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Kim, Trump say door to diplomacy open

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's leader and President Donald Trump said during the weekend that the door remains open for diplomacy but gave no hints about how the impasse over nuclear weapons could be resolved.

Kim Jong Un, newly christened at home as the supreme representative of all the Korean people, said Friday that he is open to a third summit with Trump despite the abrupt breakdown of their previous meeting in Vietnam.

He warned continued deadlock risked reviving tensions and set an end-of-year deadline for the U.S. to offer a mutually acceptable approach to negotiations.

The Trump administration has said the Feb. 27-28 Hanoi summit ended without agreement because the North made excessive demands for relief from economic sanctions in exchange for limited disarmament measures.

"As wind is bound to bring waves, the U.S. open hostile policy toward (North Korea)

will naturally bring our corresponding acts," Kim said, according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

Kim stressed that his personal relationship with Trump remains good enough "to be able to exchange letters asking about health anytime if we want."

His remarks were made in a policy speech to the North's parliamentary body a day after Trump met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Washington.

Trump said Thursday that he may be open to discussing smaller steps such as humanitarian relief, but he insisted that punishing economic sanctions would remain in place.

"There are various smaller deals that maybe could happen," Trump told reporters. "You could work out step-by-step pieces, but at this moment, we're talking about the big deal. The big deal is we have to get rid of the nuclear weapons."

Analysts said that Kim seemed to be officially rejecting the "big deal" approach while leaving room for more negotiations.

"It's clear he's interested in

continuing with diplomacy, but he's also throwing the ball back into Washington's court and trying to press it to be more flexible," said Duyeon Kim, a Seoul-based expert on Korean affairs with the Center for a New American Security.

"For the North, it appears that they just want to continue with their usual tactic of piecemeal deals and a protracted negotiating process to run out the clock," she said. "He may still be open to a comprehensive deal as long as the configuration of trade-offs is calculated based on Pyongyang's metrics and terms."

She is advocating for the two sides to develop a comprehensive road map that would lay out pathways to achieve denuclearization, a peace treaty and a normalization of relations.

The developments suggest neither side is eager to return to the escalating military threats that raised fears of a new war as the North conducted a series of nuclear and missile tests in 2016-17. But Kim signaled his patience was growing thin.

"Of course, we also attach importance to the settlement of the issue through dialogue and

negotiations," he said, according to KCNA's English translation of his remarks.

But he criticized the Americans for "coming forward with unilateral, gangsterlike demands" and said the North would hold more talks only "if the U.S. adopts a correct posture."

"We will wait for a bold decision from the U.S., with patience till the end of the year, but I think it will definitely be difficult to get such a good opportunity as the previous summit," he added.

Trump responded to Kim's speech with a tweet agreeing that the two leaders maintain a very good relationship and that "a third Summit would be good in that we fully understand where we each stand."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the two countries "have continued to have conversations" and that Kim had personally committed to denuclearization.

"We have work to do, but I am confident we'll continue to make progress," he said during a press conference Saturday in Paraguay.

Police: US sailor killed woman, self on Okinawa

BY AYA ICHIHASHI

Stars and Stripes

CHATAN, Okinawa — A U.S. sailor fatally stabbed a Japanese woman and then killed himself on Okinawa, Japanese officials said.

The two were found dead Saturday morning inside a six-story apartment building in the Kuwae district of Chatan, according to an Okinawa prefectural police spokesman.

The woman's child was present when the incident occurred and called a relative, who then called police at 7:26 a.m., the spokesman said.

The sailor, 31, whose identity has not been released, was attached to the III Marine Division, according to the III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The sailor and the woman, who was in her 40s, were apparently in a relationship, the

Okinawa police spokesman said.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is supporting the Okinawa police investigation, said III MEF spokesman 1st Lt. David Mancilla. "We are aware of an incident resulting in the death of an apparent U.S. Navy Sailor with III Marine Division and a resident of Okinawa," he said in an email. "This is an absolute tragedy, and we are fully

committed to supporting the investigation into the incident."

Japanese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Takeo Akiba telephoned U.S. Ambassador to Japan William Hagerty, asking for cooperation with the investigation and efforts to prevent a recurrence. He expressed "extreme regrets," the Foreign Ministry said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Matthew M. Burke and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

USS Tampa crew to be honored

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Anna Bonaparte was 4 years old when her father James Wilkie died on board the USS Tampa on Sept. 26, 1918. Though she didn't have many memories of her father, she constantly spoke about him and his service in the Coast Guard, said her son, Wallace Bonaparte.

Next month, Bonaparte, a former Army captain, will travel from his home in Charleston, S.C., to Washington, D.C., to receive a Purple Heart in honor of his grandfather as part of an initiative to recognize the 115 U.S. servicemembers who died more than 100 years ago on board the ship.

Wilkie was a 29-year-old cook on the Tampa, a Coast Guard cutter, when a German submarine sank it off the coast of England during the final months of World War I. All 131 men on board died. The event was the single largest loss of

life for the service branch during World War I, and accounted for more than half of all Coast Guard deaths during the war.

The Purple Heart was extended to the Coast Guard in 1942, and 10 years later, it became possible for the medal to be awarded retroactively for actions after April 5, 1917.

However, it wasn't until 1999 that efforts began to have the medal awarded to the 111 Coast Guard members and four Navy sailors on board the Tampa, said Nora Chidlow, an archivist with the Coast Guard. Other people on the Tampa included British sailors and civilians.

James C. Bunch, a retired Coast Guard master chief petty officer, made the recommendation and then-commandant Adm. James M. Loy approved it.

Medals were presented to the families of three crewmembers during a ceremony held in 1999 on Veterans Day at the Coast Guard's World War I memorial

in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

"The internet was still in its infancy," she said of the difficulty in finding families 20 years ago. "It is now so much easier to locate descendants with a few clicks."

Since that time, some ceremonies have taken place to present medals as descendants have been identified, but there are 84 remaining medals to distribute. The Coast Guard hopes to present as many as possible during a ceremony May 24.

Technology advances coupled with the 100th anniversary of the Tampa's sinking helped her get support from the Coast Guard for a big push to find more family members of the ship's crew, Chidlow said.

During the upcoming May 24 ceremony, the commandant of the Coast Guard is expected to present the Purple Hearts to family members at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, Chidlow said.

Fort Bliss GI arrested in death of soldier wife

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — A Fort Bliss soldier died April 6 and her husband, also a soldier, is in custody as a suspect in her death, base officials confirmed Friday.

Sgt. Amy Colbert, 28, died in an on-post incident on April 6, said Maj. Allie Payne, a spokeswoman for the 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas. Colbert's husband, Sgt. Lance Colbert, 29, is the subject of an ongoing criminal investigation into her death and is in military custody.

Special agents from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command are investigating the death and all circumstances surrounding the incident.

Amy Colbert, who was posthumously promoted to staff sergeant, served as a chemical equipment repairer with the 504th Quartermaster Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in the 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade.

She enlisted in February 2011 as a heavy vehicle driver and was previously deployed to Afghanistan.

"On behalf of the 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade Commander, our thoughts and prayers go out to both the family and the sustainment brigade at this difficult time," Payne said. "The brigade will continue to provide all necessary services to both the family and soldiers who knew the deceased."

Lance Colbert is a heavy vehicle driver assigned to 377th Transportation Company, also part of the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, according to his service record. He enlisted in August 2012 and has served one tour to Afghanistan.

3 vets in 5 days die by suicide at VA facilities

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Three suicides occurred during a five-day period on Department of Veterans Affairs properties, prompting reaction last week from Capitol Hill.

Two veterans died by suicide in Georgia, one on April 5 at a parking garage at the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center in Dublin and the other April 6 outside the main entrance to the Atlanta VA Medical Center in Decatur, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

On Tuesday, a veteran shot himself in the waiting room at a VA clinic in Austin, Texas, according to local media.

"Those deaths did not go by me without noticing them, nor has it gone by me that we have a job to do," Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., said Wednesday dur-

ing a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing.

Though the recent suicides weren't the intended subject of the hearing, multiple senators asked VA officials on Wednesday about them.

Richard Stone, executive in charge of the Veterans Health Administration, said there have been more than 260 suicide attempts on VA property, 240 of which were interrupted and prevented.

"Every one of these is a gut-wrenching experience for our 24,000 mental health providers and all of us that work for VA," Stone said.

In response to reports of the three suicides, Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said he would schedule a hearing on the issue later this month.

"Every new instance of veteran suicide showcases a barrier to access, but with three incidents on VA property in just five days, and six this year alone, it's critical we do more to stop this epidemic," Takano said in a statement.

According to the latest VA data, 20 veterans die by suicide every day. Of those deaths, 14 are not receiving VA health care.

Suicide among veterans continues to be higher than among the rest of the population, and younger veterans are particularly at risk. VA data released in September showed the rate of suicide among veterans ages 18 to 34 had significantly increased.

Stone told senators Wednesday that veteran suicide was a societal problem that needed a nationwide approach.

US-Russia chill stirs worry over conflict

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It has the makings of a new Cold War, or worse.

The deep chill in U.S.-Russia relations is stirring concern in some quarters that Washington and Moscow are in danger of stumbling into an armed confrontation that, by mistake or miscalculation, could lead to nuclear war.

American and European analysts and current and former U.S. military officers say the nuclear superpowers need to talk more. A foundational arms control agreement is being abandoned and the last major limitation on strategic nuclear weapons could go away in less than two years. Unlike during the Cold War, when generations lived under threat of a nuclear Armageddon, the two militaries are barely on speaking terms.

“During the Cold War, we understood each other’s signals. We talked,” said the top

NATO commander in Europe, U.S. Army Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, who is about to retire. “I’m concerned that we don’t know them as well today.”

Scaparrotti, in his role as supreme allied commander Europe, has met only twice with Gen. Valery Gerasimov, the chief of the Russian general staff, but has spoken to him by phone a number of other times.

“I personally think communication is a very important part of deterrence,” Scaparrotti said, referring to the idea that adversaries who know each other’s capabilities and intentions are less likely to fall into conflict. “So, I think we should have more communication with Russia. It would ensure that we understand each other and why we are doing what we’re doing.”

The United States and Russia, which together control more than 90 percent of the world’s nuclear weapons, said that in August they will leave the 1987 treaty that banned an

entire class of nuclear weapons. And there appears to be little prospect of extending the 2010 New START treaty that limits each side’s strategic nuclear weapons.

After a period of post-Cold War cooperation on nuclear security and other defense issues, the relationship between Washington and Moscow took a nosedive, particularly after Russian forces entered the former Soviet republic of Georgia in 2008.

The law prohibits “military-to-military cooperation” until the secretary of defense certifies that Russia “has ceased its occupation of Ukrainian territory” and “aggressive activities.” The law was amended last year to state that it does not limit military talks aimed at “reducing the risk of conflict.”

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in an interview Friday that Russian behavior is to blame for the strained relationship.

“It’s very difficult for us to have normal relationships with a country that has not behaved normally over the last few years,” Dunford said. “There are major issues that affect our bilateral relationship that have to be addressed, to include where Russia has violated international laws, norms and standards.”

Moscow says it is ready to talk.

“Russia remains open for interaction aimed at de-escalating tension, restoring mutual trust, preventing any misinterpretations of one another’s intentions and reducing the risk of dangerous incidents,” the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement last week in response to NATO’s 70th anniversary celebration.

Sam Nunn, who served in the Senate as a Democrat from Georgia from 1972 to 1997, argues that dialogue with Russia is too important to set aside, even if it carries domestic political risk.

3rd Air National Guard officer fired in whistleblower case

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — A third high-ranking officer in the California Air National Guard has been removed from his position because of complaints that he made whistleblowers feel threatened at the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno.

Col. Victor Sikora was relieved of command after engaging in “conduct unbecoming of an officer” by addressing a gathering of Guard members in a manner some found intimidating and humiliating, according to a report released Friday.

An internal inquiry also determined that Sikora improperly “excoriated” a retired pilot for speaking to the Los Angeles Times, the report said.

Earlier this month, Maj. Gen. Clay L. Garrison and Col. Dan Kelly were removed in the wake of a Times investigation that detailed the whistleblower complaints and allegations that

officers covered up an incident in which someone urinated in a female Guard member’s boots.

Friday’s report said that Sikora’s “conduct also had a chilling effect” on Guard members by discouraging them from exercising their rights to seek redress through the organization’s inspector general, their representatives in Congress or the news media. It said Sikora used insulting and defamatory language in remarks to subordinates.

The report was prepared by Brig. Gen. Tim Rieger, who was tasked by Maj. Gen. David Baldwin, head of the California Military Department, with investigating Sikora’s actions.

Sikora was suspended as the wing’s Operations Group leader in December. Three days later, the report said, he called a mandatory meeting of his subordinates to discuss his suspension.

At least one person recorded

the briefing, where Sikora said anyone filing complaints was causing problems for the wing, according to the report.

“The vast majority of you are good people who are killing it in a high ops tempo year. You’re very honorable, red-blooded Americans,” Sikora said at the meeting, according to the report.

“The vast majority means all of you, except for a couple of you, and they know who they are so we don’t need to call them out. But everybody else.”

Several Guard members took Sikora’s remarks as a criticism of people who had filed complaints with the inspector general.

Sikora’s briefing came after the Times began asking questions about alleged retaliation against whistleblowers and the incident in which Staff Sgt. Jennifer Pineda found that someone at the Fresno base had urinated in the boots she had

left in a bathroom overnight.

At least five Guard members from the 144th wing filed formal complaints. Two of those were related to the urine incident, including one filed by Pineda.

She said in her complaint she feared she’d be forced out of the military because some had speculated that she urinated in her own boots “for attention.”

A 144th pilot, Lt. Col. Rob Swertfager, also filed a complaint alleging that commanders punished him for speaking up for Pineda.

Both of them, along with others, felt targeted by Sikora’s remarks, the report said.

“This clearly means that anyone exercising their right to speak with the IG or the press is not honorable, not a good person, and implies they are not a red-blooded American,” the report quotes Swertfager as saying.

Powerful storms sweep across South

Associated Press

Powerful storms that killed at least three people swept across the South over the weekend after spawning suspected tornadoes that left more than 20 people injured and multiple homes and businesses damaged or without power.

One person was killed in northeastern Mississippi when a tree crashed onto his trailer, Monroe County Road Manager Sonny Clay said at a news conference, adding that a tornado had struck. Another 19 were taken to hospitals, including two who were in critical condition.

A tornado was reported in the area 140 miles southwest of Memphis, Tenn., at the time.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Moore

said a possible twister touched down Saturday in the Vicksburg, Miss., area. No injuries were reported there, but officials said several businesses and vehicles were damaged. Trees were down throughout the hilly city on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River.

The roof of a hotel in New Albany, Miss., was damaged, although the cause was unclear.

Mississippi State University's 21,000 students huddled in basements and hallways as a tornado came near the school's campus in Starkville.

University spokesman Sid Salter said some debris, possibly carried by the tornado, was found on campus, but no injuries were reported and no buildings were damaged.

Trees were down and at least

some minor damage was reported in residential areas east of the campus.

Heavy rains and storms raked the Magnolia State into the night, then moved into Alabama. A possible tornado knocked out power and left damage in Troy, about 50 miles south of Montgomery. A mobile-home community was damaged, but no injuries were reported.

In East Texas, two children were killed when a pine tree fell onto the back of the car in which they were riding in a severe thunderstorm Saturday. The car was on a back country road in Pollok, about 150 miles southeast of Dallas.

The tree "flattened the car like a pancake," said Capt. Alton Lenderman, of the An-

gelina County Sheriff's Office. The children, ages 8 and 3, were dead at the scene, although both parents, who were in the front seat, escaped injury, he said.

The large storm system also knocked out power to thousands and caused flash floods. More than 140,000 customers had lost power in Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas as of late Saturday.

A tornado hit the small Central Texas city of Franklin, overturning mobile homes and damaging other residences, said Robertson County Sheriff Gerald Yezak. Franklin is about 125 miles south of Dallas.

The weather service said preliminary information showed an EF-3 tornado touched down, with winds of 140 mph.

Trump sanctuary city idea may help migrants settle in

Associated Press

PHOENIX — An idea floated by President Donald Trump to send immigrants from the border to "sanctuary cities" to exact revenge on Democratic foes could end up doing the migrants a favor by placing them in locations that make it easier to put down roots and stay in the country.

The plan would put thousands of immigrants in cities that are not only welcoming to them but also more likely to rebuff federal officials carrying out deportation orders. Many of those locations have more resources than smaller cities to help immigrants make their legal cases to stay in the United States, with some of the nation's

biggest immigration advocacy groups based in places like San Francisco, New York City and Chicago.

The downside for the immigrants would be a high cost of living in the cities.

The Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University announced last week that an analysis found immigrants in sanctuary cities such as New York and Los Angeles are 20% less likely to be arrested out in the community than in cities without such policies.

Trump has grown increasingly frustrated over the situation at the border, where tens of thousands of immigrant families are crossing each month, many to claim asylum.

The idea to ship immigrants to Democratic strongholds was considered twice in recent months, but the White House and Department of Homeland Security said the plan had been rejected. Trump said Friday he was still considering the idea. The plan discussed by Trump would also have financial, logistical and legal issues.

The transportation of immigrants who are arrested at the border to large and faraway cities would be burdensome and costly at a time when Immigration and Customs Enforcement is already stretched thin, having released more than 125,000 immigrants into the country pending their immigration court since Dec. 21.

Migrants dropped off in New Mexico; city asks for donations

Associated Press

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — Border Patrol agents dropped off asylum-seeking migrants in New Mexico's second-most populous city for the second day in a row Saturday, prompting Las Cruces city officials to appeal for donations of food and personal hygiene items and a state medical program to seek volunteers to provide health assessments of migrants.

The migrants were being temporarily

housed at a homeless shelter in Las Cruces, a city recreation center and a campus of social service agencies, city officials said in a statement.

The statement said 83 migrants arrived Saturday, following about 95 who were dropped off by the Border Patrol on Friday at the Gospel Rescue Mission homeless shelter and the Community of Hope campus.

The Las Cruces Sun-News reported Las Cruces churches for months have been

providing temporary shelter to migrants released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention but that Friday was the first time that the Border Patrol vans dropped off migrants at the homeless shelter.

City spokesman Udell Vigil said Saturday that migrants could be arriving "for the next several days."

Las Cruces is not a sanctuary city that rebuffs federal officials carrying out deportation orders.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man sentenced for taking mammoth tusk

AK ANCHORAGE — An Alaska man will serve nearly three years in federal prison for stealing a fossilized woolly mammoth tusk and cutting it up to sell for profit.

U.S. District Judge Sharon Gleason on Thursday sentenced Martin Elze, 52, to 33 months for the theft of the 5.5-foot tusk from a Bureau of Land Management museum in Anchorage.

Elze in December pleaded guilty to one count of removal of a paleontological resource. An accomplice, Gary Lynn Boyd, pleaded guilty in January and will be sentenced May 15.

The museum's video surveillance system recorded the theft in March 2018.

High school athlete injured by javelin

MT KALISPELL — A high school student was injured after being struck in the chest by a javelin thrown by another student-athlete during track and field practice.

The Flathead (Kalispell) Beacon reported Bigfork High School senior Anders Epperly was airlifted to a hospital Thursday with a partially collapsed lung.

Epperly's father, Jim, said his son is recovering.

Stolen beer truck found; cargo intact

IL CALUMET CITY — In what police called a "crime of opportunity," a truck loaded with beer was stolen from a Chicago grocery store parking lot and later found abandoned with its cargo "intact."

Chicago police said the truck

carrying Modelo beer was stolen Thursday morning after the driver parked it outside a South Side grocery and left the keys in the ignition.

Police spokesman Tom Ahern said police issued an alert to nearby suburbs shortly after being notified of the theft. Ahern said police found the tractor-trailer shortly after noon, abandoned in Calumet City.

Woman with knife wound names suspect

WV WESTOVER — A West Virginia woman had a knife sticking out of the back her head when she told authorities that she was stabbed by her daughter's boyfriend.

The woman's daughter, Kizzie Hardy, told The (Morgantown, W.Va.) Dominion Post that her mother wasn't stabbed, but that her boyfriend, Zachary Nipper, threw a rack of drying dishes and the knife got stuck.

The victim told police she was attacked while trying to stop Nipper from choking someone Tuesday.

Westover Police Chief Rick Panico said Nipper is charged with malicious wounding and is wanted in Maryland for felonious assault.

Officials free owl trapped in fishing line

MO SPRINGFIELD — A snorkeler joined wildlife officials to rescue a barred owl from a fishing line tangled in trees above the James River.

Bill Hulsebus was visiting the Springfield Conservation Nature Center earlier this month when he came across the injured owl. Hulsebus told the Springfield (Mo.) News-Leader that firefighters attempted to release the owl's wing from

the line but their equipment couldn't reach.

He said conservation officials had fastened a tree trimmer to a long pole. A snorkeler nearby waded into the cold river and used the pole to cut the line, freeing the owl.

Volunteers took the owl to a rehabilitation center, where it was given a feather transplant.

Groom faces trial in assault on waitress

PA DOYLESTOWN — A judge ruled that a groom can go to trial on charges he forced himself on a teenage waitress at his wedding reception.

Matthew Aimers, of Willingboro, N.J., arrived at court Thursday in Bucks County, Pa., with his new wife at his side.

The judge upheld all charges, including indecent assault, indecent exposure, imprisonment of a minor and related offenses in the November incident at the Northampton Valley Country Club in Richboro, Pa.

Aimers' attorney, Louis Busico, said his client "denies and rejects" the accusations by the waitress, who is now 18.

An affidavit said the waitress had spurned Aimers' advances during the reception. Police alleged he sexually assaulted her in a bathroom.

Students protest locked bathrooms

MN STILLWATER — A group of high school students is protesting administrators' decision to lock some of the school bathrooms during class.

The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune reported that the Let Us Pee Instagram page was originally launched as a tongue-in-cheek response to a new policy at Stillwater High School aimed

at cutting down on vaping and vandalism. The page and corresponding website have since become a rallying cry for students.

Principal Rob Rach said he didn't anticipate a strong reaction to locking six of the 14 bathrooms, which are reopened briefly between classes.

Students upset by gun raffle to fund party

MD BRUNSWICK — Students at a Maryland high school are upset that a raffle for guns was used to support a party for the graduating seniors.

The Frederick News-Post reported the Safe and Sane program at Brunswick High School raffled off guns in February. Tickets were \$20 each for prizes that included hunting rifles and shotguns.

Safe and Sane sponsors an alcohol-free party after graduation for high school seniors. Students said the decision to hold the raffle while promoting safety was counterintuitive.

Event canceled over swine fever concerns

IA DES MOINES — Concerns about the spread of Africa swine fever to the U.S. have led organizers to cancel the World Pork Expo scheduled for June at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines.

The National Pork Producers Council's board of directors announced its decision Wednesday.

The annual June event brings about 20,000 visitors to Des Moines, including people and exhibitors from regions of the world where the disease has been diagnosed and is spreading.

From wire reports

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Tiger Masters the comeback

Woods garners his 15th major win, but first in 11 years

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The comeback is complete. Tiger Woods has his fifth Masters title.

The 43-year-old Woods shot a 2-under 70 for one-stroke victory Sunday and his 15th major championship.

But it was his first since the 2008 U.S. Open, capping a remarkable recovery from debilitating injuries and embarrassing personal problems.

Woods showed he still had the game to compete with the world's best when he triumphed in last year's Tour Championship, his first victory of any kind since 2013.

Now, he's back on top with his first green jacket at Augusta National since 2005.

In a final round that was

played in threesomes off both tees to stay ahead of approaching thunderstorms, Woods grabbed the outright lead for the first time with a two-putt birdie at No. 15.

Then, with Olympic champion Michael Phelps standing behind him on the tee at the par-3 16th, Woods wrapped things up by sticking an 8-iron within 2 feet of the cup for another birdie and a two-stroke lead.

Francesco Molinari began the day with a two-shot advantage over Woods and Tony Finau.

But the Italian self-destructed on the back side, dunking two balls in the water on the way to double-bogeys at the 12th and 15th holes.

This is the first time Woods has ever come from behind on

the final day to win a major championship, leaving him three behind Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 major titles.

Woods made back-to-back birdies on 15 and 16 to take the two-shot advantage over Dustin Johnson, Xander Schauffele and Brooks Koepka.

Woods waking up early Sunday morning to play the final round of the Masters ordinarily would mean he is at the bottom of the leaderboard.

That wasn't the case this year.

Woods and Finau combined with Molinari for a first-ever Sunday morning start — threesomes off the first and 10th tees — with hopes of finishing the Masters ahead of severe storms in the forecast.

Floodlights cast shadows on

the practice range as players warmed up in darkness.

Woods, trying to end 14 years without a green jacket, had said he would be up by 4 a.m. to start stretching a body that has been slowed by four back surgeries.

Woods, Brooks Koepka and Dustin Johnson were among 10 players within five of the lead to start the day.

The leaderboard changed so fast on the back nine of the Masters that it was hard to keep track of the leaders.

At one point, there was a five-way tie for the lead in the final round with Dustin Johnson, Xander Schauffele, Brooks Koepka, Francesco Molinari and Tiger Woods all at 12-under.

Poirier, Adesanya dominate to win titles at UFC 236

BY CHARLES ODUM

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Dustin Poirier bloodied Max Holloway and won a unanimous decision for the UFC interim lightweight title on Saturday night, denying Holloway his chance to become only the fourth fighter to hold two belts at the same time.

Holloway, the UFC featherweight champion, moved up to the 155-pound class for the first time, attempting to gain the second belt. He also was trying to avenge his loss to Poirier in his first UFC fight in 2012.

Holloway had Poirier in trouble in the third round but couldn't overcome Poirier's relentless barrage of punches.

Holloway was bleeding heavily by the fourth round. There was so much blood on his face in the fifth and final round that it appeared he had difficulty seeing at times as he wiped his eyes.

Each judge scored the fight 49-46 for Poirier (17-4).

"This feels great," Poirier said. "I feel like I'm in a dream right now."

Holloway (20-4) had his streak of 17 consecutive wins end. He hasn't ruled out a return to the featherweight class.

"I'm not going to take nothing from Dustin," Holloway said in the octagon, looking at Poirier. "You beat a world champ and you're a world champ."

In the other headline fight of UFC 236, Israel Adesanya earned the interim middleweight title with his domination of Kelvin Gastelum in the fifth round.

Adesanya (17-0) wore the gold championship belt immediately after the unanimous decision was announced.

Gastelum (15-4) appeared to have Adesanya in trouble at times. Adesanya's corner treated a cut under his right eye after the fourth round, but the rising star from New Zealand had a decisive finish in the fifth, when Gastelum was bloodied for the first time and knocked down three times.

Gastelum was obviously groggy after being floored for the second time, and he quickly went down again. Just when it appeared the fight might be stopped, Gastelum was saved by the final bell.

Adesanya landed 135 strikes, almost twice Gastelum's total of 68.

Poirier's possible reward for his win is a chance to face undefeated Russian Khabib Nurmagomedov.

The retirement of Conor McGregor, who was the sport's most popular fighter, leaves a void in UFC. McGregor held featherweight and lightweight titles but hasn't won a fight since November 2016.

Nurmagomedov said this month he would like to fight again in September, two months after the end of his Nevada State Athletic Commission ban for his team's brawl with McGregor's team following their fight in October.

"Right now I'm the champ," Poirier said, adding he hoped Nurmagomedov could return for a unifying fight that would remove the interim tag on his title.

"We've got a belt to fight for," Poirier said.

Poirier's hope was shared by UFC President Dana White. When asked about a possible unification bout following Poirier's win, White said "Yes, that's the fight."

For now, the interim title is worth celebrating for Poirier. Fans chanted for Holloway at times, but Poirier also had his share of fans.

"It's cool to prove it in front of all these people, but I had to prove it to myself," Poirier said. "This means everything to me."

MLB roundup

Davis ends slump, leads O's past Red Sox

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Chris Davis ended his record slump at 0-for-54 and drew applause from rival fans at Fenway Park, getting three hits and driving in four runs as the Baltimore Orioles beat the Boston Red Sox 9-5 on Saturday to end a four-game losing streak.

Davis walked to the plate in the first inning to what mostly appeared to be mock cheers when he was announced. But many of those quickly changed when he lined a bases-loaded, two-run single over the head of second baseman Dustin Pedroia, ending the longest hitless streak ever by a position player. Once he safely reached first, Davis tipped his cap to the Orioles dugout and many of his teammates raised their arms and hollered in support. He smiled and made a motion that he wanted the ball, which he got.

Davis, a former two-time major league home run champion, later hit two doubles. He had been 0-for-33 this season. The all-time record for a hitless streak by any player is an 0-for-85 drought by pitcher Bob Buhl in 1962-63.

Astros 3, Mariners 1: Jose Altuve homered for the fifth straight game, Justin Verlander (2-0) struck out eight of the first 10 batters he faced and finished with a season-high 11, and the Houston Astros won their eighth straight.

Altuve homered for the sixth time in the past five games with a solo shot off Seattle starter Felix Hernandez (1-1) in the fifth inning. Altuve is the first Astros hitter to homer in five straight games since Morgan Ensberg set a franchise record with six straight in 2006. Robinson Chirinos also homered as Houston handed Seattle consecutive losses for the first time this season.

Mitch Haniger hit a solo home run with one out in the fourth inning, extending Seattle's MLB-record streak of 17

games with a home run to begin a season. Seattle has 38 homers in 17 games, but was held to a season low in runs. It was just the third time Seattle was held to less than six runs.

Yankees 4, White Sox 0: CC Sabathia began his 19th and final big league season with five stellar innings, pinch-hitter Luke Voit came through with a broken-bat RBI single in the seventh and host New York ended a four-game slide.

Sabathia allowed one hit and no other baserunners in his return from the injured list, and Domingo German (3-0) followed by striking out four in two overpowering innings.

Angels 6, Cubs 5: Zack Cozart broke out of a slump with three hits and Cody Allen wiggled out of a jam in the ninth inning, helping Los Angeles win at Chicago for the Angels' seventh victory in their last eight games.

Ty Buttrey (1-0) earned his first major league win in his 23rd appearance, and Tommy La Stella reached four times against his former team. Allen struck out Daniel Descalso with two runners on in the eighth, and then closed it out for his fourth save.

Twins 4, Tigers 3: Michael Pineda labored through six innings, Eddie Rosario drove in two runs and host Minnesota edged Detroit. Byron Buxton and Jorge Polanco added RBI singles for the Twins.

Christin Stewart homered for the Tigers, who have lost three of four.

In his third start, and longest outing of the season, Pineda (2-0) allowed three earned runs and eight hits, striking out five on a 37-degree day. The righty, who had Tommy John surgery in July 2017 and did not play in 2018, has 15 strikeouts in 15 innings this season. Trevor Hildenberger and Taylor Rogers each pitched a scoreless inning, and Blake Parker got the last three outs for his third save. Detroit starter Tyson Ross (1-2) allowed four earned runs and

five hits in six innings.

Giants 5, Rockies: Madison Bumgarner pitched into the eighth inning to give a weary bullpen much needed rest and host San Francisco beat Colorado to hand the Rockies their eighth straight loss.

After outlasting Colorado 3-2 in an 18-inning game that took over 5½ hours and ended shortly before 1 a.m., the Giants came back about 12 hours later and wrapped up this win in 2 hours, 48 minutes.

Bumgarner (1-2) allowed two runs on six hits. The big lefty struck out seven, walked one and didn't allow a runner past first base until the sixth when Garrett Hampson doubled in Charlie Blackmon. Sam Dyson pitched the ninth for his first save.

Blue Jays 3, Rays 1: Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a two-run double in the seventh inning to help host Toronto overcome reigning AL Cy Young winner Blake Snell's no-hit bid in a win over Tampa Bay, snapping the Rays' five-game winning streak.

Snell didn't allow a hit until Luke Maile singled with one out in the sixth.

Nationals 3, Pirates 2: Adam Eaton and Howie Kendrick homered on consecutive pitches in the eighth inning and host Washington rallied past Pittsburgh.

After Richard Rodriguez (0-1) retired the first two batters in the eighth, Eaton tied it with his first home run of the season. Kendrick then connected for his second.

Marlins 10, Phillies 3: Newcomer Austin Dean had four hits and five RBIs, both career highs, to help host Miami break a five-game losing streak.

Dean hit his first major league homer and also drove in two runs with his first career triple to complete a 4-for-4 night. The performance came in the outfielder's second game since being recalled from Triple-A to make his season debut with the Marlins.

Reds 5, Cardinals 2: Derek

Dietrich hit a tiebreaking homer off Adam Wainwright in the seventh inning and added a two-run triple as Cincinnati won its fourth straight game, beating St. Louis in the raucous Estadio de Beisbol de Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico.

Royals 3, Indians 0: Homer Bailey (1-1) pitched seven innings of two-hit ball and host Kansas City won its second straight after a 10-game skid.

Ian Kennedy pitched a perfect eighth and Willy Peralta followed in the ninth for his first save to complete the two-hitter.

Braves 11, Mets 7: Freddie Freeman hit a go-ahead RBI single in the second inning, Ronald Acuna Jr. had his fifth straight multihit game and host Atlanta snapped New York's three-game winning streak.

Dansby Swanson drove in three runs, while Acuna, Nick Markakis and Johan Camargo each added two RBIs. Josh Donaldson went 2-for-3 and hit his first homer with the Braves in the seventh.

Padres 5, Diamondbacks 4: Fernando Tatis Jr. hit a two-run homer and Franmil Reyes had a tiebreaking solo shot at Arizona to lift San Diego to its fourth straight win. Tatis' two-run homer, the rookie shortstop's fourth of the season, off Merrill Kelly gave the Padres a 4-0 lead in the third inning. Reyes' go-ahead shot in the seventh pushed the Padres to the win after Arizona tied it with four runs in the sixth.

Brewers 4, Dodgers 1: Mike Moustakas and Orlando Arcia homered, and Milwaukee sent host Los Angeles to its sixth straight loss.

The Dodgers didn't have a hit after Alex Verdugo's leadoff single in the fifth inning. Brewers pitchers retired the final 14 batters. Milwaukee turned three double plays behind Zach Davies (2-0), who allowed one run and eight hits in seven innings, struck out six and walked none. Junior Guerra earned his first save.

NBA playoffs roundup

Nets, Magic, Spurs win road playoff openers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — D'Angelo Russell rang up a scoring burst that helped Brooklyn dial up an upset and filled Philly's home court with a barrage of boos.

All-Star Ben Simmons wants to put the fans on mute — and the Sixers could stand to silence their cellphones.

"If you're going to boo, then stay on that side," Simmons said.

Russell flashed some post-season magic, playing like the All-Star leader Brooklyn needed with 26 points, and Caris LeVert scored 23 to lead the Nets to an impressive 111-102 win Saturday over the 76ers in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference first-round playoff

series.

"We've got the right pieces to keep it going," Russell said.

A Nets team that got hot late just to make the playoffs has the upper hand on the road over a 51-win team stocked with stars.

Russell, LeVert and Spencer Dinwiddie gave the Sixers fits off the dribble, buried open looks from three-point range (11-for-26) and smoked a Sixers team that resembled one straight out of the early Process era.

The 76ers might want to keep their phones on lock.

The Sixers' Amir Johnson was caught by TV cameras sitting on the bench and scrolling through his phone late in the fourth quarter and the Sixers down big. Johnson showed

All-Star Joel Embiid whatever message was on the phone and then slid it into his warmup pants pocket.

Embiid said Johnson received an update on a sick daughter. Sixers coach Brett Brown called Johnson's actions "completely unacceptable."

Magic 104, Raptors 101: D.J. Augustin scored 25 points, including the tiebreaking three-pointer with 3.5 seconds left, and Orlando beat host Toronto in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference series.

Kawhi Leonard got a final shot for Toronto, but missed the rim with his three-pointer from the top. The Raptors are 2-14 in playoff openers.

Spurs 101, Nuggets 96: DeMar DeRozan scored 18 points and Derrick White had a

key steal in the closing seconds in San Antonio's victory over host Denver in Game 1 of their playoff series.

White stole the ball at mid-court from Jamal Murray with 1.3 seconds left after LaMarcus Aldridge sank a pair of free throws following his key defensive rebound of Murray's errant shot that would have given the Nuggets a 98-97 lead with seven seconds left.

Warriors 121, Clippers 104: Stephen Curry scored 38 points and made eight three-pointers to give him the most in post-season history, and Golden State began its quest for a three-peat by running away from visiting Los Angeles.

NHL playoffs roundup

Caps rise to 2-0 with OT win over Hurricanes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A rat falling out of the arena hallway ceiling during the Carolina Hurricanes' warmup game of soccer was just a precursor to a wacky afternoon of playoff hockey.

Long after the dead rodent was removed, Game 2 between the Hurricanes and Washington Capitals included a questionable ejection for a check to the head, a shot off one goalie's mask and another that went in off the other goalie's backside. It fittingly ended with an overtime goal from an unlikely source that sent the defending Stanley Cup champions into a wild celebration around the team's most popular player.

Veteran leader Brooks Orpik scored 1:48 into overtime Saturday to give Washington a 4-3 victory and a 2-0 lead over Carolina in the first-round series. His fourth goal in his 151st playoff game was his third winner, and Orpik became just the 11th defenseman in NHL history with two postseason overtime goals.

The Capitals came out on top thanks to Alex Ovechkin's two perfect passes, a 5-on-3 penalty kill and a stick shortage by Carolina that allowed Evgeny Kuznetsov to find Orpik for his goal. Afterward, owner

Ted Leonsis quipped, "Just like it was drawn up."

There was no way to script the strange happenings that unfolded on and off the ice. Perhaps it was an omen for things to come when the ball used in the Hurricanes' pregame soccer ritual knocked a rat down from the ceiling.

"I saw that," Carolina's Sebastian Aho said. "First time I've seen it. Kind of odd."

Predators 2, Stars 1: Craig Smith scored five minutes into overtime to allow Nashville to tie its first-round Western Conference series with Dallas at 1-1.

Smith scored his first goal this postseason from the inside edge of the left circle to snap a three-game playoff skid on home ice for Nashville.

Rocco Grimaldi also scored for Nashville, and Pekka Rinne made 22 saves. The Predators had lost five of their last six postseason games in the place they call Smashville.

Jamie Benn scored for Dallas. The Stars were outshot 43-23.

Game 3 is Monday night in Dallas.

The teams went to overtime twice during their five-game series during the regular season, and Dallas won the opener 3-2.

So it was no surprise they went past regulation yet again.

The Stars went 0-for-6 on the man advantage after being the NHL's 11th-best on the power play during the regular season.

Bruins 4, Maple Leafs 1: Brad Marchand and Patrice Bergeron scored, Tuukka Rask stopped 30 shots and host Boston beat Toronto to tie the series at one game apiece.

Two nights after the Maple Leafs beat the Bruins 4-1 in the opener to steal away home-ice advantage, Boston dominated their Atlantic Division rivals, its a 3-0 lead with a 29-16 edge in shots on goal into the third period. Charlie Coyle and Danton Heinen also scored for the Bruins.

Nazem Kadri scored Toronto's only goal midway through the third.

Avalanche 3, Flames 2 (OT): Nathan MacKinnon scored 8:27 into overtime and Colorado tied its first-round series at a game apiece with a win in Calgary.

After Philipp Grubauer stopped Michael Frolik at one end, the puck went up ice, where a pass from Mikko Rantanen sprung MacKinnon down the left wing and he fired a shot into the top corner on Mike Smith.