

CENTCOM: US' recent hits weaken Houthis

BY LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

Hundreds of American strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen in recent weeks have dealt a serious blow to the militant group's ability to keep up attacks on military and commercial ships in the Middle East, according to U.S. Central Command.

While the Houthis continue to target the USS Harry S. Truman and USS Carl Vinson carrier strike groups, CENTCOM said in a statement Sunday that the number of ballistic missile launches by the group has dropped by 69%, and Houthi drone attacks have declined by 55%.

U.S. forces have launched more than 800 attacks against

the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen in the last six weeks, the statement said.

Dubbed Operation Rough Rider, the sustained campaign of airstrikes has killed hundreds of Houthi fighters and leaders, including senior missile and drone officials, CENTCOM said.

They've also taken out multiple command-and-control facilities, air defense systems and weapons storage and production sites.

Since launching the campaign in mid-March, the White House has faced questions about the purpose and effectiveness of the attacks, which it says are meant to stop the Houthis from targeting shipping in the Red Sea, one of the globe's busi-

est commercial corridors.

President Donald Trump has also used the attacks to pressure Iran during negotiations about its nuclear program.

The Pentagon has declined to confirm or deny Houthi claims about shooting down U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drones.

On Sunday, CENTCOM said that it is being strategic about how much information it releases to ensure it maintains operational security.

The Associated Press reported that the rebels shot down seven drones in less than six weeks and suggested that their aim may be improving.

Airstrikes alone are unlikely to defeat the Houthis, according to analysts, who point to support from Iran and its robust supply

chains that funnel weapons, drugs and fuel to Houthi-controlled parts of Yemen.

The scale of military materiel and technology being provided to the Houthis is unprecedented, according to an October report from a U.N. panel of experts.

The Houthis also have a higher risk tolerance than Iran and excessive confidence as a result of surviving nearly a decade of strikes by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, researchers at the London-based Chatham House recently noted.

U.S. strikes destroyed the ability of the Houthis' Ras Isa Port to accept fuel, cutting off a major revenue generator for the group, according to CENTCOM.

China, Philippines stake out claims in South China Sea

Associated Press

BEIJING — The Philippines on Monday rejected China's claim to a group of three sandbars in the South China Sea, after recent displays by both sides of their national flags on the uninhabited outcroppings.

The back and forth over Sandy Cay is the latest flare-up in a long-running dispute over territory in the hotly contested South China Sea, which China claims almost in its entirety.

The flare-up began last week when a Chinese state-owned newspaper posted exclusive photos of coast guard officers on Sandy Cay from mid-April, including one of them holding up a Chinese flag.

Three days later, a joint Philippines coast guard, navy and maritime police team headed on Sunday to the three sandbars

and posed for a photo holding up their national flag.

"This operation reflects the unwavering dedication and commitment of the Philippine Government to uphold the country's sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea," a government statement said. It was posted on X with a video and photos, including one showing team members holding up the Philippine flag.

The Chinese coast guard described the Philippine landing as "illegal" and said that Chinese officers had gone ashore "to conduct on-site verification and enforcement measures." It didn't specify what those steps entailed.

The sandbars are in the Spratly islands between Philippine-occupied Thitu Island and

Subi Reef, which China has transformed into a base with a military-grade runway and buildings with communications facilities.

China's state-owned Global Times newspaper, which published the photos of coast guard officers on the sandbars earlier this month, said they had picked up plastic bottles and other debris and displayed the Chinese national flag "to assert sovereignty."

Jonathan Malaya, the assistant director general of the Philippine National Security Council, said Monday that there is no truth to claims that China has seized the sandbars. He attributed the claims to the Chinese coast guard, though the agency has not said anything about the landing described in the Global Times report and later by the

military channel of state broadcaster CCTV.

"We urge the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Coast Guard to act with restraint and not increase tensions in the West Philippine Sea," Malaya said.

The two countries have jostled previously over Sandy Cay, known as Tiexian Reef in Chinese and Pag-asa Cays in the Philippines.

In January, the Chinese coast guard and a naval helicopter drove away a group of Philippines fisheries ships that were attempting to conduct a scientific survey around Sandy Cay.

Philippine government vessels brought scientists to Sandy Cay in March of last year for marine research despite repeated warnings by Chinese coast guard ships.

Civilian drones used in intel drill on Okinawa

By BRIAN McELHINEY
Stars and Stripes

IE SHIMA, Okinawa — U.S. Marines demonstrated how they're using civilian drone and powered paragliding technology to provide commanders with a clearer battlefield picture during a recent drill on this Okinawa island.

The III Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group is conducting its first Kaiju Rain exercise at sites across Okinawa, including Ie Shima Auxiliary Airfield, and in South Korea through May 15. The exercise combines four annual training events led by separate elements of the group into a rehearsal of sensor capabilities across the unit, "in order to be the joint terminal attack controller of the joint force," commander

Col. Joshua Mayoral said in an email Wednesday.

To identify enemy vessels in waters surrounding Ie Shima, the 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, or ANGLICO, used small, unmanned aircraft such as the Skydio X2 drone, team leader Capt. Pat Benn said during Wednesday's demonstration.

Heavy rain and fog prevented drone and paraglider flights that morning. However, Sgt. Jordan Ishimura briefly flew a drone about 20 feet into the air.

"Generally [the weather] has been favorable for the last week or so," Benn said.

The company led Katana Strike, one of the four exercises under Kaiju Rain, through Friday.

"We have redundancy in our

sensor game plan, so we employ a number of different sensors," including binoculars, to provide intelligence, he said. The Marines' version of Skydio's X2D, which the 5th ANGLICO has used for about a year, has a range of up to 3½ miles and is equipped with cameras that can digitally zoom up to 16 times, Benn said.

A four-Marine team runs drone missions for the company — one to operate the drone, two communications Marines, and one security Marine on lookout, he said.

"For expeditionary advanced base operations, the Marine Corps needs to be well-informed," Benn said. The company provides commanders with "awareness of the battle space and assured command and control so they can make not only safe

but effective decisions."

Expeditionary advanced base operations — a tenet of the Marines' Force Design plan — calls for small, mobile groups of Marines to disperse within the range of enemy missiles to seize and hold islands and sink enemy vessels.

The 3rd Radio Battalion, deployed from Kaneohe, Hawaii, used powered paragliders during its portion of the exercise, dubbed Corvus Dawn, to quickly insert and extract six-Marine teams to conduct missions, said Master Sgt. Matthew Webb, operations chief for Bravo Company.

The paragliders, which have a 100-mile range, allow Marines to travel farther without air support, he said. Flying them over open ocean is "under review."

Navy honors SEAL who drowned in rescue try

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

A 27-year-old Navy SEAL who died trying to save a fellow sailor during a dangerous nighttime mission off the Somali coast last year was posthumously awarded the service's highest noncombat honor for heroism, the Navy said.

Nathan Gage Ingram, a special warfare operator first class, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal earlier this month for his "bravery and selflessness" during a January 2024 weapons interdiction in the Arabian Sea, the service said in a statement on Thursday.

The target of the special operations mission was a boat carrying Iranian-supplied ballistic and cruise missile components bound for Houthi militants in Yemen.

While trying to board the vessel, Christopher Chambers, a special warfare operator chief petty officer days away from his 37th

birthday, lost his grip and fell into heavy seas. Ingram jumped into the water to try to save Chambers, but the two were weighed down by heavy equipment and drowned. Both were lost at sea.

"One thing that stood out was Gage's clear understanding of the fallen heroes who came before him and the profound legacies they left within the teams of Naval Special Warfare," Ingram's wife, Jewel, said as she accepted the award during an April 18 ceremony at a San Diego-area military training complex for special operations forces.

"In Gage's words, 'We have to lose one of us to learn and do better. It's the only way we improve.'"

Ingram was a Texas native who enlisted in 2019 and graduated from SEAL training in 2021. Chambers, from Maryland, enlisted in 2012 and graduated from SEAL training in 2014.

Spain's widespread power outage includes NS Rota

Staff and wire reports

Naval Station Rota was affected by a major power outage that hit Spain and Portugal on Monday.

The widespread power outage was being felt at U.S. Naval Station Rota in Spain's Andalusia region, but the base's operational abilities, including flight and ship operations, remain unaffected, said Lt. Danny Ehrlich, a spokesman for the base. NS Rota, which includes an airfield, is home to five Navy destroyers, among other operations.

Rota public works personnel were working to restore power to the base using an on-base generator, said Ehrlich, who did not specify if residences and other facilities had electrical power.

"We're ensuring our sailors are taken care of," he said.

The 496th Air Base Squadron also operates in Spain at Moron Air Base, about 75 miles north-

east of Rota. It was not immediately clear if the power outage had impacted the squadron's operations. The squadron is part of the 65th Air Base Group in Lajes, Portugal, which operates under the 86th Airlift Wing in Ramstein, Germany, according to the Air Force.

At some places in Spain and Portugal, subway networks, phone lines, traffic lights and ATMs were knocked out, according to The Associated Press. The countries have a combined population of over 50 million people. It was not immediately clear how many were affected.

Spanish power distributor Red Eléctrica said that restoring power fully to the country and neighboring Portugal could take 6-10 hours. By mid-afternoon, voltage was progressively being restored in the north, south and west of the peninsula, the company said.

Trump: Columbus Day will now just be Columbus Day

Associated Press

President Donald Trump made clear Sunday that he would not follow his predecessor's practice of recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day alongside Columbus Day in October, accusing Democrats of denigrating the explorer's legacy as he pressed his campaign to restore what he argues are traditional American icons.

Democrat Joe Biden was the first president to mark Indigenous Peoples Day, issuing a proclamation in 2021 that celebrated "the invaluable contributions and resilience of Indigenous peo-

ples."

The proclamation noted that America "was conceived on a promise of equality and opportunity for all people" but that promise "we have never fully lived up to."

Trump on Sunday used a social media post to declare, "I'm bringing Columbus Day back from the ashes." He said that "the Democrats did everything possible to destroy Christopher Columbus, his reputation, and all of the Italians that love him so much."

The federal holiday, the second Monday in October, was still known as Columbus Day during

Biden's term, but also as Indigenous Peoples Day.

That's been a longtime goal of activists who wanted to shift the focus away from simply commemorating Columbus' navigation to the Americas to his and his successors' exploitation of the indigenous people he encountered there.

Though Trump has long objected to telling the country's history through a lens of diversity and oppression, the holiday he seeks to restore to its primacy was added to the calendar as a nod to the country's growing diversity.

Midwest braces for possible tornadoes

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The upper Midwest braced Monday for severe thunderstorms with the potential for strong tornadoes.

The National Weather Service said the highest risks — a 4 on a scale of 1 to 5 — were in portions of southern Minnesota including the Minneapolis area, northern Iowa and western Wisconsin. While forecasters expected two rounds of severe weather, the second, in the afternoon and evening, had the potential to be the most impactful.

"The most dangerous period is likely during the late afternoon and evening when strong tornado potential should be maximized. Scattered large to very large hail and damaging winds are likely as well," meteorologists at the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., wrote.

Depending on how the storms form, tornadoes in the EF-2 range or greater are possible, the weather service office for the Minneapolis area said.

The Storm Prediction Center said a lesser potential for severe weather extended as far south as parts of Texas and Oklahoma.

The City of Minneapolis took the unusual step Sunday of sending emails and recorded telephone messages to residents asking them to prepare. The city urged them to ensure that they have multiple ways of getting weather alerts, be prepared to take shelter, secure outdoor furniture, and prepare for potential power outages by charging phones and other devices and having flashlights on hand.

Pritzker calls out Democrats in speech

Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker sharply criticized fellow Democrats on Sunday for not doing enough to oppose President Donald Trump, drawing a clear divide between himself and other high-profile Democrats seen as future presidential contenders.

Pritzker delivered the keynote address at the New Hampshire Democratic Party's McIntyre-Shaheen 100 Club Dinner, the latest and most high-profile in a series of speeches this year.

While Pritzker continued to attack Trump, he also focused on what he says are shortcomings in his own party, assailing Democrats for listening to "a bunch of know-nothing political types" instead of everyday Americans. Without naming names, he called out Democrats "flocking to podcasts and cable news shows to admonish fellow Democrats for not caring enough about the struggles of working families."

"Those same do-nothing Democrats want to blame our

losses on our defense of Black people, of trans kids, of immigrants, instead of their own lack of guts and gumption," Pritzker said.

The second-term governor has yet to say whether he will run for that office again in 2026, but the billionaire Hyatt heir has been laying the groundwork for a potential presidential campaign for years.

Notably, California Gov. Gavin Newsom, another high-profile 2028 contender, said on his podcast recently that the case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Maryland man mistakenly deported to El Salvador and detained at one point in a notorious megaprison, was a "distraction" from issues such as tariffs. Newsom also said on his podcast's inaugural episode that he opposes trans athletes competing in women's sports.

Polling suggests immigration is Trump's strongest issue and that a majority of Democrats also oppose trans participation in women's sports.

Pritzker on Sunday said it

was no time for Democrats to be in despair.

"Never before in my life have I called for mass protests, for mobilization, for disruption, but I am now," he said, stressing that the party "must castigate them on the soapbox and then punish them at the ballot box."

Pritzker spoke this year at the Human Rights Campaign's Los Angeles dinner and is scheduled to headline a Minnesota Democratic dinner in June. He drew national attention in February when he used part of his joint budget and State of the State address to draw a parallel between Trump's rhetoric and the rise of Nazi Germany.

On Sunday, Pritzker again invoked his Jewish faith, criticizing Trump's efforts to deport foreign students who participated in pro-Palestinian demonstrations. He called on Trump to "stop tearing down the Constitution in the name of my ancestors," a line that drew a standing ovation from the crowd.

Russia declares ceasefire for WWII milestone

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday declared a unilateral 72-hour ceasefire next week in Ukraine to mark Victory Day in World War as the U.S. presses for a deal to end the 3-year-old war. Kyiv insisted on a longer and immediate truce.

The Kremlin said the truce will run from the start of May 8 and last through the end of May 10 to mark the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945 — Russia's biggest secular holiday.

Ukraine, which has previously agreed to President Donald Trump's proposal of a full 30-day ceasefire, dismissed Putin's move as window dressing.

"If Russia truly wants peace,

it must cease fire immediately," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said, according to the ministry.

He emphasized that Kyiv is ready for a "lasting, reliable, and complete ceasefire" for at least 30 full days.

"Why wait for May 8? If we can cease fire now from any date and for 30 days — so that it is real, and not just for a parade," he said without specifying whether Ukraine would be ready to accept the Moscow-proposed truce.

The Kremlin had urged Ukraine to follow suit.

"Russia believes that the Ukrainian side should follow this example," it said, warning that "in case of violations of the cea-

sfire by the Ukrainian side, the Russian armed forces will give an adequate and efficient response."

Putin previously announced a unilateral 30-hour Easter ceasefire and Ukraine voiced readiness to reciprocate any genuine truce at the time, but it said Russian attacks continued. Moscow, in turn, accused Ukraine of failing to halt its attacks.

Russia and Ukraine had also earlier pledged to observe a 30-day halt on strikes on energy infrastructure that was brokered by the Trump administration, but they repeatedly accused each other of massive violations until the measure expired.

The truce attempts underlined the unique challenges

with monitoring any possible halt to hostilities along the more than 600-mile line of contact between the two countries.

Up until now, Putin had refused to accept a complete unconditional ceasefire, linking it to a halt in Western arms supplies to Ukraine and Ukraine's mobilization effort.

The Kremlin reaffirmed that "the Russian side again declares its readiness for peace talks without preconditions aimed at removing the root causes of the Ukrainian crisis and constructive cooperation with international partners."

Before the ceasefire announcement, Ukraine and Russia targeted each other with long-range strikes.

Putin thanks N. Korea for deployment of troops

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked North Korea on Monday for fighting alongside his troops against Ukrainian forces and promised not to forget their sacrifices, hours after North Korea confirmed its deployment for the first time.

The back-to-back Russian and North Korean statements — which illustrate their expanding military partnerships — came two days after Russia said

its troops have fully reclaimed the Kursk region that Ukrainian forces seized in a surprise incursion last year.

Ukrainian officials have denied the claim, insisting that the operation in certain areas of Kursk is continuing.

In a statement posted on the website of the Kremlin, Putin praised North Korean soldiers who he said stood "shoulder to shoulder with Russian fighters, defended our Motherland as their own."

"The Russian people will never forget the heroism of the DPRK special forces. We will always honor the heroes who gave their lives for Russia, for our common freedom, fighting side by side with their Russian brothers in arms," Putin said, using the acronym for the North's official name.

Earlier Monday, North Korea's Central Military Commission announced that leader Kim Jong Un had decided to send troops to Russia to "annihilate

and wipe out the Ukrainian neo-Nazi occupiers and liberate the Kursk area in cooperation with the Russian armed forces."

The commission said North Korean troops eventually made "an important contribution" to Russia retrieving the border territory.

It was North Korea's first official confirmation of its troops' deployment to Russia though it has repeatedly expressed its unwavering support of Russia's fighting against Ukraine.

Conclave to elect new pope scheduled to start May 7

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Catholic cardinals on Monday set May 7 as the start date for the conclave to elect Pope Francis' successor, delaying the secret voting for two days so they can get to know one another better and find consensus on a candidate before they are sequestered in the Sistine Chapel.

The cardinals set the date after arriving for the first day of

informal meetings following Pope Francis' funeral Saturday. In a chaotic scene, journalists shouted questions about the mood inside and whether there was unity. A reporter for a satirical Italian television program asked whether an Italian cardinal who has been convicted by the Vatican criminal court on finance-related charges would be allowed to vote.

The conclave could have

opened as early as May 5 or 6, but the cardinals gave themselves extra time to speak in more informal sessions that include cardinals over age 80, who will not be allowed into the Sistine Chapel once the conclave begins.

"There is the hope of unity," said Argentine Cardinal Ángel Sixto Rossi, the 66-year-old archbishop of Cordoba who Francis made a cardinal in

2023.

Many cardinals cited the desire to continue Francis' focus on people who are marginalized and against war. But conservatives may be more focused on forging unity and refocusing the church back to core doctrines emphasized by St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, rather than continuing Francis' social justice focus and outreach to women and gays.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Rider fatally stabbed after shoe dispute on subway

NY NEW YORK — A man was stabbed to death during the morning rush hour in the New York City subway system after a dispute with another rider who had stepped on the man's shoes, police said, adding it was the first homicide in the subway this year.

Police and medical personnel responded to the Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall subway station in lower Manhattan shortly after a 911 call about a person being stabbed. He was later identified by police as John Sheldon, 38, of Brooklyn.

Authorities said they were searching for the other rider.

Police said the two men got into an argument on a train after the other man stepped on Sheldon's shoes. Sheldon was stabbed on the train and in the subway station after the two got off, police said.

Earlier this month, Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said there had been no homicides in the transit system during the first three months of the year for the first time in seven years. She added that subway crime from January to March had decreased to the second-lowest level in the first quarter in 27 years.

State agency won't say if hackers stole data in hit

OR PORTLAND — Oregon's environmental agency won't say if a group of hackers stole data in a cyberattack that was first announced earlier this month.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality on Friday declined to confirm or deny

reports that ransomware group Rhysida was behind the cyber-attack and stole department data, including sensitive employee information, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

The department said in a news release the claims referenced in recent media coverage were part of its investigation.

Department spokesperson Lauren Wirtis declined to comment on whether Rhysida had contacted the department or asked for a ransom, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

The department said it had not "engaged" in ransom discussions "with any entity claiming to have information stolen from DEQ for sale." It added that it would provide more details when it has verified information.

Kennedy Center's events for LGBTQ+ pride cut

DC WASHINGTON — Organizers and the Kennedy Center have canceled a week's worth of events celebrating LGBTQ+ rights for this summer's World Pride festival in Washington, amid a shift in priorities and the ousting of leadership at one of the nation's premier cultural institutions.

Multiple artists and producers involved in the center's Tapestry of Pride schedule, which had been planned for June 5 to 8, told The Associated Press that their events had been quietly canceled or moved to other venues. And in the wake of the cancellations, Washington's Capital Pride Alliance has disassociated itself from the Kennedy Center.

"We are a resilient community, and we have found other avenues to celebrate," said June

Crenshaw, deputy director of the alliance.

The Kennedy Center did not respond to a request for comment.

More videos show early days of Hackman probe

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Authorities released more videos related to their investigation of the deaths of actor Gene Hackman and his wife, Betsy Arakawa, including images of agents returning to the couple's Santa Fe home days after they were found to look for more evidence.

The bodies of Hackman, 95, and Arakawa, 65, were discovered Feb. 26 after maintenance and security workers called police.

The Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office has been releasing redacted records on a rolling basis since a recent court order allowing them to be made public as long as any images of the dead couple are obscured. More are expected. The latest release includes hours of police body camera video and builds on what has already been made public, including a lengthy investigative report, photos and hours of body camera and security video showing the initial police response.

Lawsuit against ban on 'lab-grown' meat still alive

FL TALLAHASSEE — A lawsuit against Florida's ban on "lab-grown" meat is still alive after a federal judge tossed four parts of the suit on Friday but kept a fifth.

Northern District of Florida Chief Judge Mark Walker declined to dismiss a part of the lawsuit that argued Florida's re-

strictions give an unconstitutional advantage to Florida farmers over out-of-state competitors. Meanwhile, the judge sided with state attorneys seeking to dismiss the lawsuit and their argument that federal approval of cultivated chicken doesn't mean individual states can't ban it.

The lawsuit had argued that Florida's law is preempted under federal laws that regulate the interstate market for meat and poultry products.

But lawmakers in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi have called cultivated meat a threat to their states' agriculture industries and banned the sale of the product.

City celebrates 1965 Freedom Rally led by MLK

MA BOSTON — As a Black teenager growing up in Boston, Wayne Lucas vividly remembers joining about 20,000 people to hear the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. speak out against the city's segregated school system and the entrenched poverty in poor communities.

Sixty years on, Lucas was back on the Boston Common on Saturday to celebrate the anniversary of what became known as the 1965 Freedom Rally. He joined others in calling for continued activism against many of the same injustices and inequities that King fought against, and in criticizing President Donald Trump and his administration for current divisions and fears about race and immigration across the country.

"The message was ... that we still have work to do," said Lucas, 75.

— From wire reports

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Wolves rally past Lakers, take 3-1 lead

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Jaden McDaniels converted a three-point play with 39.5 seconds left for the lead and stole the ensuing inbound pass from LeBron James, leading a rally by the Minnesota Timberwolves for a 116-113 win over the Los Angeles Lakers that put them up 3-1 in the first-round series on Sunday.

Anthony Edwards, who had 43 points to lead Minnesota in scoring for the first time in this edition of the NBA playoffs, drew a foul on James during a drive to the lane with 10 seconds left and hit both free throws.

With Luka Dončić and James well-defended along the arc, the ball went to Austin Reaves in the corner for the tying attempt that rimmed out and was rebounded by McDaniels at the buzzer.

Julius Randle added 25 points and McDaniels had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who trailed by 12 points late in the third quarter.

Dončić bounced back from a bad stomach bug with 38 points on 13-for-28 shooting, but the Lakers were headed home for a win-or-be-eliminated Game 5 on Wednesday.

Knicks 94, Pistons 93: Karl-Anthony Towns made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 46.6 seconds left and finished with 27 points, Jalen Brunson had 32 points and 11 assists and New York beat host Detroit to take a 3-1 lead in the first-round series.

Detroit's Cade Cunningham had 25 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds for his first playoff triple-double but missed two shots and turned the ball over in the final 1:07.

Tim Hardaway Jr. shot a 3-pointer just before the buzzer and drew some light contact from New York's Josh Hart that wasn't called a foul at the end of a physical game with few whistles from the officials.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in New York.

The Pistons have lost nine straight home playoff games since 2008, equaling an NBA record set by Philadelphia from 1968 to 1971.

Celtics 107, Magic 98: Jayson Tatum had 37 points and 14 rebounds, Jaylen Brown added 21 points and 11 rebounds and Boston took a 3-1 lead the first-round series.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 19 points, including a dunk of his own missed layup that put Boston ahead for keeps with 3:58 left. Derrick White finished with 18 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

Paolo Banchero led Orlando with 31 points.

Game 5 of the best-of-seven series will be played Tuesday night in Boston.

Franz Wagner had 24 points and seven assists for Orlando. Corey Joseph added 12 points, the highest scoring output for a Magic guard in the series.

The 7-foot-3 Porzingis, who played only 22 minutes due to foul trouble, helped Boston overcome shooting 9-for-31 from 3-point range with dominant inside play in the first half.

Boston guard Jrue Holiday sat out a second straight game with a strained right hamstring.

A dunk by Porzingis started an 18-3 run by Boston midway through the first half. A 3-pointer by Porzingis gave the Celtics a nine-point lead, the largest of the game, with 7:45 left in the second quarter.

The Magic never led after that, but a dunk by Wendell Carter Jr. tied the game at 91 with 4:18 remaining.

Pacers 129, Bucks 103: Myles Turner scored 23 points and Indiana grabbed a commanding 3-1 lead in their Eastern Conference playoff series with host Milwaukee, which lost Damian Lillard to a lower left leg injury.

The Pacers can eliminate Milwaukee in the first round for a second straight year by winning Game 5 on Tuesday in Indianapolis.

The Bucks have lost eight straight road playoff games and the last five of those defeats have come at Indiana.

Milwaukee might have to try ending that streak without Lillard. The seven-time all-NBA guard was helped off the court and into the locker room after suffering a non-contact injury in the first quarter.

The preliminary examination of Lillard indicated a possible Achilles tendon injury, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. Further evaluation will take place Monday, the person told the AP on condition of anonymity because the team didn't immediately reveal those details.

The Pacers led 15-12 at the time of Lillard's departure. Indiana shot 60.2% from the floor, and eight Pacers scored in double figures.

Aaron Nembhard had 20 points and Tyrese Haliburton had 17 points and 15 assists. T.J. McConnell had 15 points, Aaron Nesmith 14 and Obi Toppin 13. Pascal Siakam and Jarace Walker added 12 points each.

Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points, 15 rebounds and six assists before leaving with 4:44 left and the Bucks trailing 120-98. Kevin Porter Jr. scored 23 for the Bucks.

Cindric gives Penske first NASCAR victory of season

Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Austin Cindric celebrated his first win of the season by wearing Talladega Superspeedway's traditional victory wreath all around the track.

A wreath like he just won the Indianapolis 500.

He thought so, too.

"Feels like I just won the Indy 500," he said of Sunday's NASCAR race. "I'm trying to walk on the plane with this."

Cindric wasn't even concerned how such a gesture might be received by Team Penske teammate Joey Logano, who raged on his radio after the second stage when Cindric didn't push him and it allowed Bubba Wallace in a Toyota to win the segment and its valuable bonus points.

"Way to go Austin," seethed Logano, who used multiple expletives in his anger over his Penske radio. "You just gave it

to him. Gave a Toyota a stage win. Nice job. Way to go ... put that in the book."

Cindric was unconcerned by the idea Logano might take issue with the wreath on the Penske plane.

"I think that would be very immature," he said. "I don't see him doing that. We'll see."

It was a celebratory day for Cindric, who gave Team Penske its first NASCAR victory of the season by holding off a pack of

challengers over the closing lap in a rare drama-free day at Talladega Superspeedway.

Ford drivers went 1-2, with Ryan Preece finishing second. But Preece and Logano were disqualified following postrace inspections because of spoiler infractions. Logano had crossed the finish line in fifth.

After the DQ's, Kyle Larson moved up to second and William Byron third for Hendrick Motorsports.

Penguins, coach agree to part ways

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Mike Sullivan's nearly decade-long tenure running the Pittsburgh Penguins is over.

The team announced Monday that it was parting ways with the two-time Stanley Cup-winning coach just over a week after the Penguins missed out on the playoffs for a third straight season.

Sullivan, whose 409 wins with Pittsburgh are a franchise record, led the Penguins to back-to-back championships in 2016 and 2017 and had two more years left on the extension he signed in 2022. The 57-year-old had said recently that he wanted to remain with the club as it tries to retool around future Hall of Famer Sidney Crosby.

General manager Kyle Dubas was a bit more cautious last week, saying that he and Sullivan planned to meet to ensure their visions of the team's future remained aligned. Dubas said Monday that the decision to move on wasn't one the club took lightly, but one it felt was necessary.

"As we continue to navigate the Penguins through this transitional period, we felt it was the best course forward for all involved," Dubas said.

The Penguins hired Sullivan in December 2015 to replace Mike Johnston in search of a spark. Sullivan brought a direct, no-nonsense approach that — combined with a series of shrewd moves by then-general manager Jim Rutherford — helped Pittsburgh become the first team in nearly two decades to win back-to-back titles.

Sullivan also developed a deep bond with Crosby and fellow franchise icons Evgeni Malkin and Kris Letang, repeatedly praising their leadership during the back half of a 16-year stretch in which the Penguins were playoff fixtures.

Blues chase Hellebuyck, even series with Jets 2-2

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Brayden Schenn, Tyler Tucker and Justin Faulk each scored second period goals to help the St. Louis Blues defeat the Winnipeg Jets 5-1 on Sunday to tie their first-round playoff series at 2-all.

Robert Thomas and Jake Neighbours also scored, and Jordan Binnington made 30 saves for St. Louis, which has won 14 straight regular season and playoff games at home dating back to Feb. 23.

"We knew where we were," Faulk said. "We had a job to do when we came back. Start with the first one, come in and try and play well, get to our game. Obviously, the first one went pretty well and went our way. We knew we had to try and recreate that again today."

Kyle Connor scored, and Connor Hellebuyck made 13 saves for Winnipeg before being pulled after Thomas scored his second goal of the playoffs 2:01 into the third period.

Eric Comrie made five saves in relief of Hellebuyck, who has allowed at least four goals in 10 of his last 13 playoff appearances and has been pulled in consecutive games for just the second time in his career counting the regular season.

"I can look at all the goals," Jets coach Scott Arniel said. "Those are coverage goals. Those are things that we usually handle pretty well. We didn't tonight."

Schenn gave the Blues a 3-1 lead with 2:37 remaining in the second period when he wristed a puck in the crease over Hellebuyck for his first goal of the playoffs just five seconds after Jets captain Adam Lowry returned from serving a roughing penalty.

Tucker scored his first career playoff goal on a slap shot from

the point to give the Blues a 2-1 lead 10:56 into the second period. Tucker needed help leaving the ice with 4:17 remaining in the game after his left leg slammed into the boards awkwardly as Oskar Sundqvist delivered a hit on Brandon Tanev next to him.

Neighbours used the blade of his stick to deflect a shot from Colton Parayko past Hellebuyck for his first career playoff goal with 23 seconds remaining in the first period.

Connor scored his third goal of the postseason with 6:02 left in the first period to give Winnipeg a 1-0 lead.

Capitals 5, Canadiens 2: Andrew Mangiapane scored the go-ahead goal with just under four minutes remaining, Brandon Duhaime had two goals and Logan Thompson made 16 saves to lead Washington to a victory at Montreal for a 3-1 lead in the first-round series.

The teams head back to Washington, where the Capitals won the first two games, for Game 5 on Wednesday night.

Dylan Strome had a goal and assist and Mangiapane and Tom Wilson also scored for the Capitals.

Juraj Slafkovsky and Cole Caufield scored for Montreal. Ivan Demidov and Lane Hutson each had two assists. Jakub Dobes made 21 saves.

Mangiapane picked up a drop pass at the blue line and beat Dobes on the glove side as Washington rallied from a 2-1 deficit entering the third period.

Thompson returned to the lineup and had a strong game after exiting with an injury late in Game 3. Teammate Dylan Strome crashed into his goaltender on Montreal's fifth goal Friday, and Thompson needed to be helped off the ice.

Dobes was making his first career playoff start. The 23-year-old from Czechia replaced injured starter Sam Montembeault midway through the second period in Game 2.

Montembeault is considered day-to-day with a lower-body injury.

Hurricanes 5, Devils 2: Andrei Svechnikov scored three goals and visiting Carolina beat New Jersey to take a 3-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Brent Burns had a goal and an assist, and Jacob Slavin also scored for the Hurricanes, who bounced back after a 3-2 loss in two overtimes two nights earlier. Sebastian Aho and Jackson Blake each had two assists.

Frederik Andersen stopped six of the seven shots he faced before leaving early in the second period due to an apparent injury. Pyotr Kochetkov came on and finished with 14 saves.

Timo Meier had a goal and an assist, and Nico Hischier also scored for the Devils.

Oilers 4, Kings 3 (OT): Leon Draisaitl scored off a rebound on a power play at 18:18 of overtime and host Edmonton beat Los Angeles in Game 4 to tie the first-round playoff series.

Draisaitl finally got one past Darcy Kuemper in the extra period, with Kings defenseman Vladislav Gavrikov off for tripping Oilers star Connor McDavid.

Edmonton defenseman Evan Bouchard tied it with 29 seconds left and goalie Calvin Pickard off for an extra attacker, beating Kuemper with a straightaway slap shot from near the blue line.

Bouchard had his second straight two-goal game, also pulling the Oilers within one at 7:51 of the third with a shot that deflected in off Kings defenseman Drew Doughty's skate.

Rafaela, Duran lead Red Sox in rout

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Ceddanne Rafaela homered and drove in five runs, Jarren Duran had four hits and the Boston Red Sox beat the Cleveland Guardians 13-3 on Sunday.

Rafaela drove a fastball from Joey Cantillo just over the center-field fence for a three-run shot in the seventh inning.

Duran had consecutive three-hit games for the second time in his career. He got into a confrontation with someone in the stands during the seventh-inning stretch. According to NESN, a fan was making fun of Duran's previous suicide attempt after Duran flied out in the seventh.

Duran went to confront the fan before coaches and umpires said they would handle it. The fan tried to run up the aisle, but was caught by security and taken out of the stadium.

"The fans just said something inappropriate. I'm just happy that the security handled it and the umpires were aware of it and they took care of it for me," Duran said.

After the game, the Guardians released a statement apologizing to the Red Sox and Duran. The team said it has identified the fan and is working with Major League Baseball on next steps.

Duran said it was the first time he was heckled by a fan about his suicide attempt and mental health struggles since the Netflix series "The Clubhouse: A Year With the Red Sox" was released on April 8.

Rob Refsnyder and Rafael Devers had solo homers for the Red Sox, who are 9-3 in their past 12 games and have won 15 games in April, second-most in the American League.

Nationals 8, Mets 7: CJ Abrams scored the winning run on Pete Alonso's throwing error with one out in the ninth inning, and Washington rallied from a six-run deficit to defeat visiting

New York.

Dylan Crews and Riley Adams homered for Washington, which won on its final at-bat for the second time in three days against the Mets.

Twins 5, Angels 0: Joe Ryan struck out a season-high 11 in seven shutout innings and Minnesota beat visiting Los Angeles for its first three-game winning streak since August.

Ryan (2-2) allowed four hits and a walk. The 28-year-old right-hander finished one strikeout shy of his career best.

Luis Rengifo had two hits for the Angels. Mike Trout batted leadoff for the first time this season and went hitless. Trout, who batted leadoff six times last season, is hitting .170.

Tigers 7, Orioles 0: Tarik Skubal struck out a season-high 11 batters in six innings as Detroit finished a three-game sweep of visiting Baltimore.

Skubal (3-2) held the Orioles to four hits without a walk. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner has five career games with 11 or more strikeouts.

Yankees 11-5, Blue Jays 2-1: Aaron Judge broke a sixth-inning tie in the second game with his eighth homer this season as New York swept a doubleheader from visiting Toronto.

Playing one day after his 33rd birthday, Judge drove a first-pitch cutter from Chris Bassitt (2-2) to the opposite field and into the right-field stands for a 2-1 lead. Judge leads the major leagues with a .406 batting average and is second with 27 RBIs.

Brewers 7, Cardinals 1: Christian Yelich had two hits and two RBIs as Milwaukee beat host St. Louis to avoid a three-game sweep.

Jackson Chourio added two hits as the Brewers snapped a four-game skid. José Quintana (4-0) struck out six in five innings, allowing one run on five hits and three walks to stay unbeaten this season.

Astros 7, Royals 3: Yordan

Alvarez's long home run backed a solid start by Hunter Brown as Houston won at Kansas City in the series finale to avoid being swept.

Alvarez snapped Houston's 26-inning scoreless streak, crushing Kris Bubic's sinker 436 feet to center for a three-run homer and a 3-0 Astros lead in the third inning.

Reds 8, Rockies 1: Nick Lodolo allowed two hits through seven shutout innings as visiting Cincinnati beat struggling Colorado.

The Rockies have dropped six in a row and are 4-23, the worst start in franchise history.

Rays 4, Padres 2: Chandler Simpson raced home to score the go-ahead run on a wild pitch in the fifth inning and the rookie had his first three-hit game for visiting Tampa Bay, which beat San Diego for its first sweep of the season.

Simpson has hit safely in all eight games since he made his debut April 19. He reached base four straight times — a walk and three singles — scored twice and had an RBI single.

Athletics 3, White Sox 2 (10): Luis Urias hit a two-run homer with one out in the 10th inning to help the Athletics beat visiting Chicago in the rubber game of the series.

Urias homered to left field on the first pitch he saw from Jordan Leasure (0-2) after JJ Bleday struck out to begin the inning with Jacob Wilson on second.

Giants 3, Rangers 2: Heliot Ramos circled the bases on an infield single and two errors for a Little League homer in the ninth inning as host San Francisco beat Texas.

With the game tied in the bottom of the ninth, Ramos led off with a soft dribbler to the right of the pitcher's mound. Rangers reliever Luke Jackson (0-3) threw the ball wide of first base, and then Jake Burger — after retrieving the ball in foul terri-

tory — threw wide of third in an effort to get Ramos. The errors allowed Ramos to score the winning run.

Diamondbacks 6, Braves 4: Josh Naylor hit a crucial two-run double in the seventh as part of a three-hit day, Brandon Pfaadt threw six quality innings and Arizona snapped a four-game losing streak by winning at Atlanta.

Naylor's two-out double off Aaron Bummer fell between left fielder Alex Verdugo and center fielder Michael Harris II after it appeared the pair miscommunicated, giving the Diamondbacks a 6-3 cushion.

Mariners 7, Marlins 6: Cal Raleigh tied for the major league lead with his 10th home run, Logan Evans won his MLB debut and Seattle beat visiting Miami.

Connor Norby's three-run homer in the eighth cut Seattle's lead before Andrés Muñoz pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his 10th save, tying San Diego's Robert Suarez atop the majors.

Dodgers 9, Pirates 2: Andy Pages hit a home run, drove in a career-high four runs and tied a career best with four hits as Los Angeles beat visiting Pittsburgh.

The Dodgers overcame the departure of right-hander Tyler Glasnow, who left after one inning with right shoulder discomfort.

Phillies 3, Cubs 1 (10): Alec Bohm hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning to lift Philadelphia over host Chicago.

Trea Turner had three hits and two RBIs for the Phillies, who took two of three in the series. Aaron Nola pitched seven innings of three-hit ball after losing his first five starts this season.

The Cubs wasted a sharp performance by Jameson Taillon, who pitched seven innings of five-hit ball. The right-hander has a 2.08 ERA over his last three starts — all no-decisions.