

## US, NATO to up eastern Europe numbers

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — The United States will consider rotating additional troops through NATO member countries on Europe's eastern flank, should Russia mount a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and NATO would also bulk up its presence in those countries with forces and armaments, U.S. and European officials said.

The White House has repeatedly warned Russian President Vladimir Putin that if he is concerned about NATO's presence near Russia's border now, that posture will only increase if he chooses to invade Ukraine. Already, eastern European members of the alliance are clamoring for more U.S. forces as a deterrent against an irredentist Kremlin that once controlled their lands in addition to Ukraine's.

But despite the warnings to Putin from the White House, the Biden administration hasn't detailed what an enhanced, long-term presence would look like on NATO's eastern border after a full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. Nor have warnings about a bolstered NATO halted Russia's buildup of forces, missiles and armored vehicles around Ukraine.

Already, the U.S. has deployed about 2,000 additional forces from Fort Bragg in North Carolina, primarily to Poland, in re-

sponse to the Russian building on Ukraine's border to reassure allies close to Russia. On Friday, U.S. officials said 3,000 from the 82nd Airborne Division would join them, taking the total to 5,000 within days.

And 1,000 U.S. soldiers were to arrive in Romania from a U.S. installation in Germany — adding to the 900 U.S. troops already in the country.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has said the alliance is considering what adjustments to make to its eastern posture in the longer term.

"If Russia really wants less NATO close to the borders, they get the opposite," Stoltenberg said Feb. 7 during a joint news conference with Polish President Andrzej Duda. "We saw that after 2014 when Russia went in and annexed Crimea and went into Donbas," referring to Russian-backed separatist enclaves in eastern Ukraine.

The U.S. has been supporting eastern flank allies on a bilateral basis, as well, by, for example, periodically rotating a U.S. armored battalion through Lithuania, a combat aviation brigade through Latvia and U.S. Special Operations Forces through all three Baltic countries. The U.S. Army also established a forward command post in Poznan, Poland, to oversee rotational forces in Europe.

If Russia invades Ukraine, such activities are likely to grow in scope and quantity.

The alliance is considering placing combat-ready battle groups — like the ones currently operating in Poland and the Baltics — in Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Hungary, according to a NATO diplomat, who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. The diplomat said any additional rotations through those countries would depend on whether the host government is willing to accept them.

The U.S. would also almost certainly step up the rotation of its forces through eastern NATO member states, as well, the diplomat and a U.S. official added. A senior defense official said that "there have been discussions, but no decisions" about more permanent moves.

NATO is also likely to expand exercises, training programs and intelligence collection, as well as air policing missions and maritime deployments in the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea, the diplomat said.

The hardening of the eastern flank's defenses would run counter to Putin's demands. In addition to insisting that NATO halt its eastward expansion, Russia has demanded the alliance pull its forces and weaponry back to its 1997 boundaries.

## US F-22 fighters arrive in UAE after Houthi attacks

*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — U.S. F-22 fighter jets arrived in the United Arab Emirates on Saturday, part of an American defense response to recent missile attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeting the country.

The Raptors landed at Al Dhafra Air Base in Abu Dhabi, which hosts some 2,000 U.S. troops. American soldiers there launched Patriot interceptor missiles in response to the Houthi attacks last month, the first time U.S. troops have fired

the system in combat since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

American officials declined to say how many F-22s deployed or the number of airmen supporting the aircraft, citing operational security. They identified the unit involved as the 1st Fighter Wing, however, located at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia.

"The Raptors' presence will bolster already strong partner nation defenses and puts destabilizing forces on notice that the U.S. and our partners are committed to enabling peace and stability in the region," Lt. Gen.

Greg Guillot, the commander of the U.S. Air Force's Mideast command, said in a statement.

The deployment comes after the Iranian-backed Houthis launched three attacks targeting Abu Dhabi last month, including one targeting a fuel depot that killed three people and wounded six. The attacks coincided with visits by presidents from South Korea and Israel to the country.

A shadowy Iraqi group claimed launching a drone attack targeting the Emirates in early February, though author-

ities said they intercepted them.

Though overshadowed by the Ukraine crisis, the missile fire targeting the Emirates has sparked a major U.S. response. The American military has sent the USS Cole on a mission to Abu Dhabi.

The spillover of Yemen's yearslong war into the UAE puts American troops in the crosshairs of the Houthi attacks — and raises the risk of a regional escalation at a crucial moment of talks in Vienna to potentially restore Iran's nuclear deal with world powers.

# US, Japan, S. Korea discuss North together

Associated Press

HONOLULU—U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met his Japanese and South Korean counterparts Saturday in Hawaii to discuss the threat posed by nuclear-armed North Korea after Pyongyang began the year with a series of missile tests.

Blinken said at a news conference after the meeting that North Korea was “in a phase of provocation” and the three countries condemned the recent missile launches.

“We are absolutely united in

our approach, in our determination,” Blinken said after his talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong. He said the countries were “very closely consulting” on further steps they may take in response to North Korea, but didn’t offer specifics.

The three released a joint statement calling on North Korea to engage in dialogue and cease its “unlawful activities.” They said they had no hostile intent toward North Korea and were open to

meeting Pyongyang without preconditions. Hayashi later told Japanese reporters the three ministers had “very fruitful” discussion on the North. He declined to give details on additional measures they may take.

North Korea has a long history of using provocations such as missile or nuclear tests to seek international concessions. The latest tests come as the North’s economy, already battered by decades of mismanagement and crippling U.S.-led sanctions, is hit hard by pandemic border closures.

Many see the tests as an attempt to pressure President Joe Biden into easing the sanctions. The Biden administration has shown no willingness to do so without meaningful cuts to the North’s nuclear program, but it has offered open-ended talks.

North Korea has rebuffed U.S. offers to resume diplomacy, saying it won’t return to talks unless Washington drops what it says are hostile policies. The North bristles at both the sanctions and regular military exercises the U.S. holds with South Korea.

## Marine Corps activates 1st littoral anti-air battalion

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Marine Corps activated its inaugural littoral anti-air battalion Friday in Hawaii, the first such unit to be launched as the service continues to restructure and modernize its fighting force.

The 3rd Littoral Anti-Air Battalion was administratively activated during a small ceremony at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, the Marine Corps said in a news release.

Its missions will include air defense, air surveillance and early warning, air control, and forward arming and refueling, the Marine Corps said.

The battalion is not expected to be fully operational for several years, but the formal activation installs its leadership and allows it to take over management of facilities and equipment that had been maintained by 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, which was deactivated last month, the Marine Corps said.

The battalion will be a subordinate unit to the future 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment, the Marine Corps said.

A ceremony is slated for March 3 to redesignate 3rd Marine Regiment to 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment, the Marine Corps said.

“While the details of how the [littoral anti-air battalion] will operate are still in develop-

ment, the Marine Corps envisions the [battalion] providing critical support and protection for small teams of [the regiment’s] Marines distributed across wide areas of the Pacific region,” the Marine Corps said.

The initiation of the littoral anti-air battalion “marks one of the first steps in the Marine Corps’ Force Design 2030 modernization effort,” the Marine Corps said.

The new force design focuses on small maneuvering units instead of large assault forces, a change geared toward what U.S. forces could need in a future conflict with China in the far-flung spaces of the Indo-Pacific.

## Hawaii congressmen back bill to shut down Navy fuel tanks

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hawaii’s U.S. Reps. Ed Case and Kaiuli’i Kahele said Friday they have introduced legislation to permanently shut down the U.S. Navy’s fuel storage facility near Pearl Harbor.

Late last year jet fuel leaked into drinking water and showed up in military family homes. Many families became ill or developed rashes after bathing in and drinking the water.

Kahele and Case said during a rally Friday at the state Capitol that they want Congress to permanently close the facility.

Kahele is a combat pilot who still serves as an officer in the Hawaiian National Guard.

“As a military officer, I can tell you that... we believe we are keeping our country safe,” Kahele said. “And that in turn, our country will keep our military families safe. The military has failed to keep this commitment.”

There are 20 fuel tanks at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, each about 25 stories tall with the ability to hold 12.5 million gallons. The facility sits about 100 feet above a shared aquifer that provides about 20% of Honolulu’s

drinking water.

The Navy has been trying to clear petroleum from the contaminated well and flushing clean water through the system that serves 93,000 people in military housing and offices. It says the tanks are vital to national security.

“The Navy has shown repeatedly that they are ill equipped and incapable of making Red Hill safe,” Kahele said.

Case noted the strategic importance, but said the facility should no longer be used for fuel storage.

“Our Hawaii has a critical role and responsibility for our country

in all of this,” Case said. “But none of that can excuse, can justify or can change Red Hill’s harm to our people or continued risks to our communities.”

Kahele’s office says U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz is introducing a companion bill in the Senate.

Hinaleimoana Wong, the cultural ambassador for the Council on Native Hawaiian Advancement, attended the rally.

“It is absolutely critical for all of Oahu to stand up and to say that we do not accept the U.S. Navy continuing to hold their fuel above our water source,” Wong said.

# Police arrest protesters at US-Canada bridge

*Associated Press*

WINDSOR, Ontario — Police moved in to clear and arrest the remaining protesters near the busiest U.S.-Canadian border crossing on Sunday, trying to end a demonstration against COVID-19 restrictions that has hurt the economy of both nations even as they held back from a crackdown on a larger protest in the capital of Ottawa.

Local and national police formed a joint command center in Ottawa, where protests have paralyzed downtown, infuriated residents who are fed up with police inaction and turned up pressure on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The protests have reverberated across the country and beyond, with similar convoys in

France, New Zealand and the Netherlands. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security warned that truck convoys may be in the works in the United States.

Windsor police said about 12 were peacefully arrested and seven vehicles were towed just after dawn near the Ambassador Bridge that links their city — and numerous Canadian automotive plants — with Detroit.

It was not immediately clear when the bridge might be opened but Windsor's Mayor Drew Kiklens said he hoped it would be Sunday.

"Today, our national economic crisis at the Ambassador Bridge came to an end," he added later. "Border crossings will reopen when it is safe to do so,

and I defer to police and border agencies to make that determination."

Only a few protesters had remained after police on Saturday persuaded demonstrators to move their pickup trucks and others cars that they used to block a crossing that sees 25% of all trade between the two countries.

In Ottawa, the ranks of protesters swelled to what police said were 4,000 demonstrators on Saturday. The city has seen similar expansions on past weekends, and loud music played as people milled about downtown where anti-vaccine demonstrators have been encamped since late January.

"The whole city is furious at being abandoned by the people

who are supposed to protect us. They have completely abandoned the rule of law. @OttawaPolice have lost credibility. #OttawaPoliceFailed," tweeted Artur Wilczynski, a senior government national security official at Canada's Communications Security Establishment.

A former minister in Trudeau's Cabinet also blasted her former federal colleagues as well as the province and city for not putting an end to the protests.

"Amazingly, this isn't just Ottawa. It's the nation's capital," Catherine McKenna tweeted. "But no one — not the city, the province or the federal government can seem to get their act together to end this illegal occupation. It's appalling. ... Just get your act together. Now."

## Paris police fire tear gas to disperse banned protest

*Associated Press*

PARIS — Paris police fired tear gas Saturday against a handful of demonstrators on the Champs-Elysees Avenue who defied a police order by taking part in a vehicle protest against coronavirus restrictions inspired by Canada's horn-honking truckers.

In the Netherlands, dozens of trucks and other vehicles — ranging from tractors to a car towing a camping van — arrived in The Hague for a similar virus-related protest Saturday, blocking an entrance to the historic Dutch parliamentary complex.

But a threatened blockade of Paris failed to materialize Saturday, despite days of online organizing efforts.

Police set up checkpoints into the French capital on key roads and said they successfully stopped at least 500 vehicles from heading to the banned protest, but a few dozen vehicles were able to slip in and disrupt traffic on the boutique-lined Champs-Elysees. Authorities fired tear gas as they

demanding that the demonstrators disperse, some of whom climbed onto their vehicles in the middle of the road to create chaos.

An Associated Press photographer was hit in the head with a tear gas canister as police struggled to control the crowd. Police at the scene were growing increasingly tense, and fired the tear gas after several photographers took photos of officers kicking and subduing a protester.

Police detained 54 people and handed out 300 tickets to motorists involved in the protest. Police also seized knives, hammers and other objects in a central Parisian square.

Protesters railing against the vaccination pass that France requires to enter restaurants and many other venues have converged in recent days toward Paris from the north, south, east and west, waving and honking at onlookers as they drove by. Most of the French convoys appeared small, and it is unclear how many people participated.

## US approves new antibody drug to help fight omicron

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — U.S. health regulators on Friday authorized a new antibody drug that targets the omicron variant, a key step in restocking the nation's arsenal against the latest version of COVID-19.

The Food and Drug Administration said it cleared the Eli Lilly drug for adults and adolescent patients with mild-to-moderate cases of COVID-19. Lilly announced work on the treatment late last year after testing revealed that its previous antibody therapy was ineffective against the dominant omicron variant.

The Biden administration had purchased 600,000 doses before the authorization and will begin shipping initial supplies to state health authorities for distribution.

It's "an important step in meeting the need for more tools to treat patients as new variants of the virus continue to emerge," said Dr. Patricia Cavazzoni,

FDA's drug center director.

The FDA announcement comes after the two leading monoclonal antibody treatments in the United States turned out to be ineffective against omicron. Data indicate the Lilly drug also works against the emerging BA.2 mutation of omicron.

Lilly said the contract for its new drug — bebtelovimab, pronounced "beb-teh-LO-vi-mab" — is worth at least \$720 million.

But late last month, the FDA revoked its emergency use authorization for Regeneron's antibody drug, along with Lilly's. The two medications had been the backbone of antibody treatment, and doctors were hard-pressed to come up with fallbacks when they didn't work against omicron.

Under the U.S. contract with Lilly, the government will receive about 300,000 treatment courses of the new antibody drug in February and another 300,000 in March.



# US inflation, supply issues widely felt

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Since the pandemic erupted two years ago, Forest Ramsey and his wife, Kelly, have held the line on prices at their gourmet chocolate shop in Louisville, Ky. Now, they're about to throw in the towel.

In the past year, the costs of ingredients for their business, Art Eatables, have surged between 10% and 50%. The Ramseys are paying their employees 30% more than they did before the pandemic.

And in the face of supply shortages, their packaging costs are up. They've begun using 12-piece trays in their eight-piece chocolate boxes because they can no longer get any eight-piece trays.

So having just tried to survive for the past two years, the Ramseys, who own three retail outlets and sell custom chocolates to about 25 bourbon distilleries, have reached an unpleasant decision: They're going to raise their customer prices 10% to 30%.

The struggles of Art Eatables illustrate how inflation and tangled supply chains have seeped into nearly every nook of the

economy, forcing consumers and businesses to make painful decisions that many of them have never had to contemplate before. With the government reporting Thursday that consumer inflation reached 7.5% over the past year — a 40-year high — the acceleration of prices is leaving few unscathed.

Some of the supply chain snarls that have magnified inflation since the pandemic recession may begin to ease in the coming months. If so, inflation would likely moderate somewhat.

Yet the key trends that have sent prices soaring — higher wages, parts shortages, rent increases, robust consumer spending — won't likely fade anytime soon. And it's unclear when, or how much, inflation might actually slow.

Neil Dutta, an economist at Renaissance Macro, noted that even if you exclude from the government's consumer price index, the costs of food, energy, housing and used cars — some of the fastest-rising categories during the pandemic — prices still rose a steep 0.7% from December to January. That's above even the 0.6% increase for

overall consumer prices, a stark illustration of how widespread price increases have become.

Many big corporations have said that even after they've raised prices, their customers have kept right on buying. Rising wages and higher savings, boosted by heavy government stimulus aid last year, have likely helped keep consumer demand strong. Over time, though, high levels of spending and wages can fuel further price hikes in a continuing spiral.

Rising apartment rental rates have emerged as a major contributing factor in surging inflation. Average rents rose 0.5% in January, the largest increase in 20 years, and are up 4.4% from a year ago.

More Americans have returned to cities, after some had left in the early months of the pandemic. The apartment vacancy rate has reached its lowest level since the mid-1980s, according to a report from the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies. And with job growth strong, more young people are expected to move out on their own, raising demand for apartments.

## Phoenix Police used shields to rescue baby

Associated Press

PHOENIX — SWAT officers used ballistic shields as they rescued a baby girl during a standoff with a gunman who earlier shot and wounded five patrol officers, including four while they moved to take the baby to safety, Phoenix police said.

Initial accounts of the incident Friday that left the gunman and a woman believed to be his ex-girlfriend dead and the baby unharmed hadn't explained how police rescued the baby after the first attempt was thwarted.

All of the five wounded officers were expected to survive, police said. Four additional officers had minor injuries after being struck by shrapnel or ricocheting bullets, police said.

In a statement released

late Friday, police also said that after he shot one officer, the gunman tried unsuccessfully to drive out of the garage of the home where he later barricaded himself and was found dead inside hours later.

The getaway attempt was thwarted because a parked patrol car blocked his vehicle, the police statement said. "When he was unsuccessful, he went back into the house."

Police on Friday identified the dead suspect as 36-year-old Morris Richard Jones III.

The woman died at a hospital after being found critically wounded in the home. Her name wasn't released.

"A baby is safe today because of our Phoenix police officers," Mayor Kate Gallego said at a news conference near the scene.

## SC push to be 49th state with hate crime law stalls

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — It took South Carolina lawmakers only two months to act when a female college student was kidnapped and killed by a man posing as an Uber driver. The Legislature acted swiftly to prevent such crimes in the future.

By comparison, state Rep. Wendell Gilliard said, more than six years have passed since the racist murders of nine African Americans at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, and the Legislature has yet to take action to add punishment to victims of crimes motivated by bias against a particular group. That makes South Carolina one of only two states — the other being Wyoming — without a hate crimes law.

"It was wrong what happened to that young woman," Gilliard said of the college student. "Nobody should ever meet their de-

mise in such a way. But when you look at the Mother Emanuel Nine, we have this bill that has been waiting patiently now for six years."

The "Clementa C. Pinckney Hate Crimes Act" is named for the pastor who died in the attack. Pinckney was also a state senator. The bill would add up to five years in prison for someone convicted of murder, assault or other violent crime fueled by hatred of the victim's race, sexual orientation, gender, religion or disability.

The bill currently sits in the Senate. The clock is ticking. If senators don't approve the proposal by the end of their session in May, everything goes back to square one.

"We have great senators over there," Gilliard said. "But now we need them to stand up. Show a little backbone."

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Mayor fears ice shanties could lead to prostitution

**OH** HUDSON — The mayor of an upscale city outside Cleveland is making headlines for a remark at a recent City Council meeting that allowing ice fishing shanties on a city lake could lead to prostitution.

Hudson Mayor Craig Shubert during the meeting said he wanted to raise some “data points” during a discussion about whether to permit people to fish on the frozen lake.

“Does someone come back next year and say, ‘I want an ice shanty on Hudson Springs Park for x amount of time?’ ” Shubert said. “And if you then allow ice fishing with shanties, then that leads to another problem — prostitution. Now you’ve got the police chief and the police department involved.”

Shubert issued a statement to WJW-TV in Cleveland saying his comment about ice shanties and prostitution stemmed from his experience as a television news reporter covering law enforcement agencies that have arrested people for prostitution in shanties.

### Man charged in tax case, claims sovereign citizen

**MI** LANSING — A southeastern Michigan man who prosecutors said claimed to be a sovereign citizen of the United States has been charged after sending three \$1 million checks to the state to pay his taxes, authorities announced.

The 54-year-old man faces three counts of no-account check in Ingham County District Court, Michigan’s Attorney

General’s office said.

Members of the sovereign citizen movement believe the government has no authority over them, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

The checks each bore TCF Bank routing numbers, but bounced because the Macomb County man had no account with the bank. The man asserted that he is a sovereign citizen and exempt from certain Michigan laws, including paying taxes, the attorney general’s office said.

### Police: Girl impersonated classmate to make threats

**FL** PEMBROKE PINES — A 12-year-old girl is accused of “maliciously” impersonating a fellow student by creating fake Instagram and email accounts to threaten students and staff at their South Florida charter school, police said.

The child then sent threats to herself and others at the school and “intentionally lied to law enforcement” to frame a 13-year-old girl, Pembroke Pines police said in a news release.

The older girl was arrested after the threats at Renaissance Charter School, but has since been exonerated of all charges, police said. Charges against the 12-year-old girl have been presented to the Broward State Attorney’s Office, police said.

### Man confronting bear accidentally kills brother

**OR** GRANTS PASS — Authorities said a man in Oregon trying to protect his home from a bear instead fatally shot his brother by mistake, then killed himself.

Josephine County Under-sheriff Travis Snyder said the

man called 911 and told dispatchers he had “accidentally shot his brother while loading a gun” after being startled by the bear. The Oregonian/OregonLive reported deputies went to the home in Sunny Valley. There they found a man dead from a gunshot wound.

Snyder said they checked the rural residence and found a second man dead. He had died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

### 4 people arrested on numerous drug charges

**NC** NEW BERN — Four North Carolina residents accused of being drug suppliers are facing a variety of charges and are jailed on bonds up to \$5 million after a drug raid that followed a traffic stop, authorities said.

A traffic stop conducted by deputies with the Craven County Sheriff’s Office turned up illegal drugs and led to a search warrant, news outlets reported. At a home in Havelock, deputies found a pound of methamphetamine, 13 pounds of cocaine, seven grams of heroin, some marijuana, two guns and \$3,000, the sheriff’s office said.

Multiple charges were filed against Xzavier Morris and Kimberly Smith, both of Harlowe. Kayakenee Oliver and Generic Turner also are facing multiple charges.

### Standoff after man gets gun into police car

**IA** SIOUX CITY — Sioux City police arrested a man after a standoff that began when officers realized the man had a gun inside a police car.

Police Chief Rex Mueller said officers had put the man in the

patrol car near Sioux City Heelan High School because he was a possible suspect in an armed robbery.

When officers realized the suspect, Emanuel Pleitez, 36, had a micro gun, they backed away and began negotiations, the Sioux City Journal reported.

During negotiations, the man became agitated, prompting officers to fire chemical weapons into the car. Mueller said the suspect fired several shots and then broke a window and attempted to climb out.

No one suffered serious injuries.

### Video of high school fight prompts district probe

**NV** LAS VEGAS — School officials in Las Vegas said they are investigating an attack by a high school student on a classmate that spurred outrage when cellphone video was briefly posted on social media.

Clark County school officials asked people not to circulate the images and district police Sgt. Bryan Zink said the female student identified as the attacker in the incident at Las Vegas High School was cited on a misdemeanor battery charge.

Video posted to Twitter but quickly deleted showed a female student at a desk approached from behind by another girl who delivers as many as 35 punches to the back and side of the seated girl’s head during an 18-second span. At one point, giggling can be heard in the background.

Zink said it was not clear what sparked the incident or who posted the video, which was recorded across an apparently adjacent desktop.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# United States' Jackson makes history

*Associated Press*

BEIJING — Erin Jackson became the first Black woman to win a speedskating medal at the Winter Olympics.

A gold one, at that.

Jackson won the 500 meters Sunday with a time of 37.04 seconds, giving the American speedskating program its first medal of the Beijing Games and first individual medal since 2010.

But this one meant much more than national pride.

The 29-year-old Jackson, a former inline skater who switched to the ice shortly before the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics, joined fellow American Shani Davis as the only Black athletes to win long-track speedskating medals at the Olympics.

Now, she wants others to follow their path.

"Hopefully, this has an effect," Jackson said. "Hopefully, we'll see more minorities, especially in the USA, getting out and trying

these winter sports."

The silver went to Miho Takagi of Japan, while Angelina Golikova of the Russian team took the bronze.

Jackson's gold came after the native of balmy Ocala, Fla., slipped at the U.S. trials and shockingly finished third, putting her spot on the Olympic team in jeopardy.

But teammate Brittany Bowe, another Ocala skater who finished first at the trials, gave up her spot on the team to ensure Jackson would get to compete in Beijing.

"She made a really big sacrifice for me," Jackson said. "I'll be grateful to her forever."

As it turned out, the Americans received a third slot in the 500 when the final allocations were made, so Bowe got to skate as well. She finished 16th.

They embraced after Jackson clinched the gold.

"She hugged me and we cried," the winner said. "She said she's really proud of

me."

Jackson skated in the next-to-last of 15 pairs with Takagi's time of 37.12 — set about a half-hour earlier in the fourth pairing — in her sights.

If she was still thinking about that slip at the U.S. trials, it sure didn't show.

Jackson bolted off the line and was under Takagi's time as she veered into the first turn. She kept up her speed through the crossing straight and into the final turn, swinging both arms furiously as she came to the finish of speedskating's shortest race.

As soon as her skates crossed the line, Jackson's head turned toward the scoreboard.

She broke into a big smile when she saw the "1" beside her name. Her coach, Ryan Shimabukuro, pumped his arms and slapped hands with her as she glided by.

A few minutes later, the gold was hers.

"It's been a wild ride," she said, "but that makes it even sweeter."

## Humphries has big lead in monobob at midpoint

*Associated Press*

BEIJING — Usually at the midway point of an Olympic women's bobsled race, the standings are super close.

Not this one.

Kaillie Humphries' first day of Olympic competition for the United States was a runaway, putting the American in complete control of the inaugural women's monobob race. She leads Canada's Christine de Bruin — her former teammate — by 1.04 seconds, the biggest halftime lead in Olympic women's bobsled history.

"It wasn't perfect," Humphries said.

The standings suggest otherwise. The five previous women's bobsled competitions at the Olympics — all of them being the two-person variety, unlike this new driver-only discipline — have seen the midpoint leader ahead of the field by an average of 0.16 seconds. The biggest halftime lead ever was 0.29 sec-

onds.

That is, until Sunday. Nobody was within 0.30 seconds of Humphries in the first heat, nobody was within 0.36 seconds of Humphries in the second heat. She'll return to the track at the Yanqing Sliding Center on Monday morning, knowing she's two clean runs away from what would be the third gold medal of her career.

"You pretend like today didn't exist and have a fresh race tomorrow," Humphries said. "Easier said than done, I can promise you that. But at the end of the day, I've had practice at doing it. And I've won, and I've lost in this position. ... I have to continue to put my best foot forward."

De Bruin's time was 2:10.14.

"It's a consistency race," de Bruin said. "Anything can happen."

Laura Nolte of Germany was third in 2:10.32.

## US hockey tops Germany to ease path toward gold

*Associated Press*

BEIJING — The team in red, white and blue now has the easiest path to gold.

The young United States men's hockey team held on to beat Germany 3-2 Sunday night, finishing the preliminary round unbeaten and clinching the top seed in the knockout round at the Olympics. The Americans move directly into the quarterfinals and next play the winner of the Germany-Slovakia game from the qualification round.

"About all we could accomplish up to this point, we've done it," coach David Quinn said. "There's a swagger to us, and there's a believability that's gone here over the last week and it's put us in this position, but we haven't really accomplished anything that we want to accomplish."

U.S. players and coaches set a goal of winning the group. They've done that and more as the only team in the tournament

to win all three of its games in regulation.

The third was tougher than expected against the reigning silver medalists, who held on to beat China two nights after the U.S. blew out the host country 8-0. Even more than the Americans' showdown against Canada, tensions boiled over between the U.S. and Germany with shouting from bench to bench and more than the usual amount of post-whistle scums.

Much like the Canada game, the Americans stuck it out when Germany ratcheted up the physicality and nastiness and showed they won't get bullied on the ice.

"The biggest thing for us is just proving that teams aren't going to be able to run us out of the rink physically," captain Andy Miele said. "We're a young team, but we're fast, we're skilled and no one's going to slow us down. We're going to keep coming at you."



# Thompson's season-high 33 lift Warriors

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Klay Thompson scored 16 of his season-high 33 points in the fourth quarter, Stephen Curry made a clutch layup with 46 seconds remaining, and the Golden State Warriors held off the Los Angeles Lakers 117-115 on Saturday night, spoiling another scoring milestone by LeBron James.

Curry finished with 24 points and eight assists, while Andrew Wiggins scored 19 points to help the Warriors end a two-game losing streak. Golden State has not lost three in a row all season.

Thompson's big night came in front of his father, former NBA player Mychal Thompson, who works on the Lakers radio broadcast.

"It meant something special to do it for my dad," Thompson said. "I don't think he's seen me play for a few years. I know he was proud of me, and that's always fun."

James had 26 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists, but missed the first free throw after Curry fouled him attempting a three-pointer with 2.4 seconds left. He made the second and missed the third intentionally but couldn't chase down the rebound in time to get a shot off.

Earlier in the night, James extended his streak of 25 points or more to 22 games and passed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for most points scored in the NBA combining the regular season and postseason with 44,157. James tied Abdul-Jabbar's mark of 44,149 in the first

half, then surpassed it with a 3-pointer early in the third quarter.

Thompson, who returned this season after missing 941 days with a pair of serious leg injuries, shot 12 of 22 and made four threes, three in the fourth quarter.

**Heat 115, Nets 111:** Bam Adebayo had 19 points and 14 rebounds, and host Miami held off a furious rally from Kyrie Irving and Brooklyn.

Irving scored 20 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter to help the Nets rally from a 21-point, third-quarter deficit before dropping their 11th straight game.

Cam Thomas' three-pointer with 37 seconds left cut Miami's lead to 110-109. Down 113-111, the Nets had possession and an opportunity to tie or take the lead. But Kyle Lowry stole Thomas' pass, dribbled downcourt and found P.J. Tucker, who got fouled and converted his shots to secure Miami's fifth consecutive win.

Duncan Robinson finished with 17 points and hit 6 of 10 three-pointers, Jimmy Butler and Tyler Herro each scored 13 and Lowry had 13 points and six assists for the East-leading Heat.

**76ers 103, Cavaliers 93:** Joel Embiid had a triple-double of 40 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists along with a highlight-reel jam, and host Philadelphia beat Cleveland.

Tyrese Maxey added 16 points for Philadelphia, which has won both games since Thursday's blockbuster trade that sent disgruntled Ben Simmons to Brooklyn for James Harden.

**Suns 132, Magic 105:** Devin Booker

scored 26 points and Deandre Ayton had 17 points and 10 rebounds as host Phoenix won its fifth straight game, beating Orlando.

**Grizzlies 125, Hornets 118:** Ja Morant scored 26 points, Desmond Bane added 25 and visiting Memphis held off Charlotte for its fifth straight win.

**Nuggets 110, Raptors 109:** Rookie guard Bones Hyland made a tiebreaking three-pointer with 2:16 to play and visiting Denver ended Toronto's winning streak at eight.

**Bulls 106, Thunder 101:** DeMar DeRozan scored 38 points, Nikola Vucevic added 31 points and 15 rebounds, and host Chicago overcame a sluggish start to beat Oklahoma City.

**Clippers 99, Mavericks 97:** Reggie Jackson scored 24 points and visiting Los Angeles held off Dallas in the final minute to earn another split in another two-game set between the teams.

**Kings 123, Wizards 110:** De'Aaron Fox scored 26 points, Domantas Sabonis added 16 points and 11 rebounds in his second game with Sacramento, and the new-look Kings beat host Washington for their second straight victory.

**Spurs 124, Pelicans 114:** Dejounte Murray had 31 points and 12 rebounds, and visiting San Antonio beat New Orleans for a second double-digit, wire-to-wire victory in two nights.

**Trail Blazers 112, Knicks 103:** Anfernee Simons had 30 points and eight assists, and host Portland erased a 23-point, third-quarter deficit to beat New York.

# Greiss shines after layoff as Red Wings beat Flyers

Associated Press

DETROIT— Thomas Greiss made 32 saves to help the Detroit Red Wings beat the Philadelphia Flyers for the second time in the four days, 4-2 on Saturday.

Rookie Moritz Seider scored a big power-play goal in the third period as Detroit won for the third time in four games overall. Tyler Bertuzzi, Filip Zadina and Michael Rasmussen also scored for the Red Wings, and Dylan Larkin had three assists.

Greiss hadn't played since Jan. 9. He was in COVID-19 protocol for more than a week last month.

"I thought the game was loose at times, but Greiss played really, really well," Detroit coach Jeff Blashill said. "Obviously, he'd like the one back in the third, but he made up for it right away with a huge save.

He came back well after being off for so long. He controlled the game and pucks were sticking to him."

Keith Yandle scored his first goal of the season for Philadelphia.

**Bruins 2, Senators 0:** Jeremy Swayman made 30 saves, leading visiting Boston to the road win.

Trent Frederic and Curtis Lazar scored for Boston (27-16-3).

Matt Murray made 35 saves for Ottawa (16-24-4).

**Blue Jackets 2, Canadiens 1:** Patrik Laine scored a power-play goal in the final seconds of regulation, and visiting Columbus extended Montreal's winless streak to nine games.

Laine also had an assist on Oliver Bjorkstrand's goal 76 seconds into the game.

**Wild 3, Hurricanes 2:** Kevin Fiala and Frederick Gaudreau each had a goal and an assist to lead host Minnesota.

Kirill Kaprizov also scored and Cam Talbot made 37 saves for the Wild, who are 10-1-1 in their last 12 games.

**Canucks 3, Maple Leafs 2:** Thatcher Demko had a career-high 51 saves and J.T. Miller had a goal and an assist as host Vancouver beat Toronto.

**Jets 5, Predators 2:** Blake Wheeler had two goals and three assists to lead visiting Winnipeg.

**Blues 5, Blackhawks 1:** Oskar Sundqvist had a goal and an assist, and host St. Louis beat Chicago.

**Flames 5, Islanders 2:** Adam Ruzicka had a goal and an assist, and host Calgary got its sixth straight win.

# Peterson leads No. 21 USC over UCLA

*Associated Press*

LOS ANGELES — Drew Peterson had his first double-double of the season with a career-high 27 points and 12 rebounds, leading No. 21 Southern California to a 67-64 win over No. 12 UCLA on Saturday night.

Peterson also had five blocks as the Trojans picked up their fifth straight rivalry win despite being without leading scorer Isaiah Mobley for the second straight game because of concussion-like symptoms. Mobley broke his nose in a loss at No. 4 Arizona last Saturday.

Reese Dixon-Waters and Chevez Goodwin each added 10 points for USC (21-5, 10-5 Pac-12).

The Bruins (17-5, 9-4) nearly forced overtime with a late push in the final 41 seconds after being down by eight points. But Tyga Campbell's desperation 3-pointer went off the back of the rim as time expired.

Campbell scored 27 points, with 13 coming from the free-throw line. Teammate Johnny Juzang scored 12 points. UCLA was slowed by dismal 19-for-63 shooting from the field.

**No. 1 Auburn 75, Texas A&M 58:** Walker Kessler had a triple-double with 12 blocked shots, 12 points and 11 rebounds as the host Tigers bounced back from a loss.

Kessler rejected four of the Aggies' first seven shots.

The Tigers (22-3, 11-1 SEC) had their 19-game winning streak stopped by Arkansas in overtime earlier in the week.

**No. 2 Gonzaga 74, No. 22 Saint Mary's 58:** Drew Timme scored 25 points and grabbed eight rebounds to help the host Zags win their 14th straight.

Julian Strawther hit a pair of three-pointers in the closing minutes to choke off a Saint Mary's comeback. Andrew Nembhard added 16 points and Chet Holmgren had 11 points and 13 rebounds for Gonzaga (21-2, 10-0 West Coast Conference),

which has won a nation-leading 66 consecutive home games.

Tommy Kuhse scored 16 points and Matthias Tass had 14 for Saint Mary's (20-6, 8-3).

**No. 4 Arizona 92, Washington 68:** Benedict Mathurin scored 25 points and Azuolas Tubelis added 21 points and 10 rebounds as the visiting Wildcats won their sixth straight game.

Arizona (22-2, 12-1 Pac-12) erased an early 14-point deficit and dominated the final 30 minutes.

**No. 5 Kentucky 78, Florida 57:** Oscar Tshiebwe scored 27 points and had 19 rebounds for his nation-leading 18th double-double of the season and 11th in a row to lead the host Wildcats to their sixth straight victory.

Kellan Grady had 15 points for Kentucky (21-4, 10-2 Southeastern Conference).

**Memphis 69, No. 6 Houston 59:** Landers Nolley II scored 20 points and Jalen Duren had 14 points and 11 rebounds as the Tigers snapped the Cougars' 37-game home winning streak.

Houston also lost its second straight after a 12-game winning streak.

DeAndre Williams and Lester Quinones each scored 13 points as Memphis (14-8, 8-4 American) won its fifth straight.

**No. 7 Duke 72, Boston College 61:** Paolo Banchero had 16 points and 14 rebounds as the Blue Devils pulled away midway into the second half and beat BC for the 19th time in their last 21 meetings.

Wendell Moore Jr. added 14 points, Trevor Keels had 13, and AJ Griffin and Mark Williams each had 10 for Duke (21-4, 11-3 Atlantic Coast Conference).

**No. 8 Kansas 71, Oklahoma 69:** Jalen Wilson had 22 points as the host Jayhawks used a late run to hold on.

Kansas (20-4, 9-2 Big 12) scored 11 straight points during

a 15-2 burst to take the lead in the final minutes.

**No. 9 Texas Tech 82, TCU 69:** Terrence Shannon scored 20 points on 7-for-9 shooting as the host Red Raiders overcame a 13-point deficit to remain undefeated in 15 home games.

Texas Tech (19-6, 8-4) ended the first half with a 15-5 run, then went ahead to stay by scoring the first nine points after the break.

**No. 10 Baylor 80, No. 20 Texas 63:** Adam Flagler had 20 points with four three-pointers for the host Bears, which after losing big man Jonathan Tchamwa Tchatchoua to a gruesome left knee injury went on to beat Texas.

Flagler made his first five shots, including three threes, while scoring 13 points in the first half when Baylor (21-4, 9-3 Big 12) had two huge spurts — first a 12-0 run, and later a stretch of 13 consecutive points.

**No. 11 Providence 76, DePaul 73 (OT):** Jared Bynum scored 26 points off the bench and Al Durham and Nate Watson finished with 16 points apiece as the host Friars won their eighth straight game.

Durham went 12 for 12 at the free-throw line for Big East-leading Providence (21-2, 11-1 Big East), the last four coming inside the final 10 seconds to help secure the victory.

**Rutgers 73, No. 14 Wisconsin 65:** Ron Harper Jr. scored 21 points as visiting Rutgers downed a ranked team for the third straight game and fourth time this season, a school record.

The Scarlet Knights (15-9, 9-5 Big Ten) knocked off then-No. 13 Michigan State 84-63 a week ago Saturday and No. 16 Ohio State 66-64 on Wednesday. This marks the first time in program history they've beaten a Top 25 team in three consecutive games.

**No. 15 Villanova 73, Seton Hall 67:** Justin Moore scored 14

of his 16 points in the second half as the host Wildcats rallied from a seven-point deficit.

Jermaine Samuels added 16 points while Brandon Slater had 10 points, including the go-ahead layup with 1:26 left to play for the Wildcats (19-6, 12-3 Big East).

**No. 16 Ohio State 68, Michigan 57:** E.J. Liddell had 26 points and Cedric Russell added 12 as the visiting Buckeyes rebounded from a two-point loss at Rutgers.

Ohio State (15-6, 8-4 Big Ten) had lost four of its previous five road games.

**No. 17 Michigan State 76, Indiana 61:** Malik Hall scored 18 points and Tyson Walker came off the bench to add 15 as the host Spartans snapped a two-game losing streak.

Michigan State (18-6, 9-4 Big Ten) is one game behind conference leader No. 13 Illinois.

**Butler 85, No. 18 Marquette 79:** Bryce Golden scored a career-high 22 points and Bo Hodges added 11 points and 11 rebounds to help the host Bulldogs hold on for a surprising victory.

Justin Lewis led Marquette with 27 points and nine rebounds. Tyler Kolek had 17 points as the Golden Eagles (16-9, 8-6) lost for the second time in five days.

**No. 19 Tennessee 73, Vanderbilt 64:** Zakai Zeigler came off the bench to score 16 points to lead the host Volunteers.

Josiah-Jordan James had 14 points for Tennessee (18-6, 9-3 SEC), John Fulkerson had 12, and Santiago Vescovi 10.

The Commodores (13-11, 5-7) were led by Scotty Pippen Jr. with 23 points.

**No. 23 Murray State 57, Morehead State 53:** Tevin Brown made a go-ahead layup with 16 seconds remaining and KJ Williams added two free throws 12 seconds later as the visiting Racers rallied for their 14th consecutive victory.