

# Biden sworn in as 46th president

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Joe Biden became the 46th president of the United States on Wednesday, declaring that “democracy has prevailed” as he took the helm of a deeply divided nation and inherited a confluence of crises arguably greater than any faced by his predecessors.

Biden’s inauguration came at a time of national tumult and uncertainty, a ceremony of resilience as the hallowed American democratic rite unfurled at a U.S. Capitol battered by an insurrectionist siege just two weeks ago. The chilly Washington morning was dotted with snow flurries, but the sun emerged just before Biden took the oath of office, the quadrennial ceremony persevering even though it was encircled by security forces evocative of a war zone and devoid of crowds because of the coronavirus pandemic.

“The will of the people has been heard, and the will of the people has been heeded. We’ve learned again that democracy is precious and democracy is fragile. At this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed,” Biden said. “This is America’s day. This is democracy’s day. A day in history and hope, of renewal and resolve.”

And then he pivoted to challenges ahead, acknowledging the surging virus that has claimed more than 400,000 lives in the United States. Biden looked out over a capital city dotted with empty storefronts that attest to the pandemic’s deep economic toll and where summer protests laid bare the nation’s renewed reckoning on racial injustice.

“We have much to do in this winter of peril, and significant possibilities: much to repair, much to restore, much to heal, much to build and much to gain,” Biden said. “Few people in our nation’s history have been more challenged, or found a time more challenging or difficult than the time we’re in now.”

His predecessor’s absence underscored the healing that is needed.

Flouting tradition, Donald Trump departed Washington on Wednesday morning ahead of the inauguration rather than accompany his successor to the Capitol. Though three other former presidents —

Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama — gathered to watch the ceremonial transfer of power, Trump, awaiting his second impeachment trial, instead flew to Florida after stoking grievance among his supporters with the lie that Biden’s win was illegitimate.

Biden came to office with a well of empathy and resolve born by personal tragedy as well as a depth of experience forged from more than four decades in Washington. At age 78, he was the oldest president inaugurated.

More history was made at his side, as Kamala Harris became the first woman to be vice president. The former U.S. senator from California is also the first Black person and the first person of South Asian descent elected to the vice presidency and will become the highest-ranking woman to serve in government.

The two were sworn in during an inauguration ceremony with few parallels in history.

Tens of thousands of troops are on the streets to provide security precisely two weeks after a violent mob of Trump supporters, incited by the Republican president, stormed the Capitol in an attempt to prevent the certification of Biden’s victory.

“Here we stand, just days after a riotous mob thought they could use violence to silence the will of the people,” Biden said. “To stop the work of our democracy. To drive us from this sacred ground. It did not happen. It will never happen. Not today, not tomorrow. Not ever. Not ever.”

The tense atmosphere evoked the 1861 inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, who was secretly transported to Washington to avoid assassins on the eve of the Civil War, or Franklin D. Roosevelt’s inaugural in 1945, when he opted for a small, secure ceremony at the White House in the waning months of World War II.

The day began with a reach across the aisle after four years of bitter partisan battles under Trump. At Biden’s invitation, congressional leaders from both parties bowed their heads in prayer in the socially distanced service just a few blocks from the White House.

Biden was sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts; Harris was sworn in by Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latina member of the Supreme Court. Vice President Mike Pence, standing in for Trump, sat nearby as Lady Gaga, holding a gold microphone, sang the national anthem accompanied by the U.S. Marine Corps band.

Biden oversaw a “Pass in Review,” a military tradition that honors the peaceful transfer of power to a new commander in chief. Later, Biden, Harris and their spouses, along with the trio of former presidents planned to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Still later, Biden was to join the end of a slimmed-down inaugural parade as he moves into the White House. Because of the pandemic, much of this year’s parade was to be a virtual affair featuring performances from around the nation.

In the evening, in lieu of the traditional glitzy balls that welcome a new president to Washington, Biden will take part in a televised concert that also marks the return of A-list celebrities to the White House orbit after they largely eschewed Trump. Among those in the lineup: Bruce Springsteen, Justin Timberlake and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Trump is the first president in more than a century to skip the inauguration of his successor. He did adhere to one tradition and left a note for Biden in the Oval Office, according to the White House, which did not release its contents. And Trump, in his farewell remarks, hinted at a political return, saying “we will be back in some form.”

And he, without question, will shadow Biden’s first days in office.

Trump’s second impeachment trial could start as early as this week. That could test the ability of the Senate, poised to come under Democratic control, to balance impeachment proceedings with confirmation hearings and votes on Biden’s Cabinet choices.

Biden was eager to go big early, with an ambitious first 100 days that includes a push to speed up the distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations to anxious Americans and pass a \$1.9 trillion virus relief package.

# Biden aims to change course on policies

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — In his first hours as president, Joe Biden aimed to strike at the heart of former President Donald Trump's policy legacy by signing a series of executive actions to reverse his predecessor's orders on immigration, climate change and handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Biden on Wednesday planned to halt construction on Trump's U.S.-Mexico border wall, rejoin the Paris Climate Accord and the World Health Organization, end the ban on travel from some Muslim-majority countries and revoke the approval of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, aides said. The new president planned to sign the orders almost immediately after taking the oath of office at the Capitol, pivoting quickly from his pared-down inauguration ceremony to enacting his agenda.

The 15 executive actions are an attempt to essentially rewind the last four years of federal policies with striking speed. Only two recent presidents signed executive actions on their first day in office — and each signed just one. But Biden, facing the debilitating coronavirus pandemic, is intent on demonstrating a sense of urgency and competence that he argues has been missing under his predecessor.

"We'll press forward with speed and urgency, for we have much to do in this winter peril and significant possibilities — much to repair, much to restore, much to heal, much to build and much to gain," Biden said after being sworn in as the nation's 46th president.

Biden started Inauguration Day by signaling he would seek a return to the Washington traditions and normalcy his predecessor upended.

Biden's top priority is getting a grip on the pandemic, which reached another grim milestone on Tuesday when the United States surpassed 400,000 virus deaths. In his first act as president, Biden paused his inaugural address and asked Americans to join him in a silent prayer for the victims of the nation's worst public health crisis in more than a century.

He later planned to sign an order putting in place a mask mandate on federal property and extending the federal eviction freeze. It will create a federal office to coordinate a national response to the virus and restore the White House's National Security Council directorate for global health security and defense.

Biden's first actions reach well beyond the health crisis. He intends to order a review of all Trump regulations and execu-

tive actions that are deemed damaging to the environment or public health. He planned to order federal agencies to prioritize racial equity and review policies that reenforce systemic racism. He planned to revoke a Trump order that sought to exclude noncitizens from the census and planned to order federal employees to take an ethics pledge that commits them to upholding the independence of the Justice Department.

His orders also seek to fortify the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA, a signature effort during the Obama administration that provided hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants protection from deportation and a pathway to citizenship.

These actions will be followed by dozens more in the next 10 days, aides said, as Biden looks to redirect the country without having to go through a Senate that Democrats control by the narrowest margin.

In an effort to signal a return to pre-Trump times, Jen Psaki, the incoming White House press secretary, said she would hold a news briefing late Wednesday in a symbol of the administration's commitment to transparency. Trump's White House had all but abandoned the practice of briefing reporters daily.

## GOP, conservative groups oppose immigration plan

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Republican lawmakers and conservative groups opposed President Joe Biden's forthcoming immigration plan Tuesday as massive amnesty for people in the United States illegally, underscoring that the measure faces an uphill fight in a Congress that Democrats control just narrowly.

In a further complication, several pro-immigration groups said they would press Biden to go even further and take steps such as immediate moratoriums on deportations, detentions and new arrests. Coupled with the discomfort an immigration push could cause for moderate Democrats, liberals' demands illustrated the pressures facing Biden as four years of former President Donald Trump's restrictive and often harsh immigration policies come to an end.

"It simply wouldn't have happened without us," Lorella Praeli, co-president of the liberal group Community Change, said of Biden's victory. "So we are now in a powerful position."

Biden planned to introduce the legislation shortly after being inaugurated Wednesday, a move he hopes will spotlight his emphasis on an issue that's defied major congressional action since 1986. Its fate, as written, seemed in doubt.

Biden's proposal would create an eight-year pathway to citizenship for millions of immigrants, set up a processing program abroad for refugees seeking admission to the U.S. and push toward using technology to monitor the border. The measure was described by an official from Biden's transition team who described the plan on condition of anonymity.

With an eye toward discouraging a surge of immigrants toward the U.S.-Mexico boundary, the package's route to citizenship would only apply to people already in the U.S. by this past Jan. 1. But it omits the traditional trade-off of dramatically enhanced border security that's helped attract some GOP support in the past, which drew criticism Tuesday.

"A mass amnesty with no safeguards and no strings attached is a nonstarter," said Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"There are many issues I think we can work cooperatively with President-elect Biden, but a blanket amnesty for people who are here unlawfully isn't going to be one of them," said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., often a central player in Senate immigration battles.

# Bannon among last flurry of Trump pardons

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump pardoned former chief strategist Steve Bannon as part of a flurry of clemency action in the final hours of his White House term that benefited more than 140 people, including rap performers, ex-members of Congress and other allies of him and his family.

The last-minute clemency, announced Wednesday morning, follows separate waves of pardons over the past month for Trump associates convicted in the FBI's Russia investigation as well as for the father of his son-in-law.

Taken together, the actions underscore the president's willingness, all the way through his four years in the White House, to flex his constitutional powers in ways that defy convention and explicitly aid his friends and supporters.

To be sure, the latest list was heavily populated by more conventional candidates whose cases had been championed by criminal justice activists.

One man who has spent nearly 24 years in prison on drug and weapons charges but had shown exemplary behavior behind bars had his sentence commuted, as did a former Marine sentenced in 2000 in con-

nection with a cocaine conviction.

Besides Bannon, other pardon recipients included Elliott Broidy, a Republican fundraiser who pleaded guilty last fall in a scheme to lobby the Trump administration to drop an investigation into the looting of a Malaysian wealth fund, and Ken Kurson, a friend of Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner who was charged last October with cyberstalking during a heated divorce.

Bannon's pardon was especially notable given that the prosecution was still in its early stages and any trial was months away. Whereas pardon recipients are conventionally thought of as defendants who have faced justice, often by having served at least some prison time, the pardon nullifies the prosecution and effectively eliminates any prospect for punishment.

"Steve Bannon is getting a pardon from Trump after defrauding Trump's own supporters into paying for a wall that Trump promised Mexico would pay for," Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff said on Twitter. "And if that all sounds crazy, that's because it is. Thank God we have only 12 more hours of this den of thieves."

And while other presidents have issued controversial pardons at the ends of their

administration, perhaps no commander in chief has so enjoyed using the clemency authority to benefit not only friends and acquaintances, but also celebrity defendants and those championed by allies.

Among the high-profile defendants were rappers Lil Wayne and Kodak Black, both convicted in Florida on weapons charges. Wayne, whose real name is Dwayne Michael Carter, has frequently expressed support for Trump and recently met with the president on criminal justice issues.

Others on the list included Death Row Records co-founder Michael Harris and New York art dealer and collector Hillel Nahmad.

Other pardon recipients include former Rep. Rick Renzi, an Arizona Republican who served three years for corruption, money laundering and other charges, and former Rep. Duke Cunningham of California, who was convicted of accepting \$2.4 million in bribes from defense contractors. Cunningham, who was released from prison in 2013, received a conditional pardon.

Trump also commuted the prison sentence of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, who has served about seven years behind bars for a racketeering and bribery scheme.

## Trump bids farewell to DC while hinting at comeback

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — His term at an end, President Donald Trump said farewell to Washington on Wednesday but also hinted about a comeback despite a legacy of chaos, tumult and bitter divisions in the country he led for four years.

"So just a goodbye. We love you," Trump told supporters at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, where he walked across a red carpet and boarded Air Force One to head to Florida. "We will be back in some form."

Trump departed office as the only president ever impeached twice, and with millions more out of work than when he was sworn in and 400,000 dead from the coronavirus. Under his watch, Republicans lost the presidency and both chambers of Congress. He will be forever remembered for inciting an insurrection, two weeks before Democrat Joe Biden moved into the White House, at the Capitol that left five dead, including a Capitol Police officer, and horrified the nation. It was on Trump's Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, 2017, that he had painted

ed a dire picture of "American carnage."

The first president in modern history to boycott his successor's inauguration, Trump is still stewing about his loss and maintains that election won by Biden was stolen from him. Republican officials in several critical states, members of his own administration and a wide swath of judges, including those appointed by Trump, have rejected those arguments.

Trump refused to participate in any of the symbolic passing-of-the-torch traditions surrounding the peaceful transition of power, including inviting Joe and Jill Biden to the White House for a get-to-know-you visit.

He did follow at least one tradition: The White House said Trump left behind a note for Biden. A Trump spokesman, Judd Deere, declined to say what Trump wrote or characterize the sentiment in the note, citing privacy for communication between presidents.

Members of Trump's family gathered for the send-off on the military base along with

the president's loyalists, who chanted "We love you!" "Thank you, Trump" and "U.S.A." Four Army cannons fired a 21-gun salute.

Speaking without notes, Trump said his presidency was an "incredible four years." He told the crowd that he and first lady Melania Trump loved them and praised his family for its hard work, saying they could have chosen to have an easier life.

"It's been something very special. We've accomplished a lot," Trump said, citing the installation of conservative judges, creation of the Space Force, development of coronavirus vaccines and management of a robust pre-pandemic economy. "I hope they don't raise your taxes, but if they do, I told you so," he said of the incoming Biden administration.

He acknowledged that his was not a "regular administration" and told his backers that he would be returning in some form. He said the Trump campaign had worked so hard: "We've left it all on the field," he said.



# US deaths top 400K as Trump departs

*Associated Press*

As Donald Trump entered the final year of his presidential term last January, the United States recorded its first confirmed case of COVID-19. Not to worry, Trump insisted, his administration had the virus “totally under control.”

In his final hours in office, after a year of presidential denials of reality and responsibility, the pandemic’s U.S. death toll eclipsed 400,000. And the loss of lives is accelerating.

“This is just one step on an ominous path of fatalities,” said Dr. Irwin Redlener, director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University and one of many public health experts who have contended that the Trump administration’s handling of the crisis led to thousands of avoidable deaths.

“Everything about how it’s been managed has been infused with incompetence and dishonesty, and we’re paying a heavy

price,” he said.

The 400,000-death toll, reported Tuesday by Johns Hopkins University, is greater than the population of New Orleans, Cleveland or Tampa, Fla. It’s nearly equal to the number of American lives lost annually to strokes, Alzheimer’s disease, diabetes, flu and pneumonia combined.

With more than 4,000 deaths recorded on some recent days — the most since the pandemic began — the toll by week’s end will likely surpass the number of Americans killed in World War II.

“We need to follow the science and the 400,000th death is shameful,” said Cliff Daniels, chief strategy officer for Methodist Hospital of Southern California, near Los Angeles. With its morgue full, the hospital has parked a refrigerated truck outside to hold the bodies of COVID-19 victims until funeral homes can retrieve them.

“It’s so incredibly, unimaginably

sad that so many people have died that could have been avoided,” he said.

President Joe Biden, who was sworn in Wednesday, took part in an evening remembrance ceremony Tuesday near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. The 400,000 dead were represented by 400 lights placed around the reflecting pool.

The U.S. accounts for nearly 1 of every 5 virus deaths reported worldwide, far more than any other country despite its great wealth and medical resources.

The coronavirus would almost certainly have posed a grave crisis for any president given its rapid spread and power to kill, experts on public health and government said. But Trump seemed to invest as much in battling public perceptions as he did in fighting the virus itself, repeatedly downplaying the threat and rejecting scientific expertise while fanning conflicts ignited by the

outbreak.

The White House defended the administration this week.

“We grieve every single life lost to this pandemic, and thanks to the president’s leadership, Operation Warp Speed has led to the development of multiple safe and effective vaccines in record time, something many said would never happen,” said White House spokesman Judd Deere.

In early October, when Trump himself contracted COVID-19, he ignored safety protocols, ordering up a motorcade so he could wave to supporters outside his hospital.

“We’re rounding the corner,” Trump said of the battle with the virus during a debate with Biden in late October. “It’s going away.”

It isn’t. U.S. deaths from COVID-19 surpassed 100,000 in late May, then tripled by mid-December. Experts at the University of Washington project deaths will reach nearly 567,000 by May 1.

## Defense secretary nominee commits to civilian control

**BY COREY DICKSTEIN**

*Stars and Stripes*

Retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin, President Joe Biden’s nominee for defense secretary, committed Tuesday to rebalancing decision-making power in the Pentagon from military officials to career civilians and named addressing China and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic as his top priorities, if he is confirmed.

Austin, who spent 41 years in the Army and retired in 2016 after leading the Defense Department’s U.S. Central Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that he understood the “enormous difference” between leading in uniform and serving as the civilian leader of the Pentagon. Like former Marine Gen. Jim Mattis, President Donald Trump’s first defense

secretary, Austin requires a waiver of the law that mandates a seven-year “cooling-off period” for retired military officers before they can serve as the Pentagon’s top civilian.

“I was a general and a soldier, and I am proud of that,” Austin said. “But today, I appear before you as a citizen, the son of a postal worker and a homemaker from Thomasville, Ga. I am proud of that, too. And if you confirm me, I am prepared to serve now — as a civilian — fully acknowledging the importance of this distinction.”

If confirmed, Austin would be the first Black defense secretary. In the Army, he broke multiple barriers, as the first Black officer to command a division and a corps in combat, the first Black Army vice chief of staff and the first Black CENTCOM leader.

## Soldier arrested in plots to blow up 9/11 Memorial

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — A U.S. Army soldier was arrested Tuesday in Georgia on terrorism charges after he spoke online about plots to blow up New York City’s 9/11 Memorial and other landmarks and attack U.S. soldiers in the Middle East, authorities said.

Cole James Bridges, of Stow, Ohio, was in custody on charges of attempted material support of a terrorist organization — the Islamic State — and attempted murder of a military member, said Nicholas Biase, a spokesperson for Manhattan federal prosecutors.

The 20-year-old soldier, also known as Cole Gonzales, was with the 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Ga., when he thought he was communicating with ISIS online about the terrorism plots, Biase said. Unbek-

nownst to Bridges, an FBI employee was in on the chat as Bridges provided detailed instructions on tactics and manuals and advice about attacking the memorial and other targets in New York City, Biase said.

“As we allege today, Bridges, a private in the U.S. Army, betrayed our country and his unit when he plotted with someone he believed was an ISIS sympathizer to help ISIS attack and kill U.S. soldiers in the Middle East,” said William F. Sweeney Jr., head of New York City’s FBI office.

“Our troops risk their lives for our country, but they should never face such peril at the hands of one of their own,” U.S. Attorney Audrey Strauss said.

Bridges was scheduled to make an initial appearance in federal court in Augusta, Ga., on Thursday.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Vet awarded \$1M in VA hospital abuse case

**KS** KANSAS CITY — A federal judge awarded more than \$1 million in damages to another veteran who says he was sexually abused by a former physician assistant at a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Kansas.

It's the third time since November that U.S. District Judge Daniel Crabtree has ruled against the government in cases charging the government with medical malpractice at the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center, KCUR-FM reported.

The veterans allege they were subjected to unnecessary genital exams and other physical abuse by Mark Wisner, who was a physician assistant at the Leavenworth VA hospital from 2008 to 2014.

Wisner was convicted of aggravated sexual battery and aggravated criminal assault in 2017 and sentenced to nearly 16 years in prison.

### Thief berates mom for leaving kid in stolen car, then drives off

**OR** BEAVERTON — A car thief who found a toddler in the backseat of a stolen vehicle drove back and chastised the mother for leaving the child unattended before taking off again, police in Oregon said.

The woman went into a grocery store about 15 feet from the car, leaving her 4-year-old child inside with the engine running and the vehicle unlocked, said Beaverton police spokesman Officer Matt Henderson.

Once the thief realized the toddler was in the backseat, he drove back, berated the woman for leaving her child unattended, told the woman to take the child and drove away in the stolen vehicle.

The vehicle was found a few hours later in Portland but police are still searching for the thief.

### Vandals heavily damage high school baseball field

**WV** HUNTINGTON — Vandals heavily damaged a high school baseball field in West Virginia after a fence had been removed to accommodate the con-

struction of a locker room clubhouse.

Tire tracks as much as 4 inches deep were left in the grassy areas of the baseball field at Spring Valley High School, coach Austin Pratt told WSAZ-TV. The joyride also damaged a sprinkler system.

Pratt said thousands of dollars will be required to make the field playable again.

### Man wanted in kidnapping is caught in another state

**FL** PEMBROKE PINES — A man wanted in the weekend kidnapping of a South Florida family is in custody in Alexandria, Va., police said.

Pembroke Pines police said in a social media post that Jaddier T. Sanchez, 37, was taken into custody. The 18-year-old woman he is accused of kidnapping was taken to a hospital for treatment of minor injuries, police said.

The incident began when Sanchez confronted the woman and her parents as they returned to their home in Pembroke Pines. He forced them at gunpoint into their pickup and drove them to several banks to get cash from ATMs, police said. Hours later, her parents were found along a road.

Police told news outlets that Sanchez and the woman had "shared a romantic relationship."

### Distillery, owner, facing criminal charges of discharging waste

**VA** HARRISONBURG — A Shenandoah County grand jury returned a 115-count indictment against Virginia distillery Filibuster Distillery LLC and its owner, Siddharth Dilawri.

The distillery is charged with 47 counts of discharging industrial waste without a permit into a state water, one count of discharging industrial waste into a publicly owned waste treatment works, and one count of altering state water without a permit and making it detrimental to public health, The Daily News-Record of Harrisonburg reported.

Dilawri, the owner, is charged with 54 counts of discharging industrial waste without a permit into a state water, two counts of discharging industrial waste into a publicly owned waste treatment works, and one count of altering state water without a permit and

making it detrimental to public health.

Filibuster Barrels LLC, also known as Dilawri Barrels, also faces nine counts of discharging industrial waste without a permit into a state water.

### State lawmaker's proposal would seal arrestees' mugshots

**ND** BISMARCK — A Republican lawmaker introduced a bill that would seal arrestee's mugshots from the public.

The Bismarck Tribune reported that Rep. Shannon Roers Jones' proposal would make the photos confidential until the suspect is convicted, a suspect fails to appear in court or there's a compelling safety interest warranting their release.

Roers Jones, of Fargo, said that the media sensationalizes mugshots and they remain online forever once posted, hurting people's chances at finding jobs and romantic partners.

North Dakota Newspaper Association attorney Jack McDonald counters if people are concerned about their mugshots being published they shouldn't commit the crime.

### Investigative report: Nurse high on duty, took IV equipment

**IL** CHICAGO — A former emergency room nurse at Stroger Hospital in Chicago was high on marijuana during at least one shift and took equipment and IV solution from the hospital, according to an investigative report.

Cook County Independent Inspector General Patrick Blanchard suggested in his report that the woman be fired and made ineligible for hire elsewhere. A spokeswoman for the hospital said the nurse was dismissed.

Blanchard found that the woman, on an unspecified date, sent a social media photo showing a gummy square in her hand, which she identified as cannabis, to someone who later reported her. The nurse indicated that she was "tingling all over" but boasted that she was "getting my IVs on first stick."

The nurse, who was not identified, refused to be interviewed for the investigation, the report said.

— From wire reports

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# White leads rejuvenated Bucs defense

*Associated Press*

TAMPA, Fla. — No disrespect to Tom Brady, but young Tampa Bay linebacker Devin White wants the Buccaneers defense on the field with the game on the line.

That's how much confidence the second-year pro has in himself and a band of ball-hawking teammates who've helped the Bucs (13-5) reach Sunday's NFC championship game against Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers.

No player in NFL history has more playoff wins or Super Bowl rings than the 43-year-old Brady, who's preparing for his 14th conference title game — first in the NFC — after White and “my guys” forced four turnovers to shut down Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints in last week's divisional round.

White, returning from sitting out the regular-season finale and Tampa Bay's wild-card win

over Washington after testing positive for the coronavirus, tied a franchise record with 11 tackles in his playoff debut.

He also scooped up a fumble and had an interception, setting up a pair of touchdowns that ensured the Bucs wouldn't need any late heroics from Brady.

“Everything that happened in the game was just me playing in the system, all of us playing together, all of us being on the same page, all of us believing in one another,” the fifth overall pick in the 2019 draft said. “Everything we did together. There's no individual credit.”

Cornerback Sean Murphy-Bunting had one of Tampa Bay's three interceptions of Brees. He tipped his cap to his draft classmate anyway.

“Devin is a baller. He's just known for making plays,” Murphy-Bunting said. “He was the energy bug out there, and that kind of energy is contagious. It

runs through our entire defense and it runs through our entire team.”

To beat Green Bay (14-3) at Lambeau Field and advance to the Super Bowl, it'll take another superb performance from a defense that until last Sunday frankly had not played a dominant game since it sacked Rodgers four times and intercepted him twice in a 38-10 rout of the Packers in Week 6.

“Everybody was saying: ‘Where's the Tampa Bay defense from the Green Bay game?’ We were really feisty with them, we were really challenging them at the line of scrimmage and we were really getting after the quarterback,” White said. “I think we had that same mentality (against New Orleans).”

The 22-year-old linebacker raised some eyebrows in Green Bay after the October meeting when — in explaining how Tampa Bay recovered from a

slow start to dominate after trailing 10-0 early — White said “we knew those guys didn't deserve to be on the same field with us because we've got too much talent.”

Packers coach Matt LaFleur said the comment doesn't provide his players any extra motivation for Sunday.

“We're talking about the NFC championship game with an opportunity to go to the Super Bowl. I think that's enough motivation right there,” LaFleur said before shifting gears.

“You know, hey, he was right. They whipped us. There's no sense in talking about it. The only thing you can do is you've got to prepare the best you can and then go prove it,” the Green Bay coach added. “He's entitled to say what he wants to say, but we ultimately got to be the ones to rally around, make sure we have a great week of preparation and go out there and put our best stuff out on the field.”

## Chiefs QB Henne goes from backup to big stage

*Associated Press*

Chad Henne came off the bench cold in the heat of a tense playoff game and delivered the game-sealing plays for Kansas City in his most consequential performance in a win since 2013.

Henne became just the latest understudy quarterback to deliver a memorable performance in the postseason when he relieved an injured Patrick Mahomes and closed out a 22-17 win over Cleveland on Sunday that sent the defending champion Chiefs into the AFC championship game.

If Mahomes remains in concussion protocol and can't start this Sunday against the Buffalo Bills, Henne will get the nod as he tries to follow in the footsteps of other playoff fill-ins at quarterback.

The most recent success story came three years ago, when Nick Foles replaced an injured Carson Wentz in December and led the Philadelphia Eagles on a magical postseason run that culminated in their only Super Bowl title.

Jeff Hostetler blazed a similar path in 1990 with the New York Giants when he took over for an injured Phil Simms late in the season and also won the championship.

There are others as well, including Earl Morrall keeping the 1972 Dolphins perfect long enough for starter Bob Griese to finish the job in the Super Bowl, and Frank Reich staging the epic playoff comeback against Houston 28 years ago while Jim Kelly was out injured.

Here's a look at some of the most memorable playoff per-

formances by backup quarterbacks:

**Tom Matte:** The Baltimore running back was thrust into emergency quarterback duty late in the 1965 season after Johnny Unitas and Gary Cuozzo went down with injuries. Matte started the season finale against the Rams, rushing for 99 yards and throwing two incompletions. He got the nod again the following week in a playoff game against Green Bay with a limited number of plays on a wrist band. He went 5-for-12 for 40 yards and ran for 57 more in a 13-10 loss to the Packers.

**Earl Morrall:** Morrall was in his 17th season as an NFL journeyman, who had lost to Joe Namath and the Jets in Super Bowl III and was a backup on a champion in Baltimore two years later. He joined the Dolphins in 1972 as Griese's backup on a \$100 waiver claim that proved to be a bargain when Griese got hurt in Week 5.

Morrall started the next 11 games for the NFL's only perfect team, leading playoff wins over Cleveland and Pittsburgh when he threw a TD pass to Larry Csonka in the AFC title game. Griese returned for the Super Bowl and completed the 17-0 season.

**Jeff Hostetler:** Hostetler had started just two games in almost seven full seasons for the Giants when Simms injured his foot in Week 14. After starting that season with 10 straight wins, the Giants lost three out of four and were mostly written off as a contender when Simms got hurt. But Hostetler managed to lead the Giants to two wins to end the regular season, a lopsided playoff opener over Chicago, then upsets over two-time defending champion San Francisco in the NFC title game (15-13 on five field goals) and Buffalo (20-19) in the Super Bowl. He threw three TD passes with no interceptions in the playoff run.



# Short-handed Gators rout No. 6 Vols

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Noah Locke scored 14 points, Tyree Appleby added 13 and short-handed Florida stunned No. 6 Tennessee 75-49 on Tuesday night.

Tre Mann chipped in 12 points for the Gators, who got unexpected help from several bench guys to offset being without three of their best four players. Guard Scottie Lewis (COVID-19 protocols) and forward Colin Castleton (ankle) missed the game.

But forward Omar Payne, starting for the first time in nearly a year, finished with nine points, nine rebounds and five blocked shots for Florida (7-4, 4-3 Southeastern Conference). Seldom-used subs Jason Jitoboh, Osayi Osifo, Niels Lane and Ques Glover also delivered quality minutes against the SEC's top team.

"It was my opportunity to shine," Payne said. "I'm capable of doing it, so I should be doing it every day."

The Volunteers (10-2, 4-2) had a woeful shooting performance and were equally ineffective on the other end. Tennessee shot 29% from the field and hit 3-for-18 from three-point range. John Fulkerson led the Vols with 15 points, four rebounds and five assists.

The Gators outrebounded the Vols by

eight and outscored them 42-22 in the paint. Tennessee's 49 points were a season low.

"That's as well as this group has played," Florida coach Mike White said. "I told them, 'You're going to get more minutes tonight. What are you going to do with it? No one shied away from it.'"

**No. 3 Villanova 76, Seton Hall 74:** Cole Swider hit the winning free throw in the final seconds and Collin Gillespie scored 22 points to help the host Wildcats win their first game in 27 days.

Villanova (9-1, 4-0 Big East) withstood a scare to stay unbeaten in the Big East.

Jermaine Samuels scored 20 points for the Wildcats.

The Pirates (9-6, 6-3) were led in scoring by Sandro Mamukelashvili's 23 points and 19 from Jared Rhoden.

**No. 7 Michigan 87, Maryland 63:** Mike Smith made three early three-pointers as the Wolverines raced to a 17-3 lead and cruised past the visiting Terrapins.

Michigan made its first five threes — Isaiah Livers had the other two — in an opening flurry that put the Wolverines (12-1, 7-1 Big Ten) in immediate control. Livers led Michigan with 20 points and Franz Wagner contributed 15. Smith had 11.

Maryland (8-7, 2-6) was led by Donta Scott's 13 points.

**Purdue 67, No. 15 Ohio State 65:** Jaden Ivey scored 15 points and made a tiebreaking three-pointer with 5 seconds remaining, and the visiting Boilermakers rallied to beat the Buckeyes.

Trevion Williams scored 16 points for Purdue (11-5, 6-3 Big Ten), which has won four straight, three of them on the road. Sasha Stefanovic also had 15 points.

**No. 18 Alabama 105, LSU 75:** John Petty scored 24 points on eight three-pointers, and the Crimson Tide made a Southeastern Conference-record 23 shots from beyond the arc in a road win.

Petty was 8-for-10 from long range. Joshua Primo was 6-for-8 from deep and scored 22 points, and Jahvon Quinerly also scored 22 on 6-for-7 three-point shooting as the three players combined for all but three of Alabama's three-pointers. Herb Jones had 13 points while making just one 3 for the Crimson Tide (12-3, 7-0 SEC).

**No. 19 Missouri 81, South Carolina 70:** Jeremiah Tilmon had 19 points and 10 rebounds and the host Tigers beat the Gamecocks.

**No. 22 Illinois 79, Penn State 65:** Kofi Cockburn had 21 points and 12 rebounds, leading the host Fighting Illini.

Cockburn leads the nation with 11 double-doubles this season.

## Crosby lifts Pens past Caps in OT

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Sidney Crosby scored 1:11 into overtime to give the Pittsburgh Penguins a 5-4 victory over the Washington Capitals on Tuesday night.

Crosby got his third goal of the season when he pounced on a rebound of Kris Letang's shot and flipped it by Vitek Vanecek into the open net to give the Penguins their second win over rival Washington in three days. Colton Sceviour, Evgeni Malkin, Teddy Blueger and Jake Guentzel also scored for Pittsburgh.

**Flyers 3, Sabres 0:** Brian Elliott made 40 saves, Travis Konecny scored his fourth goal in four games and host Philadelphia blanked Buffalo. Jakub Voracek also scored and Kevin Hayes added an empty-netter for the Flyers, who bounced back from Monday night's 6-1 loss to the Sabres.

**Devils 4, Rangers 3:** Jack Hughes had two goals and an assist in New Jersey's

three-goal second period, and Mackenzie Blackwood stopped 47 shots by host New York. Miles Wood had a goal and an assist, and Travis Zajac also scored to give the Devils at least a point in each of their first three games (2-0-1).

**Avalanche 3, Kings 2:** Nathan MacKinnon became the first member of the 2013 NHL draft class to reach 500 points, Devon Toews and Mikko Rantanen scored power-play goals and Colorado won at Los Angeles.

**Red Wings 3, Blue Jackets 2, OT:** Tyler Bertuzzi scored 15 seconds into overtime and Bobby Ryan became the first player to score four times in his first three games with host Detroit.

**Panthers 5, Blackhawks 4, OT:** Frank Vatrano scored 2:50 into overtime and host Florida beat winless Chicago.

**Jets 4, Senators 3, OT:** Nikolaj Ehlers scored in overtime after Winnipeg twice rallied from a two-goal deficit to win at Ottawa.

## Mitchell, Jazz trounce Pelicans

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Donovan Mitchell had 28 points and seven rebounds, and the Utah Jazz beat the New Orleans Pelicans 118-102 on Tuesday night for their sixth straight victory.

Mitchell also made four of Utah's 21 three-pointers. Jordan Clarkson added 18 points, six rebounds and six assists, and reserve Joe Ingles scored 15 points. Rudy Gobert had 13 points, 18 rebounds and three blocks.

**Nuggets 119, Thunder 101:** Nikola Jokic had 27 points and 12 rebounds before calling it an early night as Denver routed Oklahoma City. Clean shaven and sporting a new buzz cut, Jokic also had six assists before taking a seat on the bench with the other starters for the fourth quarter.

Reserve Monte Morris added 15 points.

# Source: Springer joining Jays

Associated Press

TORONTO — All-Star outfielder George Springer became the most prominent among baseball's free agents to reach an agreement this offseason, a \$150 million, six-year contract with the Toronto Blue Jays, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday night because the deal was subject to a successful physical.

It would be the largest contract in team history.

Springer, who turned 31 in September, is a three-time All-Star who has spent his entire seven-season career with Houston and was the World Series MVP when the Astros beat the Los Angeles Dodgers in seven games for their first title in 2017. The championship was later tainted when it was discovered Houston illicitly stole signs that season.

Springer hit .265 with 14 homers and 32 RBIs during the shortened 2020 season, earning a prorated \$7,777,778 from a \$21

million salary.

He has a .270 career average with 174 home runs and 458 RBIs, including career bests of .292 with 39 homers and 96 RBIs in 2019.

Under new owner Steve Cohen, the New York Mets also were said to be interested in Springer.

A slow free-agent market saw only 21 of 181 players who became free agents following the World Series enter Tuesday with finalized agreements.

The Blue Jays have an emerging young core and are able to add at least one major contract before their younger players like Bo Bichette and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. earn a lot more. Toronto has been linked to most of the top free agents this winter, but now has the one it wanted most.

The upstart Blue Jays went 32-28 during the pandemic-altered 2020 season, finishing third in the AL East behind Tampa Bay and the New York Yankees and qualifying for the expanded postseason. They were

swept in two games by the AL champion Rays in a first-round series.

Toronto had success despite moving its home games to Buffalo, N.Y., after the Canadian government didn't allow the team to play in Canada because of the COVID-19 risk of frequent travel throughout the U.S. It's not clear where the Blue Jays will begin the 2021 season.

The Blue Jays have had to overpay free agents to play in Canada before, but the Springer contract will be just the second \$100 million-plus deal in team history. Vernon Wells and the Blue Jays agreed to a \$126 million, seven-year contract in 2006. At the time it was sixth-largest deal in baseball history.

Because Springer turned down an \$18.9 million qualifying offer, Houston will receive an extra pick in next July's amateur draft after the fourth round and Toronto will lose its second-highest draft pick and also forfeit \$500,000 of international signing bonus pool space for the 2022-23 signing period.

# Woods has 5th surgery for his back

Associated Press

Tiger Woods has suffered a setback with his back, disclosing Tuesday that he recently had a fifth surgery that will keep him from starting the year until after the West Coast Swing on the PGA Tour.

Woods will not play next week in the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines, which he has won seven times, most recently in 2013. He also won the U.S. Open in 2008 at Torrey Pines, which hosts the U.S. Open again in June.

He also will miss the Genesis Invitational on Feb. 18-21 at Riviera, where he serves as tournament host.

In a statement from his TGR Foundation, which Woods also tweeted, he did not say when he had the microdiscectomy.

It was to remove a pressurized disc fragment that was giving him nerve pain.

# Hall of Fame pitcher Sutton dies of cancer at age 75

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Don Sutton, a Hall of Fame pitcher who was a stalwart of the Los Angeles Dodgers' rotation spanning an era from Sandy Koufax to Fernando Valenzuela, died Tuesday. He was 75.

The Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., said Sutton died at his home in Rancho Mirage, Calif., after a long struggle with cancer. The Atlanta Braves, for whom Sutton was a longtime broadcaster, said he died in his sleep.

A four-time All-Star, Sutton had a career record of 324-256 and an ERA of 3.26 while pitching for the Dodgers, Houston Astros, Milwaukee Brewers, Oakland Athletics, California Angels and the Dodgers again in

1988, his final season.

The durable Sutton never missed a turn in the rotation in 756 big league starts. Only Cy Young and Nolan Ryan made more starts than Sutton, who never landed on the injured list in his 23-year career.

A master of changing speeds and pitch location, Sutton recorded just one 20-win season but earned 10 or more wins in every year except 1983 and 1988. Of his victories, 58 were shutouts, five were one-hitters and 10 were two-hitters. The right-hander is seventh on the career strikeout list with 3,574.

Sutton ranks third all-time in games started and seventh in innings pitched (5,282  $\frac{1}{3}$ ). He worked at least 200 innings in 20 of his first 21 seasons, with only

the strike-shortened 1981 season interrupting his streak.

"He worked as hard as anyone I've ever known and he treated those he encountered with great respect ... and he took me to work a lot," his son, Daron, wrote on Twitter. "For all these things, I am very grateful."

Donald Howard Sutton was born April 2, 1945, in Clio, Ala., the son of sharecroppers. The family moved to northern Florida, where Sutton was a three-sport star in high school who showed an affinity for baseball as a youngster. He played the sport in junior college before the Dodgers signed him as a free agent in September 1964, months before the first MLB draft.

After going 23-7 during one season in the minors, Sutton won a spot in the Dodgers' rotation in 1966. He made his big league debut for the defending World Series champions on April 14, 1966, and earned his first victory four days later.

Sutton immediately found himself in a rotation with Koufax, Don Drysdale and Claude Osteen as the fourth starter. Sutton recorded 209 strikeouts that season, the highest total for a rookie since 1911. He helped the team win the National League pennant but didn't pitch in the World Series as the Dodgers were swept in four games by the Baltimore Orioles.

He also led the Dodgers to National League pennants in 1974, 1977 and 1978.