

GOP senators urge Trump to resign

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two Republican senators now say President Donald Trump should resign as support for the drive to impeach him a second time is gaining momentum in his final days in office after the deadly riot at the Capitol by a violent mob of Trump supporters.

Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania on Sunday joined Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski in calling for Trump to “resign and go away as soon as possible.” Murkowski, who has long voiced her exasperation with Trump’s conduct in office, told the Anchorage Daily News on Friday that Trump simply “needs to get out.”

Toomey said that even though he believes Trump committed impeachable offenses in encouraging loyalists in the Capitol siege on Wednesday, he did not think there was enough time for the impeachment process to play out. Toomey said that resignation was the “best path forward, the best way to get this person in the rear view mirror for us.” He was not optimistic that Trump would step down before his term ends on Jan. 20.

The White House had no immediate comment Sunday.

The House appears determined to act despite the short timeline.

Late Saturday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., sent a letter to her colleagues reiterating that Trump must be held accountable. She told her caucus, now scattered across the country on a two-week recess, to “be prepared to return to Washington this week.”

“It is absolutely essential that those who perpetrated the assault on our democracy be held accountable,” Pelosi wrote. “There must be a recognition that this desecration was instigated by the President.”

Rep. Jim Clyburn, the third-ranking House Democrat, said “it may be Tuesday, Wednesday before the action is taken, but I think it will be taken this week.” Clyburn, D-S.C., said he was concerned that a Senate trial could distract from the process of confirming President-elect Joe Biden’s nominee.

Clyburn said one option could be giving Biden the “100 days he needs to get his agenda off and running and maybe we’ll send the articles sometime after that” to the Senate for a trial.

He said lawmakers “will take the vote that

we should take in the House” and that Pelosi “will make the determination as when is the best time” to send them to the Senate.

Sen. Roy Blunt says he doesn’t see a need for congressional Republicans to hold President Donald Trump accountable for his role in promoting last week’s Capitol riot, but warned him to “be very careful” in his last 10 days in office.

Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Republican leader, has said an impeachment trial could begin as early as Inauguration Day.

A violent and largely white mob of Trump supporters overpowered police, broke through security lines and rampaged through the Capitol on Wednesday, forcing lawmakers to scatter as they were putting the final, formal touches on Biden’s victory over Trump in the Electoral College.

The crowd surged to the symbol of American democracy following a rally near the White House, where Trump repeated his false claims that the election was stolen from him and urged supporters to march in force toward the Capitol.

Five people, including a Capitol police officer, died as a result of the siege.

DOD requires test before all overseas travel from US

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

All U.S. military travelers heading overseas on orders must test negative for the coronavirus no more than three days before departing the United States, according to a Navy administrative message Thursday.

The Defense Department mandate requires service members, Defense Department civilian employees, contractors and family members to have proof of a negative test result for COVID-19 within 72 hours of departing for their destination. COVID-19 is the respiratory disease associated with the coronavirus.

“Many countries now require negative test results before arrival,” Chief of Navy Personnel Adm. John Nowell Jr. said in the message. Proof of a negative test provides a measure of

insurance against being refused travel outside the U.S. or denied entry to another country, he said.

South Korea on Friday started to require incoming travelers, including people covered by the status of forces agreement with the U.S., to provide proof of a negative test. Japan has the same requirement, but U.S. military travelers were not required to provide that proof, according to U.S. Forces Japan.

The U.S. commands in both countries mandate tests for their people upon arrival, along with subsequent tests and a mandatory quarantine period.

The Army in August began requiring all soldiers and their families to test negative and quarantine two weeks before leaving the U.S.

The Air Force in November began randomly selecting up to 15% of passengers on Patriot Express flights from Seattle and Baltimore for testing before takeoff. The Patriot Express is a government-contracted passenger service between the U.S. and overseas bases.

The Navy recommends molecular tests, such as polymerase chain reaction, or PCR tests, but will accept rapid antigen tests, according to the policy.

Because entry requirements vary between countries, travelers should verify the specific requirements at their destination “to avoid delays, fines or other complications upon arrival,” according to the Navy message.

Further information about the requirement is available at the Navy Personnel Command website.

Air Force moves to ensure impartiality in punishments

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force has begun tracking the demographics of some disciplinary actions to determine if punishment is meted out impartially.

Commanders have been told to collect airmen's rank, age, gender, race and ethnicity in "lesser disciplinary actions," including administrative counseling, admonishments and reprimands, and submit the data to installation staff judge advocates, the Air Force said in a statement Tuesday.

Names and other personally identifiable information will not be included in the data, and court-martial and nonjudicial punishment will not be included in the data-gathering, it said.

The move follows an Air Force inspector general report published last month, which found racial disparities in the military justice system for Black service members of the Air Force and Space Force. They were far more likely to be investigated, arrested, face disciplinary actions and be discharged for misconduct, the report said.

All service branches are grappling with bias in the ranks, an issue the Pentagon said it would address after George Floyd's death in

May led to nationwide protests.

By tracking demographic data, commanders will be able to see disciplinary trends in their organizations, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Rockwell, the judge advocate general for the Department of the Air Force, said in a statement.

The Air Force has consistently monitored Article 15 and court-martial data, but not lesser disciplinary actions, Rockwell said.

Separately, the Air Force has ordered commanders to review official and unofficial unit emblems, morale patches, mottos, nicknames, coins and other forms of unit recognition "to ensure an inclusive and professional environment," the service said.

Any visual representation, symbols or language that are considered derogatory to any race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, age or disability status must be removed by commanders at the squadron level and above, it said.

The service also said last week that it has directed commanders who get low scores on "command climate" surveys in categories relating to diversity, inclusion, belonging or equal opportunity, to take steps to fix the problems identified in the survey within 60 days of receiving the results.

Marines arrive in Norway for Arctic warfare training

Stars and Stripes

More than 1,000 Marines and sailors arrived in Setermoen, Norway for Arctic warfare training, Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa said Friday.

The Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based Marines are part of a rotational force that trains with the Norwegian military and other NATO allies.

"The opportunity to strengthen this historic relationship with the Norwegian Army and improve our Arctic warfare proficiency is invaluable to the readiness of our forces," Lt. Col. Ryan Gordinier, commander of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Re-

giment, said in a statement.

The Marines have been a regular presence in Norway since the Cold War and continue to keep large stockpiles of weapons in Norwegian caves. The Marine mission in Norway expanded three years ago when the Corps launched six-month rotations that involved keeping Marines in Norway all year, with back-to-back rotations.

But in October, the Marines ended the continuous rotations, opting instead for a more periodic training regimen that offered added flexibility. At the time, the Marines also said the shift would enable shorter, but larger troop rotations.

UK pushes to vaccinate every adult by fall

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's health secretary said Sunday that every adult in the country will be offered a COVID-19 vaccine by the autumn as the U.K. ramps up its mass vaccination program amid a huge surge of infections and hospital admissions.

More than 600,000 people age 80 and over will begin receiving invitations this week to get the coronavirus shot at new large-scale vaccine centers around England. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said that officials were "on track" to reach its target of inoculating about 15 million people in the most vulnerable groups by the middle of February.

The vaccination drive comes as the U.K. sees a steep increase in infections and record numbers of COVID-19 patients being hospitalized, with many experts warning that the situation is more dire than it was when the country went into its first lockdown last spring. The Office of National Statistics estimated that 1 in 50 people in England had the virus in the most recent week.

Daily reported deaths hit a record high Friday, at 1,325, and in total around 81,000 people have died after testing positive for COVID-19. That's the highest in Europe and comes just behind the U.S., Brazil, India and Mexico.

Hancock said that more than 200,000 people are being vaccinated in England every day, and that by autumn, the entire adult population should have been offered a jab.

"We've got over 350 million doses on order — they're not all here yet. We're rolling them out as fast as they get delivered," he told the BBC. "But we are going to have enough to be able to offer a vaccine to everyone over the age of 18 by the autumn."

That's distant hope for doctors, nurses and emergency workers experiencing unprecedented pressure right now. Tracy Nicholls, the chief executive of the College of Paramedics, said members have reported ambulances left lining up outside hospitals waiting for up to nine hours, unable to hand patients over to emergency rooms.

Officials are hoping a speedy mass vaccination rollout will help get Britain back to normal life soon.

DOD: No plan made to help in DC protests

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A small quick-reaction force assembled by the Defense Department to assist if needed during protests in Washington on Wednesday did not immediately respond when a pro-Trump mob stormed the Capitol because of a lack of planning with Capitol Police over how it might be deployed, Pentagon officials said.

The D.C. National Guard force of 40 troops is mentioned in a new timeline of events that the Pentagon released Friday night, after two days of questions about how security on Capitol Hill was so lax that the mob could storm the building and force its evacuation. Five people died in the chaos, including a Capitol Police officer.

The timeline states that the quick-reaction force was a few miles away at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland and authorized for use by acting defense secretary Christopher Miller “if additional support is requested by civil authorities.”

But a senior defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said the Defense De-

partment and Capitol Police hadn’t reached an agreement or settled on a concept ahead of time. The Pentagon had made plans with D.C. police, which oversees much of the city, including Black Lives Matter Plaza near the White House, the official said.

Defense officials have said previously that with no plan in place with Capitol Police, there was concern about injecting National Guard forces into the situation abruptly. After absorbing frequent criticism about the thousands of National Guard members that Trump deployed in the city in June in response to protests spawned by the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the Pentagon sought a much narrower mission, preparing and providing only what D.C. officials specifically requested in advance.

“We receive our intelligence from law enforcement agencies, whether they’re federal or local,” Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said. Defense Department officials, he added, didn’t in their “wildest imagination” envision the crowd breaching the Capitol grounds.

It’s not clear how the quick-reaction force

could have been used to restore order once thousands of Trump’s supporters surrounded the Capitol and as some began entering the building. National Guard members at the D.C. Armory were also not deployed until Miller determined at 3 p.m. that all available D.C. National Guard forces should be sent to reinforce D.C. and Capitol police positions, according to the timeline.

Defense officials have deflected criticism of their response to the crisis, stating that law enforcement authorities were in charge and confident that they had the city under control. Pro-Trump groups had openly suggested online for weeks that they might take action on Wednesday, as a protest of the president’s election loss was underway.

On Sunday, authorities announced the death of another Capitol Police officer. Two people familiar with the matter said the officer’s death was an apparent suicide. Officer Howard Liebengood, 51, had been assigned to the Senate Division and was with the department since 2005.

It was not clear whether his death was connected to Wednesday’s events.

More arrests in Capitol riot as videos reveal brutality

Associated Press

Police charged more Capitol rioters on Saturday, including a man who carried off the House speaker’s lectern, as more graphic details of the insurrection emerged, revealing the violence and brutality of the mob that stormed a seat of American political power.

A bloodied officer was crushed in a doorway screaming in Wednesday’s siege, which forced lawmakers to go into hiding for hours and halt their voting to affirm President-elect Joe Biden’s victory. Another officer tumbled over a railing into the crowd below after being body-slammed from behind. Members of the media were cursed, shoved and punched.

A vast number of photos and videos captured the riot, which left five people dead. Many of the images were taken by the rioters themselves, few of whom wore masks that would have lowered not only their

chances of contracting the coronavirus, but their chances of being identified. Some took pains to stand out.

Jacob Anthony Chansley, an Arizona man seen in photos and video of the mob with a painted face and wearing a costume that included a horned, fur hat, was taken into custody Saturday and charged with counts that include violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds.

Chansley, more commonly known as Jake Angeli, will remain in custody in Arizona pending a detention hearing that will be scheduled during an initial court appearance early this week, Assistant U.S. Attorney Esther Winne told The Associated Press by email. Chansley did not immediately respond to messages left via email and telephone.

Chansley, who had become a staple in his costume at pro-Trump protests across the

country, is now among dozens of people arrested in the wake of the Capitol invasion by a large mob of Trump supporters enraged over his election loss.

The rioters took over the House and Senate chambers, smashed windows and waved Trump, American and Confederate flags.

A Florida man accused of making off with Pelosi’s lectern during the chaos was arrested Friday night on a federal warrant and was being held Saturday without bail in Pinellas County, Fla. Jail records do not show if Adam Johnson, 36, of Parrish, Fla., has an attorney.

Johnson was charged Saturday with theft, violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds.

The married father of five was quickly identified on social media by local residents as the man in a photo smiling as he walked through the Capitol rotunda carrying Pelosi’s lectern,

The Bradenton Herald reported.

Johnson posted on social media that he was in Washington, D.C., during Wednesday’s riots and included disparaging comments about the Black Lives Matter movement, according to The Bradenton Herald. Those posts were later deleted or taken down.

By Saturday, prosecutors had filed 17 cases in federal district court and 40 others in the District of Columbia Superior Court for a variety of offenses ranging from assaulting police officers to entering restricted areas of the U.S. Capitol, stealing federal property and threatening lawmakers.

Prosecutors said that additional cases remained under seal while dozens of other people were being sought by federal agents, and the U.S. attorney in Washington vowed Friday that “all options were on the table” for charges.

Biden Cabinet shows return to normal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Joe Biden promised that his presidency would mean a return to normalcy. His Cabinet picks help demonstrate how he plans to deliver.

The president-elect announced his final nominees this past week, completing a diverse team of two dozen people. He noted Friday that this will be the “first Cabinet ever” to reach gender parity and include a majority of people of color, notable given earlier concerns that he was leaning largely on white men.

Some nominees have decades of experience in their respective agencies. Many held prominent roles in the Obama administration. Many have already begun meeting with interest groups and advocacy organizations, and his transition team has had what’s been described as an “open-door policy” toward advocacy groups for months.

It’s a sharp contrast to President Donald Trump’s Cabinet, which was dominated

largely by white men with little experience in Washington. Biden’s aides say that was one of the goals he set in filling out his Cabinet: to signal that his presidency means a return to competent, stable leadership.

That’s especially important, Democrats say, as the pandemic and economic turmoil rage and the country navigates through the aftermath of last week’s violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

“Joe Biden is taking office under the most challenging circumstances in a century,” said Dan Pfeiffer, a former Obama White House senior adviser. “There is no time for on the job training. He needs people who can hit the ground running because what happens in the first six months of his presidency will likely determine the trajectory of all four years.”

Biden’s Cabinet is unlikely to be in place when he assumes the presidency on Jan. 20. The Senate, which must confirm the nominees, hasn’t scheduled hearings for many of the picks. One exception is Lloyd Austin, Bi-

den’s nominee for defense secretary, who is expected to appear before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Jan. 19.

Some nominees faced early questions about their confirmation prospects, particularly Neera Tanden, Biden’s pick to lead the Office of Management and Budget. Tanden has angered Republicans with her outspoken criticism of them on Twitter.

But the confirmation process for many of the nominees may be smoother after Democrats picked up two Senate seats in Georgia last week, leaving the chamber evenly divided. Vice President-elect Kamala Harris will be the tie-breaking vote, giving Democrats the edge.

Biden spokesman Andrew Bates said that the president-elect is “working in good faith with both parties in Congress toward swift confirmation because with so much at stake, with our national security on the line and lives and jobs being lost every day, our nation cannot afford to waste any time.”

Indonesian divers find plane wreckage in sea

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Authorities said they determined the location of the crash site and black boxes of a Boeing 737-500 on Sunday, a day after the aircraft crashed into the Java Sea with 62 people on board shortly after taking off from Indonesia’s capital.

The head of Indonesia’s National Search and Rescue Agency, Bagus Puruhito, said officials believe they identified the location of the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder — the so-called black boxes — because emergency signals transmitted by the devices were detected by a navy ship’s sonar system.

“Hopefully we can lift the black boxes in short time to determine the cause of the crash,” military chief Hadi Tjahjanto said.

Earlier Sunday, search and rescue operations resulted in parts of the plane being found in

the sea at a depth of 75 feet, leading rescuers to continue searching the area.

“We received reports from the diver team that the visibility in the water is good and clear, allowing the discovery of some parts of the plane,” Tjahjanto said in a statement. “We are sure that is the point where the plane crashed.”

He said the objects found included broken pieces of fuselage with aircraft registration parts.

Earlier, rescuers pulled out body parts, pieces of children’s clothing and scraps of metal from the surface.

The plane was en route from Jakarta to Pontianak, the capital of West Kalimantan province on Indonesia’s Borneo island, on a flight that was expected to take around 90 minutes.

It was still unclear what caused it to crash. There was no sign of survivors.

US voids restrictions for diplomats with Taiwan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Saturday that the State Department is voiding longstanding restrictions on how U.S. diplomats and others have contact with their counterparts in Taiwan, another move that is expected to upset China as the Trump administration winds to an end.

The Trump administration has sought to strengthen bilateral relations with Taiwan. It announced Thursday that U.N. Ambassador Kelly Craft would go to Taiwan, a move that sparked sharp criticism from Beijing and a warning that the U.S. would pay a heavy price. In August, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar became the first Cabinet member to visit Taiwan since 2014.

Pompeo said that the State Department has created complex restrictions when it comes to contacts between the two par-

ties. He said those actions were taken to appease the Communist regime in Beijing.

“No more,” Pompeo declared in a statement. “Today I am announcing that I am lifting all of these self-imposed restrictions.”

The Chinese government maintains that mainland China and Taiwan are parts of “one China.” China has been stepping up its threats to bring the self-governing island under its control.

China’s state media lashed out at the move on Taiwan by the departing Trump administration, accusing Pompeo of “seeking to maliciously inflict a long-lasting scar on China-U.S. ties.”

Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu welcomed the move.

“I’m grateful to @SecPompeo & @StateDept for lifting restrictions unnecessarily limiting our engagements these past years,” Wu said in a tweet.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Mayor chosen by pulling a name from hat

TX DICKINSON — The race to be the mayor of a Houston suburb ended with the winner’s name being drawn from a top hat.

Sean Skipworth and Jennifer Lawrence were vying to be the next mayor of Dickinson, but they each ended up with 1,010 votes after a runoff election.

According to Texas law, a tie in a race for public office can be resolved by casting lots.

Skipworth became mayor after a ping pong ball with his name was pulled out of a hat during a ceremony that lasted about 10 minutes, the Galveston County Daily News reported.

State to try again to sell former circus train cars

NC RALEIGH — The state of North Carolina said it will try again to auction off railroad cars, including nine that were once owned by the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

The Raleigh News & Observer reported that the N.C. Department of Transportation had originally put 16 cars up for sale last month. And it received offers for two passenger cars built in the 1960s.

Jason Orthner, director of NCDOT’s Rail Division, said the state will hold another online auction for the other 14 cars. He said the department will consider lowering the asking prices and revising the terms and conditions of the sales.

Bill 33, retired Naval Academy goat mascot, has died

MD ANNAPOLIS — The United States Naval Academy announced that goat mascot Bill 33 has died.

The fuzzy Angora goat was affectionately known as “Blue Eyes” and would have been 14 years old this week.

The goat was the team mascot from 2008 to 2015. He stood out not only for his startling eyes, but also for horns that stretched

longer than any goat in his herd.

Bill 33 suffered from health issues caused by old age and was humanely euthanized when it became clear that his condition would not improve.

Police: Racist graffiti found on 3 schools

MO KIRKWOOD — Kirkwood police are investigating after “racist and derogatory” statements were found at three schools in the city.

A student found the graffiti at Kirkwood High School. Maintenance staff checking all the district’s schools found graffiti at Nipher and North Kirkwood middle schools, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

The vandalized areas were cleaned, said Superintendent Dave Ulrich, who promised to work with police to ensure a “complete investigation” of the incidents.

Ex-nurse charged with stealing pain medication from hospital

MA BEVERLY — A former nurse who worked at Beverly Hospital for about two months agreed to plead guilty to stealing opioid pain medication from the emergency room there in 2016, according to court documents.

Mark Croft, 48, of West Boylston, was charged by federal prosecutors with obtaining drugs by fraud and tampering with a consumer product, The Salem News reported.

The complaint alleges that Croft used the information of two patients to access an automated dispensing machine, where he withdrew prefilled syringes containing painkillers. Croft took the medications for his own use, according to court documents.

Police: Nearly a dozen goats found shot and killed

NC RAMSEUR — Police in North Carolina said they’re investigating after nearly a dozen goats were shot and killed.

The Raleigh News & Observer reported that the incident occurred in the Ramseur area in Randolph County.

The sheriff’s office said it had been called after a livestock owner reported finding several dead animals.

Woman arrested after high-speed chase

VA STAFFORD — A woman was arrested after leading a deputy on a high-speed chase while driving a reported stolen vehicle in Virginia, authorities said.

The chase started after the deputy attempted to stop the vehicle Lindsey Michelle Hoyle, 31, was driving in Spotsylvania County, the Spotsylvania Sheriff’s Office said in a news release. The car had been reported stolen out of Stafford County.

Deputies said Hoyle failed to stop, leading the deputy on the pursuit that went through two localities. She was eventually stopped with the assistance of the Virginia State Police and taken into custody.

2 accused of robbing graves for religious ritual

FL MOUNT DORA — Two central Florida men are accused of stealing skulls from a cemetery and using them for “religious practices,” sheriff’s officials said.

Investigators found evidence, including cigars, at the grave sites. They sent the evidence to a lab for DNA testing, the post said.

The DNA samples were then submitted into a database for comparison, officials said. One sample matched Brian Montalvo Tolentino, 43, of Davenport.

Investigators from Lake County interviewed Tolentino, who confessed to going to the cemetery with Juan Burgos Lopez, 39, of Lake Wales.

Tolentino told detectives that Lopez used a crowbar to open the vaults and then removed the items that were taken and used for religious practices, the sheriff’s office said.

— From The Associated Press



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Top corners crucial in national title game

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Two of the best cornerbacks in the nation, Shaun Wade of Ohio State and Patrick Surtain II of Alabama, are going to have their hands full during Monday night's national championship game.

Both are highly decorated All-Americans and top NFL prospects — which one is best is a matter for a debate that this game could help settle. Every action and reaction will be dissected and evaluated in their matchups with some of the college game's best receivers.

Those duels should be fun to watch.

Wade played outside cornerback for the first time this season. The Buckeyes (7-0) will rely on him to contain DeVonta Smith, who has been nearly unstoppable against man-to-man coverage on his way to winning the Heisman Trophy, the first receiver to be so honored in 29 years.

"We got to put the best on the best and go from there," Wade said this week.

Tide receiver John Metchie III — and the prospect of receiver Patrick Waddle playing in the game after missing much of the season with an injury — will make it even more challenging for Wade and the Buckeyes defense.

Wade has two interceptions, including a Pick-6 that ended up being the game-winning score against Indiana.

"He's very crafty," said Smith, who had seven catches for 130 yards and three touch-

downs in Alabama's (12-0) win over Notre Dame in the semifinal. "He mixes his technique up some. He's a technician with everything he does."

Smith made it clear he expects to take advantage of the matchup.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said. "It's my last game. I'm only guaranteed the last one, so I'm looking forward to getting to play against him."

Surtain will have to contend with Ohio State's duo of top receivers, Chris Olave and Garrett Wilson. Olave had two touchdown catches, including a stunning 56-yard bomb, in the Buckeyes' win over Clemson in the semifinal.

"(Olave) creates separation fast at the top of his route," Surtain said. "He's also very patient and fluid with his route running. He keeps the defense guessing. He's an excellent vertical threat. It's going to be a challenge, of course."

Olave said practicing daily against the Buckeyes' NFL-bound defensive backs over the past three seasons helped prepare him for what Surtain will bring. Those guys included All-American cornerback Jeff Okudah, who was the third overall pick in the 2020 draft.

"(Surtain) is long, fast, physical — can't really ask for much more in a DB," Olave said. "And I played against Okudah last year, and he's equal to him."

Ohio State offensive coordinator Kevin

Wilson said Surtain creates matchup problems that affect the entire game plan.

"He's such a great cover guy," Wilson said. "He doesn't need to have a lot of safety help or bracket help or inside help. He can play a guy one-on-one and that allows the defense to then bracket other receivers, or that allows the defense to cheat with linebackers and safeties to outnumber you and out-gap you in the run game. He's a tremendous player, a guy we recruited hard."

Surtain will be returning to Hard Rock Stadium, the venue where his father starred as a cornerback in the NFL. The elder Surtain was drafted by the Miami Dolphins in 1998 and spent seven seasons with the team. The younger Surtain, who grew up in south Florida where his family resides, got to play in the stadium as a freshman in the Tide's 2018 CFP semifinal win over Oklahoma.

"He's going to be there," Surtain said. "I'm just looking forward to it. It's impressive, you know? I know they're going to be happy to see me, I'm going to be happy to see them. It's going to be a great moment."

Wade dismissed a suggestion that playing on the same stage with Surtain, one of three finalists for the Chuck Bednarik Award as the nation's top defensive player, provides added motivation.

"Really, no," he said. "I'm just worried about winning this game and that's the motivation right there — winning the national championship."

Brady outduels Heinicke, leads Buccaneers to victory

Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — New team, same swashbuckling playoff success for Tom Brady.

Brady threw for 381 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Tampa Bay Buccaneers past Washington 31-23 in their NFC wildcard game Saturday night for their first playoff victory since the 2002 season. Brady was critical of his play and the offense's performance in the red zone but relished picking up his 31st career postseason win.

"Certainly a lot to improve on, but great to get a win," said Brady, who was 22 of 40 passing. "If you could win 100-0, it's going to be the same result in the end. You'd love to play great every game. I think it's good to win and advance."

In his 42nd postseason start and first not in a New England Patriots uniform, Brady

made the most of a lack of early pressure to build a lead against the NFL's second-ranked defense that held up.

"He is a fighter, he plays hard, works hard and studies hard, and he is the man for the job," Buccaneers running back Leonard Fournette said.

Brady had to outduel Washington's Taylor Heinicke, who had a breakout performance in just his second pro start and first in the playoffs in place of injured starter Alex Smith. Heinicke — signed in early December to the practice squad — ran for 46 yards and a touchdown and threw for 306 yards and a score.

"He almost beat us with his legs," Tampa Bay coach Bruce Arians said. "He was very elusive. We knew he was going to scramble around, there was going to be bootlegs and scrambles. We were really hoping for Alex

because we knew that part of the game wasn't going to be in there."

But Heinicke wasn't enough to overcome Brady's off-and-on brilliance. While Bill Belichick and the Patriots watch from home with their playoff streak snapped at 11 following a 7-9 season, Brady has the opportunity to play in another Super Bowl — in his new home stadium.

"We're thrilled with the win," Buccaneers tight end Cameron Brate said. "I hate to say that we're relieved, but at this point we're just pumped we got the win. No matter how ugly it was, no matter how many mistakes we made, a win's a win this time of year."

The Buccaneers await the result of Chicago at New Orleans on Sunday to see if they'll be visiting Drew Brees and the Saints or host the Los Angeles Rams next weekend.

Bills earn first playoff win in 25 years

Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Quarterback Josh Allen and safety Micah Hyde teamed up to make history of the Buffalo Bills' losing past

Now do you Bill-ieve?

In a season in which the Bills busted numerous slumps, Allen became Buffalo's first starter in 25 years to win a playoff game. And Hyde ensured the Bills wouldn't endure another second-half collapse as happened last year in a wild-card loss to Houston, or last-second touchdown.

With Buffalo the AFC East champions for the first time since 1995 and hosting their first playoff game since '96, Allen threw two touchdowns and scored one rushing in leading the Bills to a 27-24 victory over the Indianapolis Colts in a wild-card game Saturday.

Hyde batted down Philip Rivers' desperation pass as time ran out in helping Buffalo snap an 0-6 postseason skid by winning its first playoff game since a 37-22 win over Miami on Dec. 30, 1995.

The past was very much present in Allen's mind when reflecting on how Buffalo squandered a 16-0 third-quarter lead in a 22-19 overtime loss to Houston in his first career playoff appearance.

"Obviously we started off a little slow and we were able to get into a rhythm late. Made enough plays to win," Allen said. "It's new territory for myself, but it just gives us a chance to play next week."

The end of the game was so stunning, in which the Bills nearly squandered a 24-10 fourth-quarter lead, safety Jordan Poyer was still having difficulty trying to put the result in perspective.

"I haven't had time to celebrate and take it in, but this is awesome for the Bills organization, the city, to be able to play a home game and get a victory," said Poyer, in his fourth season in Buffalo. "Since 2017, we've been working at this, but a day like today, to come out on top, we worked so hard."

Hyde's pass defense eased memories of the Bills giving up DeAndre Hopkins' leaping 43-yard touchdown catch in the final seconds of a 32-30 loss at Arizona on Nov. 15. Buffalo has won seven straight since for its longest winning streak since 1990.

And the win came with a limited number of 6,700 fans in attendance for the first time this season.

Allen finished 26-for-35 for 324 yards with a 5-yard touchdown to Dawson Knox and a 35-yarder to Stefon Diggs, which led to the fans chanting "MVP! MVP!" to cele-

brate the first Buffalo player to lead the NFL in catches and yards receiving.

The Colts (11-6) ended a season in which they won 11 games for the first time since 2014, and reached the playoffs for the second time in three years under Frank Reich.

Rivers finished 27-for-46 for 309 yards and had his career playoff record drop to 5-7 in completing his first — and potentially last — season with the Colts as he ponders retirement.

Losing doesn't get any easier for the 39-year-old, who has reached the conference championship just once in 2008.

"Shoot, it's hard to go back 12 years ago to think how I felt in the locker room after that championship game," Rivers said, referring to the Chargers' 21-12 loss to New England. "It's always emotional. But is it more emotional when you're about to be 40 and you're not sure if you've been in your last huddle? Heck yeah."

The game wasn't decided until the final play, when Rivers faced fourth-and-11 from Buffalo's 47. Rivers heaved a deep pass for T.Y. Hilton, who was surrounded by defenders in the right side of the end zone. Hyde broke through the crowd of bodies, leaping up and batting the ball to the ground.

Rams get the better of division rival Seahawks

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Quietly, Aaron Donald, Jared Goff and the rest of the Los Angeles Rams seethed.

They watched less than two weeks ago as the Seattle Seahawks loudly celebrated a division title the Rams felt they gave away. LA desperately wanted another shot.

Behind a lot of Cam Akers churning yards on the ground and mostly a great defense, the Rams are moving on in the NFC playoffs at the expense of the Seahawks.

"We come up here, and all week we were told how good they are and how we snuck into the playoffs," Goff said. "Two weeks ago, you saw them smoking cigars and getting all excited about beating us and winning the division, and we were able to come up here and beat them."

Akers rushed for 131 yards and a touchdown, Darious Williams returned Russell Wilson's interception 42 yards for a score,

and the Rams beat the Seahawks 30-20 in the NFC wild-card playoff game Saturday.

"A lot of guys stepped up and answered the bell in a big way," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "Darious Williams showing up, I thought that was a huge momentum shift for us."

The best defense in the league during the regular season carried its dominance into the playoffs — even while missing unanimous All-Pro tackle Aaron Donald for much of the second half. No team was better at limiting yards or points than the Rams (11-6) and they continued to torment Wilson and the Seahawks (12-5).

Seattle's quarterback was under siege from the defensive front and a secondary that, minus one play, never let DK Metcalf or Tyler Lockett break loose. Donald, before leaving with a rib injury, and Jalen Ramsey were superb. But so were other role players such as Troy Reeder, Jordan Fuller and Leonard Floyd.

Floyd had two of the Rams' five sacks.

"We're excited about competing to go see who we play next and see if we can keep this thing rolling," McVay said. "But we'll enjoy this."

Williams' third interception against Wilson after picking him off twice in Los Angeles came as he jumped a wide receiver screen intended for Metcalf and returned it untouched for a 13-3 lead midway through the second quarter.

Akers added a 5-yard TD run just before halftime for a 20-10 lead. It proved enough against a Seattle offense disjointed and confused nearly from the start.

Wilson had one of his worst playoff performances. He was 11 of 27 for 174 yards. Wilson connected with Metcalf on a pair of TDs: 51 yards in the first half off a broken play, and a 12-yard TD with 2:28 left to make the score more respectable.

Seattle never played with the lead and was 2-for-14 on third downs.

Hornets' Ball youngest with triple-double

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — LaMelo Ball became the youngest player in NBA history to record a triple-double with 22 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists, and the Charlotte Hornets beat the Atlanta Hawks 113-105 on Saturday for their third straight win.

The 19-year-old Ball replaced Markelle Fultz as the youngest NBA player to record a triple-double by 177 days.

Ball, the third overall pick in the NBA draft, was 9 of 13 from the field as the Hornets handed the struggling Hawks their fourth straight loss. He became only the fifth rookie in NBA history to record a triple-double and the first Hornets player ever to do it off the bench.

Nuggets 115, 76ers 103: Nikola Jokic had 15 points and 12 assists to lead visiting Denver past Philadelphia, beating a 76ers team that had only seven available players because of injuries and COVID-19 protocols.

The Sixers tipped without four regular starters — All-Stars Ben Simmons (sore left knee) and Joel Embiid (back) due to injury, and Seth Curry and Tobias Harris over virus concerns. Coach Doc Rivers said he didn't think the game should be played.

Bucks 100, Cavaliers 90: Khris Mid-

leton scored 27 points and host Milwaukee withstood the absence of two-time reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo to beat Cleveland.

Antetokounmpo sat out with back spasms after taking a hard fall one night earlier in a loss to the Utah Jazz.

Bobby Portis replaced Antetokounmpo in Milwaukee's starting lineup and scored 17 points as the Bucks (6-4) closed a five-game home stretch in which they went 4-1.

Heat 128, Wizards 124: Tyler Herro scored a career-high 31 points and Jimmy Butler nearly had a triple-double with 26 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists as visiting Miami beat short-handed Washington.

Washington played without the NBA's leading scorer, Bradley Beal, who was a late scratch when he was placed in the NBA's health and safety protocol. They were also without their other starting guard, Russell Westbrook, out with a left quad injury.

Spurs 125, Timberwolves 122 (OT): DeMar DeRozan scored 38 points, helping visiting San Antonio beat Minnesota in Karl-Anthony Towns' return to the Timberwolves.

Towns, who missed the last six games

with a partial dislocation of his left wrist, had 25 points and 13 rebounds in 37 minutes as Minnesota's losing streak hit seven games.

Mavericks 112, Magic 98: Tim Hardaway Jr. scored a season-high 36 points, and Luka Doncic had another triple-double as short-handed host Dallas beat Orlando.

Hardaway and Burke took on expanded roles to help Dallas get over .500 for the first time this season with starters Josh Richardson and Dorian Finney-Smith and backup point guard Jalen Brunson sidelined by COVID-19 protocols.

Suns 125, Pacers 117: Mikal Bridges scored a career-high 34 points and Devin Booker added 25, leading visiting Phoenix over Indiana.

Phoenix pulled into a tie with the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers for the best record in the Western Conference at 7-3 after earning its first road win over the Pacers since 2016.

Trail Blazers 125, Kings 99: CJ McCollum scored 37 points, making six three-pointers, and visiting Portland coasted past Sacramento.

The Trail Blazers led by as many as 31 and faced little resistance from a Kings team that gave up 144 points to Toronto just a night earlier.

Jones' late shot lifts No. 4 Texas over No. 14 WVU

Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Andrew Jones hit a three-pointer with 1.8 seconds left to lift No. 4 Texas to a 72-70 victory over No. 14 West Virginia on Saturday.

Jones took a pass from Courtney Ramey and hit an uncontested shot from the right corner after West Virginia's Emmitt Matthews missed two free throws with 11 seconds left.

Ramey scored 19 points for Texas (10-1, 4-0 Big 12), which trailed for most of the game and had to come from nine points down in the second half. Jones finished with 16 points.

No. 1 Gonzaga 116, Portland 88: Joel Ayayi posted the first triple-double in Gonzaga history and the Bulldogs routed Por-

tland for their 16th straight win.

No. 2 Baylor 67, TCU 49:

Jared Butler scored a season-high 28 points and the visiting Bears stayed undefeated with another double-digit win even after trailing at halftime for the first time this season.

No. 6 Kansas 63, Oklahoma 59: David McCormack hit the clinching short hook shot with 12.8 seconds to go, giving the Kansas big man 17 points against short-handed Oklahoma.

No. 7 Creighton 97, St. John's 79: Denzel Mahoney scored a season-high 24 points to lead six players in double figures with star Marcus Zegarowski out of the lineup, and Creighton pulled away early in a victory over St. John's.

No. 9 Tennessee 68, Texas

A&M 54: Santiago Vescov scored a career-high 23 points, including six three-pointers, and visiting Tennessee beat Texas A&M.

No. 11 Houston 71, Tulane 50: Marcus Sasser made six of seven three-pointers and scored 20 of his career-high 28 points in the first half to lead host Houston past Tulane.

Ohio State 79, No. 15 Rutgers 68: Duane Washington Jr. scored 17 points and visiting Ohio State closed the first half with a 22-4 run to beat Rutgers.

No. 17 Oregon 79, Utah 73: Chris Duarte scored 25 points and Eric Williams Jr. added 19 to lift visiting Oregon over Utah.

No. 18 Texas Tech 91, Iowa State 64: Kyler Edwards scored 16 of his 19 points in the first half as visiting Texas Tech

built a huge lead and breezed past Iowa State.

No. 21 Duke 79, Wake Forest 68: Matthew Hurt scored a career-high 26 points to help host Duke beat Wake Forest in Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski's return from a one-game absence due to COVID-19 protocols.

Freshman DJ Steward added 21 points for the Blue Devils (5-2, 3-0 ACC).

No. 22 Virginia 61, Boston College 49: Jay Huff matched his career-high with 18 points to lead visiting Virginia over Boston College.

Sam Hauser scored 17 with 10 boards to help the Cavaliers (6-2, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) win their third straight since a Dec. 26 loss to top-ranked Gonzaga.