

US military's virus cases rise in Korea

By DAVID CHOI

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — At least 48 people with U.S. Forces Korea tested positive for the coronavirus last week, marking the most infections reported by the command since the start of the pandemic.

Twenty-four of the new patients are U.S. service members stationed at Camp Casey, the military outpost near the Demilitarized Zone on the border with North Korea, USFK announced in two separate statements on Saturday and Monday. Also testing positive were five service members from Osan Air Base, three from the K-16 Army airfield, one from Kunsan Air Base and one each from Camps Humphreys, Hovey and Carroll.

The tally, which covers cases confirmed between July 5 and 9, includes service members' dependents, South Korean base workers and Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Ar-

my soldiers.

The record previously stood at 42 cases recorded over a much longer period, Dec. 28 and Jan. 8.

All who tested positive last week were quarantined in medical facilities, USFK said in a statement. Despite the uptick in cases, the command said it "remains at a high level of readiness" due to its mitigation efforts and having 80% of its personnel vaccinated.

The surge of new infections comes as South Korea grapples with its highest daily caseload of the pandemic.

The country recorded over 1,300 new patients for three days in a row last week, surpassing the previous one-day record of 1,240 cases on Dec. 25, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency.

The KDCA reported 1,100 new cases Monday, down from 1,324 the previous day.

South Korea has reported 169,146 infec-

tions during the pandemic. More than 10% of South Koreans were fully inoculated and at least 30% of the population has received a first dose, according to the KDCA.

South Korean government officials last week imposed the highest level of social-distancing restrictions in Seoul, the capital city, where most locally transmitted cases had originated.

The new regulations, which will remain in effect for at least two weeks, include a ban on gatherings of more than two people after 6 p.m., evening gym closures and the shutdown of bars and clubs.

Prior to last week's record numbers, South Korean health officials began implementing additional measures that included inspections on businesses considered a high risk for transmissibility. Seoul officials also announced that the city would limit evening subway schedules by 20%.

New leader takes charge of US forces in Afghanistan

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie took charge of the remaining U.S. forces in Afghanistan during a ceremony Monday, relieving the longest-serving U.S. commander as the military's withdrawal nears its end and Taliban forces continue their attacks throughout the country.

McKenzie took over from Army Gen. Austin "Scott" Miller, whose nearly three years in command made him the longest-tenured leader since the war began in 2001.

McKenzie attempted to reassure Afghan officials at the ceremony that the United States will continue to help Afghanistan, even after most troops leave.

"It's not the end of the story, rather it's the end of a chapter," McKenzie said. "You can count

on our support in the dangerous and difficult days ahead."

Miller thanked U.S. allies for their service, noting that most have already left the country. Only the flags of the U.S., the United Kingdom and Turkey remained flying Monday at former NATO Resolute Support headquarters, which is now part of the U.S. Embassy complex.

Miller also called for the Taliban to pull back on fighting.

"We can all see the violence that's taking place across the country," Miller said, adding that the fighting makes a negotiated settlement difficult.

The plan to transfer authority to McKenzie, who leads U.S. Central Command, had been announced by Pentagon officials earlier this month.

The change in leadership from Miller to McKenzie is part of the drawdown, "reflecting a

smaller U.S. force presence in Afghanistan," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said.

More than 90% of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan is complete, CENTCOM said. It will be concluded by the end of August, President Joe Biden said last week.

McKenzie will have the authority to conduct counterterrorism operations against threats to America from Afghanistan, he said at the ceremony. He will also be charged with developing plans to provide besieged Afghan forces with logistical, financial and technical support after U.S. troops leave.

The Pentagon also approved a new command for American forces who will protect diplomats after the U.S. military drawdown ends.

The Kabul-based command will be led by Rear Adm. Peter

Vasely, a two-star Navy SEAL. The troops at the embassy also will help with security requirements at the capital's Hamid Karzai International Airport.

Miller, 61, played a key role in a historic 2020 peace deal with the Taliban and has overseen a U.S. drawdown amid rising violence among Afghans.

Under the Army general's command, transparency about U.S. actions in the war shrunk while territory under Taliban control grew to reach the highest level since the U.S. arrival nearly 20 years ago.

The former leader of Joint Special Operations Command escaped death in an attack in Kandahar weeks after he assumed command. The attack killed powerful provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Raziq and wounded several others, including Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Smiley.

USS Roosevelt to get upgrades for new F-35 jets

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — This week, the Navy takes another step to add the Pentagon's newest, stealthiest aircraft to its carrier-borne air wings.

The San Diego-based aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt will leave San Diego on Friday to transfer its home port to Bremerton, Wash., where it will undergo maintenance and a retrofit that will enable the ship to operate with the F-35, the Navy announced.

The ship will be in the maintenance yards for 16-18 months, said Steven Fiebing, a Naval Air Forces spokesman in San Diego. About 3,000 sailors and their families are expected to make the move to Washington, the Navy said in a statement.

The Theodore Roosevelt will be the last of the three carriers currently based in San Diego to field the F-35C version of the fighter; Carl Vinson is currently undergoing pre-deployment workups ahead of what will be the first carrier deployment of the jets. In the coming months the Lincoln will also deploy in what will be a first for Marine Corps F-35Cs, Fiebing said.

The "C" is flown by both the Navy and Marine Corps and is designed to operate as part of a Navy carrier air wing. It has a larger wingspan and longer range to meet the demands of carrier operations.

That air wing integration was dependent on a few factors, said Cmdr. Zachary Harrell, a Naval Air Forces spokesman.

Nimitz-class carriers, Harrell said, need to have stronger deflectors installed on their flight decks to handle the jet blast of the F-35C's single engine. Some interior spaces on the ships also have to be refurbished for F-35 missions.

However, it isn't just material upgrades the ships needed to deploy with the next-generation fighter, Harrell said. They also have to integrate another aircraft into the wing — the CMV-22B Osprey.

"Any carrier with F-35s will need a CMV squadron," Harrell said. "You need the Osprey to carry the (F-35) engine module."

Those modules, Harrell said, are too large for the Navy's MH-60 helicopters and C-2 Greyhound aircraft, which normally carry replacement parts, to carry.

Weather disrupts unit's demo day at Japan base

BY JONATHAN SNYDER

Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWA-KUNI, Japan — Members of the explosive ordnance disposal unit at this base in western Japan recently showed off their skills to local media with a demonstration of high-tech robots and a low-tech detonation.

Bad weather, including lightning, canceled a large, controlled detonation Friday on a nearby practice range called Target Island. Instead, an EOD technician blew up a small package, which produced a small pop, for more than a dozen reporters, mostly Japanese, during the annual demonstration.

"Our mission is the protection of personnel and property aboard the air station and throughout the local community," Chief Warrant Officer 3 Andrew Russell, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron's EOD officer-in-charge, told Stars and Stripes at the event.

Staff Sgt. Keith Lowe, an EOD technician for Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, op-

erated two robots, one large and one small, and showed off their ability to grab and move objects.

Approximately 50% of the Marines in Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron come from other units such as Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171st and Combat Logistics Company 36th as part of the Fleet Assistance Program.

Another EOD technician, Sgt. David Sigdestad, demonstrated how people in his line of work don an 85-pound bomb suit, which consists of numerous layers of Kevlar, plastic and foam to protect the wearer from the force of a blast.

EOD conducts controlled detonations at Target Island, a restricted area five miles offshore from the air station.

"We try and get to the island to train at least once a month," Russell said. "Our training aboard Target Island is to maintain proficiency which is a very perishable skill set."

Sailor charged with drunken driving also accused of marijuana possession

BY HANA KUSUMOTO

AND ALEX WILSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A U.S. Navy sailor charged with drunken driving after an accident on a Yokohama expressway in May could also face a marijuana charge.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Elijah Oneth, stationed at Yokosuka, was indicted Wednesday by the Yokohama District Public Prosecutors Office on a charge of driving while intoxicated, a spokesman for the office told Stars and Stripes on Friday.

Police on Friday referred a report to prosecutors alleging that Oneth also violated Japan's Cannabis Control Law, a police spokesman told Stars and Stripes by phone that day.

Police found about one gram of a liquid

extract containing the active ingredient in marijuana in Oneth's car following the accident, the police spokesman said.

Police say the sailor caused a multivehicle accident by driving the wrong way on the Bayshore Route of the Shuto Expressway around 1:55 a.m. May 16.

Police recommended prosecutors indict Oneth on the cannabis charge because "cases involving drugs are serious crimes," the police spokesman said.

The sailor told police that a friend sent him the liquid for personal use from the United States by international mail, according to the spokesman.

After the accident, Oneth told police he drove to Tokyo by himself that night and had been drinking in his car, the police spokesman said.

Japan holds muted Olympic torch event

By ERICA EARL
Stars and Stripes

TACHIKAWA, Japan — A muted, guarded event staged Monday at the Tachikawa State Gardens in western Tokyo substituted for the public pageantry of the torch run that usually heralds the Olympic Games.

The ceremony, held on the fourth day of Tokyo's scaled-down torch relay, included 80 runners from the cities of Tachikawa, Hamura, Akiruno, Musashimurayama and Fussa, all close to or neighbors of Yokota Air Base. The runners, during a five-hour event, lit torches on-stage to contribute fire to the

Olympic cauldron.

Only about 50 people, guests of the torchbearers or otherwise affiliated with the Olympics, were permitted at the event.

The flame began its Tokyo journey Friday with a similar private ceremony at Komazawa Olympic Park in Setagaya Ward.

The original plan for a 15-day run through the city's wards and suburbs devolved to a closed eight-day affair.

Outside Monday's event, which took place behind a thick layer of security, about a dozen protesters rallied, bearing signs referring to the Tokyo Games as

a coronavirus super-spreader event.

The pandemic in Japan is forcing Olympic organizers to scale back events associated with the games and curtail plans to allow even a limited number of spectators.

The torch run, which started March 25 in Fukushima with the theme "hope lights our way," was trimmed or scaled down to prevent large public gatherings from watching the passing Olympic flame.

Some legs of the relay moved forward as planned. In May, the former commander of Sasebo Naval Base, Capt. Brad Stall-

ings, now the chief of staff for U.S. Naval Forces Japan, ran the Nagasaki prefecture portion.

"I felt a lot of pride," he told public broadcaster NHK on May 8. "It was overwhelming and one of the most positive experiences I have ever had."

Tokyo, where the Olympic Games are scheduled to start July 23, recorded another 502 coronavirus patients on Monday, according to NHK. That's 160 more infections than a week ago.

The city is under a fourth state of emergency aimed at curtailing the virus's spread ahead of the games.

USMC personnel may be punished for vaccine lies

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Marines and civilian employees for the service who lie about their vaccination status so they can remove their masks in public could be punished, the service said in updated coronavirus precaution guidance.

"Service members and civilian employees who misrepresent their vaccination status may be subject to appropriate adverse administrative or punitive actions," the Marine Corps said in its guidance issued Friday.

It was the first time that the Marines pro-

vided guidance on how to enforce adherence to a Pentagon policy issued May 14 that lifted the mask mandate for all fully vaccinated troops and personnel.

The guidance did not specify the kinds of punishments that could be issued if Marine Corps personnel are found not to be complying with the rules.

While vaccinated Marines were allowed to drop their masks nearly two months ago with the Pentagon policy, the service-specific guidance explained how the Marine Corps could ensure compliance.

Marines who are not fully vaccinated must

"continuously" wear their mask outside their homes, according to the regulations, and service members who forgo masks "must be prepared to show proof of vaccination status."

"Commanders have the authority to verify vaccination status of service members," according to the guidance.

For civilian employees, supervisors must have a "reasonable basis to believe" the unmasked person has not been vaccinated "based on reliable evidence such as firsthand knowledge of voluntary employee statements," according to the guidance.

England to lift all lockdown restrictions next week

Associated Press

LONDON — All remaining lockdown restrictions in England will be lifted in a week despite a sharp rise in coronavirus cases, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirmed Monday as he urged people to "proceed with caution" and continue to take steps to stay safe.

Johnson said although risks of the pandemic remain, legal restrictions will be replaced by a recommendation that people wear masks in crowded places and on public transport. Nightclubs and other venues with

crowds should use vaccine passports for entry "as a matter of social responsibility," he added.

"This pandemic is not over. This disease, coronavirus, continues to carry risks for you and your family. We cannot simply revert instantly from Monday July 19 to life as it was before COVID," Johnson said.

The final stage of easing England's lockdown means that all restrictions on social gatherings will be removed and social distancing measures will be scrapped. Nightclubs can reo-

pen for the first time since March last year, and there will no longer be limits on people attending concerts, theaters, weddings or sports events.

Earlier, Health Secretary Sajid Javid said it was the right time to allow Britons a chance to return to normal life, and that the government's decision balances the harms brought by COVID-19 and damage done by continued restrictions.

Javid told Parliament that Britain's successful vaccine rollout means that nine out of 10 adults in the U.K. now have anti-

bodies against the virus. The government is on track to meet its target of offering all adults a first vaccine dose by July 19, the day when all remaining lockdown restrictions, including mandatory mask-wearing, are to be lifted.

As of Monday, 87% of the U.K.'s adult population have had their first dose, and 66% have had both doses. At the same time infections have soared in recent weeks, running at over 30,000 new cases daily, driven by the delta variant.

Wildfires rage as West fights heat, drought

Associated Press

Firefighters were working in extreme temperatures across the U.S. West and struggling to contain wildfires, the largest burning in California and Oregon, as another heat wave baked the region, straining power grids.

The largest wildfire of the year in California — the Beckwourth Complex — was raging along the Nevada state line and has burned about 134 square miles as state regulators asked consumers to voluntarily “conserve as much electricity as possible” to avoid any outages starting Monday afternoon.

In Oregon, the Bootleg Fire exploded to 224 square miles as it raced through heavy timber in the Fremont-Winema National Forest, near the Klamath County

town of Sprague River. The fire disrupted service on three transmission lines providing up to 5,500 megawatts of electricity to neighboring California.

A wildfire in southeast Washington grew to almost 60 square miles, while in Idaho, Gov. Brad Little has mobilized the National Guard to help fight fires sparked after lightning storms swept across the drought-stricken region.

The blazes come as the West is in the midst of a second extreme heat wave within just a few weeks and as the entire region is suffering from one of the worst droughts in recent history. Extreme heat warnings in California were finally expected to expire Monday night.

On Sunday, firefighters work-

ing in temperatures that topped 100 degrees Fahrenheit were able to gain some ground on the Beckwourth Complex, doubling containment to 20%.

Late Saturday, flames jumped U.S. 395, which was closed near the small town of Doyle in California’s Lassen County. The lanes reopened Sunday, and officials urged motorists to use caution and keep moving along the key north-south route where flames were still active.

“Do not stop and take pictures,” said the fire’s Operations Section Chief Jake Cagle. “You are going to impede our operations if you stop and look at what’s going on.”

Cagle said structures had burned in Doyle, but he didn’t have an exact number. Bob Pra-

ry, who manages the Buck-Inn Bar in the town of about 600 people, said he saw at least six houses destroyed after Saturday’s flareup. The fire was smoldering Sunday in and around Doyle, but he feared some remote ranch properties were still in danger.

“It seems like the worst is over in town, but back on the mountainside the fire’s still going strong,” Prary said.

A new fire broke out Sunday afternoon in the Sierra Nevada south of Yosemite National Park and covered more than 6 square miles by evening, triggering evacuations in areas of two counties. Containment was at just 5% but the highway leading to the southern entrance of the park remained open early Monday.

Virus infects vaccinated leader at Fla. condo site

Associated Press

MIAMI — A vaccinated Miami-Dade county commissioner who helped other local officials in Surfside following the collapse of a condominium building announced that he and his chief of staff tested positive for COVID-19.

The news release late Sunday from Miami-Dade County Commission Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz said he and his chief of staff Isidoro Lopez, who also received a vaccine against COVID-19, came down with flu-like symptoms earlier in the day and later tested positive for the virus.

“Staff and others who have been in close contact with them will be getting tested between today and tomorrow,” the news release said. The statement also said Diaz and Lopez would be isolating and following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Diaz had participated in news conferences and meetings with other officials in Surfside, the

Miami Herald reported. Miami Dade spokesperson Rachel Johnson told the newspaper that COVID-19 tests would be administered at the Surfside command center on Monday.

The search for bodies continues at the wreckage of the Champlain Towers South in Surfside, where Monday morning, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava confirmed the death toll had reached 94.

“Breakthrough” infections — fully vaccinated individuals who contract the coronavirus — do happen, although they are very rare. An Associated Press analysis of government data in May showed only about 1% of such cases resulted in hospitalization or death. The analysis suggested that nearly all COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. recently have been in people who weren’t vaccinated, a staggering demonstration of how effective the shots have been and an indication that deaths could approach zero if every eligible person gets the vaccine.

2 Jordanians sentenced to 15 years over alleged royal plot

Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — A Jordanian state security court on Monday sentenced two former officials to serve 15 years in prison over an alleged plot against the Western-allied monarchy involving the half-brother of King Abdullah II.

Bassem Awadallah, who has U.S. citizenship and once served as a top aide to King Abdullah II, and Sharif Hassan bin Zaid, a member of the royal family, were found guilty of sedition and incitement charges.

They are alleged to have conspired with Prince Hamzah, the king’s half-brother, and to have sought foreign assistance. They denied the charges, and Alaa al-Khasawneh, a lawyer for Sharif, said they would appeal the verdict. He declined to comment further.

The two men were swept up in a wave of arrests in April, with Hamzah being placed under house arrest.

Hamzah denied the allegations in video statements re-

leased in April, saying he was being silenced for speaking out against corruption and poor governance by the ruling system.

The royal family says it resolved the dispute with Hamzah, whose exact status is unknown but was never formally charged. Awadallah’s U.S. lawyer says his client alleged he was tortured in Jordanian detention and fears for his life.

Abdullah is expected in Washington on July 19, when he will be the first Arab leader to meet with President Joe Biden at the White House. Jordan is a close U.S. ally in the Middle East and is seen as a key partner in eventually reviving the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Lt. Col. Muwafaq al-Masaeed, a military judge, announced the verdict following a closed-door trial that consisted of just six hearings. The two were sentenced to 15 years for each of two felonies, but the judge said only one sentence would be imposed on them.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man accused of running dog, rooster fight rings

FL GOLDEN GATE — A southwest Florida man faces charges that he operated dog and rooster fighting rings out of his home.

The Collier County Sheriff's Office said they found numerous injured roosters and pit bulls at the home of Rafael Del Valle Jomarron and an empty pool that had been converted into a fighting pit during a raid of the home last month.

They had originally gone to the home to assist federal officials who were investigating the home as the source of a radio blocking signal that was interfering with airplanes' GPS trackers.

Jomarron, 40, turned himself in to face charges of animal cruelty causing death or suffering, animal fighting and other charges.

Goat lottery planned to protect historic park

HI HONOLULU — To protect historic lands from invasive goats, Hawaii officials will distribute the live animals to the public via a lottery.

Hawaii officials will hold the lottery as a way to remove at least 700 goats from Puuhonua o Honaunau National Historic Park, which is an important cultural and historical site on the west side of the Big Island, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported.

Those interested in the goats may apply for permits, which will be issued through a random lottery July 28.

The state Department of

Land and Natural Resources will distribute 20 to 50 goats per permit.

Route 66 Experience opens with state fair

IL SPRINGFIELD — Visitors to this year's Illinois State Fair will be able to visit one of the nation's more historic highways with the creation of the Route 66 Experience.

The multiyear project will turn the Springfield fairgrounds' Gate 2 into a year-round destination for visiting a microform of the Mother Road in Illinois, from Chicago to the Chain of Rocks Bridge over the Mississippi River in Madison. It will highlight communities and attractions along the way.

The project sponsor, the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway, will have the first phase completed by the state fair's opening Aug. 12, executive director Casey Wichmann said.

2 cases of Legionnaires' disease linked to spa

MN ALBERT LEA — State health officials are investigating cases of Legionnaires' disease linked to Albert Lea hotel. Early evidence suggests the source of the respiratory disease may be the spa at the Ramada by Wyndham, according to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Investigators have identified two lab-confirmed cases among individuals from unrelated groups who spent time in the pool and hot tub area around the last weekend of June. These people got sick between late June and early July.

The hotel has closed the pool and hot tub as the health department works to confirm the source of the disease, which is spread by inhaling the fine spray from water sources containing Legionella bacteria.

Maritime training ships deploying out to sea

ME CASTINE — The Maine Maritime Academy's training ship is departing for a 37-day training voyage with stops along the East Coast.

Because of the pandemic, the State of Maine will be staying closer to home after its departure. The itinerary includes Port Canaveral, Fla., and New York City.

Pandemic protocols will be in effect, and all students have to show proof of vaccination. The training cruise will return to Castine on Aug. 13, before the start of the academic year.

200 people possibly exposed to rabid bat

NE OMAHA — Roughly 200 people were possibly exposed to a rabid bat while staying overnight at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, the zoo said.

The zoo and Nebraska health officials recommended that roughly 186 campers who stayed overnight at the aquarium in recent weeks, as well as some staffers, get rabies shots. The zoo gave campers refunds and is paying for their shots.

A camper on July 4 woke up to a wild bat flying around her head. A zoo emergency medical technician didn't find any bites or scratches on her.

Seven wild bats were found in the aquarium and euthanized. One tested positive for rabies.

Trooper saves motorist choking on marijuana

OH ROOTSTOWN — An Ohio State Highway Patrol trooper successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver after a man allegedly attempted to swallow a bag of cannabis when he was pulled over for speeding.

Trooper Charles Hoskin conducted a traffic stop for a vehicle that was allegedly traveling at 94 mph in a 70-mph zone, WEWS-TV reported.

Dash camera video shows Hoskin asking if the driver could breathe before helping him out of the car and performing the Heimlich. The man expelled a bag of marijuana and apologized to the officer.

The man received citations for speeding and failing to wear a seat belt, according to Santiago. The man also received a summons for marijuana and was released at the scene.

Officials say 10-year-old child has died of plague

CO DURANGO — A 10-year-old Colorado resident died of plague in La Plata County, San Juan Basin Public Health said.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and health officials said they are investigating the case.

Officials say plague is caused by bacteria that can be transmitted to humans by the bites of infected fleas or by direct contact with infected animals.

— From wire reports

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Bucks bounce back, beat Suns in Game 3

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — When Giannis Antetokounmpo crashed to the court just two weeks ago with what appeared to be a serious knee injury, there was no guarantee he'd be back this season.

Maybe, he feared, he might even miss a year.

Antetokounmpo refused to stay down.

These Milwaukee Bucks just won't, either.

Antetokounmpo had 41 points, 13 rebounds and six assists in the NBA Finals' return to Milwaukee, and the Bucks pounded Phoenix 120-100 on Sunday night, cutting the Suns' lead to 2-1.

"We knew what kind of game this was going to be," Antetokounmpo said. "We knew that if we lose the game you're in the hole."

Instead, the Bucks started climbing out of one.

The first NBA Finals game in Milwaukee since 1974 went to the home team in a romp, with Antetokounmpo and the bigger Bucks overwhelming the smallish Suns to the tune of a 20-2 advantage in second-chance points.

Game 4 is Wednesday night, with the series guaranteed to go back to Phoenix afterward.

"I said it after last game. This team's not going to give in. They're going to keep playing all the way through," Suns star Devin Booker said. "So we have to bring that same effort that we had in the first two games and I think we'll be in good shape."

Antetokounmpo, who missed the last two games of the Eastern Conference finals because of a hyperextended left knee and was no sure thing to even be ready to start this series, followed up his 42-point, 12-rebound performance in Game 2 by doing it all again — even making his free throws this time.

Back in front of his own fans and free of the loud counts he's been hearing on the road, Antetokounmpo went 13 of 17 at the line. With two straight 40-point games in the NBA Finals, he's halfway to Michael Jordan's record — set against the Suns.

Chris Paul had 19 points and nine assists, but the Suns got next to nothing from his star backcourt mate. Booker shot 3-for-14, scoring just 10 points.

Jrue Holiday bounced back from two poor games in Phoenix with five three-pointers and 21 points to get the Bucks going again onto the comeback trail, having already overcome one 2-0 deficit in this postseason. Khris Middleton added 18.

"We all hate to lose and we know the ultimate goal," Holiday said.

Fans broke out their "Bucks in 6! Bucks in 6!" chant as Milwaukee started to pull away in the first half and then again as the benches emptied with the final minutes.

The Bucks are seeking their second NBA title and hadn't even played for one in 47 years. They grabbed control of this game by outscoring the Suns 30-9 over the last nine minutes of the second quarter, then ending the third with a 16-0 finish.

Fans began making their way to the Deer District outside the arena in the middle of the afternoon, with so many fans decked out in green that Fiserv Forum felt more like Fiserv Forest.

They didn't get to cheer as much as they wanted early after a strong start by Phoenix, which got 12 points from Deandre Ayton in the opening period. But Ayton was hampered by foul trouble and the Milwaukee soon ran past and kept right on going.

Antetokounmpo had seven straight points

to finish a 9-0 run in the second that gave his team a six-point lead, and after the Suns scored four straight, the Bucks took off again on a 16-3 run.

Bobby Portis had the last two baskets in the half, finishing off a fast break with a dunk for one of them, making it 60-45 at the break.

The lead was 13 with under eight minutes left in the third when Cam Johnson took a pass near midcourt with an open path to the basket. P.J. Tucker tried to step in but was too late, and Johnson threw it down over him while drawing the foul.

That triggered a 14-5 run that cut it to 74-70 and seemed to have put Phoenix back into the game. Just as quickly, it was out of it again.

Holiday made two three-pointers in the next minute and Milwaukee pushed the lead back to nine, and by the end of the third it had ballooned to 98-76.

The Bucks, who lost the first two games against Brooklyn in the second round, avoided falling into a 3-0 hole from which no NBA team has escaped.

They limited the Suns to nine three-pointers after Phoenix hit 20 in its Game 2 victory.

Ayton and Jae Crowder each had 18 points for the Suns. But Mikal Bridges, who had a career playoff-high 27 in Game 2, took only four shots and had four points.

All in the family: Monty Williams, in his second season as coach, said he has received text messages from Steve Nash and others from the Suns' past as he tries to lead the organization to its first title.

"That's been pretty cool because I'm new to it and they have adopted me like I've been in it for a long time, but it's really not even two years yet," Williams said. "So the way that they have embraced me has been pretty cool."

Popovich: USA Basketball must learn from loss

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Gregg Popovich has been repeating a similar refrain since he got the job to coach the U.S. men's national basketball team. The world, he insists, is catching up.

He's not wrong.

The latest proof: Nigeria 90, United States 87.

That was the way the U.S. team that departs next week for the Tokyo Olympics began its slate of tuneup games, a stunning loss on Saturday night — the end of a 25-game home winning streak

for U.S. teams with NBA players, and the first time such an American team lost to any national team from Africa.

"In a way, I'm kind of glad it happened," Popovich said. "That loss means nothing if we don't learn from it. But it could be the most important thing in this tournament for us, to learn lessons from this."

On the one hand, it doesn't count. The Americans will still be the favorites when they get to Tokyo and they have two more weeks before they open Olympic

play against France. The team was missing three players who haven't come to Las Vegas yet because they're still in the NBA Finals. And it's not like U.S. teams, even loaded with NBA stars, haven't had trouble before — for example, the original Dream Team, 11 future Hall of Famers put together for the 1992 Barcelona Games, famously lost to a group of college players in their first scrimmage.

On the other hand, even though Popovich lauded the Nigerian talent multiple times on

Saturday night, there was just no comparison between the resumes of the players who got into that game.

The Nigerian players who were on the floor had NBA contracts worth a total of \$9.5 million this season, have combined for about 4,000 NBA points, zero All-Star selections and zero All-NBA selections. The U.S. players on the floor had NBA contracts worth \$215.9 million, have combined for nearly 98,000 career points, plus 32 All-Star selections and 21 All-NBA selections.

Altuve's 3-run HR clinches Astros' rally over Yankees

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jose Altuve hit a three-run homer to cap a startling six-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning, getting his jersey yanked off in a frenzied celebration and lifting the Houston Astros over the New York Yankees 8-7 on Sunday.

The Astros had been shut out by the Yankees the previous two games, highlighted by ace Gerrit Cole's three-hitter in a 4-0 win on Saturday night.

The win came on Altuve replica jersey giveaway at Minute Maid Park — Houston fans left with a No. 27 shirt, while the All-Star second baseman exited without his.

New York led 7-2 after a three-run homer by Gary Sanchez in the eighth inning.

After the first two Astros reached base against Domingo Germán in the ninth, Chas McCormick hit a two-run double off Chad Green (3-5). Abraham Toro followed with an RBI double to make it 7-5, still with no outs.

Pinch-hitter Jason Castro singled and one out later, Altuve launched his soaring shot to left field.

Ralph Garza Jr. (1-2) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings for the win.

Reds 3, Brewers 1: Nick Castellanos hit a tiebreaking

two-run single off All-Star closer Josh Hader with two outs in the ninth inning, and Cincinnati won at Milwaukee.

The Reds took three of four in the series to pull within four games of the NL Central-leading Brewers.

White Sox 7, Orioles 5: Adam Engel hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning and Chicago completed a season sweep with a win at Baltimore.

Andrew Vaughn homered twice for the White Sox, who have won five in a row and 10 of 13 overall. Chicago leads the AL Central by eight games over Cleveland.

Phillies 5, Red Sox 4: Ronald Torreyes hit a three-run homer and Philadelphia used six pitchers to win at Boston.

The Phillies turned to the bullpen after losing scheduled starter Aaron Nola to COVID-19 contact tracing.

Pirates 6, Mets 5: Wilmer Difo's tiebreaking single in the ninth inning capped Pittsburgh's rally from an early five-run deficit to win at New York.

The NL East-leading Mets jumped out to a 5-0 lead against Chase De Jong in the first on a two-run homer by Francisco Lindor and a three-run shot by Michael Conforto.

Blue Jays 3, Rays 1: Danny Jansen homered, Robbie Ray

took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and Toronto won on the road to end Tampa Bay's six-game winning streak.

Athletics 4, Rangers 1: Matt Olson hit two of Oakland's four homers and Chris Bassitt allowed one run in seven innings in a win at Texas.

Twins 12, Tigers 9 (10): Jorge Polanco hit a game-ending three-run homer in the 10th inning, and Minnesota completed a four-game sweep of visiting Detroit.

Giants 3, Nationals 1: Kevin Gausman worked six-plus innings of one-run ball and Curt Casali hit a three-run homer as San Francisco completed a three-game sweep of visiting Washington.

Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 4: Max Muncy slugged a three-run, walk-off homer in the ninth inning, rallying host Los Angeles past Arizona.

Rockies 3, Padres 1: Pinch-hitter Chris Owings hit a go-ahead home run in the seventh inning, Jon Gray had another strong start and visiting Colorado beat San Diego, which lost another starting pitcher to injury.

Angels 7, Mariners 1: David Fletcher had four hits and four RBIs to extend his hitting streak to 24 games, and Los Angeles won at Seattle.

Miami's López strikes out 1st 9 of game, wins

Associated Press

MIAMI — Marlins right-hander Pablo López set a major league record by striking out the first nine batters to start a game, pitching Miami past the Atlanta Braves 7-4 Sunday.

A day after the Braves lost star outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. to a season-ending knee injury, their hitters had no answers for López's early dominance.

López set the mark on the one-year anniversary of his father's death.

"There were a lot of emotions and mixed feelings out there today. My dad meant so much to me in my progression," López said. "Being able to perform and get (that accomplishment) was really cool and really special."

López struck out Ehire Adrianza, Freddie Freeman and Ozzie Albies each swinging in the first inning. He then fanned Austin Riley, Orlando Arcia and Dansby Swanson, also all swinging in the second inning.

In the third, Guillermo Heredia looked at strike three, Kevan Smith went down swinging and Ian Anderson was called out on strikes.

The 25-year-old López broke the mark of eight straight strikeouts to begin a game set by Jim Deshaies in 1986 and matched by Jacob deGrom in 2014 and German Marquez in 2018.

"(Pablo) was on a little bit of a mission today," said Marlins manager Don Mattingly.

Bucs draft Davis at No. 1, Texas takes Leiter at No. 2

Associated Press

The Pittsburgh Pirates opened the amateur draft with a Louisville slugger.

That freed up the Texas Rangers to grab another famous baseball name at No. 2.

The Pirates selected Louisville catcher Henry Davis and the Rangers grabbed Vanderbilt pitcher Jack Leiter — son of big league All-Star Al Leiter — with the first

two picks of Sunday night's draft, the first held as part of All-Star weekend.

"Fired up," said Davis, wearing a Pirates hat and jersey moments after his on-stage introduction by Commissioner Rob Manfred. "Ready to go, ready to get to work. Super excited."

Manfred announced the choices from Denver's Bellco Theater. Major League

Baseball moved the draft from its longstanding June slot to July's All-Star festivities in an effort to better showcase its future stars.

Davis has big power and an even bigger arm, throwing out 46% of would-be base-stealers to become a finalist for the Buster Posey Award as college baseball's best defensive catcher.

Italy beats England in penalty shootout

Associated Press

LONDON — Italian soccer's redemption story is complete. England's painful half-century wait for a major title goes on.

And it just had to be because of a penalty shootout.

Italy won the European Championship for the second time by beating England 3-2 on penalties on Sunday. The match finished 1-1 after extra time at Wembley Stadium, which was filled mostly with English fans hoping to celebrate the team's first international trophy since the 1966 World Cup.

"It's coming to Rome. It's coming to Rome," Italy defender Leonardo Bonucci shouted into a TV camera amid the celebrations, mocking the famous lyric "it's coming home" from the England team's anthem.

For England, it was utter dejection again — its fans know the feeling so well when it comes to penalties — after Gianluigi Don-

narumma, Italy's imposing goalkeeper, dived to his left and saved the decisive spot kick by 19-year-old Londoner Bukayo Saka, one of the youngest players in England's squad.

That was England's third straight failure from the penalty spot in the shootout, with Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho — players brought on late in extra time seemingly as specialist penalty-takers — also missing.

As Saka and Sancho cried, Donnarumma was mobbed by his teammates as they sprinted toward him from the halfway line at the end of the second penalty shootout in a European Championship final.

Then Italy's jubilant players headed to the other end of the field and ran as one, diving to the ground in front of the Italian fans who have witnessed a rebirth of their national teams. It was less than four years ago that Italy plunged to the lowest moment of

its soccer history by failing to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in six decades. Now, they are the best team in Europe and on a national-record 34-match unbeaten run under Roberto Mancini, their suave coach who has won an international trophy in his first attempt to add to the country's other European title — in 1968 — and its four World Cups.

Mancini joined his players on the podium as Italy captain Giorgio Chiellini lifted the Henri Delaunay trophy to the backdrop of fireworks and tickertape.

"It was impossible even to just consider this at one stage," Mancini said, "but the guys were just amazing. I have no words for them."

For England, it's the latest heartache in shootouts at major tournaments, after defeats in 1990, 1996, 1998, 2004, 2006 and 2012. They ended that losing streak by beating Colombia on

penalties in the round of 16 at the 2018 World Cup, but the pain has quickly returned.

"The boys couldn't have given more," England captain Harry Kane said. "Penalties are the worst feeling in the world when you lose. It's been a fantastic tournament — we should be proud, hold our heads up high. It's going to hurt now, it's going to hurt for a while."

England's first major final in 55 years had all started so well, too, with Luke Shaw scoring the fastest goal in a European Championship final by meeting a cross from opposite wing back Kieran Trippier with a half-volley that went in off the post in the second minute.

It was Shaw's first goal for England and it prompted a fist-pump between David Beckham and Tom Cruise in the VIP box amid an explosion of joy around Wembley, which had at least 67,000 fans inside.

Kurt Busch holds off brother, wins Atlanta NASCAR Cup race

Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. — Kurt Busch asked for a final favor from Atlanta Motor Speedway's old, battered track.

Busch's wish came true on the track's farewell race.

Busch passed brother Kyle with 24 laps left and won the NASCAR Cup Series race Sunday to complete a sibling weekend Atlanta sweep.

It was the final race for the current track surface. It was installed in 1997 and is the oldest on the NASCAR circuit. Construction on a repaving and reprofile project is expected to begin immediately.

"What a genuine, awesome, old-school race track," Kurt Busch said. "I just asked the track today for the last time on your old asphalt can I have an old guy win, and she answered."

Kurt Busch, 42, raced to his first victory of the season, 33rd overall and the fourth of his career at Atlanta. He locked up a spot in the playoffs and possibly improved his

chances of securing a new ride next season.

"Hell yeah, we beat Kyle!" he said.

Kyle Busch reclaimed the lead with 47 laps remaining, but couldn't hold off his older brother on Lap 236. Kurt Busch took advantage of lapped traffic, especially teammate Ross Chastain, to pass his brother. Chastain helped Kurt Busch choose the lane needed to make the crucial pass.

"The 42 did his job as a teammate," Kurt Busch said. "Ross is going to get a little flak for it, but that's what it takes to be a good teammate at the right moment. I couldn't be more proud of Ross Chastain."

Said Chastain, who finished 21st: "Kurt asked for the lane and I gave it to him. ... One team, one goal and that's to win."

Kyle Busch pushed for the lead with eight laps remaining, but Kurt pulled away in the final laps to win by 1.237 seconds.

Kyle Busch said his brother "was definitely better than us today. I thought I had him, and I did, but racing just didn't play out for us today."

Johnson tests positive, British Open WDs grow

Associated Press

SANDWICH, England — Former champion Zach Johnson tested positive for the coronavirus before getting on a charter flight to the British Open, forcing him to join the growing list of withdrawals and ending his streak at playing 69 consecutive majors.

The R&A said Johnson, who played in the John Deere Classic in Illinois on Sunday.

That brings to 16 the number of players who have withdrawn or chosen not to take their spots in the field for the 149th edition of golf's oldest championship.

In other golf news:

■ Jim Furyk recovered from a rough start in the final round of the U.S. Senior Open in Omaha, Neb.. Making his debut in the event, Furyk closed with a 1-over 71 to become the eighth player to win both the U.S. Open and Senior Open, joining Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Lee Trevino, Billy Casper, Gary Player, Hale Irwin and Orville Moody.