

## Israel hits Iran in apparently limited strike

*The Washington Post*

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military carried out strikes inside Iran early Friday, an Israeli official said, in retaliation for an Iranian barrage of missiles and drones launched last Saturday, but the scope appeared limited.

It was not clear what damage the attack caused, but the official — speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military matters — said it was intended to send a message to Iran that Israel has the ability to strike inside the country.

After weeks of soaring tensions following Israel's deadly strike on an Iranian diplomatic compound in Damascus, Syria, and Tehran's answering attack on Israeli territory, Friday's limited action appeared to many experts to be part of attempts by both sides to de-escalate the situation.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov even said Iran, which has increasingly close ties with Moscow, had reached out to defuse the situation.

"There were telephone contacts between the leadership of Russia and Iran, our representatives and Israelis. We very clearly registered that in these conversations — and conveyed to the Israelis — that Iran does not want an escalation," the minister said.

Iranian state media was muted in its response to the attack, saying its air defense systems intercepted "three small drones" in Isfahan province. The area is home to sensitive facilities — an Iranian military base and key nuclear labs — but the attack appeared to be only a pinprick, given Israel's long-range military capabilities.

With Israel tight-lipped after the attack and Iran downplaying its significance, the two sides appear to be hoping the exchanges so far may be enough to satisfy domestic audiences without requiring further escalation.

"I would actually think that we will be surprised and that things may very well wind

down," said Charles Miller, a security expert at Australian National University. "It seems that actually both sides want to be seen to be doing something without actually undertaking the risks of doing anything that's too provocative."

Like the Iranian attack before it, the Israeli strike appears designed to stop short of escalating tensions.

Analysts said Tehran's attack last weekend, which featured hundreds of projectiles launched with a lot of advance warning, was probably designed to look spectacular while keeping death and destruction to a minimum.

Commenting at the time, Chatham House's Sanam Vakil said Iran took time on its response to show a wide range of capabilities across the region — much the way Israel on Friday showed it could strike inside Iran.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, which monitors Iran's nuclear program,

said Friday that none of the sites were damaged.

Iran's army chief, Maj. Gen. Abdolrahim Mousavi, said the explosions in Isfahan were due to anti-aircraft defense systems shooting down a suspicious object in the sky and that no damage was caused, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

Reports of the blasts began appearing on social media about 4 a.m. local time. Iranian military officials said air defense networks in the area were activated and that a system at a military base in Isfahan "was used for an interception," according to state media.

Foreign ministers from the Group of Seven major democracies called on Israel and Iran to de-escalate hostilities, Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said Friday.

A person familiar with official discussions about the attack, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the strike was "carefully calibrated."

## Ukraine claims it downed Russian strategic bomber

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine's air force claimed Friday it shot down a Russian strategic bomber, but Moscow officials said the plane crashed in a sparsely populated area due to a malfunction after a combat mission.

Meanwhile, Russian missiles struck cities in the central Dnipro region of Ukraine, killing eight people, including a 14-year-old girl and 8-year-old boy, and injuring 28, local officials said.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy repeated Kyiv

officials' almost daily appeals for more Western air defense systems, again drawing a parallel with how Israel blunted a recent Iranian attack.

Missile and drone attacks can be thwarted, he wrote on social platform X: "This has been demonstrated in the skies over the Middle East, and it should also work in Europe."

Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba added: "Children must not be killed in airstrikes in modern Europe."

Russia's air force is vastly more powerful than Ukraine's,

but sophisticated missile systems provided by Kyiv's Western partners are a major threat to Russian aviation as the Kremlin's forces slowly push forward along the around 620-mile front line in what has become a grinding war of attrition. Ukrainian officials say they expect a major Russian offensive in the summer.

Ukraine said the air force and military intelligence cooperated to bring down the Tu-22M3 bomber with anti-aircraft missiles. Russia commonly uses the bomber to fire Kh-22 cruise

missiles at Ukrainian targets from inside its own airspace. The plane can also carry nuclear warheads.

The Russian defense ministry said the warplane crashed "in a deserted area" in the southern region of Stavropol, hundreds of miles from the Ukrainian border.

Three crew members were rescued after ejecting from the aircraft, and the search for a fourth is taking place, according to the ministry. But Stavropol Gov. Vladimir Vladimirov said one of the rescued pilots died.

# US vetoes resolution backing UN membership for Palestine

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United States vetoed a widely backed U.N. resolution Thursday that would have paved the way for full United Nations membership for Palestine, a goal the Palestinians have long sought and Israel has worked to prevent.

The vote in the 15-member Security Council was 12 in favor, the United States opposed and two abstentions, from the United Kingdom and Switzerland. U.S. allies France, Japan and South Korea supported the resolution.

The strong support the Palestinians received reflects not only the growing number of countries recognizing their statehood but almost certainly the global support for Palestinians facing a humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Gaza.

The resolution would have recommended that the 193-

member U.N. General Assembly, where there are no vetoes, approve Palestine becoming the 194th member of the United Nations. Some 140 countries have already recognized Palestine, so its admission would have been approved, likely by a much higher number of countries.

U.S. deputy ambassador Robert Wood told the Security Council that the veto “does not reflect opposition to Palestinian statehood but instead is an acknowledgment that it will only come from direct negotiations between the parties.”

The United States has “been very clear consistently that premature actions in New York — even with the best intentions — will not achieve statehood for the Palestinian people,” deputy State Department spokesman Vedant Patel said.

His voice breaking at times, Palestinian U.N. Ambassador Riyad Mansour told the council

after the vote: “The fact that this resolution did not pass will not break our will and it will not defeat our determination.”

This is the second Palestinian attempt for full membership and comes as the war in Gaza has put the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at center stage.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas first delivered the Palestinian Authority’s application for U.N. membership in 2011. It failed because the Palestinians didn’t get the required minimum support of nine of the Security Council’s 15 members.

They went to the General Assembly and succeeded by more than a two-thirds majority in having their status raised from a U.N. observer to a non-member observer state in 2012. That opened the door for the Palestinian territories to join the U.N. and other international organizations, including the International Criminal Court.

## Dozens of protesters arrested at Columbia

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York police removed a pro-Palestinian protest encampment at Columbia University on Thursday and arrested more than 100 demonstrators, including the daughter of a prominent Minnesota congresswoman.

Several students involved in the protest said they also were suspended from Columbia and Barnard College, including Isra Hirsi, who is the daughter of Democratic U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar.

Omar had questioned Columbia’s president, Nemat Shafik, at a hearing Wednesday in Congress about the school’s targeting of pro-Palestinian protesters.

Police said 108 people, including Hirsi, were charged with trespassing at the private Ivy League institution. Two people were also charged with obstructing government administration.

New York Mayor Eric Adams said the city was asked in writing by university officials to remove the encampment.

The students had been protesting on campus since early Wednesday, opposing Israeli military action in Gaza and demanding the school divest from companies they claim “profit from Israeli apartheid.”

Shafik issued a statement saying the school had warned protesters on Wednesday that they would be suspended if the encampment was not removed. School officials made the decision Thursday to call in police and clear out the demonstrators, she said.

## Google fires 28 workers in aftermath of protests over big tech deal with Israel

Associated Press

Google has fired 28 employees in the aftermath of protests over technology that the internet company is supplying the Israeli government amid the Gaza war, further escalating tensions surrounding a hot-but-not deal.

The firings confirmed by Google late Wednesday came a day after nine employees were arrested during sit-in protests at offices in New York and Sunnyvale, Calif., after the company called police.

The dissent roiling Google

centers on “Project Nimbus,” a \$1.2 billion contract signed in 2021 that calls upon Google and Amazon to provide the Israeli government with cloud computing and artificial intelligence services.

The protests are being organized primarily by a group called No Tech For Apartheid. Google says Nimbus isn’t being deployed in weaponry or intelligence gathering.

In a statement, Google attributed the firing of the 28 employees to “completely unacceptable behavior” that pre-

vented some workers from doing their jobs and created a threatening atmosphere. The Mountain View, Calif., company added it is still investigating what happened during the protests, implying more workers could still be fired.

In a blog post, No Tech For Apartheid accused Google of lying about what happened inside its offices during what it described as “peaceful sit-in” that received overwhelming support from other workers who weren’t participating in the protest.

# Ukraine, Israel aid back on track in House

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With rare bipartisan momentum, the House pushed ahead Friday on a foreign aid package of \$95 billion for Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan and humanitarian support as a coalition of lawmakers helped it clear a procedural hurdle to reach final votes this weekend.

Friday's vote produced a seldom-seen outcome in the typically hyper-partisan House, with Democrats helping Republican Speaker Mike Johnson's plan advance 316-94. Final House approval could come this weekend, when the package would be sent to the Senate.

It was a victory for the strategy Speaker Mike Johnson set in motion this week after he agonized for two months over the legislation. Still, Johnson has had to spend the past 24 hours making the rounds on conservative media working to salvage support for the wartime funding, particularly for Ukraine as it faces a critical moment battling Russia, but also for his own

job as the restless right flank threatens to oust him over the effort.

"There's a lot of misinformation about what we're doing here and why," Johnson told the conservative host of The Mark Levin Show.

"Ukrainians desperately need lethal aid right now. ... We cannot allow Vladimir Putin to roll through another country and take it," he said about the Russian president's invasion of Ukraine. "These are very serious matters with global implications."

After months of delay, the House worked slowly but deliberately once Johnson made up his mind this week to plow ahead. President Joe Biden sent a swift endorsement of the speaker's plan and, in a rare moment, Donald Trump, the Republican presumed presidential nominee who opposes most overseas aid for Ukraine, has not derailed the speaker's work.

In an extremely rare step, the members of the House Rules

Committee joined forces late Thursday in a near midnight vote, the four Democrats giving their support on a procedural step, to push past the Republican majority's three hard-line holdouts to send the package to the House floor for debate on a 9-3 vote. It was a moment unseen in recent House memory.

Johnson will need to rely on Democrats again Friday to clear the next procedural vote and turn back amendments Republicans have offered that could kill the package. One from hard-line Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene would reduce spending for Ukraine to zero.

Greene has filed the "motion to vacate" the speaker from office, and has drawn at least one other Republican, Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky as a cosponsor. It could launch a bid to evict Johnson from the speaker's office, should she call it up for a vote, much the way Republicans booted Kevin McCarthy from the position last fall.

With one of the most narrow

House majorities in modern times, Johnson can only afford to lose a single vote or two from his Republican ranks to pass any bill. That dynamic has thrust him into the arms of Democrats as he searches for votes to pass the package.

Without his Republican majority fully behind him, Johnson cannot shape the package as the ultra-conservatives demand lest he lose Democratic backing.

It has forced him to leave behind tough security measures to clamp down on migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border and other priorities.

At best, Johnson has been able to carve up a Senate-passed version of the bill into separate parts, as is the preference among House Republicans, and the final votes will be on distinct measures — for Ukraine, Israel and Indo-Pacific allies.

Passing each bill, in votes expected Saturday, will require Johnson to form complicated bipartisan coalitions on each.

## Jury selection could be wrapping up in Trump trial

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Lawyers worked Friday to round out the panel of 12 jurors and six alternates who will hear Donald Trump's hush money trial, as the former president railed against a gag order that has prosecutors seeking to hold him in contempt of court.

After a jury of 12 New Yorkers was seated Thursday, lawyers turned their attention to picking alternates who can vow to set aside their personal views and judge the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. Thursday's proceedings demonstrated unpredictability in the jury selection process of such a high-profile case, with two jurors who had been seated a day earlier being dismissed from the panel.

The judge has suggested that opening statements could begin as early as Monday, before prosecutors begin laying out their case alleging a scheme to cover up negative stories Trump feared would hurt his 2016 presidential campaign.

The trial will place Trump in a Manhattan courtroom for weeks, forcing him to juggle his dual role as criminal defendant and political candidate against the backdrop of his hotly contested race against President Joe Biden. It will feature salacious and unflattering testimony his opponent will no doubt seize on to try to paint Trump as unfit to return as commander in chief.

After arriving at the courthouse Friday, Trump complained about the gag order im-

posed by the judge that limits what he can publicly say about witnesses. He has lashed out on social media about the judge, prosecutors and likely witnesses, prompting the district attorneys to seek sanctions for possible gag order violations. The judge will hold a hearing next week on prosecutors' request to hold Trump in contempt.

"The gag order has to come off. People are allowed to speak about me, and I have a gag order," Trump said.

After a new group of potential jurors was brought into the courtroom, one woman who said she didn't believe she could be "completely fair" was excused.

Judge Juan M. Merchan is also expected to hold a hearing Friday to consider a request

from prosecutors to bring up Trump's prior legal entanglements if he takes the stand in the hush money case. Manhattan prosecutors have said they want to question Trump about his recent civil fraud trial that resulted in a \$454 million judgment after a judge found Trump had lied about his wealth for years. He is appealing that verdict.

Trump says he did nothing wrong, and has cast himself as the victim of a politically motivated justice system bent on keeping him out of the White House.

The jury of New Yorkers includes a sales professional, a software engineer, a security engineer, an English teacher, a speech therapist, multiple lawyers, an investment banker and a retired wealth manager.



## EPA labels 2 forever chemicals hazardous

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency on Friday designated two forever chemicals that have been used in cookware, carpets and firefighting foams as hazardous substances, an action intended to ensure quicker cleanup of the toxic compounds and require industries and others responsible for contamination to pay for its removal.

Designation as a hazardous substance under the Superfund law doesn't ban the chemicals, known as PFOA and PFOS. But it requires that releases of the chemicals into soil or water be reported to federal, state or tribal officials if they meet or exceed certain levels. The EPA then may require cleanups to protect public health and recover costs that can reach tens of millions of dollars.

PFOA and PFOS have been voluntarily phased out by U.S. manufacturers but are still in limited use and remain in the environment because they do not degrade over time. The compounds are part of a larger cluster of forever chemicals known as PFAS that have been used since the 1940s in industry and consumer products including nonstick frying pans, water-repellent sports gear, stain-resistant rugs and cosmetics.

The term PFAS is short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. The chemicals can accumulate and persist in the human body for long periods. Evidence from animal and human studies indicates that exposure to PFOA or PFOS may lead to cancer or other health problems, including liver and heart damage and developmental problems in infants and children.

## US deports about 50 Haitians to nation plagued by violence

*Associated Press*

MIAMI — The Biden administration sent about 50 Haitians back to their country on Thursday, authorities said, marking the first deportation flight in several months to the Caribbean nation struggling with surging gang violence.

The Homeland Security Department said in a statement that it "will continue to enforce U.S. laws and policy throughout the Florida Straits and the Caribbean region, as well as at the southwest border. U.S. policy is to return noncitizens who do not establish a legal basis to remain in the United States."

Authorities didn't offer details of the flight beyond how many deported Haitians were aboard.

Thomas Cartwright of Witness at the Border, an advocacy group that tracks flight data, said a plane left Alexandria, La.,

a hub for deportation operations, and arrived in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, after a stop in Miami.

More than 33,000 people fled Haiti's capital in a span of less than two weeks as gangs pilaged homes and attacked state institutions, according to a report last month from the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration. The majority of those displaced traveled to Haiti's southern region, which is generally peaceful compared with Port-au-Prince, which has an estimated population of 3 million and is largely paralyzed by gang violence.

Haiti's National Police is understaffed and overwhelmed by gangs with powerful arsenals. Many hospitals ceased operations amid a shortage of medical supplies.

The U.S. operated one deportation flight a month to Haiti from December 2022 through

last January, according to Witness at the Border. It said deportation flights were frequent after a camp of 16,000 largely Haitian migrants assembled on the riverbanks of Del Rio, Texas, in September 2021 but became rare as fewer Haitians crossed the border illegally from Mexico.

Haitians were arrested crossing the border from Mexico 286 times during the first three months of the year, less than 0.1% of the more than 400,000 arrests among all nationalities. More than 150,000 have entered the U.S. legally since January 2023 under presidential powers to grant entry for humanitarian reasons, and many others came legally using an online appointment system at land crossings with Mexico called CBP One.

Homeland Security said Thursday that it was "monitoring the situation" in Haiti.

## Legislation that could force TikTok ban revived as part of foreign aid package

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Legislation that could ban TikTok in the U.S. if its China-based owner doesn't sell its stake won a major boost late Wednesday when House Republican leaders included it in a package of bills that would send aid to Ukraine and Israel. The bill could be law as soon as next week if Congress moves quickly.

The TikTok legislation, which passed the House in March and has widespread support in both chambers, was included in the House package as leaders have worked to win votes for the foreign aid bills and after negotiations with the Senate over how long the Chinese technology firm ByteDance Ltd. would

have to sell its stake in the app to continue operating in the United States. President Joe Biden has said he would sign the TikTok legislation if it reaches his desk.

The new version of the legislation won a key endorsement from Senate Commerce Committee Chairwoman Maria Cantwell, who said in a statement that she had successfully pushed to extend the period from six months to a year to give the company enough time to find a buyer. While the original bill had a six-month deadline for TikTok to be sold, the revised legislation would give nine months and a possible three-month extension if a sale was in progress.

"Extending the divestment period is necessary to ensure there is enough time for a new buyer to get a deal done," said Cantwell, who had previously expressed doubts about the bill. "I support this updated legislation."

If Congress passes the TikTok bill, it would be an extraordinary and unusual moment in which both parties unite against one company — something lawmakers are usually reluctant to do. But the popular social media app has prompted widespread outrage on Capitol Hill, where there is bipartisan concern about Chinese threats to the United States and where few members use the platform themselves.

# NFL draft could be heavy on offense

*Associated Press*

The NFL draft will be offensive.

We're not talking about hurt feelings. This draft has the potential to set a record for most offensive players selected in the first round.

No draft has seen more than 19 players on offense chosen in the first round. That happened three times, most recently in 2009.

Many draft experts are predicting more than 20 offensive players will go in the first round and some have up to 25.

The AP's final mock draft had 22 going in the first round, including 10 offensive linemen, six wide receivers, five quarterbacks and one tight end.

Quarterbacks get the most attention, of course. Caleb Williams is ticketed for the Chicago Bears with the No. 1 pick.

Beyond him, there are plenty of questions. The Washington Commanders need a franchise QB and will choose from Jayden Daniels, the 2023 Heisman Trophy winner, and Drake Maye at No. 2. J.J. McCarthy's stock has soared since leading Michigan to a national championship and he could end up in the top five,

with some analysts even putting him ahead of Daniels and Maye.

Michael Penix Jr. and Bo Nix are in the second tier, but could end up drafted in the latter part of the opening round.

"The quarterback position is a hard position to evaluate and I'd say with the history of the draft, there's guys that hit and there's guys that don't," Arizona Cardinals general manager Monti Ossenfort said. "There's a lot of things that go into what makes a good quarterback, not only on field but off the field, and I think that's why that position is such a challenging evaluation for a lot of people in the game."

The Las Vegas Raiders own the 13th pick, so they'd have to move up to secure one of the top four guys. They enter the draft with veteran Gardner Minshew and second-year pro Aidan O'Connell and could stay put to take the best player available and still end up with Penix or Nix later.

"There's really no consensus boards, at least since I've been in the league," Raiders GM Tom Telesco said. "You've got 32 different teams that look at things 32 different ways. So our rank-

ing may be different than other rankings, so I don't know if there's necessarily a top three and a next two or a next three. ... It's going to be a little bit different for everybody, depending on what you're looking for."

Wide receivers are a hot commodity with Marvin Harrison Jr., Malik Nabers and Rome Odunze not only considered among the top five potential picks but the best players in the entire draft.

"I think you could make a case the three highest-graded players in this draft are the three receivers," NFL Network draft analyst Daniel Jeremiah said.

Brian Thomas Jr., Adonai Mitchell and Troy Franklin round out the six wideouts in the AP's mock first round. Other potential first-round picks include Ladd McConkey and Xavier Legette. It's such a deep class of receivers that teams could wait to snag an eventual starter on Day 2 or even Day 3.

Protecting the quarterback is critical to a team's success, so there's always an emphasis on offensive linemen, especially tackles.

Joe Alt is the consensus top

lineman and is expected to be a top-10 pick. J.C. Latham, Olu-muyiwa Fashanu, Taliese Fuaga and Troy Fautanu could go in the top 20. Amarius Mims, Graham Barton, Tyler Guyton and Jordan Morgan are also in the mix. Jackson Powers-Johnson is the top interior lineman in the draft.

"They're all really talented," Jeremiah said. "When you look at that top group of guys, really I would say you're talking about Alt, Fashanu, Fuaga, Latham. I would think those are pretty unanimous, whatever order you have them, those are kind of the top four guys."

For teams looking at defense, the draft has several talented edge rushers and cornerbacks. The AP's mock draft has four players at each of those positions going in the first round, along with two interior defensive linemen.

Edge rushers Dallas Turner, Laiatu Latu, Jared Verse and Chop Robinson, cornerbacks Quinyon Mitchell, Terrion Arnold, Nate Wiggins and Kool-Aid McKinstry, and defensive tackles Byron Murphy and Jer'Zhan Newton are among the best defensive players.

## Goalkeeper suspended, fined for pointing laser at rival

*Associated Press*

MEXICO CITY — Nahuel Guzmán, a goalkeeper for the Mexican club Tigres of Nuevo Leon, was suspended 11 games and fined for pointing a laser at fellow goalie Esteban Andrada during a tournament match last weekend, Liga MX announced

Thursday.

The 38-year-old Guzmán is recovering from right knee surgery and was in the visiting team's box at the BBVA stadium in Monterrey last Saturday during the first half when he pointed the laser toward Andrada, a fellow Argentine and the start-

ing goalkeeper for Rayados.

Monterrey's sports president, Jose Antonio Noriega, went to the box and took away the laser in the first half of the match, which ended in a 3-3 draw.

In addition to the suspension and fine, Guzmán must do unspecified community work.

This is the first time in the history of Mexican soccer that a player has been sanctioned for pointing a laser at a rival. The 2014 Apertura final between América and Tigres was stopped momentarily because a fan was aiming a laser at players.

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# Warriors look to regroup after early exit

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — General manager Mike Dunleavy Jr. and the rest of Golden State's front office staff had a feeling this season would wind up short of the ultimate goal for a franchise that has won four NBA championships over the past decade.

That's the way the season went for Stephen Curry and Co. — losing big leads, making costly mistakes, repeatedly unable to deliver the big defensive stop when it mattered most.

Coach Steve Kerr had hoped the 10th-seeded Warriors could somehow fight through the NBA's play-in tournament and into a playoff series. Instead, they lost 118-94 at Sacramento on Tuesday night and were eliminated.

"I think the overarching emotion right now is disappointment. We're still sort of settling in on what happened," Dunleavy said Thursday. "But on the whole, we knew this season no matter how long it went along, was going to end at some point probably disappointing us and so not a shocking surprise. But I think as far as what we need to do, it's pretty straightforward. It's to get better. I think that presents a really good challenge for everybody."

Being run off the court by the Kings especially stung, given how closely the teams played this season but also the because

the Warriors had a thrilling seven-game victory against their Northern California neighbors in the first round of last year's Western Conference playoffs.

"That was the worst game we played all year," Dunleavy said.

Now, they regroup and evaluate how much of the roster to keep intact.

Working to bring back Klay Thompson — at the right price — will be a priority.

The 34-year-old Thompson missed all 10 shots in the loss to the Kings and becomes a free agent in July when his five-year contract worth nearly \$190 million expires. He missed more than 2½ years recovering from surgeries on his left knee and right Achilles tendon before returning in January 2022 and helping the Warriors to their most recent title that spring.

"Certainly we want Klay back first and foremost. I expressed that to him yesterday," Dunleavy said. "I think our players have expressed that, our coach, front office, ownership, look, everybody wants Klay back. He's still a really good player and I think we have enough good players in our system, we have enough assets to acquire good players and we have the ability to keep getting better."

The question for Dunleavy is whether the Warriors can make another title run while led by the core trio of Thompson, the 36-year-old Curry and Dray-

mond Green, who is 34.

"There's a lot of value in our three guys being Warriors for life," Kerr said Thursday. "There's a lot of value in ending with dignity."

Thompson has repeatedly said he would "love to be a Warrior for life," even if it was too soon Wednesday to address his future as he said he needed to decompress from the early finish.

Dunleavy said he is "hopeful, optimistic" about the sides getting something done.

"I think it's a mutual feeling. I mean, the guy's been here a long time. He means so much to the organization," Dunleavy said. "We really, really value him. So there's nothing that would make me think that he'd want to go somewhere else or we don't want him back. And for that reason I'm hopeful we can make it happen."

Dunleavy also said of Green, "fully expect him to be back," following a season in which the fiery forward served two suspensions.

The 2022 NBA champions must get better defensively, Dunleavy said, having missed the playoffs following last season's elimination by LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers in the Western Conference semifinals.

Losing games earlier in the season hurt late, according to Kerr.

"We put ourselves in a position to lose in an elimination game and we lost," said Kerr, who will shift gears to coaching first-time Olympian Curry and the U.S. team at the Paris Games. "We won 46 games in a loaded conference. It's usually enough. It's not enough. ... It's way harder now than it was nine years ago to succeed in this conference. This summer will be a lot of self-reflection."

This marked a tough finish to Dunleavy's first season since taking over for Bob Myers, but it was also a year that saw rookies Trayce Jackson-Davis and Brandin Podziemski make sizable contributions and Jonathan Kuminga emerge as a reliable rising star.

"We know clearly what this team was. It wasn't good enough," Dunleavy said. "There's no doubt about that, there's no what-ifs."

When Dunleavy and Curry spoke Wednesday, the GM expressed his disappointment that the veterans — and the young players — aren't playing deep into the postseason.

"That's what everybody wants to see not only here in the Bay Area but frankly around the world, to see those compete at the highest level, so for them not to be able to do that is really disappointing," Dunleavy said. "I feel for them. But it is what it is, it's our own undoing. We've got to live with it."

## Chasing 5th straight win, Nelly Korda is 2 shots back

Associated Press

THE WOODLANDS, Texas — Nelly Korda, who is looking to tie an LPGA Tour record with her fifth straight win, shot a 4-under 68 on Thursday in the opening round of the Chevron Championship, leaving her two shots behind leader Lauren Coughlin in the year's first major.

Coughlin shot a bogey-free

66 in windy conditions at Carlton Woods, which is hosting the event for the second time.

The top-ranked Korda is seeking her second major after winning the Women's PGA Championship in 2021. She could join Nancy Lopez (1978) and Annika Sorenstam (2004-05) as the only players to win five consecutive LPGA events.

Korda said she was battling

fatigue from recent tournaments at the beginning of her round. She bogeyed her first hole, the par-4 10th.

"I (could) definitely still feel maybe a little bit of tiredness, so it took me a while to get going," she said. "I felt the nerves definitely at the start of the round. Once I made the turn, I was just playing free golf."

She made her first birdie on

the par-4 14th hole, something she half-jokingly credited to a snack.

"I actually had an apple on 13, and that gave me actually a nice boost," she said. "I felt a lot better after that. Maybe I should have apples more often."

The 25-year-old finished with six birdies, including four in the final six holes.



# Rangers notch 9-7 win against Tigers

Associated Press

DETROIT — Leody Taveras scored the winning run on a fielder's choice in the eighth inning and added an RBI single in the ninth to lead the Texas Rangers to a 9-7 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Thursday.

Taveras doubled with one out advanced to third on Marcus Semien's fielder's choice grounder and scored on Corey Seager's grounder that broke a 7-all tie. Taveras added an insurance run with a two-out hit in the ninth.

Jose Leclerc (1-2) got the win in relief for Texas, which won three out of four games in Detroit. Kirby Yates, who picked up the win on Wednesday, earned his second save with a perfect ninth inning.

Shelby Miller (3-2), the fifth of six Detroit pitchers, took the loss for the second day in a row.

The game marked the major-league debut of Texas starter Jack Leiter, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2021 draft. He was brought up from Triple A Round Rock, where he was 1-1 with 25 strikeouts and three walks in 14 innings over three appearances.

He is the son of Al Leiter, who won 162 games in 19 major-league seasons.

Jack Leiter got off to a strong start, catching leadoff hitter Riley Greene looking for his first strikeout.

**Rays 2, Angels 1:** Ryan Peipiot allowed one run and three hits in six strong innings and Amed Rosario hit an RBI triple in Tampa Bay's two-run first as host Tampa Bay beat the LA Angels on Thursday to split their four-game series.

Peipiot (2-2) struck out seven and walked three. He was acquired in a trade in which Rays ace Tyler Glasnow was dealt to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Colin Poche, the third Rays reliever, worked out of a jam with two on and two outs in the ninth for his second save in three chances. Struggling closer Pete Fairbanks, who has a 9.00 ERA, pitched in the previous two games.

Rosario extended his hitting streak to 10 games with his RBI triple that made it 1-0 in the Rays' opening inning against Griffin Canning (0-3). He has nine RBIs over the stretch.

Harold Ramirez's sacrifice

fly to right drove in Rosario to make it 2-0.

The Angels got within 2-1 in the sixth when Mike Trout walked, stole second and third and scored on Miguel Sanó's sacrifice fly. Trout has five steals this year after having just a combined six over the previous four seasons.

**Guardians 5, Red Sox 4:** Carlos Carrasco gave up two runs in 5½ solid innings and Andrés Giménez had two RBIs to lead visiting Cleveland over Boston on Thursday.

Ramón Laureano, Josh Naylor and José Ramírez also drove in runs for Cleveland, which took three of four from Boston and improved to a Central Division-best 13-6.

Carrasco (1-1) threw 56 of his 89 pitches for strikes and allowed two hits while striking out five and walking three. He left after allowing a two-out single to Reese McGuire in the sixth with Cleveland leading 5-1.

Emmanuel Clase pitched a scoreless ninth for his fifth save.

After starting the season with seven wins in 10 road games, the Red Sox went 3-7 on their first homestand of the season.

Trailing 5-1, Boston cut into Cleveland's lead behind Jarren Duran's two-run triple in the Red Sox's three-run sixth inning.

**Giants 5, Diamondbacks 0:** Logan Webb retired 19 straight batters on his way to seven smooth innings and host San Francisco beat Arizona.

Webb (2-1) struck out five and induced 13 groundball outs, allowing just two hits and a walk in a game that took only 2 hours, 12 minutes.

Wilmer Flores had a pinch-hit, two-run double in the eighth and Mike Yastrzemski added a two-run single. LaMonte Wade Jr. delivered a sacrifice fly in the third.

Jung Hoo Lee singled twice to extend his hitting streak to 10 games.

Diamondbacks starter Ryne Nelson exited after two scoreless innings with a bruised right elbow when he was hit on the pitching arm by an 87 mph line drive off the bat of Yastrzemski. Nelson was able to field the ball and throw out Yastrzemski at first to end the inning, but he grimaced and held his forearm as he walked to the dugout.

## Poston leads at Hilton Head with 63; Scheffler 6 back

Associated Press

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — Scottie Scheffler is running on fumes after an exhausting Masters victory just four days ago. He hit a shank from a bunker. He nearly lost his mind from mud on his golf ball. And he still managed a 2-under 69 at the RBC Heritage on Thursday.

J.T. Poston set the pace on an idyllic day on Hilton Head Island with nine birdies — six of them in a seven-hole stretch — for a 63 that gave him a two-shot lead over Collin Morikawa and Seamus Power.

Ludvig Aberg, the runner-up

at Augusta, was in the group another shot behind. Rory McIlroy birdied his last two holes to salvage a scrappy day with the irons for a 67.

Thousands of fans lined the fairways of Harbour Town to see Scheffler, the Masters champion who is going for his fourth win in his last five tournaments. There were times Scheffler didn't look like the No. 1 player in the world, and he figured that would be the case with very little time to prepare.

"That's why I tried to give myself an extra little bit of grace on the course today, just

because yeah, emotionally a little drained. Mentally, definitely a bit drained," he said.

"I feel like I have more energy now than I did at the beginning of the day, waking up to go play golf," he said. "I think getting into the tournament, hitting some shots, getting a bit frustrated, getting a bit excited about my finish there, all good emotions to feel. It's nice to be kind of back into tournament mode."

All but 16 players in the 69-man field were at the Masters, at least for part of the week. Poston closed with a 70 at Augusta National and arrived at

Hilton Head Island with a little excitement away from golf. This is the first time traveling with his month-old daughter, Katherine Scott.

They're calling her Scottie, a family name from both sides of the family.

"Good time to be called Scottie," Poston said with a smile.

Poston chipped in from 65 feet on the par-3 fourth hole to begin a remarkable run — three straight birdies from the 10-foot range followed, and then a 15-foot birdie putt on the short par-4 ninth and another birdie from 10 feet to start the back nine.

# Kraken slip past Wild in season finale

*Associated Press*

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Tye Kar-tye tipped in a slap shot by Oliver Bjorkstrand for the tie-breaking goal with 2:40 remaining, and the Seattle Kraken beat the Minnesota Wild 4-3 on Thursday night to wrap up the regular season for two teams that missed the playoffs.

Ryan Hartman scored 6-on-4 on a power play for the Wild with 1:05 left and goalie Marc-Andre Fleury pulled, but Kraken goalie Joey Daccord — who had 21 saves — and the defense held up.

Brandon Tanev, who assisted on both of Yanni Gourde's third-period goals, painfully blocked a shot in the final seconds that had him doubled over on the ice at the final horn.

Kirill Kaprizov scored his 46th goal of the season on a power play in the first period, and Mats Zuccarello had the tying goal midway through the third period for the Wild.

Matty Beniers tied the game for the Kraken in the second period on a power play tip-in before Gourde's short-handed breakthrough. He later scored on an empty-netter.

**Jets 4, Canucks 2:** Nikita Chibrikov scored the game-winner in his NHL debut and Cole Perfetti added two goals as host Winnipeg beat Vancouver in the regular-season finale for the playoff-bound teams.

The victory produced some notable accomplishments for Winnipeg.

The Jets finished the regular season giving up 199 total goals, the fewest in the league and one less than the Florida Panthers, to earn the William M. Jennings Trophy. They also extended their win streak to eight games, tying the franchise record. Their 52 victories (52-24-6) also matched the franchise record for wins in a season with the 2017-18 squad.

Winnipeg's 110 points secured second place in the West-

ern Conference behind Dallas and home-ice advantage in the first three rounds of the playoffs against teams other than the Stars.

Gabe Vilardi also scored for the Jet. Laurent Brossoit made 18 saves for his 15th win of the season in his 23rd game.

**Avalanche 5, Oilers 1:** Valeri Nichushkin scored twice, Nathan MacKinnon added two assists to break the franchise's single-season points mark and host Colorado cruised into the playoffs with the win over Edmonton.

MacKinnon wrapped up the regular season with 140 points (51 goals, 89 assists) to top Peter Stastny's franchise record of 139 set in 1981-82 when the club was in Quebec.

The speedy MacKinnon couldn't catch Tampa Bay's Nikita Kucherov in the race for the Art Ross Trophy, which goes to the leading points scorer. Kucherov wound up with 144 points.

Mikko Rantanen, Josh Manson and Zach Parise also scored to help the Avalanche snap a two-game slide.

Justus Annunen made 25 saves for the Avalanche, who finished with a league-best 31 home wins. Colorado opens the playoffs at Winnipeg on Sunday.

Dylan Holloway had a power-play goal for Edmonton. The Oilers will face either Vegas or Los Angeles in the first round.

**Flames 5, Sharks 1:** Blake Coleman scored his 30th goal and MacKenzie Weegar netted his 20th as host Calgary beat San Jose.

Adam Klapka posted his first NHL goal and Oliver Kylington, and Kevin Rooney also scored for Calgary (38-39-5). The Flames missed the postseason for the second straight season.

Dustin Wolf had 16 saves and lost his shutout bid with nine seconds left in the game. The 23-year-old rookie closed the season with four straight wins

and a record of 7-7-1.

Fabian Zetterlund scored for San Jose (19-54-9), which finished with the worst record in the NHL. The Sharks have missed the playoffs the last five seasons. Mikael Granlund had an assist and finished the season with a 13-game point streak (two goals, 13 assists).

**Ducks 4, Golden Knights 1:** Frank Vatrano scored three goals and Anaheim ended their season on a high note, beating host Las Vegas.

Vatrano's goals gave him 37 for the season, a career high. It was his third hat trick this season and the sixth of his career.

Jackson LaCombe had a goal and an assist for the Ducks, who finished 27-50-5 for 59 points. Ryan Strome had two assists and Lukas Dostal made 29 saves. Cutter Gauthier had an assist in his first career game.

Ducks forward Jakob Silfverberg, who played his final NHL game after 12 seasons in the league, shook hands with Golden Knights players after the game.

Jack Eichel scored his 31st goal for the Knights, and Adin Hill made 19 stops.

**Kings 5, Blackhawks 4:** Viktor Arvidsson scored the tying goal with 1:21 left in regulation, and host Los Angeles earned a playoff rematch with Edmonton by jumping into third place in the Pacific Division with an overtime victory against Chicago.

The Kings' comeback and the defending champion Vegas Golden Knights' loss to Anaheim propelled Los Angeles into a third straight postseason meeting with the Oilers, who beat the Kings in both of their previous two first-round matchups. Los Angeles (44-27-11) finished with 99 points, one ahead of the Knights (45-29-8).

Los Angeles took a two-goal lead into the third period against Chicago, but promptly blew it when the Blackhawks

scored three times in five minutes. The Kings finally evened it when Arvidsson scored his second goal of the night with goalie Cam Talbot pulled for an extra attacker.

With third place secured by the single point for reaching overtime because of the Kings' advantage in a tiebreaker, Adrian Kempe won the game with an unassisted goal just six seconds into OT.

Tyler Johnson, Joey Anderson and Ryan Donato scored in the third-period flurry by the Blackhawks, with Donato getting the tiebreaker with 13:32 to play in the final game of the NHL's regular season.

## Salt Lake City NHL team to be known as 'Utah'

*Associated Press*

The NHL team moving from Arizona to Salt Lake City will be known as Utah, at least initially, until a long-term name is determined.

"We'll start with Utah on the jersey and we'll figure out the logo and everything else and what it is that we are," new owner Ryan Smith told The Associated Press on Thursday. "We're going to be Utah either way. We have the first part of the name. We don't have the last."

Smith Entertainment Group, which bought the franchise formerly known as the Coyotes in a deal unanimously approved Thursday by the league's Board of Governors, has already contracted ad agency Doubleday & Cartwright for rebranding efforts. Former owner Alex Meruelo keeps the Coyotes name and has the chance to reactivate the franchise if he's able to build an arena.

The short timeline of relocating the club could mean it has a placeholder name for the first season.