

## Impeachment trial set to begin

*Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's historic second impeachment trial is opening this week with a sense of urgency — by Democrats who want to hold the former president accountable for the violent U.S. Capitol siege and Republicans who want it over as fast as possible.

Scheduled to begin Tuesday, just over a month since the deadly riot, the proceedings are expected to diverge from the lengthy, complicated trial that resulted in Trump's acquittal a year ago on charges that he privately pressured Ukraine to dig up dirt on a Democratic rival, Joe Biden, now the president. This time, Trump's Jan. 6 rally cry to "fight like hell" and the storming of the Capitol played out for the world to see. While Trump very well could be acquitted again, the trial could be over in half the time.

Details of the proceedings are still being negotiated by the Senate leaders, with the duration of opening arguments, senators' questions and deliberations all up for debate.

So far, it appears there will be few witnesses called, as the prosecutors and defense attorneys speak directly to senators who have been sworn to deliver "impartial

justice" as jurors. Most are also witnesses to the siege, having fled for safety that day as the rioters broke into the Capitol and temporarily halted the electoral count certifying Biden's victory.

Defense attorneys for Trump declined a request for him to testify. Holed up at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Fla., the former president has been silenced on social media by Twitter without public comments since leaving the White House.

Instead, House managers prosecuting the case are expected to rely on the trove of videos from the siege, along with Trump's incendiary rhetoric refusing to concede the election, to make their case. His new defense team has said it plans to counter with its own cache of videos of Democratic politicians making fiery speeches.

"We have the unusual circumstance where on the very first day of the trial, when those managers walk on the floor of the Senate, there will already be over 100 witnesses present," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who led Trump's first impeachment. "Whether you need additional witnesses will be a strategic call."

Trump is the first president to be twice impeached, and the only one to face trial af-

ter leaving the White House. The Democratic-led House approved a sole charge, "incitement of insurrection," acting swiftly one week after the riot, the most violent attack on Congress in more than 200 years. Five people died including a woman shot by police inside the building and a police officer who died of injuries the next day.

Democrats argue it's not only about winning conviction, but holding the former president accountable for his actions, even though he's out of office. For Republicans, the trial will test their political loyalty to Trump and his enduring grip on the GOP.

Initially repulsed by the graphic images of the siege, Republican senators including Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell denounced the violence and pointed a finger of blame at Trump. But in recent weeks GOP senators have rallied around Trump arguing his comments do not make him responsible for the violence.

Senators were sworn in as jurors late last month, shortly after Biden was inaugurated, but the trial proceedings were delayed as Democrats focused on confirming the new president's initial Cabinet picks and Republicans sought to put as much distance as possible from the bloody riot.

## US goes 1 year without Afghan combat death

**By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN**

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — No U.S. troops have died in combat in Afghanistan for a year as of Monday, but the Taliban have threatened to target them again if Washington opts to keep international forces in the country after a May withdrawal deadline.

Army Sgts. 1st Class Javier Gutierrez and Antonio Rodriguez were the last Americans to die in battle in Afghanistan on Feb. 8, 2020. Two other service members — Army Staff Sgt. Ian McLaughlin and Army Pfc. Miguel Villalon — were killed in combat there in January last year.

Weeks after their deaths, the United States and Taliban signed a deal under which Washington pledged to fully withdraw U.S.-led international forces from the

country by May 1 of this year. The deal hinges on the Taliban holding up their end of the agreement, including stopping attacks on foreign troops and barring terrorist groups such as al-Qaida from using Afghanistan as a springboard to attack the U.S. or its allies.

Despite the February deal, which was brokered by the Trump administration, violence surged last year and United Nations officials have said al-Qaida remains "heavily embedded" with the Taliban.

After President Joe Biden took office last month, national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the U.S. was "taking a hard look at the extent to which the Taliban are complying" with the deal as Washington weighs "our force posture and our diplomatic strategy" in Afghanistan.

A report released last week by a panel set up by Congress to study the deal called for the withdrawal deadline to be pushed back.

If the drawdown goes ahead as scheduled, terrorist groups would have "the opportunity to reconstitute" within 18 to 36 months, one of the study panel's chairs, Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr., a retired four-star Marine general who once led international forces in Afghanistan, said in a virtual news conference.

As Washington mulls how to move forward, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid warned that the insurgents "will definitely return to war" if the U.S. "rejects this deal."

He did not say if the Taliban would be open to pushing back the withdrawal deadline.

# Afghan pilot reapplies for US asylum

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan air force pilot has again applied for refuge in the United States after the Pentagon reversed its previous decision to endorse his move.

The government is reviewing Maj. Mohammed Naiem Asadi's new application for Significant Public Benefit Parole, a temporary status for noncitizens in need of protection, his lawyer Kimberley Motley said Sunday.

"It's tragic that Maj. Asadi and his family have to leave Afghanistan, but if they don't, they'll probably be killed," Motley said. She said she does not have a time frame for a decision.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services spokeswoman Victoria A. Palmer declined to comment on Asadi's case, citing privacy restrictions.

Last year, Asadi received a

rare endorsement by the Pentagon to move to America with his family because he was in "imminent danger of being killed by the Taliban," approval documents said.

But the Defense Department withdrew its approval, saying that senior officials had not been consulted. A Pentagon spokesman told The Wall Street Journal last year that so many military personnel are under threat that letting them seek refuge in America would "absolutely gut the Afghan security forces."

The reversal angered U.S. advisers who vouched for Asadi. The helicopter pilot had protected the life of a downed U.S. flyer last year and had been, by one adviser's estimate, in the cockpit for 70% of all missions in southern Afghanistan.

"The U.S. government agreed to get him out of the country ... once you make the move, there's no going back," said

John S. Anderson, a retired Army chief warrant officer who helped train Asadi.

As Asadi remains in hiding, a wave of assassinations has claimed the lives of two other pilots, who died in shootings in Kandahar and Kabul in recent weeks.

The targeted killings are part of the continuing bloodshed in the country, which Afghan officials say has included at least 20,000 Afghan troop deaths in the past two years.

The killings underscore the threats pilots face, despite the billions invested by the U.S. into developing the country's fledgling air force and its personnel.

"You're spending a lot of money to train them, and then a person comes and shoots them for a few hundred dollars," said Waheed Atal, brother of Masood Atal, the pilot killed in Kandahar. "What's the point, making him a pilot ... if you cannot protect him?"

Pilots who report threats against them often receive little sympathy and may be threatened with punishment or even imprisonment, said Niloofar Rahmani, Afghanistan's first female fixed-wing pilot.

Rahmani, who received asylum in the U.S. in 2018 after receiving numerous death threats, said when she brought up her concerns, "instead of supporting me, helping me ... they came up and said I am lying about everything."

U.S. and Afghan military officials say that there are efforts to better protect pilots but would not give specific details, citing a need to not reveal security measures to the Taliban.

Asadi said he was hopeful he could one day come to America with his wife Rahima and their 4-year-old daughter, Zainab.

"I am happy and feeling positive," he said in a text message. "I hope they keep their promise."

## Marines' Australia rotation nears full strength

By SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Marine Corps' rotation to Australia will be back at nearly full strength this year, with 2,200 Marines expected in the country's north by June, according to Australia's Department of Defence.

"The U.S. and Australian governments will continue the tenth iteration of the Marine Rotational Force ... as scheduled," said a statement Saturday from Marine Rotational Force-Darwin, referring to the six-month training rotation that began in 2012.

The onset of the coronavirus pandemic meant last year's force was cut by more than half, well short of the 2,500 Marines who went Down Under in 2019.

"It is an honor to build upon the continuing legacy of the outstanding U.S.-Aus-

tralian alliance," Col. David Banning, the Marine Rotational Force-Darwin commander, said in the statement.

This year's rotation will begin soon with groups of 200 to 500 personnel arriving over the next five months, according to an Australian Defence Department statement Saturday.

Australian Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds said in the statement that the rotation would build on the success of last year's modified deployment.

"The ability for this year's MRF-D to go ahead under challenging global circumstance, is a testament to the endurance and adaptability of the Australia-US Alliance," she said.

Marines and Australian troops will train for humanitarian assistance mis-

sions and security operations and conduct live-fire exercises, she said.

The Marines and Australians also hope to train with partner countries, including during Talisman Sabre drills, she said. In 2019, Japan, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom participated in the exercise.

The biennial Talisman Sabre, which involved 34,000 U.S. and Australian personnel in 2019, is scheduled to kick off in late June and peak July 18-31, according to the Australian Defence Force.

The first two groups of Marines to arrive in Darwin will quarantine for 14 days at an Australian military base. Remaining groups will quarantine in a secure facility leased by the Marines outside of Darwin, according to the Marines' statement.

# Fauci: US vaccinations to increase in spring

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — Public health officials and experts injected some optimism into a dreary cycle of news about the coronavirus pandemic in the United States on Sunday, sounding hopeful about the springtime availability of vaccines and doses.

Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious-diseases doctor, acknowledged that the demand for vaccinations "clearly outstrips supply right now," but he said he expects the situation to improve in the coming months.

"I can tell you that things are going to get better as we get from February into March, into April because the number of vaccine doses that will be available will increase substantially," Fauci said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

He said the country's swell-

ing stock will come from two sources: the already approved Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which he said are "coming off the line as quickly as we can"; and a vaccine from Johnson & Johnson, which submitted the single-shot drug to U.S. regulators on Thursday.

Fauci's forecast comes as the United States vaccinates more people each day. On Saturday, states administered nearly 2 million doses, according to Washington Post data. That round of shots increased the country's daily average to 1.4 million, just shy of the 1.5 million-per-day goal President Joe Biden floated on the sixth day of his administration.

Biden surprised many, even his own aides, when he said: "I think, with the grace of God, and the goodwill of the neighbor, and the creek not rising, as the

old saying goes, I think we may be able to get that to 1.5 million a day."

But the country is still in a dark place. Even though the number of new infections has been steadily declining for nearly a month, the current average — more than 120,000 cases per day — far outpaces the surges seen in the spring and the summer. COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, is killing thousands of Americans each day.

New virus variants have made matters more dire. Research made public Sunday found that the mutant strain first found in the United Kingdom is spreading rapidly across the United States, doubling in prevalence every 10 days — and faster in Florida, the third most populous state. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

has estimated that the variant, known as B.1.1.7, will become dominant in the U.S. by late March.

The virus variant's swift spread has intensified pressure on the effort to vaccinate as many people as possible, as fast as possible. One approach that experts in the U.S. and abroad have suggested is to use all available vaccine supply on first doses, giving a wider pool of people at least partial protection and delaying the second dose, which boosts the vaccines' effectiveness.

Michael Osterholm, one of Biden's coronavirus advisers, has said the strategy deserves further consideration. But on Sunday, Fauci said that there's no time to study it and that the country is better off sticking to the two-dose rollout that was the subject of clinical trials.

## Next step, Mars: 3 crafts arriving in quick succession

*Associated Press*

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — After hurtling hundreds of millions of miles through space since last summer, three robotic explorers are ready to hit the brakes at Mars.

The stakes — and anxiety — are sky high.

The United Arab Emirates' orbiter reaches Mars on Tuesday, followed less than 24 hours later by China's orbiter-rover combo. NASA's rover, the cosmic caboose, will arrive on the scene a week later, on Feb. 18, to collect rocks for return to Earth — a key step in determining whether life ever existed at Mars.

The UAE and China are newcomers at Mars, where more than half of Earth's emissaries have failed. China's first Mars mission, a joint effort with Russia in 2011, never made it past Earth's orbit.

All three spacecraft rocketed away within days of one another last July, during an Earth-to-

Mars launch window that occurs only every two years. That's why their arrivals are also close together.

Called Amal, or Hope in Arabic, the Gulf nation's spacecraft is seeking an especially high orbit — 13,500 by 27,000 miles high — all the better to monitor the Martian weather.

China's duo — called Tianwen-1, or "Quest for Heavenly Truth" — will remain paired in orbit until May, when the rover separates to descend to the surface. If all goes well, it will be only the second country to land successfully on the red planet.

The U.S. rover Perseverance, by contrast, will dive in straight away for a harrowing sky-crane touchdown similar to the Curiosity rover's grand Martian entrance in 2012. The odds are in NASA's favor: It's nailed eight of its nine attempted Mars landings.

Perseverance's \$3 billion mission is the first leg in a U.S.-European effort to bring Mars samples to Earth in the next decade.

## Rescuers in India dig for 37 trapped in glacier flood

*Associated Press*

RUDRAPRAYAG, India — Rescuers in northern India were working Monday to rescue more than three dozen power plant workers trapped in a tunnel after part of a Himalayan glacier broke off and sent a wall of water and debris rushing down the mountain in a disaster that has left at least 26 people dead and 165 missing.

More than 2,000 members of the military, paramilitary groups and police have taken part in search-and-rescue operations in the northern state of Uttarakhand after Sunday's flood, which destroyed one dam, damaged another and washed away homes downstream. Officials said the focus was on saving 37 workers who are stuck in a tunnel at one of the affected hydropower plants. Excavators were brought in to help with the efforts to reach the workers, who have been out of contact since the flood.

"The tunnel is filled with debris, which has come from the river. We are using machines to clear the

way," said H. Gurung, a senior official of the paramilitary Indo Tibetan Border Police.

Authorities fear many more are dead and were searching for bodies downstream using boats. They also walked along river banks and used binoculars to scan for bodies that might have been washed downstream.

The flood was caused when a portion of Nanda Devi glacier snapped off Sunday morning, releasing water trapped behind it. Experts said the disaster could be linked to global warming, and a team of scientists was flown to the site Monday to investigate exactly what happened.

The floodwater rushed down the mountain and into other bodies of water, forcing the evacuation of many villages along the banks of the Alaknanda and Dhauliganga rivers. Video showed the muddy, concrete-gray floodwaters tumbling through a valley and surging into a dam, breaking it into pieces with little resistance before roaring on downstream.



# Schools plan for remote learning into fall

*From wire reports*

Parents of schoolchildren learning from home shouldn't necessarily count on reclaiming the dining room table any time soon.

After seeing two academic years thrown off course by the pandemic, school leaders around the country are planning for the possibility of more distance learning next fall at the start of yet another school year.

"We have no illusions that COVID will be eradicated by the time the start of the school year comes up," said William "Chip" Sudderth III, a spokesperson for Durham, N.C., schools, whose students have been out of school buildings since March.

President Joe Biden has made reopening schools a top priority, but administrators say there is much to consider as new strains of the coronavirus appear and teachers wait their turn for vaccinations.

## Delaware

Poultry workers in Delaware are now prioritized as essential employees under the state's Phase 1B of vaccine distribution.

The News Journal reported Monday that leaders in the industry and state are now faced with the next step of getting shots into workers' arms.

But it won't be an easy task. There's a vaccine shortage and language barriers to contend with because many of the workers are part of Delaware's Latino and Haitian immigrant communities.

Representatives from two companies, Mountaire and Perdue, said they are deep into multi-lingual educational campaigns to spread awareness about the importance of the vaccine. The campaigns include signs around the workplace dispelling vaccine myths and letters mailed to employees' homes.

## Florida

Outside Raymond James Sta-

dium on Sunday night, three barefaced Buccaneers fans jumped up and down on the roof of a white car, waving their arms. One man held out his phone and recorded the largely maskless Tampa crowd cheering, flying flags, hugging and colliding into each other as the Tom Brady-led Buccaneers won the franchise's first Super Bowl in 18 years.

Throughout Tampa this weekend, hordes of football fans crammed into bars, clogged up streets and belting chants — many without masks, despite dire warnings from public health experts that the Super Bowl could become a super-spreader event.

In the days leading up to football's biggest night, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, urged Americans to stay home and "just lay low and cool it." Tampa Mayor Jane Castor, a Democrat, made a video asking fans to cover their faces after she updated the city's mask mandate to include all outdoor areas used for Super Bowl events and gatherings.

## Georgia

ATLANTA — Georgia court officials said they are hopeful jury trials will resume in March given the recent decline in coronavirus cases along with the rollout of vaccines.

State Supreme Court Chief Justice Harold D. Melton signed an order Sunday extending a statewide judicial emergency for another 30 days that suspends the trials because of concerns about COVID-19. But the order says the surge in virus cases that led to the suspension "appears now to be declining."

Melton said courts have worked on safety plans for the resumption that comply with public health guidance and guidelines put together by a judicial task force.

Jury trials pose challenges for efforts to contain the coronavirus because they require large

numbers of people to come to court locations.

## Illinois

CHICAGO — Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot touted a preliminary agreement with the teachers union over COVID-19 safety protocols Sunday, potentially averting a strike in the nation's third-largest school district.

Some students could return to classrooms as soon as Thursday, with the reopening of school phased-in by grade. The city also agreed to vaccinate 1,500 teachers and staff weekly at vaccination sites dedicated to Chicago Public Schools. The possible deal — which still requires approval from the Chicago Teachers Union — also includes metrics that would trigger school closings when cases spike.

Under the proposal, teachers and students in pre-K and special education would return in the first wave starting Thursday. Students in K-5 would return March 1, and students in grades 6-8 would return March 8. No date was given for high school students, who would continue remote learning until further notice.

## Iowa

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican, announced Friday that she will be lifting COVID-19 restrictions including the use of masks, social distancing and limitations on social gatherings, yet at least two cities have said they will keep their own measures in place, arguing that this is not the time to "let the guard down."

Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie, a Democrat, announced Saturday that the city's mask mandate will remain, and he criticized Reynolds' "confusing" decision, saying it "can't be rationalized with the number of positive cases we continue to see across the state and here in Polk County."

Iowa City, which instituted a

mask mandate in July, long before the Republican governor followed suit, also responded with a rejection of the new orders and said Saturday that it will continue to maintain its mask mandate.

## Vermont

WINOOSKI — The Vermont Department of Health has set up a pop-up clinic in Winooski to vaccinate refugees and immigrants in the area who are aged 75 and older.

On Saturday, 50 new Americans received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, WCAX-TV reported. It was the second clinic held for these populations.

The Health Department has been working with the University of Vermont Medical School, the Association of Africans Living in Vermont, and other organizations to provide information about the vaccine to these Vermonters in their native language.

The past summer, an outbreak of the coronavirus hit tightly knit immigrant communities in Winooski and spread to Burlington.

## Wisconsin

KENOSHA — A Paddock Lake man is facing charges after he was accused of punching a security guard who reminded him to wear a mask at a Kenosha grocery store.

Police recommended that the man in his 50s be charged with battery and disorderly conduct. The incident happened Saturday night at Woodman's Food Market.

First responders were called to treat the guard for minor injuries, the Kenosha News reported.

At Woodman's Market locations in Wisconsin and other states, employees and customers are required to wear masks to stem the spread of COVID-19, whether or not there is a government order, company President Clint Woodman said.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

**Sinkhole opens up amid pipe break, SUV falls in**

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — A sinkhole that opened up on a north Philadelphia street amid a 12-inch water main break swallowed a sport utility vehicle.

WCAU-TV reported that the hole appeared on a street in the Logan neighborhood near Einstein Medical Center as streams of water shot into the air from the main break.

The SUV didn't appear to have major damage, but the condition of the driver wasn't immediately known.

The Philadelphia Water Department said crews responded and were able to isolate the 12-inch main break and stop the flow. They said an unoccupied vehicle was being removed to allow repairs to begin. One residential building was reported without water.

**Man charged with shining laser into police airplane**

**FL** ORLANDO — A Florida man was charged with shining a laser into the cockpit of a Florida Highway Patrol airplane as it was attempting to land.

Officer J.C. Pollack said he was landing his airplane at Orlando Executive Airport when the cockpit filled with a blinding green light.

He spotted the green light at a construction site near the airport before it again was pointed into his cockpit.

Guillermo Negron Roque, 47, was arrested after admitting to using the laser and charged with pointing a laser light at a pilot, which is a felony. Negron Roque told troopers he didn't intention-

ally shine it at Pollack's plane, according to Pollack's report.

**Toddler in back seat of stolen SUV found safe**

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — A 1-year-old boy who was in the back seat of an SUV that was stolen in Minneapolis was found safe, authorities said.

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension canceled an Amber Alert for Da'Merion Ni'mer White.

Minneapolis police said Brooklyn Center officers told them they located the stolen SUV and missing toddler approximately two hours after the vehicle was taken. A citizen spotted the vehicle and called Brooklyn Center police. Authorities said the SUV was left running outside the entrance to a church and the suspect fled.

The boy was taken to a medical facility to be checked, which is standard procedure. Investigators are processing the vehicle for forensic evidence.

**Man charged with issuing gun threats to juveniles**

**DE** DOVER — A Delaware man was charged with aggravated menacing after he allegedly held a BB gun to the head of an 8-year-old child.

Dover police said Raymond Lebeau Jr., 39, was arrested after officers were called to a home for a disturbance.

Police spokesman Sgt. Mark Hoffman said an investigation determined that Lebeau allegedly threatened to harm two juveniles. The children's mother arrived and broke up the confrontation.

Officers located a black BB gun/handgun replica at the scene, Hoffman told the Delaware State News. Lebeau was also charged with two counts of terroristic threatening. He was released on \$5,000 unsecured bond.

**Police: Man shot, killed after 'prank' robbery**

**TN** NASHVILLE — Police in Tennessee are investigating after a man was shot and killed during a robbery "prank" for a YouTube video.

Nashville police responded to the parking lot of an Urban Air indoor trampoline park, where David Starnes Jr., 23, admitted to shooting Timothy Wilks, 20, according to a news release from the police.

Witnesses told detectives that Wilks and a friend were participating in a "prank" robbery as part of a YouTube video when they approached a group of people, including Starnes, with butcher knives. Starnes said he was unaware of the prank and shot Wilks to defend himself and the people he was with.

No one has been charged in Wilks' death. The investigation is ongoing.

**Music to my fears: Man swallows earbud in sleep**

**MA** BOSTON — A man is warning people against using headphones while falling asleep after health care workers had to remove a wireless earbud from his esophagus.

Worcester resident Brad Gauthier, who detailed his bizarre experience in a Facebook post, went to bed listening to music. He woke up, shoveled snow for about an hour, and then went inside to take a sip of water. But

the liquid wouldn't go down, and he had to lean over to drain it from his throat.

Gauthier also noticed he was missing one of his two wireless earbuds, which he said he typically uses as he falls asleep.

Gauthier's son suggested that perhaps his father had swallowed the earbud, which is exactly what an X-ray at a local emergency room revealed. The small plastic device was lodged in his lower esophagus and removed during an emergency endoscopy.

**Wallet lost in Antarctica in '60s returned to owner**

**CA** SAN DIEGO — Paul Grisham's wallet was missing for so long at the bottom of the world he forgot all about it.

Fifty-three years later, the 91-year-old San Diego man has the billfold back along with mementos of his 13-month assignment as a Navy meteorologist in Antarctica in the 1960s.

The wallet contained his Navy ID card, driver's license, a pocket reference card on what to do during atomic, biological and chemical attacks, a beer ration punch card, a tax withholding statement and receipts for money orders sent to his wife.

It was found behind a locker in 2014 during demolition of a building at McMurdo Station on Antarctica's Ross Island. But finding its owner took emails, Facebook messages and letters exchanged among a group of amateur online sleuths.

— From wire reports

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# Masterful Brady is MVP for 5th time

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tom Brady took one final snap, went down on his knee, popped up and hugged his Tampa Bay Buccaneers teammates.

With that big, familiar smile.

They were champions and Brady put together another vintage performance on football's biggest stage — doing everything his unquestioned greatness has forced the world to expect whenever he takes the field.

In whatever uniform or city he's in.

Brady was masterful. He was magnificent. He was the Super Bowl MVP.

Again. For the fifth time. At 43 years old.

Brady delivered Tampa Bay its second Lombardi Trophy, and first since 2003, with a 31-9 victory over Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday night.

"Being down here and experiencing it this with this group of guys, every year is amazing, and this team is world champions forever," Brady said. "You can't take that away from us, so thank you guys, thank you all."

He was in control from beginning to end, going 21-for-29 for 201 yards with three touchdowns — all to some old buddies from New England — two to Rob Gronkowski and another to Antonio Brown. He even showed some of that competitive fire that has guided his career, jawing with Chiefs safety Tyrann Mathieu in the middle of the field after Brown's TD.

After not throwing a touchdown pass in the first quarter of his previous nine Super Bowls, Brady eliminated that glitch on his resume with an 8-yard toss to Gronkowski — who came out of retirement for a moment like this — with 37 seconds left.

By going 16-for-20 in the first half, he also added a record to his mile-long list as the first player in Super Bowl history to complete 80% of his passes and throw for three touchdowns in any half.

This is all old hat to an ageless wonder with so many championship rings — now, seven of them. But this one was different from those others with Bill Belichick and the Patriots, with whom he already had established an unmatched legacy.

In 2002, Brady burst onto the scene with his first Super Bowl MVP award by beating the then-St. Louis Rams. He got his second two years later with a 32-29 win over Carolina. In 2015, Brady threw four TD passes in a 28-24 victory over Seattle that was sealed by Malcolm Butler's goal-line interception.

Four years ago, Brady passed for 466 yards in leading the Patriots back from a 28-3 halftime victory to a 34-28 win over Atlanta.

Consider this: At this time a year ago, Brady didn't know where he would be playing. His contract with the Patriots was expiring and he chose to not re-sign with the only team for which he played.

And there were doubts — not from Brady, of course — as to whether he could still be the final piece for another team. Bruce Arians and the Buccaneers jumped at the chance and signed him in March, and the expectations suddenly rose.

It's the aura Brady naturally exudes. He's a winner, and the Buccaneers were instant believers.

## Chiefs see red amid a sea of yellow, lose composure

Associated Press

Offsides. Unnecessary roughness. Unsportsmanlike conduct. Pass interference. And holding. Lots of holding.

All those penalties were too much even for Patrick Mahomes to overcome: Good as Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were Sunday — worthy champions, certainly — the Kansas City Chiefs put on a textbook display of how not to perform in a Super Bowl.

By halftime, the defending champs had amassed more penalties (8) than points (6) — and more frustration than hope. It was an undisciplined, uncharacteristic and somewhat unbelievable loss of composure that set the stage for a 31-9 drubbing at the hands of the Bucs that very few saw coming.

Kansas City's 95 penalty yards in the first half were the most by any team in the first half of any of the 269 regular-season and playoff games this season. They were one more yard than Kansas City had racked up in any single game all year. The Chiefs only committed three penalties in the second half to finish the game with 11 for 120 yards.

It hardly counted as progress.

"It was uncharacteristic, and it was too bad it happened today," coach Andy Reid said.

The team that ran like a classy, unstoppable machine through one championship season, and over 16 more wins en route to their second straight title game, imploded. The Chiefs got too handsy in a vain attempt to cover Tampa Bay's receivers, too jumpy on the line of scrimmage, too chippy when things didn't go their way.

Each one of the eight first-half penalties hurt in its own way, none more than the two pass interference calls over the span of three plays that led to a touchdown and a 21-6 Bucs lead right before halftime. The drive started at the Tampa 29 with 1:01 left. Reid burned two timeouts, after two short Bucs gains, thinking the Chiefs might get the ball back.

They didn't.

The face of all this Kansas City frustration: It was defensive back Tyrann Mathieu, who, one play after a 34-yard pass interference call that put the Bucs in business, got hit with an interference call of his own that

gave Tampa Bay the ball at the KC 1. After the touchdown on the next play, Mathieu got an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for wagging a finger in Brady's face.

No wonder he was frustrated. A few minutes earlier, Mathieu also sparred with Brady after his interception off a deflected ball was nullified by — what else — a defensive holding call. It was a marginal call that went against Charvarius Ward — lots of jockeying, and the sort of hand-to-hand combat that went unflagged through much of the playoffs.

It was only 7-3 at the time. And so, Mathieu said something to Brady. Brady didn't back down. Brady came into the game with six Super Bowls titles, in part because he wins most of those mind games.

Now, he has seven.

"I'd never really seen that side of Tom Brady, but whatever. No comment. It's over with," Mathieu said.

"Only referees can call the penalties, and penalties affect the game 1000 percent," defensive lineman Chris Jones said. "So, what can I say? We got a lot of penalties called on us today."



# Kings top Clippers for 4th straight win

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — De'Aaron Fox scored 36 points, Buddy Hield added 22 and the Sacramento Kings beat the Los Angeles Clippers 113-110 on Sunday for their fourth straight victory.

The Kings are 7-1 since suffering a 19-point drubbing by the Clippers on Jan. 20.

"It was a real scrappy win on this back-to-back with an early start," Kings coach Luke Walton said.

Lou Williams scored 23 points off the bench for the Clippers, who dropped two in a row for the first time this season. Kawhi Leonard had 20 points and 10 rebounds as LA played without injured Paul George. The Clippers' reserves outscored the starters, 57-53.

"We're playing defense. That's the biggest thing about what we're doing right now. We knew we're able to score with anybody. When we've needed stops we've been able to get them," Fox said. "If we can stay locked in defensively and we can keep our turnovers down, we can give ourselves a chance to win."

Neither team led by more than nine points in the back-and-forth affair that featured 11 ties.

Nicolas Batum's potential tying three-pointer missed in the closing seconds for the

Clippers.

"Kawhi was a little worn out," Clippers coach Tyrone Lue said. "Guys' legs were a little tired, they couldn't make shots. Our starters didn't have much."

**Jazz 103, Pacers 95:** Donovan Mitchell had 27 points and 11 assists as red-hot Utah won at Indianapolis to improve its NBA-best record.

The Jazz (19-5) have won 15 of 16.

Former Pacer Bojan Bogdanovic broke an 83-all tie with a three-point play at the 5:36 mark of the fourth quarter and the visitors never trailed again.

Bogdanovic finished with 18 points. Jordan Clarkson added 17 off the bench. Rudy Gobert had 16 points and 16 rebounds.

Domantas Sabonis scored 20 points for the Pacers, who have lost five of six.

**Suns 100, Celtics 91:** Mikal Bridges scored 19 points, Devin Booker had 18 points and 11 assists and host Phoenix held on to beat Boston.

The Suns improved to 13-9 and have won five of six. Cam Johnson added 17 points off the bench while Deandre Ayton had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Jayson Tatum led the Celtics with 23 points and seven assists. Kemba Walker added 14 for Boston, which stayed fairly close for most of the game despite a rough shooting performance.

**Heat 109, Knicks 103:** Bam Adebayo

had 24 points and 11 rebounds, Jimmy Butler had a big second half and just missed a triple-double and Miami won at New York in the opener of a home-and-home series.

Butler finished with 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. He shot just 3-for-11 from the field but scored 12 points after half-time.

Kendrick Nunn and Tyler Herro each added 16 points for the Heat, who won their second straight after dropping seven of eight.

Julius Randle had 26 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists, but the Knicks had their two-game win streak snapped. Reggie Bullock made seven three-pointers and scored 21 points.

**Hornets 119, Wizards 97:** Terry Rozier had 26 points with five three-pointers, Gordon Hayward added 25 points and host Charlotte beat Washington.

LaMelo Ball followed up a career-best 34-point effort against the Utah Jazz with a strong game, finishing with 19 points, seven rebounds and five assists as the Hornets handed the Wizards their seventh loss in nine games.

Bradley Beal, the NBA's leading scorer coming in at 33.3 points per game, led Washington with 31 points on 11-for-22 shooting. Russell Westbrook had 12 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, falling short of his sixth triple-double of the season.

## Indiana slips past No. 8 Iowa on Franklin's late shot

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Coach Archie Miller gave the ball to Armaan Franklin for Indiana's final possession Sunday — despite his shooting struggles.

The sophomore guard made Miller's big bet pay off.

Franklin sank a 15-foot, tie-breaking jumper with 1.8 seconds left to cap off a late rally that gave the Hoosiers a 67-65 victory over No. 8 Iowa.

Franklin had scored just two points on 1-for-9 shooting until making the winner.

"If you're going to take the last shot, that's the guy we wanted to get the ball," Miller said. "He's our best guy, most physical guy

getting to the basket. This one he didn't overforce, he got a little pullup and that's part of his game."

After a defensive stop gave Indiana (10-8, 5-6 Big Ten) a chance to win it, Miller opted against giving the ball to his two top scorers — Trayce Jackson-Davis with 17 points or Race Thompson with 15. Instead, he wanted Thompson to free Franklin with a screen.

Iowa (13-6, 7-5) thought it was in right position, too. Coach Fran McCaffery put the taller Joe Wieskamp on Franklin.

"It was a tough thing because they were in the double bonus, so Wiesy doesn't want to foul him either," McCaffery said. "It was contested. So you've just got

to tip your hat to him (Franklin)."

The Hawkeyes had a last chance, and it resulted in a strange sequence.

A long inbound pass intended for Luka Garza bounced off the backboard and toward mid-court. Jordan Bohannon retrieved the ball and tried a one-handed heave, and that also bounced off the backboard.

Garza and Wieskamp each finished with 18 points.

Iowa has lost two straight overall, four of its last five and both games this season to Indiana.

This one got away from the Hawkeyes, who controlled most of the first half after jumping to a 17-4 lead.

**Valparaiso 74, No. 25 Drake 57:** Ben Krikke scored 15 points and the host Crusaders handed the Bulldogs their first loss of the season.

The defeat by Drake (18-1, 9-1 Missouri Valley Conferences) left No. 1 Gonzaga and No. 2 Baylor as the only remaining major college teams without a loss.

A day after Valparaiso (7-12, 4-6) squandered a double-digit lead in the second half and lost to the Bulldogs 80-77, the Crusaders pulled away for just their second victory over a ranked opponent since beating Mississippi in the 1998 NCAA tournament.

Roman Penn scored 17 of his 19 points in the second half for Drake.

# DeBrincat scores 2, Chicago tops Dallas

Associated Press

DALLAS — Alex DeBrincat scored both Chicago goals, including the winner 2:56 into overtime, and the Blackhawks handed the Dallas Stars their first home loss this season, 2-1 on Sunday.

DeBrincat has four goals and two assists in three games since his return after missing four games because of COVID-19 protocols. He initially passed to Patrick Kane, and got it back to poke into the net past rookie goaltender Jake Oettinger. Kane also assisted on DeBrincat's power-play goal in the second period.

"It's good to be back with the guys. We're just having a good time," DeBrincat said.

"He's a really important player and we missed him while he was gone," coach Jeremy Colliton. "We're going to keep challenging him to do more because he can be an elite player in the league. You can say he is already. We just think there is so much there, and happy that he's having some success."

Dallas won its first four games, all at home, after the start of its season was de-

layed because of COVID-19 issues. The Stars have lost four of five games overall since.

Jason Robertson got credited with his first NHL goal for Dallas.

**Flyers 7, Capitals 4:** Scott Laughton scored his first career hat trick, Sean Couturier had two goals in his first game back following a rib injury and visiting Philadelphia beat Washington.

James van Riemsdyk added a goal and an assist, running his points streak to seven games while helping Philadelphia overcome an early 2-0 deficit.

Alex Ovechkin scored two goals and had two assists for Washington, which lost its third straight despite outshooting Philadelphia 37-23.

Tom Wilson added a goal and recorded three assists for the first time in his career, and Nicklas Backstrom had a goal and two assists for the Capitals.

**Golden Knights 4, Kings 3:** Chandler Stephenson scored twice, including the winner early in the third period, and host Vegas beat Los Angeles.

The Golden Knights improved to 7-1-1 and moved into a first-place tie with St. Louis and Colorado in the West Division.

Reilly Smith and Zach Whitecloud also scored for Vegas. Robin Lehner overcame a wild first period and made 29 saves, including all 11 he faced on four penalty kills.

**Red Wings 4, Panthers 1:** Givani Smith had a goal and an assist as visiting Detroit beat Florida for its first win in nine games.

Alex Wennberg scored for the Panthers. Florida (6-1-2) became the last NHL team to lose in regulation.

**Hurricanes 6, Blue Jackets 5:** Six different Carolina players scored, James Reimer had 17 stops and the visiting Hurricanes outdueled Columbus.

Brett Pesce, Vincent Trocheck, Jordan Staal and Dougie Hamilton each recorded a goal and an assist for the Hurricanes, who won for the sixth time in seven games.

The game was tied four times until Staal's power-play goal put Carolina up 5-4 at 5:33 of the third period, and Hamilton's floater over Joonas Korpisalo midway through gave the Hurricanes a two-goal lead.

# Djokovic, Serena pick up routine wins in Australia

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — It's been so long since he had a sizeable crowd to play for, the showman in Novak Djokovic just had to come out.

Top-ranked Djokovic has won eight titles at the Australian Open. He began his quest for a ninth with a clinical, 6-3, 6-1, 6-2 victory over Jeremy Chardy in the closing act of the Day 1 program on Rod Laver Arena.

"Makes my heart full to see the crowd in the stadium again," Djokovic said in post-match interview at the 15,000-seat arena, which was about one-third full. "This is the most people I've seen on the tennis court in 12 months. I really ... I really, really appreciate your support in coming out tonight."

The total crowd Monday at Melbourne Park was 17,922, including day and night sessions in three divided zones. It was well down on the 64,387 fans

that crammed onto the grounds on Day 1 of last year's Australian Open, but way more than any other major since then.

After an austere year for tennis during the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a unanimous refrain from players across the day, starting with Naomi Osaka in the opening match on Rod Laver, to Serena and Venus Williams, and to mercurial local favorite Nick Kyrgios, who closed the day on the so-called Peoples' court: Thanks for coming.

The state government is allowing up to 30,000 people per day into Melbourne Park, about 50% of capacity. There were no fans allowed at the U.S. Open, only about 1,000 per day were allowed at Roland Garros and Wimbledon was canceled.

But with the Australian Open starting three weeks later than usual — now it's outside the summer holidays — and some people still nervous about going out in crowds following a harsh

Melbourne lockdown last year, it was a predictably cautious start.

That wasn't the case at all for Serena Williams, who arrived ready to race to start her bid for a record-equaling 24th Grand Slam singles title.

In a colorful one-legged cat-suit she said was inspired by former Olympic champion Florence Griffith Joyner, Williams dropped her opening serve but rebounded to win 10 consecutive games and beat Laura Siegemund 6-1, 6-1.

As she left the court she flexed her biceps, and later donned a T-shirt that read "Unstoppable Queen."

Speed was of the essence also for No. 2-ranked Simona Halep and No. 3 Osaka, who each only dropped three games.

U.S. Open champion Osaka beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-1, 6-2, and two-time major winner Halep opened the night session on the main show court

with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Australian wild-card entry Lizette Cabrera.

Joining them in the second round were No. 7 Aryna Sabalenka, two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova, French Open winner Iga Swiatek and 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu, who returned from 15 months on the sidelines to beat Mihaela Buzarnescu 6-2, 4-6, 6-3. Rebecca Marino, a former top-40 player competing in a Grand Slam event for the first time in eight years, beat Kimberly Birrell 6-0, 7-6 (9).

Venus Williams, a seven-time major winner, won a Grand Slam match for the first time since 2019.

Playing in her 21st Australian Open, the elder Williams beat Kirsten Flipkens 7-5, 6-2. At 40, Venus is the oldest woman in this year's draw and just the sixth player in her 40s to compete at the Australian Open.