

Trump: Iran objectives 'nearing completion'

BY MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More than a month after launching Operation Epic Fury, President Donald Trump used his primetime address Wednesday night to declare the war with Iran is winding down.

"Tonight, I'm pleased to say that these core strategic objectives are nearing completion," Trump said in his first address on the operation. "We're going to hit them extremely hard over the next two to three weeks."

Leading up to his speech, Trump had been saying that U.S. forces will wrap up in two to three weeks, though he did not provide details on how and when the U.S. will pull out of the region.

The war, now in its fifth week, has seen Trump alternate between promising a swift end to the conflict and signaling a potential expansion, as thousands

of U.S. troops and military assets have surged to the region or are on their way.

The president on Wednesday posted on Truth Social that Iran's "new regime president" asked the U.S. for a ceasefire.

"We will consider when the Hormuz Strait is open, free, and clear. Until then, we are blasting Iran into oblivion or, as they say, back to the Stone Ages," Trump wrote.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth shared the post on X and added a saluting emoji.

American forces have struck more than 12,000 targets inside Iran since launching the operation on Feb. 28, decimating much of its missile stockpile, production facilities and largest naval vessels. Early in the conflict, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed. His son, Mojtaba Khamenei, is now Iran's supreme leader.

Administration officials since

the launch have said the objectives are to destroy Iran's missile capabilities and its navy and ensure Iran never obtains a nuclear weapon.

Trump on Wednesday reminded viewers that since 2015 he has vowed to never let Iran have a nuclear weapon. He said he had addressed this during his two terms, including in 2020 when U.S. forces killed senior Iranian military leader Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

Iran's Isfahan, Natanz and Fordow nuclear facilities sustained major damage during a joint U.S.-Israeli bombing campaign last summer, but not everything was destroyed, according to Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Trump in June said the sites were "completely and fully obliterated."

The president in his address said Iran sought to rebuild at a

different location and was also building a vast stockpile of conventional ballistic missiles.

"They had some weapons that nobody believed they had. We just learned that out. We took them out. We took them all out," Trump said.

Iran still maintains a chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, sharply restricting traffic and allowing only limited oil shipments through. The waterway's closure has caused oil and gas prices to surge, sparking concerns about wider implications for the global economy. The average price of gasoline in the U.S. rose above \$4 a gallon on Tuesday.

"When this conflict is over, the strait will open up naturally. They're going to want to be able to sell oil, because that's all they have to try and rebuild. It will resume the flowing and the gas prices will rapidly come back down," Trump said.

Nations scrambling to solve Strait of Hormuz crisis

BY LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump said the U.S. will soon wrap up its operations in the Middle East, suggesting European and other allies must take the lead in dealing with much of the aftermath.

Across Europe, leaders and officials are rushing to figure out how to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, the vital oil shipping corridor that has been effectively blockaded by Iran since the joint U.S.-Israeli operations began Feb. 28. The halt in fuel shipping has sent gas prices surging around the globe — including in the U.S. — and sparked worries about broader

economic impacts.

Trump on Wednesday told the American people that operations in Iran were almost complete. But he also made it clear that he thinks the U.S. is under no obligation to secure the strait for other nations, which he said rely on it more than the United States.

"We will be helpful," Trump said in his primetime address. "But they should take the lead in protecting the oil that they so desperately depend on."

A coalition of at least 35 nations was set to gather virtually on Thursday — without the U.S. — to explore ways to reopen the strait. The talks, hosted by Bri-

tain, included France, Germany, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates and the European Union's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas.

The coalition last month issued a letter expressing a readiness to "contribute to appropriate efforts to ensure safe passage through the Strait."

The nations planned to look at "all viable diplomatic and political measures," to restore the freedom of navigation after a ceasefire had been reached, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said prior to the meeting.

Meanwhile, some nations are

pushing for a resolution in the U.N. Security Council that would allow them to open the strait through military force. Bahrain, a critical Gulf ally that hosts U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, drafted a resolution last month that would have authorized the use of "all means necessary" to reopen the waterway, according to Reuters.

The draft resolution, however, was likely to run into pushback this week from Iran's Russian and Chinese allies on the Security Council, Reuters reported. The United Arab Emirates has also been lobbying for such an order, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Army deletes April Fools' doctrine post

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

It may have been “straight fire,” but an April Fools’ Day post on an official Army account was quickly extinguished Wednesday over concerns that it was unprofessional.

A post on the X and Facebook pages of the Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate shared a purported “Gen Alpha Slang Edition” of an Army doctrinal publication on operations, complete with loads of digital-age vernacular and several internet memes illustrating key concepts.

For example, an epigraph quoting 19th-century military strategist Carl von Clausewitz calls him “Dead Carl the GOAT,” using a popular acronym for “greatest of all time.” A quote attributed to 20th-century U.S. President Ronald Reagan dubs him “POTUS Ronnie ‘The Rizzler’ Reagan,” using a nickname for individuals having great charisma.

Generation Alpha consists of those born between about 2010 and 2025, who grew up fully in the internet era, many of whom spent some grade school years learning remotely during the

coronavirus pandemic. Their peculiar vocabulary — a patois influenced and proliferated by social media — has been the subject of various articles, posts, and even whole social media accounts offering translations.

The fake Army publication uses terms such as “slaps,” meaning something is very good; “big brain,” meaning intellectually advanced; “sus,” meaning sketchy or suspicious; and “vibe,” meaning a feeling or atmosphere. Deep in the document is a glossary of many other popular online idioms, though not all are used in the actual text of the document.

The publication’s cover is emblazoned with a fire emoji touting it as “straight fire” (really good) with three exclamation points and states that it supersedes Army field manual FM 3-0 “if reader is born after 2005.” A caveat at the bottom states that it was approved for public release “but probably shouldn’t be.”

That may have been more accurate than the author realized.

Shortly after the tongue-in-cheek FM 3-0 for youngsters was shared on its official social media pages, the Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate de-

leted it, attributing it to the Mission Command Center of Excellence public affairs, or MCCoE PAO, and saying it was out of line with the professional guidelines of the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to which both are subordinate.

“We have removed this content and are reviewing these guidelines with MCCoE PAO to ensure compliance moving forward,” it said in posts on X and Facebook.

But the deletion of the original post left many in the Facebook comments section and on X.com reacting like “bruh,” a term defined in the fake Army publication as an expression of disbelief or annoyance.

The audience for U.S. Army W.T.F. moments! loved the joke post, said the website’s managing director, Kenneth Eisen, on the X account @theIOguy, adding that it “generated the most inbox traffic today (lighthearted).”

In another post, retired Army officer Crispin Burke highlighted much bigger Army efforts that many consider sus, including a “failed” \$11 million marketing deal the Army made with the United Football League and

Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson in 2024.

“I guess April Fools’ jokes are where we draw the line,” Burke said.

It was not the only April Fools’ Day joke from an official Army account, however. Alongside an apparently AI-generated image of various military hats made out of tinfoil, Army Counterintelligence Command shared mock guidance about “new Frequency Obstructing Interception Layer (FOIL)” headwear to protect soldiers’ thoughts from signals intelligence interception.

In an X post commenting on the slang doctrine translation, a moderator of the Army’s subreddit community referred to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth’s show of mercy for Apache helicopter crew members who made a fly-by of musician Kid Rock’s Tennessee mansion last week.

“So the CAB can go fly treetops and hover at kid rocks house and that’s just good fun but a fake FM is TOO [expletive] FAR,” the post said. “Someone get Pete to intervene.”

The Combined Arms Center public affairs office did not immediately respond to a Stars and Stripes inquiry.

Seabees install floating pier at station in Antarctica

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

A detachment of U.S. Navy Seabees is heading home after 184 days installing a floating pier at America’s largest research station in Antarctica.

The structure, designed to replace McMurdo Station’s ice pier, has been under construction since October 2024.

Ships deliver cargo and fuel to the station, where more than 1,000 people live and work from October to March. During the past research season, the

USCGC Polar Star broke ice to allow other vessels to enter McMurdo Sound.

Navy Detachment Antarctica — 32 members of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3 at Port Hueneme, Calif. — arrived on the ice in early October, their commander, Lt. Cmdr. Cyndelee McVeigh, said Wednesday. The nickname “Seabees” for the Navy’s engineers derives from the first two letters of the official unit description, construction battalion.

The Seabees head home on

Saturday after working outdoors in one of the world’s harshest environments, McVeigh told Stars and Stripes by phone from McMurdo.

Antarctica gets round-the-clock daylight during the southern hemisphere’s summer but by March the station gets significantly darker and colder.

In the Antarctic winter, temperatures at the station can drop below minus 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Seabees, equipped with cold-weather clothing, used a

rock quarry saw to prepare the frozen shoreline during the project, McVeigh said.

The main part of the 328-foot-long pier is a barge, built by Portland, Ore., shipbuilder Gundersen Marine and Iron. The barge, towed to the ice via Lyttleton, New Zealand, arrived Feb. 24 in McMurdo Sound, she said.

“That was the major milestone,” she said.

The final phase of the project will involve installing ramps between the barge and shore to allow cargo to roll on and off.

Trump, Republicans unite on DHS deal

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and GOP leaders united behind a plan Wednesday to end the record-breaking partial shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security, committing themselves to a two-track strategy that includes passing a reconciliation bill for immigration enforcement funding by June 1.

With the shutdown stretching into its seventh week and pressure growing to pay DHS workers, Trump rallied behind a Senate plan that envisioned passing a filibuster-proof reconciliation bill to provide immigration enforcement funding

that Democrats have rejected.

The move could convince House Republicans to revisit a Senate-passed proposal that would fund all of the department except for the two immigration agencies at the heart of the conflict: Immigration and Customs Enforcement, known as ICE, and Customs and Border Protection, which is home to the Border Patrol. That plan, which the House set aside in favor of an eight-week funding extension, could gain new life with the assurance that more money for immigration enforcement would be coming through reconciliation.

Trump announced in a state-

ment on his Truth Social platform that the administration would work in “close conjunction” with Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., and Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., to bypass Democratic opposition and approve the immigration funding package through reconciliation.

“I am asking that the bill be on my desk NO LATER than June 1st,” Trump wrote. “Our Law Enforcement Officers and the American People should not have to wait until the Democrats see reason or, learn the hard way through the Polls.”

The president added that the administration would continue

to draw from funds approved in last year’s “big, beautiful” reconciliation law to “ensure that ICE and Border Patrol Agents are paid ON TIME, and IN FULL.”

Within hours of Trump’s announcement, Thune and Johnson issued a rare joint statement fully endorsing the effort.

“In the coming days, Republicans in the Senate and House will be following through on the President’s directive by fully funding the entire Department of Homeland Security on two parallel tracks: through the appropriations process and through the reconciliation process,” they said.

Russia, Ukraine set to intensify war amid Iran conflict

Bloomberg News

President Vladimir Putin made a big deal of Russia’s success in seizing control of Kupyansk in eastern Ukraine late last year, even as Volodymyr Zelenskyy immediately challenged the claim by making a video address from the town.

Now Russian forces are gradually being pushed out of Kupyansk by Ukrainian troops, according to two people in Moscow with knowledge of the situation.

It’s an embarrassing reversal for Putin as the warring sides prepare to intensify fighting again with winter snows giving way to spring on the battlefield.

Russia’s Defense Ministry hasn’t commented on the situation in the town that’s an important rail hub.

While the setback is more tactical than strategic for Russia, it underlines that Putin remains far from achieving his declared objectives in the war that’s now in its fifth year.

Russian forces are making some creeping territorial gains and Ukrainian troops are pushing forward in other areas, but the frontline is largely stuck with neither army able to make a decisive breakthrough.

Both sides are seeking “to deny their adversary freedom of movement not just 30 kilometers on either side of the line of contact, but out to 300 kilometers,” said former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe James Everard.

“Whoever dominates in-depth can strangle the other side, by stopping the flow of supply and reinforcements. This is the fight.”

Hopes for a diplomatic resolution to the war are being set back as the U.S.-Israel attack on Iran consumes the attention of President Donald Trump.

U.S.-led talks between Ukraine and Russia have stalled for now with little sign that negotiations will resume soon on a potential peace deal.

Trump fires AG Bondi, considering EPA chief as replacement

New York Daily News

President Donald Trump fired Attorney General Pam Bondi Thursday after a rocky tenure marked by her fumbling of the Jeffrey Epstein scandal and her perceived failure to effectively carry out his campaign of legal retribution against political rivals.

Bondi will be replaced, at least temporarily, with her top deputy, Todd Blanche, who was previously Trump’s

personal lawyer.

Trump is considering appointing Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin to the post, three people familiar with the matter said before Bondi’s ouster was officially announced.

Trump has discussed his ongoing frustration with Bondi over her handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files and hurdles the Justice Department has encountered in investigations into Trump’s perceived

enemies, the people said.

The Republican president has mentioned other candidates but has raised Zeldin’s name as recently as this week, the people said.

Zeldin, a former Republican congressman from Long Island who ran a strong losing campaign for governor, has been praised by Trump, who at an event in February described him as “our secret weapon.”

Bondi, a former state at-

torney general in Florida and a Trump loyalist who was part of his legal team during his first impeachment case in his first term, has been in her position for more than a year.

She quickly launched investigations of several Trump foes, sparking an outcry that the law enforcement agency was being wielded as a tool of revenge to advance the president’s political and personal agenda.

Getting a boost from the military

Iraq War pilots among experts aiding first crewed moon mission in over 50 years

By ALEXANDER BANERJEE
Stars and Stripes

The world's first crewed mission to the moon since 1972, which launched Wednesday, is quietly continuing the space sector's long tradition of benefiting from U.S. military expertise.

The NASA mission's commander, Reid Wiseman, and pilot, Victor J. Glover, Jr., both supported Operation Iraqi Freedom; one of the mission's crucial components was tested at an Army facility in Arizona; and the recovery of the astronauts will be facilitated by personnel with the Space Force and Navy.

The Space Launch System rocket with the Orion spacecraft named Integrity lifted off from Kennedy Space Center's Launch Pad 39-B at 6:35 p.m.

The SLS blasted off the pad with 8.8 million pounds of thrust, besting the power seen by the space shuttle and Apollo program's Saturn V rockets. Its rumble barreled over crowds gathered at KSC's press site, drowning out cheers, hollers and the clicking sounds of cameras snapping pics of the liftoff.

Artemis II will not land on the moon, but its journey to the moon will test whether the SLS rocket and Orion capsule can support astronauts on future missions that could culminate in a lunar base. The astronauts could also end up traveling farther from Earth than anyone before them, and there is a chance they will be the first to directly see the moon's dark side.

If successful, it will be followed by Artemis III, which aims to test commercial landers in 2027, and Artemis IV, which aims to conduct the first human exploration of the moon's south pole by 2028. Artemis V is anticipated to mark the start of development on a moon base. All of these unprecedented goals are stepping stones for an eventual path to Mars, as the logo for the

Artemis missions declares.

Similarly to how Neil Armstrong became the first person to set foot on the moon 17 years after his last combat deployment, in Korea, Wiseman is commanding America's return to the moon 23 years after his combat deployment in Iraq. Glover, who still serves in the Navy, is piloting the mission roughly two decades after flying in Iraq.

Wiseman, a retired Navy captain, was commissioned in 1997 and designated as a naval aviator in 1999, according to his NASA biography. He deployed for Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom before he transitioned in 2004 to being a test pilot at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md.

Glover, a Navy captain, completed advanced flight training in 2001. He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and later undertook a one-year experimental piloting course before getting designated as a test pilot in 2007.

Of the 360 people selected to be astronauts by NASA since the profession was created, 212 served in the Armed Forces.

But Wiseman and Glover represent a little-noticed transition in the small community of veterans going into space.

Of the 38 active astronauts listed on NASA's website, half served in combat in the Global War on Terror, including Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Inherent Resolve.

Astronauts are the most high-profile example of military skills being put to use on America's space program, but hardly the only one.

Key to the mission's success is the deployment of Orion's parachutes, which will be tasked with keeping the massive deceleration of reentry safe for astronauts when they return to Earth.

The parachute system was developed with multiple tests from 2011 to 2018 at the U.S. Army's Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona.

Though most of the proving ground's personnel are civilians, active-duty soldiers with the elite Airborne Test Force, who are knowledgeable about cargo and personnel parachute testing, helped test the system, said Mark Schauer, a public affairs officer at the facility.

Air Force personnel were also involved with the testing at YPG, such as by using a C-17 Globemaster to airdrop a mock-up of the Orion craft in 2017.

Though a safe landing is essential to mission success, it matters little if the astronauts and their module are not quickly and safely recovered at sea.

Retrieving the crew upon their splashdown in the Pacific Ocean "is a very complex operation, and it requires unique skills and equipment," said Jason Endsley, Landing and Recovery lead for Amentum, which contracts with NASA.

NASA specifically uses the Navy's LPD-class amphibious transport dock ships, Endsley said, which have a floodable well deck that allows the safe recovery of the space module. The module can provide information on flight and reentry performance, and some of its components can be repurposed, he said.

"We go underway with the Navy when we go out for recovery. So on that vessel, you have NASA contractors and military personnel working hand in hand through all phases of recovery," Endsley said.

NASA's recovery missions also involve collaboration with the Space Force's 45th Weather Squadron, based at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Fla., Endsley said. The squadron releases a weather balloon from

the Navy ship and helps record data about conditions.

"We bring some weather squadron personnel with us, and we launch [the balloon] right there in the ocean," Endsley said.

Endsley noted that on the off chance something goes wrong and the astronauts do not land in their designated area of the Pacific Ocean, U.S. military personnel around the world are prepared to assist recovery operations.

Just as how America's original moonshot took place in a space race, Artemis II is launching in an age of space competition and renewed interest in the moon.

Russia in 2023 unsuccessfully launched its first lunar mission in 47 years. Just days later, India's success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission made the country the world's fourth to achieve a soft landing on the lunar surface, and the first to land on the moon's south pole.

Meanwhile, China is aiming to land humans on the moon by 2030. Artemis IV is scheduled to set humans on the lunar surface by 2028, but delays could potentially result in each country's crewed landings happening at a similar time.

An order signed by President Donald Trump in December designated space superiority as a policy goal and listed the Artemis program, the commercial space market and missile defense as interlinked priorities.

NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman has repeatedly linked space exploration and security in public statements, stating at a defense conference in February that "NASA's mission and national security are inseparable." At another conference last week, however, Isaacman affirmed that "science and discovery remain at the heart of NASA's mission."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

State 'psyched' for 250th, sports festivities

PA PHILADELPHIA — Surrounded by red, white and blue balloons, Gov. Josh Shapiro declared Tuesday that Pennsylvania will soon become the “center of the world’s attention just like we were 250 years ago.”

Beyond celebrations connected to the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the state will host the FIFA World Cup, the PGA Championship, Major League Baseball’s All-Star Week and the 2026 NFL draft.

Except for the draft, which will be held in Pittsburgh, all events will take place in and around Philadelphia during the spring and summer.

More than 1 million people will be visiting Pennsylvania because of these events, said Community and Economic Development Secretary Rick Siger.

They will augment overall visitor spending in the commonwealth during the year, estimated to reach \$55 billion, with a total impact on all businesses expected to be \$91 million, he said.

Toe-to-thumb surgery restores hand function

MD BALTIMORE — Scott Price was working with a wood splitter when it kicked out a fragment of a log, pinning his left hand against a metal plate and severing his thumb and forefinger. After his local hospital in Pocomo, Pa., failed to reattach the digits, Price came to MedStar Health’s Curtis National Hand Center at Union Memorial Hos-

pital in Baltimore, which specializes in complex hand injuries and birth defects of the hands.

“When this initially happened, I thought, wow, my life is gonna be drastically different,” Price said at a follow-up visit on Thursday. “I was kinda anxious and excited to do it because it was pretty difficult going from having all my fingers to losing a thumb, so I was hopeful, and it definitely paid off.”

Price had gone through one double operation, where Curtis surgeons simultaneously removed his big toe and prepared his left hand to receive that toe in place of his lost thumb. In a follow-up surgery, they helped improve his grip range, so he could grasp larger objects without using his right hand to help open the thumb wider. At his recent visit, he demonstrated his grip strength by lifting a section of 4×4 lumber with his left hand only.

Giuliani loses bid to end \$10M sex assault suit

NY NEW YORK — A Manhattan judge Tuesday denied Rudy Giuliani’s motion to dismiss a \$10 million lawsuit brought by a woman who claims the former mayor subjected her to sexual assault, “alcohol-drenched rants” and withheld \$2 million in wages, instead ordering the years-old case to proceed promptly to discovery.

In a seven-page decision, state Supreme Court Justice Nicholas Moyne found Noelle Dunphy had sufficiently stated her allegations against Giuliani, 81, and gave him 20 days to respond to them.

Dunphy’s May 2023 lawsuit alleges Giuliani hired her in January 2019 as his director of business development for a promised salary of \$1 million and claimed he would pay her once his bitter divorce with Judith Nathan was finalized. As an incentive, the former Trump adviser allegedly offered Dunphy pro bono services in an ongoing domestic violence case involving her abusive ex, her suit details.

Over the following two years, Dunphy alleges that she worked around-the-clock for Giuliani for no pay and that he sexually assaulted her several times, usually after he was drinking. She claims she was fired in January 2021 after confronting Giuliani about his behavior and never got paid for the two years under his employ.

In denying the allegations, Giuliani has claimed he and Dunphy, 45, had a brief romantic fling and that she was never his employee.

4 arrested in Brooklyn kickback scheme

NY NEW YORK — Four people were arrested Tuesday in connection with a federal corruption investigation that has ensnared NYC Council member Farah Louis and BHRAGS Home Care, a non-profit providing homeless services to the city, the Brooklyn U.S. Attorney’s office said.

The feds are looking into whether Louis and her sister Debbie Louis, an aide to Gov. Kathy Hochul, accepted kickbacks related to the appropriation of city funds to the non-profit, according to a search warrant obtained by the Associated

Press.

BHRAGS’ former chairman of the board of directors, Ronald Tirelus, and its executive director Roberto Samedy, as well as Miguel Jorge and Edouardo St. Fort, two other vendors, were arrested.

Tugboat captain charged in fatal crash

FL MIAMI — The captain of the tugboat pushing a large construction barge that crashed into a sailboat full of summer campers, killing three young girls last summer, has been charged with their deaths.

Yusiel Lopez Insua, 46, was charged with seaman’s manslaughter for operating the barge with obstructed visibility and without assigning a proper lookout, according to a document filed in federal court Tuesday. He faces 10 years in prison if convicted. The charge was recommended by U.S. Coast Guard investigators in October.

Prosecutors also said in the charging document that Insua’s cellphone was unlocked in the wheelhouse and he was “on internet marketplaces, including at the time the collision occurred,” the document states. Prosecutors said Insua’s view was obstructed by the cargo, a deckhouse and crane on the barge.

Mila Yankelevich, 7, Erin Victoria Ko Han, 13, and Arielle “Ari” Mazi Buchman, 10, were trapped beneath the barge tangled in the wreckage of the 17-foot Hobie Getaway sailboat after the crash, and they died from drowning.

— *From Tribune News Service.*

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Wemby nets 41; Spurs win 10th straight

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Victor Wembanyama scored 41 points for the second straight game, grabbed 18 rebounds and blocked three shots and the San Antonio Spurs ran away from the injury-plagued Golden State Warriors for a 127-113 victory Wednesday night that extended their winning streak to 10.

Wembanyama had 10 of his team's initial 14 points just 3:36 into the game and San Antonio jumped ahead 17-3. He finished 16-for-22 from the field in his fourth 40-point performance of the season.

The Spurs (58-18) won for the 15th time in their last 16 contests as they chase the first-place and idle Thunder (60-16) in the race for the top seed in the Western Conference.

With 54.9 seconds left in the first quarter, San Antonio's De'Aaron Fox took a shot to the face and exited briefly. He finished with 11 points — one of seven Spurs in double figures.

Nate Williams scored 18 points, LJ Cryer matched his career high with 17 and Brandin Podziemski had 14 points, six rebounds and five assists for Golden State as Stephen Curry missed his 26th consecutive game since Jan. 30 with a right knee injury.

Curry scrimmaged 5-on-5 Tuesday while participating in a full practice as he tries to return before the end of the regular season. Steve Kerr said Curry would scrimmage again in the coming days, then be re-evaluated over the weekend.

Curry's younger brother, Seth, came off the bench to contribute 12 points in his second game back after missing eight with a strained left inner thigh.

Hawks 130, Magic 101: Nickeil Alexander-Walker scored 32 points, Jalen Johnson added 18 points and 14 rebounds, and visiting Atlanta routed Orlando for its 17th victory in its last 19 games.

Dyson Daniels had 15 points and 13 rebounds for the Hawks, who shot 51% for the game and had a 52-36 rebound advantage. Johnson came two assists short of his 14th triple-double of the season.

The Hawks swept the season series against the Magic 4-0 and now have a 3½ game lead over Orlando in the Southeast Division with five games remaining — six for Orlando.

Jamal Cain led the Magic with 17 points off the bench. Desmond Bane and Wendell Carter Jr. added 14 points each.

76ers 153, Wizards 151: Paul George scored a season-high 39 points and visiting Philadelphia overcame Joel Embiid's absence because of an illness in a victory over Washington.

George played his fourth game following a 25-game suspension for violating the NBA's anti-drug rules. He was 15 of 22 from the field, made 6 of 12 3-pointers and had six assists and five rebounds.

Tyrese Maxey added 28 points and nine assists in his third game back from a finger injury, and rookie VJ Edgecombe had 23 points and 10 assists.

Philadelphia's starters combined to shoot 45 of 65 from the floor (69.2%) and helped score 47 third-quarter points, the second-most Washington allowed in any period this season.

Anthony Gill scored a career-best 21 points for the Wizards. They have lost four in a row and 20 of 21.

Celtics 147, Heat 129: Jaylen Brown scored 43 points, Jayson Tatum had his first triple-double of the season and visiting Boston rode the strength of a record-setting first quarter to beat Miami.

Tatum finished with 25 points, 18 rebounds and 11 assists for Boston, which scored 53 points in the first quarter — a franchise record that tied the second-highest total for an opening

quarter in NBA history. Sam Hauser added 23 for the Celtics, who are 31-0 when scoring at least 117 points this season and are 10-1 in their last 11 games following a loss.

The Celtics led by as many as 27, then saw the lead trimmed to as little as nine early in the fourth quarter. Boston (51-25) holds the No. 2 spot in the Eastern Conference race, four games behind No. 1 Detroit.

Bam Adebayo had 29 points and 10 rebounds for Miami (40-37), which tied a franchise record by hitting 24 3-pointers. The Heat made 24 on three other occasions.

Pacers 145, Bulls 126: Pascal Siakam scored 25 points and visiting Indiana beat Chicago to move out of the NBA basement.

Coming off a home victory over Miami on Sunday, the injury-ravaged Pacers had their highest-scoring game of the season. They improved to 18-58 to move a game ahead of last-place Washington.

Guerschon Yabusele led Chicago with 20 points, and Collin Sexton had 18. The Bulls have lost five straight — the first four on the road — to fall to 29-47.

Rockets 119, Bucks 113: Reed Sheppard scored 27 points on a career-high nine 3-pointers, Alperen Sengun added 25 points and host Houston beat short-handed Milwaukee for its fourth straight victory.

Kevin Durant finished with 19 points and nine assists, Amen Thompson had 18 points, nine rebounds and six assists and Jabari Smith Jr. scored 12 points for the Rockets. They shot 47% from the field, going 18 of 42 on 3-pointers.

Houston had 30 assists on 41 field goals and forced the Bucks into 15 turnovers that they converted into 18 points.

Kings 123, Raptors 115: DeMar DeRozan scored 14 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, Precious Achiuwa had 28 points and a season-high 19 rebounds and

visiting Sacramento beat Toronto.

DeRozan reached 26,688 career points, moving him past Dominique Wilkins (26,668) into 17th place on the NBA's all-time list.

Malik Monk scored 18 points, Devin Carter had 13 and Daeqwon Plowden 11 as the Kings snapped a four-game losing streak and ended a five-game road trip with a victory. Sacramento is 7-32 on the road.

Knicks 130, Grizzlies 119: OG Anunoby had 25 points and 13 rebounds, Karl-Anthony Towns had 20 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his fourth triple-double of the season, and visiting New York beat Memphis.

Mikal Bridges added 24 points as New York snapped a three-game losing streak.

GG Jackson led Memphis with 20 points, Olivier-Maxence Prosper added 17 and Cedric Coward finished with 15 points.

The Knicks sit in third place in the Eastern Conference, a game and a half ahead of the Cavaliers, who were idle Wednesday night.

Nuggets 130, Jazz 117: Jamal Murray made 10 3-pointers — including a half-court heave that beat the first-quarter buzzer — and scored 37 points to lead visiting Denver to a victory over Utah.

Nikola Jokic had 17 rebounds, 15 points, and 12 assists for his fifth triple-double in six games to help the Nuggets earn their seventh straight victory. Cam Johnson added 19 points, eight rebounds and six assists. Christian Braun had 18 points and six rebounds.

Brice Sensabaugh led Utah with 28 points, including six 3-pointers, and six rebounds. Kyle Filipowski added 25 points and 12 rebounds for the Jazz, who dropped their seventh straight and are 3-19 in their last 22 games. Kennedy Chandler had 16 points and six assists off the bench.

Mendoza impresses at Indiana pro day

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Fernando Mendoza warmed up with his college roommate Wednesday while nearly two dozen college teammates took turns running the 40-yard dash.

Then the Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback did what he always seems to do — deliver another impressive performance.

All 32 NFL teams sent scouts to Indiana, more than 100 media members were credentialed and dozens of family members and friends of ex-Hoosiers showed up for a pro day unlike any other in school history. Most came to see the guy expected to be the first-overall pick in this month's NFL draft and Mendoza didn't disappoint, using his platform to potentially help his ex-teammates improve their draft stock.

"I feel like it went great," Mendoza said after throwing the last of his roughly 56 passes. "You know quarterbacks have passed, have done shorter pro days than that. However, I just wanted to make sure everybody could showcase their abilities in front of all 32 NFL teams and

really run routes that are applicable to the timing we're going to be running in the NFL."

Mendoza threw short, deep and medium-range passes, targeting receivers to the left, right and over the middle. He also threw on the run.

No, he wasn't perfect. The former Florida prep star and Cal graduate overthrew a diving Elijah Sarratt on a deep ball by a half yard, one of several balls that hit the ground.

Then again, the 6-foot-5 22-year-old doesn't have to be perfect after seemingly already convincing Las Vegas' decision-makers to take him at No. 1. The Raiders also seem like a perfect fit for the Boston-born Mendoza, a longtime fan of minority owner Tom Brady.

Mendoza's 2025 season certainly got the attention of Brady, who attended the national championship game in Miami with majority owner Mark Davis and general manager John Spytek.

Mendoza completed 72% of his throws for 3,535 yards with 41 touchdowns and six interceptions last season, showed his mettle with a twisting highlight-

reel scoring run late in the national championship game and defeated a murderer's row of football powerhouses — Ohio State, Alabama, Oregon and Miami — in succession to capture Indiana's first outright Big Ten title since 1945 and the school's first national title.

At February's NFL scouting combine, Mendoza skipped the workout and participated only in the throwing session Wednesday. But with coach Curt Cignetti watching and with bright television lights in the corner of the end zones on opposite ends of the field, Mendoza may have shown how committed he is to excelling as a pro away from the field.

He arrived at 236 pounds — 11 pounds heavier than his listed playing weight. He looked strong and more capable of surviving the big blows from the NFL's heavier, faster pass rushers.

But Mendoza also said he's far from a finished product.

"I'm putting all of my efforts toward just trying to be the best quarterback possible for the season," he said. "But I know at the next level, there's going to

be a lot more snaps under center and that's a big adjustment. I need to get used to that and just the nature of the game. Not only that, the hash (marks) are more condensed and the speed of the game is faster. So all those things, I look forward to learning."

Mendoza said he's already met with Las Vegas twice, once at the combine and again on Zoom, and he has one additional meeting scheduled before the Raiders go on the draft clock April 23. All he can do now is wait, though the pro day gave him one more chance to cherish this last college season.

"You have to take a second to kind of realize what we have all accomplished together here," Mendoza said, referring to his teammates who finished the workout with a sprint to the end zone, followed by a group hug. "It was a little bit of a moment of a gratitude, looking at those guys and really seeing the special moments I've had with each individual. It's unlikely we'll all play on the same team again, but, hopefully, I'll get to play against and with some of those guys again."

Canucks overcome blowing a 4-goal lead to beat Avs

Associated Press

Marcus Pettersson scored with 5:39 remaining, Brock Boeser had a hat trick and the last-place Vancouver Canucks blew a four-goal lead before beating the NHL-leading Colorado Avalanche 8-6 on Wednesday night.

The Canucks, who entered the game 58 points behind the Avalanche, scored in all sorts of ways, including 29 seconds into the game, short-handed, on the power play and into an empty net to snap a six-game slide.

They led 6-2 in the second only to see Colorado tie it up with 6:02 left. Just 23 seconds later, Pet-

tersson knocked in his first goal since November. Boeser sealed it by lining the puck down the ice and into an empty net.

Teddy Blueger scored twice, while Max Sasson and Jake DeBrusk also added goals to spoil a night in which Nathan MacKinnon became the first player this season to reach 50 goals. Vancouver took advantage of the Avalanche juggling their defensive pairings with Cale Makar sidelined by an upper-body injury.

Kevin Lankinen made 24 saves.

Kings 2, Blues 1 (OT): Trevor Moore scored 1:56 into overtime to lift Los Angeles to a home vic-

tory over the St. Louis.

The Kings moved into the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference — one point ahead of San Jose and Nashville. Anton Forsberg made 23 saves, including one in overtime, for Los Angeles, which stopped a four-game losing streak at home.

Robert Thomas scored the only goal for the Blues on a deflection with 3:53 left in the third period to send it to overtime. St. Louis is now four points behind Los Angeles for the second wild-card spot.

Sharks 4, Ducks 3: Macklin Celebrini tied the game with less than two minutes to play then as-

sisted on Alexander Wennberg's winning goal with 31 seconds left to complete a four-point game as host San Jose beat Anaheim.

With two goals and two assists, Celebrini now has 40 goals and 105 points this season, moving him past Erik Karlsson (101 points in 2022-23) for the second highest single-season point total in franchise history behind Joe Thornton's 114-point effort in 2006-07.

The 19-year-old Celebrini also now has 17 games this season with three or more points, second among teenagers in NHL history only to Wayne Gretzky, who had 19 in 1979-80.

Alcantara shuts out White Sox in Marlins' rout

Associated Press

MIAMI — Sandy Alcantara threw the first complete game of the MLB season in a 93-pitch shutout to lead the Miami Marlins over the Chicago White Sox 10-0 on Wednesday.

It was Alcantara's second career complete-game shutout with fewer than 100 pitches, known as a "Maddux" in honor of Hall of Famer Greg Maddux. It was his 13th career complete game.

Liam Hicks homered, had two singles and drove in four runs to increase his Major League-leading count of RBIs to 12. Otto López also went deep and Graham Pauley doubled twice for Miami, which ended the homestand 5-1, its best start since 2020.

After a dominant outing against Colorado in the season-opener, Alcantara (2-0) extended his scoreless streak to 15 innings. The 2022 NL Cy Young Award winner struck out seven, scattered three singles and hit a batter.

Rockies 2, Blue Jays 1 (10): Pinch hitter Tyler Freeman hit an RBI single in the 10th inning and visiting Colorado beat Toronto.

Troy Johnston had two hits, including a game-tying single in the eighth, as the Rockies won their first series of the season.

Brennan Bernardino (1-0) worked one inning for the win and Jimmy Herget finished for his first save, retiring Vladimir Guerrero Jr. for the final out and stranding the tying run at third.

Braves 5, Athletics 1: Drake Baldwin drove in four runs with a pair of two-out hits, Chris Sale pitched one-hit ball over six innings and host Atlanta wrapped up its season-opening homestand with a victory over the struggling Athletics.

Baldwin had a two-run single off A's starter Luis Severino (0-1) in the second and added a two-run double in the fourth to give Sale (2-0) some breathing room after Shea Langeliers hit his fifth homer of the season —

the lone base-runner allowed by the Braves left-hander.

Baldwin nearly had a homer in the seventh, but Athletics center fielder Denzel Clarke leaped above the wall to make a dazzling catch.

Orioles 8, Rangers 3: The first game-ending call by a so-called robot umpire gave Albert Suárez his first major league save in nine years, ending host Baltimore's win over Texas.

A 1-2 fastball on the upper, outside corner to Evan Carter was called a ball by plate umpire Manny Gonzalez and Orioles catcher Samuel Basallo tapped his helmet, initiating the challenge.

About 13 seconds later, the scoreboard graphic from the Automated Ball-Strike System showed the ball clipped the strike zone. Basallo jogged to the mound as Gonzalez made the announcement, and the catcher hugged Suárez, who allowed one run over three innings for his first save since Aug. 6, 2017, for San Francisco against Arizona.

Pirates 8, Reds 3: Oneil Cruz had a three-run homer, his third in two games, Paul Skenes allowed one run in five innings and visiting Pittsburgh defeated Cincinnati to take the three-game series.

Bryan Reynolds had a two-run shot, and Nick Gonzales added a two-run double during the ninth inning.

Skenes (1-1) returned to his All-Star form after giving up five runs in two-thirds of an inning last Thursday in the season opener against the Mets. The reigning NL Cy Young winner allowed three hits, walked two and struck out five.

Brewers 8, Rays 2: Christian Yelich hit a go-ahead, two-run single in a six-run eighth inning and host Milwaukee beat Tampa Bay.

Garrett Mitchell added a two-run double during the decisive rally, Blake Perkins drove in a run with a groundout and David Hamilton capped the inning

with an RBI single as the Brewers (5-1) broke open a 2-2 game.

Cubs 6, Angels 2: Matthew Boyd (1-1) struck out 10 while pitching into the sixth inning, and host Chicago beat Los Angeles.

Nico Hoerner had three hits for the Cubs on a chilly and windy afternoon at Wrigley Field. Matt Shaw had two hits and two RBIs, and Alex Bregman reached three times in the rubber game of the three-game series.

Astros 6, Red Sox 4: Carlos Correa put Houston on top with a three-run homer and Christian Vázquez added a solo shot to lead the host Astros to a win over Boston to complete a three-game sweep.

Pinch-hitter Roman Anthony homered off Bryan Abreu to start the ninth and get the Red Sox within two. But Abreu struck out the next three batters to get his first save.

Phillies 6, Nationals 5 (10): Rookie Justin Crawford had an RBI single in the 10th inning after host Philadelphia rallied from a four-run deficit for a victory over Washington.

The Nationals led 5-1 in the seventh. J.T. Realmuto and Bryce Harper hit solo home runs to get the Phillies within 5-3. Edmundo Sosa hit a two-run single with the bases loaded and two outs in the ninth to tie the game.

Diamondbacks 1, Tigers 0: Zac Gallen outdueled two-time AL Cy Young winner Tarik Skubal, Corbin Carroll homered and host Arizona beat Detroit to sweep the three-game series.

Gallen (1-1) allowed four hits and struck out two, needing 88 pitches in six innings. Skubal (1-1) gave up six hits and struck out three over seven innings, only giving up Carroll's homer in the first.

Cardinals 2, Mets 1 (11): Maysyn Winn singled home the winning run with two outs in the 11th inning to give host St. Louis a victory over slumping New York.

With two outs and automatic runner JJ Wetherholt on third, Winn lofted a bloop to shallow right field that fell just in front of diving rookie Carson Benge. It was the first hit of the series for Winn, and his first career walk-off RBI.

Padres 7, Giants 1: Nick Pi-vetta struck out eight in five sharp innings and Ramón Laureano hit a two-run home run for host San Diego, which beat San Francisco to avoid a three-game sweep.

Luis Arraez had three of the Giants' four hits and was the only San Francisco baserunner to reach scoring position, doing so three times. The Giants struck out 14 times.

Yankees 5, Mariners 3: Cam Schlichter pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning and Paul Goldschmidt hit a three-run homer as visiting New York beat Seattle.

Schlichter (2-0) yielded two hits in 6⅓ innings and retired his last 16 batters, extending his scoreless start to the season. He struck out seven and walked none on 79 pitches, 58 strikes.

Guardians 4, Dodgers 1: Gavin Williams (1-1) struck out 10 in seven scoreless innings, out-pitching World Series MVP Yoshinobu Yamamoto, and José Ramírez hit his first home run of the season to lead visiting Cleveland past Los Angeles.

Gabriel Arias also went deep for the Guardians, who took two of three games in the series from the two-time defending champions.

Royals 13, Twins 9: Jonathan India hit a grand slam and drove in five runs, powering host Kansas City over Joe Ryan and Minnesota.

Kyle Isbel went 4 for 4 with a homer and Noah Cameron pitched five solid innings to win his season debut. India's fifth career slam — and first with the Royals — capped a seven-run sixth as Kansas City sent 11 batters to the plate while taking a 12-1 lead.