

## Biden blasts court's immunity ruling

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden warned Monday that a Supreme Court ruling granting presidents broad immunity from prosecution would make an unchecked Republican Donald Trump “more emboldened to do whatever he wants” if he regains the White House in November’s election.

Biden, under intense pressure after his disastrous debate performance against Trump last week, urged Americans to think carefully about their election decision and signaled he had no intention of dropping out of the race.

Criticizing the decision by the court’s conservative majority — which all but guarantees Trump will not face trial in Washington ahead of the November election over his actions during the violent riot on Jan. 6, 2021 — Biden said it now fell to the American

people “to do what the courts should have been willing to do but will not.

“The American people have to render judgment about Donald Trump’s behavior.”

Biden’s efforts to reset his campaign following the debate, which spooked donors and stirred up major Democratic anxiety, has been looking a lot like his past attempts to keep the focus squarely on Trump’s misdeeds and shortcomings. During his brief remarks Monday, he made no mention of last week’s debate or his performance, and did not take questions, delivering an unusually political message from the White House.

“I know I will respect the limits of presidential power as I have for the three-and-a-half years, but any president, including Donald Trump, will now be free to ignore the law,” Biden said.

Biden seemed relaxed and confident, striking a clear and crisp tone and looking tanned and rested — all of which was in stark contrast to his often halting performance during last week’s debate, when his face was notably pale. The president also had the benefit of a teleprompter for his remarks about the court, something he didn’t have while facing off with Trump.

There have been private discussions in Biden’s camp on what more the president could do to counteract what Americans saw during the debate, when he gave convoluted answers, trailed off at times, occasionally stared blankly and sounded raspy-voiced. The talks have included questions about whether Biden should be seen more in public through town-hall-style events or interviews and press conferences, which he has generally avoided during his

time in office.

But most in his orbit are waiting on more substantial polling to come back in order to assess how bad the damage was before altering course in any substantial way. That’s according to four Biden advisers who were not authorized to speak publicly about internal discussions and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Biden’s team may not alter anything at all. Many think — or hope — the fraught moment will pass, particularly after Biden’s family encouraged him to stay in the race and keep fighting during a huddle at Camp David on Sunday.

Campaign officials said Monday they had nothing to announce on new events. They said Biden would be campaigning as he has been, hitting battleground states as he has already been doing for months.

## Russia balks at Trump saying he can end Ukraine war

*Associated Press*

UNITED NATIONS — Donald Trump has said repeatedly he could settle the war between Russia and Ukraine in one day if he’s elected president again. Russia’s United Nations ambassador says he can’t.

When asked to respond to the claim from the presumptive Republican nominee, Vassily Nebenzia told reporters Monday that “the Ukrainian crisis cannot be solved in one day.”

At a CNN town hall in May 2023, Trump said: “They’re dying, Russians and Ukrainians. I want them to stop dying. And I’ll have that done — I’ll have that done in 24 hours.” He said that would happen after he met with

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin. And he keeps repeating the claim on the campaign trail.

During last week’s debate with President Joe Biden, Trump claimed, “If we had a real president, a president that knew — that was respected by Putin ... he would have never invaded Ukraine.”

Nebenzia said the war could have ended in April 2022 in Istanbul when Russia and Ukraine were “very close” to an agreement. Moscow invaded its neighbor two months earlier on Feb. 24, 2022, though Russia insists its “special military operation” began in 2014 after clash-

es in Ukraine’s east resulted in Moscow seizing the Crimea Peninsula.

The Russian ambassador blamed Ukraine’s Western backers for blocking the April 2022 peace deal and telling Kyiv to keep fighting Russia.

Now, he said, Zelenskyy “is running around with his so-called peace plan which, of course, is not a peace plan but a joke.” While meeting in Switzerland last month, nearly 80 countries called for the “territorial integrity” of Ukraine to be the basis for any peace agreement to end the war. But some key developing nations did not join in and Russia did not attend the conference.

Nebenzia pointed to Putin’s offer on June 14 to “immediately” order a cease-fire in Ukraine and start negotiations if Kyiv begins withdrawing troops from the four regions annexed by Moscow in 2022 and renounces plans to join NATO.

Zelenskyy, who has vowed not to give up any territory, rejected what he called an ultimatum by Putin to surrender more land.

The Trump campaign didn’t respond to an email seeking comment about Nebenzia’s remarks.

Nebenzia called Zelenskyy’s peace formula “a nonstarter” and said he needs to be “realistic” and take into account what’s happened since April.

# Retired USMC general is found dead at base

*Los Angeles Times*

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is probing the death of a military officer whose body was found at the Twentynine Palms Marine base in Southern California, officials said.

Maj. Gen. William F. Mullen was found dead at the base Saturday, according to San Bernardino County coroner's records.

Mullen, at one time the commanding general of the base, retired in 2020.

San Bernardino County sheriff's spokesperson Mara Rodriguez confirmed that NCIS is investigating the death at the facility, which is the world's largest Marine

Corps training base.

NCIS is the investigative law enforcement entity of the Department of the Navy. The agency leads criminal investigations and, according to its website, also investigates noncombat deaths of Navy or Marine Corps members.

NCIS officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"Major General Mullen's dedicated service to our nation and the Marine Corps will always be remembered," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Savage, commanding general of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command. "Our thoughts and

prayers are with his loved ones."

Marine Corps officials confirmed NCIS is investigating the cause of death.

San Bernardino coroner's officials are handling the autopsy, Rodriguez said. That investigation is ongoing.

Before his retirement, Mullen served as commanding general of the Training and Education Command, according to the U.S. Marine Corps. His extensive military background includes tours of duty in the Middle East, leading a counter-narcotics mission in the Los Padres National Forest and serving as Marine aide to President Bill Clinton.

## Sigonella curbs July 4 attendance amid threats to US bases in Europe

BY ALISON BATH

*Stars and Stripes*

NAPLES, Italy — A U.S. Navy base in Sicily is limiting attendance at its Fourth of July celebration this year to people with Defense Department affiliation, as American military installations across Europe remain on heightened alert.

Only military members, dependents, DOD civilians, contractors, NATO employees and Italians with an affiliated identification card will be able to attend July Fourth festivities at Naval Air Station Sigonella, the base announced in a post to its Facebook page on Tuesday.

The restriction means that the annual event is closed to the public and that non-affiliated guests cannot attend, as they were allowed to previously, NAS Sigonella said in a statement Tuesday. The event takes place on the base's administrative site known as NAS I.

"While there is no specific threat targeting NAS Sigonella, the increase in security requirements is a proactive measure to ensure the safety and security of our community," the statement said.

It wasn't immediately clear how many other bases in Europe, if any, are curtailing attendance at their Independence Day celebrations, which are traditionally open to guests as a gesture of goodwill.

Festivities at Naval Station Rota in Spain will continue as planned and include Americans, members of the Span-

ish navy, Spanish employees and their guests, the base said in a statement.

It also appeared that a celebration at Naval Support Activity Naples in Italy would go on without attendance restrictions, and a similar event at Naval Support Activity Souda Bay on the Greek island of Crete already took place Saturday.

NAS Sigonella's action comes as the security threat level at military bases across Europe was raised over the weekend. On Sunday, the Army garrison in Stuttgart issued a communitywide alert that the force protection threat level had been elevated to condition "Charlie" until further notice.

Similar directives were sent to the Army's Rheinland-Pfalz garrison and Ramstein Air Base in Germany. In Italy, officials at Aviano Air Base and NSA Naples also raised their condition level to Charlie.

The Charlie threat level "applies when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action or targeting against personnel or facilities is likely," according to the Army's website.

At a news briefing Monday, Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said the elevation was due to a combination of factors, including the Euro 2024 soccer tournament and the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris.

## Navy looking to add housing in Hampton Roads

*The Virginian-Pilot*

NORFOLK, Va. — The Hampton Roads area could soon see new Navy housing that would provide beds for about 8,000 sailors, officials in Virginia announced Monday.

A bipartisan group of state and local elected officials participated in a roundtable discussion with U.S. Navy personnel on federal, state and local investments in the Hampton Roads region. The goal was to bring all levels of government together to ensure a unified approach, including timelines, on revitalizing downtown Newport News around the shipyard.

"This is an effort to make Newport News the center for excellence for shipbuilding," Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Va., said during a news conference at the U.S. Navy Tour and Information Office in Norfolk. "This is about prioritizing quality of life for our sailors, quality of life for our men and women that work at the shipyard. We know we have to be successful in both those enterprises. If we're going to recruit and retain the best in our Navy, we have to take care of them."

Vice Adm. Christopher "Scotty" Gray said the Navy is looking at creating 8,000 new beds for sailors in Hampton Roads. He said 1,000 to 1,500 beds would likely be in Newport News, although he noted the Navy is still working on specifics. He said he hopes the Navy has worked out a timeline by the fall.

# Japan halts material bound for US airfield

By KEISHI KOJA  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Japanese government halted shipment of landfill material destined for a U.S. military airfield on Okinawa after a truck hit and killed a security guard and injured a protester last week.

Moving material to ports at Awa and Motobu on the island by truck is suspended while authorities consider measures to prevent future incidents, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said at a video-recorded press conference Monday.

The landfill material is used to reclaim a portion of Oura Bay for a Marine Corps airfield under construction in the rural Henoko region of northern Okinawa. The material is quarried on Okinawa, trucked to the ports and then moved by ships to the airfield site at Camp Schwab.

Work at the site was set to resume fully in August after more than four years' delay while Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki fought the project in Japanese courts. The airfield is planned

as a replacement for Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in urban Ginowan.

A spokesman for U.S. Forces Japan did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment Tuesday from Stars and Stripes.

Around 10 a.m. Friday, security guard Yoshikazu Usami, 47, and an unidentified 72-year-old woman "for some reason" stepped into the path of a truck turning left from Awa port, Nago city, according to an Okinawa Prefectural Police spokesman that day.

Usami suffered severe head injuries and was declared dead at a local hospital at 11:09 a.m.; the woman was treated for a broken leg, the police spokesman said.

"This accident is very regrettable, and the Ministry of Defense is working to understand the situation," Hayashi said Monday.

Reports indicate the "accident occurred during an interaction between a security guard and a protester," Hayashi said. "The Okinawa Defense Bureau is working to confirm the details of the accident."

# US lawmakers seek review of defense firm acquisitions

CQ Roll Call

WASHINGTON — Three liberal Democrats pressed the Biden administration in writing on Sunday to "closely scrutinize" a pair of defense industry acquisitions to ensure they don't worsen "price gouging" on military spare parts.

The letter, obtained by CQ Roll Call, was sent to leaders at the Pentagon, Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission by Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Reps. John Garamendi of California and Mark Pocan of Wisconsin. Warren and Garamendi are Armed Services Committee members in their respective chambers, and Pocan is an appropriator.

In the letter, the lawmakers urged a hard look at TransDigm Group Inc.'s acquisition of two specialized aerospace parts builders: SEI Industries LTD and Raptor Labs Holdco LLC.

"There is no indication that these mergers and acquisitions will have a beneficial impact on taxpayers or national security," the members wrote in their letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division Jonathan Kanter and Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina

M. Khan.

The letter represents the latest in a series of congressional efforts over the last few years to rein in what auditors have called excessive costs of many military spare parts.

These lawmaker initiatives have included previous demands to the administration for both information and action, plus provisions in recent NDAA's and Defense spending measures.

TransDigm has been at the center of these concerns.

The company has a business model of buying up smaller companies — at least 88 so far, Friday's missive said. The acquired firms often have low-dollar-value contracts with the Defense Department that they did not compete for and that typically fall below dollar thresholds requiring that certified cost and pricing data be presented to the government to determine fairness and reasonableness.

In many cases, TransDigm has charged prices for spare parts that are excessive, auditors have determined.

TransDigm charged \$4,361 for a half-inch metal pin — a nearly 9,400% in excess profit, the Pentagon inspector general reported in 2019.

# Tricare pharmacy manager's drug price tactics questioned

By KELLY AGEE  
*Stars and Stripes*

Members of Congress are asking the Defense Health Agency whether the Tricare pharmacy benefit manager, Express Scripts, a Cigna company, is using its market leverage to raise drug prices and limit competition.

In a June 26 letter to DHA director Lt. Gen. Telita Crosland and Dr. Lester Martinez-Lopez, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, 24 senators and representatives expressed concern that Express Scripts

may be limiting access to medications for Tricare beneficiaries, thereby driving up costs while overcharging independent pharmacies and taxpayers.

"Since the DHA granted Express Scripts its exclusive Tricare contract in 2009 the company has consistently leveraged its market power to squeeze independent pharmacies and steer Tricare beneficiaries to their own mail-order pharmacy, and used other tactics to increase costs for service members and taxpayers," the letter states.

Cigna in 2018 purchased Express Scripts for \$67 billion, combining it with its own mail-order pharmacy, Accredo. Express Scripts, an online pharmacy, as the Tricare pharmacy benefit manager provides prescription medication for 9.6 million service members, retirees and their families.

"However, because Cigna also owns Accredo, it can effectively keep much of its business in-house, using its [pharmacy benefit manager] to steer patients to its own pharmacy while disadvantaging competitors,"

the letter states.

Express Scripts imposes "predatory terms" on other pharmacies willing to work with Tricare, the congressional members alleged. When pharmacies reject those terms, more Tricare patients turn to Accredo, a specialty pharmacy, "which is prone to delays and safety issues, but drives more profits to parent company Cigna," the letter states.

Express Scripts did not reply to an email inquiry Monday from Stars and Stripes seeking comment.

# N. Korea brags of 'super-large warhead' missile

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Tuesday that it had test-fired a new tactical ballistic missile capable of carrying “a super-large warhead,” a claim quickly disputed by South Korean officials and experts who speculate the North likely fabricated a successful test to conceal a botched launch.

It's the second time South Korea has questioned North Korea's claim on the development of new weapons in recent days, as the rivals are locked in heightened animosities over the North's testing activities.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said Monday's test involved the Hwasongpho-11 Da-4.5 missile, which can carry a 4.5 ton-class warhead. It said the test was meant to verify the weapon's

flight stability and hit accuracy at the maximum range of 310 miles and the minimum range of 55 miles.

The test apparently refers to the two ballistic missile launches South Korea said North Korea performed Monday.

Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson Lee Sung Joon said at a briefing later Tuesday that the second North Korean missile was found to have fallen on an uninhabited area near Pyongyang, the North's capital. He said he could find few previous test launches by North Korea that have aimed at ground target sites.

“Regarding the North Korean assessment, we're weighing a possibility of deception,” Lee said.

The South Korean military has said the second North Ko-

rean missile possibly traveled abnormally during the initial stage of its flight. It said if the missile exploded, its debris would likely have scattered on the ground.

The KCNA dispatch didn't say from where it launched the new missile and where it landed. Unlike previous weapons tests, North Korea also didn't publicize any photos of Monday's test. The fact that it tested both the missile's maximum and minimum ranges suggested North Korea performed two launches.

KCNA, citing North Korea's Missile Administration, reported North Korea will test-fire the missile again later in July to verify the performances of its simulated warhead at the medium range of 155 miles.

Some experts have said test-firing missiles at ground tar-

gets could be related to efforts to test how powerful warheads are to destroy underground bunkers and structures.

But Shin Jongwoo, a Seoul-based military expert, said the lack of any photos on the launches means it's highly likely the North is trying to deceive the outsiders to cover up Monday's failed launches. He said North Korea likely launched an existing missile Monday, not the new missile.

Yang Uk, an analyst at Asan Institute for Policy Studies, said Monday's tests reflected North Korea's push to acquire a variety of conventional weapons. But he also said if North Korea truly succeeded in hitting a ground target, it probably would have already published related images to brag about its achievements as it's done in the past.

## Prosecutor not opposed to delay in Trump sentencing

Associated Press

Manhattan prosecutors said Tuesday that they would not oppose Donald Trump's request to delay the sentencing in his hush money trial as he seeks to have the conviction overturned following a Supreme Court ruling which granted broad immunity protections to presidents.

In a letter filed with the New York court, prosecutors with Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office said they would be open to a two-week delay in the July 11 sentencing in order to file a response to Trump's motions.

“Although we do believe the case to be without merit, we do not oppose his request” to delay the sentencing pending determination of the motion, the prosecutors wrote.

The letter came one day after Trump's attorney requested the judge delay the sentencing as he

weighs the high court's decision and how it could influence the New York case.

The lawyers have argued the Supreme Court's decision confirmed a position the defense raised earlier in the case that prosecutors should have been precluded from introducing some evidence the Trump team said constituted official presidential acts, according to the letter.

If a delay is indeed granted, it would push a sentencing decision past the Republican National Convention, which will kick off in Milwaukee on July 15. That means that Trump, now the presumptive GOP nominee, could become the Republican presidential candidate while it remains unknown what sentence he will face.

Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

## High court to hear appeal of porn site age verification law

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear an appeal from the adult entertainment industry seeking to upend a Texas law that requires pornographic websites to verify the age of their users.

The justices will review an appellate ruling that allowed the age verification to go into effect. Arguments in the legal fight between the Free Speech Coalition, a trade association for the adult entertainment industry, and Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican who signed House Bill 181 into law, will take place in the fall.

In April, the high court turned aside an emergency appeal asking to put the age verification on hold while the legal fight continues.

Similar age verification laws have passed in other states, including Arkansas, Indiana,

Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, Utah and Virginia.

The Texas law carries fines of up to \$10,000 per violation that could be raised to up to \$250,000 per violation by a minor.

Last year, a federal judge blocked the law's age verification requirement and health warnings, finding that they likely violated the Constitution. In March, a divided panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the age verification ruling, although it upheld the health warnings ruling that adult sites can't be forced to publish statements with which they disagree.

The health warnings, disputed by the industry, included that pornography is addictive, impairs mental development and increases the demand for prostitution, child exploitation and child sexual abuse images.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Campus carry weapons law debuts in state

**WV** CHARLESTON — People with concealed carry permits can possess firearms on West Virginia public college and university campuses under a state law that debuted Monday.

Institutions of higher learning can implement exceptions to the law, which bans the open carry of a firearm on campus.

Similar legislation has passed in 11 other states.

As the bill moved through the Legislature last year, the presidents of West Virginia's largest schools told lawmakers that decisions about whether to allow guns on campus should be left to the institutions. They also voiced concerns about students struggling with mental health challenges.

When Republican Gov. Jim Justice signed the law in March 2023 he said he wanted the law to "send a message to the world, by God, if you want to mess with us, we can mess back."

### Dems' retail theft bill ignores older convictions

**CA** SACRAMENTO — Top California Democrats want to advance legislation to crack down on retail theft, announcing they plan to send the measure to voters in November despite a tough-on-crime initiative already backed by retailers and law enforcement.

The lawmakers' plan, led by Gov. Gavin Newsom, seeks to put fewer people behind bars for stealing compared to the other plan. Newsom and lawmakers negotiated the plan be-

hind closed doors over the weekend after failing to convince the coalition of law enforcement and business groups to drop their initiative.

Both proposals would make shoplifting a felony for repeat offenders and increase penalties for fentanyl-related charges. But the lawmakers' plan is narrower in scope.

Under the retailers' plan, any prior theft-related convictions, even if they happened years ago, would count toward a three-strike policy for increased sentences. Lawmakers also are proposing harsher punishment for repeat thieves, but the convictions would have to happen within three years of each other.

### Scuba diver dies during salvage operation on lake

**MN** CRANE LAKE — Authorities are investigating the death of a scuba diver during a salvage operation on Crane Lake in northern Minnesota.

The 50-year-old man from the town of Embarrass was assisting a group of people Sunday in recovering a piece of sunken machinery from a part of the lake that was about 70 feet deep when he failed to resurface, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. Rescuers found him, but despite lifesaving efforts they were unable to save him.

The salvage operation was based on a barge that was going to be used to transport the sunken equipment back to shore.

The man was trained as a scuba diver but was not affiliated with any recovery or salvage company, the sheriff's office said.

The accident happened outside the boundary of Voyageurs National Park, which includes part of Crane Lake.

### Ex-labor union president is sentenced to prison

**PA** READING — The former president of a Philadelphia labor union has been sentenced to four years in prison for his role in what federal prosecutors said was embezzlement of more than \$600,000 of union funds.

Brian Burrows, 64, of Mount Laurel, N.J., former president of Local 98 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, was also ordered Wednesday in federal court in Reading to forfeit almost \$136,000 and to pay an amount of restitution to be determined later.

Burrows and John "Johnny Doc" Dougherty, the union's longtime business manager, were convicted in December of conspiracy, embezzlement and other counts. Prosecutors said they used the money for items including home renovations, concerts, groceries and even a cookie tray for the christening of a relative's baby.

Dougherty is scheduled to be sentenced July 11.

### Two people killed after vintage biplane crashes

**KS** HOXIE — Authorities are investigating the crash of a vintage biplane in northwest Kansas that killed two Colorado residents.

The 1934 WACO YKC single-engine biplane crashed into a field around 10 miles north of Hoxie in Sheridan County

around 6:10 p.m. Sunday, the Kansas Highway Patrol said.

The Patrol identified the pilot as David Allen, 78, of Elbert, Colo., and the passenger as Jeanne Allen, 79. They died at the scene.

The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board are in charge of the investigation.

### Man gets life sentence in starvation death of son

**AZ** FLAGSTAFF — A northern Arizona man has been sentenced to prison for the rest of his life on convictions including first-degree murder in the 2020 starvation death of his 6-year-old son, according to court proceedings.

A Coconino County judge sentenced Anthony Martinez, 28, on Friday to life in prison on the murder conviction, with additional prison sentences linked to child abuse and kidnapping convictions in the abuse of the deceased child and an older sibling.

Additionally, cumulative sentences of three years in prison were added on two convictions for aggravated assault, which can be served concurrently or credited against time served.

The Arizona Daily Sun reported that Martinez declined to speak during the court hearing but wrote a letter to his children that was read aloud by a defense attorney, apologizing "for all the things I put you through."

Presiding Judge Ted Reed cited aggravating factors in sentencing Martinez, describing the crimes as especially heinous and cruel while Martinez was in a position of trust as the children's father.

— From wire reports

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# Uruguay ousts US from Copa America

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Gregg Berhalter gave a single-word answer after the United States was eliminated from the Copa America with a loss to Uruguay when asked whether he was the right man to lead the Americans into the 2026 World Cup.

“Yes,” Berhalter said.

Plenty of others are sure to have plenty more to say about his future with the national team.

After a disastrous loss to Panama put the U.S. in a dire predicament, Berhalter’s lineup of players from European clubs created precious few opportunities against Uruguay. And when Mathías Olivera found the back of the net for a questionable second-half goal, La Celeste walked out of Arrowhead Stadium with a 1-0 victory on Monday night and the Americans were left wondering how everything had gone so wrong.

“We’re all going to do a review of the whole tournament and see

where we fell short,” Berhalter said. “It’s obvious the Panama game hurt us, put us behind the 8-ball, and I think collectively — the staff, the players, the sporting department — have to look at where do we improve. How do we get better? We know it’s a talented team, one with big potential, and we didn’t show it.”

Berhalter and the U.S. hoped to show the team had advanced since its round-of-16 elimination against the Netherlands at the 2022 World Cup. Instead, the U.S. managed only a 2-0 win over lowly Bolivia and was upset 2-1 by the Panamanians.

“We had a good start and brought a lot of energy but at the end of the day, just not enough quality,” U.S. captain Christian Pulisic said. “I felt like we gave it everything but we just couldn’t score.”

Indeed, the lone goal Monday night came in the 66th minute when Nicolas De La Cruz swung a free kick in front of the American goal. Matt Turner parried a

header by Ronald Araújo, who out-jumped defender Tim Ream, but the rebound went right to Olivera and he tapped the ball in with his left foot.

Olivera appeared to be offside on the initial header but the goal stood after a video review.

Three minutes before Uruguay scored, the U.S. was in position to advance.

Bruno Miranda had tied the score for Bolivia against Panama in a game started simultaneously in Orlando, Fla., which meant the U.S. would only need a tie. But Panama went on to a 3-1 victory to claim the second spot in Group C behind Uruguay, and the U.S. was bounced from the group stage for the first time in 20 continental and global tournaments on home soil.

“This is still a young team. Still a lot of potential. But potential doesn’t really matter if you go out on the pitch and you don’t get the job done,” defender Antonee Robinson said. “Everyone needs to try and up the level, my-

self included.”

Berhalter was rehired in June 2023 and given a contract through the upcoming World Cup, which the U.S. will co-host with Canada and Mexico. But despite a lineup that included Pulisic, Weston McKennie and Tyler Adams, the U.S. failed to even match its last Copa America appearance, when it lost to Argentina in the 2016 semifinals.

During the second half Monday night, the home crowd of 55,460 in less-than-full Arrowhead Stadium began chanting, “Fire Gregg.”

The U.S. next plays September friendlies against Canada and New Zealand.

“It wasn’t only Copa America. It’s learning from these high-level games we’re playing pre-tournament,” Berhalter said, “and having this collective understanding that the margins are so small, and there is very little separating any of these teams.”

## Sources: Thompson leaving Warriors for Mavericks

Associated Press

DALLAS — Klay Thompson has taken off his Golden State jersey for the last time. And the Warriors say they’re going to retire it to commemorate his time with them.

Thompson is moving on from the Warriors, with the four-time league champion agreeing to join the Western Conference champion Dallas Mavericks and change franchises for the first time in his 13-year NBA career, two people with knowledge of the decision said Monday.

ESPN and The Athletic first reported the multiteam deal which, as currently constructed, will be executed as the sign-and-trade of a three-year, \$50 million contract involving the Warriors, Mavericks and Charlotte Hornets, said the people, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the agreement has not been announced.

Without mentioning Dallas — by league rule, they technically cannot acknowledge any part of the trade yet — the Warriors released a statement in tribute to Thomp-

son on Monday night, saying they “can’t overstate Klay Thompson’s incredible and legendary contributions” to the team and that “the amount of joy and happiness that Klay provided Warriors fans ... cannot be minimized.”

“His penchant for delivering in pressurized situations on the biggest stage, including many Game 6 heroics, has helped define a career,” the Warriors said. “Klay’s legacy will live on forever and we look forward to the day we can retire his #11 jersey at Chase Center, where he will join a host of Warriors immortals, including those who helped shape this recent dynasty — himself included.”

Thompson is sixth on the NBA’s all-time 3-pointers made list with 2,481, behind Reggie Miller (2,560), Damian Lillard (2,607), James Harden (2,940), Ray Allen (2,973) and Thompson’s now-former “Splash Brother” with the Warriors, Stephen Curry, and his 3,747 career makes from beyond the arc.

There were indications last season that

Thompson and the Warriors might be headed toward a breakup.

Thompson came off the bench 14 times — not much in the grand scheme of things considering he played 77 games, but those were his first appearances as a reserve since his rookie season of 2011-12. He shot 38.7% from 3-point range, the second-worst of his career. He averaged 17.9 points, the third-lowest of his career. He wasn’t always in the finishing lineup and the season — and his Warriors career — ended with a 0-for-10 shooting performance against Sacramento in a play-in tournament loss.

Thompson — a five-time All-Star and two-time All-NBA selection who missed two entire seasons with injuries — took a long look around the court after that game, soaking in the scene just in case it would be his final time playing with the Warriors. Turns out, it was. And now he’ll join a Dallas team that just went to the NBA Finals as a shooter brought in to help Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving.

# 83rd-ranked player ousts Vondrousova

*Associated Press*

LONDON — Marketa Vondrousova became the first defending women's champion at Wimbledon to lose in the first round the next year since 1994, eliminated 6-4, 6-2 by Jessica Bouzas Maneiro at Centre Court on Tuesday.

Vondrousova was a surprise title winner at the All England Club 12 months ago, the first unseeded woman to claim the trophy at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament.

Now she enters the books in another — and less-wanted — historic way. The only other time in the sport's Open era, which dates to 1968, that a woman went from a championship at Wimbledon to an immediate exit a year later was when Steffi Graf was defeated by Lori McNeil 30 years ago.

"I was happy to be back on the Centre Court," Vondrousova said. "It just didn't go as planned today."

Vondrousova was seeded No. 6 this time, but the left-hander,

who was the runner-up at the 2019 French Open and a silver medalist at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago, was never quite able to demonstrate her full game Tuesday. She appeared to still be suffering after-effects from a fall during a tuneup tournament on grass in Berlin last month that hurt her hip.

"I was a bit slower, maybe. I was a bit scared," Vondrousova said. "But credit to her. She was playing a good match, too. I didn't feel at my best, (but) she didn't give me many points for free."

How big a deal was this for Bouzas Maneiro?

She is competing in a Grand Slam tournament for only the third time and came into the day with an 0-2 record at those events. Bouzas Maneiro also had never won a match at a tour-level grass tournament and never beaten an opponent ranked in the top 10.

"This is one of the most important moments in my life, in my career, here in this sport.

This is amazing," said Bouzas Maneiro, a 21-year-old from Spain who is ranked 83rd this week, equaling her career high.

"I was like, 'I have no pressure. Just enjoy the moment, enjoy the tournament.' Just trying to be free playing, and I did it, so I'm happy for that," she said.

Vondrousova added to the series of past major title winners dropping out of the singles brackets within the first 30 hours of action at Wimbledon this year — although others did so without playing a point.

Earlier Tuesday, Andy Murray pulled out of singles because he decided he wasn't able to compete a little more than a week after having surgery to remove a cyst from his spine. His final appearance at Wimbledon, which he won in 2013 and 2016, will come in doubles alongside his brother, Jamie.

"I'm disappointed. I wanted to play in the tournament, and I wanted to have a chance to go out there and walk out on my own on Centre Court again and

give it another go. But I also was only going to do that if I felt like I could be competitive. And I didn't feel like that today," Murray said.

Intermittent rain delayed matches on the outside courts more than once Tuesday, and the retractable roofs at Centre Court and No. 1 Court were shut to allow play in those two stadiums. Early winners included 2022 champion Elena Rybakina and No. 5 seed Jessica Pegula among the women, and No. 7 Hubert Hurkacz among the men.

The initial signs of trouble for Vondrousova on Tuesday came right away: She double-faulted three times in the very first game and got broken to trail 1-0.

"My serve wasn't so good today," Vondrousova said. "Overall, I think, I wasn't at my best."

She wound up with seven double-faults, part of her total of 28 unforced errors, twice as many as Bouzas Maneiro in a match that lasted only a little more than an hour.

## Predators sign pair of stars as teams drop over \$1B

*Associated Press*

The Nashville Predators made a huge splash when free agency opened Monday by signing Stanley Cup champion forwards Steven Stamkos and Jonathan Marchessault in a series of moves topping \$100 million that made Smashville the center of attention on a record-setting, billion-dollar day across the NHL.

Stamkos left Tampa Bay after 16 seasons, two Cup titles and two more trips to the Final to sign a four year, \$32 million contract with Nashville.

"By no means did I ever envision that a day like today would happen, but it did," Stamkos said. "It was definitely a bitter pill to swallow when it really started to materialize that it

wasn't going to work in Tampa."

Stamkos turned to the Predators, made his decision and got a call from Marchessault asking if he was signing with them too, worried it was one or the other. "He said, 'No Stammer, I'm coming, too,'" Stamkos recalled.

Marchessault got \$27.5 million for the next five seasons less than 13 months since earning playoff MVP honors in leading Vegas to its first championship. The two will have company: Defenseman Brady Skjei signed with Nashville for seven years and \$49 million, and Scott Wedgewood came in at \$3 million for two years to back up franchise goaltender Juuse Saros.

General manager Barry Trotz called it "a massive day for the future of our organization." The Predators at \$111.5 million became the first team to surpass \$100 million committed to new players in free agency since the Florida Panthers five years ago started building toward the championship they won last week.

"It's huge because it's a statement, I think, for the rest of the league," Trotz said. "These players see what we're doing with our franchise. We have lots to offer, and we're very determined to win. We're committed to that."

Marchessault was an original member of the expansion Golden Knights in 2017 and helped them reach the Final twice and

win the Stanley Cup last year. He is coming off scoring a career-high 42 goals and, like Stamkos, was one of his team's most recognizable faces.

On the first day of free agency, teams committed a record \$1.12 billion in contracts as more than 100 players changed teams. The total — the most ever spent in any single day of free agency, according to Cap-Friendly — is a direct result of the salary cap jumping to \$88 million per team, the first big increase since before the pandemic.

"A lot of cash," Toronto GM Brad Treliving said. "There were some really good players available. You saw teams be aggressive, and lots of players changed teams."

# Astros top Jays for 10th win in 11 games

Associated Press

TORONTO — Hunter Brown pitched six shutout innings, Jeremy Peña and Yordan Alvarez hit home runs and the Houston Astros beat the Toronto Blue Jays 3-1 on Monday afternoon for their 10th win in 11 games.

After going 4-0 with a 1.16 ERA in five June starts, Brown (6-5) opened July with another solid outing. The right-hander allowed two hits, both singles. He walked three and struck out five.

“It couldn’t happen to a better guy,” Peña said. “He prepares really well and he goes out there and competes.”

Decked out in special red jerseys and caps, the Blue Jays lost on the Canada Day holiday for a second year in a row.

After Rafael Montero worked a 1-2-3 seventh inning, the Blue Jays loaded the bases against Bryan Abreu in the eighth. Abreu escaped by getting Daulton Varsho to ground out.

“You can have him against the ropes but he’s going to figure out a way to get people out,” Astros manager Joe Espada said of Abreu. “That’s just Bryan. He’s so good, his stuff is so explosive.”

Josh Hader allowed a solo home run to Ernie Clement in the ninth but finished for his

13th save in 14 chances.

Toronto left eight runners on base, twice leaving the bases loaded. The Blue Jays finished 0-for-6 with runners in scoring position.

“We just needed a hit in certain spots,” manager John Schneider said.

The Blue Jays used a single and two walks to load the bases with one out in the second, but Brown got Clement to pop up before striking out Kevin Kiermaier.

“The first two innings I wasn’t executing at the clip I wanted to,” Brown said. “I was able to bear down and make some pitches early in an at-bat that kind of forced them to swing at some stuff.”

The Blue Jays have played 36 innings against the Astros this season and scored in just two of them. Toronto won 2-1 on April 2 when Davis Schneider hit a two-run home run off Hader in the ninth inning.

Houston’s Ronel Blanco threw a no-hitter against Toronto on April 1, and five Astros pitchers combined on a one-hit win over the Blue Jays on April 3.

Blue Jays slugger Vladimir Guerrero Jr. was scratched from the lineup Monday because of pain in his right hand.

Guerrero was hit on the fingers by a 96 mph fastball against the Yankees on Sunday.

Toronto right-hander Yariel Rodríguez retired his first 14 batters before Peña hit a first-pitch homer in the fifth inning for his sixth of the season.

“I was just looking for a good pitch to hit and put a barrel on it,” Peña said.

Rodríguez (0-3) allowed one run and two hits in a career-high 6⅓ innings. He walked two and struck out six.

**Mets 9, Nationals 7 (10):** J.D. Martinez and Jose Iglesias homered in a six-run 10th inning, and visiting New York held off Washington to spoil the major league debut of prized outfield prospect James Wood.

Francisco Alvarez had three RBIs for the Mets (41-41), who stopped a two-game skid and improved to 17-6 in their last 23 games.

In the opener of a four-game series between NL East rivals, Harrison Bader was hit by pitch leading off the 10th to put two runners on. Martinez followed with his 10th homer, a drive to center field against Hunter Harvey (2-4).

Tyrone Taylor doubled and scored on Alvarez’s first career triple, which hit high off the right-field wall, and Iglesias

made it 9-3 when he sent a two-run shot to center for his first big league homer since 2022 with Colorado.

Washington scored four times in the bottom half before Reed Garrett struck out Luis García Jr. with two on for his fourth save.

**Rockies 8, Brewers 7 (10):** Jake Cave came through with a bases-loaded single over a five-man infield in the bottom of the 10th inning to give host Colorado a victory against Milwaukee.

Brenton Doyle homered twice and Charlie Blackmon went deep on his birthday for the third time in his career to help the Rockies outlast the Brewers.

William Contreras homered among his three hits for Milwaukee, finishing a triple shy of the cycle. Willy Adames had three hits, including an RBI single to ignite a three-run eighth that put the Brewers back in front 7-6.

Doyle homered for the second time in the game, a two-out solo shot in the bottom of the eighth off Elvis Peguero, to produce the fourth tie of the night at 7-all.

Tyler Kinley (4-1) picked up the win with a scoreless 10th inning, getting out of a jam by striking out Garrett Mitchell.

## Home Run Derby changes opening round setup

Associated Press

The Home Run Derby is altering its format.

This year’s event, which takes place on July 15 at Arlington, Texas, limits the number of pitches each hitter can face in each round and changes the setup of its opening round.

All eight hitters will be competing against one another in the opening round, with the top four advancing to the semifinals. The semifinalists will be seeded depending on how many homers they hit in the first round.

Under the previous format, the eight hitters essentially competed in a tournament,

with one-on-one quarterfinal, semifinal and championship matchups. They were seeded according to their season home-run totals.

In the first round and the semifinals, each hitter will now get either three minutes or 40 pitches, depending on which of those benchmarks gets reached first. In the final round, a hitter will get two minutes or 27 pitches. That doesn’t include the bonus periods that hitters will get in each round.

Under the previous format, hitters still faced a time limit but there wasn’t any restriction on the number of pitches they could face.

Each hitter will get bonus pitches until they hit into three outs during that period. He gets a fourth out if he hits a homer that goes at least 425 feet in the bonus period. Under the old format, each hitter got an extra 30 seconds of bonus time and could receive another 30 seconds of bonus time if he hit two homers of at least 440 feet during the regulation period.

Although Major League Baseball hasn’t yet announced all the players competing in this year’s Home Run Derby, Baltimore’s Gunnar Henderson said Sunday night on social media that he would be participating. Last year’s Home Run Derby was won by Toronto’s Vladimir Guerrero Jr.