

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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## SOCOM chief orders review of force's culture

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The top general in charge of U.S. commando forces has ordered a review of the culture and ethics within Special Operations Command after a series of high-profile incidents in recent years have tarnished the military's most elite units.

Army Gen. Richard Clarke, the SOCOM commander, ordered the comprehensive review in a memorandum sent last week to his entire force. The review was to start immediately and conclude by the fall, he wrote.

"This is about making us better," Clarke wrote in the memo, which was first reported by NBC News.

"The American people must trust those who protect them, including the special operations professionals in this command," he wrote.

"This trust is paramount and must never be compromised. ... Recent incidents have called our culture and ethics into question and threaten the trust placed in us."

Clarke wrote all units within the command would be visited by top leaders and encouraged special operators to be "open and candid" with them.

Clarke's review comes on the heels of an ethics and culture review ordered late last month by the Navy's top SEAL officer. Rear

Adm. Collin Green, the chief of the Naval Special Warfare Command, launched the inquiry into the conduct of his organization following a string of recent incidents within the SEALs, including accusations of war crimes, charges of illicit drug use, drinking on duty in the Middle East, sexual assault and the involvement of two SEALs in the murder of a Green Beret.

The letter came immediately following reports of a Navy SEAL team being suddenly sent home in July to San Diego from Iraq over accusations of drinking alcohol during an Independence Day celebration, during which an alleged sexual assault on a female servicemember working with the team occurred.

That incident came just weeks after the acquittal of Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher on charges of war crimes, including murder in the 2017 killing of a wounded Islamic State captive. During the court-martial, fellow members of SEAL Team 7 testified team members drank and partied during their free time in Iraq.

In the homicide case, one SEAL, Senior Chief Petty Officer Adam Matthews, a former member of the Naval Special Warfare Development Group, or SEAL Team 6, was convicted this year for his role in the 2017 strangling death of Green Beret Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar in Mali.

Another member of the SEALs, Senior

Chief Petty Officer Tony DeDolph, faces charges, including murder, in that case. Two elite Marine Raiders were also implicated in Melgar's death, which has been described as an accidental killing during a hazing event after the elite troops had been out drinking. One of the Marines, Staff Sgt. Kevin Maxwell Jr., was convicted this year for his role in Melgar's death. The second, Gunnery Sgt. Mario Madera-Rodriguez, like DeDolph, still faces charges in the death, including murder. DeDolph and Madera-Rodriguez are expected to face court-martial later this year.

In a separate case, former Green Beret Maj. Matthew Golsteyn faces a court-martial on murder charges for the 2010 death of a local Afghan that he suspected of being a Taliban bombmaker. Golsteyn has admitted to the killing, but he has pleaded not guilty and claimed the man was a legal target.

Clarke wrote in his memo that special operators face the "most complex environments" of any military forces, but he stated that was not an excuse for misconduct.

"We are the nation's special operations force and we remain intensely focused on accomplishing our mission while upholding the highest standards of ethical conduct — each and every day, as individuals and teams, at home and while in harm's way," he wrote.

## Propulsion plant work complete on USS Ford

*The Daily Press*

NORFOLK, Va. — Newport News shipbuilders and sailors have fixed problems with the propulsion plant on the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford, bringing the ship a step closer to returning to sea.

Work was completed July 22, ending more than a year of maintenance and repairs, according to a Navy news release.

Propulsion system problems first were spotted during sea trials in January 2018. A manu-

facturing defect was deemed to be the cause.

In May, the crew dealt with another propulsion plant issue "associated with a design modification" and the ship returned to Naval Station Norfolk, the news release stated.

The ship returned to sea later in May. After successfully completing all required at-sea tests, the Navy and Newport News Shipbuilding determined how to correct the manufacturing defects during post-shakedown work at the shipyard.

The Ford entered the yard

last year and remains there.

The propulsion problems weren't with the nuclear reactors, but with other mechanical components. It took 400,000 employee hours of maintenance and production to complete the work, the Navy said.

Crew members who work in the Ford's reactor department are already shifting their focus to preventive maintenance, said Lt. Cmdr. Deron Spencer, the ship's reactor maintenance officer.

The first-in-class ship is packed with new technology,

which has caused delays and cost overruns throughout its development and construction. Ford joined the fleet in 2017, but more work remains before it is ready for combat.

Navy leaders say they're making progress with two key systems: the catapults and arresting gear that allow aircraft to launch and land on the flight deck.

Work continues on the advanced weapons elevators, which transport ordnance up from the lower decks.

## Sub firepower upgrade delayed by welding flaws

Bloomberg

Welding flaws by subcontractor BWX Technologies Inc. are delaying delivery of the first missile tubes for a U.S. Navy submarine weapons upgrade by at least seven months, according to the service.

The delay to fix the problem is a setback for plans to increase the firepower for the next version of the Virginia-class submarine by equipping it with four new large-diameter tubes. Each tube can hold seven Tomahawk cruise missiles, increasing the number of weapons the submarine can carry to 65 from 37 on current vessels, according to the Congressional Research Service.

The Navy is under pressure to increase the number and range of weapons in its submarine fleet to counter the expanding lethality of the Russian and Chinese navies. Bottlenecks like the welding problem add to pressure on the Navy and its contractors as they work to accelerate production of the next Virginia submarines — known as Block V — while also starting construction on the new Columbia class in 2021.

The Navy and shipbuilders must “manage staffing demands and other resources across both programs,” the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in a May report.

BWX Technologies is under contract to produce and deliver three of four tubes to prime contractor General Dynamics Corp., which is building the submarine. BAE Systems is slated to produce the fourth tube for the initial “Virginia Payload Module” and remaining tubes for succeeding Block V submarines.

The previously undisclosed seven-month delay by Lynchburg, Va.-based BWX was due to “substandard welding” and “improperly administered” testing, the Naval Sea Systems Command said a statement.

“The delay in tube delivery does not equate” to a delay in ship delivery, the Navy said in a statement.

The Virginia Payload Module and its four additional tubes will extend the submarine’s hull by 84 feet. The welding flaws were similar to those the company acknowledged last year for missile tubes that will go on the new Columbia-class submarines. Those continue to be repaired.

# Senator calls readiness of B-1 bombers into question

The Rapid City (S.D.) Journal

WASHINGTON — Just six of the nation’s B-1 bombers are fully mission capable, according to U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds.

Rounds, a Republican representing South Dakota, made the statement July 30 during a Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing for Gen. John Hyten, who is nominated for vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Much of the hearing focused on a sexual assault allegation against Hyten that he denies. The committee advanced his nomination to the full Senate.

When it was Rounds’ turn to ask questions at the hearing, he focused on military readiness.

“Right now, of all of our B-1 bombers, we have six of them that are fully mission capable — five split between Ellsworth Air Force Base and Dyess Air Force Base. One is a test aircraft,” Rounds said.

Ellsworth is near Rapid City, and Dyess is in Texas. Both are home bases for B-1s. The bombers, which date to the 1980s, can reach speeds beyond 900 mph, carry a payload of 75,000 pounds and tote 24 cruise missiles.

Rounds went on to say that 15 B-1s are “in

depot,” and “the remaining 39 of 44 B-1s at Ellsworth and at Dyess are down for a variety of discrepancies and inspections.”

Rounds’ numbers indicated a total fleet of 60 B-1s. His office later clarified for the Journal that there are 62 B-1s in the fleet, including the six that are fully mission-capable among the 45 that are split between Ellsworth and Dyess (21 at Ellsworth, and 24 at Dyess), plus the 15 in depot at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma and two test B-1s at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

During the hearing, Rounds asked Hyten what should be done to restore the readiness of B-1s, along with other military equipment and weapons.

Hyten said funding is the key.

“We saw issues in the B-1, because we were just beating the heck out of them, deploying them and deploying them, and so we had to pull back a little bit and get after fixing those issues, and the depots can do that if they have stable funding,” Hyten said.

B-1s will eventually be phased out by B-21 bombers, which are under development by the Air Force and Northrop Grumman and are planned to be sent first to Ellsworth, beginning sometime in the 2020s.

## Fallen Marine once Corps’ top commando

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Marine killed in action Saturday in northern Iraq alongside Iraqi forces was a father of two who last year was named the Marine Raiders’ top commando.

Gunnery Sgt. Scott A. Koppenhafer was killed during operations against Islamic State in the expansive Ninevah province, where efforts are ongoing to clear the remnants of the terrorist group, Pentagon officials said Sunday.

Koppenhafer, 35, was the first combat death of an American servicemember in Iraq since October 2017, but defense officials said Monday that the Pentagon was probing the possibility that he was killed by friendly fire.

The Defense Department initially announced Koppenhafer was killed by “enemy small arms fire,” however two defense officials said the investigation was examining the possibility that he had been accidentally struck by Iraqi or American fire. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity. The

Wall Street Journal first reported the possibility of a friendly fire incident.

Koppenhafer spent the last decade serving in the elite Marine Corps Special Operations Command after he completed the grueling Marine Raider training in 2009, according to the Corps. He was a veteran of three combat deployments as a Raider, serving as a commando in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the time of his death, Koppenhafer was assigned to the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

On Facebook, family members described Koppenhafer as coming from a large, close-knit family in Colorado. He was the son of a veterinarian and a stand-out high school wrestler who continued the sport in college.

Last year, MARSOC named him its critical skills operator of the year, at least in part for his role leading a Raider team as the unit worked hand-in-hand with elite Iraq troops battling ISIS during grueling combat in 2017, according to an award citation.

He left behind a wife and two children, according to the Corps.

# Charges pending in Marine smuggling case

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A dozen Marines from 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment have been confined for weeks at Camp Pendleton in California awaiting charges for their alleged involvement in smuggling, the service said Monday.

Pending military charges for the 12 Marines vary for each person. However, most of them are related to human smuggling, Maj. Kendra Motz, a spokeswoman for 1st Marine Division, wrote Monday in an

email.

Ten of 16 Marines were arrested July 25 during a battalion formation at Camp Pendleton and they were still detained Monday, according to a statement from the 1st Marine Division. None of the names of those Marines have been released. The remaining six Marines who were questioned or detained had been released and they have returned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, Motz said in the statement.

The other two Marines from the 1st Battalion — Lance Cpls.

Byron Darnell Law II and David Javier Salazar-Quintero — were arrested July 3 for smuggling three people from Mexico across the border. They face federal charges in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California for transportation of aliens for financial gain and aiding and abetting, according to court documents. Law and Salazar-Quintero are being held by the military, according to Motz. Their next federal court hearing is scheduled for Oct. 28.

During the investigation of

Law and Salazar-Quintero, the names of the Marines arrested July 25 were mentioned, Motz had said.

Additionally, one sailor was arrested July 25, a spokesman for NCIS said at the time. The sailor has been released back to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, Motz said.

“Each case and alleged level of participation varies among the individual Marines and sailor. Those details are still under investigation and will not be released at this time,” she said.

## Marine panel: Let officer who sent warning serve

*The Washington Post*

A Marine who used his personal email account to send a classified warning to his colleagues about a corrupt Afghan police chief should be allowed to continue serving, a board of military officers has determined in the high-profile case.

Maj. Jason Brezler sent the warning in July 2012, about two weeks before a teenage boy working for the chief opened fire on unarmed Marines in a fatal attack on a military base in southern Afghanistan.

Brezler, a Marine reserve officer and member of the New York City Fire Department, reported his action to his commanders after the attack, and they sent him to an administrative board of inquiry to determine whether he should be discharged.

The new determination by a panel of three Marine colonels last week marks the second time that a board of inquiry has reviewed the case. A board of officers found in December 2013 that the Marine Corps

should end Brezler’s career, prompting him to sue the service and allege that he was being punished for communicating with a member of Congress, Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., about the incident.

District Judge Joseph Bianco ruled on Brezler’s behalf in December 2016, finding that the Navy Department had prevented Brezler from fully litigating his claims of retaliation. The Marine Corps brought him to another board of inquiry last week, but the results were different this time.

A worksheet detailing the board’s findings obtained by The Washington Post shows that the three colonels substantiated a failure on Brezler’s part to “properly discharge the duties expected of an officer of his grade” and obey a regulation that requires classified information to remain on “official premises.”

But the panel unanimously declined to substantiate other allegations, including a dereliction of duty, paving the way for Bre-

zler to potentially continue serving.

“I am grateful beyond words for the opportunity to once again serve as a United States Marine,” Brezler said in a statement provided through his civilian attorney, Michael Bowe. “I love the Marine Corps, am committed to its Marines and mission, and can’t wait to contribute again.”

The findings of a board of inquiry can be rejected by the Navy Department, but they are typically accepted. Marine officials said Monday that they were looking into the results.

The case has become a cause celebre for a diverse group of advocates including retired Marine Gen. John Kelly, President Donald Trump’s former chief of staff, and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, of New York, a Democratic presidential candidate.

It’s not clear how the decision could affect Brezler’s benefits or rank in the Marine Corps. He potentially could petition for corrections to his service record.

## Marine arrested after patrol officer punched on Okinawa

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese police arrested a Marine over the weekend on Okinawa for allegedly punching a police officer who was breaking up a fight.

Lance Cpl. Domonic Bulgara, 20, was arrested in an Araha

Beach parking lot in Chatan at 4:18 a.m. Saturday after striking the officer in the left cheek with his right fist, an Okinawa Police spokesman said. He said the patrol officer stopped to break up an argument involving Bulgara and an unspecified number of people. Officials in Japan often do not identify themselves for the record as a condition of their employment.

The officer was not injured in the altercation, the spokesman said. Bulgara is charged with obstructing police in the performance of official duties. His case has been referred to the Naha District Public Prosecutors Office.

Bulgara reportedly had a blood alcohol content of 0.09%, three times Japan’s legal limit for driving of 0.03% when test-

ed after his arrest, The Okinawa Times newspaper reported.

Police could not say where or to what unit Bulgara is assigned. A Facebook profile for Domonic Bulgara, a Marine, states he lives in Iwakuni, home of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni on the main Japanese island of Honshu. The Facebook profile says Bulgara is from Visalia, Calif.

# US delays tariffs on some Chinese goods

Bloomberg

The Trump administration will delay until mid-December the 10% tariff on some Chinese products on many holiday-shopping lists, with the president acknowledging that the levies would have hurt consumers.

By granting a grace period for everyday items like some phones and toys, the U.S. concession appears designed to avoid any disruption or additional price increases for American consumers heading into the final four months of the year — from back-to-

school purchases to Christmas shopping.

The announcement also came as the two sides spoke for the first time since the recent escalation in tensions. President Donald Trump said his administration had a “very productive” call with China and that he thinks Beijing wants to “do something dramatic” on trade.

“They really would like to make a deal,” Trump said Tuesday before boarding a helicopter in Morristown, N.J.

The levies were delayed “so it won’t be relevant to the Christmas shopping season,”

he added.

Stocks surged on the news Tuesday. Apple spiked as much as 5.8% and Best Buy climbed as much as 11% on optimism that the reprieve would boost electronics sales in the holiday season. Apparel retailers including Gap and L Brands rose, as did toy maker Hasbro and discount chain Dollar Tree.

The U.S. Trade Representative’s office said in a statement Tuesday that tariffs would be delayed until Dec. 15 for items such as cellphones, laptop computers, video game consoles, certain toys, computer moni-

tors, and certain items of footwear and clothing.

“What this means is that retailers will be able to get their shipments in without the 10% tariff, which is a sigh of relief,” said Poonam Goyal, a retail analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. “It definitely saves the holiday season.”

Not all retailers will escape the hit, however. A wide range of goods, from shoes and apparel to sporting goods, will still be subject to a tariff as of Sept. 1.

About \$250 billion of Chinese goods have already been hit by 25% duties.

## Job seekers flock to plants hit by ICE raids

Associated Press

FOREST, Miss. — Days after immigration agents arrested 680 Latino workers in a massive workplace sting at seven Mississippi chicken processing plants, job seekers flocked to an employment fair Monday in hopes of filling some of those now-empty positions.

Koch Foods, based near Chicago, held the job fair to recruit new workers at one of its Morton plants, after Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on Wednesday arrested 243 workers suspected of working without legal authorization.

By 10 a.m., a crowd of dozens was on hand, and a steady stream of people came and went. Most were black and spoke with accents from the American South. A few appeared white or Hispanic.

While the raids at seven plants were unprecedented, chicken processing facilities are normally plagued by heavy turnover and ravenously seek employees. Koch spokesman Jim Gilliland said Monday that job fairs are a “frequent occurrence.”

“They are part of normal efforts to employ,” Gilliland wrote in an email. “In this environment of relative full employment, most businesses are looking for qualified applicants; Koch is no different.”

Eddie Nicholson Jr. of Louisville, among Monday’s applicants at a state employment service office in Forest, was more succinct: “They hire anybody.”

The 25-year-old has worked in chicken plants before and was considering a return, but wanted to see if wages had gone up. Plants in recent years have typically

paid \$11 to \$12 an hour, according to labor statistics, but Nicholson said he wants \$15 an hour.

Like Nicholson, many who applied Monday were chicken plant veterans. They understand the arduous and sometimes dangerous work of slaughtering, butchering and packaging chicken, from hanging up live chickens, to pulling off skin, to cutting with super-sharp knives, to boxing up chicken, much of it done in near-freezing temperatures. The line moves fast and people repeat the same motions over and over.

“It’s definitely hard,” said Cedric Griffith of Magee, who said he’s been working at McDonald’s after getting fired from another chicken processor for missing too many days. “You’re going to lose a lot of weight.”

## US changes protections for endangered species

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration moved on Monday to weaken enforcement of the 45-year-old Endangered Species Act, ordering changes that critics said will speed the loss of animals and plants at a time of record global extinctions.

The action, which expands the administration’s rewrite of U.S. environmental laws, is the latest that targets protections, including for water, air and public lands. Two states — California and Massachusetts, frequent foes of President Donald Trump’s environmental rollbacks — prom-

ised lawsuits to try to block the changes in the law. So did some conservation groups.

Pushing back against the criticism, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt and other administration officials contend the changes improve efficiency of oversight, while continuing to protect rare species.

“The best way to uphold the Endangered Species Act is to do everything we can to ensure it remains effective in achieving its ultimate goal — recovery of our rarest species,” he said in a statement. “An effectively administered Act ensures more resources can go where they will do the most good: on-the-ground conservation.”

Under the enforcement changes, officials for the first time will be able to publicly attach a cost to saving an animal or plant. Blanket protections for creatures newly listed as threatened will be removed. The action also could allow the government to disregard the possible impact of climate change, which conservation groups call a major and growing threat to wildlife.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the revisions “fit squarely within the president’s mandate of easing the regulatory burden on the American public, without sacrificing our species’ protection and recovery goals.”

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man accused of taking \$10K in cigarettes

**VT** WORCESTER — A Royalton man is accused of stealing \$10,000 worth of cigarettes from a market in Worcester.

Vermont State Police said the 76 cartons of cigarettes and other items from a burglary in Washington and two break-ins at the Waterbury Park and Ride were found in the vehicle of Thomas Farnsworth, 46. WCAX-TV reported that police said Farnsworth's sneakers also matched a footprint left behind at LBJ's Grocery from where the cigarettes were stolen.

### Police say fireworks mistaken for gunfire

**UT** BOUNTIFUL — Police in Bountiful were searching for the person responsible for setting off fireworks in a park restroom, which were mistaken for gunfire.

The Bountiful City Police Department said that investigators are working to identify a suspect seen on surveillance video at a city park.

According to police, someone lit large aerial fireworks and severely damaged a bathroom. They said people in the area mistook them for gunshots.

### Heinz helping person who took, gave ketchup

**NJ** LACEY TOWNSHIP — Heinz is helping the person who was hit by guilt and bad fortune after stealing a bottle of ketchup from a restaurant in New Jersey.

The so-called "Ketchup Thief" earlier this month left two new bottles of the condiment along with a note saying the person had stolen the ketchup because it would be "risky."

However, the person's car was struck a few hours later and the person's "karma" took a turn for the worse. The person hoped luck would be restored by leaving two new bottles.

Heinz, writing on Twitter, said "Heinz makes you do crazy things." The Pittsburgh-based company offered to help the reformed thief pay for the car damage without revealing the person's identity.

### Boy writes about maple sugaring, wins contest

**NH** NEW BOSTON — A New Boston boy who wrote and illustrated a book about maple sugaring with his dad has won a statewide contest.

The New Hampshire Maple Producers Association gave the annual Walter A. Felker Memorial Award to Trevor Gaudet. The contest was open to New Hampshire residents 16 and younger and aimed to encourage interest in the state's maple sugaring tradition.

### County fair setting up 'free-expression area'

**OR** GRANTS PASS — One Oregon county fair is setting up a "free-expression area," with restrictions on bullhorns, signs and sound systems.

The Daily Courier reported the Josephine County Fair is setting up a 30-foot-by-30-foot outdoor area near two of the entrances to a building where vendors will be set up for the upcoming fair.

The fair board recently banned signs except in areas where vendors and others have paid a fee to use them.

Fairgrounds director Tamra Martin said the location of the "free-expression area" provides visibility for those wanting to be heard.

### Group finds more artifacts at dig site

**IL** WILMINGTON — A group conducting an archaeological dig in northern Illinois found pieces of broken pottery, projectile points and other artifacts dating to the 1600s.

Two University of Notre Dame professors have been leading summer volunteers on an exploration at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The project at the Middle Grant Creek Site is revealing how people of the Oneota culture lived in the area four centuries ago.

### Firemen rescue worker dangling from tower

**FL** FORT MYERS — A utility worker was in a Florida hospital after fainting 100 feet above the ground and dangling from a tower until firefighters could rescue him.

The Fort Myers Fire Department said the man was installing cabling on a 200-foot communications tower when he reported becoming ill. He fainted and injured his head as he tried to climb down the structure. Fort Myers Deputy Fire Chief Tracy McMillion said the man's harness kept him from falling to the ground.

### Bear breaks into house, leaves through a wall

**CO** DENVER — A black bear broke into a Colorado house over the weekend and left by breaking through a wall "like the Kool-Aid Man."

Estes Park police say the break-in occurred Friday night and that the animal was likely attracted to trash.

A Facebook post by the police department said: "Upon

officer's arrival, said bear forcibly breached a hole in the wall like the 'Kool-Aid Man' and made its escape."

The Denver Post reported no one was injured.

### Officer rescues dog kicked out of car

**CA** PLACERVILLE — The California Highway Patrol is trying to find who kicked out a dog out of a vehicle and abandoned the animal on the side of Highway 50 in Placerville.

The CHP's Placerville office said witnesses reported seeing a vehicle slow down before someone kicked the dog out and the vehicle sped off. It said an officer quickly got there and rescued the dog before it was hurt.

The agency is asking anyone with information on who may have abandoned the dog to call.

### Newspaper carrier aids possible crime victim

**IA** ANKENY — Court records show a Des Moines newspaper carrier helped save a woman caught in a sex trafficking ring.

The Des Moines Register said one of its delivery workers, Lavon Franz, was on her paper route on July 28 in Ankeny when she saw a woman waving her arms on the side of the road. When Franz pulled over, the woman — who had no cellphone or ID — was crying and said she wanted to go back home to a small town about an hour northwest of Ankeny.

Franz took the woman to a convenience store, where an employee called police.

Police arrested a 25-year-old woman from East Dubuque, Ill., on suspicion of pimping and human trafficking.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# How colleges became pipeline to NFL

Associated Press

Jay Berwanger won the inaugural Heisman Trophy in 1935 for the University of Chicago and became the No. 1 player taken in the first NFL Draft a few months later.

He chose to work at a rubber company and be a part-time coach for his alma mater rather than try to make a living playing football.

More than five decades later, Oklahoma State Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders threatened to sue the NFL if it did not allow him to be drafted while he still had college eligibility.

In the early days of the NFL, college football was king and playing professionally was not something most players aspired to do. By planting its flag in large cities, embracing television exposure and playing a more entertaining style, the NFL surged in popularity in the middle of the 20th century and turned college football into a means to an end for many players.

Now college teams brag about sending players to the league, even while NCAA officials and college sports leaders try to downplay what has become obvious.

"I definitely think college football is sort of the minor leagues in a way. Like a breeding ground for the NFL," said Eric Winston, who played 10 years in the NFL as an offensive lineman and is currently the president of the players' association.

College football was already entrenched in American culture when the NFL was established in 1920 with most of its teams in small Midwestern towns.

"Baseball was the national pastime, but college football was the greatest sporting spectacle," said Mike Oriard, a Notre Dame graduate and former NFL player who has written several books on the history of football.

Games matching Notre Dame and Army packed Yankee Stadium in New York in

the 1920s and '30s, even during the Great Depression. The Rose Bowl game was a yearly event on the West Coast on New Year's Day. College football was seen as a worthy and noble enterprise: amateurs playing for school pride. The NFL was an abomination as far as the college football world was concerned," Oriard said.

When University of Illinois star Red Grange joined the NFL in 1925, a deal scandalously planned while he was still playing in college, he drew scorn from those in college football. Not only was professional football considered barbarian, it was thought to be a lesser version of the sport. Indeed, the NFL champion played a yearly exhibition game in August against a team of college all-stars in Chicago, starting in 1934. The college players won six of the first 17 games and there were two ties.

Grange became one of America's most famous sports stars, but he was more a phenomena than a trend setter.

"Professional football was out there as an option for former college players who didn't have anything better to do," Oriard said. "It was the Depression and if you didn't get a job right out of college you might play pro football for a couple of years."

After the league reorganized in the early 1930s and moved teams to big cities, it established a college draft. Berwanger was the first player selected, taken by the Philadelphia Eagles. His rights were later traded to the Chicago Bears. But the team never could meet his salary demands.

Davey O'Brien won the Heisman Trophy in 1938 and was the first winner to play in the NFL. He lasted two years before joining the FBI. That was typical throughout the 1940s and into the '50s. Dick Kazmier, a running back for Princeton, won the Heisman in 1951 and was drafted by the Bears. He decided to go to Harvard business school.

Despite all that, the NFL was

gaining traction among working-class fans in places such as New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Cleveland that didn't directly compete with college football. Salaries were growing and a career in football was becoming more appealing. College football viewed the NFL as the opposition and tried to keep it at a distance.

"Initially, when I came into the league in the late '50s and especially with the Cowboys in the '60s there were a lot of schools that did everything but ban you from their campus," said Gil Brandt, the longtime Cowboys executive inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Aug. 3.

College teams feared losing players with eligibility remaining to the NFL, Brandt said. He credits NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle and Cowboys owner Tex Schramm with assuring colleges the NFL would not take players into the league until their college careers were over.

In the 1960s, the emergence of the AFL brought competition for players and escalated salaries. While the college game was still mostly run-based, professional football teams were pushing the passing game. Joe Namath threw almost as many passes (340) in his first season with the New York Jets of the AFL than he did in his 30-game career (374) at Alabama.

"Eventually the NFL became so much more fun to watch," Brandt said.

While the NCAA had rules in place that limited how often the top teams could appear on TV, fearing it would be a recruiting advantage and draw fans away from attending games, the NFL wanted as much television exposure as possible.

By the mid-1960s, top college football players were assumed to be heading to the NFL. It was clearly a step up in competition. The last time a college all-star team beat an NFL champion was 1963, a loss Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi held over his players for years. The game was discontinued in 1976.

In the 1970s and '80s, NFL strategies became more pervasive in college football, most notably in the increased reliance on the pass. As the two versions of the sport became more similar, college players were entering the NFL better prepared to play professional football.

The most significant development in the college-to-NFL pipeline in the 1980s came in 1989, when Sanders decided to jump from Oklahoma State to the NFL after a record-setting junior season in 1988.

The NFL said it was making an exception for Sanders, who was drafted No. 3 overall by the Detroit Lions and went on to a Hall of Fame career, but in reality it permanently opened the door to underclassmen. As NFL salaries soared, getting through college quickly became more desirable.

This year a record 135 players gave up college eligibility to enter the NFL Draft once they were three years removed from high school graduation.

Meanwhile, as college sports come under attack by critics who believe players should get a larger cut of the billions of dollars generated by football, administrators would like to see more alternative paths to the NFL.

"Maybe in football and basketball, it would work better if more kids had a chance to go directly into the professional ranks. If they're not comfortable and want to monetize, let the minor leagues flourish," Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany said in 2013. "I think we ought to work awful hard with the NFL and the NBA to create an opportunity for those folks."

Six years later, in football, nothing has changed.

Big-time programs — not just the likes of Alabama, Clemson and Ohio State — want to be seen as a fast track to an NFL payday. They proudly display to recruits the names of former players who have moved on to the NFL on the walls of football facilities, in the pages of media guides and on social media.

# New NBA schedule has earlier starts

Associated Press

The NBA schedule is a little bit easier on players.

Fans might be catching a break — and some more sleep — as well.

The league announced its 2019-20 schedule on Monday, featuring another dip in back-to-back games for teams and a major change in the number of nationally televised games starting at 10:30 p.m. on the East coast. Golden State and the Los Angeles Lakers will start several games a half-hour earlier than usual, while broadcasters ESPN and Turner are going to earlier start times on many of their midweek double-header nights.

Such a change has been on NBA Commissioner Adam Silver's mind for some time, especially since roughly half of the nation's television homes are in the East time zone — but now, a number of the league's biggest stars play on the West coast. It

wasn't uncommon for nationally televised midweek games to end around 1 a.m. or even later last season, and that was not good for ratings.

"It's something that I think we have to address," Silver said in May.

And changes are definitely coming.

ESPN's Wednesday double-headers — mostly at 8 and 10:30 p.m. last season — will begin at either 7 or 7:30 p.m., followed by a second game at either 9:30 p.m. or 10 p.m. in the East. TNT had nine Tuesday double-headers last season with the second game starting at 10:30; this season that number is down to two.

In all, there were 57 games on national television starting at 10:30 p.m. last season. That number falls to 33 this season, a dip of 42 percent.

Meanwhile, players might be getting a touch more rest this season as well. For the fifth straight year, the NBA has

found a way to lower the average number of times a team has to play on consecutive days. The league average is 12.4 back-to-backs this season, down from 13.3 last year.

Other highlights from the 2019-20 schedule:

## Opening night

Toronto will get its rings on Oct. 22, when it plays host to New Orleans and No. 1 overall pick Zion Williamson. The Lakers — now featuring Anthony Davis to play alongside LeBron James — will play at the Clippers — now featuring Kawhi Leonard and Paul George — in the second half of that double-header, and that will be one of the 10:30 p.m. Eastern nationally televised midweek games that will otherwise be largely avoided this season.

## Christmas

Toronto gets to host a Christ-

mas game for the first time, playing host to Boston at noon Eastern. The other Christmas matchups (all times Eastern): Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 2:30 p.m.; Houston at Golden State, 5 p.m.; Clippers at Lakers, 8 p.m.; New Orleans at Denver, 10:30 p.m.

## MLK Day

There are 14 games scheduled for Jan. 20, the day honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., including the traditional home games for Atlanta (against Toronto) and Memphis (against New Orleans).

## Europe in prime time

The schedule features 48 games — 24 on Saturdays, 24 on Sundays — that will air in prime time in Europe. That doesn't include the Jan. 24 game in Paris between Milwaukee and Charlotte.

# Murray loses first match in return to singles play

Associated Press

MASON, Ohio — Andy Murray moved well in his first singles match since January, but not well enough to move on — even to the U.S. Open.

Using a bottomless arsenal of drop shots, Richard Gasquet snapped a five-match losing streak against Murray with a 6-4, 6-4 win in the first round of the Western & Southern Open on Monday.

The singles match was Murray's first since a painful exit from the Australian Open that had him thinking his career might be over. The three-time Grand Slam champion underwent a second hip surgery on Jan. 28, receiving metal implants that helped eliminate the pain that had hobbled him for a long time. Murray played doubles in several tournaments, including Wimbledon with Serena Williams and at Washington with brother Jamie, before

deciding to try singles at Cincinnati, where he is a two-time champion.

"I don't really know what I was expecting, to be honest," Murray said. "I think I did OK. I think there was a lot of things I would like to have done better in the match, but, you know, you also have to be somewhat realistic, as well, in terms of what you can expect in terms of how you actually play and hit the ball.

"I think physically, you know, my legs were a little bit heavy at the end of the match in comparison to maybe what they normally would be if you played, you know, a bunch."

The U.S. Open's wild-card timing led Murray to decide against playing in New York.

"We were hoping to maybe hold a wild card until a little bit closer to the time to see how I feel and get some matches, hopefully, and a bit of practice, but they were announcing the

wild cards today and didn't want to wait," he said.

The 32-year-old's rust was evident as he double-faulted on his first serve, but he recovered to last 1 hour, 36 minutes with no apparent health issues.

"When he drop-shotted, there was a few times I didn't even run to the ball, didn't react to it, and that's nothing to do with my hip," Murray said. "That's just me not running for a ball, which I did do that better at the end of the match. I reacted and got to a few and won points."

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic and third-seeded Roger Federer remain in the men's draw. It's the first tournament for both players since their five-set final at Wimbledon, won by Djokovic in a match considered one of the greatest in history.

The other member of the Big Three, Rafael Nadal, withdrew from the Masters event, citing fatigue after he won the Rogers Cup in Montreal on Sunday.

The women's Rogers Cup champion, Canadian Bianca Andreescu, also withdrew from Cincinnati to rest for the U.S. Open. Andreescu won in Toronto after Serena Williams retired with back problems.

Before a standing-room only Granstand Court crowd, including a teen boy waving a red-and-white pinata shaped like a horse, Nick Kyrgios reached the second round with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Lorenzo Song. Kyrgios will face eighth-seeded Karen Khachanov.

In the women's draw, five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova moved on to a second-round matchup with top-seeded Ashleigh Barty by knocking off fellow wild card Alison Riske 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Among other men's matches, wild card Sam Querrey earned a second-round berth opposite Djokovic with a 7-6 (2), 7-6 (1) win over Pierre-Hugues Herbert.

# Torres, Yankees take two from Orioles

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gleyber Torres walked to the plate in the eighth inning with runners on first and second, two outs and the Yankees ahead by five runs.

Baltimore called for an intentional walk, and who could blame the Orioles?

Torres hit three of New York's seven home runs in an 8-5, 11-8 doubleheader sweep Monday, including three-run drives in the fifth and sixth innings of the night game. Torres has 13 of New York's record 59 long balls against Baltimore this season, a big reason the Yankees have 14 consecutive wins versus the Orioles.

"I take all the opportunities they give and then just do damage," Torres said.

Gio Urshela had six hits in the twinbill, including a 461-foot homer in the opener, and raised his average to .332 with 18 homers and 63 RBIs.

AL East-leading New York has five doubleheader sweeps to go along with one split. The Yankees improved to 15-2 against Baltimore with two games left, winning 12 of their past 14 overall and moving a season-high 38 games over .500 at 79-41.

Torres set a big league record with his fifth multihomer game against a team in a season, breaking a tie with Ralph Kiner (1947), Gus Zernial (1951) and Roy Sievers (1955). His 26 homers are two more than his total as a rookie last year, and the 13 against Baltimore matched Roger Maris in

1961 against Cleveland for the second-most against one team in a season for the Yankees, one behind Lou Gehrig's total in 1936 versus Cleveland.

"I just kind of had enough," Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said of the walk, which was followed by Brett Gardner's groundout. "We're making him look like a first-ballot Hall of Famer."

Didi Gregorius hit a three-run homer in the first inning of the day game and had four RBIs. Urshela, Torres and Cameron Maybin added solo shots, all off Gabriel Ynoa (1-7).

Gardner hit a three-run triple off Ty Blach (0-1) in the opening inning of the night game, Mike Ford had a solo home run and Torres homered off Evan Phillips and Tom Eshelman to

make it 11-3.

James Paxton (8-6) started the opener and won a third straight start for the first time since his streak of seven for Seattle from 2017. The injury-decimated Yankees brought in some fresh arms in the night game, when 27-year-old left-hander Joe Mantiplay (1-0) got his first big league win in his Yankees debut.

Purchased from Cincinnati on Friday for \$1, Mantiplay relieved with one out in the second and allowed three runs over three innings in his return to the major leagues from Tommy John surgery in March 2018. Mantiplay's only previous appearances were five relief outings for Detroit in September 2016, and he wondered whether he would make it back.

## MLB roundup

# Santana's 9th-inning home puts Indians in first place

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Carlos Santana homered leading off the ninth inning to send the Cleveland Indians to a 6-5 win over the fast-fading Boston Red Sox on Monday night and back into first place in the AL Central.

After the Red Sox tied it in the top of the inning, Santana connected on a 2-2 pitch from Marcus Walden (7-2), driving it barely over the wall in left to give the Indians their biggest win this season.

The Indians moved past the idle Minnesota Twins and are alone in first for the first time since April 19.

Jose Ramirez hit a three-run homer and Franmil Reyes had a two-run shot as the Indians improved to an MLB-best 43-17 since June 4, when they trailed the Twins by 10½ games.

**Nationals 7, Reds 6:** Trea Turner and Matt Adams homered, Erick Fedde pitched well after allowing a solo shot on the game's first pitch and depleted Washington held on to edge vis-

iting Cincinnati.

Washington led 7-2 but blew most of that advantage before Sean Doolittle got his 27th save in 32 chances. He entered in the ninth with a 7-4 lead, but the struggling lefty closer's first pitch of the evening became Phillip Ervin's pinch-hit homer. The next batter singled and came around on Joey Votto's two-out double off the wall in left. Doolittle finally ended things on Josh VanMeter's foul pop to third baseman Anthony Rendon.

The Nationals opened a six-game homestand without three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer, left fielder Juan Soto or first baseman Ryan Zimmerman — all injured — while second baseman Brian Dozier was ill and limited to pinch-hitting duty.

**Blue Jays 19, Rangers 4:** Brandon Drury hit his first career grand slam, Justin Smoak had a two-run homer among his three extra-base hits, and host Toronto routed Texas.

Bo Bichette had the first

four-hit game of his career and Randal Grichuk had three hits, including a solo homer, as the Blue Jays won for the 10th time in 15 games.

Drury had five RBI, while Smoak and Grichuk each had four. Danny Jansen had a two-run homer.

**Diamondbacks 8, Rockies 6:** Jake Lamb, Nick Ahmed and Carson Kelly homered during a four-run sixth inning and visiting Arizona beat Colorado.

Over the course of 13 pitches, Arizona went from trailing 6-3 to leading 7-6. Lamb started the comeback with a solo shot off reliever Jake McGee. Ahmed later hit a two-run homer and Kelly followed with a solo shot off Chad Bettis (1-6).

It was the Diamondbacks' 27th comeback win of the season and keeps them in the thick of the wild-card chase.

**Pirates 10, Angels 2:** Mitch Keller (1-1) earned his first major league victory, Jacob Stallings had a homer and a two-run double, and visiting Pittsburgh snapped its eight-

game losing streak with a victory over Los Angeles.

Kevin Newman, Josh Bell and Bryan Reynolds also homered for the Pirates, who won for just the third time in 21 games and only the fifth time since the All-Star break. Pittsburgh jumped to an early 6-0 lead on Jose Suarez (2-4) and the road-weary Angels, who played in Boston on Sunday.

Keller came up from the minors to make his fourth big league start and yielded five hits, two walks and just one earned run over five innings, striking out four and pitching out of two late jams.

**Rays 10, Padres 4:** Avisail Garcia had a two-run home run among his three hits and Matt Duffy had four hits and three RBIs for Tampa Bay in its first game in San Diego since 2004.

The Rays won their fourth game in a row overall and their eighth straight on the road.

Joey Lucchesi (7-7) took the loss. He allowed three runs and five hits in 4⅔ innings, struck out six and walked three.