

➔ **Hey Man, Nice Shot** » The Washington Capitals' Alexander Ovechkin — the first player in 12 years to reach the 60-goal mark — broke Dennis Maruk's 26-year-old club record with his 61st goal Tuesday.



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UTAH JAZZ

It Was All in the Cards

Despite Charlotte's annually finishing with one of the league's worst records, the Bobcats frequently seem to give the Jazz fits. And the thought had to be rattling through more than a few heads during the fourth quarter of last night's game at EnergySolutions Arena: No way the Jazz could have a second meltdown this season against the Charlotte Bobcats. But the Jazz prevailed.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah Jazz forward Mehmet Okur tries to get past Charlotte Bobcats forward Emeka Okafor during the first quarter of Tuesday's game in Salt Lake City. The Jazz won 128-106.

NEAR PAST • After blowing a 12-point lead in the final six minutes against Charlotte on Dec. 19, the Jazz were in even more danger. The Bobcats went into the fourth quarter trailing by 20 yet had closed within three with 6:15 left.

PRESENT • But the Jazz were able to restore order in time, outscoring the Bobcats 27-8 the rest of the way to take a 128-106 victory. The Jazz improved to 31-4 at home, where

they are perfect against teams with losing records this season.

MAJOR INFLUENCES • The Jazz lost their grip as Charlotte closed to 101-92 after a Gerald Wallace three-pointer was followed by an Earl Boykins-to-Wallace alley-oop dunk. Raymond Felton and Emeka Okafor were not on the floor for the Bobcats.

MAJOR OBSTACLES • The Jazz took a 92-72 lead into the fourth quarter. But Jazz coach Jerry Sloan

and Okur both were whistled for technicals; the Jazz wound up in the penalty with 9:47 left. The Bobcats drew as close as 101-98.

OUTCOME • Carlos Boozer, Mehmet Okur and Deron Williams each posted double-doubles. "It's good for us to all have good games on the same night. It's kind of rare sometimes, either one or two of us — it's very rare that [it's] three players," Williams said.

BASEBALL

Hit Out of the Park Before the Run Home

Emil Brown found a safe way home: hit the ball over the fence.

One day after Brown made a costly baserunning mistake, his three-run homer in the third inning led Oakland over the Boston Red Sox 5-1 today and gave the Athletics a split of their opening two-game series.

Following Major League Baseball's third season-opening series in Japan, the teams were to head back to the United States on 10-hour flights across the Pacific with a split. The Chicago Cubs and New York Mets split their Japanese series in 2000, as did the New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Devil Rays in 2004.

Boston began its World Series title defense with a 6-5, 10-inning victory yesterday, boosted by Manny Ramirez tie-breaking, two-run double.

STEROIDS

Hearing on the Hill Turns Partisan

Roger Clemens got some new Republican support in his dispute with Brian McNamee.

Reprising the partisan nature of last month's congressional hearing that examined whether Clemens took performance-enhancing drugs, the leading Republican on the committee that heard testimony from Clemens and McNamee released a report Tuesday questioning some of the Democratic majority's findings.