and had been offered \$2,765,000 by the Cubs after going 8-13 with a 4.34 ERA last year, when he made \$2,765,000.

Cashner, a 27-year-old right-hander was 10-9 with a 3.09 ERA in 26 starts and five relief appearances last season, when he made \$500,800. Arbitrators Gil Vernon, Elizabeth Neumeister and Robert Herzog made the decision a day after hearing arguments in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Pestano, a right-hander who

turns 29 on Feb. 20, was 1-2 with a 4.08 ERA in 37 relief appearances last year and made \$501,900. His case was decided by arbitrators Matt Irvings, Matt Goldberg and Steven Wolf.

Cleveland had not been to a hearing since 1991, when pitcher Greg Swindell beat the Indians and infielder Jerry Browne lost.

Baseball is having its first salary arbitration hearings in two years. Last year was the first time all cases settled without any hearings.

No player had gone to a hearing since Feb. 15, 2012, when Pittsburgh outfielder Garrett Jones argued his case against the Pirates in a case won by the club the following day. Teams have a 292-215 advantage in decisions since arbitration began in 1974.

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# OLYMPICS



BERNAT ARMANQUE/AP

The Russian team jumps onto the podium during the flower ceremony after winning gold in the team figure skating competition at the Iceberg Skating Palace on Sunday in Sochi, Russia.

## Team figure skating

# Russia wins first gold; US is third

By BARRY WILNER  
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Russia

won the gold medal of the Sochi Olympics on Sunday night in the new event of team figure skating. The resurgence of Russia's once dominant figure skating machine was led by veteran Evgeni Plushenko and teenager Julia Lipnitskaia.

In an Iceberg arena packed with their exulting countrymen, including President Vladimir Putin, the Russians skated away from Canada and the United States to win the gold before the final free dance even started.

It was a rout built on the experience of Plushenko, the consummate showman who now owns medals from four Olympics — his two gold and two silver are a record for modern-era figure skaters.

It was capped by the freshness of the 15-year-old Lipnitskaia, who donned a Russia baseball cap when she was done with her sublime tour of the ice, sat with her triumphant teammates and grinned like the school kid she is. "It was calm," Lipnitskaia said, adding it was her coaches, parents and teammates who were nervous.

It didn't matter that some other countries sat out their top skaters or that the Russians did the same in pairs and dance. It never really was a contest. "I'm 31 and I'm happy gold, silver or bronze," Plushenko said.

The Americans' bronze effort was led by world champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White, who won both the short and free dance, and helped by national champion Grace Gold's superb free skate, which the judges scored second behind Lipnitskaia.

American Jason Brown of Highland Park, Ill., was fourth.

ment, but built enough points throughout to take silver. But those are just details. This was a night for a Russian show that might be celebrated as much as the Bolshoi.

It signals the country's return to the top of a sport it once owned. As the Soviet Union or Russia, the host nation had won 51 Olympic figure skating medals. But there were no golds in Vancouver four years ago, a first since the country was blanked in 1960.

Now, after one event, Russia stands atop the medals podium.

All 10 of its skaters who participated in the team content stood at attention together on the top platform during the flowers presentation, and every fan in the Iceberg — including Putin, wearing a red fleece with logos of two Russian companies and a brand of French sunglasses — celebrated along with them.

It's a place the sensational Lipnitskaia could regularly visit, just as Plushenko has for more than a decade. Her routine to "Schindler's List" was mesmerizing. With maturity and grace beyond her years, she clearly was never bothered by her surroundings on this golden night for Russia.

"She is a genius," Plushenko said. "Give Plushenko plenty of credit, too. He says he's had 12 surgeries. He barely competed after finishing second to American Evan Lysacek in 2010 at the Vancouver Games. And he had to convince his federation he deserved to be in Sochi after finishing second at the national championships."

Mission accomplished, with a golden hue.

"This Games is the hardest for me," he said. "All the fans are cheering so hard that you literally cannot do badly because you do everything with you. You get goose bumps."

American Jason Brown of Highland Park, Ill., was fourth.

## Scoreboard

Sunday Medals table (7 of 8 medal events)				
Nation	1	2	3	Tot
Netherlands	2	1	3	6
Norway	2	1	2	5
United States	2	0	2	4
Canada	1	2	1	4
Russia	1	1	1	3
Austria	1	1	0	2
Sweden	1	0	1	2
Czech Republic	0	1	1	2
Italy	0	1	1	2

Men's downhill				
Sunday				
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia (Start position in parentheses)				
1	(11) Matthias Mayer, Austria, 2:06.23.			
2	(20) Christof Innerhofer, Italy, 2:06.25.			
3	(8) Kjetil Jansrud, Norway, 2:06.33.			
4	(18) Aksel Lund Svindal, Norway, 2:06.52.			
5	(7) Travis Ganong, Squaw Valley, Calif., 2:06.64.			
6	(3) Carlo Janka, Switzerland, 2:06.91.			
7	(14) Peter Fill, Italy, 2:06.72.			
8	(15) Bode Miller, Easton, N.H., 2:09.15.			
9	(1) Steven Nymann, Denmark, 2:09.10.			
10	(25) Marco Sullivan, Truckee, Calif., 2:09.15.			

Other U.S. Finishers				
11	(1) Steven Nymann, Denmark, 2:09.10.			
12	(25) Marco Sullivan, Truckee, Calif., 2:09.15.			

Figure Skating				
Sunday				
At Sochi, Russia Team Event				
<b>Men's free skate</b>				
1	Evgeni Plushenko, Russia, 168.20.			
2	Keigo Hino, Canada, 167.92.			
3	Tatsuki Machida, Japan, 165.85.			
4	Jason Brown, United States, 153.67.			
5	Axel Bonifacio Parkinson, Italy, 121.23.			
<b>Women's free skate</b>				
1	Julia Lipnitskaia, Russia, 141.51.			
2	Gracie Gold, El Segundo, Calif., 129.38.			
3	Valentina Marchei, Italy, 112.51.			
4	Aiko Suzuki, Japan, 112.23.			
5	Kaetlyn Osmond, Canada, 110.73.			
<b>Ice Dance free skate</b>				
1	Meryl Davis and Charlie White, United States, 114.34.			
2	Alisa Volosozhina and Scott Moir, Canada, 107.56.			
3	Ella Illyushina and Nikita Katsalapov, Russia, 103.48.			
4	Madeline Guignard and Marco Fabbri, Italy, 81.24.			
5	Cathy Reed and Chris Reed, Japan, 75.3.			

Final Standings				
1	Russia, 201.51			
2	Evgeni Plushenko, Russia, Evgeni Plushenko, Tatiana Volosozhina, Maxim Trankov, Ekaterina Bobrova, Dmitri Soloviev, Elena Illyushina, Nikita Katsalapov, 75.			
3	Canada (Kaetlyn Osmond, Patrick Chan, Meagan Duhamel, Eric Radford, Kirsten Moore-Towers, Dylan McDuffin, Mariko Yoshida, 75.)			
4	United States (Gracie Gold, Chicago; Alisa Volosozhina, Vancouver; Meryl Davis, Wagoner, Alexandria, Va.; Jeremy Abbott, Aspen, Colo.; Marissa Castelli, Cranston, R.I.; Simon Shnapir, Sudbury, Mass.; Meryl Davis, West Bloomfield, Mich.; Charlie White, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.), 60.			

Speedskating				
Sunday				
At Sochi, Russia				
<b>Women's 3000</b>				
1	Irene Wubers, Netherlands, 4:00.34.			
2	Martina Sablikova, Czech Republic, 4:01.17.			
3	Olga Graf, Russia, 4:03.47.			
4	Claudia Pechstein, Germany, 4:05.26.			
5	Annouk van der Weijden, Netherlands, 4:05.95.			
6	Ida Njåtun, Norway, 4:06.73.			
7	Katarzyna Bachleda-Curus, Poland, 4:06.95.			
8	Antoinette de Jong, Netherlands, 4:06.77.			
<b>U.S. Finishers</b>				
1	Jillaneen Rinkard, Woodhaven, Mich., 4:10.02.			
2	Alexandra Rodgers, Duluth, Minn., 4:21.51.			

Luge				
Sunday				
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia				
<b>Men's Singles</b>				
1	Felix Loch, Germany, 3:27.56.			
2	Albert Denchenko, Russia, 3:29.00.			
3	Armin Zöggeler, Italy, 3:29.77.			
4	Andi Langenhan, Germany, 3:29.35.			
5	Sepp Pichler, Austria, 3:29.56.			
6	Domink Fischer, Italy, 3:29.47.			
7	Aleksander Peretyajko, Russia, 3:29.49.			
8	Manfred Frey, Austria, 3:29.50.			
<b>U.S. Finishers</b>				
1	Chris Mazzer, Saranac Lake, N.Y., 3:29.54.			
2	Tucker West, Ridgefield, Conn., 3:31.27.			
3	Aidan Kelly, West Islip, N.Y., 3:31.79.			

Snowboard				
Sunday				
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia Women's Slalom (Start position in parentheses)				
<b>Final Ranking</b>				
1	Jamie Anderson, South Lake Tahoe, Calif., (80.75; 85.25) 85.50.			
2	Enni Rukajärvi, Finland, (73.75; 92.50) 92.50.			
3	Jenny Jones, Britain, (73.00; 87.25) 87.25.			
4	Sina Candrian, Switzerland, (77.25; 87.00) 87.00.			
5	Sarka Panochova, Czech Republic, (86.25; 80.00) 86.25.			
6	Karly Short, Millford, Mich., (39.00; 75.00) 75.00.			
7	Tarah Bright, Australia, (64.75; 66.25) 66.25.			
8	Isabel Burdet, Switzerland, (58.50; 54.50) 54.50.			
9	Elena Gasser, Switzerland, (24.50; 54.50) 54.50.			
10	Anna Gasser, Austria, (49.00; 51.75) 51.75.			
11	Silje Norendal, Norway, (49.50; 32.00) 49.50.			
12	Spencer O'Brien, Canada, (30.00; 35.00) 35.00.			

Cross-Country Skiing				
Sunday				
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia Women's Skathlon Classic + 10K Free Dario Colonna, Switzerland, 1:08:14.0.				
1	Marcus Hellner, Sweden, 1:08:15.5.			
2	Martin Johnsrud Sundby, Norway, 1:08:16.8.			
3	Maxim Vylegzhanin, Russia, 1:08:17.5.			
4	Ilija Chernousov, Russia, 1:08:29.0.			
5	Jean Marc Galliard, France, 1:08:29.8.			
6	Daniel Richardson, Sweden, 1:08:31.7.			
7	Johannes Duerr, Austria, 1:08:32.0.			
<b>U.S. Finishers</b>				
35	Noah Hoffman, Aspen, Colo., 1:14:34.6.			
42	Erik Bjornstrom, Worthing, Wash., 1:12:42.3.			
47	Brian Gregg, Worthing, Wash., 1:13:26.3.			
54	Fred Freeman, Thornton, N.H., 1:14:34.6.			

Biathlon				
Sunday				
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia Women's 15km Sprint (Penalties in parentheses)				
1	Kristina Zuzumova, Slovakia, 21:06.0 (0).			
2	Olga Vilukhina, Russia, 21:26.7 (0).			
3	Vita Semerenko, Ukraine, 21:28.5 (0).			
4	Karin Oberhofer, Italy, 21:34.0 (1).			
5	Anais Bescond, France, 21:36.7 (1).			
6	Dorothea Wierer, Italy, 21:37.4 (1).			
7	Weronika Nowakowska-Giemla, Poland, 21:37.6 (1).			
8	Elsa Gasparin, Switzerland, 21:38.2 (0).			
<b>U.S. Finishers</b>				
14	Sarah Stedeker, Barton, Vt., 21:48.3 (1).			
44	Susan Studebaker, Boise, Idaho, 22:59.5 (1).			
51	Stellies Cook, Saranac Lake, N.Y., 23:24 (2).			
65	Hannah Dreissigacker, Morrisville, Vt., 23:55.0 (4).			

Women's hockey					
Preliminary Round					
Group A	W	OTL	Pts	GF/GA	
Canada	1	0	3	5	6
United States	1	0	3	3	1
Finland	0	3	3	1	6
Switzerland	0	1	0	0	5
Group B	W	OTW	Pts	GF/GA	
Sweden	1	0	3	4	1
Russia	1	0	3	4	1
Germany	0	1	0	1	4
Japan	0	0	0	0	5

Saturday, Feb. 8				
Group A: Canada vs. Finland 1				
Group B: Sweden vs. Switzerland 0				
Sunday, Feb. 9				
Group A: United States vs. Switzerland 1				
Group B: Russia 4, Germany 1				

Monday, Feb. 10				
Group A: United States vs. Switzerland 1				
Group B: Finland vs. Canada 1				
Tuesday, Feb. 11				
Group A: Sweden vs. Sweden 7				
Group B: Russia 4, Germany 1				

Saturday's medalists				
Men				
10km Sprint				
GOLD	-Ole Einar Bjorndalen, Norway			
SILVER	-Dominik Lindinger, Austria			
BRONZE	-Jaroslav Soukup, Czech Republic			
Cross-Country Skiing				
Women's Skathlon				
GOLD	-Alte Eder Bjorndalen, Norway			
SILVER	-Charlotte Kalta, Sweden			

BRONZE				
Heidi Wenz, Norway				
Freeskiing				
Women				
Moguls				
GOLD	-Justine Durbakapote, Canada			
SILVER	-Chloe Dubouché, Canada			
BRONZE	-Hannah Kearney, United States			
Snowboard				
Men				
Slopestyle				
GOLD	-Sage Kotsenburg, United States			
SILVER	-Ståle Sandbeck, Norway			
BRONZE	-Mark McMorris, Canada			

SPEEDSKATING				
Men				
5000				
GOLD	-Sven Kramer, Netherlands			
SILVER	-Jan Blokkers, Netherlands			
BRONZE	-Jorrit Burgma, Netherlands			

U.S. Olympians fared				
Saturday				
Biathlon				
Men's Sprint				
<b>(Penalties in parentheses)</b>				
19	Tim Burke, Paul Smiths, N.Y., 25:23.3 (2).			
35	Lowell Bailey, Lake Placid, N.Y., 26:04.1 (2).			
45	Leif Nordgren, Marine on St. Croix, Minn., 26:17.4 (0).			
51	Russell Currier, Stockholm, Maine, 26:58.4 (4).			

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING				
Women's Skathlon				
8	Jessieiggins, U.S., 40:05.5			
12	Liz Stephen, East Montpelier, Vt., 40:09.6.			
31	Sadie Bjornstrom, Worthing, Wash., 41:09.7.			
47	Holly Brooks, Anchorage, Alaska, 42:34.0.			

Freeskiing				
Women's Moguls				
<b>Queen's Mark</b>				
6	Heather McPhie, Bozeman, Mont., (14, 19.92; 6, 18.85) 18.85 (0).			
<b>Ranking</b>				
1	Hannah Kearney, Norwich, Vt., 23.05 (0).			
6	Eliza Outtrim, Hamden, Conn., 21.51 (0).			
6	Heather McPhie, Bozeman, Mont., (14, 19.92; 6, 18.85) 18.85 (0).			
10	NR, Heidi Klosser, Vail, Colo., DNS.			
Run 1				
2	Eliza Outtrim, Hamden, Conn., 21.81 (0).			
3	Hannah Kearney, Norwich, Vt., 20.95 (0).			
13	Heather McPhie, Bozeman, Mont., 21.51 (0).			
Run 2				
1	Hannah Kearney, Norwich, Vt., 21.93 (0).			
2	Eliza Outtrim, Hamden, Conn., 21.53 (0).			
Medal Run				
3	Hannah Kearney, Norwich, Vt., 21.49			
-BRONZE				
4	Eliza Outtrim, Hamden, Conn., 19.37.			

SKI JUMPING				
Men's Individual				
K90 Qualification (Normal hill)				
26	Anders Johnson, Saranac Lake, N.Y., 92.5 (50, 51.5) 107.3.			
35	Peter Frenn, Saranac Lake, N.Y., 93.0 (56, 52.0) 105.3.			
40	Didar Alexander, Lebanon, N.H., 90.0 (46, 49.0) 97.0.			

Winter Olympics most medals				
Career				
Men's Individual				
1	Evgeni Lehman, Oak Park, Ill., 6:29.84.			
2	Ole Einar Bjorndalen, biathlon, 1994-2010 (4 gold, 4 silver, 1 bronze).			
3	Stefan Jonsson, Sweden, cross-country, 1956-1964 (4 gold, 3 silver, 2 bronze).			
4	Ricco Gross, German, biathlon, 1992-2006 (4 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze).			
5	Mark Bjornstrom, nordic skiing, 2010 (4 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze).			
6	Apolo Anton O'Noy, United States, short track speedskating, 2002-10 (2 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze).			

WOMEN				
Men's Individual				
1	Raisa Smirnova, Soviet Union, 1976-92 (4 gold, 5 silver, 1 bronze).			
2	Ole Einar Bjorndalen, biathlon, 1994-2010 (4 gold, 4 silver, 1 bronze).			
3	Stefan Jonsson, Sweden, cross-country, 1956-1964 (4 gold, 3 silver, 2 bronze).			
4	Ricco Gross, German, biathlon, 1992-2006 (4 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze).			
5	Mark Bjornstrom, nordic skiing, 2010 (4 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze).			
6	Apolo Anton O'Noy, United States, short track speedskating, 2002-10 (2 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze).			
WOMEN'S Individual				
1	Bjorn Daelhli, Norway, nordic skiing, 1992-98 (2 gold, 4 silver, 1 bronze).			
2	Ole Einar Bjorndalen, biathlon, 1994-2010 (4 gold, 4 silver, 1 bronze).			
3	Stefan Jonsson, Sweden, cross-country, 1956-1964 (4 gold, 3 silver, 2 bronze).			
4	Ricco Gross, German, biathlon, 1992-2006 (4 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze).			
5	Mark Bjornstrom, nordic skiing, 2010 (4 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze).			
6	Apolo Anton O'Noy, United States, short track speedskating, 2002-10 (2 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze).			

## OLYMPICS



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

United States' Travis Ganong gestures after his fifth-place finish in the men's downhill at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics on Sunday.

## Surprises: Miller's finish due to combination of factors

### FROM BACK PAGE

"He's not an experienced guy," Austrian men's coach Mathias Berthold said, "so you never know what he's going to do."

But from the moment Mayer saw the Rosa Khutor slope in Thursday's opening training run, he sensed his Olympic debut would go spectacularly well.

"I was very self-confident this week," said Mayer, whose father, Helmut, won the super-G silver at the 1988 Calgary Games. "The turns are just right for me. And the hill is just right for me."

But just barely. He edged silver medalist Christof Innerhofer of Italy by only 0.06 seconds, and bronze medalist Kjetil Jansrud of Norway by 0.10.

What about Svinidal, the World Cup downhill standings leader? Or Miller, fastest in two of the three training sessions? Both won three medals at the 2010 Vancouver Games, both won two overall World Cup titles, both looked terrific in the leadup to Sunday — and neither was even the fastest man from his own country when it counted.

Norway's Svinidal was fourth, 0.19 slower than Jansrud. Miller came in eighth, three spots behind U.S. teammate Travis Ganong.

"I'm disappointed to not have a better result next to my name. It's one of those days where it's hard to say where the time went, because I skied pretty well. I was really aggressive, took a lot of risk," said the 36-year-old Miller, whose five career Olympic Alpine medals are a U.S. record. "I made a couple of small mistakes, but not really mistakes that cost you a lot of time."

He was more than a half-second slower than Mayer, who started 11th of 50 racers and smiled broadly when he saw No. 15 Miller's result. Someone from the Austrian team reached over

and mused Mayer's spiky hair.

In the finish area, Miller bowed his head, then leaned over and rested his helmet on his gloves. He sat in the snow for a few moments, the very picture of resignation.

"It's tough when you have to judge yourself, because the clock doesn't really seem to judge you fairly," Miller said. "Just like I've said a million times, I'm not always so attached to the result."

He put some blame for his performance on lower visibility Sunday, when the sky was filled with thick clouds, unlike the perfectly clear training days that Miller dominated.

Mayer, Miller said, "doesn't really change if the visibility goes bad, and that was a huge advantage today. I had to change a lot from the training runs to today, just not being able to see the snow up there."

U.S. men's coach Sasha Reareck, though, hit on another point. "It was a combination of things," Reareck said. "A little bit the weather — and wanting it too much."

If Mayer is unfamiliar to most outside the skiing world, he was certainly a known quantity to folks such as Miller and Svinidal. Known better for his skill at super-G, in which he has two second-place World Cup finishes, Mayer was third in training Thursday, and fastest Friday, before easing up to save some energy Saturday.

When Svinidal was asked during the week to point to opponents that worried him, he mentioned Mayer. So after Mayer's victory, Svinidal was asked why. "Because I looked at the times in training, and he was super-consistent," said Svinidal, who started 18th, when the snow was softer than during Mayer's run. "Bode was fast. I was fast. But he was the most consistent of us all."

## Luge

# Loch wins second gold

## German slider easily defeats competition

By TOM WITHERS  
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Furiously fast and fluid, Felix Loch is an Olympic gold medalist again.

And at 24, he's only just begun.

Germany's newest lugging lord locked up the title he won four years ago in Vancouver on Sunday by easily beating a field of racers he left in his icy wake. Loch completed four runs down the Sanki Sliding Center track in 3 minutes, 27.562 seconds — 0.476 seconds ahead of Russia's Albert Demchenko, who won the silver in his seventh Olympics.

Italy's Armin Zöggeler won the bronze, giving him a record six in six games.

With IOC President Thomas Bach and German soccer great Franz Beckenbauer in attendance, Loch showed why there's no one currently in his class. Not even close.

Loch began the second day of competition leading Demchenko by 0.294 seconds, a sizeable advantage in a sport where the difference between podium and pedestrian can be the blink of an eye.

On his third trip down, Loch completed the 17-curve course in 51.613 seconds, bettering the track record he set on his second run a day earlier. It was going to take a major mistake for anyone to reel in Loch, but he was precise throughout his descent, staying away from the walls and trouble.

Demchenko, who won silver at the 2006 Turin Games, needed to find speed anywhere he could on his home track, but when he passed a time of 51.707 seconds, Loch's lead had swelled to 0.388 seconds.

It was as good as over.

At that point, Loch only needed to stay upright during his last run to secure Germany's 10th gold in the 1964 Innsbruck Games.

Loch's final trip was essentially a victory lap.

He paddled down the start ramp, the spiked fingertips of his gloves digging into the slick surface. Loch stole one last look at the pristine ice before him before lying back and weaving his way to an easy victory. After crossing the finish line, he pumped both fists and let out a scream.

Demchenko was nearly as excited with his silver, and as he celebrated Russian fans chanted "Four more years!" in hopes he'll keep sliding.

After winning five of nine World Cup events this season, Loch, whose father competed in



MICHAEL SOHN/AP

Felix Loch of Germany celebrates as he crosses the finish area to win the gold medal during the men's singles luge final at the Winter Olympics on Sunday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

luge for East Germany in the 1984 Olympics and passed on sliding secrets to his son, came to the Sochi Games expected to win a second gold medal without much difficulty. It was his to lose.

Not only did Loch dominate, he outraced the field of 39 lugers so convincingly that he unintentionally embarrassed them.

There's not another slider in his age bracket as talented or as driven as Loch. And with the 42-year-old Demchenko and 40-year-old Zöggeler nearing the finish lines of their stellar careers, Loch lacks a lugging contemporary to challenge him and keep him on top of his game.

That job will fall to Germany coach Georg Hackl, the gold-medal winner in 1992, 1994 and 1998.

Four years ago, Loch was the rising star, the one to watch.

Now, he's just the one. Since winning in Vancouver by seventh-tenths of a second, Loch has gotten bigger and better. He's put in the time, too. Hackl said when he arrives for practice or to work on equipment, Loch is usually waiting for him, eager to sand the steel runners for his sled, lift

weights or perfect his craft.

"He's really a good boy," Hackl said.

And already, a great inside the Olympic rings.

Like a high-performance car, Loch seems engineered to carve up corners and accelerate.

At 6-foot-3, his long arms create leverage in the starting chute, allowing him to propel himself down the ramp with maximum efficiency. He's added weight this season, but not enough to widen his frame, keeping him aerodynamically sound as he pulls G-forces and hugs the slippery turns.

"It's perfect," Hackl said of Loch's build. "He's a perfect luger."

Following the tragic death of Georgian luger Nodar Kumarishvili four years ago, Sochi organizers built the world's longest track with safety in mind. There were no major crashes and only a handful of close calls.

The Sanki track wasn't as fast as the superspeedway in Whistler — Loch and Demchenko topped 87 mph — but it was designed to challenge the world's best drivers to be exact.

Loch mastered it.

## OLYMPICS

## Moguls

## Heartbreaker for American Kearney

Defending champ bumped to bronze

By EDDIE PELLIS  
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Hannah Kearney toils in relative obscurity at women's moguls, where since the 2010 Olympics, she has positioned herself as the closest thing there is to a sure thing on snow.

She knows the deal. In her sport, there's one really big night every four years.

That's why the tears flowed hard Saturday night after she won an Olympic bronze medal that seems destined to land in a sock drawer back home in Norwich, Vt.

"Unfortunately, it doesn't feel good," she said. "It feels better to stand at the top of the podium."

She did that in 2010 — "The best prize ever," she called the gold medal that night.

It felt even better because of the heartache she'd endured four years earlier.

In 2006, Kearney was 19, the defending world champion and a good bet to contend for gold. Two turns into qualifying, she was all but gone — losing her bearings on a bump and never recovering. Didn't make it to the finals and finished 22nd.

Eight years later, it was a different bump — a mogul placed just after the landing on the top jump — that Kearney simply could not master. Not in practice, not in

**'No one in life wants their best part of their career to be behind them.'**

Hannah Kearney simply do  
US bronze medalist

her first run, her second, or her third and final, where her left ski veered off line. The sort of error of the judges simply do not miss.

"I made a huge mistake and you don't win a gold medal at the Olympics when you make a mistake," she said.

She wound up a footnote to Canada's memorable night. Sisters Justine and Chloe Dufour-Lapointe won the gold and silver — outskating Kearney, who beats them both more often than not.

Kearney is 27 now, and the toll this game takes on the knees often knocks people out by the time they turn 30. Kearney will have to let some of the pain clear before she decides what to do next.

In the aftermath of a bronze-medal win that felt more like a loss, she rendered a heartbreaking summary of where her career stands.

"No one in life wants their best part of their career to be behind them," she said. "And unfortunately, that's what it feels like right now."



Sergey Gerts/AP

American Hannah Kearney runs the course in the women's moguls final Saturday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.



PAVEL GOLOVKIN/AP

Ireen Wust of the Netherlands celebrates winning gold in the women's 3,000-meter speedskating race Sunday in Sochi, Russia. It was her third gold medal in her third Olympics.

## Medals roundup

## Wust wins gold at third Games

The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Ireen Wust held up three fingers.

One nail was painted red. The others were white and blue.

Gold would've worked, too.

Wust claimed a speedskating gold medal at her third straight Winter Olympics, knocking off defending champion Martina Sablikova in the 3,000 meters Sunday. That made the Netherlands 2-for-2 at Adler Arena, the world's dominant speedskating nation living up to its billing through the first weekend in Sochi.

"Seventeen million Dutch wanted me to win," said Wust, who painted her nails in the colors of the Dutch flag. "Now the extreme pressure is off, and I can win more."

Skating in the next-to-last pairing on sea-level ice that wore down some other top contenders, including Germany's Claudia Pechstein, the winner looked strong all the way through. She won with a time of 4 minutes, 0.34 seconds, easily beating the number Sablikova had just put up in the previous pairing.

"The relief is immense," Wust said, "and the satisfaction even greater."

Sablikova, of the Czech Republic, settled for the silver in 4:01.95, clapping for her rival after Wust crossed the line.

The bronze went to Olga Graf, who gave host Russia its first medal of the Winter Games in 4:03.47. That sent the crowd into a frenzy — and even brought kudos from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"You brought an unforgettable moment of triumph and utter joy to millions of fans by taking the first medal for our team," Putin said.

Pechstein was looking to win her 10th Olympic medal at age 41, but the German faded badly over



GREGORIO BORDIA/AP

Switzerland's Dario Cologna celebrates winning the cross-country 30k skiathlon Sunday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

the final laps and missed the podium. She was fourth in 4:05.26.

Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima were again in the crowd, just as they were the day before when Sven Kramer took gold in the men's 5,000. The royal couple saw another winning performance by their speedskating-mad country.

The Dutch now have captured 29 Olympic golds, pulling even with the United States for the most victories in the sport.

The 27-year-old Wust kept holding up three fingers, which was only appropriate. She has been on top at three straight Olympics, claiming the 3,000 at the 2006 Turin Games and the 1,500 at Vancouver in 2010.

"It's three in a row," Wust said, "and I want to become even more unique."

## Cross country skiing

No one knew quite what to expect from Dario Cologna at these Olympics.

It did not take long for the Swiss cross-country skier to provide an emphatic answer.

Cologna won the men's 30-kilometer skiathlon with the

strongest finish of any racer in the field, pulling away from his rivals at the top of the last uphill section before holding off defending champion Marcus Hellner of Sweden on the final straight.

It was quite an achievement for someone who had surgery in November to repair an ankle ligament and only returned to competition last month.

"It's a very big day, and very emotional for me to come back and win a gold medal, my biggest thing I won so far," said Cologna, who won gold in the 15K freestyle in Vancouver. "I said I hoped to be at my best again before the end of the Olympics, but it can't get better than this."

Cologna finished in 1 hour, 8 minutes, 15.4 seconds, with Hellner was 0.4 seconds behind to win silver.

Martin Johnsrud Sundby of Norway beat Russia's Maxim Vylegzhanin in a tight sprint for the bronze that led to a protest from the Russian team. They argued the Norwegian had impeded his rival by crossing into his lane just before the finish line.

A jury upheld the results but gave Sundby a written reprimand, saying he had broken the rules but did not affect the results. "The Russian team can still appeal the ruling to the International Ski Federation's appeals committee.

## Biathlon

Anastasiya Kuzmina won the gold medal in the women's 7.5-kilometer sprint, defending her title from the Vancouver Games four years ago.

The Slovakian shot flawlessly and finished in 21 minutes, 6.8 seconds for her third career Olympic medal. She also won silver in the 10K pursuit in Vancouver.

Olga Vilukhina of Russia trailed Kuzmina by 19.9 seconds to win silver, and VITA Semerenko of Ukraine was 21.7 behind for bronze.

## OLYMPICS

## Snowboarding

## Anderson completes US sweep in slopestyle

American follows up Kotsenburg's gold with one of her own

By WILL GRAVES  
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Jamie Anderson stood atop the podium and lifted her arms in triumph, her long and sometimes draining quest for Olympic glory finally complete.

The American star ran into some unusual friends at the top.

Anderson gave the United States a gold-medal sweep in the first Olympic slopestyle snowboarding competition on Sunday, while Jenny Jones took bronze to win Britain's first medal in any snow sport.

Anderson soared to victory in a near flawless run in the women's final on Sunday, a day after Sage Kotsenburg captured the men's gold medal. The 23-year-old from South Lake Tahoe, Calif., did it, as is her fashion, when the moment absolutely required it.

Down to one last trip through the treacherous Rosa Khutor Extreme Park course, Anderson took a deep breath, enjoyed a brief moment of "Zen" and showcased the skills that have made her the greatest slopestyle snowboarder of her generation. "I was really just trying to stay calm and kind of reserve my energy," Anderson said. "It was a lot of stress up there and even though it's just another competition, the stage and the outreach that this event connects to is out of control."

Anderson looked at ease as she made history. While some of her competitors struggled to find enough air time to provide the series of spins and grabs necessary to impress the judges, Anderson floated through the gray conditions.

"Jamie's an awesome competitor," American teammate Carly Shorr said. "She does whatever she has to win. She never cracks under pressure. She uses it. She lands."

Enni Rukajarvi of Finland took silver and Jones, a 33-year-old former maid at a ski resort, delivered a long-awaited medal for Britain. Alain Baxter appeared to give the country its first medal on snow when he finished third in the slalom at Salt Lake City in 2002, but his bronze was stripped for doping.

Jones grew up in southwest England, where her first lessons were on dry



PHOTOS BY ANDY WONG, TOP, AND DAVID J. PHILLIP, LEFT/RIGHT



Jamie Anderson of the United States, above, takes a jump on her final run in the women's snowboard slopestyle final on Sunday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Anderson won gold in the event, completing a U.S. sweep of Snowboard Slopestyle after Sage Kotsenburg, left, captured the United States' first gold medal of the Winter Games on Saturday.

ground. The nation of rolling hills doesn't have rocky peaks meant for shredding, but Britain has begun producing world class snowboarders. Jones' friends and teammates Jamie Nicholls and Billy Morgan both made the men's slopestyle final.

"I know we don't have any mountains," Jones said. "But I think there's a growing number of snowboarders from England." Kotsenburg won the first gold medal of the 2014 Olympics on Saturday, soaring to victory in the men's snowboarding slopestyle final.

Kotsenburg had a score of 93.50 to edge Staale Sandbech of Norway. Mark McMorris of Canada, who barely made the finals, took bronze.

Canadian Max Parrot, who topped qualifying on Thursday, missed the podium. He

washed out at the end of his first run and his second run wasn't quite crisp enough. Parrot finished fifth.

Kotsenburg needed to navigate the semifinals early Saturday but seemed to find his stride. He placed second in the semifinals then rolled with a medal on the line. The 20-year-old clasped his hands over his head in disbelief after his score was revealed.

The laid-back kid from Couer d'Alene, Idaho — nicknamed "second-run Sage" because of his tendency to come through at the last minute — didn't waste time putting together the run of his life. He tamed the treacherous course that chased away teammate Shaun White earlier in the week and sent several other contenders to the medical tent.

## White says he's at peace with decision to sit out event

By EDDIE PELLIS  
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Shaun White took 10 practice runs down the halfpipe on a windless, sunny morning in the mountains above Sochi and let out a big "whoooo-hooo" when the last one was over.

Yes, he says, this is where he belongs.

In his first interview since announcing he was skipping the Olympic slopestyle contest, White told The Associated Press he is at peace with his decision to focus

solely on the event where he's won two straight gold medals and will go for a third on Tuesday.

"I can understand if it's your first time to the Olympics, you wouldn't understand a decision like the one I made," he said Saturday. "But you set your goals according to what's important to you. Halfpipe is important to me and I didn't want to jeopardize that."

White withdrew from the Olympic debut of slopestyle after a couple of rugged days of practice that left him with a jammed wrist. He called the course "intimidating."

With input from the riders, the course was made significantly tamer by the final, where another American, Sage Kotsenburg, won the first gold medal of the games about an hour after White's session was over.

No regrets, says White, who will leave the Sochi Games the most famous name in his sport regardless of what happens on the halfpipe. He knows, however, that doubling down there adds a significant amount of pressure. He's trying to become the first American male to win three straight golds at the Winter Olympics.

"I'm OK with that," he said. "It keeps me going, keeps me progressing, keeps me guessing. And I'm hoping to have a great Olympics. I'm feeling very, very confident and healthy, which is nice."

White went through a grueling winter of qualifying for the Olympics. He hurt his ankle on the halfpipe and his shoulder on the slopestyle course.

He didn't try any of his most difficult tricks during the training session. This was the first day of training and the kinks are still being worked out on a halfpipe he called "interesting."

When he announced he was pulling out, the 27-year-old megastar said riding the treacherous course wasn't worth risking an injury that could put a damper on his chance for a three-peat. Canadian snowboarder Sebastien Toutant was among the many who took to social media and accused White of ducking the competition because he knew he couldn't win. Others blamed White for costing another American a spot on the U.S. snowboarding team.

His coach, Bud Keene, said "I'd like all the haters to turn into lovers but that's not my job."

# SPORTS



**All the right notes**  
Big plays late lift Jazz over LeBron, Heat | Page 23



WINTER OLYMPICS

PHOTOS BY ALESSANDRO TROVATI, TOP, AND GERO BRELOER, BOTTOM/AP

Austrian gold medalist Matthias Mayer, above, makes a turn in the men's downhill on Sunday. Below, the United States' Bode Miller sits on his skis after a disappointing eighth-place finish. Miller had posted the fastest times in two of the last three training sessions and was a favorite for the gold entering Sunday's race.

## Miller falters, Mayer surprises



### Austrian takes gold with first-ever win; Americans come up empty

BY HOWARD FENDRICH  
*The Associated Press*

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Matthias Mayer grew up in Austria admiring plenty of Alpine skiers, from his medal-winning dad, to all-time great Hermann Maier, to a couple of guys he races against these days, Bode Miller and Aksel Lund Svindal.

Unexpectedly, Mayer now can call himself something none of those others can: Olympic downhill champion.

Four years after ski-loving Austria departed the Winter Games with zero men's Alpine medals for the first time, Mayer made his nation 1-for-1 in 2014, upstaging pre-race favorites Miller and Svindal by

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- Defending moguls champ Kearney earns bronze, Page 30
- US sweeps slopestyle, Page 31



charging down the course in 2 minutes, 6.23 seconds Sunday to win gold in the sport's premier event.

And to think: In 65 previous World Cup or world championship races, the 23-year-old Mayer never had finished first. He'd never fared better than fifth in a downhill.

**SEE SURPRISES ON PAGE 29**

