

US joins probe into loss of Ukrainian F-16

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — U.S. experts have joined a Ukrainian investigation into why an F-16 warplane that Ukraine received from its Western partners crashed earlier this week during a Russian bombardment, the country's air force commander said Friday.

Meanwhile, a Russian attack on the northeastern city of Kharkiv using powerful plane-launched glide bombs killed five people, including a 14-year-old girl on a playground, and wounded 47 others, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said.

The bombs struck five locations across the city, which had a prewar population of around 1.4 million people, the governor said.

One of the bombs hit a 12-story apartment block, setting the building ablaze and trapping at least one person on an upper floor. Emergency crews searching for survivors feared the building could collapse.

President Volodymyr Zelen-

skyky pointed to the Kharkiv strikes as further evidence that Western partners should scrap restrictions on what the Ukrainian military can target with donated weapons.

The Kharkiv strike "wouldn't have happened if our defense forces had the capability to destroy Russian military aviation at its bases. We need strong decisions from our partners to stop this terror," Zelenskyy said.

F-16s are one of the weapons that could be used to hit Russian bases behind the front line.

The commander of the Ukrainian air force, Lt. Gen. Mykola Oleshchuk, said on Telegram that "a detailed analysis" was already being conducted into why the F-16 jet went down Monday, when Russia launched a major missile and drone barrage at Ukraine.

"We must carefully understand what happened, what the circumstances are, and whose responsibility it is," Oleshchuk wrote in the post.

The crash was the first reported loss of an F-16 in Ukraine, where the warplanes arrived at the end of last month. At least six are believed to have been delivered by European countries.

Military analysts say the planes will not be a game-changer in the war, given Russia's massive air force and sophisticated air defense systems. But Ukrainian officials welcomed the supersonic jets, which can carry modern weapons used by NATO countries, for offering an opportunity to hit back at Russia's air superiority.

Elsewhere, the Russian army is making slow but gradual progress in its drive into eastern Ukraine, while Ukrainian forces are holding ground in the Kursk border region of western Russia after a recent incursion.

Oleshchuk directed scathing criticism at a lawmaker who is deputy head of the Ukrainian parliament's defense committee for her claims that the F-16 was downed by a Patriot air-de-

fense system. Ukraine has received an unspecified number of the U.S.-made systems.

Mariana Bezuhla cited unnamed sources for her claim and demanded punishment for those responsible for the error.

Oleshchuk accused Bezuhla of defaming the air force and discrediting U.S. arms manufacturers and said that he hoped she would face legal consequences for her claims.

The air force did not directly deny that the F-16 was hit by a Patriot missile.

The Institute for the Study of War said it was to be expected that Ukraine would lose some Western-provided military equipment in the fighting.

But the Washington-based think tank added that "any loss among Ukraine's already limited allotment" of F-16s and trained pilots "will have an outsized impact" on the country's ability to operate F-16s "as part of its combined air defense umbrella or in an air-to-ground support role."

Israelis strike Jenin on third day of West Bank raid

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military conducted an airstrike in the West Bank city of Jenin amid days of heavy fighting in the Palestinian territory, authorities said Friday.

The Israeli military said in a brief statement that a military aircraft "struck a terrorist cell during an encounter with security forces in a counterterrorism operation in the area of Jenin." It did not immediately elaborate.

Such airstrikes, while common over the months-long Is-

rael-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, have been rare in the West Bank in the time since.

Israel says the raids across the northern West Bank — which have killed 16 people, nearly all militants, since late Tuesday — are aimed at preventing attacks. The Palestinians see them as a widening of the war in Gaza and an effort to perpetuate Israel's decades-long military rule over the territory. The Palestinian Health Ministry says over 650 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank since the war began.

Israel captured the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war, and the Palestinians want all three territories for their future state.

Also Friday, the Israeli military said it had finished a major operation in the southern Gaza cities of Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah, adding that it killed 250 militants during the operation.

Over the course of the operation, the military said it also destroyed kilometers of underground tunnels and recovered

the bodies of six hostages.

The military did not say whether it was withdrawing troops from the areas and said it was "preparing for further missions." The military's Arabic spokesperson, Avichay Adraee, announced that Palestinians evacuated from parts of both cities would be allowed to return.

The announcement came as the war nears the 11-month mark. Palestinian officials say Israel's offensive has killed over 40,000 Palestinians since the Oct. 7 Palestinian attack on Israeli citizens.

Trump rallies base in meeting with Moms

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is scheduled to appear Friday at the annual gathering of Moms for Liberty, a national nonprofit that has spearheaded efforts to get mentions of LGBTQ+ identity and structural racism out of K-12 classrooms.

In a “fireside chat” conversation in the nation’s capital, the former president will seek to shore up support and enthusiasm among a major part of his base. The bulk of the group’s 130,000-plus members are conservatives who agree with him that parents should have more say in public education and that racial equity programs and transgender accommodations don’t belong in schools.

Yet Trump also will run the risk of alienating more moderate voters, many of whom see Moms for Liberty’s activism as too extreme to be legitimized by a presidential nominee.

A year ago, Moms for Liberty was viewed by many as a rising power player in conservative

politics that could be pivotal in supporting the Republican ticket. Membership had skyrocketed after its launch in 2021, fueled by parents protesting mandatory masking for students and remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But in the last several months, a series of embarrassing scandals and underwhelming performances during local elections have called Moms for Liberty’s influence into question.

The group also has voiced support for Project 2025, a detailed and controversial playbook for the next conservative presidency from which Trump has repeatedly distanced himself.

Moms for Liberty serves on the advisory board for Project 2025, and the author of the document’s education chapter is teaching a “strategy session” at the group’s gathering Friday.

The negative perceptions about Moms for Liberty around the country could increase the potential liability for Trump as he sits down with co-founder Tiffany Justice on Friday eve-

ning, said University of Central Florida political science professor Aubrey Jewett.

“It certainly helps him rally his base,” Jewett said. “But will that be enough to outdo the backlash?”

The group, which as a nonprofit is officially nonpartisan, said it also invited both Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris and independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, who recently suspended his campaign and endorsed Trump, to speak at the gathering. Neither is scheduled to make an appearance.

Trump hasn’t shared details of what he’ll discuss at the gathering, but his campaign pointed to his education proposals, which include promoting school choice, giving parents more say in education and awarding funding preference to states and school districts that abolish teacher tenure, financially reward good teachers and allow parents to directly elect school principals.

He also has called for terminating the Department of Edu-

cation, barring transgender athletes from playing in girls’ sports, and cutting funding from any schools pushing “inappropriate racial, sexual or political content.”

“President Trump believes students should be taught reading, writing and math in the classroom — not gender, sex and race like the Biden Administration is pushing on our public school system,” said Karoline Leavitt, the Trump campaign’s national press secretary.

Vice President Harris has criticized Trump for his threats to dismantle the Department of Education.

Before he heads to Washington on Friday, the Republican nominee will hold a rally in Johnstown, a western Pennsylvania town once dominated by riverfront steel mills.

Its economy has suffered in the decades since they were shuttered. Trump held a rally near the Johnstown airport weeks before the 2020 election, boasting, “We brought back steel and we put tariffs on steel.”

GOP candidate makes peace with Georgia’s governor

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The effort to make the peace between Donald Trump and Georgia’s powerful Republican governor began in a sprawling neo-Victorian mansion in the exclusive Atlanta enclave of Buckhead.

It was at an Aug. 7 fundraiser hosted by former Georgia Sen. Kelly Loeffler that fellow Republican Lindsey Graham approached Gov. Brian Kemp. Graham, the South Carolina senator and longtime confidant of the former president, was already planning to attend the fundraiser.

Now, Graham had a renewed

purpose: to try to ease years of tensions between Trump and Kemp that endangered the GOP’s chances in a crucial 2024 battleground.

Graham and Kemp met privately at Loeffler’s house. And over the coming weeks, say Graham and others familiar with the matter, allies of both men arranged the two-part détente that played out publicly last Thursday to the surprise of many political watchers.

First, Kemp did an interview with Fox News host Sean Hannity — another Trump ally — in which he said, “We need to send Donald Trump back to the

White House.” Moments later, Trump went on his social media site to praise Kemp for his “help and support.”

A true alignment, if it lasts, could benefit both men: Trump may need the help of Kemp’s renowned political operation to win back Georgia in a tightly contested race with Democratic nominee Kamala Harris, while Kemp wants to be in the good graces of Trump supporters for a future run at the U.S. Senate or the presidency in 2028.

Kemp attended a fundraiser for Trump on Thursday and could join more campaign events with fewer than 70 days

before Election Day.

Trump still argues falsely that he won Georgia based on unproven and debunked claims of voter fraud, something he brings up consistently on the campaign trail.

Kemp, who refused to stop the certification of Trump’s loss four years ago, has repeatedly pushed him to move on.

Trump’s campaign did not respond to questions about what happened but pointed back to his post on Truth Social in which he says about Georgia, “A win is so important to the success of our Party and, most importantly, our Country.”

Harris defends shifting from liberal positions

Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Vice President Kamala Harris on Thursday defended shifting away from some of her more liberal positions in her first major television interview of her campaign, but insisted her “values have not changed” even as she is “seeking consensus.”

Sitting with her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, Harris was asked specifically about her reversals on banning fracking and decriminalizing illegal border crossings, positions she took during her last run for president. She confirmed she does not want to ban fracking, an energy extraction process key to the economy of swing-state Pennsylvania, and said there “should be consequence” for people who cross the border without permission.

“I think the most important and most significant aspect of my policy perspective and decisions is my values have not changed,” Harris said.

She went on to say: “I believe it is important to build consensus. It is important to find a

common place of understanding where we can actually solve the problem.”

The interview with CNN’s Dana Bash came as voters are still trying to learn more about the Democratic ticket in an unusually compressed time frame. President Joe Biden ended his reelection bid just five weeks ago. The interview focused largely on policy, as Harris sought to show that she had adopted more moderate positions on issues that Republicans argue are extreme, while Walz defended past misstatements about his biography.

Harris hadn’t done an in-depth interview since she became her party’s standard-bearer five weeks ago, though she did sit for several while she was still Biden’s running mate.

She said serving with Biden was “one of the greatest honors of my career,” and she recounted the moment he called to tell her he was stepping down and would support her.

“He told me what he had decided to do and ... I asked him, ‘Are you sure?’ and he said,

‘Yes,’ and that’s how I learned about it.”

She said she didn’t ask Biden to endorse her because “he was very clear that he was going to endorse me.”

Harris defended the administration’s record on the southern border and immigration, noting that she was tasked with trying to address the “root causes” in other countries that were driving the border crossings.

“We have laws that have to be followed and enforced, that address and deal with people who cross our border illegally, and there should be consequences,” Harris said.

Asked about Israel’s war in Gaza after Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack, Harris said, “I am unequivocal and unwavering in my commitment to Israel’s defense and its ability to defend itself.” But the vice president also reiterated what she’s said for months, that civilian deaths are too high amid the Israeli offensive.

She also brushed off Republican Donald Trump’s questioning of her racial identity after he suggested falsely that she

changed how she presents herself for political reasons and “happened to turn Black.” Harris, who is of Black and South Asian heritage, said Trump’s suggestion was the “same old, tired playbook.”

“Next question, please,” she said.

During the early parts of the interview, Walz watched quietly and nodded when Harris made her main points. He was later asked about misstatements, starting with how he has described his 24 years of service in the National Guard.

In a 2018 video clip that the Harris-Walz campaign once circulated, Walz spoke out against gun violence and said, “We can make sure that those weapons of war, that I carried in war, is the only place where those weapons are at.”

Critics said the comment “that I carried in war” suggested that Walz portrayed himself as someone who spent time in a combat zone. He said Thursday night that he misspoke after a school shooting, adding, “My grammar’s not always correct.”

Moore calls Bronze Star miscue ‘honest mistake’

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland Gov. Wes Moore said Thursday he made “an honest mistake” in failing to correct a White House fellowship application 18 years ago when he wrote he had received a Bronze Star for his military service in Afghanistan although he never ended up receiving it, after the New York Times obtained a copy of the application and reported on it.

The newspaper, which obtained the document as part of a Freedom of Information Act request, reported that Moore made the claim on the application in 2006 when he was 27.

In a statement, the governor wrote that he had been encour-

aged to fill out the application for the fellowship by his deputy brigade commander serving overseas in the Army. At the time, Moore said the deputy brigade commander had recommended him for the Bronze Star — and told him to include the award on his application “after confirming with two other senior-level officers that they had also signed off on the commendation.”

Toward the end of his deployment, however, Moore said he learned he had not received the Bronze Star. When he returned home, Moore said he was “focused on helping my fellow veterans, a mission I continue to advance as governor.”

“Still, I sincerely wish I had

gone back to correct the note on my application,” Moore, a Democrat, said in a statement Thursday. “It was an honest mistake, and I regret not making that correction.”

The Bronze Star is awarded to service members for meritorious service in combat zones.

The governor noted in his statement Thursday that he was listed as a top 1% officer in Operation Enduring Freedom in his officer evaluation report.

“My deputy brigade commander felt comfortable with instructing me to include the award on my application for the Fellowship because he received confirmation with the approval authority that the Bronze Star was signed and approved by his

senior leadership,” Moore wrote.

The governor also wrote that in the military, “there is an understanding that if a senior officer tells you that an action is approved, you can trust that as a fact. That is why it was part of the application.”

The award had been mentioned during interviews with media when Moore was running for governor in 2022, but Moore never said in those interviews that he had not received the commendation. In an interview with the New York Times, the governor said for the first time that he regretted failing to correct the interviewers who had described him as a recipient of the award.

Tropical storm dumps rain across Japan

Associated Press

TOKYO — A slow-moving tropical storm had a far-reaching impact in much of Japan on Friday, dumping heavy rain around Tokyo and flooding roads and riverside areas in the south.

Flooding was reported in a number of areas in Kanagawa prefecture, west of Tokyo, where floodwater blocked roads, stalling vehicles and traffic. Warnings for heavy rain and potential landslides included the densely populated capital, Kanagawa and nearby Shizuoka prefecture.

Muddy water flowed down the Meguro River in one of Tokyo's popular cherry blossom viewing spots, the water signif-

icantly swollen from its usual levels, NHK television footage showed.

In Hiratsuka town, dozens of cars in a parking lot sat in water just below their windows. A pedestrian waded through floodwater as high as his thighs. In another Kanagawa town, Ninomiya, floodwater from a river stalled vehicles on a street and broken tree branches were stuck on a bridge over the swollen water.

Tropical Storm Shanshan made landfall Thursday morning on the southern main island of Kyushu as a powerful typhoon. It steadily weakened but did not move much. It was on the northern edge of the Shikoku island, east of Kyushu, Fri-

day night. The slow pace increases the amount and duration of the rainfall and risks of disaster, experts say.

Before the storm made landfall, it caused a landslide that killed three people. Three more have since been found dead, according to prefectural disaster management offices.

A man in his 80s died in Fukuoka, after falling into a river. Another elderly man died when he was thrown to the ground at a shrine in the Saga prefecture. A sixth victim was killed in Tokushima when the roof of his house fell on him.

About 100 people have been injured across the country, most of them in the Kyushu region. Two people are missing.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said Shanshan was heading east toward the Shikoku and Honshu main islands with 44 mph winds but a forward speed of just 6 mph.

JMA forecast up to 11 inches of rainfall in Shikoku and central Japan, and about 6 inches for Tokyo and nearby prefectures in the next 24 hours through Saturday noon.

The storm has paralyzed traffic, delivery services and businesses across southwestern Japan.

Hundreds of domestic flights connecting southwestern cities were canceled, and Shinkansen bullet trains were suspended between Tokyo and Osaka on Friday.

NHL player and brother killed in car-bike crash

Associated Press

NHL player Johnny Gaudreau and his younger brother were killed Thursday night when they were hit by a suspected drunken driver while riding bicycles in their home state of New Jersey, police said Friday.

Gaudreau, 31, and brother, Matthew, 29, are Carneys Point, N.J., natives and were scheduled to be groomsmen at their sister Katie's wedding that was scheduled for Friday in Philadelphia.

New Jersey State police said the Gaudreau brothers were cycling on a road when a man driving an SUV in the same direction attempted to pass two other vehicles and struck them from behind. They were pronounced dead on the scene.

Police said the driver, 43-year-old Sean M. Higgins, was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and charged with two counts of death by auto, along with reckless driving, possession of an open container and consuming alcohol in a motor vehicle. He was jailed at the Salem

County Correctional Facility.

According to the criminal complaint obtained by The Associated Press, Higgins told a responding officer he had five or six beers prior to the accident and admitted to consuming alcohol while driving. He failed a field sobriety test. His blood alcohol level was not immediately available.

Johnny Gaudreau, known as "Johnny Hockey," played 11 professional seasons in the league and was set to enter his third with the Columbus Blue Jackets. He played his first nine with the Calgary Flames, a tenure that included becoming one of the sport's top players and a fan favorite across North America.

"Just devastating news for all of us connected with the Gaudreau family," Jerry York, who coached the Gaudreau brothers at Boston College, said in a phone interview with the AP. "Both Matty and Johnny were terrifically admired by all of us. Wonderful young guys, and they impressed a lot of us off the ice."

Germany deports 28 Afghan nationals to their homeland

Associated Press

BERLIN—Germany deported Afghan nationals to their homeland on Friday for the first time since August 2021 when the Taliban returned to power.

Government spokesperson Steffen Hebestreit described the 28 Afghan nationals as convicted criminals but did not clarify their offenses.

"The security interests of Germany clearly outweigh the claim for protection of criminals and individuals endangering national security," Hebestreit said in a statement.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, speaking near Leipzig during a local election campaign event Friday, called it "a clear sign that those who commit crimes cannot count on us not deporting them, but that we will look for ways to do so."

German news agency dpa reported, citing information from the federal states involved in the deportations, that the offenses included rape, serious arson and manslaughter.

Interior Minister Nancy Faeser called the move a security issue for Germany.

"You have seen that we have enforced the law and deported criminals back to Afghanistan," she said during a news conference Friday afternoon. "In my view, this is necessary to maintain trust in the rule of law."

However, Julia Duchrow, secretary general of Amnesty International in Germany, blasted the deportations. In a statement Friday, she said the government bowed to political pressure during an election campaign. She added that Afghanistan is not safe and alleged that the deportations violate international law.

Berlin does not have diplomatic relations with the Taliban, requiring the government to work through other channels. It's unlikely that Friday's actions will lead to a wider thawing of relations between Germany and the Taliban, especially after last week's issuing of the first set of laws to prevent vice and promote virtue in Afghanistan.

NFL season offers interesting storylines

Associated Press

Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs chasing history will be the hottest topic throughout the NFL season.

The Chiefs' three-peat quest is only one of many interesting storylines.

Aaron Rodgers is back in New York after his first season with the Jets lasted four plays. The 40-year-old four-time NFL MVP is returning from a torn Achilles tendon and aiming to help the Jets end the league's longest active playoff drought.

No. 1 overall pick Caleb Williams takes over for the Bears, looking to end Chicago's long search for a franchise quarterback.

Fellow rookie QB Jayden Daniels leads the Commanders, who begin their second season under a new ownership group that saved Washington from Dan Snyder.

Russell Wilson tries to revive his career in Pittsburgh, becoming the third different QB the Steelers turn to since Ben Roethlisberger last played three years ago.

Jim Harbaugh returned to the NFL to coach the Los An-

geles Chargers after winning a national title at Michigan. With Justin Herbert behind center, Harbaugh doesn't have to start from scratch.

His brother, John Harbaugh, and the Baltimore Ravens have unfinished business. Two-time NFL MVP Lamar Jackson led the Ravens to the league's best record last season, but they couldn't beat Mahomes and the Chiefs in the playoffs.

The pressure is on Josh Allen to deliver in Buffalo after the Bills lost in the divisional round for the third straight season.

The San Francisco 49ers' bid to return to the Super Bowl after falling just short against the Chiefs could be derailed by contract disputes. Sources say that wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk has agreed to a four-year deal, but All-Pro left tackle Trent Williams is still holding out.

Nick Sirianni stayed put in Philadelphia despite a late-season collapse that had the Eagles go from 10-1 to blown out by Tampa Bay in a wild-card game. Jalen Hurts is learning a new offensive system again but another playmaker, Saquon Barkley, joined a star-studded

cast that surrounds him.

The Cowboys didn't do much in the offseason after another playoff failure. Coach Mike McCarthy enters the final season of his contract and Dak Prescott is planning to play out the last year of his deal unless he gets an extension. Jerry Jones did open up his checkbook for All-Pro wide receiver CeeDee Lamb, ending a long holdout.

Dan Campbell's Lions are a popular pick to make their first trip to the Super Bowl after his fourth-down gambles cost Detroit a shot last season.

Jordan Love got paid in Green Bay and looks to build off his successful first season leading the Packers.

Trevor Lawrence also joined the \$55 million club (average annual salary) in Jacksonville. The Jaguars have to rebound from a disappointing finish after failing to reach the playoffs despite an 8-3 start.

C.J. Stroud took the Houston Texans from worst to first and now they seek to take another step in a packed AFC.

Deshaun Watson watched Joe Flacco lead the Browns to the playoffs and fans in Cleve-

land are running out of patience waiting for him to live up to expectations.

A healthy and blonde Joe Burrow is back in Cincinnati, giving the Bengals reason for optimism.

Kirk Cousins joined the Falcons along with new coach Raheem Morris, taking aim at dethroning the Buccaneers in the NFC South.

Tampa Bay is running it back after re-signing quarterback Baker Mayfield, receiver Mike Evans and several key players from a team that far exceeded expectations last year.

The Dolphins made Tua Tagovailoa a \$53-million-a-year QB, putting faith in him to lead Miami to its first playoff victory in 24 years.

Bill Belichick moved onto a television career with Jerod Mayo starting a new era in New England. The Patriots hope QB Drake Maye brings a fraction of Tom Brady's success.

It all kicks off with the Ravens and Chiefs facing off in a rematch of the AFC title game. Then it's the Eagles and Packers playing on a Friday night in the first NFL game in Brazil.

NFL puts restrictions on Brady's broadcasting access

Associated Press

Tom Brady's pending bid to become a part owner of the Las Vegas Raiders has triggered restrictions on his access to teams around the NFL as part of his role as a Fox Sports broadcaster, a league spokesperson said Thursday.

Brady is not permitted to attend in-person or online broad-

cast production meetings and may not have access to team facilities, players or coaches. Fox staff is not subject to these limitations.

He must abide by the league constitution and bylaws that prohibit public criticism of officials and other clubs, but is allowed to broadcast Raiders games.

Brady, a seven-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback, is working with play-by-play announcer Kevin Burkhardt on Fox's top NFL team. He signed a 10-year deal with the network in 2022, but this is Brady's first season broadcasting games.

His effort to become a minority owner in the Raiders organization has been scrutinized by

league owners since Brady put in his bid in May 2023. Owners didn't vote on the matter when they met in March in Orlando, Fla., because of concerns that Brady was receiving too much of a discount from Las Vegas majority owner Mark Davis.

Brady owns a piece of the WNBA's Las Vegas Aces, which also is owned by Davis.

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Missouri opens season with a 51-0 rout of Murray State

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Brady Cook threw for 218 yards with touchdowns running and throwing, Toriano Pride Jr. returned an interception 25 yards for a score, and No. 11 Missouri routed Murray State 51-0 on Thursday night in the season opener for both teams.

Luther Burden III had a touchdown catch while Nate Noel and Marcus Carroll added TD runs, helping the Tigers build a big lead early enough that coach Eli Drinkwitz was able to rest his starters midway through the third quarter.

Murray State, picked to finish last in the Missouri Valley, managed 85 yards of total offense. Jayden Johannsen was 7 of 13 for 27 yards with an interception while getting sacked twice and beaten up most of the night.

Kansas 48, Lindenwood 3: Devin Neal ran for 112 yards and two touchdowns on eight first-half carries and No. 22 Kansas beat Lindenwood in the opener for both teams.

Kansas outscored Lindenwood 27-0 in the second quarter at Children's Mercy Park. Lindenwood, in its third year as an FCS program, played its first game against an FBS opponent.

Jalon Daniels, who played only in the first half for Kansas, was 9 of 15 for 148 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

The Jayhawks are playing their home games in Kansas City — two at Children's Mercy Park and four at Arrowhead Stadium — because of stadium renovations.

Lindenwood averted a shutout with a 34-yard field goal by Logan Seibert with 6:12 left.

N.C. State 38, Western Carolina 21: KC Concepcion slithered free from contact and broke loose to the right for a 35-yard catch-and-run touchdown — his third score of the night — to help No. 24 N.C. State finally push ahead for good and beat visiting Western Carolina in the opener for both teams.

Concepcion had a diving 17-yard scoring catch over the middle in the first quarter along with a 5-yard catch-and-run to the left pylon in the second. He finished with nine catches and 121 yards as a highlight in what was at times a slog for N.C. State — and other times an unexpectedly tense test against a Championship Subdivision opponent.

The game was tied at 14-all at halftime and the Catamounts led 21-17 going into the final quarter, putting them within reach of a shocking upset. But Concepcion's highlight-reel effort put the Wolfpack ahead for good, then Jordan Waters — a transfer from nearby Duke — shook off what had been a rough debut to that point by keeping

his legs churning through multiple tacklers for a 7-yard TD that pushed N.C. State to a 31-21 lead with 6:33 left.

Utah 49, Southern Utah 0: Cam Rising made his return with a career-high five touchdown passes — three to Brant Kuithe — to power No. 12 Utah to a victory over visiting Southern Utah.

Rising, a seventh-year senior quarterback, shined in his first game action since tearing multiple knee ligaments in the Utes' Rose Bowl loss to Penn State on Jan. 2, 2023, going 10 of 15 for 254 yards and 25 rushing yards as the 84th consecutive sellout crowd at Rice-Eccles Stadium held its collective breath on each rush. He left the game in the second quarter with Utah up 35-0.

Kuithe, who also missed last season and most of the 2022 campaign, caught three TD passes — all in the second quarter. He caught a 29-yarder for a score on the first play of the quarter and an 18-yarder three minutes later. With 1:08 to play in the half, Kuithe fought off three defenders on his way into the end zone on a 11-yard grab.

Rising's barrage marked the first time Utah had five passing TDs in a half since Brian Johnson against San Diego State in 2008, the last season Utah went undefeated.

Aiyuk, 49ers end standoff with contract extension

The Washington Post

The San Francisco 49ers took a major step Thursday toward keeping their collection of offensive standouts intact for another Super Bowl push when they agreed to a four-year contract extension with wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk, ending a standoff that dragged on for months and led to trade possibilities involving several teams.

The agreement between the 49ers and Aiyuk was confirmed by a person familiar with the deal. The extension reportedly is worth \$120 million, including \$76 million in guaranteed money. It concludes a saga that had drawn intense scrutiny in recent weeks.

Aiyuk, 26, had been poised to play the upcoming season under the fifth-year option worth \$14.124 million previously exercised by the 49ers in his original rookie contract. He is a two-time 1,000-yard receiver in four seasons with the 49ers.

The 49ers, after reaching the Super Bowl last season but losing in overtime to the Kansas City Chiefs, consistently expressed hopes of being able to retain Aiyuk. But negotiations remained stalled for months before the sides recently began to make progress.

Aiyuk reported to training camp with the 49ers but was not participating in practices.

Stephen Curry signs \$63M extension with Warriors

Associated Press

Stephen Curry has signed a one-year extension with the Golden State Warriors for the 2026-27 season, one in which the NBA's all-time 3-point leader and Olympic gold medalist will earn nearly \$63 million.

The team announced the

signing Thursday. ESPN first reported the agreement was in place, and Curry's agent, Jeff Austin, later confirmed it to The Associated Press.

Curry is now guaranteed about \$178 million for the next three seasons; about \$55.8 million for this season, about \$59.6

million for 2025-26 and now about \$62.6 million — the most the Warriors could offer by league rule — for 2026-27.

When that season ends, Curry's on-court earnings will have reached about \$532 million, which for now ranks as second-most in NBA history behind on-

ly LeBron James' \$580 million in player contracts.

Curry, 36, is entering his 16th NBA season, all of them with the Warriors. He's a 10-time All-Star and 10-time All-NBA selection, has been part of four championships with Golden State and is a two-time MVP.

Angels end losing streak with win over Tigers

Associated Press

DETROIT — Zach Neto homered, rookie Jack Kochanowicz pitched six shutout innings and the Los Angeles Angels ended a seven-game losing streak with a 3-0 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Thursday.

Los Angeles had lost 12 of 14 and were 1-8 going into the last game of their road trip. Detroit had won six straight, but left 10 runners on base.

Kochanowicz (2-3) was spectacular in his sixth major-league start, allowing five hits in six innings. He struck out four without walking a batter.

Three Angels relievers finished, with Ben Joyce getting the final four outs for his third save.

Rangers 2, White Sox 1: Corey Seager hit his 200th career homer and Nathan Eovaldi pitched seven scoreless innings, leading visiting Texas past the lowly Chicago White Sox.

Eovaldi (10-7) matched his season high with 10 strikeouts in his second straight win. The right-hander was working on a no-hitter before Gavin Sheets hit a leadoff single in the fifth.

Kirby Yates surrendered Andrew Benintendi's 15th homer with one out in the ninth, and then struck out Andrew Vaughn and retired Sheets on a grounder for his 25th save in 26 tries.

Brewers 6, Giants 0: Aaron Civale and Aaron Ashby combined on a two-hit shutout and William Contreras stole home to help host Milwaukee beat San Francisco.

The Brewers, who lead the NL Central, won two of three from the Giants. They are 9½ games ahead of the Chicago Cubs for the biggest division lead in the majors.

Garrett Mitchell homered for the Brewers, and Jackson Chourio drove in two runs. Contreras went 2 for 3 and drove in a run, to go along with his steal of home.

Civale (5-8) worked seven innings for his longest outing of

the season. He struck out seven while allowing only two hits and two walks in his third quality start in his last four outings.

Cardinals 4, Padres 1: Maysyn Winn hit a solo homer while Sonny Gray threw six strong innings in leading host St. Louis to a victory over San Diego to earn a split in the four-game series.

Winn, a rookie, scored the game-winning run Wednesday after he hit a two-out single to start the ninth inning rally. In the four games against San Diego, Winn produced nine hits in 17 at-bats.

Iván Herrera and Victor Scott II each added two hits for St. Louis.

Gray (12-9), who had lost his three previous starts, held the Padres to three hits and a run with no walks.

Marlins 12, Rockies 8: Derek Hill had three hits and the second two-homer game of his career, Kyle Stowers had three hits and four RBIs, and visiting Miami beat Colorado to earn a split of their four-game series.

Ali Sánchez had three hits and stole home, Otto Lopez had three hits, and Connor Norby had two hits to extend his hitting streak to 10 games for the Marlins, who had a season-high 18 hits.

Hill, who also homered Wednesday, has four homers and 15 RBIs in 22 games since being acquired by the Marlins off waivers from San Francisco on Aug. 3.

Mets 3, Diamondbacks 2: Jose Iglesias drove in Tyrone Taylor with a base hit in the ninth inning, and visiting New York rallied for a victory over Arizona.

Jesse Winker hit a one-out double in the ninth off Justin Martinez (5-5) before Taylor entered as a pinch runner. Taylor advanced to third on a fly ball to right from J.D. Martinez, and Iglesias ripped a hard grounder up the middle that deflected off the glove of diving shortstop Geraldo Perdomo.

The Mets improved to 6-4

over their past 10 games, which is a good record considering they've faced the Orioles, Padres and D-backs during that span. All three teams are among MLB's best.

Reds 10, Athletics 9: TJ Friedl capped host Cincinnati's three-run ninth inning with a two-run single, and the Reds beat Lawrence Butler and Oakland.

Tyler Stephenson and Will Benson homered for Cincinnati, which had lost five of six. Stephenson finished with three hits and two RBIs.

Butler hit three homers for Oakland and drove in four runs. It was his second three-homer game of the season after he also went deep three times in an 18-3 win at Philadelphia on July 14.

Blue Jays 2, Red Sox 0: Bowen Francis took a no-hitter into the sixth and left after allowing just one hit in seven innings, and visiting Toronto beat Boston.

Francis (8-3) faced the minimum through 5½ innings, with the only Boston baserunner coming when Jarren Duran reached on an error in the fourth. Duran was then thrown out trying to steal second.

The no-hit bid ended with one out in the sixth, when Nick Sogard blooped a soft single to center. Francis struck out five and walked none before leaving in the middle of the seventh with a 2-0 lead.

Phillies 5, Braves 4: Nick Castellanos hit a go-ahead two-run homer in seventh inning, Brandon Marsh hit a three-run shot in the sixth and host Philadelphia built on its NL East lead with a win over Atlanta.

The Phillies hold a six-game lead over the Braves for the division crown after taking the opener of a four-game series.

It got fun late for Philly.

Braves starter Charlie Morton allowed the leadoff runner to reach in five of the first six innings and struggled to throw strikes but was bailed out by a Philadelphia offense that wast-

ed runners in scoring position.

That is, until Marsh went deep the other way to left field off Morton for his 14th homer of the year that made it 4-3 in the sixth.

Astros 6, Royals 3: Zach Dezenzo drew a go-ahead bases-loaded walk and host Houston took advantage of two Kansas City errors in a four-run eighth inning to beat the Royals.

With two runners on and Astros trailing 3-2, Yainer Diaz hit a grounder to pitcher Lucas Eceg (2-5), who tried to barehand the comebacker, bobbled it and rushed a throw that got away from first baseman Vinnie Pasquantino. José Altuve scored from second on the play to tie the score. Pasquantino's glove hand appeared to collide with Diaz, and he exited the game with an apparent injury.

After reliever John Schreiber intentionally walked Ben Gamel to load the bases, Jeremy Peña grounded into a force out at home. Dezenzo then drew a walk to force in Diaz with the tiebreaking run. Mauricio Dubón followed with a single to left field to score Ben Gamel, and Peña also scored on a fielding error by left fielder MJ Melendez to make it 6-3.

Dodgers 6, Orioles 3: Bobby Miller gave up two hits in five strong innings and Los Angeles survived an 0-for-5 outing by Shohei Ohtani to beat Baltimore, taking two of three in the interleague matchup between two of baseball's best teams.

Every Dodger except Ohtani had a hit as the team rapped out 14 hits while winning for the eighth time in 10 games.

The Japanese superstar flied out four times and was retired on a called third strike a night after he hit his 42nd home run and stole his 41st and 42nd bases.

Miller (2-3) allowed three runs, struck out three and walked three.

Evan Phillips pitched the ninth to earn his 17th save.

No. 1 seeds Sinner, Swiatek advance

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Iga Swiatek and Jannik Sinner flashed their No. 1 form on Thursday with powerful performances that moved them into the third round of the U.S. Open.

Carlos Alcaraz and Naomi Osaka couldn't quite find the games that once had them on top of the rankings.

Those past U.S. Open champions were both knocked out Thursday night, with the No. 3-seeded Alcaraz's 15-match Grand Slam winning streak halted by a 6-1, 7-5, 6-4 loss to 74th-ranked Botic van de Zandschulp.

Swiatek raced by Japanese qualifier Ena Shibahara 6-0, 6-1, finishing off the match in 65 minutes. It took the 2022 U.S. Open champion longer than that to play the second set of her first-round match, when she needed a tiebreaker that she eventually closed out in 72 minutes.

"I just felt the rhythm was much better," Swiatek said. "I was a bit tense in my last match, so today I just wanted to focus

on the right things."

Earlier, Sinner downed Alex Michelsen 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 in 1 hour, 39 minutes.

But on the same Arthur Ashe Stadium court at night, Osaka's forehand faltered in key moments and the two-time U.S. Open champion was eliminated by Karolina Muchova 6-3, 7-6 (5).

Sinner dropped the first set in his opening match in New York but didn't encounter much trouble while facing his second straight American on Ashe. The Italian earned his 50th victory of the season, including his ATP Tour-leading 30th on hard courts.

His previous one was a little shaky after a slow start against Mackie McDonald, so Sinner got in a practice session after that match and was happy with the results Thursday.

"Trying to keep going, trying to understand what works here best on these courts. Let's see what I can do in the next round," he said.

That will be against Christopher O'Connell of Australia

on Saturday.

No. 5 seed Daniil Medvedev, the 2021 U.S. Open champion, moved into the third round along with No. 10 Alex de Minaur, who will next face Dan Evans. Evans' victory in a tidy 2 hours, 37 minutes was three hours quicker than it took him to beat Karen Khachanov in the first round, their match setting a U.S. Open record by lasting 5 hours, 35 minutes.

Sinner beat Michelsen for the second time this month, having also won a second-round match in Cincinnati shortly before it was revealed that he tested positive twice for an anabolic steroid in March.

Another Italian, Jasmine Paolini, played just three points before advancing when Karolina Pliskova appeared to injure her left foot. The No. 5-seeded Paolini, who has reached the finals of the French Open and Wimbledon in her breakout season, advanced past the second round of the U.S. Open for the first time.

"Finally, we made third round!" she said with a laugh

during an interview on the court.

Paolini will next play No. 30 seed Yulia Putintseva.

Other women's winners included No. 6 Jessica Pegula, No. 15 Anna Kalinskaya, No. 16 Liudmilla Samsonova and No. 18 Diana Shnaider.

Pegula took out fellow American Sofia Kenin.

No. 4 seed Elena Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, withdrew from the tournament before her second-round match with a lower back injury, sending French qualifier Jessika Ponchet to the weekend.

"Unfortunately, I have to withdraw from my match today due to my injuries," Rybakina said in a statement.

"I did not want to finish the last Grand Slam of the year this way but I have to listen to my body, and I hope I can close out the remainder of the year strong."

No. 7 seed Hurbert Hurkacz was eliminated in straight sets by Jordan Thompson, and No. 16 Sebastian Korda was knocked out by Tomas Machac.

Team USA keeps facilities open for Paralympians

Associated Press

PARIS — As Matt Simpson strolls off the goalball court, balls echo throughout the gymnasium. Simpson is sporting a black eye while his teammates continue practicing. The room is chaotic and the energy is high, but the most notable part of this room is that nobody is in it but Team USA Goalball.

For the first time, it's all theirs.

The United States delegation's High Performance Center is a state-of-the-art training compound located in the quiet suburb of Eaubonne, 10 miles north of Paris.

U.S. Olympic athletes have had access to this type of exclu-

sive facility since 2008. Now, Paralympians do, too.

"I think that (the HPC) is one of the biggest changes I've seen," said Dana Schoenwetter, games operations director at the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee.

"The equity in the support to our Olympians and Paralympians, it's been great."

Six years ago, staff members from the USOPC traveled to Paris on the hunt for a facility to host one of the largest teams to compete in the Paralympic Games. After two days and around 30 venue tours, they chose Athletica, a multisport training facility used by Eau-

bonne community members.

Team USA recently invested \$29 million in renovations targeting the HPC's dormitories, sports medicine facilities and training centers in preparation to host approximately 1,200 athletes across both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The athletes village is 10 miles away, allowing easy travel between the facilities.

Exclusive access to the compound allows athletes to train on their own schedule. Around 8,000 athletes reside in the Paralympic Village and share approximately 300 pieces of equipment there, compared to a little more than 200 U.S. ath-

letes sharing a facility the size of a small college athletic department. Having all that real estate makes a difference.

That is exactly what Schoenwetter and her team envisioned when deciding whether to keep the HPC open for the Paralympics.

"Giving them a competitive edge with their training and preparation for the Games, to us that's important," Schoenwetter said. "That's why we're here."

When the Games are over, Athletica will return to the Eaubonne community with the renovations a gift to the municipality from Team USA.