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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Iran: Oil aboard tanker pursued by US sold

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran on Monday announced that the 2.1 million barrels of crude aboard an Iranian oil tanker pursued by the U.S. has been sold to an unnamed buyer as the ship, at the center of a crisis roiling the region, continued its voyage in the Mediterranean Sea.

The announcement by government spokesman Ali Rabiei represents just the latest twist in the saga of the Adrian Darya 1, which had been known as the Grace 1 when authorities seized the vessel off Gibraltar on July 4 on suspicion of breaking European Union sanctions targeting Syria.

The seizure of the ship and Iran's subsequent seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker came amid heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran over the collapse of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Speaking to journalists Monday in Teh-

ran, Rabiei declined to name the oil's buyer or terms for the sale.

At market rates, the crude oil aboard the Adrian Darya would be worth about \$130 million. However, anyone buying it likely would be targeted by U.S. financial sanctions.

"The buyer of the oil decides where its destination is," Rabiei said, adding that the world is "witnessing the wrong policy by the U.S. in monitoring and intervention in others' internal affairs."

The Adrian Darya's detention and later release by Gibraltar have added fuel to the growing tensions between Washington and Tehran after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers more than a year ago over concerns about Iran's ballistic missile program and regional influence.

In the time since, Iran has lost billions of dollars in business deals allowed by the

deal as the U.S. reimposed and escalated sanctions largely blocking Tehran from selling crude abroad, a crucial source of hard currency for the Islamic Republic.

In U.S. federal court documents, authorities allege the Adrian Darya's true owner is Iran's Revolutionary Guard, a paramilitary organization answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The U.S. declared the Revolutionary Guard a foreign terrorist organization in April, the first time America named a military force of a nation as such, giving it the legal power to issue a warrant for the vessel's seizure. However, that would require another nation to acknowledge the writ.

The Adrian Darya initially put its intended destination as Kalamata, Greece, and later as Mersin, Turkey.

The State Department has pressured nations not to aid the vessel.

Defense language school dedicates area to fallen sailor

By CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

A Navy linguist killed in Syria earlier this year had a section of California's Presidio of Monterey, home of the Defense Language Institute where she trained, named in her memory.

The small area, which includes several Navy barracks on a wooded hillside overlooking Monterey Bay, was dedicated last week in honor of Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon Kent, a 2005 graduate of the language school's Arabic course, who was among four Americans and more than a dozen locals killed in a January suicide bombing in the town of Manbij.

Dubbed "Kent Navy Yard," the area is shown in photos from the Navy's Information Warfare Training Command Monterey to include a train-

ing stage, a mast with a U.S. flag and a boulder bearing a memorial plaque inscribed with Kent's image and a brief biography.

The 35-year-old mother of two and cancer survivor, who spoke seven languages and was considered a "badass" by many of her peers, spent much of her career working alongside special operations troops.

Her death while deployed in support of an operation to hunt down remnants of Islamic State brought attention to the work female servicemembers have been doing alongside elite front-line units. It has also prompted changes to a flawed Navy commissioning and waiver process that led to her deployment in lieu of attending a doctoral program.

Kent did not shy away from danger and served selflessly throughout her career, said Senior Chief Petty Officer Scott

Welker, a guest speaker at the dedication ceremony. He used as a refrain in his remarks a phrase Kent spoke after being told of a risky assignment earlier in her career: "Send me."

"You will be asked to push your abilities to their limits, and beyond," he told the gathering of mostly language students. "Not for you, but for those who will never know you. This is the legacy into which you are being baptized. This is the legacy of Senior Chief Kent. 'Send me.'"

Kent's story has motivated sailors at the school, one of the Defense Department's most academically challenging, the Navy training command said.

"She began her career here and she exemplified everything we expect of our students and more," said Master Chief Petty Officer Christopher Stevens, the command's senior enlisted leader. "Now she will

continue to be a role model for all future generations of Navy linguists."

Kent was the latest DLI graduate killed in combat, following the June 2018 death of Army Staff Sgt. Alexander Conrad, a 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) member shot by militants in Somalia.

Kent deployed into combat four times in support of SEAL teams 4 and 10 in Iraq and Afghanistan before deploying to Syria last November, the Navy's memorial plaque states. "Shannon was a rare breed," said Sgt. Maj. Clint Rowe, of the 75th Ranger Regiment's regimental military intelligence battalion at Fort Gordon, Ga., who attended DLI with her and crossed paths with her later. "A female in a male-dominant (signals intelligence) world. She was top tier."

Iraqi group wants GIs to leave after Israeli airstrikes

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A powerful bloc in Iraq's parliament called on Monday for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq following a series of airstrikes targeting Iran-backed Shiite militias in the country that have been blamed on Israel.

The Fatah Coalition said it holds the U.S. fully responsible for the alleged Israeli aggression, "which we consider to be a declaration of war on Iraq and its people." The coalition is a parliament bloc representing Iran-backed paramilitary militias known as the Popular Mobilization Forces.

The coalition's statement came a day after a drone strike in the western Iraqi town of Qaim killed a commander with the forces — the latest in strikes apparently conducted by Israel against the Iran-backed militias in Iraq. It added that U.S. troops are no longer needed in Iraq.

The Shiite militiamen held a funeral procession in Baghdad for the commander killed Sunday.

"There is no greater God but God!" the mourners shouted as they marched behind a banner with the words "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." Some trampled on an American flag as they marched.

Anger is mounting in Iraq following a spate of mysterious airstrikes that have targeted military bases and weapons depot belonging to Iran-backed militias. The drone attacks have not been claimed by any side, but U.S. officials have said Israel was behind at least one of the attacks that killed two Iranian commanders on July 19.

Shorts OK'd for airmen on flight lines at 3 bases

BY JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

Three Air Force bases in hot climates are turning to shorts to keep airmen cool while working on the flight line.

Extreme heat during summer months is a fact of life for airmen at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.; Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; and Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Chief Master Sgt. Joshua Wiener recently told Stars and Stripes in an email. He serves as the 56th Maintenance Group superintendent at Luke.

Summertime ambient temperatures commonly reach 110-115 degrees at those bases. Add the heat from running aircraft engines and reflective heat from asphalt and concrete, and flight line temperatures can reach 130 degrees, Wiener said.

"The average day for the maintainers is between 9-10 hours," he said. "However, not all of the time is spent on the flightline. It depends on the number of launches and recoveries and the status of the aircraft. But as you can imagine, when it's 100 to 115 degrees, any time spent crewing and fixing aircraft can be challenging and difficult."

Airman 1st Class Benjamin Carlise, from the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit at Luke, purchased his shorts July 31 and wore them the next day.

"The shorts make a significant difference in terms of cooling off on the flight line," he said in an email. "The shorts pro-

vide substantial air flow in comparison to the [Airman Battle Uniform/Operational Camouflage Pattern] bottoms."

Wiener said the 52nd Maintenance Group commander asked Luke's base commander, Brig. Gen. Todd Canterbury, to authorize shorts for the flight line after hearing Nellis and Tyndall had done so.

The shorts must be sage green in color, the same as the Airman Battle Uniform, or ABU.

The color and type of shorts were selected to ensure standardization and aircraft and personnel safety, Wiener said.

Airmen received no additional clothing allowance at Luke since the shorts will be issued as an individual equipment item like coveralls and other safety gear, he said.

However, airmen may purchase shorts on their own if their units are still procuring their stock.

"People have been asking for shorts my entire enlistment, and for probably many years before I joined," Staff Sgt. Kelson Richmond, 310th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, at Luke AFB said via email. "Now that they're approved, I don't see myself working one more hot summer day in coveralls."

The Air Force is not authorizing shorts for all airmen and is instead leaving the decision up to base commanders, Capt. Carrie Volpe, an Air Force spokesman from the Pentagon, said in a written statement.

Russian troops on alert amid exercises near Black Sea

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — More than 8,000 Russian troops, including ballistic missile crews, were placed on alert Monday as large-scale military drills kicked off around the Black Sea, a region where tensions have been high between Moscow and U.S. allies.

Five days of war games being held in southern Russia will involve land, air and naval forces conducting live-fire exercises at 12 different ranges, Russian media reported. The training will include more than 100 tanks, 30 aircraft, 60 helicopters and up to 10 warships from the Black Sea Fleet and the Caspian Flotilla. Also taking part

in the exercises are Iskander-M missile system crews, which were placed on alert as they practiced "delivering a massive missile strike against the notional enemy's command posts and other strategically important installations," state media quoted the Russian military as saying.

The drills come amid international concern that Washington and Moscow could be in early stages of a new arms race focused on building up medium-range missile capabilities. This month the U.S. announced its official withdrawal from a key nuclear missile treaty with Russia. The U.S. blamed Moscow for violating the terms of the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and vowed to build new weapons previously banned under the agreement.

On Aug. 18, the U.S. tested a modified ground-launched Tomahawk cruise missile, a system that would have been banned under the now defunct treaty. The test prompted Russian President Vladimir Putin to threaten similar countermeasures.

The exercise is also showcasing Moscow's control of the Crimea Peninsula. In 2014, Russia seized the territory from Ukraine, which in turn sparked NATO's own military buildup in Europe over worries about a more aggressive Russia.

As the exercises kicked off on Monday, Sukhoi Su-30SM fighter jets fired missiles at range targets in Crimea, where they rehearsed an attack on a notional enemy, state media reported, citing the Black Sea Fleet's press office.

Revised charges delay Weinstein trial

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Movie mogul Harvey Weinstein pleaded not guilty to a new indictment Monday that includes revised charges of predatory sexual assault, a development that caused the judge to delay the start of his trial until early next year.

The tweak to the case was intended to open the door for an actress to testify against Weinstein in a rape and sexual assault trial that had been scheduled to start on Sept. 9.

Weinstein was in and out of a Manhattan courthouse quickly to enter the plea. He didn't speak with reporters.

After the hearing, his lawyers said they would ask the judge to dismiss the indictment, which

they called a “desperate” attempt to salvage the case.

“I think the case itself is weak,” said his lawyer, Donna Rotunno.

Weinstein previously pleaded not guilty to charges accusing him of raping a woman in 2013 and performing a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006.

Prosecutors said the new indictment was needed to bring evidence involving Annabella Sciorra, best known for her work on “The Sopranos.” She says Weinstein raped her inside her Manhattan apartment after she starred in a film for his movie studio in 1993.

Sciorra isn't being added as a victim in the case, because the alleged attack took place too long ago to be prosecuted under

state law, but prosecutors want to use her testimony to prove that Weinstein had a pattern of assaulting women. That's necessary to prove the charge of predatory sexual assault.

Sciorra's lawyer, Gloria Allred, said she was willing to tell her story to bring Weinstein to justice. She criticized the defense team for saying they would try to get her testimony barred.

“Why are they so afraid of having additional witnesses testify?” she said.

Weinstein, 67, who's free on \$1 million bail, has denied all accusations of nonconsensual sex.

Prosecutors can't charge Weinstein with the alleged attack on Sciorra because the accusation dates to 13 years

before New York eliminated its statute of limitations for rape cases in 2006. But in court papers filed this month, they told the judge the indictment will give them a legal foundation to call the actress as a witness to strengthen the predatory sexual assault charge against Weinstein.

The Associated Press generally does not name people who say they are victims of sexual assault, but Sciorra went public with her story in a story in *The New Yorker* in October 2017.

Court papers filed by the defense called the attempt to make Sciorra a prosecution witness an “11th-hour maneuver” that “raises significant legal issues” and predicted it could delay the trial.

Arpaio running to get back sheriff post in Arizona

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Nearly three years after he was voted out of office, the former metro Phoenix sheriff pardoned by President Donald Trump on a conviction related to rounding up immigrants in the country illegally is going after his old job.

Republican Joe Arpaio announced his 2020 campaign for Maricopa County sher-

iff Sunday on the anniversary of his pardon in 2017 on the misdemeanor contempt of court conviction for disobeying an order to stop the immigration patrols.

Arpaio is 87 and spent 24 years as sheriff. In a statement, he vowed to enforce laws associated with the U.S.-Mexico border crimes and laws dealing with migrants coming into the country illegally. He also wants to reopen the outdoor tent jail com-

plex he started that was closed by his successor, Democrat Paul Penzone.

Arpaio lost to Penzone in 2016. After the defeat, he was convicted for his acknowledged disobedience of a judge's 2011 order that barred his traffic patrols targeting immigrants. Arpaio was accused of prolonging the patrols to boost his 2012 reelection campaign.

Barbados, Puerto Rico brace for Tropical Storm Dorian

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Much of the eastern Caribbean island of Barbados shut down on Monday as Tropical Storm Dorian approached the region and gathered strength, threatening to turn into a small hurricane that forecasters said could affect the northern Windward islands and Puerto Rico in upcoming days.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley closed schools and government offices across Barbados as she warned people to remain indoors.

“When you're dead, you're

dead,” she said in a televised address late Sunday. “Stay inside and get some rest.”

The U.S. National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane watch for St. Lucia and a tropical storm warning for Barbados, Martinique, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It also issued a tropical storm watch for Dominica, Grenada, Saba and St. Eustatius.

The storm was expected to dump between 3 and 8 inches of rain in Barbados and nearby islands, with isolated amounts of 10 inches.

As of 11 a.m. EDT Monday, the fourth tropical storm of

the Atlantic hurricane season was centered about 135 miles east-southeast of Barbados and moving west at 14 mph. Maximum sustained winds were at 60 mph. Forecasters said it could brush past southwest Puerto Rico late Wednesday as a Category 1 hurricane and then strike the southeast corner of the Dominican Republic early Thursday.

In Barbados, many of the 285,000 inhabitants heeded the government's warning, including Fitz Bostic, owner of Rest Haven Beach Cottages. He said he's prepared in case officials shut down power and utility

services as they have in previous storms.

In the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, hundreds of people have been crowding into grocery stores and gas stations to prepare for Dorian, buying food, water and generators, among other things. Many are worried about power outages and heavy rains on an island still struggling to recover from Hurricane Maria, a Category 4 storm that hit nearly two years ago.

Some 30,000 homes still have blue tarps as roofs, and the electrical grid remains fragile and prone to outages even during brief rain showers.

Trump says US is not seeking change of leadership in Iran

Los Angeles Times

BIARRITZ, France — President Donald Trump said Monday he wasn't seeking regime change in Iran, and is open to negotiating with the president of the Middle Eastern country that he's sanctioned and denounced for supporting terrorism around the region.

"Iran is a country of tremendous potential. We're not looking for leadership change," Trump said during a news conference with French President Emmanuel Macron on the final day of the G-7 summit here.

"I really believe Iran could be a great nation, but they can't have nuclear weapons," Trump said. The U.S. goals were for Iran to have "no nuclear weapons, no ballistic missiles" and "a longer period of time" than the 2015 nuclear agreement reached by former President Barack Obama, which was a 10-year agreement.

The comment was a notable softening from Trump. Previously, administration officials have spelled out extensive demands for changes in Iran's policies and behavior.

Earlier on Monday, Trump had said it was "too soon" for Washington to enter talks with Tehran.

Macron, who has been trying to salvage the nuclear agreement and broker a meeting, said he hoped Trump could sit down with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in the coming weeks. Trump said he was open to meeting "if the circumstances are correct."

The news conference came on the final day of the G-7 meetings, where Trump sowed confusion about the status of his trade war with China even as he tried to reassure global markets by saying that Beijing was ready to restart negotiations.

Even as he insisted he was in sync with the other interna-

tional leaders at the summit, Trump was the only one to skip a session focused on climate change, a problem he's downplayed or outright denied.

Speaking to reporters at the outset of his first bilateral meeting of the day with Egypt's President, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, Trump also claimed that Macron "asked me for approval" before inviting Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif to Biarritz to talk on the sidelines of the G-7 and that he had "a very good relationship" with France's president.

"He asked me. I don't consider that disrespectful at all," Trump said.

That contradicted a White House official who told reporters Sunday that the U.S. delegation had not been warned about Zarif's arrival. "That was with great respect. I spoke to President Macron yesterday. I knew everything he was doing."

Israeli PM cuts fuel to Gaza amid tensions

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday ordered the military to cut fuel transfers to Gaza in half in response to rocket attacks from the coastal strip, raising tensions along Israel's southern border in addition to those stemming from a renewed threat from the north amid reported Israeli strikes on Iranian targets in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

Netanyahu also instructed his staff to prepare plans for building a new neighborhood in a West Bank settlement near where a teenage Israeli girl was killed in an explosion last week. Israel said the blast was a Palestinian attack.

The flurry of activity comes amid a massive manhunt by Israeli troops for the 17-year-old's killers and dire warnings from Lebanon's Hezbollah leader of an imminent attack, just weeks before an unprecedented repeat Israeli election.

Netanyahu ordered the Gaza measure to take effect immediately and until further notice. The cut is expected to exacerbate the already dire flow of electricity in the impoverished coastal strip. The move follows airstrikes the military carried out overnight in the Gaza Strip after three rockets were launched from the territory into southern Israel.

The military said the airstrikes included one on the office of a Hamas commander in the northern Gaza Strip. There were no reports of casualties.

Air raid sirens warning of an incoming attack wailed late Sunday during an outdoor music festival in the Israeli border town of Sderot, sending panicked revelers scurrying for cover. The military said two rockets were intercepted by its missile defense system.

Amazon fire response sparks outrage

Associated Press

PORTO VELHO, Brazil — Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has insulted adversaries and allies, disparaged women, blacks and homosexuals, and even praised his country's 1964-85 dictatorship. Yet nothing has rallied more anger at home and criticism from abroad than his response to fires raging in parts of the Amazon region.

The far-right populist leader initially dismissed the hundreds of blazes and then questioned whether activist groups might have started the fires in an effort to damage the credibility of his government, which has called for looser environmental regulations in the world's largest rainforest to spur development.

In response, European lead-

ers threatened to end a trade deal with Brazil and other South American nations. Thousands of people have demonstrated in cities across Brazil and outside Brazilian embassies around the world. #PrayforAmazonia became a worldwide trending topic.

Bolsonaro finally took a less confrontational approach Friday and announced he would send 44,000 soldiers to help battle the blazes, which mostly seem to be charring land deforested, perhaps illegally, for farming and ranching rather than burning through stands of trees.

Some say it's not enough and comes too late.

"No democratic government has suffered such international criticism as Bolsonaro is going

through," said Mauricio Santoro, an international relations professor at Rio de Janeiro State University. "By breaching international environmental agreements, Brazil has been discredited, blurred and unable to exercise any type of leadership on the international stage."

Brazilian military planes began dumping water on fires in the Amazon state of Rondonia over the weekend, and a few hundred of the promised troops deployed into the fire zone. But many Brazilians again took to the streets in Rio de Janeiro and other cities Sunday to demand the administration do more. Some held banners that read, "Bolsonaro is burning our future."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

State giving away 2 historic bridges

MO POPLAR BLUFF — In the market for a bridge? There are two in southeastern Missouri, free for the taking.

Television station KFVS reported that the Missouri Department of Transportation is giving away two old bridges — one at Poplar Bluff and the other near Leeper.

The bridges are scheduled for replacement, so the department is offering them for free to other government entities, historical and civic groups or even private citizens.

Interested parties must submit a proposal describing how they will dismantle and relocate the bridge. Those costs fall to whomever takes the bridge.

Imprisoned men get writing assignment

MT GREAT FALLS — Two Montana men who were sentenced to prison for violating the terms of their probation in separate crimes won't be eligible for parole until they complete a writing assignment given because they falsely claimed to have served in the military to have their cases moved to a veterans court.

Cascade County District Judge Greg Pinski sentenced Ryan Patrick Morris, 28, and Troy Allan Nelson, 33, on Friday.

The Great Falls Tribune reported Pinski ordered both men to handwrite the names of all 6,756 Americans killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, write the obituaries of the 40 Montanans killed in Iraq and Afghanistan and send written letters of apology to several veterans groups.

Women arrested for toplessness appeal

NH LACONIA — Three women who were arrested for going topless at a New Hampshire beach are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to hear their case.

Heidi Lilley, Kia Sinclair and Ginger Pierro were arrested in Laconia in 2016. They're part of a global campaign advocating for the rights of women to go topless called Free the Nipple.

The New Hampshire Supreme Court upheld their convictions earlier this year, ruling that Laconia did not violate the equal protection clause of the Constitution with its ordinance barring women from showing their nipples in public.

New Hampshire Public Radio reported the women have filed a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court appealing that ruling, arguing that the ordinance is inherently discriminatory on the basis of gender.

State set to take steps against rodents

CA SACRAMENTO — California wildlife officials say residents cannot keep an invasive, beagle-sized rodent as a pet.

The Sacramento Bee reported that the California Fish and Game Commission is taking preventive action to avoid the South American nutria from spreading. The commission said it will discuss adding nutria to a legal list of prohibited pets in December.

Officials say California could see about 250,000 rodents in five years.

Scientists say they captured hundreds in multiple counties already as part of a \$2 million plan to eradicate the rodent.

Scientists say the orange-

toothed animals eat all nearby vegetation and can give birth to litters up to 12 every 48 hours.

Burglars targeting Chinese restaurants

FL OCALA — Florida burglars are targeting Chinese restaurants and taking the cash registers.

Ten restaurants around the Ocala area have been hit in the last few months. Police said the break-ins typically happen overnight and that the burglars either take cash or the entire cash register. The latest occurred Friday morning in Williston.

The Ocala Star-Banner reported that there were a series of home invasion robberies targeting Asian business owners in several counties, including Marion and Alachua, more than a decade ago.

Four people were convicted in those cases.

Motorcyclist leads 8 deputies on chase

FL KEY WEST — It took more than eight deputies to stop a speeding motorcyclist during a high-speed chase that topped more than 100 mph through the Florida Keys.

Monroe County Sheriff's officials said Paulo Bernabeu, 43, fled when they tried to pull him over Saturday.

Several deputies joined the chase that eventually reached triple digits and later slowed down as they became concerned about safety.

As they searched the area, an officer spotted a red reflector light behind a palm tree and saw the suspect exit behind a nearby residence.

Authorities said he'd hidden black motorcycle pants, a jacket and a helmet under a nearby kayak.

He's charged with fleeing and eluding, driving without a motorcycle license and tampering with evidence.

Teens arrested after 100 mph police chase

NC DURHAM — Police arrested a 14-year-old and 15-year-old who led them on a highway chase in North Carolina with speeds exceeding 100 mph.

The Durham Sheriff's Office said the teens were spotted by a deputy late Wednesday night traveling 20 mph above the speed limit.

When the deputy tried to pull the car over, the driver sped off through a red light onto northbound I-70.

Police said the driver later made his way onto I-85 and then exited onto side roads, where he lost control and crashed.

Police said three people fled from the car, and the two teens were taken into custody.

Town provides aid to hot passengers on bus

AZ WILLCOX — Ambulance crews, state troopers, the American Red Cross and other emergency personnel provided aid to 37 passengers on a Greyhound bus that broke down in the southern Arizona desert amid three-digit summer heat.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office said a cooling center was opened in the high school in the town of Willcox after the bus had mechanical problems about 2:30 p.m. Wednesday and the passengers began "experiencing distress due to the heat."

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Book it: Irish look to return to CFP

Associated Press

For Notre Dame to reach its second successive College Football Playoff, it might have to run the table behind quarterback Ian Book.

“When you step into being the quarterback at Notre Dame, high expectations come with it,” said coach Brian Kelly, who has twice in nine seasons directed teams to 12-0 records in the regular season only to come up short of delivering the school’s first national title since 1988.

Last season, the 6-foot, 212-pound Book completed 68.2% of his passes for 2,628 yards and 19 touchdowns while leading the Fighting Irish to the playoff, where they lost 30-3 to eventual national champion Clemson in the Cotton Bowl semifinal.

Upon his return to campus last winter, Book said he immediately went to work on making difficult and tight downfield passes. Book was rewarded when he was chosen as one of the team’s seven captains.

“Being able to wear the ‘C’ on your chest is a big deal,” Book said. “I’m ready to lead. We know what it takes to get to the playoff. We just have to work on the details.”

Kelly has seen the improvements in Book both as a player and leader and seen how his teammates have responded.

“Ian’s personality is not one where he’s going to get many speeding tickets,” Kelly said. “There’s a confidence throughout the entire unit starting to breed, and we’re seeing that because of Ian.”

Line time

Sophomore newcomer Jarrett Patterson takes over at center between four holdovers, tackle Liam Eichenberg and guard Aaron Banks to his left and guard Tommy Kraemer and tackle Robert Hainsey to his right. Experienced running backs Jafar Armstrong and Tony Jones Jr. return in the backfield, while Book has an experienced

wide receiver corps with Chris Finke, Chase Claypool and Michael Young. Big things were expected from junior tight end Cole Kmet, but he suffered a broken right collarbone early in fall camp and is expected to miss anywhere from four to 10 weeks. His spot will be shared by sophomore Tommy Tremble and junior Brock Wright.

Born to run

Armstrong (383 yards) and Jones (392) carried the rushing load early in 2018 before injuries and the return of senior Dexter Williams from a suspension lessened their touches. Williams finished with 12 touchdowns and 995 yards in the final nine games. Expect Armstrong and Jones, who are both adept at catching passes, to lead the way again as sophomores Jahmir Smith and C’Bo Flemister battle with improving freshman Kyren Williams for playing time.

On defense

The Irish defensive line should be strong with seniors Khalid Kareem, Julian Okwara and Daelin Hayes, who combined for 14.5 quarterback sacks.

“We have a lot of talent on defense and the blueprint how to get back,” Kareem said.

They will be good, too, in the secondary despite losing All-America cornerback Julian Love. Senior Troy Pride Jr. moves into Love’s boundary spot and senior safeties Alohi Gilman and Jalen Elliott had 162 tackles, 12 passes defended and four forced fumbles between them.

Kelly and defensive coordinator Clark Lea have been searching for the right combination at linebacker where Te’von Coney and Drue Tranquill had a combined 209 tackles, including 18.5 for losses.

“Our linebacking corps has something

we haven’t had in a while and that’s speed,” Elliott said. “We have some guys who can really run.”

Junior Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah has been impressive at the rover position, allowing last year’s rover, grad student Asmar Bilal, to utilize his quickness at linebacker. When Bilal lines up at the weakside spot, junior Drew White has been impressive in the middle with his physicalness to free up junior tackles Myron Tagovailoa-Amosa and Kurt Hinish.

Kyle Hamilton, a 6-foot-4, 210-pound safety who enrolled just before summer camp, has been the most impressive member of Notre Dame’s 22-player freshman class with five interceptions in the first six preseason practices.

Kick(er)s get harder to find

Replacing all-time leading scorer Justin Yoon (367 points on 59 of 73 field goals and 190 of 196 PATs) and punter Tyler Newsome (44-yard career average) will be key. Jay Bramblett, an early enrollee last spring, is averaging almost 40 yards per punt in practice. Junior Jonathan Doerer, who was inconsistent with his kickoffs last fall and this spring as the only placekicker, is battling newcomer Harrison Leonard to succeed Yoon.

About that schedule

A Labor Day night game at Louisville opens the season. It is one of five road games: Georgia (Sept. 21), Michigan (Oct. 26), Duke (Nov. 9) and the regular-season finale at Stanford (No. 30). The home slate includes Virginia, Virginia Tech, Navy and Southern Cal on Oct. 12. Bob Davie, who coached the Irish from 1997-2001, brings his New Mexico team to South Bend on Sept. 14.

Running track sped up success for Badgers’ Taylor

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Jonathan Taylor is one of the best running backs in college football.

He would be the first to say his success isn’t due to just one person.

There are, of course, his parents, Elizabeth Taylor and Jonathan James, and several other family members and coaches. But a single observation by a mentor helped change the en-

tire trajectory of Taylor’s success as a runner.

“I went in and I said, ‘Hey, run track. You need to run track,’” recalled Wisconsin running backs coach John Settle.

Settle, who is in his 10th season mentoring the Badgers’ rushers, was drawn to Taylor’s work ethic while recruiting the New Jersey native in high school. Settle said he noticed watching game film that some-

thing was missing from Taylor’s repertoire: breakaway speed.

“His junior year, he wasn’t breaking any long ones,” Settle said. “Everybody was running him down, you know, running him out of bounds. All of a sudden [after running track], he shows up as a senior, and he was leaving people. So about the second or third game, we offered him [a scholarship].”

Taylor, an honor roll stu-

dent, originally committed to nearby Rutgers, but then decommitted and elected to join Settle in Madison over attending Harvard.

Settle has coached four of the top six rushers in school history. His latest success story is Taylor, who won the Doak Walker Award as the nation’s top running back last season after rushing for 2,194 yards and 16 touchdowns as a sophomore.

River Ridge rallies for Little League title

Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — For the second straight day, a line drive found the glove of Louisiana shortstop Stan Wiltz and a dogpile ensued in the infield at Lamade Stadium. Stan was fine with all that.

Nothing seemed to go wrong for the boys from River Ridge in the past week at the Little League World Series, and Stan's catch ended the game and the tournament Sunday, with Louisiana shutting out Curacao 8-0 to win the state's first LLWS title.

"It felt like my glove was a magnet," said Stan, who got his team into the championship on Saturday with a game-ending unassisted double play against Hawaii.

The team from suburban New Orleans fought its way back through the losers' bracket after dropping its opening game of the tournament to Hawaii. Louisiana won six games in eight days, becoming the first team to win the LLWS after dropping its first game since the tournament expanded in 2001.

"People from New Orleans and Louisiana in general are very resilient type of people," manager Scott Frazier said. "And this team exemplifies the resiliency that we have from the area that we come from."

Frazier said he felt the momentum shift for his team when it won its first game of

the tournament against Oregon. That win set the club up for victories over some of the tournament's best teams — New Jersey, Virginia, Hawaii and Curacao.

"Once we won that game (against Oregon), it was just a matter of getting on a roll," Frazier said.

Pitcher Egan Prather tossed a two-hit shutout Sunday, throwing 88 pitches in six innings. His performance in the championship caps off a solid tournament on the mound in which he picked up two victories and struck out 19 batters in 14¹/₃ innings.

"It makes my job really easy to mix it up pitches when they can execute the pitches," Frazier said. "Everything worked for him today."

The offensive breakthrough came in the fifth inning for Louisiana as the club representing the Southwest region scored four runs on four hits to seize control. Reece Roussel smacked an RBI double that was followed by Marshall Louque's RBI single.

"We were going to get those guys, it was just a matter of time," Frazier said. "We've been so locked in this whole time."

Curacao, representing the Caribbean region, threatened in the top of the third.

The team from Willemstad loaded the bases with one out. But a sharp ground ball to Marshall at third base resulted in

a force-out at the plate and a few pitches later, Jurdrick Profar, the youngest brother of Oakland A's infielder Jurickson Profar, was thrown out trying to score on a wild pitch.

U.S. teams have won back-to-back Little League crowns for the first time since 2009, when a team from Chula Vista, Calif., capped off a streak of five straight championships for the United States.

Hitting records

The Louisiana duo of Reece and Marshall slugged their way into the LLWS record book Sunday. Each smacked a pair doubles to finish with seven for the tournament and set a record.

Reece also added to the LLWS hits record he broke Saturday, finishing with 17. The previous mark was 14.

Japan takes third

Before the Little Leaguers from Chofu, Japan, even made an out against Hawaii, they had already supplied enough run support to back a stellar outing from Yuto Misaki on the mound. Japan scored three runs in the first and two in the fifth on its way to a 5-0 victory in the LLWS third-place game.

McIlroy ends season with \$15M payday

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Rory McIlroy marched to the 18th green Sunday at East Lake with victory in hand and \$15 million in the bank.

Even better was what he saw — and heard — behind him.

The scene was all too familiar. The gallery ducked under the ropes and rushed to encircle the green to watch the finish of a class performance in the Tour Championship. Before long, the chants began to ring out: "Rory! Rory! Rory!"

This time, McIlroy had the stage to himself.

A mere bystander last year amid the chaotic celebration of Tiger Woods' return to victory, McIlroy soaked up the perfect ending to a solid year when he surged past Brooks Koepka, held off Xander Schauffele and captured the FedEx Cup and the richest payoff in golf.

Turning to Harry Diamond, his caddie and best friend, McIlroy told him, "This walk is a little more pleasant than last

year."

He closed with a 4-under 66 to finish four shots ahead of Schauffele, joining Woods as the only players to win the FedEx Cup twice.

"Any time you can do something that only Tiger has done, you're doing something right," McIlroy said.

There was so much more than \$15 million — \$14 million in cash, \$1 million deferred — to this victory.

Regardless of the new format that gave some players a head start to par depending on their FedEx Cup ranking — McIlroy began five shots behind before the tournament started — he wanted to post the lowest score of anyone in the 30-man field.

He shot 13-under 267, the best by three shots.

And when he was paired with Koepka in the final group Sunday, it was a chance for atonement. A month ago, McIlroy laid an egg in the final group at a World Golf Championship, just like he did with Woods the year before at East Lake.

"I thought a lot about that," McIlroy

said. "I thought about the final group with Tiger last year, the final group with Brooks in Memphis a few weeks ago, and I really wanted to go out there and play well and really take it to him, and I did that."

The final round turned on the seventh hole with a three-shot swing — McIlroy made a 25-foot birdie, while Koepka lost his tee shot in the trees and made double bogey.

McIlroy was four shots ahead until back-to-back bogeys, and he was on the verge of watching his lead shrink to one when he holed an 8-foot par putt on the 16th. Schauffele had to settle for par, and McIlroy finished with a flourish. He was the only player to break par all four days.

Schauffele closed with a 70 to finish alone in second, which paid out \$5 million.

"There was plenty of excitement today," Schauffele said. "The heart rate was up for most of the round. I thought the course was set up really fair, and if you were in the fairway, it was gettable. And if you weren't, it was exactly what you thought it was."

German pitches Yankees past Dodgers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — DJ LeMahieu, Aaron Judge and Mike Ford homered, Domingo German outdueled Clayton Kershaw for his major league-leading 17th win, and New York defeated Los Angeles 5-1 on Sunday.

The Yankees set a major league record for most homers in a month with 61 in August. They slugged nine in taking two of three games in a potential World Series preview to remain tied with Houston for the best record in the American League at 85-47.

Nationals 7, Cubs 5 (11): Anthony Rendon homered and had four hits, including an RBI single in the 11th inning, and Washington Nationals won at Chicago for its fifth straight victory.

Juan Soto added three hits and Stephen Strasburg struck out 10 in six innings, helping Washington finish off its first sweep of Chicago since September 2012. The Nationals outscored the Cubs 23-10 in a three-game series between the top two teams in the NL wild-card standings.

Cardinals 11, Rockies 4: Matt Carpenter broke out of his slump with a homer and three hits, Dexter Fowler drove in three runs and host St. Louis cruised past Colorado after a long rain delay.

The streaking Cardinals, who have won seven of eight and 13 of 16, swept the four-

game series by a combined score of 31-12.

Braves 2, Mets 1: Josh Donaldson hit two more home runs against New York, Dallas Keuchel pitched his best game of the season and visiting Atlanta won its eighth in a row.

Braves relievers set an Atlanta record by extending their string to 25 scoreless innings before the Mets scored in the ninth. Mark Melancon got pinch-hitter Joe Panik to ground out with two on to end it.

Twins 7, Tigers 4: C.J. Cron and Jonathan Schoop homered, Martin Perez pitched six solid innings and host Minnesota beat last-place Detroit to increase its AL Central lead to 3½ games over Cleveland.

Cron's three-run shot broke open a 2-0 game in the fourth and gave Perez (9-5) plenty of cushion to work with. The left-hander allowed two runs and five hits for his first win since July 5.

Royals 9, Indians 8 (10): Ryan O'Hearn led off the 10th inning with his second homer of the game, sending Kansas City to a wild win at Cleveland, whose playoff hopes were rocked by losing third baseman Jose Ramirez to a broken right hand.

The Indians tied it in the ninth against Ian Kennedy (1-2) on a solo homer by Francisco Lindor and Franmil Reyes' stunning three-run shot with two outs. Reyes also homered

leading off the eighth.

Astros 11, Angels 2: Jose Altuve homered to cap a seven-run eighth inning, Framber Valdez grinded through six gritty innings and host Houston beat Los Angeles.

Alex Bregman, Abraham Toro, Josh Reddick and Altuve all drove in runs in the eighth. Altuve's homer was his 24th, tying a career high. The Astros have won seven of eight. The club entered the day tied with the Yankees for the best record in the AL at 84-47.

Diamondbacks 5, Brewers 2: Robbie Ray returned from the injured list and pitched five scoreless innings, Eduardo Escobar and Christian Walker each homered, and Arizona won at Milwaukee to avoid a series sweep.

Ray (11-7) had been out since Aug. 14 due to lower back spasms. He allowed three hits, walked four and struck out six in five innings. The left-hander has thrown 18⅔ consecutive scoreless innings against the Brewers.

Padres 3, Red Sox 1: Manny Machado hit a two-run homer — his first in more than three weeks — and left-hander Joey Lucchesi pitched five decent innings for host San Diego in a victory over Boston to avoid a three-game sweep.

Machado, the \$300 million slugger, drove a pitch from left-hander Brian Johnson (1-3) for his 27th homer to give the Padres a 3-0 lead. It was the third

straight hit off Johnson to open the game. It was the Padres' 190th homer of the season, setting the franchise's record.

Marlins 3, Phillies 2: Starlin Castro's two-run double in the sixth inning capped a comeback by host Miami, who rallied against Aaron Nola (12-4) to beat Philadelphia. Four Marlins pitchers combined on a four-hitter and allowed one walk after giving up 10 bases on balls in each of the first two games of the series.

Pirates 9, Reds 8: Trevor Bauer had another rocky outing for Cincinnati, allowing eight runs in three innings as host Pittsburgh swept a three-game series. Since being acquired from the Cleveland Indians prior to the July 31 trade deadline, Bauer (10-11) is 1-3 with a 7.62 ERA in five starts. Seven of the runs charged to him Sunday were earned.

Orioles 8, Rays 3: Anthony Santander went 5-for-5 with a homer, Renato Nunez drove in three runs and host Baltimore beat Tampa Bay for a split of the four-game series.

White Sox 2, Rangers 0: Reynaldo Lopez (8-11) pitched five no-hit innings before leaving with dehydration and flu-like symptoms and host Chicago beat Texas.

Mariners 3, Blue Jays 1: Marco Gonzales (14-10) pitched three-hit ball over seven innings to get his career-best 14th win, Dylan Moore hit a solo homer and host Seattle beat Toronto.

Longoria boosts Giants past Athletics

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — After standing in the on-deck circle and watching an 11-pitch tussle between Buster Posey and Athletics reliever Blake Treinen that ended in a strikeout, Giants cleanup hitter Evan Longoria decided to take a quicker approach in his own at-bat against the former All-Star closer.

"I don't know if I swung at a first pitch this whole series but I kind of thought if

this is the time, this is going to be it," Longoria said. "I figured (Treinen) was going to try and get ahead."

Longoria hit a go-ahead, two-run single off Treinen in the seventh inning after homering earlier in the game, and San Francisco rallied late again to beat Oakland 5-4 on Sunday for a two-game sweep.

Donovan Solano added four hits and an RBI for the Giants in Bruce Bochy's 4,000th game as a major league manager.

Posey struck out four times and grounded into a double play.

"What a great job they did here, the way they fought," Bochy said. "Another good comeback. These two games could have gone either way."

Less than 24 hours after scoring eight times in the eighth inning of a 10-5 win, the Giants fell behind early and trailed 4-3 before loading the bases against Jake Diekman (1-7) with none out in the seventh.