

Guardisman in leak case spoke of wanting to kill

Associated Press

WORCESTER, Mass. — The Massachusetts Air National guardsman accused of leaking highly classified military documents kept an arsenal of guns and said on social media that he would like to kill a “ton of people,” prosecutors said in arguing Thursday that 21-year-old Jack Teixeira should remain in jail for his trial.

But the judge at Teixeira’s detention hearing put off an immediate decision on whether he should be kept in custody until his trial or released to home confinement or under other conditions. Teixeira was led away from the court in handcuffs, black rosary beads around his neck, pending that ruling.

The court filings raise new questions about why Teixeira had such a high security clearance and access to some of the nation’s most classified secrets. They said he may still have material that hasn’t been released, which could be of “tremendous value to hostile nation states that could offer him safe harbor and attempt to facilitate his escape from the United States.”

In Teixeira’s detention hearing, Magistrate Judge David Hennessy expressed skepticism of defense arguments that the government hasn’t alleged Teixeira intended leaked information to be widely disseminated.

“Somebody under the age of 30 has no idea that when they put something on the internet that it could end up anywhere in this world?” the judge asked. “Seriously?”

Teixeira entered his hearing in Worcester in orange prison garb, smiling at his father in the front row. His handcuffs were removed before he sat down and put back on when he was taken out.

The judge could order Teixeira to be confined at his father’s home or conditionally released while awaiting trial, if not held in jail.

“You have a young man before you who didn’t flee, has nowhere to flee,” said Brendan Kelley, the defendant’s lawyer. “He will answer the charges; he will be judged by his fellow citizens.”

But Nadine Pellegrini from the Massachusetts U.S. attorney’s office told the judge the information prosecutors submitted to the court about the defendant’s threatening words and behavior “is not speculation, it is not hyperbole, nor is it the creation of a caricature. It is ... directly based upon the words and actions of this defendant.”

The defense asserted Teixeira no longer has access to any top-secret information and had accused prosecutors of providing “little more than speculation that a foreign adversary will seduce Mr. Teixeira and orchestrate his clandestine escape from the United States.”

The prosecution’s filing reviews what it says are Teixeira social media posts, stating in November that he would “kill a (expletive) ton of people” if he had his way, because it would be “culling the weak minded.”

Court papers urging a federal judge to keep Teixeira in custody detailed a troubling history going back to high school, where he was suspended when a classmate overheard him discussing Molotov cocktails and other weapons as well as racial threats. More recently, prosecutors said, he used his government computer to research past mass shootings and standoffs with federal agents.

He remains a grave threat to national security and a flight risk, prosecutors wrote. Investigators are still trying to determine whether he kept any physical or digital copies of classified information that hasn’t surfaced yet.

“There simply is no condition or combination of conditions that can ensure the Defendant will not further disclose additional information still in his knowledge or possession,” prosecutors wrote. “The damage the Defendant has already caused to the U.S. national security is immense. The damage the Defendant is still capable of causing is extraordinary.”

Teixeira has been in jail since his arrest this month on charges stemming from the most consequential intelligence leak in years.

Russian drone, missile attacks strike Ukraine

Associated Press

UMAN, Ukraine — Russia fired more than 20 cruise missiles and two drones at Ukraine early Friday, killing more than 20 people, almost all of them when two missiles slammed into an apartment building in a terrifying nighttime attack, officials said. Three children were among the dead.

The missile attacks included the first one against Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital, in nearly two months, although there were no reports of any targets hit. The city government said Ukraine’s air force intercepted 11 cruise missiles and two unmanned aerial vehicles over Kyiv.

The strikes on the nine-story residential building in central Ukraine occurred in Uman, a city about 134 miles south of Kyiv. At least 21 people died in that attack, according to the Interior Ministry. They included two 10-year-old children and a toddler.

Another of the victims was a 75-year-old woman who lived in a neighboring building and suffered internal bleeding from the huge blast’s shock wave, according to emergency personnel at the scene.

The Ukrainian national police said 17 people were wounded and three children were rescued from the rubble. Nine were hospitalized.

The bombardment was nowhere near the war’s sprawling front lines or active combat zones in eastern Ukraine, where a grinding war of attrition has taken hold. Moscow has frequently launched long-range missile attacks during the 14-month war, often indiscriminately hitting civilian areas.

Ukrainian officials and analysts have alleged such strikes are part of a deliberate intimidation strategy by the Kremlin.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the long-range cruise missiles launched overnight were aimed at places where Ukrainian military reserve units were staying before their deployment to the battlefield.

“The strike has achieved its goal. All the designated facilities have been hit,” Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, the Defense Ministry’s spokesperson, said. He didn’t mention any specific areas or residential buildings getting hit.

Iranian TV airs video of ship's capture

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Masked Iranian navy commandos conducted a helicopter-borne raid to seize a U.S.-bound oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman, footage aired by Iran's state television showed Friday.

The capture on Thursday of the Turkish-managed, Chinese-owned Advantage Sweet represents the latest seizure by Iran amid tensions with the U.S. over advancing its nuclear program.

While Tehran says the tanker was seized over it running into another Iranian vessel, it has provided no evidence yet to support the claim — and the Islamic Republic has taken other ships as bargaining chips in negotiations with the West.

The footage showed the commandos descending on the deck of the Advantage Sweet by ropes from a helicopter. A photograph showed one commando with his fist in the air after ap-

parently taking the vessel.

The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet has said the Iranian seizure was at least the fifth commercial vessel taken by Tehran in the last two years.

"Iran's continued harassment of vessels and interference with navigational rights in regional waters are a threat to maritime security and the global economy," it added.

The vessel's manager, a Turkish firm called Advantage

Tankers, issued a statement acknowledging the Advantage Sweet was "being escorted by the Iranian navy to a port on the basis of an international dispute." All the ship's 24 crew members are Indian.

"The safety and welfare of our valued crew members is our No. 1 priority," the firm said. "Similar experiences show that crew members of vessels taken under such circumstances are in no danger."

Slow pace of US tank deliveries to Ukraine draws fire in Senate

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Biden and his senior military advisers were rebuked Thursday by senators exasperated by what they claimed is the glacial pace at which his administration is moving to supply Abrams tanks to Ukraine, whose leaders say they need such weapons for a highly anticipated counteroffensive to retake Russian-occupied territory.

Sens. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., and Angus King, I-Maine, directed their frustration at Gen. Christopher Cavoli, who as the head of the U.S. European Command oversees much of the Pentagon's effort to train and equip Ukraine's army.

King told the general he is worried that Ukraine will not have enough firepower to counter Russian troops this summer and that the American tanks should be staged in Poland now so Ukrainian forces can use them as soon as they complete a training course expected to begin next month under the supervision of U.S. soldiers in Germany.

"This counteroffensive that everybody is talking about," King said during the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, "it's the longest wind-up for a punch in the history of the world."

"It's going to be trench warfare, and it's going to involve tanks," King went on, warning that if the Abrams don't arrive on the battlefield until August or September, as the Pentagon has said, "it may well be too late."

Cavoli told the committee that he has not yet transmitted a schedule to have the tanks delivered from the United States to Europe, as neither the "exact sourcing" for them nor a precise timeline has been determined. Asked why, Cavoli requested to follow up later with the senators and indicated that he could better explain in a closed session where classified information can be discussed.

Cotton said he believes the administration could supply the tanks more quickly if Biden wanted to and there was political will to do so.

"I think it's reflective of the political decision to drag our feet in what we're supplying to Ukraine," Cotton said. "It's just a repeated story that we're seeing over and over again throughout the course of this war."

The Pentagon disputed suggestions that the tank deliveries are slow.

Allies have combined to provide Ukraine with "significant combat capability already," said Brig. Gen. Patrick Ryder, a spokesman, citing the delivery of more than 230 tanks, more than 1,150 armored vehicles, and munitions to support the creation of nine new armored brigades of soldiers.

Overall, the United States has committed more than \$38 billion in security assistance to Ukraine since Russia launched its invasion 14 months ago.

In January, Biden approved transferring 31 Abrams tanks to Ukraine as part of a broader plan in which several European allies would send German-made Leopard tanks more quickly.

3 are killed, 1 hurt in Army helo collision

Anchorage Daily News

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Three U.S. Army soldiers were killed and one was injured Thursday after two Apache helicopters from Fort Wainwright collided in midair while returning from a training mission, according to Army officials.

Each of the two AH-64 Apache helicopters had two soldiers on board, an Army Alaska spokesperson said. They were from the 11th Airborne Division's 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment at Fort Wainwright in the Fairbanks area, Army officials said.

Two of the soldiers were declared dead at the scene, the 11th Airborne Division said in a statement Thursday evening, and a third died while being taken to a Fairbanks hospital. The sole survivor is being treated for injuries in Fairbanks, according to the statement.

The Army did not identify the soldiers who died in the crash, pending notification of next of kin.

Pence testifies before Jan. 6 grand jury

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Vice President Mike Pence testified Thursday before a federal grand jury investigating efforts by then-President Donald Trump and his allies to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Pence's appearance before a grand jury in Washington scrutinizing the president he once loyally served is a milestone in the Justice Department's investigation and likely gives prosecutors a key first-person account about certain conversations and events in the weeks preceding the deadly Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

It also carries significant political implications, coming as Pence hints at entering the 2024 presidential race and a potential run against Trump, the Republican front-runner.

The testimony, confirmed by a person familiar with the matter who insisted on anonymity to discuss a secret grand jury matter, came hours after a federal appeals court in a sealed order rejected a bid by Trump's lawyers to block Pence's appearance.

Pence was subpoenaed to testify earlier this year, but Trump's lawyers objected, citing executive privilege concerns. A judge in March refused to block Pence's appearance, though he did side with the former

vice president's constitutional claims that he could not be forced to answer questions about anything related to his role as presiding over the Senate's certification of votes on Jan. 6.

"We'll obey the law, we'll tell the truth," Pence said in an interview with CBS News' "Face the Nation" that aired Sunday. "And the story that I've been telling the American people all across the country, the story that I wrote in the pages of my memoir, that'll be the story I tell in that setting."

It was not immediately clear what Pence may have told the grand jury, but he is the most high-profile Trump administration official to be summoned before the panel.

In speech, Trump turns focus to rematch with Biden

Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Former President Donald Trump turned his attention to the general election on Thursday, using his first campaign appearance since President Joe Biden launched his own reelection bid to boast of his poll numbers and suggest that he has no need to debate his Republican rivals.

Trump's appearance in New Hampshire marked his first return to an early voting state since his legal troubles increased with an indictment in New York. He spoke on the same day that his former vice president, Mike Pence, testified before a federal grand jury investigating efforts by Trump and his allies to overturn the 2020 election. Meanwhile, writer E. Jean Carroll testified for a second day

Thursday in a civil rape case against Trump over an encounter in the 1990s, an allegation he denies.

"We are a nation in serious decline, a nation that has lost its way," Trump said at a downtown Manchester hotel, a smaller venue than his typical, large-scale rallies. "We are led by a hopeless person, but we will win in 2024 and make America great again. We can do it. It's not too late."

In a nod toward his 2016 race, Trump said he's retiring the "crooked" nickname he used to define Democratic rival Hillary Clinton and will now instead apply it to Biden. He pledged to take back the White House and "settle our unfinished business" in a potential 2024 rematch with the current president.

A spokesperson for the Democratic National Committee, Ammar Moussa, pointed in response to persistent allegations that Trump's family profited off his presidency.

"Donald Trump may come up with a lot of nicknames for President Biden, but we have a better one: winner," Moussa said.

Trump's New Hampshire appearance came two days after Biden kicked off his own long-expected reelection campaign, presenting himself as he did in 2020 as a buttress against Trump and his "Make America Great Again" movement.

Trump is considered a front-runner for the GOP nomination, though more Republicans are expected to jump into the race soon, including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Trump lawyer questions woman at rape lawsuit trial

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump's lawyer sought Thursday to pick apart a decades-old rape claim against the former president, questioning why accuser E. Jean Carroll did not scream or seek help when Trump allegedly attacked her in a department store.

But Carroll, a writer and former advice columnist, rebuffed the suggestion that rape victims are supposed to act a certain way, saying such thinking deters women from coming forward.

"I'm telling you, he raped me, whether I screamed or not," Carroll said, her voice rising and breaking, at the federal civil trial in New York.

Carroll, who is suing Trump over the alleged assault, claims he raped her in a dressing room at the posh Manhattan store in 1996. She did not go to police and said she only told two close friends at the time.

Trump lawyer Joseph Tacopina suggested her claims strained credulity, contending that she only came forward in 2019 — midway through Trump's presidency — because of her disdain for his politics and because she wanted to sell copies of her book.

Trump, 76, says the encounter never happened, that he doesn't know Carroll and that she's not his "type" — comments that are at the heart of the defamation claims in Carroll's lawsuit. The complaint seeks un-

specified damages and a retraction of the comments.

Trump did not mention the trial during a campaign event Thursday in Manchester, N.H. He's not expected in court, though his lawyers have not entirely ruled it out. Jurors are expected to see parts of a videotaped deposition he gave in the case.

On Wednesday, Trump launched a counterattack against the trial on social media, telling followers on his Truth Social platform that the case was "a made up SCAM" and alluding to a DNA issue that Judge Lewis A. Kaplan has barred from the trial.

The outburst drew a rebuke and a warning from Kaplan, who called it "entirely inappropriate."

Bills to limit abortion fail in South Carolina, Nebraska

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Abortion bans in deeply conservative Nebraska and South Carolina each fell a single vote short of passing in their legislatures amid heated debates among Republicans, yet another sign that abortion is becoming a difficult issue for the GOP.

As the last vote was cast in Nebraska, where abortion is currently banned after 20 weeks of pregnancy, cheers erupted outside the legislative chamber, with opponents of the bill waving signs and chanting, “Whose house? Our house!”

In South Carolina, Republican Sen. Sandy Senn criticized Majority Leader Shane Massey for repeatedly “taking us off a cliff on abortion.”

“The only thing that we can do when you all, you men in the chamber, metaphorically keep slapping women by raising abortion again and again and again, is for us to slap you back with our words,” she said.

The Nebraska proposal, backed by Republican Gov. Jim Pillen, is unlikely to move for-

ward this year after the bill banning abortion around the sixth week of pregnancy fell one vote short of breaking a filibuster.

And in South Carolina, where abortion remains legal through 22 weeks of pregnancy, the vote marked the third time a near-total abortion ban has failed in the Republican-led Senate chamber since the U.S. Supreme Court reversed *Roe v. Wade* last summer.

The state has increasingly served patients across a region where Republican officials have otherwise curtailed access to abortion. Six Republicans helped block motions to end debate and defeated any chance the bill will pass this year.

Thirteen other states have bans in place on abortion at all stages of pregnancy.

They are Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Four other states have bans throughout pregnancy where enforcement is blocked by

courts. The majority of those bans were adopted in anticipation of *Roe* being overturned, and most do not have exceptions for rape or incest.

In Utah, a judge on Friday will consider a request from Planned Parenthood to delay implementing a statewide ban on abortion clinics, set to take effect next week. Planned Parenthood argues a state law passed this year will effectively end access to abortion throughout the state when clinics next week stop being able to apply for the licenses they’ve historically relied on to operate.

In North Dakota, Gov. Doug Burgum signed a ban Monday that has narrow exceptions: Abortion is legal in pregnancies caused by rape or incest, but only in the first six weeks of pregnancy.

Abortion is allowed later in pregnancy only in specific medical emergencies.

The North Dakota law is intended to replace a previous ban that is not being enforced while a state court weighs its constitutionality.

Kansas OKs trans bathroom restrictions

Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — Republican legislators in Kansas enacted what may be the most sweeping transgender bathroom law in the U.S. on Thursday, overriding the Democratic governor’s veto of the measure without having a clear idea of how their new law will be enforced.

The vote in the House was 84-40, giving supporters the two-thirds majority they needed to override Gov. Laura Kelly’s action. The vote in the Senate on Wednesday was 28-12, and the new law will take effect July 1.

At least eight other states have enacted laws preventing transgender people from using the restrooms associated with their gender identities, but most of them apply to schools. The Kansas law applies also to locker rooms, prisons, domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers.

Republican legislators argued that they’re responding to people’s concerns about transgender women sharing bathrooms, locker rooms and other spaces with cisgender women and girls. They repeatedly promised that the bill would prevent that.

The Kansas law is different than most other states’ laws in that it legally defines male and female based on the sex assigned at birth and declares that “distinctions between the sexes” in bathrooms and other spaces serves “the important governmental objectives” of protecting “health, safety and privacy.” Earlier this week, North Dakota enacted a law that prohibits transgender children and adults from having access to bathrooms, locker rooms or showers in dormitories of state-run colleges and correctional facilities.

Fox ratings tumble in Carlson time slot

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hundreds of thousands of Fox News viewers are reacting to Tucker Carlson’s firing by abandoning the network in his old time slot — at least temporarily.

Fox drew 1.33 million viewers for substitute host Brian Kilmeade in the 8 p.m. Eastern hour on Wednesday night, putting the network second to MSNBC’s Chris Hayes in a competition Carlson used to dominate, the Nielsen company said.

That’s down 56% from the 3.05 million viewers Carlson

reached last Wednesday, Nielsen said. For all of 2022, Carlson averaged 3.03 million viewers, second only to Fox’s “The Five” as the most popular program on cable television.

Carlson offered his own alternative to Kilmeade on Wednesday, posting a two-minute monologue on Twitter at 8 p.m. By Thursday afternoon, that video had been viewed 62.7 million times, according to Twitter.

Kilmeade had 1.7 million viewers on Tuesday and 2.59 million on Monday, when he told people who hadn’t already

heard the news that Carlson would no longer be there.

Carlson had 2.65 million viewers on Friday for what would be his last show on Fox. He was fired Monday with no explanation given publicly, although there are no shortage of theories — including a former employee’s lawsuit that cited a toxic work atmosphere at his show, offensive statements by Carlson that came out as part of the Dominion Voting Systems lawsuit against Fox and his embrace of conspiracy theories about the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Congress' anger shapes surveillance debate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Growing anger at the FBI from both parties in Congress has become a major hurdle for U.S. intelligence agencies fighting to keep their vast powers to collect foreign communications that often sweep up the phone calls and emails of Americans.

Key lawmakers say they won't vote to renew the programs under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that expire at the end of this year without major changes targeting the FBI. Many blame problems with how the FBI's special agents search for U.S. citizens using Section 702 — along with publicly revealed mistakes in other

intelligence investigations by the bureau.

Among the revelations since the law was last renewed in 2018: The bureau misled surveillance court judges in seeking to wiretap a 2016 campaign aide for former President Donald Trump, and agents didn't follow guidelines in searching Section 702 databases for the names of a congressman on the House Intelligence Committee, a local political party, and people of Middle Eastern descent.

Two successive chief judges of the primary U.S. surveillance court criticized the bureau in written opinions, with one saying the frequency of mistakes in the bureau's investigation of Russian election in-

terference "calls into question whether information contained in other FBI applications is reliable."

The debate is of great consequence to U.S. intelligence officials, who argue that the law is perhaps their most critical tool to stopping terrorism, enemy spies and cyberattacks.

According to the intelligence community, 59% of the items in the briefing given daily to President Joe Biden last year featured information the National Security Agency captured under Section 702.

And the classified Pentagon documents leaked online in recent weeks make clear how much the U.S. relies on electronic snooping, with dozens of

items on allies and foes alike sourced to what's known as "signals intelligence."

"Section 702 has kept American citizens safe and our U.S. service members abroad out of danger," said Rep. Mike Turner, the Ohio Republican who chairs the House Intelligence Committee, in a statement. "However, changes must be made in order to prevent further FBI misuse and abuse of this vital national security tool."

Reps. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., and Warren Davidson, R-Ohio, issued a joint statement in March saying the FBI was searching for Americans "at an alarming scale" and calling for an overhaul of the program.

Fighting continues to rock Sudan capital despite truce

Associated Press

CAIRO — Heavy explosions and gunfire rocked Sudan's capital, Khartoum and its twin city of Omdurman early Friday, residents said, despite the extension of a fragile truce between the country's two top generals whose power struggle has killed hundreds.

After two weeks of fighting that has turned the capital into a war zone, a wide-ranging group of international mediators — including African and Arab nations, the U.N. and the United States — were intensifying their pressure on the rival generals to enter talks about the crisis.

So far, however, they have managed to achieve only a series of fragile temporary cease-

fires that failed to stop clashes but created enough of a lull for tens of thousands of Sudanese to flee to safer areas and for foreign nations to evacuate thousands of their citizens.

In a sign of the persistent chaos, Turkey said one of its evacuation planes was hit by gunfire outside Khartoum with no casualties on Friday, hours after both sides accepted a 72-hour truce extension, apparently to allow foreign governments complete the evacuation of their citizens.

Fierce clashes with frequent explosions and gunfire continued Friday in Khartoum's upscale neighborhood of Kafouri, where the military earlier used warplanes to bomb its rivals.

Pentagon: 'Small number' of Americans in Sudan

DOUG G. WARE

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — There are still Americans in Sudan who want to leave as dangers from a violent power struggle linger in the African country, the Pentagon said Thursday.

"We are working very closely with the State Department to identify the number of Americans who want to leave Sudan," Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon's top spokesperson, told reporters Thursday. "As of right now, the indications that we have is that those numbers are relatively small."

The Sudanese army and Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary group, have been fighting for two weeks in what officials

and observers have called a bloody dispute over power. The two factions cooperated to overthrow Sudan's civilian government in 2021 but are now at odds over merging the paramilitary force into the military structure and deciding who the leaders will be.

U.S. special forces evacuated all American personnel from the embassy in Khartoum last weekend, and U.S. officials have been working all week to help private citizens leave as well.

News reports have said there were about 19,000 Americans in Sudan at the start of this week, but U.S. officials haven't said specifically how many of those people are trying to get out of the country.

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Young top pick as QBs dominate NFL draft

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Finding a franchise quarterback is the quickest path to success, so it's no surprise teams made them a priority in the NFL draft.

Bryce Young, C.J. Stroud and Anthony Richardson were among the top four picks Thursday night, an expected result in a rich draft class that's been anticipated since last year. The surprise in the first round was that Will Levis didn't hear his name called.

Young, the slender and dynamic Alabama quarterback, went No. 1 to the Carolina Panthers, seven weeks after the team made a blockbuster trade with Chicago to move up to get their choice.

The biggest question surrounding the 2021 Heisman Trophy winner is size. He measured at 5-foot-10 and weighed 204 pounds at the combine. Though he dominated the SEC, some scouts and coaches fear Young may not be able to physically withstand all the hits in the NFL.

"Those that doubt me are entitled to their opinion," Young said. "I think that is the beauty of sports. We all come together and have arguments on who you think is good or not. I choose to focus on what I can control."

Stroud didn't have to wait long despite speculation he may drop out of the top 10 after scoring poorly in the S2 Cognition test. He told the AP earlier in the day he didn't know where he would end up going but Houston snagged him at No. 2. The Texans then made a blockbuster deal with Arizona to acquire the No. 3 pick and selected Alabama edge rusher Will Anderson Jr.

"I can't wait to play with Will," Stroud said. "I hope he doesn't hit me too hard in practice."

Richardson was selected at No. 4 by the Indianapolis Colts, who will begin a sixth straight season with a different starting QB.

Richardson might have the most upside of the group but he has the least experience. He threw just 393 passes at Florida. Colts owner Jim Irsay is fond of Philadelphia Eagles QB Jalen Hurts, and Richardson has similar playmaking ability.

He'll play for Shane Steichen, who was the offensive coordinator in Philadelphia when Hurts developed into an MVP runner-up.

"I know what he did with Hurts, but I am excited to get to work with him," Richardson said. "He has told me we are going to do great things, so I am looking forward to it."

Heading into the draft, there was no certainty beyond the No. 1 pick, and even that wasn't a lock. Some thought Kentucky's Levis would be the second QB taken, but he slipped out of the first round. Tennessee's Hendon Hooker, who is coming off ACL surgery, also wasn't taken on the first day.

New Panthers coach Frank Reich said earlier in the week that the organization only reached a consensus Monday after several weeks of deliberation.

"I learned so much in my short time there," Young said of his visit with the Panthers. "It is an amazing staff. You can tell there is an energy, focus, drive and will to win."

A dual-threat playmaker with a strong arm and an elite combination of instincts and intelligence, Young also possesses the intangibles and characteristics coaches desire, including leadership ability and a strong work ethic.

The Panthers have sought an answer at quarterback since moving on from Cam Newton, who was the No. 1 overall pick in 2011 and the NFL MVP in 2015 when he led the Panthers to a 15-1 record and a Super Bowl appearance.

Young had a spectacular career at Alabama and the Panthers are hoping he can deliver

the franchise's first Lombardi Trophy. He played in a pro-style offense under offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien, the former Texans head coach who has returned to the NFL to run New England's offense.

Stroud, a finalist for the Heisman Trophy the past two seasons at Ohio State, goes to Houston to help the rebuilding Texans move past Deshaun Watson. It's the ninth time two QBs went 1-2 and the first time it was two Black QBs.

"I hope that inspired a lot of Black children," Stroud said.

After the run on QBs, defense-needy Seattle took Illinois cornerback Devon Witherspoon at No. 5 and the wheeling-and-dealing Cardinals moved up to No. 6 to select Ohio State offensive lineman Paris Johnson. Las Vegas then chose Texas Tech edge Tyree Wilson and Atlanta made Bijan Robinson the first running back taken in the top 10 since Saquon Barkley went No. 2 to the Giants in 2018.

NFC champion Philadelphia moved up one spot to take troubled Georgia defensive tackle Jalen Carter at No. 9 and Chicago went with Tennessee offensive lineman Darnell Wright with the 10th pick. The Eagles got Carter's teammate, edge Nolan Smith, at No. 30.

At No. 11, the Titans passed on Levis for Northwestern offensive lineman Peter Skovronski. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers also passed on Levis at No. 19, taking Pitt defensive tackle Calijah Kancey.

It took until the 20th pick for the first wide receiver to go. The Seahawks chose Jaxon Smith-Njigba. That started a run of four wideouts in a row. The Chargers then took Quentin Johnston, the Ravens grabbed Zay Flowers to team up with Odell Beckham Jr., and the Vikings added Jordan Addison to go with Justin Jefferson.

Golden Knights knock out Jets, head to second round

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Chandler Stephenson scored twice and the Vegas Golden Knights eliminated the Winnipeg Jets from their Western Conference opening-round series with a 4-1 victory on Thursday night.

The Golden Knights became the first team to advance to the second round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

Mark Stone added a goal and two assists and William Karlsson also scored for the Golden Knights. Goaltender Laurent Brossoit made 30 saves.

Vezina Trophy candidate Connor Hellebuyck made 21 saves for the Jets and Kyle Connor scored late in the third period to ruin Brossoit's shutout bid.

Devils 4, Rangers 0: Erik Haua had two goals and an assist, Akira Schmid stopped 23 shots, and New Jersey beat New York to take a 3-2 lead in their first-round series.

Dawson Mercer had a goal and an assist, and Ondrej Palat also scored to help New Jersey move one win away from advancing with their third straight win after losing the first two games at home.

Igor Shesterkin finished with 39 saves for the Rangers.

Lightning 4, Maple Leafs 2: Michael Eysimont had a goal and an assist and visiting Tampa Bay forced Game 6 in their first-round playoff series.

Anthony Cirelli also had a goal and an assist, Nicholas Paul scored and Alex Killorn got an empty net goal for Tampa. Andrei Vasilevskiy made 28 saves.

Morgan Rielly and Auston Matthews scored for Toronto, which got 34 stops from Ilya Samsonov. John Tavares had two assists.

Celtics fend off Hawks, face 76ers next

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Bring on Philly.

The Boston Celtics finally finished off the Atlanta Hawks, winning the opening-round series in six games with a 128-120 victory Thursday night.

Now, the second-seeded Celtics can turn their attention to the well-rested Philadelphia 76ers for a matchup between the two highest-seeded teams left on the Eastern Conference side.

Game 1 is Monday night in Boston.

"We know they're gonna bring the fight," Boston star Jaylen Brown said. "It's gonna be fun. They've (got) some great players in Joel Embiid and James Harden. It's gonna be a test again. We have to be ready to fight again. I'm up for it. I can't wait."

With top-seeded Milwaukee stunningly

knocked out by Miami, the Celtics-76ers winner will surely be viewed as a big favorite to advance to the NBA Finals.

The Celtics have essentially been in championship-or-bust mode since losing to Golden State in last year's finals.

That was evident in the closing minutes against the Hawks, who had pulled off an improbable comeback in the previous game at Boston to extend the series.

Atlanta seemed on the verge of forcing Game 7 until the Celtics clamped down defensively and ripped off an 11-0 run that broke open a game that was tight all the way.

"I thought our guys did a great job at the end of just locking in," Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla said. "They wanted to win. They kept the momentum, the energy, the edge of

the game, and they executed."

Boston won three of four meetings, but the margin was single digits in every game. The Celtics (57-25) finished just three games ahead of Philadelphia (54-28) in the conference standings.

Brown, who averaged 26.7 points in the opening round, said the tougher-than-expected challenge from the Hawks should benefit the Celtics going forward.

"In the playoffs, you've got basketball, you've got execution, and you've got just the fight that's kind of going on," he said. "Atlanta might not have all the Xs and Os, but they fought us. They offensive rebounded with us. They played hard, they had effort, and they used their athleticism. They didn't back down from no challenges. That's what we needed to step up."

Heat-Knicks: A playoff rivalry set to get rekindled

Associated Press

MIAMI — They brawled in 1997. Jeff Van Gundy clung to Alonzo Mourning's leg in 1998. Allan Houston got a friendly bounce in 1999. Clarence Weatherspoon didn't get one in 2000. Amare Stoudemire lost a fight with a glass-enclosed fire extinguisher in 2012.

Ah, Knicks-Heat.

Something always happens. And here we go again.

There are more storied rivalries in the NBA — Lakers-Celtics and 76ers-Celtics among them — but there is just something about a Heat vs. Knicks matchup that brings out something extra in Miami and New York. They're about to meet in the NBA playoffs for the sixth time; Game 1 of an Eastern Conference semifinal series is Sunday at Madison Square Garden.

"It's always good for the league," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said, "when there's a Heat-Knicks playoff series."

This will be the first time that New York has home-court advantage in a playoff matchup against Miami. There are tons of reasons why the rivalry is the rivalry, but the biggest reason is Pat Riley.

He quit coaching the Knicks after the 1994-95 season — famously by fax — with a year left on his contract. A few weeks later, Riley and Heat managing general partner Micky Arison met in New England and began hammering out the deal to bring him to Miami. They shook hands, the Heat eventually got Riley out of his Knicks contract for \$1 million and a first-round draft pick, and the New York-Miami rivalry in basketball was born.

The Heat ousted the Knicks in 1997. The Knicks returned the favor and then some by ending Miami's season in 1998, 1999 and 2000. And in 2012, the Heat coasted past New York on the way to the NBA title.

A look back:

1997: Heat 4, Knicks 3

The Heat were down 3-1 and refused to go out without a fight. Literally.

The whole series changed when New York's Charlie Ward and Miami's P.J. Brown got tangled under a basket during Game 5. Ward got flipped over, while four Knicks — Allan Houston, Patrick Ewing, Larry Johnson and John Starks — all were suspended for leaving the Knicks' bench to join the fight.

Ward and Brown were suspended, as were Houston, Ewing, Johnson and Starks. Johnson and Starks had to miss Game 7; the other Knicks missed Game 6, and Brown missed both games for Miami.

Facing elimination, the Heat won the last three games, including one at Madison Square Garden, becoming just the sixth team in NBA history to erase a 3-1 deficit.

1998: Knicks 3, Heat 2

Miami had a chance to close out New York in Game 4 at Madison Square Garden, a game best remembered by a fight between Alonzo Mourning and Larry Johnson — one where New York coach Jeff Van Gundy tried pulling Mourning away by grabbing onto his leg.

Patrick Ewing was suspended for Game 5, as were Mourning and Johnson, who was ruled out of the deciding Heat-Knicks game for the second straight year by the NBA.

Allan Houston scored 30 points, and the Knicks rolled to a 98-81 win in the deciding game.

1999: Knicks 3, Heat 2

Miami got to this year's series against the Knicks by beating top-seeded Milwaukee. So now, the Heat have gotten a taste of the joy New York had 24 years ago when it beat the top seed that season — Miami.

The Heat won an elimination game in New York to force a winner-take-all Game 5 in Miami. Allan Houston's 15-footer hit the front of the rim, hit the backboard and then dropped with 0.8 seconds left for a 78-77 win that gave New York the series.

2000: Knicks 4, Heat 3

Miami wasted double-digit leads in Games 6 and 7. Patrick Ewing's dunk with 1:20 left in Game 7 gave New York an 83-82 lead — and neither team scored again.

Clarence Weatherspoon had a chance to give Miami the lead on a jumper with less than 10 seconds left, almost from the same spot where Houston connected to win the 1999 series, but it hit the back of the rim and bounced away.

2012: Heat 4, Knicks 1

Miami's LeBron James and New York's Carmelo Anthony each scored 139 points in the five-game series, one star canceling the other out on the score sheet.

The rest of the series all went Miami's way. Amare Stoudemire badly cut his left hand on the glass-and-metal case that was holding a fire extinguisher by the Knicks' locker room in Game 2, and the Heat outscored the Knicks by 70 points in the series.

Ohtani gets hard-fought win vs Oakland

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Shohei Ohtani earned another win on the mound despite giving up five runs in a nightmare fourth inning, and he also tripled, doubled and singled in the Los Angeles Angels' 8-7 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Thursday.

Ohtani (4-0) had his rockiest start in recent memory, yielding at least five runs and two homers for the first time in 18 starts since July. Nearly all of the two-way superstar's trouble occurred in the fourth, after he had thrown three perfect innings. But he recovered to throw six innings of three-hit ball.

Carlos Estévez pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Brent Rooker hit a three-run homer and Shea Langeliers added a two-run shot in the fourth for the A's, who have lost 12 of 14 — one loss shy of matching the 1988 Baltimore Orioles for the most April defeats in major league history with 22. JP Sears (0-2) yielded six hits and six runs while pitching into the fifth.

Pirates 6, Dodgers 2: Mitch Keller struck out 10, matching his career high, in six innings for host Pittsburgh in a win over Los Angeles.

Keller (3-0) gave up two runs on five hits, getting out of a third-inning jam with runners on first and third and one out by striking out James Outman and forcing David Peralta to ground out.

The Pirates have won nine of 10, pushing their hot start to 18-8.

Julio Urias (3-3) allowed six runs on seven hits for the Dodgers, who lost the last two of the three-game series after coming back from down five for an 8-7 win Tuesday.

Yankees 4, Rangers 2: Gerrit Cole got his fifth win after setting a career-long scoreless streak, DJ LeMahieu and Gleyber Torres hit back-to-back home runs, and the New York Yankees beat Texas.

The series opener marked Aaron Judge's first game in Texas since breaking Roger Maris' single-season American League record with his 62nd homer at the Rangers' ballpark in October.

Cole's scoreless streak reached 25½ innings before the Rangers scored on Jonah Heim's fielder's choice grounder in the sixth.

With his eight strikeouts, Cole (5-0) pushed his season total to 44 Ks, one more than Rangers ace Jacob deGrom for the AL lead. He allowed two runs over 6⅓ innings. Michael King pitched the final 2⅓ innings for his first save.

Andrew Heaney (2-2) struck out six and

walked one over six innings for Texas.

Mets 9, Nationals 8: Jeff McNeil snapped an eighth-inning tie with an RBI triple and host New York squandered a pair of multi-run leads before recovering to beat Washington.

The Mets led 4-1 and 6-3 before C.J. Abrams' grand slam in the top of the eighth gave the Nationals an 8-7 lead. But Starling Marte led off the bottom half with a single against Mason Thompson (2-2).

Marte stole second, went to third on a fly out by Francisco Lindor and trotted home when Pete Alonso split the right-centerfield gap with a double. McNeil then tripled off the right field wall.

Brooks Raley (1-0) surrendered the grand slam by Abrams but earned the win. David Robertson notched his fifth save with a perfect ninth.

Cubs 5, Padres 2: Eric Hosmer and Nelson Velázquez hit back-to-back homers and Dansby Swanson added his first of the season to help host Chicago past San Diego.

Manny Machado homered for the Padres, who had won five of seven.

Hayden Wesneski (2-1) worked the first five innings for Chicago, allowing four hits, striking out three and walking one.

Hosmer and Velázquez gave the Cubs the lead for good with consecutive homers off Seth Lugo (2-2) in the bottom of the second. Lugo struck out three and gave up seven hits and all four Chicago runs in five innings.

Phillies 1, Mariners 0: Kody Clemens ripped an RBI single to right, Matt Strahm pitched scoreless ball into the sixth inning, and Philadelphia moved to .500 for the first time this season by beating visiting Seattle.

Strahm (2-2) and four relievers helped get the Phillies to 13-13 as they head out for a six-game trip. Craig Kimbrel worked a scoreless ninth for his third save and 397th of his career, putting him on the brink of becoming the seventh reliever to ever record 400.

The Phillies got two of their three hits in the second inning to send Mariners starter George Kirby (2-2) to a loss.

Cardinals 6, Giants 0: Alec Burleson and Paul DeJong homered, Miles Mikolas pitched 6⅓ scoreless innings and St. Louis avoided a four-game sweep by San Francisco.

Mikolas (1-1) scattered four hits and two walks, striking out six.

Webb (1-5) allowed two runs in 6⅓ innings with seven strikeouts, suffering his MLB-leading fifth loss of the year.

Orioles 7, Tigers 4: Anthony Santander's two-run homer capped a five-run seventh in-

ning in which Baltimore rallied for a 7-4 win over host Detroit.

Joey Ortiz became the first Orioles player to drive in three runs in his MLB debut since Don Baylor on Sept. 18, 1970. Baltimore improved to 9-1 in its past 10 games.

Detroit, which fell to 1-12 against AL East teams, left 15 runners on base.

Nick Maton drew a bases-loaded walk to make it 4-2 in the sixth, but the Orioles hit for the cycle against Chasen Shreve (1-2) in the five-run seventh.

Bryan Baker (2-0) got the win with 1½ scoreless innings of relief. Felix Bautista pitched the ninth for his sixth save.

Marlins 5, Braves 4: Garrett Cooper came through with a two-out, two-run double that capped a stunning five-run ninth inning by Miami, which avoided a sweep with a win over host Atlanta.

Kyle Wright and four relievers held Miami scoreless until the ninth, but the Marlins overcame a 4-0 deficit against Braves closer A.J. Minter (1-3). Yuli Gurriel, Avisail García and Jazz Chisholm had run-scoring singles to knock out Minter, who retired only two of the seven hitters he faced.

A.J. Puk (2-0) claimed the win. Dylan Floro pitched a perfect ninth for his first save.

Rays 14, White Sox 5: Isaac Paredes had a career-high five RBIs, and Tampa Bay handed host Chicago its eighth straight loss.

Brandon Lowe homered and drove in three runs for Tampa Bay in the opener of a four-game series. Lowe, Yandy Díaz, Luke Raley and Josh Lowe each had three hits as the AL East leaders bounced back nicely after they were shut out in back-to-back home games by Houston.

Shane Bieber (5-0) pitched five innings of two-run ball in the win. He struck out five and walked two.

White Sox ace Dylan Cease (2-1) was tagged for seven runs, six earned, and nine hits in four-plus innings. Jake Burger homered for Chicago and drove in two runs.

Twins 7, Royals 1: Byron Buxton and Carlos Correa homered back-to-back for Minnesota in a rout of visiting Kansas City.

Buxton and Correa teed off on Royals veteran right-hander Zack Greinke (0-4) in the fourth inning. Buxton's opposite-field shot was a three-run blast over the high wall in right-center field to make it 6-1. Correa followed that up with a solo shot.

Twins starter Tyler Mahle allowed one run — a solo homer by Vinnie Pasquantino in the top of the fourth — but exited after four innings and 66 pitches with right posterior elbow soreness.