

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Japan plant to power electric Navy destroyers

BY SETH ROBSON

*Stars and Stripes*

A 4,160-volt power plant providing dockside energy to the newly arrived amphibious assault ship USS America at Sasebo Naval Base in Japan can also support the Zumwalt class of electric stealth destroyers, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The \$14.5 million Nippo Corp.-built plant, which underwent a series of tests last year, was officially opened on Dec. 19 at Sasebo's Juliet Wharf by the Navy, shortly after the 844-foot America dropped anchor in its new homeport, according to Sasebo resident engineer Donald George.

In port, most Navy warships receive electricity from 480-volt dockside power plants that require sailors to connect up to a dozen cables, George said in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

The America, along with newer Wasp-class amphibious ships, aircraft carriers and Zumwalt-class destroyers can hook up to 4,160-volt power, which requires half the number of cables, he said.

The Navy commissioned the USS Lyndon B. Johnson, the last of three Zumwalt-class destroyers, last April. The service had planned to put 32 of the electric stealth destroyers to sea but trimmed the number after the cost of each vessel blew up to \$7.8 billion, according to Popular Mechanics magazine.

The U.S. military has sent many of its most modern weapons systems to Japan to include the America, Marine Corps F-35B stealth fighters and Air Force CV-22 Osprey aircraft, but hasn't deployed the new destroyers there yet.

"The U.S. Navy continually monitors force readiness and capabilities to provide the most

robust, capable maritime force possible," Pacific Fleet spokesman Lt. James Adams said in an email on Thursday. "Long range planners constantly evaluate whether ships, aircraft, facilities and equipment are being used effectively and efficiently."

He said that the Japanese government and public are informed about any significant changes to U.S. military force structure in Japan.

Whatever happens to the Zumwalt-class warships, the Navy will likely rely more on electric propulsion systems over time, Arizona State University engineering professor Braden Allenby said in an email on Friday.

The ships use gas turbines to produce electricity, which is then used to power electric motors for propulsion, Allenby said.

"This means that many of the

components required by mechanical drive systems, such as complex gearboxes and clutches, are no longer required," he said.

The electricity generated can also be used to power weapons systems, including those that might be installed on warships in the future, he said.

"The Navy is building in power and weight margins into its newest platforms so that they can more readily accommodate new sensors and weapons as they become available," Colleen O'Rourke, a Naval Sea Systems Command spokesperson, said in an email on Friday.

If the electric warships arrive in Japan, they will have plenty of power available at Sasebo.

The high voltage flowing through cables attached to the new Sasebo plant means that sailors take extra precautions when they're hooking up ships, George said.

## Hawaii drills preview Alaska's future as a jet center

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — In April, Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska will receive its first three F-35A Lightning IIs. By the end of next year, the 354th Fighter Wing there will be flying 54 of the advanced stealth fighters in two squadrons.

If you want to know how that's going to change the Alaskan skies, you needed only look upward in Hawaii last week.

"A good snapshot is what I flew this morning," said Col. Benjamin Bishop, the 354th's commander, during an interview on Thursday at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Bishop led a group of four F-16s and, joined by four other F-16s and four F-22s, posing as enemy adversaries in an Aloha Sentry training drill. The opposing "good guys" were F-22s from the Hawaii Air National Guard and F-35s from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

"That's going to be daily operations at Eielson Air Force Base once F-35s are there," Bishop said. We're going to be training regularly, habitually, with F-22s. Our F-16 squadron is going to remain there as the two F-35 squadrons come in."

He now returns to Eielson, where \$500 million of infrastructure improvements are underway to make way for the F-35s and about 1,300 more

airmen and their families set to arrive by the end of next year. That's almost double the 750 who were stationed there when the Air Force announced its decision in April 2016 that Eielson would host the service's first operational overseas F-35As.

"We don't see any problems delivering the aircraft and operating the aircraft because of infrastructure," Bishop said.

From Eielson, the F-35 can cover most of the area under the U.S. European and Indo-Pacific commands in one sortie, he said.

And the Arctic itself is of growing strategic interest to the United States as climate change melts away ice and exposes once difficult-to-reach

natural resources, resulting in greater competition among nations to control the realm.

The Defense Department's Arctic strategy issued last year declared that American armed forces "must be able to quickly identify threats in the Arctic, respond promptly and effectively to those threats and shape the security environment to mitigate the prospect of those threats in the future."

The F-35s are essential in achieving that goal.

"As the northernmost fighter wing in the Department of Defense, the 354th has the unique ability to operate in the Arctic," Bishop said. "Being able to project air power from there is an exciting opportunity."

# DOD approves military bases for quarantine of coronavirus

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Saturday approved a request from the Department of Health and Human Services for the possible use of military facilities to accommodate 1,000 people who may have to be quarantined upon arrival due to a new virus.

A Defense Department statement said HHS officials requested the use of several facilities capable of housing at least 250 people in individual rooms through Feb. 29. HHS would be responsible for all care, transportation and security of the evacuees, according

to the statement.

The viral outbreak began in China, where the death toll rose above 300 this weekend. More than 14,000 people have been infected with the coronavirus globally, the vast majority of them on the Chinese mainland.

An order signed on Friday by President Donald Trump temporarily bars from front page entry to foreign nationals who have traveled to China within the last 14 days, with the exception of immediate family of U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

Americans returning from China will be allowed into the country but will face screening at select ports of entry and be

required to undertake 14 days of self-screening to ensure they don't pose a health risk.

Those returning from Hubei province, the center of the outbreak, will be subject to up to 14 days of mandatory quarantine.

The installations selected by the Defense Department are the 168th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, Fort Carson, Colo.; Travis Air Force Base, Calif.; Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

Nearly 200 Americans already are quarantined at a military base in Southern California after being evacuated from Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province.

## More homes lost to fires in Australia

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — Dozens of homes were destroyed overnight in Australia's southeast but the wildfire threat had diminished by Sunday across New South Wales state and around the national capital Canberra, officials said.

Bega Valley Mayor Kristy McBain said damage in her region 150 miles south of Canberra had yet to be assessed by the New South Wales Rural Fire Service.

"There have been additional homes lost in the Bega Valley," McBain said.

"We're talking probably dozens more. We want to make sure we continue to support our community. This fire isn't over yet," she added.

She said the overnight fire brought losses of homes in the valley to more than 400 in the current fire season.

Rural Fire Service spokesman Greg Allan said damage assessment teams had yet to confirm media reports of homes lost near the village of Bumbalong, 57 miles south of Canberra.

A dangerous fire threatened southern Canberra and the nearby village of Tharwa. The fire had burnt 136,000 acres of forest and farmland by Sunday, with a perimeter 92 miles long, the Australian Capital Territory Emergency Services Agency said.

Residents close to the fire front were warned on Sunday to remain vigilant.

"This morning the fire is still active. There are still days and possibly weeks of firefighting ahead of us," Australian Capital Territory Chief Minister Andrew Barr told reporters.

He said a state of emergency for Canberra and its surrounds would remain in place until at least Monday.

## Pentagon: South Korea-based troops face 'low risk' of getting coronavirus

BY KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. military imposed a two-week self-quarantine for troops who recently visited China on Sunday but said the overall risk of a new respiratory virus for American forces in South Korea remained low.

The death toll from the novel coronavirus rose to more than 300 — most in China — with thousands of infections reported there and several other countries, including South Korea and the United States.

The South announced three new confirmed cases on Sunday, raising its total to 15.

U.S. Forces Korea has urged people to follow guidelines from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, which include washing hands thoroughly and avoiding close contact with people who display symptoms.

The self-quarantine applies to service members who have returned to South Korea after traveling to mainland China on or after Jan. 19, regardless of whether they have symptoms, USFK said in a press release.

Health authorities say infected people usually develop symptoms — which are similar to those with a cold or the flu — within a two-week incubation period.

It's believed that the coronavirus is spread through droplets when somebody who is infected coughs or sneezes.

"USFK continues to stress the overall risk to USFK personnel remains low," the command said. "The quarantine measures implemented are out of an abundance of caution to mitigate risk to the USFK population."

Family members, American and South Korean civilian employees and United Nations

Command military also were "highly encouraged" to comply, it said.

No USFK personnel in South Korea have recently been to Wuhan, where the virus originated, or the surrounding Hubei province, it said.

On Friday, the State Department warned Americans to avoid all travel to China. The World Health Organization and the U.S. government have both designated the outbreak a public health emergency.

USFK, which commands some 28,500 American troops stationed on the divided peninsula, also launched a new website on Saturday dedicated to offering advice and monitoring the situation.

USFK commander Gen. Robert Abrams urged people to maintain good hygiene practices and go to the doctor if they display symptoms.

# Trump authorizes wider use of land mines

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

President Donald Trump on Friday canceled a 2014 policy by former President Barack Obama that restricted the use of anti-personnel land mines to the Korean Peninsula.

“The Department of Defense has determined that restrictions imposed on American forces by the Obama administration’s policy could place them at a severe disadvantage during a conflict against our adversaries. The president is unwilling to accept this risk to our troops,” the White House said in a statement.

The policy was changed to meet the demands of the National Defense Strategy, which has refocused the military on

the challenges of near-peer adversaries such as China and Russia and away from counterterrorism operations.

The change would authorize only combatant commanders in “exceptional circumstances” — without specifying what those circumstances could be — to use “advanced, non-persistent land mines” that are designed to reduced unintended harm to civilians and allies. The commanders would still need approval from the defense secretary to use land mines.

“We can go back to giving our soldiers, Marines this capability which may be decisive in a future conflict. And at the same time be absolutely committed to reducing and limiting civilian casualties. Then why

wouldn’t we do that?” Vic Mercado said Friday to reporters at the Pentagon. He is performing the duties of assistant secretary of defense for strategy, plans, and capabilities.

Combatant commanders are given the flexibility to plan the use of land mines if it involves situations that put military personnel in harm’s way, including a major conflict, according to Mercado. With the old policy, land mines were only used on the Korean Peninsula and other commanders could not plan to use them as a deterrent against an enemy — a concern during planning for great-power conflicts.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper emphasized earlier Friday that land mines are an im-

portant tool for commanders to use on the battlefield and for the protection of troops.

“At the end of the day, we want to make sure that we have all the tools in our tool kit that are legally available and effective to ensure our success and to ensure the protection of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines,” Esper told reporters.

The new policy was developed during former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis’ tenure, Esper said.

Esper made assurances that the new policy would consider the nature of land mines and their potential to harm civilians outside of war.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

# Army developing image-boosting binoculars

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Army is developing technology that will show faces in striking detail from a distance and immediately match them to identity databases — even in the dark.

The advanced facial recognition technology could aid soldiers in the field, but comes with some growing cybersecurity challenges, researchers and analysts said.

An Army prototype can boost image quality from thermal infrared cameras, so a soldier can identify faces at night through handheld binoculars from as far as 500 yards away, said Sean Hu, an electronics engineer for the U.S. Army Research Laboratory.

The technology, first announced in 2018, is in the experimental testing phase. The binoculars could enter field testing in just a few years, Hu

said.

The prototype binoculars and an attached laptop translate these thermal images into high-resolution so soldiers can see people’s eyes, nose and mouth in the dark.

But as the Army develops increasingly advanced technology, its enemies are also getting better at hacking into these systems, researchers said.

Hackers can cripple facial and object recognition systems

during development, said Mary-Anne Fields, program manager for intelligent systems at the Army Research Office.

The Army recently funded work by researchers at Duke University on stopping this type of “backdoor” attack, a statement said.

“These technologies are coming,” Fields said. “It’s up to us to make sure that these technologies ... won’t make catastrophic mistakes.”

# Protesters voice opposition of pick for PM-designate

*Associated Press*

BAGHDAD — Hundreds of anti-government demonstrators in Iraq rejected Sunday the new prime minister-designate who was recently nominated by rival government factions. Demonstrators have long sworn they would not accept a candidate chosen by Iraq’s establishment.

Saturday’s selection of former Communications Minister Mohammed Allawi, 66, to replace outgoing Prime Minister Adel

Abdul-Mahdi was the product of many back-room talks over months between rival parties, ending a political stalemate.

Hundreds of students voiced their rejection of Allawi at rallies in Baghdad’s central plazas and in southern Iraq. In Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the four-month anti-government protest movement, portraits of Allawi marked with an “X” hung over tunnels and buildings.

“We don’t want Allawi because he is a party member cho-

sen by the parties,” said Hadi Safir, a protester in Tahrir. “We want an independent nominee.”

Others were more diplomatic, said they would wait and see how Allawi would deliver on promises to hold early elections.

Student demonstrations were also held in the southern city of Basra to reject Allawi’s candidacy. Other protesters burned tires in the holy city of Najaf.

Mass anti-government protests erupted on Oct. 1, when thousands of Iraqis took to the

streets in Baghdad and the predominately Shiite provinces in southern Iraq to decry rampant government corruption, poor services and lack of employment. They came with lofty goals: overthrow the political establishment, pass electoral reforms and hold snap elections.

At least 500 have since died under fire from Iraqi security forces who have used live rounds and tear gas to disperse crowds.

# Fallout from Trump's Dorian claims revealed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A flurry of newly released emails from scientists and top officials at the federal agency responsible for weather forecasting clearly illustrates the consternation and outright alarm caused by President Donald Trump's false claim that Hurricane Dorian could hit Alabama.

A top National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration official even called the president's behavior "crazy."

What the scientists and offi-

cialists found even more troubling was a statement later issued by an unnamed NOAA spokesman that supported Trump's claim and repudiated the agency's own forecasters.

The emails, released late on Friday in response to Freedom of Information Act requests from The Associated Press and others, give an inside picture of the scramble to respond to the president and the turmoil it caused inside the federal agency.

"What's next? Climate science is a hoax?" Craig McLean,

NOAA's acting chief scientist, wrote in an email sent to the agency's top officials. "Flabbergasted to leave our forecasters hanging in the political wind."

In a more formal letter, McLean wrote that what concerned him most was that the Trump administration "is eroding the public trust in NOAA for an apparent political recovery from an ill-timed and imprecise comment from the President."

As Dorian headed for the southeastern U.S. in early Sep-

tember, Trump tweeted that Alabama was "most likely to be hit (much) harder than anticipated." The National Weather Service in Birmingham corrected him, tweeting that "Alabama will NOT see any impacts from #Dorian."

But Trump remained adamant, and NOAA came to his defense with the unsigned statement, which claimed some data provided to the president had indicated that Alabama could be hit by the hurricane and scolded the Birmingham office.

## London police call stabbings 'terrorism-related'

Associated Press

LONDON — Police shot and killed a man in south London after he wounded at least three people in "terrorism-related" stabbings Sunday, the city's police department said.

The attack in the Streatham neighborhood marked a departure from recent attacks in the British capital that took place near high-profile landmarks in

central London.

"The circumstances are being assessed," the Metropolitan Police force tweeted. "The incident has been declared as terrorist-related."

Police said they received reports of the stabbings around 2 p.m. Multiple emergency medical vehicles quickly filled the street as helicopters hovered overhead, according to video shared on social media.

One of the three stabbing victims is being treated for life-threatening injuries, Met Police said.

Witness Karker Tahir told Sky News that undercover police officers chased a man down the neighborhood's main commercial street.

"They kept telling him 'Stop, stop,'" Tahir said. "But he didn't stop, and then I saw that they shot him three times. It

was horrible seeing it.

"Police came to us and said, 'You have to leave the shop because he has a bomb in his bag,'" Tahir added.

The attack took place a little over two months after two people were stabbed to death near London Bridge by a man who had recently been released from the prison where he was serving a 16-year sentence for plotting a terror attack.

## More homes lost to Australia wildfires

Associated Press

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ens more. We want to make sure we continue to support our community. This fire isn't over yet," she added.

She said the overnight fire brought losses of homes in the valley to more than 400 in the current fire season.

A dangerous fire threatened southern Canberra and the nearby village of Tharwa. The fire had burnt 136,000 acres of forest and farmland by Sunday, with a perimeter 92 miles long, the Australian Capital Territory Emergency Services Agency said.

Residents close to the fire front were warned on Sunday to remain vigilant.

## Driver charged after death of 4 children in Australia

Associated Press

SYDNEY — An allegedly drunken driver has been charged with 20 offenses including manslaughter after an SUV struck seven children on a Sydney sidewalk, killing four and seriously injuring a fifth.

The children were walking to buy ice cream when they were struck on Saturday evening by a vehicle driven by Samuel Davidson, police said.

Three of the children killed were siblings and their brother was taken to a hospital in serious condition. The fourth child killed was the daughter of their father's cousin.

The father, Danny Abdallah,

told reporters on Sunday that he was heartbroken.

"I don't know what to say. I'm numb," Abdallah said. "All I want to say is please, drivers, be careful."

His children Antony, 13, Angelina, 12 and Sienna, 9, were killed. Their 10-year-old bother was in serious but stable condition.

Abdallah and his wife Leila had had six children. He said his cousin lost an 11-year-old child, Veronique Sakr.

Davidson was arrested at the scene on Saturday and remained in custody.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Video of card game at traffic light goes viral

**FL** CAPE CORAL — A video of three men playing cards at a folding table while waiting for the traffic light to change at a Florida intersection went viral.

The TikTok video was posted with the caption “Florida back at it with the long lights.” The video had more than a million likes, and thousands commented on the card game. A young boy is seen in the video watching the card players from the backseat of his car.

The News-Press reported the video doesn’t specify what Florida city the men were in, but thousands took the opportunity to rant about the most hated local intersections in the comments.

## Man bribes postal workers to steal mail

**NJ** NEWARK — A New Jersey man bribed postal service workers so they would steal checkbooks, credit cards and electronics from the mail, federal prosecutors said.

Jabre Beauvoir, 21, of Elizabeth was charged with bribery and receiving stolen mail.

Last year, between May and September, Beauvoir offered bribes to postal workers to steal various items, prosecutors said. Text messages showed Beauvoir instructing the workers to look for certain types of mailings containing material to be stolen.

## First legal pot shop opens in Cape Cod

**MA** PROVINCETOWN — Cape Cod has its first legal pot shop.

Curaleaf opened a recreational marijuana store in

Provincetown after town officials granted the Wakefield-based company approval.

There are more than 30 retail marijuana shops open in Massachusetts, which legalized recreational use of the drug in 2016. The first shops in the state didn’t open until 2018, and Cape Cod communities have been reluctant to allow the shops to open there.

One dispensary for medical marijuana patients operates in the region, but most towns specifically ban retail marijuana sales. Provincetown, at the tip of the Cape, is one of just six on the peninsula to allow it.

## Civil engineers get engaged atop bridge

**NH** PORTSMOUTH — A pair of civil engineers took their relationship to new heights atop a New Hampshire bridge.

Dan Del Tufo arranged to have the Memorial Bridge in Portsmouth lifted to its maximum height, and that’s where he surprised Julia Kallmerten with a marriage proposal — so she could, in his words, “aggravate me for the rest of my life.” She said yes.

The couple met at the University of New Hampshire, and both have worked on projects around the bridge, The Boston Globe reported.

## Woman steals 3 cars, slams others in spree

**NY** NEW YORK — A woman went on a car-jacking spree in Manhattan, stealing three cars, flipping one over and crashing into 15 other vehicles before being taken into custody, New York City police said.

Police said only minor injuries were reported, but the car-jackings snarled traffic on the

heavily traveled FDR Drive.

Aludein Marks, 25, of the Bronx was charged with multiple counts of robbery, grand larceny, driving while intoxicated and operating a motor vehicle while impaired by drugs.

She was finally arrested after crashing into a barrier across from City Hall.

## Theater marquee lights to continue blinking

**IN** GOSHEN — Twinkling light bulbs that give a northern Indiana theater’s marquee a dramatic appearance can continue blinking thanks to a zoning board’s nod to the building’s historic nature.

The Goshen Theater’s twinkling lights wouldn’t normally be allowed under Goshen’s zoning rules, but the city’s Board of Zoning Appeals voted to grant the theater a variance for its marquee, citing the 1907 theater’s history.

## Fossils of shark teeth, skeletons discovered

**KY** MAMMOTH CAVE — Paleontologists working at Mammoth Cave National Park said they discovered shark fossils that include part of a shark head and dorsal fins.

The “Mammoth Cave National Park Fossil Shark Research Project” began when specialists mapping the cave system discovered some fossils, The Courier-Journal reports reported.

The fossils were parts of the head of a shark that lived about 330 million years ago. The find includes a lower jaw, skull cartilage and several teeth from a species called “*Saivodus striatus*” from the Late Mississippian period, said John-Paul Hodnett, a paleontologist and program coordinator at Dinosaur Park in Maryland.

While shark teeth are one of the most common fossils on the planet, fossils of shark skeletons are uncommon because cartilage does not typically survive fossilization, Hodnett said.

## Pranksters fill potholes with green turf

**AZ** TUCSON — Pranksters apparently fed up with potholes in southern Arizona have filled them with bright green turf toupees.

The Arizona Daily Star reported 10 of the crumbling craters in Tucson have been filled with carefully cut patches of fake grass.

The illicit landscaping appeared in early January, much to the delight of some nearby residents.

They assumed it was a protest aimed at drawing the city’s attention to all the road damage in their historic neighborhood south of downtown. Peaceful pothole protests have become popular online in recent years.

## Coyote that bit woman didn’t have rabies

**WY** YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — A coyote that bit a cross-country skier in Yellowstone National Park didn’t have rabies, park officials said.

Rangers treated the unidentified 43-year-old woman at the Canyon Visitor Education Center for punctures and lacerations on her head and arm before she was taken to another medical facility, park officials said.

The young coyote may have been starving because it had porcupine quills in its jaw and mouth, Yellowstone wildlife biologist Doug Smith said in a statement. He said coyote attacks in the park are rare.

From wire reports

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and Military News

# Ravens QB Jackson unanimous MVP choice

Associated Press

MIAMI — Lamar Jackson's stunning season not only earned him The Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player Award, but he won it unanimously.

That's right: The second-year quarterback of the Baltimore Ravens joins Tom Brady as the only players to receive every vote for MVP.

Jackson drew all 50 votes from a nationwide panel of media members who regularly cover the league. Baltimore's All-Pro set an NFL record for yards rushing by a quarterback (1,206) and led an offense that compiled more yards on the ground (3,296) than any in league history. The Ravens won their final 12 games of the regular season to finish at 14-2, the league's best mark.

Jackson had a powerful message for kids who have been told they should change positions on the field and who face criticism and doubters.

"Make those people eat their

words," he said. "It feels good when you can make those people eat their words because they're so negative. How are you going to wake up and be so negative about somebody who's not negative toward you or don't do anything wrong? Don't worry about what they say. Do you. Stay focused because you want to be great, and you're going to be great. Just do you."

Brady was also an unanimous MVP in 2010. And like Brady, Jackson's special season did not include a championship.

"I'm still young," Jackson said. "I've still got a lot of work to do. I'm not really trying to dwell on what I just did. If I win a Super Bowl, you'll probably see a lot more emotion."

The Ravens were big winners at NFL Honors on Saturday. John Harbaugh won coaching honors, and his offensive coordinator, Greg Roman, took best assistant coach honors.

Tennessee's Ryan Tannehill earned the Comeback Player award by one vote over Jimmy

Garoppolo, who will quarterback the 49ers in Sunday's Super Bowl. New Orleans' Michael Thomas took top offensive player honors, while New England's Stephon Gilmore grabbed the defensive player award.

Rookie honors went to 49ers edge rusher Nick Bosa and Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray, the top overall pick in last April's draft.

Edge rusher Calais Campbell of the Jacksonville Jaguars won the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award.

Thomas is only the second wide receiver to win Offensive Player of the Year. He is in good company: The other receiver to take the honor was Hall of Famer Jerry Rice in 1987 and 1993.

While Rice holds virtually all of the significant NFL receiving records, Thomas has one that made a huge difference with the voters. Thomas caught a league-record 149 passes for 1,725 yards and nine touch-

downs. He also played five games without regular quarterback Drew Brees, yet made 42 catches in those outings.

"It was just consistency and following our leader, Drew Brees. He's been a tremendous example for everyone across the league," Thomas said. "I don't take that for granted. I take notes on how he prepares. ... Honestly, it's hard for me to even pat myself on the back without patting the people around me on the back, because they've helped me tremendously."

Gilmore is the first cornerback in a decade to win Defensive Player of the Year.

Considered one of the game's best cover cornerbacks, the All-Pro made his eighth pro season his best with a career-high six interceptions that tied for the NFL lead. Gilmore was a key member of the league's stingiest defense in 2019; New England allowed 225 points in winning an 11th straight AFC East title.

## Polamalu, Atwater among 5 elected to Hall

Associated Press

MIAMI — He grew his hair so long, it flowed out of his helmet and obscured the name on the back of his jersey.

Didn't matter. Everyone knew where to find Troy Polamalu on Sundays.

The Steelers great earned a spot in the Pro Football Hall of Fame along with another hard-hitting safety, Steve Atwater of Denver. Also voted in Saturday were receiver Isaac Bruce, running back Edgerrin James and guard Steve Hutchinson.

Polamalu said he went six or seven years, maybe longer, without cutting his hair during the prime of a career that lasted from 2003-14.

But as much as for the hair, he earned the nickname "Tasmanian Devil" for how he changed the way people thought about the safety position. Compact and fleet at 5-foot-10 and 200 pounds, Polamalu bolted around the field, and made plays from

practically anywhere. No quarterback, runner or receiver was safe.

Selected in his first year of eligibility, Polamalu was a four-time All-Pro, was voted to eight Pro Bowls and finished with two Super Bowl rings in three trips. His rambling, cross-the-field fourth-quarter pick-six against Joe Flacco in the 2008 AFC title game cemented the win and was a highlight of what might have been his best season; he had seven interceptions that year and the Steelers won the Super Bowl.

Polamalu will go in the same year as Pittsburgh coach Bill Cowher and defensive back Donnie Shell, each of whom were voted in as part of the hall's special centennial class designed to celebrate the NFL's 100th year.

"It's a huge blessing to go in with Coach Cowher and a tremendous honor to go in with Donnie Shell because the Steelers' defenses in the '70s laid our

foundation," Polamalu said.

"He's waking people up to the impact a safety can have in today's game," another safety, John Lynch, said in an interview while Polamalu was in his prime.

Tony Boselli, the dominant Jaguars offensive lineman whose career lasted only 91 games because of shoulder injuries did not make the cut. The Jaguars are still without a player in the hall.

An offensive lineman did make it, though. It was Steve Hutchinson, who played guard for the Seahawks, Vikings and Titans over a 12-year career. He'd been a finalist in all three years since becoming eligible and broke through in this, a class that didn't include any slam dunks — or a single quarterback among the list of finalists.

Atwater made it — in his 16th year of eligibility, no less. — and became the first homegrown Broncos defender to join

the hall.

A two-time All-Pro who won two Super Bowls, Atwater prowled the backfield and delivered vicious hits to anyone coming across. One irony of Atwater's late-recognized greatness is that many of his whiplash-inducing hits would be illegal in today's NFL.

James was a bastion of versatility and durability. A flashy first-round draft pick out of Miami, James made a name for himself with his ability to carve out room on the ground while playing in Peyton Manning's offense with the Colts from 1999-2005.

Bruce was a headliner in "The Greatest Show on Turf," the pass-happy attack run by Hall of Fame quarterback Kurt Warner when the Rams were in St. Louis.

His 15,208 yards receiving over 16 seasons were second in the NFL record book when he retired in 2009.

# Djokovic rallies for eighth Australian title

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Novak Djokovic was looking weary and worn down. He felt dizzy and trailed Dominic Thiem in the Australian Open final — miscues mounting, deficit growing.

Djokovic did what he does, though. He refused to lose, waited for a chance to pounce and found his best tennis when absolutely necessary. Even threw in a wrinkle, serve-and-volleying twice when facing break point.

Regaining his stamina and strokes, and showing some gutsy creativity, Djokovic came back to edge Thiem 6-4, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 Sunday night for an eighth Australian Open title, second in a row, and 17th Grand Slam trophy overall.

“I was on the brink of losing that match. ... I didn’t feel that great,” said Djokovic, who was seen multiple times by a doctor.

“My energy,” he explained, “completely collapsed.”

Nonetheless, Djokovic improved his

combined record in semifinals and finals at Melbourne Park to 16-0 and assured himself of returning to No. 1 in the rankings, replacing Rafael Nadal.

No other man in the history of tennis has won this hard-court tournament more than six times. Only Roger Federer, with 20, and Nadal, with 19, have won more men’s Grand Slam singles trophies than Djokovic.

“Amazing achievement. Unreal what you’re doing throughout all these years,” said the fifth-seeded Thiem.

## College basketball roundup

### Doughty leads No. 17 Auburn past No. 13 Kentucky

Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — Samir Doughty scored 23 points while making 14 of 15 free throws and No. 17 Auburn finished strong for a 75-66 defeat of No. 13 Kentucky on Saturday.

Isaac Okoro made a key three-pointer and scored 14 points for the Tigers (19-2, 6-2 Southeastern Conference), who dominated the final four minutes.

**No. 1 Baylor 68, TCU 52:** MaCio Teague scored 19 points with five three-pointers and the host Bears set a program record with their 18th win in a row.

**No. 2 Gonzaga 83, San Francisco 79:** Corey Kispert’s three-point play with 1:33 left put his team ahead for good and he added a jumper with 34 seconds remaining, helping the Bulldogs (23-1, 9-0 WCC) win on the road to extend their winning streak to 15 games.

**No. 3 Kansas 78, Texas Tech 75:** Devon Dotson scored 21 points and Marcus Garrett added 15 points for the host Jayhawks (18-3, 7-1 Big 12).

TJ Holyfield led the Red Raiders (13-8, 4-4) with 19 points.

**No. 4 San Diego State 80, Utah State 68:** With Kawhi Leonard watching from one baseline, Matt Mitchell scored 24 of his season-high 28 points in the second half — including three straight three-pointers — to help rally the host Aztecs.

San Diego State (23-0, 12-0

Mountain West) retired Leonard’s jersey at halftime.

**No. 5 Florida State 74, Virginia Tech 63:** Devin Vassell tied an ACC record by shooting 7-for-7 from three-point range and scored 27 points to lift the visiting Seminoles.

**No. 6 Louisville 77, North Carolina State 57:** Ryan McMahon made seven three-pointers and scored a season-high 23 points for the visiting Cardinals.

**No. 7 Dayton 70, Fordham 56:** Trey Landers matched his season high with 18 points, Obi Toppin also had 18 and the host Flyers got its 16th straight win over the Rams.

**Creighton 76, No. 8 Villanova 6:** Denzel Mahoney had 21 points and Mitch Ballock had nine of his 15 points in the second half to help the visiting Bluejays win in Philadelphia.

**No. 9 Duke 97, Syracuse 88:** Vernon Carey Jr. had 26 points and a season-high 17 rebounds for the 10th double-double of his freshman season and the Blue Devils on the road.

**Xavier 74, No. 10 Seton Hall 62:** Tyrique Jones had 19 points and 18 rebounds, and the Musketeers opened a big lead early and ended the host Pirates’ 10-game winning streak.

**Stanford 70, No. 11 Oregon 60:** Oscar da Silva scored a career-high 27 points and had 15 rebounds, helping the host Cardinal rally in the second

half to beat the Ducks.

**No. 12 West Virginia 66, Kansas State 57:** Derek Culver had 19 points and 14 rebounds to give coach Bob Huggins another milestone win. Huggins earned his 877th career win to move past Kentucky’s Adolph Rupp into seventh place in Division I. The Mountaineers (17-4, 5-3 Big 12) bounced back from a loss at Texas Tech on Wednesday, improved to 11-0 at home and ended a three-game losing streak to the Wildcats.

**Wisconsin 64, No. 14 Michigan State 63:** Nate Reuvers scored 15 points, D’Mitrik Trice had 14 and Aleem Ford added 13 to help the host Badgers edge the Spartans.

**Providence 65, No. 16 Butler 61:** Luwane Pipkins scored 22 points and made six consecutive free throws in the final minute for the visiting Friars (12-10, 5-4 Big East), who snapped a three-game losing streak.

**No. 20 Colorado 78, Southern California 57:** Tyler Bey scored 16 points and the Buffaloes (17-5, 6-3 Pac-12) won on the road.

**Cincinnati 64, No. 21 Houston 62:** Keith Williams scored 10 of his 12 points in the second half and the host Bearcats rallied from a 15-point deficit in the second half.

**No. 22 LSU 73, Mississippi 63:** Javonte Smart scored 13 of his season-high 21 points in

the last 16 minutes and the host Tigers (17-4, 8-0 Southeastern Conference) extended their winning streak to 10 games.

**Tulsa 54, No. 23 Wichita State 51:** Elijah Joiner caught an inbound pass with 3.3 seconds left and raced from one key to the next, connecting on a three-pointer as time expired to give the host Hurricane a victory.

Hundreds of fans in the near-sellout crowd of 8,089 stormed the court in a wild celebration.

**No. 24 Penn State 76, Nebraska 64:** Myles Dread scored 14 points, Lamar Stevens and Myreon Jones had 13 apiece, and the visiting Nittany Lions (16-5, 6-4 Big Ten) State pulled away early in the second half.

**Michigan 69, No. 25 Rutgers 63:** Brandon Johns Jr. scored a career-high 20 points and the visiting Wolverines won at New York’s Madison Square Garden for the 10th straight time. Jon Teske added 14 points as Michigan (13-8, 4-6 Big Ten) improved to 12-0 against the Scarlet Knights.

**Army 80, Lehigh 79:** Tommy Funk scored a career-high 33 points and the visiting Black Knights held off the Mountain Hawks for their sixth straight win.

**Loyola (Md.) 79, Navy 73:** Andrew Kosticka had 21 points as the host Greyhounds snapped an eight-game losing streak.

## NBA roundup

## Blazers' Lillard lights up Jazz in win

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Damian Lillard's hot streak continued with 51 points, including nine three-pointers, and 12 assists, and the Portland Trail Blazers defeated the Utah Jazz 124-107 on Saturday.

It was Lillard's NBA-record sixth straight game with at least six three-pointers.

Lillard has scored 40 or more points in five of his last six games, averaging 48.8 points over the span. It was his fourth straight double-double, a career best.

Hassan Whiteside added 17 points and 21 rebounds for the Blazers, who won their fourth straight to match their season high. Donovan Mitchell led the Jazz with 25 points.

**Clippers 118, Timberwolves 106:** Kawhi Leonard scored 31 points, his ninth straight game with at least that many, and the host Clippers beat the Timberwolves.

Karl-Anthony Towns countered with 32 points and 12 rebounds for Minnesota, his fourth consecutive game with 30 or more points, but it wasn't enough to keep his

team from losing its 11th in a row, matching the team's skid from December.

**Lakers 129, Kings 113:** LeBron James had another triple-double despite an off-night shooting, Anthony Davis scored 21 points and Los Angeles won at Sacramento for its first win since the death of Kobe Bryant.

**Wizards 113, Nets 107:** Bradley Beal scored 34 points, Thomas Bryant added 17 points and 10 rebounds and host Washington beat Brooklyn.

The Nets lost Kyrie Irving to a sprained right knee in the fourth quarter. He was held to a season-low 11 points, a night after scoring a season-best 54.

**Celtics 116, 76ers 95:** Jaylen Brown had 32 points and nine rebounds, and Jayson Tatum scored nine of his 25 points in a 99-second span that gave host Boston the lead for good.

**Warriors 131, Cavaliers 112:** At Cleveland, Glenn Robinson III scored 22 points, Draymond Green tied a career high with 16 assists and Golden State dominated the second half, winning a matchup between

teams at the bottom of the NBA standings.

**Mavericks 123, Hawks 100:** Jalen Brunson scored 27 points in his ninth start of the season, Dorian Finney-Smith added 22 points and Maxi Kleber 18 as host Dallas beat Atlanta in a game between teams with depleted rosters.

**Spurs 114, Hornets 90:** DeMar DeRozan had 24 points and San Antonio overcame a 19-point deficit to beat Charlotte in its final home game before a nearly month-long road trip.

**Heat 102, Magic 89:** Jimmy Butler scored 24 points and rookie Tyler Herro came off the bench with 23 to lead Miami to a 102-89 win in Orlando. Meyers Leonard had 18 points and 14 rebounds for the Heat before going to the bench with five fouls with 5:49 left in the game. Herro and Leonard combined for 10-of-19 shooting from three-point range.

**Knicks 92, Pacers 85:** Marcus Morris scored 28 points to lead New York to a win at Indiana.

## NHL roundup

## Eichel's OT goal propels Sabres past Blue Jackets

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Jack Eichel scored 36 seconds into overtime, and the Buffalo Sabres stopped the Columbus Blue Jackets 2-1 in overtime.

Eichel controlled the puck in making his way up the ice from his own zone. He then circled from the left side to the right circle and snapped a shot past Matiss Kivlenieks.

Evan Rodrigues also scored for Buffalo, which stopped a three-game slide. Carter Hutton made 22 saves for his first win since a 4-3 overtime victory against San Jose on Oct. 22.

Oliver Bjorkstrand scored for Columbus, which was coming off a nine-day break and had won six in a row. It was his fifth goal in three games since missing 13 with a rib injury.

**Oilers 8, Flames 3:** Connor McDavid scored twice to lead

visiting Edmonton over Calgary on Saturday.

Kailer Yamamoto had a goal and an assist for the Oilers, who have won two straight games since losing 4-3 in a shootout at home to the Flames on Wednesday.

**Canadiens 4, Panthers 0:** Jeff Petry had four assists, Carey Price made 29 saves and host Montreal snapped Florida's six-game win streak.

**Canucks 4, Islanders 3 (OT):** Quinn Hughes scored twice, including his eighth of the season 42 seconds into overtime, and visiting Vancouver earned its fifth consecutive victory.

**Jets 5, Blues 2:** Jack Rosslovic had two goals and an assist to lead host Winnipeg over St. Louis.

**Rangers 1, Red Wings 0:** Henrik Lundqvist made 33 saves for his first shutout of the season and Mika Zibanejad

scored in the first period, giving New York a win at Detroit.

**Stars 3, Devils 2 (OT):** Joe Pavelski scored 1:39 into overtime to lift Dallas over New Jersey.

**Maple Leafs 2, Senators 1 (OT):** Mitch Marner scored on a power play at 3:54 of overtime, leading host Toronto over Ottawa.

**Flyers 6, Avalanche 3:** Kevin Hayes and Joel Farabee scored two goals each and seldom-used reserve goaltender Alex Lyon made 28 saves to earn his first win in nearly two years as host Philadelphia beat Colorado.

**Golden Knights 3, Predators 0:** Chandler Stephenson, Nicolas Roy and Reilly Smith scored, Marc-Andre Fleury made 19 saves and Vegas won at Nashville.

**Bruins 6, Wild 1:** NHL scoring leader David Pastrnak

matched his career high with his 38th goal, Torey Krug scored twice and Boston had three power-play goals in the second period to surge to a win at Minnesota.

**Blackhawks 3, Coyotes 2 (SO):** Patrick Kane scored in the overtime shootout and ran his points streak to 12 games, and Corey Crawford stopped both shootout attempts he faced, leading Chicago to a win at Arizona.

**Ducks 3, Kings 1:** Ryan Miller made 46 saves and Anaheim won at Los Angeles.

It is the 42nd time in Miller's 17-year career that he has made more than 40 saves in a game.

**Lightning 3, Sharks 0:** Nikita Kucherov, Steven Stamkos and Ondrej Palat scored, Curtis McElhinney recorded his first shutout of the season and Tampa Bay won at San Jose.