

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Reenlistments up after Navy's changes

BY JAMES BOLINGER

*Stars and Stripes*

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Changes instituted by the Navy after two fatal collisions involving U.S. warships in 2017 are paying off with more realistic training, higher reenlistment rates and a culture based around combat readiness, the commander of Task Force 76 said recently.

The reenlistment, or retention, rate for first-term sailors aboard Sasebo, Japan-based ships reached 80 percent this year, along with an overall enlisted promotion rate at or above the Navy average, Rear Adm. Brad Cooper told Stars and Stripes in March.

“Every ship in the strike group won the retention excellence award,” he said. “In our case, every ship exceeded those requirements, which is always an indication of morale.”

“It really reflects a positive command climate across the waterfront, across the force, and even exceeds what we accomplished last year, which was 72 percent.”

Cooper said the retention rate and other improvements are also adding to a culture among sailors at Sasebo that values readiness and lethality, goals laid out by former De-

fense Secretary Jim Mattis in January 2018.

Cooper said the reenlistment rate is one tangible sign that the recommendations made by the Navy following the collisions are improving the lives of sailors under his command.

Two separate investigations commissioned by the Navy offered 103 recommendations to improve deficiencies that contributed to those tragedies, according to a memo to Congress in February from the vice chief of naval operations, Adm. Bill Moran. His memo said all but 12 of the 103 were implemented.

Those measures include increased manning on overseas ships, completion of required maintenance for aging vessels and dedicated, uninterrupted training periods. The recommendations addressed years of underfunded operations, an increased pace of operations and an erosion of safety standards.

The Navy found those factors played a part in the fatal collisions involving ships of the Japan-based 7th Fleet in summer 2017.

The USS Fitzgerald collided with a container ship off Japan that June, killing seven sailors. Two months later, the USS John S. McCain ran into a merchant vessel near Singapore, result-

ing in 10 sailor deaths. Both destroyers sustained millions of dollars in damages.

### Manning, maintenance

The service has faced criticism from frustrated lawmakers who have challenged its leaders' claims that changes have truly been implemented.

“I want real numbers. I don't want general ‘we're working on staffing’ or ‘we're working on more training,’ because these were avoidable tragedies,” Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, told Adm. Philip Davidson, the top military commander in the Pacific, during a Feb. 12 hearing on Capitol Hill. “I would like to see specific responses from the Navy, not promises and not good feelings.”

In a recent report by ProPublica, a nonprofit organization for investigative journalism, Moran said none of the promised reforms had been completed but that work had started on 91 pledges to “among other things, provide additional manning to Japan-based ships and stop ships from sailing without complete certifications regarding their navigation and warfighting abilities.”

In the wake of the collisions,

the Sasebo-based USS Wasp strike group spent much of 2018 focused on safety and compliance with regulations, Cooper said, adding that the amphibious assault ship's captains and leadership teams are setting the pace for the Navy in operations, training and safety.

Prior to the collisions, sailors and ships were sustaining a fast pace of operations but had fallen behind on required maintenance and mandatory training, according to Moran's memo to Congress.

Cooper, referring to the memo, said all the ships of his strike group are 100% manned and that mandatory maintenance periods for the ships had been completed.

Maintenance for the Sasebo fleet focused on its four aging Avenger-class mine countermeasures ships, which were commissioned in 1987. The average mine countermeasures ship, designed to last 15-20 years, has been in service 27 years.

As of March 22, eight of the nine Sasebo-based vessels were underway, and the ninth, the USS Patriot, a mine countermeasures ship, had recently returned to port.

Training is the final leg of the triad designed to prevent future mishaps.

## DOD panel to probe handling of sexual assault cases

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A panel of senior Pentagon officials is probing the military's approach to handling and adjudicating sexual assault and sexual harassment cases as they seek solutions for the decades-old problem of high numbers of

incidents within service ranks, the Defense Department announced Tuesday.

The panel — the Sexual Assault Accountability and Investigation Task Force — will focus largely on reforms and improvements that can be made to the military judicial process to ensure servicemem-

bers' confidence in the system, acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan wrote in a March 27 memorandum establishing the panel. The group is charged with providing Shanahan an interim report on its findings by April 30 and is to provide a full report later to the secretary and members of the Senate Armed

Services Committee, according to the memo.

Shanahan's directive comes after a damning report in January showed incidents of sexual assault at the Pentagon's military academies had increased by nearly 50% while reporting rates for those incidents remained stagnant.

# Navy chief a popular after-hours chef

BY JOSHUA KARSTEN

*Stars and Stripes*

MANAMA, Bahrain — Word of mouth on where in Bahrain to find soul food, American comfort food or simply a meal with a smile may just direct you to Chief Petty Officer Markeeta Hardin.

No, she is not a Navy cook and this isn't a military "Top Chef" winner story. Hardin is a master-at-arms — the Navy's version of a police officer — and has been a sailor for 19 years.

While she wears anchors by day, she likes to cook in her free time, catering private events, teaching cooking classes and, most recently, putting on two successful Friday brunches at a well-known restaurant in Manama.

Locals said "it would be the first soul food brunch in the kingdom," recalled Hardin, who also goes by "Chef Keeta."

Collard greens, Cajungumbo, pork ribs, mac and cheese, fried chicken and homemade banana pudding are on the menu in Chef Keeta's kitchen, wherever

that kitchen may be, whether at home, at sea or Manama's Adliya area, which is popular for its nightlife and upscale restaurants.

Around base, posters and banners advertise her classes, sailors share images of her food on social media and commands ask her to prepare holiday meals.

Word of her popularity has also trickled into the local Manama food scene, where articles and advertisements have appeared in magazines and attracted the attention of restaurateurs in the area.

Hardin told Bahrain's *Habibti Magazine* last month that she also enjoys cooking Italian, Lebanese and Spanish cuisine.

Her job in law enforcement stems from her childhood passion for helping people and her need for discipline, a character trait that easily translates to the kitchen, she said.

Her cooking skills also trace back to her childhood growing up in Tennessee when she made meals for her two sisters while their single mother was busy

working two or three jobs.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Keely Brown, a native of Alabama, said the food at the two brunches she attended was "just like how my mama would make it."

"Being from the south, the best times were always centered around soul food, friends and family," Brown said. "Having spent three years overseas without soul food, these brunches were like Christmas to me."

In addition to bringing southern cooking to the island, Hardin also brought southern hospitality.

"The whole restaurant was filled with friends and people I've come to consider family over the past year here in Bahrain," Brown said. "Chef Keeta comes out of the kitchen, hugs everyone and goes right back to cooking. She makes everyone feel welcome."

Hardin enlisted in 2000 as an undesignated seaman. She would help prepare Sunday meals aboard her first ship, the USS *Cormorant*, which had a crew just shy of 60 sailors.

Her meals became so popular that the ship's supply officer requested her input for under-way supplies.

A few years ago, while serving as a detailer in Millington, Tenn., in 2013, Hardin spent her evenings attending the L'Ecole Culinary Institute.

She apprenticed six days a week for more than a year to earn a degree in culinary arts.

"Being a chief and a chef at the same time allows me to be that nurturing mother that sometimes you need," she said.

Brown, who works for Hardin, said the chief-turned-chef expects excellence from her sailors and helps bolster their confidence.

"I look up to her a great deal as a chief and as a woman in the military," Brown said.

Hardin plans to finish her Navy service and open an international restaurant in her home state, but she may stay in Bahrain as the sole soul food queen.

"I've had some offers," she said. "I love it here. They embrace me."

## DOD warns troops about risks of using CBD products

BY SETH ROBSON

*Stars and Stripes*

The Department of Defense is warning servicemembers about the risk of being exposed to illegal drugs when using products containing cannabidiol, popularly known as CBD.

The warning follows passage of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, which removed hemp from the government's list of controlled substances. The crop is now treated as an agricultural commodity if it has extremely low concentrations of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol or THC.

In a command message on the American Forces Network, DOD officials are letting troops know that they could potentially

get a dose of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, when using supplements containing CBD.

The hemp extract is found in many widely available products ranging from vape oil to gummies and marketed as a treatment for ailments such as chronic pain, anxiety, inflammation and cancer.

CBD products are legal under federal law as long as they contain less than 0.3 percent THC, which is present in hemp at much lower concentrations than in marijuana.

However, it's uncertain whether THC levels in all CBD products comply with the law, said Patricia Deuster, a professor in the Department of Mili-

tary and Emergency Medicine at Uniformed Services University, said in a telephone interview April 11.

Nate Atwood, 45, a former civilian defense worker at Misawa Air Base, Japan, and Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, said he's used CBD products to battle inflammation and pain.

"I would definitely recommend it for anyone who has problems with inflammation, including arthritis and back-pain," he said. "You can easily replace Motrin and most other over-the-counter pills, and a lot of pharmaceutical pain pills as well. I'm living proof of that."

Some CBD manufacturers guarantee no THC, but others

might add it to give their products a kick, he said.

The military's Operation Supplement Safety campaign posted a message on its website Feb. 26 warning that "Military Service Members should avoid using any product with CBD, as it could contain THC and result in a positive drug test."

Military regulations prohibit members of the Army and Air Force from consuming hemp products. The Navy and Marines allow their servicemembers to consume them but Deuster said those who do are taking a risk consuming "foods that might cause them to fail a drug test."

A positive test for THC is a career ender, she said.

# 1 Marine dead, 1 in custody after SC barracks shooting

*Stars and Stripes*

AUSTIN, Texas — A shooting Friday in the barracks at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort in South Carolina left one Marine dead and another in custody, according to base officials.

Cpl. Tyler P. Wallingford, 21, was shot and killed, 2nd Lt. Kevin Buss, a base spokesman, said in a statement. Cpl. Spencer T. Daily, 21, is in custody.

Both men were aircraft ordnance technicians with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is leading the investigation into Wallingford's

death, Buss said.

He declined to release further information.

Many of Wallingford's friends took to Facebook to honor the young Marine and volunteer firefighter in his hometown of Standish, Maine. They described a young man with a promising career in the Marines.

"Tyler was a great kid with a very infectious smile," Standish Fire-EMS Chief Rob Caron told WMTW, an ABC affiliate in Maine.

Wallingford joined the fire department in 2013 and the military in 2016, Caron said.

His father is also in the department, WMTW reported.

## Japanese police ID woman who was stabbed

By AYA ICHIHASHI

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese police have identified Tamae Hindman, 44, as the Okinawa woman stabbed to death in an apparent slaying-suicide on the island over the weekend.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Gabriel Olivero, 32, a Navy corpsman from North Carolina, may have killed Hindman inside a six-story apartment building in the Kuwae district of Chatan, according to Okinawa Prefectural Police. Olivero, who was attached to the 3rd Marine Division, then apparently turned the knife on himself.

Autopsies showed both bled to death and that Olivero had multiple wounds to the groin area on both legs, a police spokesman said Tuesday.

An autopsy on Hindman on Monday found stab wounds on her neck and defensive wounds on her hands.

The pair's bloodied bodies were found in bed, along with a knife, after police were called at 7:26 a.m. Saturday. The woman's child was present when the incident occurred and called a relative, who then reported it to police.

A friend of the dead woman told the Okinawa Times newspaper Monday that Hindman called her child a "treasure" and was known as a cheerful, active person who enjoyed jogging and worked in the beauty industry.

"She often told people around her that she is very proud to raise her child by doing what she loves," the friend said.

Hindman recently became frightened after Olivero — who was supposed to be about 18½ miles away at Camp Hansen — was spotted in her neighborhood, the friend told the newspaper.

Olivero had a history of breaking into Hindman's home, the woman told the newspaper.

## Marine commander convicted for sending inappropriate texts

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A Marine Corps commander's inappropriate text messages to enlisted troops led to an investigation into misconduct and later a conviction in a general court-martial in December, according to investigation documents.

Maj. William E. Hernandez sent text messages, including some that were sexual in nature, from his government BlackBerry phone to three enlisted Marines including one who was married, according to a command investigation report obtained Monday by Stars and Stripes from Marine Forces Reserve.

Hernandez was convicted in a general court-martial of "violating general regulations, obstruction of justice, and conduct unbecoming of an officer and gentleman" and was sentenced to 18 months confinement and a \$5,000 fine, according to a Marine Corps court-martial report.

Before Hernandez was removed from his position, he was the site commander of active-duty troops and reservists with Marine Wing Support Squadron 471 of Marine Aircraft Group 41 in Minneapolis. The unit is part of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing in the Marine Forces Reserve.

The investigation was conducted after one of the enlisted Marines came forward with a complaint about the text messages, according to the investigation report. The text messages were recovered by Marine Corps Cyber Operations Group from Hernandez's government phone.

The investigation discovered two other enlisted Marines with whom Hernandez had engaged in

"inappropriate texting and potential sexual harassment/assault activity" that were ongoing, according to the investigation. Names in the report given to Stars and Stripes had been redacted.

One of the findings was a series of texts "with sexual innuendo" between Hernandez and an unidentified person throughout one day in July 2017 that ended in the person "performing oral sex in his office at the end of the workday and then they continue to text about more sexual acts they can perform at a later time."

Another, from January 2017, found Hernandez had "texted with approximately twenty escorts in the Dallas/Fort Worth area inquiring about prices, availability, and services they provided."

The command investigation's findings also list inappropriate texts received by an unidentified person, including "I'm a bad boy and leader. Lol."

A complaint was started July 12, 2017, according to the report. Two of the enlisted Marines were given nonpunitive letters of caution for inappropriate texts with Hernandez.

"I believe the pressure to respond to the senior officer was compelling. Response was mandated," the unidentified commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 41 wrote about the justification for the letters of caution in a memorandum attached to the command investigation report. "However, the nature of the responses were not in keeping with good order and discipline," adding it was the commander's judgment that it should be dealt with in a nonpunitive nature.

The investigation was forwarded to Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

# Fire out but work ahead for Notre Dame

Associated Press

PARIS — Firefighters declared success Tuesday morning in a more than 12-hour battle to extinguish an inferno engulfing Paris' iconic Notre Dame cathedral that claimed its spire and roof but spared its bell towers.

What remained was a blackened shell of the monument immortalized in Victor Hugo's 1831 novel "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," a building that had survived almost 900 years of tumultuous French history but was devastated amid renovation works at the start of Catholic Easter week.

Its iconic twin bell towers remained visibly intact. Paris

officials said the world famous 18th-century organ that boasts 8,000 pipes also appeared to have survived, along with other treasures inside the cathedral, after a plan to safeguard heritage was put into action.

At dawn, the twin 69-meter towers swarmed with building specialists and architects, looking tiny from the ground as they conducted analysis.

"The entire fire is out," declared Paris firefighters spokesman Gabriel Plus, adding that workers were currently "surveying the movement of structures and extinguishing smoldering residues."

"The task is — now the risk of fire has been put aside — about the building, how the structure

will resist," Junior Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said in front of the cathedral.

One of the city's five senior vicars, Philippe Marsset, told The Associated Press, "If God intervened (in the blaze) it was in the courage of the firefighters."

"Notre Dame was destroyed but the soul of France was not," Michel Aupetit, archbishop of Paris, said on RMC radio.

Officials consider the fire an accident, possibly a result of the restoration work taking place at the global architectural treasure, but that news has done nothing to ease the national mourning.

"Notre Dame has survived the revolutionary history of

France, and this happened during building works," said influential former Culture Minister Jack Lang.

French President Emmanuel Macron pledged to rebuild the cathedral that he called "a part of us" and appealed for help to do so.

As the country woke up in collective sadness, its richest businessman, Bernard Arnault, and his luxury goods group LVMH answered that call with a pledge of \$226 million.

Businessman Francois-Henri Pinault and his billionaire father, Francois Pinault, also said they were immediately giving 100 million euros from their company, Artemis, to help finance repairs.

## Trump on offensive ahead of report's release

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As Washington counts down the final hours until publication of the redacted special counsel report — now expected Thursday — President Donald Trump stepped up his attacks in an effort to undermine potential disclosures on Russia, his 2016 campaign and the aftermath.

He unleashed a series of tweets Monday focusing on the previously released summary of special counsel Robert Muel-

ler's conclusions — including a crucial one on obstruction of justice that Trump again misrepresented — produced by Attorney General William Barr.

"Mueller, and the A.G. based on Mueller findings (and great intelligence), have already ruled No Collusion, No Obstruction," Trump tweeted. "These were crimes committed by Crooked Hillary, the DNC, Dirty Cops and others! INVESTIGATE THE INVESTIGATORS!"

Press secretary Sarah Huck-

abee Sanders repeatedly tried to make the same case on TV talk shows on Sunday.

But the political battle is far from finished over the special counsel's investigation of Russian efforts to help Trump in 2016 and whether there was cooperation with his campaign.

Democrats are calling for Mueller himself to testify before Congress and have expressed concern that Barr will order unnecessary censoring of the report to protect the

president.

The House Judiciary Committee, led by Rep. Jerry Nadler, of New York, is poised to try to compel Barr to turn over an unredacted copy as well as the report's underlying investigative files.

The Justice Department announced Monday that it expects to release the redacted version Thursday morning, sending the findings of the nearly two-year probe to Congress and making them available to the public.

## New penalty for visa overstays reportedly considered

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Top administration officials have been discussing ways to increase pressure on countries with high numbers of citizens who overstay short-term visas, as part of President Donald Trump's growing focus on immigration heading into his reelection campaign.

The administration could introduce new travel restrictions on nationals from those countries, according to two people familiar with the plans who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose private conversations.

The idea, which was first reported by

The Wall Street Journal, is just one of many under discussion by an administration that is increasingly desperate to satisfy a president who has been angry about the influx of migrants at the border as he tries to make good on his 2016 campaign promises and energize his base going into 2020.

The ideas have ranged from the extreme — including Trump's threat to shut down the southern border and consideration of again separating children from parents — to more subtle tweaks to the legal immigration system, including efforts to clamp down on visa overstays, which, according to the nonpartisan Center for Migration Studies, exceed illegal border crossings.

Plans are also in the works to have border patrol agents conduct initial interviews to determine whether migrants seeking asylum have a "credible fear" of returning to their homelands. Border patrol agents are the first officials who come into contact with migrants, and the thinking is that they'll be less sympathetic than asylum officers.

Also, officials have been considering raising asylum standards and changing the court system so that the last people in are the first to have their cases adjudicated. Some of the ideas have been proposed, rejected and then proposed again.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Bystanders rescue blind man from tracks

**MD** BETHESDA — Bystanders sprang into action when a blind man fell onto subway tracks in a Washington suburb.

News outlets reported security video showing the man using his cane before a wrong step sent him tumbling off the platform.

It happened Tuesday at the Metro red line Medical Center station in Bethesda. Bystanders ran over and pulled the man to safety seconds before a train pulled into the station.

## Man who threw urine at 2 women sought

**NY** NEW YORK — Police are searching for a man they say threw urine at female transit workers in two separate incidents.

The New York Police Department said the two assaults took place Friday in the Bronx about an hour apart.

The first incident was inside a subway station, and the 43-year-old victim was a conductor. She was doused with urine from a container, and the suspect fled.

Police said another 43-year-old woman driving a bus was hit with urine by the suspect a short time later.

## Canopy falls off roof of building, injures 2

**GA** ATLANTA — Authorities in Atlanta said two people were injured when a canopy fell off the roof of Ponce City Market.

News outlets reported that police said the two people were hospitalized in stable condition.

City police said the large

white canopy also wrecked several electrical wires when it fell from the roof late Sunday.

The canopy's fall coincided with severe weather, though the cause of its fall is unclear.

## Driver ordered to visit grave of woman killed

**MN** HASTINGS — An Oronoco, Minn., woman will serve six months in jail for a distracted driving crash in rural Dakota County in 2016 that killed a woman — and she'll also have to visit the woman's grave not once but twice.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press reported that Judge Jerome Abrams handed down the unique sentence to Lori Hoefs, 57, on Friday.

Hoefs admitted last November to being on her cellphone at the time she ran a stop sign in Randolph Township, killing Brenda Travis, 78, of Rochester. Three other people were injured in the crash.

## Case of plague in ranch dog reported

**NM** SANTA FE — The New Mexico Department of Health is reporting a case of plague in a ranch dog from Quay County.

It's the first case of plague in the state this year.

Authorities said the dog has recovered with treatment from a veterinarian.

Plague is an infectious disease of animals and humans caused by bacteria that's usually transmitted through the bite of an infected flea. Pets can also be exposed by eating an infected animal after hunting or scavenging it.

Humans can contract plague by direct contact with the tissues of infected animals including rodents, wildlife and pets.

## Disabled chicken joke ruffles girl's feathers

**VT** UNDERHILL — A Vermont girl isn't happy that her disabled pet chicken was joked about on the television show "Saturday Night Live."

The chicken, named Granite Heart, is learning to walk with a custom wheelchair.

On a recent SNL episode, the show's "Weekend Update" co-host said she should "just eat the chicken."

Alora Wood, 10, of Underhill, told NECN-TV that she knows the segment was meant to be a joke, but asked what if it was a dog.

## Naked man shot after stabbing at restaurant

**CA** PALMDALE — Authorities in Southern California said a security guard shot and killed a man who crashed his car into a building, stripped off his clothes, ran across the street and stabbed someone at a McDonald's.

Los Angeles County sheriff's officials said that after the stabbing the man tried to attack the guard, who opened fire Sunday in Palmdale.

KABC-TV reported that the stabbing victim, identified as a man in his 80s, is expected to recover. The attacker, who was not identified, died at a hospital.

## Mysterious mashed potatoes left behind

**MS** JACKSON — Residents of a neighborhood in Jackson are confused by the bowls of mashed potatoes they're finding on their cars, porches and mailboxes.

Resident Jordan Lewis described the Belhaven neigh-

borhood as a quirky one, with residents decorating road signs and putting Christmas trees in potholes.

"So we don't know if someone is just playing a prank or if someone just had a lot of leftovers," Lewis said.

## Firefighter goes into store nude on dare

**RI** MIDDLETOWN — A firefighter who police said walked naked into a Rhode Island convenience store on a dare has been placed on leave.

Police responded to a 7-Eleven in Middletown the afternoon of April 3 for a report of a naked customer. The owner said the man purchased a soda and left in a car.

The car was pulled over. The 29-year-old passenger said she "dared" her boyfriend to go into the store nude because he said it was legal in Rhode Island.

Police said John Walsh, 60, of Lynnfield, Mass., was charged with disorderly conduct.

## Students approve fund for slave reparations

**DC** WASHINGTON — Georgetown University undergraduates have voted in favor of a referendum seeking the establishment of a fund benefiting the descendants of enslaved people sold to pay off the school's debts.

The \$27.20-per-semester fee would create one of the first reparations funds at a major U.S. institution.

The Georgetown University Student Association Elections Commission said 2,541 students voted for the "Reconciliation Contribution."

The proposal aims to atone for the Jesuit-organized sale of 272 slaves in 1838.

From wire reports

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# Wilson gets \$140M deal with Seattle

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Russell Wilson is sticking around with the Seattle Seahawks as the highest-paid player in the NFL.

Wilson posted a video on social media early Tuesday saying, “Seattle, we got a deal,” shortly after agreeing to a \$140 million, four-year extension with the Seahawks, his agent Mark Rodgers told The Associated Press. Wilson’s new deal runs through the 2023 season and includes a \$65 million signing bonus, a no-trade clause and \$107 million in guaranteed money.

Wilson’s per-year average of \$35 million tops Aaron Rodgers’ average annual salary of \$33.5 million as part of the \$134 million extension he signed last year with the Green Bay Packers.

Wilson’s current \$87.6 million, four-year deal was signed at the beginning of training camp in 2015 and was set to expire after next season.

“Russell’s goal and his hope was that he would continue his career with the Seahawks and continue to bring championships to this town,” Rodgers said. “He believes there is still unfinished business and

he is looking forward to pursuing that without having to worry about contracts and his future.”

The 30-year-old Wilson had set a midnight deadline for a new deal with Seattle. He wanted certainty about his contract before the start of the team’s offseason workout program, which began on Monday. Wilson showed up for the first day and by the end of the night was posting a video with wife Ciara announcing the agreement.

The deal ends the debate about Wilson’s future with the Seahawks, although there seemed to be little doubt he would remain in Seattle for a while. The team held leverage knowing it likely had at least three more seasons with Wilson under center. Even if he played out 2019 under his current deal, Seattle could have used the franchise tag if needed to keep him under contract through 2020 and 2021 at a reasonable price by quarterback standards.

But the extension allows Seattle to budget for the future knowing how to work with Wilson’s hefty paycheck in the years ahead and build a contender around the former third-round pick that has developed

into a franchise QB.

Wilson’s new deal was going to have to top the extension signed by Rodgers before the start of last season. Wilson was the second-highest paid player in football behind Rodgers when his deal was signed in 2015, but had fallen to the 12th highest-paid QB in the league, according to Overthecap.com.

The five-time Pro Bowl selection is coming off arguably his best season as Seattle went a surprising 10-6 and earned an NFC wild card before losing to Dallas in the opening round of the playoffs. It was supposed to be a rebuilding year, but the Seahawks were ahead of schedule thanks to their return to a run-first offense and Wilson’s exceptional performance when tasked to throw.

The 5-foot-11 Wilson threw for a career-high 35 touchdowns and matched his career low with seven interceptions. He attempted only 427 passes — his lowest total since his second season when Seattle won the Super Bowl — but his efficiency was a career best with a 110.9 passer rating. He also ran only 67 times, a career low, as the improved run game and offensive line play allowed Wilson to stay in the pocket more

and scramble for his life less.

It was a stark change from the 2017 season when Seattle missed the playoffs for the first time under Wilson. He led the league in touchdown passes, but also was Seattle’s leading rusher due to a non-existent run game.

The idea of Wilson ever leaving Seattle has always seemed a stretch. Teams simply don’t give up on quarterbacks with the kind of success he’s had. Wilson has led the Seahawks to the playoffs in six of his seven seasons, the only miss coming in 2017 when Seattle finished 9-7.

He won a Super Bowl in his second season and got back to the championship game a year later before making the one major mistake of his career that will linger until he wins another title, throwing a goal line interception in the final minute when the Seahawks had a chance to take the lead on New England.

Wilson has shelved the stigma of short quarterbacks being unable to play in the NFL. He’s also been extremely durable, never missing a game while playing through significant knee, ankle and shoulder injuries.

## Duke’s Williamson declares for NBA Draft

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Zion Williamson is leaving Duke after one high-flying season to enter the NBA Draft.

Widely projected as the top overall pick in the June draft, the AP national player of the year announced his decision Monday.

The 6-foot-7, 285-pound Williamson captivated all of college basketball with his freakish, once-in-a-generation athleticism, his energy at both ends of the floor and his omnipresent charisma.

The Atlantic Coast Conference player and rookie of the year averaged 22.6 points — tied for the league lead with teammate RJ Barrett — and 8.9 rebounds. Along the way, he became the face of college basketball this season, routinely coming up with at least one highlight-reel play or show-

stopping dunk per game.

His decision to turn pro came as no surprise.

During his lone college season, he helped the Blue Devils earn the No. 1 ranking in the final AP Top 25 and the top overall seed in the NCAA Tournament. Duke was knocked out by Michigan State in the East Regional final.

Williamson joins Cam Reddish and Barrett as classmates headed to the pros after one season. Point guard Tre Jones says he will return for his sophomore year.

In other college basketball news:

■ Virginia guards De’Andre Hunter and Ty Jerome say they are forgoing their final year of eligibility to make themselves available for the NBA Draft.

Both made the announcements Monday on Instagram, and their decisions were

confirmed by Virginia.

Hunter, a 6-7 redshirt sophomore, was the national champions’ second-leading scorer (15.2 points per game). He was an All-Atlantic Coast Conference first team selection and the league’s defensive player of the year. He is listed in several prognostications as a likely lottery pick.

Jerome, a 6-foot-5 junior, was the starting point guard for Cavaliers, but also played some shooting guard. He led the Cavaliers with 202 assists and was second on the team with 79 three-pointers.

■ Gonzaga star forward Rui Hachimura has declared for the NBA Draft.

The junior said Monday he will hire an agent as he pursues a professional career.

The 6-foot-8 native of Japan led Gonzaga in scoring this season with 19.7 points per game.

# Down 31, Clippers rally to top Warriors

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Landry Shamet hit a go-ahead three-pointer with 16.5 seconds left, Stephen Curry couldn't answer on the other end, and the Los Angeles Clippers climbed back from 31 points down to stun the Golden State Warriors 135-131 on Monday night and even their first-round playoff series at one game apiece.

It was a historic comeback that topped a 29-point rally by the Los Angeles Lakers in the 1989 Western Conference semis over Seattle.

Curry scored 29 points and put the Warriors up 131-128 with 58 seconds left before Shamet's dagger on a night the two-time defending NBA champions lost DeMarcus Cousins to a leg injury in the first quarter.

Lou Williams tied the game on a jumper with 1:10 to play, then Curry immediately answered. Williams scored again

at 46 seconds and finished with 36 points and made eight of 10 free throws as the teams combined for 64 fouls and 76 free throws attempted.

Cousins injured his left quadriceps muscle in the first quarter and was done for the game, but Golden State's depth shined and the Warriors built a 23-point halftime lead they pushed to a 31-point advantage before failing to hold off Los Angeles late.

Williams' jumper and three-point play with 5:34 left pulled the Clippers within 120-117, then he rebounded his own miss and scored the putback at the 5:05 mark and cut it to 121-119.

Kevin Durant drove through the paint past Montrezl Harrell for a one-handed jam and three-point play with 2:48 left, then went at Harrell the next time down and was whistled for the offensive foul. Durant fouled out with three straight

offensive fouls.

Cousins was scheduled to undergo an MRI exam after the injury in just his second career playoff game following a nine-year wait. The big man returned in January from a nearly year-long absence following surgery for a torn left Achilles tendon.

His status for Game 3 on Thursday at Staples Center is in serious doubt.

Cousins hobbled to the locker room at the 8:09 mark of the first quarter. Cousins stole the ball from Patrick Beverley in the back court and tried to retrieve the loose ball when he went down in front of the Golden State bench and grabbed at his left quad.

LeBron James tweeted prayers for Cousins, who fouled out of Saturday's 121-104 Game 1 win with nine points, nine rebounds and four assists in 21 minutes.

Kevon Looney picked up the

bulk of the extra minutes in Cousins' absence and scored a career-high 19 points making all six of his shots, but the Warriors had their seven-game postseason winning streak snapped that dated to last year's run to a repeat championship. Durant had 21 points, five rebounds and five assists, Klay Thompson scored 17 points and Draymond Green 14 with nine assists.

Curry followed up a 38-point performance in Game 1 with another nice showing but Golden State hurt itself with too many miscues.

The Warriors committed 21 turnovers in Game 1, then 22 more Monday — nine by Durant.

Los Angeles wanted to do a better job stopping the late bursts each quarter the Warriors had in Game 1, and the Clippers were somehow able to claw their way back.

## Simmons' triple-double helps 76ers pull even with Nets

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Ben Simmons got an earful from the Philly crowd.

With the same 76ers fans Simmons put on blast for booing in the playoff opener now going wild in Game 2, Simmons cupped a hand to his right ear just like Allen Iverson's signature move to spur the cheers even louder.

And he did it with Iverson rooting on the Sixers from courtside.

Simmons had 18 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds and the Philadelphia 76ers had an answer for the pesky Brooklyn Nets in a 145-123 win to even their Eastern Conference playoff series Monday night.

"I was just trying to be me," Simmons said.

Simmons had a disastrous Game 1, on the court (nine points) and from a PR perspective after he criticized fans for booing during a game the Sixers were never really in. He

backtracked the next day at practice and never gave another 20,591 fans a chance to do anything but roar in approval in Game 2. Simmons flashed the All-Star form that helped lead the Sixers to 51 wins, and was aggressive from tipoff. He used his size and speed to attack the lane and scored 16 points in the half en route to his second career postseason triple-double.

The Sixers busted the game open with a 14-0 run to start the second half and then stretched the lead to 20 on a Simmons steal and fastbreak basket. With a packed house standing, Simmons got a massive ovation when he cupped his hand to his right ear just like Iverson did in his prime.

"I was thinking about the boos from the last game," Simmons said, smiling. "I have a lot of love for this city."

Iverson and former Sixers teammate Dikembe Mutombo attended the game and tossed T-shirts into the crowd.

"Everybody's got to bring it," Sixers All-Star center Joel Embiid said. "We need everybody."

The Sixers got a little something from everybody in this one.

The Nets collapsed in the second half, outplayed and overmatched much as expected by pundits and bookmakers (they were 7.5-point Game 2 underdogs). The Sixers scored 51 points on 18-for-25 shooting and made all 11 free throws in the third.

"We expect a haymaker," Nets coach Kenny Atkinson said before the game. "We know it's coming. They're too good, too talented, too well coached. It's coming. It's going to be how we react."

Not well.

Embiid shook off another game-time decision to play through tendinitis in his left knee and delivered after a sluggish Game 1. He scored 13 points in the third as the Sixers

raced to a 29-point lead.

"Whenever I'm out there, I kind of forget about the pain and just try and do the right things," Embiid said.

On a minutes restriction, Embiid had some unexpected help from popular backup Boban Marjanovic. He scored 14 points in the first half (only Simmons had more with 16) and let the Sixers find a comfort level on offense with Embiid out for long stretches.

"This is just the path we're on with Joel," coach Brett Brown said. "There is zero doubt he is our crown jewel."

Embiid was whistled for a flagrant foul for throwing an elbow at Jarrett Allen late in the half and the Sixers nursing a 65-64 lead.

"I got him pretty good and I'm sorry about it," Embiid said, laughing at the pseudo apology.

Embiid had 23 points and 10 rebounds, and Marjanovic scored 16.

## NHL playoffs roundup

# Leafs take 2-1 series lead over Bruins

Associated Press

TORONTO — With the Toronto Maple Leafs back home, Auston Matthews finally broke through against Boston.

Matthews scored his first goal of the playoffs and set up another as the Maple Leafs beat the Bruins 3-2 on Monday night to take a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven Eastern Conference quarterfinal.

“It’s nice to get one,” said Matthews, who had just two points against Boston in the 2018 postseason. “It’s just another level when you score a goal in the playoffs, especially at home.

“I’ve said this before, it feels like an earthquake under you. The atmosphere tonight was unbelievable and we just want to continue what we built off to-night here on Wednesday.”

Andreas Johnsson, also with a goal and an assist, and Trevor Moore provided the rest of the offense for Toronto. Frederik Andersen made 34 saves.

David Krejci and Charlie Coyle scored for Boston. Tuukka Rask stopped 31 shots in front of a crowd of 19,611.

“They played hard,” Bruins winger Brad Marchand said. “They upped their compete level. Ours wasn’t as good as it needed to be. But we’re right there — we had some opportunities to tie it up late.”

The Maple Leafs won the series opener 4-1 last Wednesday in Boston before losing by the same score Saturday. Game 4 is Wednesday night in Toronto.

Less than an hour before puck drop, the Maple Leafs learned center Nazem Kadri was suspended for the rest of the series for his vicious cross-check to the head of Bruins winger Jake DeBrusk in the third period of Game 2.

**Hurricanes 5, Capitals 0:** Rookie forward Warren Foegele had two goals and an assist, Petr Mrazek earned his fourth career postseason shut-out and host Carolina won its first home playoff game in a

decade, routing Washington.

Dougie Hamilton also scored two goals, Brock McGinn had a late goal and an assist and Jaccob Slavin had two assists as the rapid-fire Hurricanes outshot Washington 45-18 to cut the defending Stanley Cup champions’ lead to 2-1 in the best-of-seven series.

Playing with just 10 forwards after losing two to injuries in the first period, Carolina effectively rolled with three lines the rest of the way.

**Avalanche 6, Flames 2:** Nathan MacKinnon scored twice in the first period and set up newly signed rookie Cale Makar’s first NHL goal in his debut as host Colorado routed Calgary to take a 2-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Matt Nieto added a short-handed goal, and Mikko Rantanen and Erik Johnson also scored for the wild-card Avalanche, who built a 6-1 lead early in the third period and finished with 56 shots. Philipp Grubauer was credited with 27

saves.

MacKinnon had two power-play goals. But the goal of the night was turned in by Makar, the 20-year-old defenseman who was signed Sunday and jumped into Colorado’s post-season lineup two days after his college season ended when Massachusetts lost in the Frozen Four championship game.

**Predators 3, Stars 2:** Mikael Granlund scored on a wrist shot from just inside the blue line with 8:19 left and visiting Nashville, after blowing a two-goal lead, beat Dallas Stars to take a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven Western Conference playoff series.

Granlund, acquired in a trade with Minnesota in late February, got the puck from Dante Fabbro after Kyle Turris won a faceoff against Stars captain Jamie Benn.

Rocco Grimaldi scored in his second game in a row for the Predators, and Filip Forsberg had a perfectly timed play for a goal.

## MLB roundup

# Yelich’s three home runs power Brewers past Cards

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Christian Yelich hit three homers, including a pair of three-run shots, and drove in a career-high seven runs to power the Milwaukee Brewers past the St. Louis Cardinals 10-7 on Monday night.

Yelich, the reigning NL MVP, hit his first three-run homer to cap a six-run second inning. After St. Louis tied it with three runs in the sixth, Yelich answered in the bottom half with a towering three-run blast to right off Mike Mayers (0-1).

Yelich capped his night with his eighth homer this season, going deep to lead off the eighth. He also lined out in the first and was walked intention-

ally in the fourth.

Junior Guerra (1-0) worked 1<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings for the victory. Josh Hader struck out the side in the ninth after allowing Marcell Ozuna’s sixth home run to open the inning.

**Dodgers 4, Reds 3:** Joc Pederson hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Los Angeles a comeback victory over Cincinnati in Clayton Kershaw’s season debut.

**Mets 7, Phillies 6 (11):** Juan Lagares scored from second base on Michael Conforto’s hard grounder in the 11th inning and visiting New York beat Philadelphia.

**Cubs 7, Marlins 2:** Willson Contreras hit his sixth homer, drove in three and reached base four times, and visiting

Chicago thawed out to beat Miami.

**Orioles 8, Red Sox 1:** Dwight Smith Jr. hooked a two-run homer into the first row of seats down the right field line and drove in four, leading visiting Baltimore to victory in Boston’s annual Patriots’ Day game.

**Rangers 12, Angels 7:** Joey Gallo homered and grounded a tiebreaking single to the vacant spot at shortstop against the shift, helping host Texas beat Los Angeles in Mike Trout’s return after missing three games with a groin injury.

**Blue Jays 5, Twins 3:** Teoscar Hernandez hit the go-ahead three-run homer in the eighth inning, giving visiting Toronto a badly needed offensive boost

with three hits in a victory over Minnesota.

**White Sox 5, Royals 4:** Wellington Castillo atoned for an error with a two-run homer in the eighth inning, and host Chicago rallied to beat Kansas City.

**Indians 6, Mariners 4:** Trevor Bauer (2-1) allowed one run while pitching into the seventh inning, slumping Jose Ramirez hit his first homer of the season and visiting Cleveland held on late to beat Seattle.

**Rockies 5, Padres 2:** Ian Desmond homered, doubled and drove in three runs, and Nolan Arenado also went deep to back Antonio Senzatela (1-0) in his season debut as visiting Colorado topped San Diego.