

Harris looks to lock up nomination

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Kamala Harris moved swiftly to lock up Democratic delegates behind her campaign for the White House after President Joe Biden stepped aside amid concerns from within their party that he would be unable to defeat Republican Donald Trump.

Biden's exit Sunday, prompted by Democratic worries over his fitness for office, was a seismic shift to the presidential contest that upended both major political parties' carefully honed plans for the 2024 race.

Aiming to put weeks of intraparty drama over Biden's candidacy behind them, prominent Democratic elected officials, party leaders and political organizations quickly lined up behind Harris in the hours after Biden announced he was dropping his reelection campaign.

Biden's departure frees his delegates to vote for whomever they choose. Harris, whom Biden backed after ending his candidacy, is thus far the only declared candidate and was working to quickly secure endorsements from a majority of delegates.

Additional endorsements Monday, including Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Illinois Gov.

J.B. Pritzker and Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, left a dwindling list of potential rivals to Harris.

Winning the nomination is only the first item on a staggering political to-do list for her after Biden's decision to exit the race, which she learned about on a Sunday morning call with the president. If she's successful at locking up the nomination, she must also pick a running mate and pivot a massive political operation to boost her candidacy instead of Biden's with just over 100 days until Election Day.

On Sunday afternoon, Biden's campaign formally changed its name to Harris for President, reflecting that she is inheriting his political operation of more than 1,000 staffers and a war chest that stood at nearly \$96 million at the end of June. It got bigger by Monday morning: Campaign spokesperson Lauren Hitt said Harris had raised \$49.6 million in donations in the first 15 hours after Biden's endorsement.

Harris spent much of Sunday surrounded by family and staff, making more than 100 calls to Democratic officials to line up their support for her candidacy, according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the

effort. It comes as she tries to move her party past the painful, public wrangling that had defined the weeks since the Biden's disastrous June 27 debate with Trump.

Speaking to party leaders, Harris expressed gratitude for Biden's endorsement but said she was looking to earn the nomination in her own right, the person said.

In a sign that the Democratic Party was moving to coalesce behind her, Harris quickly won endorsements from the leadership of several influential caucuses and political organizations, including the AAPI Victory Fund, which focuses on Asian American and Pacific Islander voters, The Collective PAC, focused on building Black political power, and the Latino Victory Fund, as well as the chairs of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the entire Congressional Black Caucus. Harris, if elected, would be the first woman and first person of South Asian descent to be president.

Notably, a handful of men who had already been discussed as potential running mates for Harris — Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper and Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly — also swiftly issued statements endorsing her.

Trump campaign quickly switches target to Harris

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump's campaign has spent the last year-and-a-half viciously attacking Joe Biden, ridiculing his policies, mocking his fumbles and relishing a rematch they felt they were winning.

But they have also spent weeks preparing for the possibility that Biden might exit the race, readying a bevy of attacks against Vice President Kamala Harris that they unleashed as soon as Biden made his stunning announcement Sunday that he would step aside. Biden soon after endorsed Harris, who was quickly winning support from Democrats to be the party's nominee.

"Rest assured, we are 100% ready," Trump pollster and senior adviser Tony Fabrizio said at last week's Republican National Convention. He noted speakers at the

event often referred to the "Biden-Harris" administration in their speeches and said the campaign had prepared anti-Harris videos to swap in just in case Biden stepped down sooner.

Still, the shakeup less than four months before Election Day lays out new challenges for Trump's team, which had until recently been focused on contrasting the former president's vigor and mental acuity with Biden's. Trump will now face a new, yet-to-be-determined opponent at a time when voters have made clear that they are frustrated by their current choices and desperate for new, younger options.

Though Trump aides had wanted Biden to remain in the race, they have argued a campaign against Harris — who they believe is the most likely Democratic nominee

— wouldn't be all that different from their race against Biden.

They will try to tie her to what they see as the Biden administration's failures, saying Harris is complicit in everything that occurred under Biden's watch. That's particularly true when it comes to the handling of the Southern border. Harris had been tapped to lead the administration's response to the border crisis.

In a statement Sunday responding to the news, Trump campaign senior adviser Chris LaCivita and fellow campaign chief Susie Wiles railed against Harris, insisting she "will be even WORSE for the people of our Nation than Joe Biden."

"They own each other's records, and there is no distance between the two," they said.

Policy questions arise following withdrawal

Associated Press

Joe Biden's withdrawal from the U.S. presidential race injects greater uncertainty into the world at a time when Western leaders are grappling with wars in Ukraine and Gaza, a more assertive China in Asia and the rise of the far right in Europe.

During a five-decade career in politics, Biden developed extensive personal relationships with multiple foreign leaders that none of the potential replacements on the Democratic ticket can match. After his announcement, messages of support and gratitude for his years of service poured in from near and far.

The scope of foreign policy challenges facing the next U.S. president makes clear how consequential what happens in Washington is for the rest of the planet. Here's a look at some of them.

■ **Israel:** With Vice President Kamala Harris being eyed as a potential replacement for Biden, Israelis on Sunday scrambled to understand what her candidacy would mean for their country as it confronts increasing global isolation over its military campaign against Hamas.

Israel's left-wing Haaretz daily newspaper ran a story scrutinizing Harris' record of support for Israel, pointing to her reputation as Biden's "bad cop" who has vocally admonished Israel for its offensive in Gaza. In recent months, she has gone further than Biden in calling for a cease-fire, denouncing Israel's invasion of Rafah and expressing horror over the civilian death toll in Gaza.

"With Biden leaving, Israel has lost perhaps the last Zionist president," said Alon Pinkas, a former Israeli consul general in New York. "A new Democratic

candidate will upend the dynamic."

Biden's staunch defense of Israel since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack has its roots in his half-century of support for the country as a senator, vice president, then president. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant thanked Biden for his "unwavering support of Israel over the years."

"Your steadfast backing, especially during the war, has been invaluable," Gallant wrote on social media platform X.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog praised Biden as a "symbol of the unbreakable bond between our two peoples" and a "true ally of the Jewish people." There was no immediate reaction from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an ally of former President Donald Trump whose history of cordial relations with Biden has come under strain during the Israel-Hamas war.

■ **Ukraine:** Any Democratic candidate would likely continue Biden's legacy of staunch military support for Ukraine. But frustration with the Biden administration has grown in Ukraine and Europe over the slow pace of U.S. aid and restrictions on the use of Western weapons.

"Most Europeans realize that Ukraine is increasingly going to be their burden," said Sudha David-Wilp, director of the Berlin office of the German Marshall Fund, a research institute. "Everyone is trying to get ready for all the possible outcomes."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on X that he respected the "tough but strong decision" by Biden to drop out of the campaign, and he thanked Biden for his help "in preventing (Russian President Vladimir) Putin from occupying our country."

Trump has promised to end Russia's war on Ukraine in one

day if he is elected — a prospect that has raised fears in Ukraine that Russia might be allowed to keep the territory it occupies.

Trump's vice presidential pick, Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance, is among Congress' most vocal opponents of U.S. aid for Ukraine and has further raised the stakes for Kyiv.

Russia, meanwhile, dismissed the importance of the race, insisting that no matter what happened, Moscow would press on in Ukraine.

"That's it for Biden," Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of Russia's Security council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, said on the Telegram messaging app. "The goals of the special military operation will be achieved," he added, using the Kremlin's term for the war in Ukraine.

■ **China:** Both Biden and Trump have tried to show voters who can best stand up to Beijing's growing military strength and belligerence and protect U.S. businesses and workers from low-priced Chinese imports. Biden has hiked tariffs on electric vehicles from China, and Trump has promised to implement tariffs of 60% on all Chinese products.

Trump's "America First" doctrine exacerbated tensions with Beijing. But disputes with the geopolitical rival and economic colossus over wars, trade, technology and security continued into Biden's term.

China's official reaction to the U.S. presidential race has been careful.

"The U.S. elections are U.S. internal politics. I have no comment on this," said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning.

The official Xinhua news agency treated the story of Biden's decision as relatively minor. The editor of the party-run Global Times newspaper, Hu

Xijin, downplayed the impact of Biden's withdrawal.

"Whoever becomes the presidential candidate of the Democratic Party may be the same," he wrote on X.

■ **Iran:** With Iran's proxies across the Middle East increasingly entangled in the Israel-Hamas war, the U.S. confronts a region in disarray.

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis struck Tel Aviv for the first time last week, prompting retaliatory Israeli strikes inside war-torn Yemen. Simmering tensions and cross-border attacks between Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group and the Israeli military have raised fears of an all-out regional conflagration.

Hamas, which also receives support from Iran, continues to fight Israel even nine months into a war that has killed 38,000 Palestinians and displaced over 80% of Gaza's population.

The U.S. and its allies have accused Iran of expanding its nuclear program and enriching uranium to an unprecedented 60% level, near-weapons-grade levels.

After then-President Trump in 2018 withdrew from Tehran's landmark nuclear deal with world powers, Biden said he wanted to reverse his predecessor's hawkish anti-Iran stance. But the Biden administration has maintained severe economic sanctions against Iran and overseen failed attempts to renegotiate the agreement.

The sudden death of Ebrahim Raisi — the supreme leader's hard-line protege — in a helicopter crash vaulted a new reformist to the presidency in Iran, generating new opportunities and risks. Masoud Pezeshkian has said he wants to help Iran open up to the world but has maintained a defiant tone against the U.S.

Secret Service chief recounts failures

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle said Monday that her agency failed in its mission to protect former President Donald Trump during a highly contentious congressional hearing with lawmakers of both major political parties demanding she resign over security failures that allowed a gunman to scale a roof and open fire at a campaign rally.

In her first congressional hearing over the July 13 assassination attempt, Cheatle repeatedly angered lawmakers by evading questions, citing ongoing investigations. She called the attempt on Trump's life the Secret Service's "most signifi-

cant operational failure" in decades. Cheatle acknowledged that the Secret Service was told about a suspicious person "between two and five times" before the shooting.

Yet, Cheatle gave no indication she intends to resign even as she said she takes "full responsibility" for any security lapses at the Pennsylvania rally. Cheatle vowed to "move heaven and earth" to ensure that nothing like it ever happens again.

"The Secret Service's solemn mission is to protect our nation's leaders. On July 13th, we failed," Cheatle said.

Lawmakers peppered Cheatle with questions about how the gunman could get so close to the

Republican presidential nominee when he was supposed to be carefully guarded and about why Trump was allowed to take the stage after local law enforcement had identified Thomas Matthew Crooks as suspicious.

Cheatle acknowledged that Crooks had been seen by local law enforcement before the shooting with a rangefinder, a small device resembling binoculars that hunters use to measure distance from a target. She said the Secret Service would have paused the rally if agents had been told there was an "actual threat," but she said there's a difference between someone identified as suspicious and someone identified as a true

threat.

Asked about why there were no agents on the roof where the shooter was located or if the Secret Service used drones to monitor the area, Cheatle said she is still waiting for the investigation to play out, prompting groans and outbursts from members on the committee.

"Director Cheatle, because Donald Trump is alive, and thank God he is, you look incompetent," said Rep. Mike Turner, R-Ohio. "If he were killed you would look culpable."

Cheatle, who has spent nearly three decades at the agency, remained defiant that she was the "right person" to lead the Secret Service despite the failures.

\$4.3B in EPA funds aim to reduce climate pollution

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency is awarding \$4.3 billion in grants to fund projects in 30 states to reduce pollution. The money will go to 25 projects targeting greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, electric power, commercial and residential buildings, industry, agriculture and waste and materials management.

The grants are paid for by the 2022 climate law approved by congressional Democrats. The law, officially known as the Inflation Reduction Act, includes nearly \$400 billion in spending and tax credits to accelerate the

expansion of clean energy such as wind and solar power, speeding the nation's transition away from the oil, coal and natural gas that largely cause climate change.

The latest round of grants includes \$396 million to Pennsylvania to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions from cement, asphalt and other material. EPA Administrator Michael Regan planned to join Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro in Pittsburgh on Monday to announce grant recipients in his state, a political battleground in the 2024 election, and across the nation.

Senior EPA leaders were al-

so to join Democratic Sen. Alex Padilla of California on Monday to announce nearly \$500 million for transportation and freight decarbonization at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The grants will provide incentives for electric charging equipment, zero-emission freight vehicles and conversion of cargo handling equipment to lower emissions.

"President Biden understands that America needs a strong EPA," Regan told reporters Friday, noting the Democratic administration "has made the largest climate investment in history, providing billions of dollars to state,

local and tribal governments to tackle climate change with the urgency it demands."

The funds, to be delivered this fall, "will help implement community-driven solutions that reduce air pollution, advance environmental justice and help accelerate America's clean energy transition," Regan said.

Shapiro, a Democrat who has been mentioned as a possible vice presidential pick now that Biden has stepped down from the presidential race, said his administration has addressed climate change while continuing to create energy jobs and expand the economy.

Several wildfires pop up across Southern California

Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Homes burned Sunday when flames descended on a Southern California neighborhood as wildfires popped up across the state amid soaring temperatures.

Evacuations were ordered

when the Hawarden Fire grew to more than 400 acres and spread to a residential area of Riverside, about 60 miles east of Los Angeles.

Aerial footage from KABC-TV showed at least three houses burning. The fire sparked Sun-

day had no containment and was threatening several other homes, the City of Riverside Fire Department said. Multiple other small fires were burning across inland Southern California as temperatures reached triple digits in some areas.

Far to the north in Colusa and Lake counties, evacuations were ordered Sunday for remote homes threatened by the Ridge Fire. The blaze broke out Saturday and grew to more than 4 square miles. It was 15% contained on Sunday.

Israel: Evacuate Gaza humanitarian zone

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — The Israeli military ordered the evacuation Monday of part of a crowded area in the Gaza Strip it had designated a humanitarian zone, saying it is planning an operation against Hamas militants there.

Thousands of Palestinians, many carrying backpacks and accompanied by children, walked down dusty roads under the scorching sun, navigating dilapidated cars with belongings tied on top. Many Palestinians have been uprooted multiple times in search of safety during Israeli's air and ground campaign.

"We do not know where we are walking," said Kholoud Al Dadas, as she clutched her children. "This is our seventh or eighth time we have been displaced.

While we were sleeping in our homes, they started shooting at us, bombing from everywhere." Moments later, she collapsed in exhaustion.

The Israeli military said it is planning to begin an operation against Hamas militants who have embedded themselves in the area and used it to launch rockets toward Israel. The area includes the eastern part of the Muwasi humanitarian zone in the southern Gaza Strip.

Earlier this month, Israel estimated at least 1.8 million Palestinians are now in the humanitarian zone it declared, covering about 8.6 miles along the Mediterranean.

That's the bulk of Gaza's 2.3 million population.

Much of the area is blanketed with tent camps that lack sanitation and medical facilities and

have limited access to aid, U.N. and humanitarian groups say. Families live amid mountains of trash and streams contaminated by sewage.

Gaza's Health Ministry said the toll from Israel's nine-month war against Hamas in Gaza has surpassed 39,000 Palestinians killed and 89,800 wounded. The ministry's count does not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

The war began with an assault by Hamas militants on southern Israel on Oct. 7 that killed 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and took about 250 hostages. About 120 remain held, about a third of them believed to be dead, according to Israeli authorities.

Delicate negotiations continued for a cease-fire and hostage release, with U.S. and Israeli officials expressing hope that an

agreement was closer than ever. A negotiating team will be sent to continue talks on Thursday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said. Egypt, Qatar and the United States are pushing Israel and Hamas toward a phased cease-fire deal that would stop the fighting and free the hostages.

Netanyahu left Monday on a much-anticipated trip to the United States to meet with President Joe Biden, who on Sunday said he would not seek another term, and address Congress. Netanyahu said that regardless of who becomes the next U.S. president, "our enemies must know that Israel and the United States stand together tomorrow and always."

He said he will thank Biden for more than 40 years of friendship, while pushing him for more support on certain issues.

Hundreds of migrants head for US

Associated Press

CIUDAD HIDALGO, Mexico — Hundreds of migrants from around a dozen countries left from Mexico's southern border on foot Sunday, as they attempt to make it to the U.S. border.

Some of the members of the group said they hoped to make it to the U.S. border before elections are held in November, because they fear that if Donald Trump wins, he will follow through on a promise to close the border to asylum-seekers.

The group left Sunday from the southern Mexican town of Ciudad Hidalgo, which is next to a river that marks Mexico's border with Guatemala.

Some said they had been waiting in Ciudad Hidalgo for weeks for permits to travel to towns further to the north.

The caravans tend to break up in southern Mexico.

Coast Guard, Navy rescue 26 people in Pacific waters

BY ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy and Coast Guard rescued 26 people over the weekend from two vessels in distress in the Western Pacific.

The first was a 154-foot yacht designed for scuba diving excursions of a week or more. The second was a 28-foot recreational boat carrying migrants seeking entry to Guam.

The Coast Guard cutter Oliver Henry on Sunday and Monday towed the yacht, the Black Pearl 1, and its crew of 11 to Palau after the boat was disabled and began to take on water.

The Black Pearl 1, a luxury yacht designed for fishing expeditions, was en route to Cebu, Philippines, for maintenance when its rudder locked about 230 miles west of Palau, Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam spokeswoman Chief

Warrant Officer Sara Muir wrote in a Sunday news release.

The yacht, owned by Pearl Fleet, weighs nearly 500 tons and can accommodate up to 24 guests. An eight-day diving trip aboard the yacht costs \$2,940 per person, according to Pearl Fleet's website.

A spokesperson for the company did not respond to a call and email requesting comment.

On Sunday, first responders from Saipan reported the recreational vessel in distress about 24 miles south of Saipan, according to a news release from Muir on Monday.

Weather conditions and lack of communication from the distressed vessel led to an urgent request from Saipan for help from anyone nearby.

A MH-60S Seahawk helicopter from the Navy's Sea Combat Squadron 25 spotted the vessel

around 5:20 p.m. and evacuated two boaters before it had to return to refuel.

The naval logistics vessel USNS Jack Lummus arrived about two hours later and evacuated the remaining 13 people.

All were taken to Saipan, where they were met by various law enforcement agencies. The vessel's final destination was not clear as of Monday evening, Muir said in a separate email.

One boater told the Coast Guard they were headed to Rota, but Muir said it was "possible Guam was the final destination." She identified the occupants as three U.S. citizens and 12 Chinese citizens.

Saipan regularly serves as a point of departure for Chinese citizens attempting to illegally enter Guam — usually in search of work — due to a visa waiver program offered by Saipan.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Waterline break at Grand Canyon park

AZ GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK — Grand Canyon National Park is using water conservation measures again at the South Rim after another break in the Trans Canyon Waterline.

Park officials announced last week that the waterline was recently shut off for repairs and crews were trying to re-pressurize the line when the break occurred. It's unclear when repairs will be completed.

The mandatory conservation measures require all park residents and visitors to conserve and reduce water usage when at homes, hotel rooms and campgrounds.

The National Park Service is in the process of replacing the 12½-mile pipeline that was constructed in the 1960s.

Manganese discoloring city's water supply

LA SHREVEPORT — Unusually high concentrations of the mineral manganese are discoloring the drinking water in the northwest Louisiana city of Shreveport, where officials have been fighting the problem for over a month.

The manganese isn't considered a health hazard for the general population. But the Shreveport-Bossier City Advocate reported that drinking water from taps in many Shreveport homes began to take on a yellowish or greenish color soon after early June rains were followed by a buildup of manganese in Cross Lake. The lake is the source of the city's drinking water.

City workers' latest efforts to fight the problem include scraping the tanks where impurities settle out of the drinking water during the treatment process. The unusually high concentration of manganese coming from the lake created sludge piles on the tank bottoms.

City officials aren't sure of the reasons for the increased manganese levels.

Money from climate law to help tribes

WA SEATTLE — Tens of millions of dollars raised by a landmark climate law in Washington state will go to Native American tribes that are at risk from climate change and rising sea levels to help them move to higher ground, install solar panels, buy electric vehicles and restore wetlands, Gov. Jay Inslee announced Tuesday.

The money — \$52 million — comes from the 2021 Climate Commitment Act, which auctions off allowances for heavily polluting companies to emit carbon, with the revenue invested in education, transportation and other programs. Conservative critics who have blamed it for increased gas prices are seeking to repeal the law in November.

Nearly every Native American tribe in Washington is receiving money. Among them is the 3,000-member Quinault Indian Nation on the Pacific coast of the Olympic Peninsula, which is getting \$13 million to help relocate its two main villages to higher ground, away from the tsunami zone and persistent flooding. Part of one of the villages is below sea level, separated from the roaring

ocean by a seawall, and high tides and storm surges have flooded homes and government buildings.

89-year-old comedian punched on city street

NY NEW YORK — An 89-year-old comedian is recovering after being randomly punched and knocked to the ground while waiting to cross a street in New York earlier this month.

D'yan Forest said she had just stopped at a coffee shop and was heading to a swimming pool when someone came up to her from behind and hit her in the eye. She lay on the ground in shock as police and paramedics came to her aid.

"I thought I had lost use of the eye because I couldn't see anything," Forest said. Her eyesight returned over the next four hours while she underwent tests at a hospital.

Police on Saturday said the female suspect in the July 10 incident had a medium complexion and cornrow braids and was last seen wearing a tank top and shorts with a Jurassic Park logo.

Forest holds the Guinness World Record for being the oldest working female comedian. She said her first thought after falling to the ground was whether she would be presentable for her July 29 nightclub show.

Fire severely damages Dallas church sanctuary

TX DALLAS — A fire all but destroyed the historic church sanctuary at First Baptist Dallas, sending smoke billowing over the city but causing no deaths or injuries, Dallas firefighters said.

The fire in the Texas Historic

Landmark, a Victorian-style red brick church built in 1890, was reported about 6:30 p.m. Friday and contained about three hours later, firefighters said.

"We are grateful that no one was injured ... and are thankful for the first responders who helped contain the fire to our historic sanctuary," senior Pastor Robert Jeffress said. "We just had 2,000 children and volunteers on campus for Vacation Bible School earlier in the day."

Backup power plant OK'd, with conditions

NJ NEWARK — In the first major decision issued under an environmental justice law designed to prevent additional sources of pollution in already overburdened communities, New Jersey will allow construction of a backup power plant at one of the country's largest sewage treatment facilities.

The facility dumped some 840 million gallons of raw sewage into waterways when Superstorm Sandy knocked out electricity in 2012. Anticipating the fury of environmental and community activists who have fought the project, Shawn LaTourette, the state's environmental protection commissioner, said his department will require the new facility to use solar panels and battery storage to ensure a net decrease in pollution.

The decision tries to thread the needle between two of New Jersey's big priorities: protecting the environment, and keeping certain communities from being overburdened with pollution.

— From wire reports



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Schauffele wins second major of season

Associated Press

TROON, Scotland — The only company Xander Schauffele kept at the start of the season was his name mentioned among the best players who had yet to win a major.

He had a key miss at Carnoustie that cost him a chance at the 2018 British Open. He was a runner-up the following year to Tiger Woods at the Masters. He was closing in on Hideki Matsuyama in the 2021 Masters until hitting into the water on the 16th hole. In the first 27 majors he played, he had 12 finishes in the top 10.

Now he has the Wanamaker Trophy at home from his nail-biter of a victory in the PGA Championship. And he couldn't take his eyes off the gleaming claret jug Sunday evening after delivering what he considers the best round of his life.

Two months, two majors, no more questions about whether he can win the big one.

"It's a dream come true to win two majors in one year," Schauffele said after his 6-under 65 took him from a two-shot deficit to a two-shot victory in the British Open at Royal Troon. "It took me forever just to win one, and to have two now is something else."

He made it look easy — Schauffele exudes so much California chill that he makes everything look that way — it took some astonishing golf on a links course made even more

challenging by a daunting wind off the Irish Sea.

He played bogey-free in the final round with no less than golf's oldest trophy at stake. He was two shots behind going to the back nine and shot 31. He missed only two greens Sunday, none on the back nine. He had only six bogeys over 72 holes.

This was the stuff of major champions.

Schauffele was asked how that stacked up against other rounds he has played, including the 65 he shot at Valhalla on the last day to win the PGA Championship.

"At the very tip-top," Schauffele said. "Best round I've played."

Two majors in one year puts him into a different conversation.

Schauffele is the first player since Jordan Spieth in 2015 to win his first two majors in the same year, and the first since Brooks Koepka in 2018 to win two in one year.

No one in the 90-year history of the four majors had ever won two majors in one year by shooting 65 in the final round. Jack Nicklaus is the only player who has done that twice in his career, at the 1967 U.S. Open and 1986 Masters. Tiger Woods never did it once, though he led in 14 of the 15 majors and never had to.

"I don't know if anyone identified the weakness in there. It's all really good,"

Adam Scott said. "Although it's probably been at times frustrating for him this year, but then winning the PGA... two majors, that kind of 'all-around really good' gets it done in the biggest events. I think the greats of the game kind of did that, especially Tiger."

Schauffele didn't know much about Royal Troon when he arrived. The last time the British Open was on the Ayrshire coast of Scotland, Schauffele was playing the Lincoln Land Charity Championship on the Korn Ferry Tour, still a long way off from even getting on the PGA Tour.

But he watched that fabulous duel between Henrik Stenson and Phil Mickelson in 2016 at Royal Troon to get acquainted and get inspired.

This had all the trappings of a shootout with six players one shot out of the lead (including Schauffele) and two more within three of the lead.

But it turned into a one-man show.

There was only one birdie in the final round — on No. 11, the notorious "Railway" hole. That belonged to Schauffele, who came out of the rough left of the fairway and judged it so perfectly it settled 3 feet away. That was the start of three birdies in a four-hole stretch that allowed him to seize control, and one last birdie stretched it to three shots.

James named flagbearer for Olympics opening ceremony

Associated Press

LeBron James wasn't totally sure what the opening ceremony was all about when he was picked for his first Olympics in 2004.

This time, he'll be one of the stars of the show.

James has been picked by his fellow U.S. Olympians to serve as the male flagbearer for the Americans in Friday night's opening ceremony for the Paris Games. He becomes the third basketball player — and the first men's player — to carry the U.S. flag at the start of an Olympics, joining Dawn Staley for the Athens Games in 2004 and Sue Bird for the Tokyo Games that happened in 2021.

"It's an incredible honor to represent the United States on this global stage, especially in a moment that can bring the whole world together," James said. "For a kid from Akron, this responsibility means everything to not only myself, but to my family, all the kids in my hometown, my teammates, fellow Olympians and so many peo-

ple across the country with big aspirations. Sports have the power to bring us all together, and I'm proud to be a part of this important moment."

The 39-year-old James got word of the honor Monday in London, a few hours before the U.S. men's team was scheduled to play its final pre-Olympics exhibition game against World Cup champion Germany.

Fellow U.S. star and first-time Olympian Stephen Curry, on behalf of the U.S. men's team, nominated James for the flagbearer role.

"We understand how much of an honor it is to be in that position and I think Bron's entire career, on and off the court, speaks for itself as him being worthy of that honor," Curry said in the nomination video.

"He has represented what it means to be excellent both on and off the court in his commitment to service and to uplifting the community in all ways that he knows how has been a lifelong passion," Curry added. "And the work speaks for itself."

The female U.S. flagbearer is expected to be revealed Tuesday. The International Olympic Committee decided in 2020 that national delegations would have two flagbearers — one male, one female — at the opening ceremony at an Olympics, a move to promote gender parity. The U.S. is expected to have nearly 600 athletes in the Paris Games, about 53% of them female.

"Being selected by your teammates to carry the flag is a tremendous honor — and a testament to LeBron's passion for Team USA and his dedication to his sport," U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee CEO Sarah Hirshland said.

James — a global icon, a four-time NBA champion and the league's all-time leading scorer set to go into his record-tying 22nd NBA season — is set to play in the Olympics for the fourth time, after he was part of U.S. teams that won bronze in 2004, gold at Beijing in 2008 and gold again in London in 2012. He walked in the opening ceremony at each of his three previous Olympics.

Larson rebounds for first win at Brickyard 400

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Kyle Larson left Indianapolis in May in the middle of one of the most agonizing days of his racing career.

In his return Sunday, Larson finished one of the most memorable races of his career with one of sports' more revered celebrations — kissing the bricks at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The 31-year-old Californian overcame an early, unscheduled pit stop by charging from 12th place into the lead over the final 32 laps. He won battles for the lead off the final two restarts and barely avoiding a third overtime to win his first Brickyard 400 under caution.

"Today was definitely meant to be for us with the way the strategy was working out and all that fell into place," Larson said after jumping on the roof of his car and climbing through the fence to thank the roaring fans. "I just can't believe it. It's just surreal to win here."

Perhaps it will help Larson forget just how miserable he was Memorial Day weekend

when rain in Indianapolis and Charlotte, N.C., washed away his shot at completing the full 1,100 miles of the two races. He didn't even turn a lap in the Coca-Cola 600 after scrambling to fly in.

On Sunday, though, he rebounded with brilliant tactical racing and, yes, some good luck.

Larson was running third in the paint scheme he was supposed to have for the 600 when race leader Brad Keselowski ran out of fuel and pulled off the track just before the second-to-last restart. That put Larson in position to pull into the shorter inside lane, next to Ryan Blaney's second-place car, and Larson easily leapfrogged Blaney — just ahead of a five-car crash that brought a red flag and a second overtime.

This time, after needing an assist to get his No. 5 Chevrolet refired, Larson again beat Blaney on the inside and reached the finish line before another caution flag came out.

"I don't know what was driving him today other than he wanted to win the Brickyard

400," said Jeff Gordon, who won five Brickyard 400s before rejoining the Hendricks team as an executive. "You could tell he was driving for a purpose."

Pole winner Tyler Reddick wound up second as Blaney dropped to third.

Larson has now won three of NASCAR's four crown jewel races, all but the Daytona 500, and this one came in the first Cup race held on Indy's historic 2.5-mile track since 2020. The last three covered 200 miles on the track's 14-turn road course.

His fourth win of the season also put him atop the Cup standings, ahead of Hendrick Motorsports teammate Chase Elliott, with four races left before the playoff begins.

The thrilling finish didn't come by happenstance, though.

Keselowski gambled he could run the final 59 laps without pitting for fuel — and he essentially did. What he didn't count on was the race going an extra seven laps. And Blaney had been trying to fend off the hard-charging Larson for several laps, even blocking his low line once, to

stay in front.

"That's a heartbreaker. We did everything right today," said Blaney, who finished third after the fateful twist. "He was in prime position to win, and it just didn't work out for us."

But with most drivers in fuel-saving mode, Larson just kept pushing hard — making team owner and pace car driver Rick Hendrick nervous.

"He was coming through the field like a rocket," Hendrick said. "It was hard to pass, but he made it look a little bit easier to pass. Then I was worried when he got up to second or third, I started worrying about fuel. They said we had enough for one overtime, but we were holding our breath. But he put on a show. That's Kyle Larson."

And now, even though Hendrick didn't give his approval Sunday, Larson told the crowd he wants to make amends for what happened in May by trying it all again.

"I wish we could have done both," Larson said. "But, I think everything comes full circle and everything's meant to be."

Herta dominates in Toronto to end 2-year IndyCar drought

Associated Press

TORONTO — Colton Herta won the chaotic Honda Indy Toronto on Sunday for his first victory in more than two years, starting from the pole and maintaining control throughout at Exhibition Place.

The 24-year-old American completed the first weekend sweep in IndyCar history, posting the fastest times in both practices, qualifying and the warmup Sunday before winning the race for his eighth career victory.

"It's awesome. It's amazing," Herta said. "For whatever reason it just hasn't gone our way. We've had speed, we've had plenty of podiums, we've had a lot of poles, a lot of top fives, but no wins. And so it feels great to finally get one back."

The race was the first street event for the hybrid powertrains introduced two weeks ago on the road course at Mid-Ohio, with Herta putting a lot of extra stress to the en-

gine by spinning around his car in triumphant doughnuts.

"I love doing doughnuts," Herta said. "And this engine's getting ripped out after this race so I can destroy it as much I want. ... I hate when I don't get to do doughnuts and this was the perfect race to win."

Andretti Global teammate Kyle Kirkwood was second, 0.3469 seconds back on the street course, followed by four-time Toronto champion Scott Dixon of Chip Ganassi Racing.

"Super happy with second, especially when a teammate wins," Kirkwood said. "That was the goal today. We started 1-2 and we wanted to finish 1-2. Of course I would have (preferred to) have won, but I also wasn't going to push the envelope whatsoever."

Series leader Alex Palou of Chip Ganassi Racing was fourth after starting 18th following a penalty for interference in qualifying.

He increased his lead to 49 points over Will Power, the Team Penske driver who ended up 12th after a late penalty.

The race featured six restarts, with a multi-car crash forcing a red flag on the 73rd lap after Pato O'Ward spun out into a wall, leaving the nose of his car jutting out onto the track.

Marcus Ericsson locked up into the wall behind O'Ward, then three more racers — Pietro Fittipaldi, Santino Ferrucci and Nolan Siegel — clipped O'Ward's nose. Ferrucci's car went airborne and landed upside down, but the American immediately signaled to his team that he was OK and emerged from his vehicle.

Frenchman Theo Pourchaire was 14th for Arrow McLaren, subbing for the injured Alexander Rossi. Rossi broke his right thumb in practice Friday when his car hit a tire barrier and then skidded into a concrete wall.

Woo, Mariners win despite Astros' cycle

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Luke Raley hit a three-run homer, Bryan Woo pitched 5⅓ solid innings and the Seattle Mariners overcame an injury to Julio Rodríguez and a cycle from Yordan Alvarez to beat the Houston Astros 6-4 on Sunday.

Rodríguez left the game with two outs in the sixth inning after he leapt for a fly ball and appeared to twist his right ankle against the pad of the center field fence on a triple by Alvarez.

Rodríguez grabbed at his ankle in pain and stayed on the ground for several minutes before walking off the field with manager Scott Servais and trainer Taylor Bennett. Servais said initial X-rays were negative.

"He's got a little bit of an ankle sprain there," Servais said. "Right now what I've been told is it's going to be day-to-day. We'll see where it's at there."

The hit against Taylor Sauceo was the third of the game for Alvarez, who also had a first-inning single and a fourth-inning homer against Woo. Alvarez completed the cycle with a double in the eighth against Mariners reliever Gregory Santos.

"I'm very excited," Alvarez said. "I felt a little bit of pressure there, but I knew I needed a

double and when I hit the ball, I said, 'There it is.'"

Rays 6, Yankees 4: Richie Palacios led off the game against Marcus Stroman with the first of visiting Tampa Bay's four home runs, Jose Siri took a 34-second trot after his homer and the Rays beat New York.

Randy Arozarena hit his third home run in two days and José Caballero also went deep as the Rays hit four homers for the second straight day, something they had done once in their first 97 games.

Cardinals 6, Braves 2: Paul Goldschmidt hit one of four St. Louis home runs after getting dropped to the No. 7 spot in the order as the visiting Cardinals knocked off Atlanta to win the weekend series.

Cardinals designated hitter Alec Burleson had a homer and two RBIs, giving him 21 in 16 games in July.

Nationals 5, Reds 2: James Wood hit a three-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning, and host Washington completed a three-game sweep of Cincinnati.

Wood, a 21-year-old rookie and the Nationals' top prospect, sent a first-pitch fastball from Justin Wilson 405 feet the opposite way to left field.

Blue Jays 5, Tigers 4: George Springer hit two home runs, in-

cluding the 58th leadoff shot of his career, and host Toronto avoided a three-game sweep by beating Detroit.

Padres 2, Guardians 1: Michael King didn't allow a hit until the seventh inning and Kyle Higashioka had a two-run double as visiting San Diego beat AL Central-leading Cleveland.

King's bid for the second no-hitter in franchise history ended when Angel Martínez led off the seventh with a bloop single to center.

Phillies 6, Pirates 0: Rookie Tyler Phillips (2-0) gave up four hits in six innings, and visiting Philadelphia avoided a three-game sweep with a victory over Pittsburgh.

Royals 4, White Sox 1: Seth Lugo retired 14 straight batters in his first career complete game as host Kansas City rallied past Chicago for a win and series sweep.

Lugo (12-4) surrendered one run while striking out six on 103 pitches.

Rangers 3, Orioles 2: Jonah Heim hit a three-run homer, Andrew Heaney pitched two-hit ball over five scoreless innings and host Texas beat Baltimore to avoid a three-game sweep in a postseason rematch from last year.

Cubs 2, Diamondbacks 1 (10): Nico Hoerner doubled and

scored the tying run in the ninth inning, then walked with the bases loaded in the 10th to give host Chicago a victory over Arizona.

Chicago entered the ninth with just one hit before Hoerner sparked the late rally as the Cubs avoided the sweep.

Brewers 8, Twins 7: Rhys Hoskins hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the eighth inning and rookie Jackson Chourio homered and drove in three runs to lift visiting Milwaukee to a two-game sweep of Minnesota at Target Field.

Marlins 4, Mets 2: Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit a three-run homer, Jake Burger also went deep and host Miami beat New York.

Giants 3, Rockies 2: Jorge Soler opened the game with the longest homer in the majors this season, rookie Hayden Birdsong struck out a career-high 12 and visiting San Francisco beat Colorado.

Dodgers 9, Red Sox 6: Shohei Ohtani hit a 473-foot home run and host Los Angeles went deep six times in a victory over Boston.

Freddie Freeman, Teoscar Hernández, Gavin Lux, Austin Barnes and Jason Heyward also connected as Los Angeles swept the three-game series.

3 phenoms as youths are inducted into Baseball Hall

Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Adrian Beltré, Joe Mauer and Todd Helton were pegged as athletic phenoms from a young age and all three lived up to expectations with their induction to the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday.

The Los Angeles Dodgers were so sold on Beltré early on that they broke MLB rules to sign him before he turned 16.

Beltré reached the big leagues just after his 19th birthday and was quickly considered one of the best prospects in sports as a teenager.

Beltré played 21 years for the Dodgers, Seattle Mariners, Boston Red Sox and Texas Rangers. He became a five-time Gold Glove winner and is the first third baseman with at least 450 home runs and 3,000 hits.

Mauer was a high school phenom in both football and baseball in St. Paul, Minn., and was named USA Today's High School Player of the Year in football in 2000 and baseball in 2001.

He was drafted by his hometown Twins with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2001 MLB Draft.

The six-time All-Star catcher finished

with one Most Valuable Player award and three batting titles, and is the only catcher in history with at least 2,000 hits, a .300 batting average and a .380 on-base percentage.

Helton was also a football and baseball star and played both sports at Tennessee.

Helton was selected by the Colorado Rockies with the No. 8 overall pick in 1995 and never left the Mile High City.

After becoming the starting first baseman in 1995, Helton finished second in NL Rookie of the Year voting and posted a .315 batting average with 25 home runs and 97 RBIs.