

PATRIOT PRESS

Vol. 1, Issue 8

Operation Iraqi Freedom
Camp Patriot, Kuwait

March 29, 2003

Homocide Bombing Kills Five U.S. Troops

Five Americans killed by a car bomb north of city of Najaf

Associated Press

Capt. Andrew Wallace told Associated Press Television News that a taxi had stopped close to the checkpoint, and as five soldiers approached the car it exploded.

Wallace said the victims were part of the Army's 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division.

The attack occurred at a U.S. checkpoint on the highway north of Najaf. It was not immediately clear precisely when the incident occurred.

U.S. Central Command in Doha, Qatar, confirmed the incident but had no other details.

The homicide bombing Saturday was the first against U.S. and British forces since the invasion of Iraq began.

There have been warnings of homicide attacks in Iraq.

Iraqi dissidents and Arab media have claimed that Saddam Hussein has opened a training camp for Arab volunteers willing to carry out homicide bombings against

U.S. forces in Iraq.

Terror mastermind Usama bin Laden also urged Iraqis last month in an audio tape aired on Arabic television to employ the tactic against the Americans. Other Arab militants also spoke about homicide missions against the invading armies.

Such attacks are common by Palestinian militants in targeting the better equipped Israeli army during the uprising on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Iraqi Foreign Minister

Naji Sabri was asked in a mid-March television interview, whether Iraq would use the tactic of homicide attacks against the invading American forces.

"We have prepared ourselves for all kinds of war. For many months, tens of thousands have volunteered to serve as martyrdom-seekers in the battle with the American enemy," he said. "We trained them and readied them. We have prepared our-

See Bombing, page 4

Missile Explodes Near Kuwait City Shopping Mall

Associated Press

A missile fired by Iraq fell into the sea and exploded near Kuwait's most popular shopping mall early Saturday, blasting out windows, according to Kuwaiti and U.S. officials.

Two people sustained minor injuries, the official Kuwait News Agency reported.

It was the closest that a missile has come to Kuwait City since U.S. troops based in the Persian Gulf emirate invaded neighboring Iraq on March 20.

"It came from the northeast part of the Gulf. It seemed to be traveling at a very low level," so no air raid sirens sounded,

Fire Chief Jassim al-Mansouri said.

He said it hit a small pier that juts into the Gulf in front of the Souq Sharq mall at around 1:45 a.m., and pieces landed nearby.

The multilevel shopping center on Kuwait's seafont includes department stores, restaurants, theaters and Western-style stores such as Starbucks and the Body Shop.

The information minister, Sheik Ahmed Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah, said it was believed to have been a Chinese-made

See Missile, page 5

What's Inside . . .

Combat JAG.....	2
Camp Patriot Pioneer.....	3
State News Shorts.....	3
Chaplain's Corner.....	4

Five Day Forecast.....	5
Seabees Strong-back Camp.....	6
Entertainment.....	7
Sports Shorts.....	8

Look for more Camp Patriot News on the web at www.news.navy.mil/local/cmpf

and more....

Combat JAG: Navy legal officer brings expertise to Operation Iraqi Freedom

By JO1 Joseph Krypel

What would you do if you were totally out of contact with your life as you know it? What if you were living in the sand - working in a foreign place - not knowing exactly what to do, when to do it, or how to deal with a legal problem half-way around the world?

This is how some deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom feel and live.

Lieutenant Jon Peppetti, the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) for Commander, Amphibious Group Three (CPG-3) has been placed in a position to make a difference in these types of cases - forward deployed with troops serving on the ground in Kuwait.

As the SJA for CPG-3, Peppetti's primary role is to act as legal counsel for Rear Adm. W. Clyde Marsh and all of his subordinate commanders and commanding officers - including Commander, Camp Patriot," explained Peppetti.

In this role, Peppetti's responsibilities vary greatly. "I assist with the legal aspects of mission planning and routinely conduct training in a number of areas such as rules of engagement (ROE), the use of force and the handling enemy prisoners of war (EPW)."

Additionally, Peppetti explained that he regularly provides command advice on everything from the administration of military justice, to the proper conduct of investigations, agreements with our host-nation, and individual legal services for military personnel.

"I knew coming to CPG-3 would offer great challenges," Peppetti continued, "... but our participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom

presented opportunities that I never imagined."

Although Peppetti enjoys the challenge of advising commanders and commanding officers in a wartime environment, he maintains that his greatest satisfaction comes from assisting individual service members with personal issues.

While handling personal matters may seem commonplace to most, U.S. servicemen and women deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom have a number of obstacles to overcome in day-to-day personal tasks.

"People are here to do a difficult job and they don't need additional distractions when living in harm's way. Legal issues can be tough enough to handle at home; when you're thousands of miles away, they can seem impossible to deal with."

Since Peppetti's arrival in Kuwait, he has fielded hundreds of questions from service men and women on a variety of legal assistance matters. "Some people have legal issues that existed before they were deployed, and others have had problems arise since their arrival."

"I help them understand what rights they have, and in many cases I can help alleviate the problem by drafting a letter, sending an e-mail to the right person or preparing a power of attorney," explained Peppetti.

According to Peppetti, short-notice deployment calls provided little time for many to tie up loose ends, and as a result, some get distracted - not because of what they may be called upon to do, but because they feel like they may be losing control of their personal lives while deployed.

Peppetti explained that one tool available to help is the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief

Act. This federal law provides protections and benefits to military members whose active duty service has materially affected their ability to meet certain civil obligations. It can be used, for example to cap pre-service indebtedness at a six percent interest rate, and postpone civil lawsuits.

Unfortunately many don't know how to take advantage of these resources.

"Often the issues are simple to resolve, but people aren't sure who to contact or what to ask - that's where I can help."

In addition to assisting with legal problems, Peppetti has also been able to help service members with personal goals, such as applying for U.S. citizenship.

"I have helped a number of people complete the application paperwork and I've worked with the Immigration and Naturalization Service to make sure those who have already filed aren't penalized by this deployment."

"Working towards these personal goals keeps morale high - and good morale is crucial for mission accomplishment."

According to Peppetti, he is proud to help people focus on the difficult missions at hand, by helping resolve problems at home. "It's a privilege for me to help all the servicemen and women at Camp Patriot who make incredible sacrifices for our country," Peppetti concluded, "That's why being here is so important to me."

Peppetti graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Notre Dame in 1992, received his commission in January, 1995, and earned his law degree from the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Law in 1996. He is a practicing member of the bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PATRIOT PRESS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8

The *Patriot Press* is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents contained herein are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of Defense. The editorial content of this publication is prepared, edited and the produced weekly by the Commander, Task Group 51.8 public affairs office. For questions, comments or submissions, please contact the editor at 797-6194 or e-mail at krypel@tb14.arfor.army.mil

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Camp Patriot Salutes One of her Pioneers: Army Lieutenant Colonel Greg Maida

By Colonel Michael Kaczmarek

If you have not noticed him around, then you probably have just arrived at Camp Patriot. Lieutenant Colonel Greg Maida, a member of the 143rd



*Camp Patriot Pioneer
Lt. Col. Greg Maida*

Transportation Company home based in Orlando, Fla., has been in Kuwait for nearly 15 months. Lt. Col. Maida was tasked by Combined Forces Land Component Commander (CFLCC) as the executive agent for nearly \$10-million worth of projects to support the presence that the U.S. Army watercraft have in Southwest Asia.

Some of the projects that have his signature around base are the early

warning / public address system, the renovated security tower on the ammo pier, the renovated Joint Lighterage Control Center offices, and the over 50,000 square feet of storage space amongst other projects.

Lt. Col. Maida has forged a close relationship with senior members of the host-nation which has resulted in the realization of not only the base watercraft enhancements, but a greasing of the skids for the establishment of the Camp Patriot footprint. He also helped identify and coordinate the various organizations responsible for the establishment of the Food Court and the AAFES BX/PX complex.

Operation Enduring Freedom, and now Iraqi Freedom, has proved to have been a busy tour for Lt. Col. Maida. In addition to his duties as the project officer for the construction projects, he has played a key role in the Combined Joint Logistics Over The Shore (CJLOTS) operation as a valued member of the J-3 staff. His knowledge of watercraft operations has been key to the successful movement of coalition equipment, cargo, and passengers through the Camp Patriot terminal. His impressive resume of military assignments in the Pentagon and various trans-

portation headquarters have resulted in a prodigious depth of knowledge of the marine field and the "Army's navy."

Lt. Col. Maida's long association with this area will soon come to conclusion in early April. He was recently selected to attend the Army's Industrial War College (ICAF) in Washington D.C. He looks forward to reuniting with his wife and 2 boys after a highly successful long tour overseas supporting the host nation, coalition forces and the happy campers at Camp Patriot.

Lt. Col. Maida - You will be JOINTLY missed by all.

CBR Training Note

The CFLCC area of operations, which includes Camp Patriot, has set Mission Oriented Protective Posture Zero - modified (MOPP 0). All residents are to carry masks at all times. Have your chemical protective suit, boots and gloves within ten minutes of you. All medicinals should be with you at all times. Notify your chain of command if you are missing any portion of your protective gear.

Here is a MOPP breakdown to remember:

MOPP 0 - Modified

Carry masks and be within 10 minutes of your chemical gear.

MOPP 1

Wear chemical suit.

MOPP 2

Wear chemical suit and boots.

MOPP 3

Wear chemical suit, boots and mask.

MOPP 4

Wear chemical suit boots, mask and gloves.

State News Shorts . . .

USA Today

California

Oceanside - Operators of a new commuter ferry service between Oceanside and San Diego are offering free rides through April 18, 2003, in hopes of attracting customers. Rainstorms and mechanical problems have hurt the commuter ferry service, a demonstration project backed by \$5 million in state funding.

Colorado

Glenwood Springs - A snowboarder who allegedly plowed into a group of children at Sunlight Mountain Resort was charged with child abuse and reckless endangerment. Michael Wolff, 20, of Texas, was also charged with possession of alcohol. One child suffered a broken leg, one a bruised arm and a third had minor injuries.

Chaplains' Corner . . . Sharing Your Thoughts with God

By *Cmdr. Terry Pletkovich, CHC, USN*

Did you know that it's OK to share all of you innermost thoughts and feelings with the Lord? We don't have to come to Him with a pre-ordered set of words that we believe to be acceptable or unacceptable. Take for instance, Psalm 13, which discusses "venting" before the Lord:

"How much longer will you forget me Lord? Forever? How much longer will you bide yourself from me? How long must I endure trouble? How long will sorrow fill my heart day and night?"

Doesn't sound like a politically correct prayer, does it? The author is clearly frustrated, angry, and confused. Yet, he feels fine to express whatever his thinking to the Lord. And why not – God knows our innermost thoughts and feelings, anyway. Why not share them?

How about you? What are you thinking and feeling today? Fear, anxiety, hopelessness, anger, confusion or a myriad of others?

Could it be that you've hesitated to share honestly with the Lord in your prayers? Don't! God can handle it. The Lord welcomes honest communication.

And what are the results? Well, the Lord doesn't always provide concrete answers – in fact those answers may be rare. Yet, somehow the Lord works in a positive way through those encounters. Again, in Psalm 13, we see that the complaint has turned to trust, and then praise:

"I rely on your constant love. I will be glad, because you will rescue me. I will sing to you, O Lord, because you have been good to me."

The ability to share our feelings with the Lord results in blessings for today and tomorrow. It doesn't mean that all our problems will disappear, but it does deepen our walk with the Lord and gives us strength to meet all our challenges.

God Bless You!

Bombing . . .

Cont'd from page 1

selves for street fighting and desert fighting."

The biggest homicide bombing against the U.S. military abroad was in Lebanon when a truck packed with explosives drove into the U.S. Marine base at Beirut International Airport and exploded in the early morning Oct. 23, 1983, as the troops slept. The attack killed 241 American servicemen and leveled the base. Simultaneously, a

Beirut base for French soldiers was attacked by another homicide bomber, killing 58 paratroopers.

The Americans and the French were in Lebanon as part of an ill-fated peace-keeping mission to end Lebanon's civil war. Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim militants were blamed for the attacks.

In 1996, a truck bomb at the U.S. Khobar Towers barracks in Saudi Arabia killed 19 U.S. servicemen.

Quick Reference Phone Numbers

Watch Officer

618-6700

Medical Clinic

617-7280

Camp Patriot Chapel Services

Chaplains:

Cmdr. Jeffrey H. Seiler, CHC, USN

Cmdr. Terry Pletkovich, CHC, USNR

Lt. Cmdr. Francis Foley, CHC, USNR

Lt. Cmdr. Gregory Todd, CHC, USNR

Lt. Eric Verhulst, CHC, USNR

Lt. Hussain M. Shaikh, CHC, USNR

Chap. (Capt.) Alan Savage, USA

Catholic Mass

M - Sat.....1130

Sunday.....0830 / 2030

Tues.....Rosary/Confessions.....1930

Catholic Instruction / Faith Class

Thursday.....1800

Pentecostal Worship

Mon & Wed.....1930

Muslim Salah Al-Jumua

Friday.....1230

Quran Study

Monday - Friday.....2030

Jewish Shabat

Friday.....1800

Buddhist Prayer

Saturday.....1200

Protestant Worship

Sunday.....1000

Episcopal / Lutheran Communion

Sunday.....1100

7th Day Adventist Sabbath Service

Saturday.....1700

LDS Services

Sunday.....1700

Prayer and Praise

Sunday.....1900

Wednesday.....1030 / 1900

Choir Practice

Tuesday.....2030

Bible Study

Tuesday / Thursday.....1215

Eastern Orthodox Divine Liturgy

Sunday.....TBD

Contact *Cmdr. Seiler* at 973-5964 for info

Missile . . .

Cont'd from page 1

Silkworm missile. He said it was the 16th missile that Iraq has fired at Kuwait since the war began.

None of them contained chemical or biological weapons.

Col. Youssef al-Mullah, spokesman for Kuwait's military, told the Kuwait News Agency that a fragment from the missile fired Saturday had Arabic writing on it.

U.S. officials in Washington, speaking on the condition of anonymity, also said the missile appeared to have been a Silkworm launched from southern Iraq.

"Some missiles we cannot detect with our missile defense system," al-Sabah said. "This kind of missile flies very low."

The explosion shattered windows, blasted the glass door at the front of the mall and blew out huge chunks of plaster from the adjacent parking structure.

Parts of the ceiling and walls littered the ground in a covered plaza in front of

the mall after the explosion. Television images also showed smoke rising over the Kuwaiti skyline.

An Egyptian and a Kuwaiti were treated at a nearby hospital and released for injuries sustained in the explosion, the Kuwait News Agency reported.

The mall is about half a mile from Sief Palace, the official seat of the emir of Kuwait. The emir lives in Dasman Palace, about two miles further away.

U.S. Patriot missile batteries guard Kuwait against missile attacks by neighboring Iraq. In Doha, Qatar, the U.S. Central Command said it was investigating the explosion.

None of the missiles fired at Kuwait has caused significant damage or injury. At least three have been destroyed by Patriots, according to U.S. military spokesmen.

On Thursday, civilian defense officials in Kuwait said a U.S. Patriot missile knocked down an Iraqi missile fired from southern Iraq.

Air raid sirens have sounded repeatedly since the war began last week, cautioning the 2.3 million residents of this small, oil-rich state to take cover.

A U.S.-led force in 1991 liberated Kuwait from an Iraqi invasion and many here voiced anger at Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. "My heart is still pounding," said Batoul Tabtabai, a 40-year-old housewife who had been shopping at a 24-hour supermarket about 200 yards from the blast. "May God take revenge on Saddam. There will be no security as long as he is alive."

Some onlookers celebrated the lack of major damage by gathering and singing around Ali Al-Sebai, an Egyptian-American musician who was visiting Kuwait, whose emir is Sheik Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

"We have Sheik Jaber and we fear no one," they sang. "Let Saddam go to hell." Within hours of the first U.S. strike on Baghdad, sirens blared throughout Kuwait City, sending jittery residents scrambling for bomb shelters, some carrying gas masks and chemical suits.

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

<i>Weather Conditions</i>	<i>Partly Cloudy</i>	<i>Partly Cloudy</i>	<i>Mostly Cloudy</i>	<i>Mostly Cloudy</i>	<i>Partly Cloudy</i>
<i>TEMPS</i>	<i>62 / 71</i>	<i>58 / 73</i>	<i>57 / 75</i>	<i>54 / 72</i>	<i>52 / 74</i>

What you had to say about . . .

The residents of Camp Patriot have the opportunity to voice their opinion or feelings on a particular topic. This week, we wanted to touch on your politics! This weeks question was:

Who do you find to be more of a threat? North Korea or Iraq?

(photos by PH3 Aaron Pineda)



**UT2 Smetana
ACB-2**

"I think we need to look closely to the very delicate situation arising in the soon to be liberated population of Iraq. The scars could run deep."



**Pfc. Sarah Villareal
24th BN**

"I think the threat of North Korea's nuclear weapons is more drastic. While I'm here to do my job, we should be focusing there."



**Lt. Burr Vogel
ACB-1**

"Saddam. We must achieve peace and stability in this region in order to reduce the hatred towards America and it's people."



**IT2 Amber Frommherz
CPG-3**

"I think both countries are areas of concern. Iraq is our immediate concern and in due time, if necessary, we'll deal with North Korea."

Seabees Strong-back Tents at Camp Patriot

By PH3 Aaron Pineda

For the past two months Seabees from Amphibious Construction Battalions One (ACB-1) and Two (ACB-2) have been working hard “strong-backing” the camp. For those unfamiliar with this term, it’s the process of converting a standard general purpose medium tent into a strong-back tent. Tent poles are replaced with a solid framed body constructed by 2x4’s. This offers not only greater protection from the elements: dust storms, wind, and rain, but also a greater degree of living comfort.

“Along with enhancing our quality of life here, the decision to strong-back our tents is one phase of camp development that transitions the expeditionary tents into more stable and long lasting places of berthing”, says Lt. Jay Bieszke, ACB-1 camp officer in charge.

The strong-back process begins in the prefabrication yard where a cut crew manufactures everything from the stairs, ridgebeams, and hip rafters down to the floors. Next this prefabricated material makes it’s way to another builder crew where it is erected, and then later “skinned”, a term used to describe the process of pulling the tent tarp over the 2x4 frame.

One of the challenges that faces the crews involved in the strong-backing process here at Camp Patriot is working with uncooperative soil. The ground, which is comprised of either hardened sand, or gravel, has made it difficult for the crews to obtain an even level, a crucial step for proper construction. Engineering Aide Constructionman Sanchez of ACB-2 comments on some of these obstacles and what steps were taken to overcome them.

“The hardest thing to work with is compact soil. This ground is very hard, and it’s been tough getting an even level for flooring in some instances. If we make a mistake, not getting the right level and start to build, eventually we’ll have to start all over again because all the wood is prefabricated and won’t align right. We’ve had to do a lot of cutting, and filling in some areas to compensate for the drastic changes in elevation.”

In spite of tough ground, weather that ranges from hot to cold, and sandstorms, the crews have constructed an average of five to six strong-backs a day. Currently, 210 of the projected 270 expeditionary tents have been converted to strong-backs. The hard working Amphibious Construction Battalion Seabees continue to make these much appreciated camp enhancements.

Makin’ It Strong

Seabees from Amphibious Construction Battalion One apply the "skin" of a strong-back tent as part of camp construction. The efforts of the Amphibious Construction Battalion have made Camp Patriot a much better place to live for all that stay for a long time, or for those just passing through. From the cold of Korea to the heat of Kuwait, the Seabees have been “building to fight, and fighting for what they build” since WWII.



Entertainment News...

A-Listers Battle for Box Office Supremacy

By Dave Karger

Travolta, Rock, or Swank? Three very different A-listers battle for box office supremacy this weekend, and it could be a tight one.

The week's three new releases - "The Core," "Basic," and "Head of State" - are said to be tracking quite similarly to each other. But with its, um, core audience of young males, Hilary Swank's sci-fi adventure "The Core" could end up in the top slot. Though reviews won't be pretty, it could debut with \$15 million.

Not far behind will likely be "Basic," a military thriller that reunites "Pulp Fiction" stars John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson, and "Head of State," a comedy featuring Chris Rock as a United States Presidential candidate. Both films should premiere in the \$13 million-\$14 million range.

This means that after three weeks in the top spot, Steve Martin and Queen Latifah's "Bringing Down the House" will finally be brought down to No. 4. A slip of 35 percent would translate to another \$11 million weekend, pushing its total ever closer to the \$100 million mark and on its way to becoming Martin's biggest hit ever ("Parenthood" made \$100 million).

Rounding out the top five will be either the Stephen King adaptation "Dreamcatcher" or possibly the newly crowned Best Picture winner, "Chicago," both of which should gross \$7 million or so. "Chicago's" total will then pass \$140 million, and at this rate it should soon enter the 100 top-grossing films of all time. That's a lot of razzle-dazzle.

Suspect Caught Cold In Iowa

Burlington, Iowa

Police officers searching for a drug suspect in this southeast Iowa town were surprised to find him hiding in a refrigerator. Jerome Anthony Dobbey, 24, faced

drug charges, including possession and intent to deliver crack-cocaine.

"I definately heard comments that this was a first," said Greg Hoffer, an investigator with the narcotics task force.

After a short term search of a location, police found Dobbey hiding inside a refrigerator with the door shut. Hoffer said items had been stacked in front of the refrigerator, which was not plugged in.

Movie Schedule

Sunday

Rambo
Changing Lanes

Monday

Just Visiting
Little Nicky

Tuesday

Joe Dirt
Walk Remember

Wednesday

Ideal Husband
Unfaithful

Thursday

Bounty Hunters
Predator 2

Friday

Don't Say Word
Waterboy

Saturday

Enough
Midsum-Dream

Movies begin each evening at 1800 in the movie tent.

Things to Remember!

Sick Call Hours

0800 - 1100
1300 - 1400
1900 - 2000

Emergencies 24 hours a day

Barber Shop Hours

Appts.....0800 - 1600
Walk-ins.....1800 - 2000



Internet Cafe
Open 24 Hours!

AA Meeting
Monday.....1930

AAFES Hours

Daily.....1000 - 2000

Galley Hours

Breakfast.....0500 - 0800
Dinner.....1700 - 2000

Laundry Service

Mornings 1000 - 1300
Afternoons 1400 - 2000

Sports Shorts



2003 Men's NCAA Tournament Bracket Sweet 16 to the Elite Eight

Metrodome, Minneapolis, Minn.

Kentucky 74
Utah 54

**Kentucky
Marquette**

Marquette 77
Pittsburgh 74

Arrowhead Pond, Anaheim, Calif.

Arizona 88
Notre Dame 71

**Arizona
Kansas**

Duke 65
Kansas 69

Alamodome, San Antonio, Texas

Texas 82
U. Conn 78

**Texas
Michigan St.**

Maryland 58
Michigan St. 60

Pepsi Arena, Albany, N.Y.

Oklahoma 65
Butler 54

**Oklahoma
Syracuse**

Syracuse 79
Auburn 78

NBA OVERALL STANDINGS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	PCT	GB
Detroit	45	26	.634	----
New Jersey	44	28	.611	1½
Philadelphia	42	29	.592	3
Indiana	42	30	.583	3½
New Orleans	41	32	.562	5
Boston	39	34	.534	7
Orlando	39	34	.534	7
Washington	34	37	.479	11
Milwaukee	34	38	.472	11½
New York	32	41	.438	14
Atlanta	29	44	.397	17
Chicago	26	47	.356	20
Miami	23	50	.315	23
Toronto	22	49	.310	23
Cleveland	14	58	.194	31½

Western Conference

	W	L	PCT	GB
Dallas	54	17	.761	----
Sacramento	51	21	.708	3½
San Antonio	51	20	.718	4
Minnesota	46	28	.622	9½
Portland	44	27	.620	10
Utah	42	29	.592	12
LA Lakers	41	30	.577	13
Phoenix	38	34	.528	16½
Houston	37	35	.514	17½
Golden State	36	37	.493	19
Seattle	33	37	.471	20½
Memphis	26	45	.366	28
LA Clippers	22	50	.306	32½
Denver	16	56	.222	38½

Friday Scores

Ind 140 - Chi 89, N.O. 101 - Tampa 92, Golden St. 102 - Philly 98, Boston 104 - Cleve 95, Phx 94 Det 91, Mia 111 - Minn 84, N.J. 122 - N.Y. 101

NHL OVERALL STANDINGS

Eastern Conference

	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PTS
Ottawa	78	48	21	8	1	105
New Jersey	77	44	20	8	5	101
Tampa Bay	77	35	23	14	5	89
Philadelphia	77	40	20	13	4	97
Toronto	78	41	27	7	3	92
Washington	78	37	28	8	5	87
Boston	77	35	29	9	4	83
NY Islanders	77	34	31	10	2	80
NY Rangers	77	31	34	9	3	74
Montreal	78	28	33	8	9	73
Buffalo	77	25	35	9	8	67
Florida	78	23	34	12	9	67
Atlanta	77	27	38	7	5	66
Pittsburgh	78	26	41	6	5	63
Carolina	77	22	38	11	6	61

Western Conference

	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PTS
Dallas	78	42	17	15	4	103
Detroit	77	45	20	9	3	102
Vancouver	78	44	21	12	1	101
St. Louis	77	41	21	9	6	97
Colorado	77	38	18	13	8	97
Minnesota	78	40	27	10	1	91
Anaheim	78	38	26	9	5	90
Edmonton	77	35	25	8	9	87
Phoenix	77	30	34	9	4	73
Chicago	78	28	33	11	6	73
Nashville	77	27	31	13	6	73
Los Angeles	77	30	36	6	5	71
San Jose	77	28	35	6	8	70
Calgary	77	27	34	12	4	70
Columbus	76	27	39	7	3	64

Friday Scores

Buffalo 4 - Montreal 1, Washington 3 - Ottawa 2, Minnesota 4 - Chicago 3, Toronto 5 - NY Islanders 2, N.J. 1 - Atlanta 1

B. Labonte Takes Bud Pole at Hometown Track

Associated Press

Avoiding the controversy that dogged teammate Tony Stewart on Friday, Bobby Labonte grabbed the pole for the Radio Shack 500 at Texas Motor Speedway. Labonte took his second pole of the season and the 23rd of his career with a lap of 193.514 m.p.h. on the 1½-mile oval.

Labonte is off to a strong start, with three top-five finishes in his last three starts, including a win at Atlanta.

Winston Cup Standings

After: Food City 500

Next: Radio Shack 500

Winner: Kurt Busch

Texas Motor Speedway

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Driver</u>	<u>Points Behind</u>
1.	Matt Kenseth	Leader
2.	Kurt Busch	-138
3.	Tony Stewart	-147
4.	Michael Waltrip	-149
5.	Dale Earnhardt, Jr.	-186
6.	Jimmie Johnson	-192
7.	Ricky Craven	-200
8.	Bobby Labonte	-203
9.	Ricky Rudd	-240
10.	Jeff Gordon	-241