

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Marines raise money to provide a service dog and honor former commander

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Iraq War veterans are raising money to give a service dog to a Marine in need as a way to honor their former battalion commander, who died late last month after a battle with cancer.

During a deployment to Iraq nearly 15 years ago and afterward, retired Col. Mark A. Smith, 54, endeared himself to many Marines in the Reserve battalion with his dedication to the people he led and poignant messages to families back home.

Dozens of Marines who served in 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment under Smith's command attended his funeral last week in Indiana.

They included Greg Trost, a gunner on the Humvee that took Smith on some 300 combat missions during a 2004-05 deployment to a restive area south of Baghdad.

"I went everywhere he went," Trost said, including a bomb-littered stretch of Main Supply Route Tampa dubbed the "IED Highway."

Now living in New Hampshire, Trost reconnected with others he'd served with after flying to Indiana, sharing his idea for raising \$10,000 for a service dog to be named in Smith's honor, plus associated expenses. By Monday, he'd already collected half the amount needed through online donations, which are ongoing through the Mayhem Memorial Fundraiser for Rebuilding Warriors Facebook page.

The idea came from Trost's own "life-changing" experiences after he received a black Labrador retriever in August from the charity Rebuilding Warriors to help him deal with

symptoms of a traumatic brain injury he'd received in Iraq.

"She pulled me out of a dark, bad place," Trost said of the Lab, named Carmie by the family that donated the funds to train her in honor of a family member.

The former machine gunner, now part owner of a Marine-themed clothing company called Leatherneck for Life, also created a T-shirt as a tribute to Smith and to raise funds for the dog.

The first day, he estimated he'd sold about 100 shirts, with some 2/24 veterans buying more than one each.

Once the funds are raised and a recipient identified, a dog could be selected and trained within 12 to 18 months, said Rebuilding Warriors founder Jeff Anderson, an Army and law enforcement veteran who had helped train Smith, Trost and other Marines in 2004. Anderson also taught Smith martial arts.

"I think the dog will be a great ... tribute in his honor," said Anderson, who said his charity's mission isn't about giving away dogs but about giving veterans their lives back.

The dog honoring Smith will be named Mayhem, a nod to his call sign "Mayhem 6" and the slogan he used often, including on weekly letters home to the families of his Chicago-based Marine Reserve unit, "Mayhem from the Heartland."

During the early years of the Iraq War, Smith's heartfelt letters to Marine families found a wide audience after they were quoted in the media. They were a part of his very personal leadership style, Marines who served with him said.

US will not send ships to China's naval celebration

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy will not be sending ships to China's multinational naval celebration this month marking the 70th anniversary of the Chinese navy, according to Defense Department officials.

Instead, the U.S. Embassy Beijing defense attache will represent the U.S. at the event in Qingdao, China, on April 22-25, Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Dave Eastburn told Stars and Stripes in an email Thursday.

"The United States Navy will continue to engage the PLAN (People's Liberation Army Navy) through established military-to-military dialogues, such as the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement working groups and Rules of Behavior discussions," Eastburn said in the email.

China's Ministry of National Defense announced March 28 that 60 countries will send naval delegations to its celebration, with many sending naval vessels, according to a transcript of ministry spokesman Senior Col. Wu Quian's monthly news conference.

U.S. allies Japan, South Korea and the Philippines are sending vessels from their navies to participate, according to a report Friday by the Japan Times.

Events surrounding the anniversary will include "a high-level seminar, an international fleet review, military tat-

too performances and cultural and sports activities," Wu said, according to the transcript.

Eastburn did not say why the U.S. Navy would not be attending the celebration.

The news came amid tensions with China regarding Taiwan and the South China Sea.

Last week, China's state-run media reported that China's March 31 controversial fighter jet flight over the median line in the Taiwan Strait between mainland China and Taiwan was meant to rebuke the U.S., which has sent its Navy through the strait on freedom-of-navigation operations five times in the last six months.

The U.S. does not officially recognize Taiwan's sovereignty and is committed to the One China policy, which acknowledges China's claim on Taiwan.

However, the United States' de facto embassy, the American Institute in Taiwan, confirmed last week that it has had active-duty U.S. military stationed at its headquarters in Taipei since 2005, according to a Friday report by the South China Morning Post.

"The U.S. sending military personnel to Taiwan under whatever pretext constitutes a violation of the one-China principle and the three China-U.S. joint communiques, which will inevitably have a negative impact on the bilateral relations," Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Geng Shuang said, responding to reports.

Guam base fined for drinking water additive

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

The Guam Environmental Protection Agency has fined Andersen Air Force Base for sanitizing some of its drinking water with chlorination tablets made for sanitizing swimming pools, a 36th Wing spokesman said in a statement Saturday.

The Guam EPA issued a notice of violation Jan. 2 that the brand of chlorination tabs the base was using on drinking water included a chemical compound the agency considers a pesticide, according to the

notice.

The compound is toxic to waterborne organisms such as water fleas, according to the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs.

“Trichloro-s-triazinetriene is used only for swimming pools as per the product labeling,” Guam EPA wrote in the notice.

The issue came to light during a routine inspection Dec. 28 when two Guam EPA agents noticed the base was using a commercial pool sanitizer called “Pool Time Chlorination Tabs” instead of its approved MIOX disinfection system,

which had gone out of service, according to the agency. MIOX is a brand name for mixed oxidant solution.

The water tank operator told the inspectors that he did not know how long the base had been using the pool tablets in drinking water, according to the Guam EPA.

Upon learning of Guam EPA’s notice, the base “immediately” stopped using the Pool Time-brand chlorination tablets, 36th Wing spokesman Senior Airman Zachary Bumpus said in the statement.

Guam EPA fined the base

\$750 for violating the Guam Pesticide Act and \$1,700 for violating the Guam Safe Drinking Water Act, according to the notice.

People who may have been exposed to the affected drinking water were sent a public notice of the finding on Jan. 15, according to the statement.

Guam EPA and Andersen Air Force Base both found it was “very unlikely that the use of the Pool Time chlorination tabs resulted in any adverse health effects,” Bumpus said in the statement.

US soldiers returning to Palau after 37-year hiatus

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

About 200 soldiers are heading to Palau next week as part of Pacific Pathways, the first time in 37 years the Army has sent personnel to the nation of about 340 tiny islands in Micronesia.

An infantry company and a battalion tactical advanced command post from I Corps will conduct a security demonstration and small-arms qualifications April 14-19 in Palau, U.S. Army Pacific said in a statement.

The Palau exercise is part of Pacific Pathways, during which soldiers are deployed in the Pacific for a series of back-to-back exercises. The Army is expanding the length of those deployments, increasing to four months this year, with six-month stints planned for 2020.

The current Pacific Pathways 19-1 consists of five exercises: Hanuman Guardian and Cobra Gold in Thailand, Salaknib and Balikatan in the Philippines and the upcoming one in Palau, where U.S. soldiers have not had a presence

since 1982, the Army said.

The main site for the Palau exercise will be Ngeremlengui, near Koror, the country’s primary commercial area.

At the same time, members from the 18th Medical Command will conduct humanitarian outreach on the Palau islands of Peleliu and Anguar, the Army said.

About 50 personnel from Palau will participate in the exercise.

“The focus of these events is to increase U.S. Army presence, gain positional advan-

tage and reassure U.S. security commitments while increasing the USARPAC presence in the region,” the Army said.

As in other parts of the Pacific, China and the United States vie for influence in Micronesia, but America has long and deep ties with Palau.

The Palau archipelago was the scene of fierce battles during World War II. About 1,800 Marines and soldiers were killed in the three-month-long Battle of Peleliu in the fall of 1944. Another 8,000 were wounded.

Afghan forces, Taliban battle in western province for 5th day

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan security forces are battling the Taliban for a fifth day after the insurgents launched a wide-scale attack in the western Badghis province, officials said Monday.

Col. Qais Mangal, a spokesman for the Defense Ministry, said at least 12 security forces have been killed in the last 48 hours, bringing the overall death toll to more than 40. Mangal said dozens of insurgents

have been killed and wounded by air and ground forces.

Some 2,000 Taliban fighters attacked checkpoints and an army compound in the Bala Murghab district before dawn Thursday.

Mohammad Nasir Nazari, a provincial council member, said some 600 Afghan soldiers who were trapped inside the base were able to escape and reach the provincial capital of Qala e Now over the past two days after reinforcements reached the base.

He said army commandos and special police units are currently battling the insurgents, with high casualties on both sides. He was unable to provide an exact breakdown of the numbers killed and wounded.

The Taliban effectively control nearly half the country and have continued to carry out daily attacks on Afghan security forces despite holding several rounds of peace talks with the United States in recent months.

The Taliban have refused to

meet with the Afghan government, which they view as a U.S. puppet.

The Taliban agreed to take part in an Afghan dialogue in Qatar, where the insurgents maintain a political office, later this month. But the Taliban say any member of the government who attends will do so only in a personal capacity.

After two months of consultations, the Afghan government announced Monday that it had created a council to appoint a delegation to the talks.

Huffman, 12 others set to plead guilty in college scam

Los Angeles Times

Actress Felicity Huffman and a dozen other wealthy parents swept up in the far-reaching college admissions scandal have agreed to plead guilty after being charged in scheme, according to court records.

Huffman is among scores of people facing criminal charges in the scandal, which has snared coaches, administrators and parents.

The scheme centered on William “Rick” Singer, the owner of a for-profit Newport Beach, Calif., college admissions company that parents are accused of paying to help their children cheat on college entrance exams and that allegedly falsified athletic records of students to enable them to secure admission to elite schools — including UCLA, the University of Southern California, Stanford, Yale and Georgetown — according to court records.

Huffman was charged with conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud. The actress is accused of disguising a \$15,000 charitable payment in the bribery scheme, according to court records. Prosecutors alleged she met with a confidential witness who explained that he could control an SAT testing center and arrange for someone to proctor her daughter’s test and correct it.

The actress’ older daughter took the test in December 2017 and received a score of 1420, a 400-point improvement from her first test. In October, the FBI recorded Huffman discussing the same scheme for her younger daughter; she did not ultimately pursue it.

Her husband, actor William H. Macy, has not been charged by federal prosecutors. The court documents mention Macy much less than Huffman, but they suggest Macy knew about many of the activities.

Legal experts said they think Macy wasn’t charged because allegations of his involvement are less than Huffman’s.

3 US troops, contractor killed in blast claimed by Taliban

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three U.S. servicemembers and one contractor were killed, and three U.S. servicemembers were wounded by an improvised explosive device Monday near Bagram Airfield.

In accordance with U.S. Department of Defense policy, the names of the servicemembers killed in action are being withheld until 24 hours after notification of next of kin is

complete.

Earlier reports indicated a car bomb blast occurred outside America’s largest military base in Afghanistan on Monday afternoon targeting a convoy of foreign troops, a local official said.

The area near the Bagram gates, about 40 miles north of Kabul, was cordoned off following the blast, said Abdul Sha-koor Qudoosi, the local district governor. He said no civilians were hurt.

The airfield is home to thou-

sands of U.S. and allied troops and contractors. U.S. and other coalition troops routinely patrol the area surrounding the airfield in armored vehicles and sometimes on foot.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, claiming on Twitter that the suicide car bombing destroyed one armored vehicle and killed or injured several foreign troops. The group is known to exaggerate or embellish its claims.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.

Immigration officer to replace Nielsen

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Kirstjen Nielsen said Monday she still shares President Donald Trump’s goal of securing the border, a day after she resigned as Homeland Security secretary amid Trump’s frustration and bitterness over a spike in Central American migration.

Trump announced on Sunday in a tweet that U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan would be taking over as acting head of the department. The decision to name a top immigration officer to the post re-

flects Trump’s priority for the sprawling department founded to combat terrorism following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Nielsen had traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border Friday with Trump to participate in a roundtable with border officers and local law enforcement.

But on Sunday, she wrote in her resignation letter that “it is the right time for me to step aside.” She wrote that she hoped “the next secretary will have the support of Congress and the courts in fixing the laws which have impeded our ability to fully secure America’s borders and which have

contributed to discord in our nation’s discourse.”

Also Monday, three administration officials said U.S. Secret Service Director Randolph “Tex” Alles is expected to leave amid a shake-up in the upper echelon of DHS.

Alles’ departure stems from a personality conflict within the agency, the officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the personnel matter. The officials said it was unrelated to the resignation of Nielsen and a recent security breach at the president’s private club in Florida.

US lists Iranian military unit as terrorist group

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The United States moved Monday to list Iran’s elite military Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organization as the Trump administration looks for new ways to increase economic and political pressure on the Islamic regime in Tehran.

The designation marks the first time Washington has branded a foreign government entity a terrorist group and

came despite warnings from U.S. military and intelligence officials that other nations could use the designation as a precedent against U.S. action abroad.

The announcement also comes one day before Israeli elections in which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking a fifth term with hawkish promises to battle threatening Iranian behavior across the Middle East.

“This action sends a clear

message to Tehran that its support for terrorism has serious consequences,” President Donald Trump said in a statement.

IRGC commander Mohammad Ali Jafari issued an implied threat against U.S. forces in the Middle East.

“With this stupidity, the American army and security forces will no longer have today’s calm in the west Asia region,” the IRGC-affiliated Fars news agency quoted him as saying.

Hope still alive for Brexit compromise

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's government and the main opposition party were clinging to hope Monday of finding a compromise Brexit deal, two days before Prime Minister Theresa May must try to persuade European Union leaders to grant a delay to the U.K.'s departure from the bloc.

If the bloc refuses, Britain faces a sudden and chaotic departure on Friday, the Brexit deadline previously set by the EU.

May sought talks with the opposition Labour Party after Parliament three times voted down her divorce deal with the

EU. Three days of negotiations last week failed to yield a breakthrough, with Labour saying the Conservative government had not offered concrete changes to its Brexit plan.

Labour Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer said "the ball is in the government's court."

"At the moment, we're waiting to see what the government is putting on the table as a proposal," he said.

May's Downing Street office said the talks had shown "willingness to compromise on both sides."

"We hope that there will be further formal discussion" with Labour later Monday, said May's spokeswoman, Alison

Donnelly.

May has asked the EU to delay Brexit until June 30 to give Britain's divided politicians time to agree, approve and implement a withdrawal agreement. The bloc's leaders are due to meet in Brussels on Wednesday to consider the request.

An extension requires unanimous approval from the 27 remaining national leaders, some of whom are fed up with Brexit uncertainty and reluctant to prolong it further.

Downing Street said May would hold face-to-face talks with the French and German leaders before the EU summit to lay out her reasons for seek-

ing a Brexit delay.

She plans to fly to Berlin on Tuesday to meet Chancellor Angela Merkel, then on to Paris for talks with President Emmanuel Macron.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said May "is totally and utterly determined to deliver Brexit."

Hunt said of the other 27 EU leaders that "they want Brexit to be resolved as quickly as possible. So do we."

But it's unclear whether talks between the government and the left-of-center Labour Party will break the impasse that has left Britain uncertain how — or even whether — it will leave the EU.

Ugandan police rescue kidnapped US woman

Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda — Ugandan police said Sunday they had rescued an American woman and her driver who had been kidnapped by gunmen in a national park.

The two "are in good health" and "in the safe hands" of security officials, police said in a Twitter update.

Although authorities provided no details about how the rescue operation was carried out, a government spokesman said on Twitter that the kidnappers had taken their victims to Congo, where the two were rescued by the security forces.

The kidnappers "have escaped and operations continue," Ofwono Opondo said.

Ugandan security teams had been hunting down gunmen who had demanded a \$500,000 ransom after kidnapping the American, Kim Endicott, and her Ugandan guide in a national park popular with tourists.

They were ambushed on April 2 in Queen Elizabeth National Park, a protected area near the porous border with Congo, according to Ugandan authorities.

President Donald Trump tweeted that the pair had been released and added, "God bless them and their families!"

It remains unclear if a ransom was paid in the case of Endicott, who is from Costa Mesa, Calif., where she has a small skin care shop.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had said at an April 2 event for families of U.S. citizens held captive overseas that he understands some people want to do anything to get their loved ones back but paying ransom would just lead to more kidnappings.

In a Friday statement, the State Department said the safety and security of U.S. citizens abroad is its highest priority.

On Friday, an Arizona man who is related to Endicott said he wanted to see the U.S. send in Navy SEALs to locate and rescue her if that's what it took.

Phoenix resident Rich Endicott, 62, a banker, said he hasn't spoken with his cousin since a family reunion several years ago.

He said Kim Endicott is in her late 50s and has a daughter and granddaughter.

Suspected rhino poacher killed by elephant, eaten by lions

The Washington Post

Five suspected poachers entered Kruger National Park in South Africa last week to kill rhino living there, according to authorities.

Only four of the men left alive.

The fifth was killed by an elephant and later "devoured" by a pride of lions, park officials said in a statement.

"Entering Kruger National Park illegally and on foot is not wise. It holds many dangers and this incident is evidence of that," said Glenn Phillips, managing executive of Kruger National Park.

The four alleged poachers who survived were arrested and will appear in court "in due course," the statement said. They will remain in custody until Friday, pending bail, reported Times Live, a South African news site. Authorities have launched an investigation into the alleged poacher's death and his accomplices.

Park officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Washington Post.

Police Brig. Leonard Hlathi told Times Live that the ele-

phant attacked "suddenly," killing the man.

"His accomplices claimed to have carried his body to the road so that passersby could find it in the morning," Hlathi said. "They then vanished from the park."

The suspected poachers called the dead man's family, which then called Don English, regional ranger for Skukuzu — the most popular game reserve in the country. English assured the family that he would "do everything possible" to recover the body, according to the park statement.

A search party, including rangers on foot and a crew with the South African National Parks air wing, scoured the area Wednesday but did not find the man. They resumed their efforts Thursday and found the man's remains in the Crocodile Bridge area of the park, near the Crocodile River.

The area, according to the Kruger National Park website, is known for its high concentration of lion prides. It also houses a larger percentage of the park's rhino population.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Town for sale; asking price is \$3.8 million

IN STORY — A rustic southern Indiana town that was established in 1851 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places is up for sale, with an asking price of \$3.8 million.

The Brown County town of Story is 17.4 acres of property, including a historic general store, an old grain mill, numerous barns, rental cabins and outbuildings that include two 19th-century privies, The Herald-Times reported.

Rick Hofstetter bought the town at a sheriff's sale 20 years ago.

Ex-firefighter, woman charged in barn fires

PA NORTHAMPTON — A former volunteer firefighter is charged along with a woman in a series of barn fires in eastern Pennsylvania.

State police said Justin Emmons, 20, was arrested during a Friday evening traffic stop in Bucks County and returned to Northampton County to face charges including causing or risking a catastrophe, conspiracy and arson. Samantha Keeney, 24, was taken into custody earlier on similar charges.

The defendants are accused of setting fires that destroyed several barns, including two used by the firefighter's former employer.

Teen hurt when boulder hits car

MN RED WING — Authorities said a teenager was injured when a boulder tumbled off the side of a bluff in southeastern Minnesota and hit her car.

The Minnesota State Patrol

said Sydney Fleck, 17, of Red Wing, was taken to a hospital with injuries that weren't life-threatening after the incident, which happened Friday evening between Lake City and Wabasha. No one else was involved in the crash.

The Wabasha County Sheriff's Office said there had been other reports of falling rocks in recent days.

Goosewatcher record may have been broken

AK FAIRBANKS — The official arrival of the first Canada goose this year in Fairbanks was at 3:51 p.m. on March 30.

That is the earliest date for the arrival of the first goose, breaking the previous record of April 2 set in 2010, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported on Friday.

But the record comes with an asterisk: There is only circumstantial evidence the bird was a wild migrating goose and not a domesticated goose.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist Mark Ross has kept records of the arrival of the first goose since he started at the department in 1996.

Ross' observation is used to determine the winner of a local Goosewatcher contest organized by a group of local radio stations.

Granite sculptures in place at World Trade

NY NEW YORK — A 600-ton crane has delivered six granite monoliths to the World Trade Center — stone sculptures honoring those who were sickened or died from toxins while cleaning up the site of the terrorist attack.

On Saturday, the chiseled granite pieces were in place, pointing skyward to also

honor rescue, recovery and relief workers facing the 9/11 aftermath.

The monoliths were chiseled from the Rock of Ages granite manufacturing company in Barre, Vt., using Canadian granite.

Steel salvaged from the original World Trade Center was incorporated into the stone structures outside the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

Judge angered by defendant's clothing

IN CROWN POINT — A northwestern Indiana judge was so miffed that a defendant dressed down for a court hearing she postponed it and told him to dress nicer next time.

Former Lake County Councilman Jamal Washington, 45, is seeking a special judge in a domestic battery case.

When he showed up Thursday before Judge Diane Boswell, she wasn't happy that he was wearing a white-knit velour sweater and jeans.

The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported that Boswell told Washington he should have known that he needed to wear a collared shirt to the hearing.

She moved the hearing to Tuesday.

Suspect may have lost eyesight during arrest

NM LAS CRUCES — Las Cruces police said a knife-wielding shoplifting suspect accused of trying to steal a vehicle after stabbing mall employees may have lost his eyesight due to injuries suffered when police fired beanbag rounds 15 times and stun guns 23 times to subdue him.

The Las Cruces Sun-News

reported that police Chief Patrick Gallagher said during a Friday news conference that a multi-agency task force will investigate the March 23 incident involving Joshua James LeNoir, 31.

Police released a 17-second police video clip showing projectiles being fired at a man who stood up, turned away from officers and walked away.

Bare-knuckle fight CEO accused of fraud

WY CASPER — The CEO of the World Bare Knuckle Fighting Federation is accused of defrauding fighters and businesses during an event in Casper.

The Casper Star-Tribune reported that Tomasz Stankiewicz, who organized the "Rise of the Titans" event held Nov. 9, was charged last month with five felonies.

Three fighters say he passed them bad checks totaling \$60,000. Stankiewicz also is accused of failing to pay more than \$3,700 for hotel rooms rented during the fights and \$2,250 for transportation.

Researchers seeking horseshoe crabs input

SC CHARLESTON — Wildlife researchers in South Carolina want to know where horseshoe crabs go when the mood strikes them.

At a link on the agency's Facebook page, the Department of Natural Resources is asking anyone who sees mating horseshoe crabs to let them know where they end up together.

Researchers told The Post and Courier, of Charleston, they are trying to determine if horseshoe crabs prefer the beach or marshes or creeks.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Baylor edges Notre Dame for women's title

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Baylor recovered after blowing a 17-point lead and losing a star player, beating Notre Dame 82-81 for the NCAA women's basketball championship on Sunday when 2018 tournament hero Arike Ogunbowale missed a foul shot in the final seconds.

Chloe Jackson made a layup to put Baylor ahead with 3.9 seconds left. Notre Dame called timeout and inbounded to Ogunbowale, whose buzzer-beating jumper in the championship game lifted Notre Dame to last year's title.

Ogunbowale was fouled trying for a layup, then missed the first of two free throws with 1.9 seconds remaining.

She made the second, but the Irish never got the ball back.

The Lady Bears (37-1) won their first championship in seven years. Coach Kim Mulkey and Baylor have won titles in 2005, 2012 and 2019. The 2012 championship game also pitted the Lady Bears against

Muffet McGraw's Irish in the last meeting of two female coaches for the title.

Baylor was able to pull off the win without star forward Lauren Cox, who injured her knee late in the third quarter. The Irish were able to rally from a 14-point deficit in the third quarter to tie it at 78 in the fourth. Jackson then scored a jumper from the foul line, and Jessica Shepard countered with two free throws to tie it, setting up the exciting finish.

The Lady Bears were primed to run away with the game as Notre Dame struggled to score. But the Irish have a knack for big comebacks, doing it against UConn in this year's semifinal and against Mississippi State in last year's title game, when they rallied from 15 down in the third quarter.

Ogunbowale led the charge again, scoring 17 of her 31 points in the second half. That included a buzzer-beating three at the end of the third quarter, sparking an 11-0 Notre Dame run.

It helped the Irish that the Lady Bears had to play the last 11 minutes without Cox.

She got tangled up with Kalani Brown on the defensive end and went down clutching her left knee with about a minute to go in the third quarter. The 6-foot-4 junior was crying in agony for a few minutes before they took her off the court in a wheelchair. Her mom was tearing up in the stands, and her dad had his hands over his face.

She came back to the bench in the fourth quarter on crutches, with a big brace on her left knee. She was the first one to hold the trophy after the game.

Mulkey was able to celebrate her third title with her family close by. Daughter Makenzie is on the coaching staff, and infant grandson Kannon Reid was sitting in the front row behind the bench. As the final second ticked off, she hugged her daughter and the rest of the staff at midcourt.

Jackson was named the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player. With the game tied at 80, she drove with her right hand and hit a layup that bounced off the rim before dropping in.

NBA roundup

Antetokoumpo leads Bucks over Hawks for 60th win

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokoumpo scored 30 points and Khris Middleton added 21 to send Milwaukee to a methodical 115-107 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Sunday night, giving the Bucks 60 wins in a season for the first time since 1981.

The Bucks, who have clinched the best record in the Eastern Conference, led from the outset as the Hawks rested leading scorers John Collins and Trae Young.

Alex Len had a career-high 33 points for Atlanta, including six three-pointers.

Warriors 131, Clippers 104: Soaking in the franchise's nostalgia of yesteryear, Stephen Curry scored 27 points and helped Golden State clinch the Western Conference's top playoff seed with a win in its final regular-season game at Oracle Arena, beating Los Angeles for a fifth straight victory.

Kevin Durant added 16 points and seven assists, making six of

seven field goals, as Warriors players opted to honor the past by sporting throwback white "We Believe" jerseys worn during the 2007 playoff run that snapped a 12-year postseason drought.

Trail Blazers 115, Nuggets 108: Damian Lillard scored 30 points to lead host Portland past a Denver team that rested its top three scorers after securing home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Al-Farouq Aminu added 23 points and 11 rebounds for Portland, which held onto fourth place in the Western Conference with two games remaining. The win snapped a six-game losing streak to the Nuggets.

Rockets 149, Suns 113: James Harden scored 30 points in just three quarters as Houston broke its NBA record by making 27 three-pointers in a win over visiting Phoenix.

Eric Gordon led the three-point brigade by tying a career high with eight, Harden added five, P.J. Tucker had four and Danuel House three.

Nets 108, Pacers 96: D'Angelo Russell scored 20 points and Joe Harris added 19, leading visiting Brooklyn back into the NBA playoffs for the first time in four years.

The Nets moved into position to clinch when Miami lost in overtime at Toronto earlier in the day. It's also the first time since 2014-15 the Nets have not posted a losing record.

Magic 116, Celtics 108: Terrence Ross had 26 points, Nikola Vucevic added 25 points and 12 rebounds and visiting Orlando clinched its first playoff berth in seven years.

Pelicans 133, Kings 129: Ian Clark scored 31 points with a career-best seven three-pointers as visiting New Orleans beat Sacramento.

Thunder 132, Timberwolves 126: At Minneapolis, Russell Westbrook had 27 points, 10 rebounds and 15 assists to help Oklahoma City remain a half-game ahead of San Antonio for seventh place in the West.

Spurs 112, Cavaliers 90: LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points

and 13 rebounds as San Antonio extended host Cleveland's losing streak to nine games.

Raptors 117, Heat 109 (OT): Pascal Siakam had 23 points and 10 rebounds and host Toronto further dented Miami's fading playoff hopes.

Hornets 104, Pistons 91: At Detroit, Kemba Walker scored 20 of his 31 points in the first half to help Charlotte cling to its chances of rallying for a playoff spot in the East.

Mavericks 129, Grizzlies 127 (OT): Salah Mejri scored a career-high 19 points, including the tying basket in regulation and the first seven points of overtime to lead visiting Dallas.

Knicks 113, Wizards 110: Mario Hezonja scored a career-high 30 points and made the go-ahead three-pointer with 44 seconds left, and New York beat Washington at home for the first time in six years.

Lakers 113, Jazz 109: Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 32 points and short-handed host Los Angeles snapped Utah's seven-game winning streak.

Puig among ejections in Pirates' win

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Yasiel Puig looked eager to take a big swing. And not with a bat, either.

An enraged Puig barreled into a bunch of Pirates during a bench-clearing fracas Sunday, and was among five ejections in Pittsburgh's 7-5 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

The trouble started in the fourth inning when Pirates starter Chris Archer threw his first pitch behind the waist of Derek Dietrich. His previous time up, Dietrich dropped the bat and stood to admire his 436-foot home run clear the fence atop the Clemente Wall and bounce into the Allegheny River.

Dietrich froze in the batter's box when Archer's 93 mph fastball whizzed by. Plate

umpire Jeff Kellogg warned both benches and new Reds manager David Bell jogged from the dugout to the infield, arguing Archer should have been ejected.

"I was trying to go in," Archer said. "I air-mailed a couple balls today, a couple that I was trying to elevate, a couple that I yanked when righties were up there. Another one that I just yanked."

"I missed — missed my spot," he said.

The Reds weren't buying it.

And when Archer was allowed to stay in the game, tempers quickly escalated.

The excitable Puig, in his first season with the Reds, grabbed Pirates bench coach Tom Prince and tried to put the 54-year-old former catcher in a headlock. Puig kept trying to plow ahead, and eventually was held back by teammate Joey Votto.

"When people watch the ball go far away

or do bat flips, like I do before, in the next [at-bat] try to strike out the guy," Puig said. "Don't try to hit the guy, because we can't defend you back because we can't hit you with a bat or nothing."

Puig, Bell and Reds pitcher Amir Garrett were ejected, as were Pirates pitchers Keone Kela and Felipe Vazquez.

Archer (1-0) went six innings, allowing three runs and five hits while striking out seven.

"It's just completely unacceptable for anyone to try to intentionally hurt one of our players," Bell said. "It's that simple. And it was obvious."

Vazquez said he was ejected for entering the field without his uniform top. The reliever, said Dietrich, who was designated for assignment this offseason, hasn't earned the right to do something like that.

MLB roundup

Trout hits home run in fourth straight game

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Texas Rangers relievers found themselves dealing with the wrong kind of buzz Sunday, first from bees in the bullpen and then from the crowd's reaction to another mammoth home run by Mike Trout.

The star slugger went deep for the fourth straight game and the Los Angeles Angels, after waiting out a five-minute delay caused by a swarm of bees, beat the Rangers 7-2.

Trout hit five home runs in the four-game series and became the fourth Angels player to connect five times in one set. The two-time AL MVP went 6-for-11 with nine RBIs in the series. He hit a two-run drive off Kyle Bird in the sixth inning Sunday for a 6-2 lead.

"I've got to keep that same approach and just keep doing my job," Trout said.

Play was stopped in the fifth when bees began flying around the bullpens in left-center field. Bird was warming up and kept throwing while swatting away the insects, but his teammates hopped the wall to get away. They ended up standing under what would be the trajectory

of Trout's 422-foot shot two innings later.

Rangers manager Chris Woodward didn't realize there was an issue until he looked out to make sure Bird was getting loose, "and there was nobody down there," he said.

Bird might have preferred staying in the bullpen with the bees after leaving a fastball over the middle of the plate to Trout, who became the first player in American League history with five homers in the first four home games of a season.

Red Sox 1, Diamondbacks 0: Mitch Moreland homered off Merrill Kelly on the first pitch of the seventh inning, and World Series champion Boston ended an awful opening trip with a win over host Arizona.

Yankees 15, Orioles 3: Gary Sanchez hit three of the Yankees' seven home runs, their most on the road since 1961, and New York completed a three-game sweep to move back above .500 at 5-4.

Dodgers 12, Rockies 6: Cody Bellinger homered again, and Max Muncy also went deep for visiting Los Angeles.

Rays 3, Giants 0: Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash

moved left-handed reliever Adam Kolarek to first base in a piece of matchup strategy, and the visiting Rays opened with three straight series wins for the first time.

Brewers 4, Cubs 2: Christian Yelich hit his fifth homer this season and 100th of his career, a drive off Kyle Hendricks (0-2), Yelich had three RBIs, and Josh Hader struck out three over 2²/₃ perfect innings for his fifth save as Milwaukee won for the seventh time in eight games.

Phillies 2, Twins 1: Rhys Hoskins hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning off Jose Berrios (1-1), and host Philadelphia improved to 6-2.

Indians 3, Blue Jays 1: Mike Clevinger (1-0) struck out 10 and allowed one hit over five scoreless innings, then left with upper back tightness, as host Cleveland completed a four-game sweep.

Tigers 3, Royals 1: Tyson Ross (1-1) allowed one run and five hits over seven innings in his debut at Comerica Park, the last current ballpark he hadn't pitched in, and Detroit won its fifth straight.

Nationals 12, Mets 9: Max

Scherzer (1-2) allowed four runs and eight hits with seven strikeouts, no walks and two hit batters, and also singled in the game's first run at New York.

Braves 4, Marlins 3: Dansby Swanson hit a game-ending single off Adam Conley (0-2) against a five-man infield after Ronald Acuna Jr. reached on a catcher's interference call on Chad Wallach after his apparent double-play grounder at Atlanta.

Astros 9, Athletics 8: Jose Altuve drew a four-pitch walk from Blake Treinen (0-1) with the bases loaded and two outs in the ninth, giving host Houston a three-game sweep.

Mariners 12, White Sox 5: Daniel Vogelbach homered twice, hit a bases-clearing double and set a career high with six RBIs as visiting Seattle improved its best start to 9-2.

Cardinals 4, Padres 1: Adam Wainwright (1-0) gave up one run and five hits in six innings, struck out nine and didn't issue a walk while throwing 100 pitches for host St. Louis.

Briefly

Victorious Conners will play Masters

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — His first PGA Tour victory in the bag and his ticket punched for next week's Masters, Corey Conners' primary concern was a big change to his work weeks going forward.

"No more Monday qualifying," Conners said. "That's the best deal from this. Amazing. It's a dream come true."

Conners won the Valero Texas Open on Sunday less than a week after qualifying, earning him the final available slot in the Masters. Conners only entered the tournament field Monday, and he's the first golfer to win on the PGA Tour after qualifying on a Monday in nine years.

He made three birdies in the final five holes, shooting a 6-under 66. He was 20-under for the tournament, winning by two shots over Charley Hoffman.

Panthers hire Quenneville

SUNRISE, Fla. — Dale Tallon and Joel Quenneville are together again, and the Florida Panthers are ready for them to recreate their magic.

Quenneville — who is second on the NHL's all-time victory list — was hired Monday to coach the Panthers, who started their offseason with a splash. It's also a reunion, after Tallon hired Quenneville to coach Chicago in 2008 and wound up watching him win three Stanley Cups there in a six-year span.

It's a bold move for the Panthers, who went deep into the checkbook to get Quenneville — he was owed \$6 million for the 2019-20 season by the Blackhawks and it's believed this deal keeps him in that range.

Edwards to enter NBA Draft

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Carsen Edwards heard the comparisons to Steph Curry throughout the NCAA Tournament.

Now he faces the real test — the NBA.

The 6-foot-1 shooting guard will enter the draft and will hire an agent.

In three seasons, Edwards played on two Big Ten regular-season championship teams and was a two-time All-American.

He finishes with 1,920 career points — seventh on the school list — 79 points behind Terry Dischinger, who was named to this year's National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame class last week.

Kyle Busch tops brother for third win of season

Associated Press

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Kyle Busch was in the race Sunday at Bristol Motor Speedway, so of course, he won.

Busch grabbed his third Cup win of the season, eighth overall at Bristol, and 10th this year spanning all three of NASCAR's national series. He beat his older brother, who said if given the chance in Sunday's race, he'd have wrecked him so that Kurt Busch was the one celebrating in victory lane.

"He told me in Victory Lane and I told him 'You can't tell people you're going to wreck them before you do it because when roles are reversed that person is going to wreck you because you already told them you were going to wreck them,'" Kyle Busch said. "So I guess if I'm ever running second to Kurt, I'm going to wreck him. I'm glad it didn't turn out that way."

The Busch brothers lined up side-by-side on the final restart, but Kurt Busch had nothing to slow Kyle Busch's steamrolling of the competition this year. They'd inherited the lead as the first in line not to pit for tires during the 11th caution, and it set up a final shootout between Bristol's two winningest active drivers.

"He gave it one hell of a fight," Kyle Busch said. "Busch and Bristol, sounds familiar."

Kurt Busch is a six-time winner at the .533-mile high-banked oval and lamented the loss over the P.A. system. When he said he would have wrecked Kyle Busch, the crowd roared and affirmed Kurt Busch's

frustration with the final results. He's emerged as the top driver in the winless Chevrolet camp with seven finishes of 12th or higher in his debut with Chip Ganassi Racing.

"That one is tough. I really wanted to beat him. I was going to wreck him," Kurt Busch said. "Figure he could give a little love to his brother. I wanted that one bad. Feel like him right now — I'm all mad because I didn't win."

The wins go to Kyle Busch, seemingly all the time this season, in anything he drives. Along with teammate Denny Hamlin, they've given Joe Gibbs Racing five wins through the first eight races. If a Gibbs car doesn't win, then a Ford from Team Penske has, and that organization has the other three Cup victories.

The win was probably going to go to either Penske driver Brad Keselowski or Joey Logano until a late caution forced teams to choose. They could go in for tires or stay on track and try to maintain their position for the final 13 laps. The leaders — Logano and Keselowski — went to pit road, while Busch and his big brother moved to the front of the field.

"It was a no brainer for us," said crew chief Adam Stevens. "We were just going to take our chances. I didn't think we would inherit the lead. That made it a little bit easier on us."

Kyle Busch and his brother have combined to win the last four Cup races at Bristol, and Kyle Busch has 22 total wins at the track.

Sato dominates for fourth IndyCar win

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Takuma Sato had one "little moment" when his car went into the grass late in the race.

Other than that, the Japanese driver didn't have too many worrisome moments at Sunday's Indy Grand Prix of Alabama on his way to a fourth career IndyCar victory.

Sato, the 2017 Indianapolis 500 winner, became the fifth driver to win after starting on the pole at Barber Motorsports Park. He was in control most of the way, leading 74 of the 90 laps on the road course.

"Obviously, we come in here with the hopes, always," Sato said. "[But we] honestly physically never really, really expect-

ed to be this much of a domination"

Scott Dixon earned his sixth runner-up finish in the race's 10-year history.

Sato had a late issue when he went into the grass and lost about a second off his lead. He quickly gained it back over the final laps to win by 2.4 seconds and called it "probably the cleanest race I ever won."

He said he "had a little moment into the Turn 8" after going sideways there Friday.

"I decided nope, this time I'll go straight because I knew I had to come back," Sato said. He added, "Anyway, it was not necessary to give the little bit sort of heart attack to the body."

Dixon held off Sebastien Bourdais for second.