

Navy tests advanced deep-sea diving suit

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

The Navy is testing a prototype diving suit designed to protect deep-sea divers from crushing pressure and decompression sickness while reducing the suit's weight, increasing visibility and mobility, and allowing divers longer periods underwater than older systems.

"It allows divers to descend without restrictions and not worry about bottom time and air limitations," said Petty Officer 1st Class Onofre Lopez, one of the first Navy divers to test the suit in open water. "Bottom time is at a premium when you're on surface-supplied air."

The Gen 0 Deep Sea Expeditionary with No Decompression (DSEND) suit maintains a sea-level atmosphere, even at ex-

treme depths, according to a Navy news release.

It's an advancement on the older Atmospheric Diving Suit (ADS) previously used by the Navy, which also keeps divers at sea-level atmosphere, but is heavy, cumbersome, lacks mobility and requires a large support group for each diver.

According to the Navy and commercial diving catalogs, currently used diving suits can weigh more than 1,000 pounds with the lightest weight about 800 pounds. They require outfitting the diver, then using a winch from a boat or on shore to lower the diver into the water.

The new DSEND is considered a "lightweight" deep diving suit, according to the Office of Naval Research. But the DSEND still weighs in at under

500 pounds. While the diver must still be winched into the water, the relative lighter weight allow the diver to swim and move more easily using buoyancy devices when working at or near the seabed.

The Navy took the DSEND Gen 0 prototype to its top underwater warfare center, Naval Base Kitsap-Keyport, Wash., for evaluation last month. After tests in a pool at the University of Maryland, the suit was subjected to the open-water environment of Puget Sound, west of Seattle.

Sponsored by the Office of Naval Research in partnership with Naval Sea Systems Command, the evaluation moved the suit from a controlled facility into a realistic, unpredictable salt-water environment.

Three Navy divers piloted the prototype to the ocean floor to simulate real-world missions such as underwater rescues, salvage, explosive ordnance disposal and hull maintenance.

The tests at Keyport included recovering an unmanned underwater vehicle that the Navy sank for the exercise. The divers, working in tandem with remotely operated "topside" engineers, successfully located the UUV, rigged a lifting device using the suit's mechanical grippers and secured the vehicle for recovery.

"The rigorous testing exposed the suit to factors like variable visibility, limited traction and a silty/muddy seafloor, allowing the divers to assess its maneuverability," the Navy release said.

US and Iran exchange fire after civilian ship attack

Stars and Stripes

The United States and Iran exchanged another round of attacks on Sunday, further escalating fighting after Iran fired at a civilian vessel attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz.

Washington and Tehran issued conflicting declarations over whether the Strait of Hormuz remains open to shipping.

U.S. forces hit about 140 Iranian military targets, including missile and drone sites, naval capabilities and communication networks, according to a statement from U.S. Central Command late Saturday.

The Islamic Republic responded early Sunday with drone and missile assaults on American allies across the Middle East, including Kuwait, Jordan and Qatar. So far, only minor

damage was reported and no casualties, Bloomberg News reported. Missile alerts and sirens sounded early Sunday in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Iran said the Hormuz strait would now be closed "until further notice," Bloomberg reported. CENTCOM denied that, saying that waterway was still open to all vessels and the U.S. military is prepared to ensure freedom of navigation.

The Joint Maritime Information Center, a global monitoring body, reported Sunday it was still possible to transit the strait's southern route.

President Donald Trump also said the strait remained open as he spoke Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"We bombed the hell out of

them last night," he said.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said it fired ballistic missiles at Prince Hassan Air Base in Jordan on Sunday, targeting a U.S. command and control center and multiple drone hangars, Bloomberg reported. The kingdom reported being hit by three missiles, without giving more details.

Qatar said three people were injured by falling debris after Iranian missiles were intercepted. Iran's semi-official Fars news agency reported the Guards had targeted Al-Udeid Air Base with ballistic missiles.

Kuwait also said it was responding to aerial attacks, after Iran's regular army announced drone assaults aimed at a U.S. Patriot missile battery, an ammunition depot and a radar site

in the country. The Bloomberg report said Iranian military said a U.S. communications array and radar installation in Bahrain were targeted too.

Iranian state media reported other strikes against U.S. naval logistics hubs and aircraft carrier refueling platforms at Oman's Port of Duqm. Oman summoned Iran's ambassador and protested drone attacks that targeted sites in the sultanate's Musandam and Alwusta governorates, its foreign ministry said in the Bloomberg report.

The latest strikes raised new questions about whether the fighting can be contained. Although Trump declared the ceasefire over, the White House says it still wants to pursue talks called for in a June agreement that paused the fighting.

Sergeants School crew travels to Iwakuni

By JANIQUA ROBINSON
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — The Marine Corps could not afford to send 68 Marines from this air station south of Hiroshima to Sergeants School this year, so Sergeants School came to them.

A \$21 million shortfall in the Marine Corps' Formal Schools Training Support Program meant no travel budget for some forms of professional military training, unless an individual Marine unit pays the cost.

For the next two years, Marine Aircraft Group-12 is paying to bring instructors from Hawaii to conduct the five-week course, MAG-12 Sgt. Maj. Jim Gray said.

The course is mandatory pro-

fessional military education designed to prepare sergeants for promotion to staff sergeant, to lead larger groups of Marines and to push them out of their comfort zones, according to Gunnery Sgt. Adam Hazlett, senior leadership and warfighting instructor.

"The moment I heard that they were doing a residency here in Iwakuni, which has never happened before, I spoke to my staff sergeant, and I kept asking him for updates," Sgt. Ashley Magana, a maintenance administrator for Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 242, said Wednesday.

The course began July 6 and ends on Aug. 11. Normally, sergeants from Iwakuni would take the class in Hawaii or Okinawa.

But the Formal Schools Train-

ing Support Program came up short for fiscal year 2026, the result of rising costs for travel and lodging on military bases, according to a Marine administrative message published in December.

The training support program is short by nearly a fourth of its \$75 million budget, according to email from Gray on July 2. No courses were canceled, but the Marine Corps prioritized them into three tiers for spending, including those available only if the unit pays the cost, according to the message, MARADMIN 570/25.

"Because there is no residence course here, and travel is required to attend, there are only unit funded options for travel," Gray said.

Travel costs to send 60 Marines

from MCAS Iwakuni to the course elsewhere came to \$240,000, but bringing a mobile training team from Hawaii came to just under \$60,000, he said.

Gray said he contacted 1st Sgt. Matthew Caruso, director of the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and discovered that another sergeants' class had only reached 7% enrollment.

They worked to cancel that class and shift the course money instead to Iwakuni.

"I was excited because for these guys, their life changes and it's more than just [professional military education]," Gray said Tuesday. "I hope they take away all the resources, and I hope they glean from this experience that it's an investment in them."

Report: Weapons production still short of wartime needs

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon push to put the U.S. defense industrial base on a wartime footing faces major shortcomings that could leave the nation ill-prepared for a prolonged conflict with a major power, according to a new analysis.

Manufacturing timelines for many critical munitions remain measured in years rather than months, while supply chain bottlenecks continue to hamper output, the Center for Strategic and International Studies said in a report released this month.

"Munitions depleted in the war in Iran will take years to replace and lower-cost versions are not yet in production," the report said.

Interceptors for air and missile defense systems such as the Patriot and the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, are among the weap-

ons in shortest supply.

Based on current industrial output levels, U.S. stockpiles would be insufficient for a future high-intensity war, the report said.

Manufacturing lead times for critical weapons range from about two to more than four years, underscoring the difficulty in rapidly replenishing stockpiles during a major conflict, the report said.

The Pentagon first outlined its goal of placing the defense industrial base on a wartime footing in late 2025 as part of an effort aimed at ensuring the nation's ability to sustain a prolonged conflict with a major power.

To achieve that goal, the Defense Department has signed a series of multiyear agreements with major defense contractors designed to provide predictable demand and encourage companies to expand production capacity.

RIMPAC tests drones made from volcanic-rock fiber

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

An ultra-durable compound created by a Maui-based company using fibers of volcanic rock is being tested in 3D-printed drones at the Rim of the Pacific exercise in Hawaii.

The startup Voltage Vessels has developed Eclipse X9, a proprietary compound that combines a fiber produced from basalt with the thermoplastic polyester PETG.

Eclipse X9 is stronger than carbon-fiber or fiberglass compounds from which most drones and boats are constructed, Sam Young, founder and CEO of Voltage Vessels, said during a series of interviews this summer.

"We're enabling manufacturers in the world to use our material to relieve their pain points, whatever those pain points are, from drone manufacturing to infrastructure to marinas to totes for shipping," Young said.

Quarries in China, Mongolia and Uzbekistan are currently producing basalt fiber.

The composite can be used in 3D printing but also in conventional manufacturing using molds, he said.

Eclipse X9 was used for 3D printing fixed-wing drones and a small surface-water drone that are being tested during the RIMPAC exercise, Young said Thursday. The exercise, which runs through July with participants from 30 nations, includes more than two dozen experiments with unmanned systems, the Navy said when RIMPAC began on June 24.

A resilient, 3D-printable compound such as Eclipse X9 has the potential to "reshape military logistics and expeditionary manufacturing and maritime sustainment" because of its strength and the plentiful nature of basalt throughout the island nations of the Pacific, Young said.

Senator Graham, Air Force vet, dies at 71

Stars and Stripes

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a retired Air Force colonel, has died at age 71 after a brief and unexpected illness, his office said in a post to social media.

“Senator Graham’s family appreciates prayers at this time and asks for privacy during this incredibly difficult period,” read the early Sunday statement.

No cause of death was given for Graham, a longtime U.S. senator from South Carolina, who had for decades been a leading Republican Party voice for a more active U.S. role in global affairs, often backing the use of the military overseas.

In a post to Truth Social, President Donald Trump called Graham “one of the greatest people and Senators I have ever known.”

“He was always working, and

was a true American Patriot. Lindsey will be greatly missed!!!,” said Trump.

NBC News reported that emergency personnel responded late Saturday to a call for cardiac arrest at Graham’s home in Washington, D.C., citing police scanner audio.

There had been no other recent public indication of poor health. NBC said Graham had been scheduled to appear on “Meet the Press” on Sunday.

Graham had just returned from a trip to Kyiv, where he met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The Ukrainian leader said on X that it was Graham’s 10th visit to Ukraine.

Graham was one of Washington’s most outspoken supporters of arming Ukraine following Russia’s 2022 invasion.

“Lindsey Graham was a

steadfast friend of Ukraine, who well understood that our struggle is a fight for freedom, democracy, and a just world order,” said Ruslan Stefanchuk, the chairperson of Ukraine’s parliament, on X.

Graham had also long advocated a tougher U.S. approach toward Iran and strongly supported Trump’s decision to wage war against the country earlier this year.

The two men were not always allies. When Graham and Trump competed for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016, Graham warned that Trump’s positions on Muslims, Russia and U.S. alliances could undermine national security, calling him a “race-baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot.”

Graham later became one of Trump’s most vocal supporters, saying the president deserved a

Nobel Peace Prize and calling him the “gold standard for Republicans, maybe any president, when it comes to foreign policy.”

A native South Carolinian, Graham served for 33 years in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve, including active duty service in Germany as an Air Force lawyer, according to a biography on his office’s website.

“During American military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Graham put his experience in military law to use pulling numerous short-term Reserve duties in both countries over congressional breaks and holidays,” the biography said.

He retired in 2015 as a colonel. Graham was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1994 and to the Senate in 2002. He was re-elected in 2008, 2014 and 2020.

US subpoenas reporters from New York Times over Air Force One story

Bloomberg News

Federal prosecutors issued subpoenas late Friday compelling five New York Times journalists to reveal their sources for two stories about security shortcomings on the new Qatari-gifted presidential jet, the news organization said.

The Times reported last week that the Secret Service advised President Donald Trump to take the older jet used as Air Force One to return from Turkey after a NATO meeting because the new jet lacked some of the advanced security features of the older aircraft, including antimissile capabilities. The decision came after reports that Israel had told Trump Iran was plotting to kill him. Turkey borders Iran.

White House spokesman Steven Cheung has criticized other

reporters for similar stories about Air Force One earlier this week. Cheung was quoted in those stories, denying any security concerns.

During his second term, Trump has escalated his attacks on the media. His administration has issued similar subpoenas to other newspapers and searched the home of a Washington Post reporter, while FCC Chairman Brendan Carr has pressured networks into punishing comics for criticizing him.

Trump has also personally sued several newspapers over stories he found objectionable.

“This brazen act should be seen as nothing more than an attempt to prevent the public from knowing what is happening in their country by intimidating journalists,” the Times’s lawyer wrote in a statement.

OpenAI sued by Apple for theft of trade secrets

Bloomberg News

Apple Inc. sued OpenAI for trade secret theft, accusing the artificial intelligence startup and its hardware chief of engaging in a coordinated campaign to steal information about upcoming products.

The iPhone maker said in a suit Friday that OpenAI encouraged Apple employees to share information, components, drawings and other materials related to upcoming products — part of efforts by the AI company to develop its own devices.

As part of the litigation, filed in the Northern District of California, Apple also named Tang Tan, the chief hardware officer at OpenAI. He was previously Apple’s vice president of product design, leading development of the iPhone, smartwatch, AirPods and several other offerings in the company’s hardware engineering division.

The legal fight represents a dramatic turn for two companies that worked as close partners in recent years. OpenAI, maker of the ChatGPT chatbot, has supplied vital technology to the Apple Intelligence platform and Siri digital assistant. But tensions have been growing for the past year — worsened by OpenAI enlisting former Apple design visionary Jony Ive to help develop devices.

OpenAI, which is poised for an initial public offering in the coming months, has lured away a vast number of Apple employees. According to the lawsuit, more than 400 former Apple workers are now at OpenAI.

Apple is demanding that OpenAI cease its practices and destroy any proprietary materials. Apple, which is seeking a jury trial, also wants OpenAI to redesign products so they don’t include its technology.

Lawmaker says armed Israeli settlers detained him, others

Los Angeles Times

Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., said armed Israeli settlers detained him and other U.S. citizens during a recent tour of the occupied West Bank in an incident that is thrusting the congressman into the international debate over human rights in the Palestinian territories and U.S. foreign aid to Israel as he openly weighs a 2028 presidential bid.

Khanna said settlers surrounded his group's van on Wednesday near the Palestinian village of Khirbet Zanuta in the southern West Bank. He described visiting an area that settlers had destroyed, including a school. He said settlers carrying U.S.-made weapons detained him and his party.

The congressman said the Israel Defense Forces later arrived but sided with the settlers. A group of officers who appeared to be police eventually secured the group's release, he said.

"If they will do this to an American congressman, imagine

what is happening to Palestinian families who are just trying to live," Khanna said in a statement. "I expect Israel will prosecute the violent settlers and IDF soldiers who detained American citizens."

Khanna said that the settlers "made a huge mistake."

Visiting Israel has been a bipartisan rite for members of Congress for decades. Khanna instead chose a West Bank trip. His visit took place amid growing Democratic unease with Israel's military conduct since the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel and the ensuing Israeli war in Gaza.

At least one congressional representative was critical of the incident — for reasons other than the detention. Rep. Greg Murphy, R-N.C., dismissed the trip on a post to X.

"Sounds like another plea for publicity," Murphy wrote. "Anything to get in front of the camera. Why else would you be there? It isn't your country."

Cameron Kasky, an aide to

Khanna who was in the group, said on X that the visit included meetings with "many Palestinian Americans" and that the group was held for more than an hour.

The West Bank is territory Israel captured in 1967 and has occupied since. About 3 million Palestinians live there alongside hundreds of thousands of Israeli settlers. Many nations have condemned the settlements, and in June, six countries, including Britain and France, issued new sanctions on Israeli settlers and settlements in the West Bank.

Israel sees the area as disputed land with a long history of Jewish residents.

In a statement about the incident involving Khanna, the Israeli military said troops and police intervened after receiving a report about the settlers blocking vehicles. "Upon their arrival, the troops dispersed the Israeli civilians and allowed the vehicles to continue on their way," it said.

US worker has tested positive for Ebola

Bloomberg News

A U.S. humanitarian worker in the Democratic Republic of Congo has tested positive for Ebola and will be sent to Europe for treatment, the religious humanitarian aid group Samaritan's Purse said Saturday.

The person has worked with the group's disaster response team for 15 years and has been in Congo for the past month, the group said in a statement. The organization said it won't release more details about the patient.

"Plans are unfolding for our staff member to be moved to Europe for further medical care," said Franklin Graham, president and chief executive of Samaritan's Purse. "We praise God that he has responded well to treatment, is in stable condition, and is able to be moved."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention separately confirmed that a second U.S. citizen working in the outbreak zone had tested positive for the deadly Bundibugyo strain of Ebola on Friday. In May, another humanitarian worker tested positive in the early days of the outbreak and was sent to Germany for treatment. That patient has since recovered and returned to the U.S.

The ongoing Ebola outbreak in central Africa has grown into one of the largest on record: more than 1,800 people have tested positive and 627 people have died, according to the CDC. The spread of the virus prompted the U.S. to adopt travel restrictions and increase screening at some airports. The Trump administration has also rushed to open quarantine facilities at an Air Force base in Kenya to treat Americans who are exposed to the virus.

Cuba suffers another nationwide blackout as US urges more sanctions

Bloomberg News

Cuba suffered a nationwide blackout on Friday, the second in less than a week, as the communist-run country grapples with an aging power grid, chronic fuel shortages and the threat of further U.S. sanctions that have already hampered access to fuel and financing.

Authorities have activated protocols to recover service, the Energy Ministry said in a post on X.

Also on Friday, a group of U.S. representatives from Florida and New Jersey urged Secretary of State Marco Rubio

and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to sanction Cuba's state-run entity that operates its overseas medical missions. The lawmakers — Reps. María Elvira Salazar, Mario Díaz-Balart, Carlos Giménez and Christopher Smith — argue in a letter that Comercializadora de Servicios Médicos Cubanos exploits Cuban healthcare professionals and generates revenue that helps sustain the island's one-party rule.

Cuba, a Caribbean island of 10 million people 90 miles south of Florida, had restored power across about three quar-

ters of the country as of July 7 after the grid suffered a total collapse the day before. The Cuban government blames President Donald Trump's administration for imposing a near-total energy blockade and ever-tighter sanctions for the frequent outages and general malaise while the U.S. counters that its outdated political and economic model is responsible for the collapse.

Economists and energy analysts also point to years of underinvestment and structural weaknesses that have left the grid increasingly vulnerable.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Law adds big cats, bears, primates to ban on acts

IL CHICAGO — When Marc Ayers attended the Sangamon County Fair in New Berlin last year, he was on a mission to stop one attraction from returning to the state: the Banana Derby.

Ayers, the Illinois state director for Humane World for Animals, said the welfare group has been tracking the show for years. When he went to see it firsthand, he watched in horror as two capuchin monkeys, Gilligan and Bert, dressed in children's clothing, were tethered to the backs of dogs as they raced around the show ring, he recalled.

After leaving the fair that June day, Ayers said, he promised himself that would be the last time the show came to Illinois.

Ayers succeeded and on June 26, Gov. JB Pritzker signed the expansion of the state's Traveling Animals Act into law. The act already banned elephants in traveling shows and circuses — now the ban applies to big cats, bears and primates as well.

Astrochimp to receive state historical marker

NC ASHEBORO — Ham the Astrochimp, the first hominid to travel into space and a longtime resident of the North Carolina Zoo, will soon be honored with a North Carolina Highway Historical Marker near the zoo's entrance.

The marker will be installed Tuesday at the roundabout at Zoo Connector and Zoo Parkway in Asheboro, according to the N.C. Department of Natural

and Cultural Resources.

Ham made history on Jan. 31, 1961, when he flew as part of NASA's Project Mercury. His 16-minute suborbital flight reached an altitude of about 157 miles and speeds exceeding 5,800 mph. Ham was used to determine whether a chimpanzee could continue performing learned tasks while experiencing the intense acceleration, weightlessness and other stresses of spaceflight. Because chimpanzees share physiological and cognitive similarities with humans, researchers believed the species could help answer questions critical to sending astronauts into space.

Despite stronger-than-expected g-forces, Ham successfully completed his assigned tasks during the mission. The results demonstrated that cognitive and motor functions could be maintained in space and helped pave the way for astronaut Alan Shepard's flight less than four months later.

Wolves eating much more cattle than wild prey

CA LOS ANGELES — The return of the wolf in California has been met with joy by conservationists, who delight in the improbable population rebound, and with fury by ranchers who bemoan the toll on their cattle.

Now, a new study on the diet of gray wolves suggests that the population regrowth is a result of the animals feasting on cattle, as their natural prey sources remain comparatively scarce.

Researchers at University of California, Davis found cattle DNA in 72% of wolf scat samples collected in the summers of 2022 and 2023.

By comparison mule deer, the primary natural prey for wolves in California, appeared in 45% of samples, and small mammals appeared in 51% of samples.

The study reaffirms fears that many wolves are depending on cattle as a primary food source as it is easier to feed on slow-moving, fatty cows than stalk the state's dwindling deer population. Some irregular food items such as chicken and pig were also detected in the samples, suggesting that wolves are also scavenging from human waste disposal sites.

There were 267 investigations opened by state wildlife officials into wolf-livestock predation in 2025, up from 74 the previous year. Of the investigations opened last year, there were 198 livestock losses confirmed likely due to wolves — generating outrage from ranchers.

Faculty sues Texas Tech to block restrictions

TX DALLAS — Two faculty groups filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday to block the Texas Tech University System from implementing its policies on how professors can discuss race, gender and sexual orientation in the classroom.

The suit, which marks a major legal challenge against a Texas university system over increased restrictions on what can be taught, focuses on two memos issued by Texas Tech Chancellor Brandon Creighton in the last academic year.

One memo, sent in December, banned content that advocates for one race or sex as "inherently superior to another" and prohibited faculty from teaching that there are more

than two sexes. The second memo, sent in April, ordered universities to cut all academic degrees "centered on" sexual orientation and gender identity.

The two groups, the national American Association of University Professors and its Texas chapter, argue Creighton's policies violate their First and 14th Amendment rights.

Appeals court upholds assault weapons ban

IL CHICAGO — A federal appeals court in Chicago on Thursday upheld Illinois' 2023 assault weapons ban, overturning a lower court decision and delivering what could be a short-lived victory to Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker.

In a 2-1 decision, a three-judge panel of the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the Illinois law, which also prohibits its high-capacity ammunition magazines is "consistent with our regulatory tradition" and does not violate the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

"Whatever else may be contributing to America's mass-shooting epidemic, the record makes one thing clear: The more people killed, the more likely it is that the killer used an assault weapon and large-capacity magazines," Appellate Judge Amy St. Eve, who was nominated to the court by President Donald Trump, wrote for the majority.

The majority opinion from St. Eve and Judge Frank Easterbook, a nominee of Republican President Ronald Reagan, sends the case back to U.S. District Court in southern Illinois with instructions to rule in favor of the state of Illinois.

— From wire reports

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Extra time goals send Argentina to semis

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Perhaps it is in Argentina's character that the reigning World Cup champion always finds a way to win.

Perhaps it is simply its ability to suffer.

Whether it was tiny Cape Verde taking them to extra time, or Egypt burying them in a two-goal hole late in their match, Lionel Messi and La Albiceleste have always been able to survive. And that was the case once more on Saturday night, when Julián Alvarez's long-range strike in the 112th minute and Lautaro Martínez's finish later in extra time sent them back to the semifinals with a thrilling 3-1 victory over Switzerland at raucous Arrowhead Stadium.

"We're among the best four," Alvarez said, "so we're meeting our objectives, and we knew it wasn't going to be easy. The whole match was hard, and we would have loved to have the win earlier,

but we tried to get the win however we could."

"It seems like if there's no suffering, it doesn't count," Argentina's Leandro Paredes added, "but as long as the results come through."

Alexis Mac Allister had the other goal off a corner kick from Messi for La Albiceleste, helping to send them into a showdown with England on Wednesday in Atlanta. The Three Lions beat Norway 2-1 earlier in the day.

Messi's nine-game World Cup scoring streak ended, but his pursuit of a second World Cup title continues. With Argentina and England joining France and Spain in the semifinals, it's the first time the top four teams in the FIFA rankings have advanced that far.

"A match is coming up," Paredes said, "that every kid dreams of playing."

The game against Switzerland swung on a call sure to rile up those who think Argentina has

been favored by World Cup officials.

The Swiss had just tied the game on Dan Ndoye's goal in the 67th minute when Paredes was shown a yellow card for a tackle on Breel Embolo. But video showed the Swiss player falling before the Argentina midfielder made contact with him, and since Embolo received a yellow card earlier in the match, he was sent off and Switzerland was left to defend with 10 players.

It was the second time a yellow card has been overturned using the "mistaken identity" protocol at the World Cup. The rule allows the video assistant referee to intervene when an incorrect player is shown a yellow or red card.

"We were punished because of a rule that in my opinion is completely unacceptable," Switzerland coach Murat Yakin said. "I don't understand. It's very painful that we were eliminated that way. I don't think we deserve that today, in my opinion."

It was a maddening end to the Swiss' first World Cup quarterfinal appearance since 1954. They still have never made a semifinal, nor have they beaten Argentina in eight meetings—three of those in the tournament that matters the most.

"It was just a disaster," Switzerland's Remo Freuler said of the red card.

Argentina has made its base for the past month in Kansas City, training at the home of Major League Soccer club Sporting Kansas City while winning over thousands of new fans. And on Saturday night, they filled Arrowhead Stadium for the second time this tournament, hoping to see Messi make more magic after his hat trick against Algeria in the same building a few weeks ago.

It was brutally hot and humid throughout the day, but the temperatures began to fall with the setting sun, producing a picturesque setting for the final match of the quarterfinal round.

Bellingham scores twice, rallying England past Norway

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Jude Bellingham locked arms with teammate Harry Kane as England fans belted out the Beatles' "Hey Jude."

Bellingham certainly earned the serenade.

He scored twice on Saturday — an equalizer in the first half and the go-ahead goal in the third minute of extra time — to lift England past Norway 2-1 and into the World Cup semifinals for the first time since 2018.

The Real Madrid star has now matched Kane with six goals in this tournament, two behind France's Kylian Mbappé and Argentina's Lionel Messi and one shy of Norway's Erling Haaland. Bellingham also scored twice in the round of 16 as England beat co-host Mexico.

England, winner of the 1966 World Cup and facing pressure

to return to the title match, is now one win away from getting there. The Three Lions will face Argentina in the semifinals.

"The game is split into loads of different facets. Some of it is technical, tactical," Bellingham said. "For me, the biggest one is psychological and how you can manage setbacks, how you can manage adversity. This team showed yet again that they can do it and that's a really valuable skill and trait to have."

Not everyone was thrilled with England's performance.

"We made life very, very difficult for ourselves today," coach Thomas Tuchel said in a contentious interview with Fox Sports. "The result is fantastic. We're in the last four. It's amazing, but not happy with the performance ... in every sense."

Bellingham seemed to disagree with his coach's critique

after England prevailed in the heat and humidity of South Florida, with temperatures reaching 92 degrees Fahrenheit at the start of warmups.

Andreas Schjelderup scored in the 36th minute for Norway, a squad that reached its first quarterfinals and took the internet by storm with its "Viking row" and the charisma of Haaland.

Haaland was kept off the scoresheet for the first time in this World Cup. The Manchester City star sat dejectedly on the bench after he was subbed out for Jorgen Strand Larsen in the second half of extra time.

"It was not a tough decision to take him out," Norway coach Ståle Solbakken said. "He was finished. Maybe I should have taken him out 10 minutes before. ... He also got a dead leg in the second half, so that combined with the fatigue. He did every-

thing he could."

Norway nearly went ahead 2-1 in the 56th minute when Torbjørn Heggem put a rebound past goalkeeper Jordan Pickford after a corner kick. Following a video review, the goal was disallowed because of a foul by Haaland in the box.

Schjelderup fired a shot that caromed off the right post and into the net to stun an England team that had dominated possession to that point. Bellingham's equalizer from close range elicited a roar from the crowd.

Moments before Bellingham evened the score, a Norway goal kick resulted in the ball appearing to make contact with an aerial camera cable before landing at the feet of England's Elliot Anderson. The ball was eventually played to Bellingham, who beat Ørjan Nyland with a low shot to the far post.

Noskova tops Muchova for 1st Slam win

Associated Press

LONDON — Linda Noskova placed fingers in both of her ears to drown out the noise from the Centre Court crowd.

She draped one of Wimbledon's strawberry-red towels over her head.

And eventually — after she had wasted five match points and a 5-2 lead and conceded the second set of a drama-filled final — she left the court completely for a bathroom break.

During Noskova's brief time off the court, two shiny objects caught her attention: the Venus Rosewater Dish that is awarded to the women's champion and the smaller dish for the runner-up.

"I was like, 'I'm not going to take the small one. I'm taking the big one. I have been so close. This will probably be the heartbreak of my life,'" Noskova said. "I'm going to leave my soul on court in the

third set, whatever that be."

The 21-year-old Noskova did just as she promised herself, overcoming her second-set meltdown to beat Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 in an all-Czech final for her first Grand Slam trophy Saturday.

When Noskova finally finished it off with a service winner on her sixth match point — and first of the third set — she covered her face and dropped down to the grass on her back.

Minutes later, Noskova was being awarded the Venus Rosewater Dish by Kate, the Princess of Wales.

"It's never easy to get the last point," Noskova said during her victory speech. "Karo, you really made me work for it."

Noskova became the third Czech woman in four years to win the grass-court major, after Marketa Vondrousova in 2023 and Barbora Krejickova in 2024.

Muchova and Noskova played doubles together at the 2024 Paris Olympics and finished fourth.

"I am so glad that I could play my first Grand Slam final with you," Noskova told Muchova during her speech. "We made history today. All our Czech fans at home are proud of us no matter the result. It was a good day for both of us."

Petra Kvitova, who won Wimbledon in 2011 and 2014, was in attendance, as was the greatest Czech-born player of them all, Martina Navratilova — who won a record nine singles titles at the All England Club and was seated next to Princess Kate in the Royal Box as well as Jan Kodes, the 1973 champion.

It's Noskova's second grass title of the season after beating Jessica Pegula in the Berlin Open final.

But as this match displayed, it hasn't been all straightfor-

ward. Noskova saved a match point in the third set of her third-round match against Sorana Cirstea.

The 12th-ranked Noskova will climb to No. 7 — a new career-high — when the next rankings are released Monday.

She's the youngest woman to win Wimbledon since Kvitova was also 21 in 2011.

Jana Novotna, one of Noskova's first coaches, also won Wimbledon in 1998.

How to explain all the Czech success?

"They play on clay in the summer where you have to out-manuever your opponent and then in the winter they go indoors and it's first-strike tennis," Austin said. "The best of both worlds to create an all-court player."

In the men's final Sunday, top-ranked Jannik Sinner attempted to defend his title against French Open champion Alexander Zverev.

McGregor suffers early knee injury in loss to Holloway

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Conor McGregor's return against Max Holloway at UFC 329 ended unceremoniously at just 1:09 of the first round Saturday night because of a knee injury.

Fighting for the first time in more than five years, McGregor flew across the ring with a flying left roundhouse kick when the match started and landed awkwardly on his right knee.

After attempting to kick and strike Holloway (28-9-0) two more times, it was clear McGregor (22-7-0) couldn't finish the scheduled five-round welterweight bout.

"My head gasket is gone. Destroyed," McGregor said on social media. "I had no injury/injuries going into the fight. I was throwing kicks, planted and jumping, all throughout

camp as well as backstage before the fight. This came out of nowhere. I am beyond dark here. I can only describe it as hell."

Asked if there may have been an existing injury, UFC President Dana White said there were no signs of it Friday at the ceremonial weigh-in.

"Five years off in this sport is rough," White said. "We're assuming a blown ACL. That's what I assumed when I saw it, and that's what the doctors think, too."

White added that with the millions of social-media views of McGregor rushing Holloway at the weigh-in, someone would have noticed if anyone was injured.

Holloway said he kept telling referee Mike Beltran to stop the fight because it was apparent McGregor was injured, but

the former champion kept saying, "Fight!"

Holloway closed a -300 favorite at Bet MGM Sportsbook, which means a bettor would have to lay \$300 to win \$100. McGregor was a +240 underdog, which means a bettor would win \$240 with a \$100 wager on the Irishman.

To the delight of a frenzied audience just hours after his home country of England won its quarterfinal match over Norway in the World Cup, Liverpool's Paddy Pimblett (24-4-0) made quick work of Benoit Saint Denis (17-4-0) with a first-round TKO. Pimblett, who closed a +120 underdog, blocked a roundhouse kick, shot in and quickly applied a D'Arce Choke to put Saint Denis to sleep for the win in 52 seconds.

In a bantamweight battle,

Mario Bautista (18-3-0) defeated Cory Sandhagen (18-7-0) by unanimous decision, after taking advantage of a first-round leg kick and applying pressure in each round after. A flurry of punches in the third round secured the decision.

In a scheduled three-round flyweight bout, Brandon Royval (18-9-0) applied a rear-naked choke on Lone'er Kavanagh (10-2-0) to win by submission at the 3:40 mark of the final round.

In an absolute shocker to start the main card, a bloodied King Green (36-17-0) overcame a beating for nearly the entire first round before landing a right hand to the jaw of Terrance McKinney (18-9-0) with roughly 20 seconds left, and then finished him off for a TKO at the 4:59 mark.

Pirates sweep doubleheader vs. Brewers

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Esmerlyn Valdez hit three home runs in a day, including a grand slam in the first game, and the Pittsburgh Pirates edged the NL Central-leading Milwaukee Brewers to sweep a doubleheader.

The Pirates won the first game 7-6, as Valdez hit two home runs — including a go-ahead grand slam in the seventh inning — and drove in six runs.

The rookie right fielder had eight RBIs in the two games and now has homered 10 times and driven in 26 runs in his first 27 career games.

Jake Bauers and Sal Frelick hit two-run home runs for Milwaukee, helping it build a 6-3 lead before Valdez's slam.

Valdez's two-run shot in the fourth inning of the nightcap opened the scoring. Brice Turang's two-run double in the fifth pulled Milwaukee even.

Bryan Reynolds singled in the go-ahead run in the sixth off rookie left-hander Shane Bieber (4-3), who allowed three runs and five hits over 6⅓ innings while striking out six and walking none.

Yohan Ramirez (6-2) pitched a scoreless sixth. Mason Montgomery protected a one-run lead in the ninth inning for his first save of the season and the second of his career.

White Sox 1, Athletics 0: Chase Meidroth hit an RBI double in the sixth inning, five pitchers combined on a four-hitter and host Chicago sent the Athletics to their eighth straight loss.

Bulk reliever Erick Fedde (5-6), the third White Sox pitcher, allowed two hits over four innings and Grant Taylor got five outs for his fourth save. Bryan Hudson pitched the first and Chris Murphy the second.

The A's, on their longest skid since dropping nine straight from May 27 to June 4 last year, have lost 12 of 13 and fell to 41-54.

Twins 5, Angels 3: Royce Lewis hit a two-run homer and

sparked the go-ahead rally with a seventh-inning double as host Minnesota beat Los Angeles.

Joe Ryan allowed two runs and six hits over six innings in his final start before heading to Philadelphia for Tuesday's All-Star Game. Newly acquired reliever Tommy Nance (2-2) allowed Nolan Schanuel's seventh-inning single that tied the score 3-3.

Lewis and Victor Caratini led off the bottom half with back-to-back doubles off Mitch Ferris (0-1) and Alan Roden had an RBI single.

Cubs 5, Reds 3: Alex Bregman hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning and visiting Chicago rallied for a victory over Cincinnati.

Michael Busch had three hits and Carson Kelly also went deep for the Cubs, who improved to 3-2 on their six-game trip before the All-Star break.

Diamondbacks 9, Dodgers 2: James McCann hit his first two home runs of the season and had four RBIs, Brandon Pfaadt (3-1) allowed two runs in 5⅓ innings and visiting Arizona beat Los Angeles.

McCann hit a three-run shot in a five-run sixth inning as the Diamondbacks won for the fourth time in nine games against the Dodgers.

Padres 8, Blue Jays 7: Ty France hit the go-ahead home run, Sung-Mun Song and Manny Machado each drove in two runs and host San Diego beat Toronto to even the three-game series.

The Padres scored two runs in each of the first two innings after Trey Yesavage issued seven walks — a franchise record through a game's first two innings. Yesavage and San Diego starter Walker Buehler combined to walk 11 batters before the end of the second inning.

Guardians 4, Marlins 1: Tanner Bibee (3-9) threw 6⅓ innings of one-run ball, Steven Kwan and Patrick Bailey hit two-run doubles and visiting Cleveland beat Miami.

Gabriel Arias had three hits for the Guardians, who clinched the series after winning the opener 3-2 on Friday. The Marlins, who lost their first series since June 14-16 at Philadelphia, had won six consecutive home series.

Giants 4, Rockies 2: Tyler Mahle won for the first time since mid-April, Casey Schmitt hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the sixth inning and host San Francisco beat Colorado.

Mahle (2-8) allowed one run, five hits and three walks over seven innings. The 31-year-old right-hander had been 0-5 in nine starts since beating the Dodgers on April 22. He has a 3.00 ERA in eight starts at home and an 8.45 ERA in seven road outings.

Yankees 4, Nationals 2: Trent Grisham's two-run homer in the eighth inning gave visiting New York another comeback victory over Washington's bullpen, giving Aaron Boone his 750th win as Yankees manager.

The Nationals held a 2-0 lead when Orlando Ribalta gave up a one-out solo shot to Ryan McMahon and a walk to Ben Rice. Clayton Beeter (3-2) relieved Ribalta, and Grisham greeted him with a drive to the second deck in right field for a 3-2 lead. Paul Goldschmidt followed with a solo homer, his first long ball since June 24.

Red Sox 4, Mets 0: Andrew Monasterio and Masataka Yoshida hit two-run homers as surging Boston extended its winning streak to eight games with a victory over host New York.

The Red Sox extended their longest winning streak since taking 10 in a row from July 4-13 last year. They had won 13 of 15 and 16 of 21 going into Sunday.

Rays 6, Mariners 1: Ryan Vlade hit a three-run homer, Ben Williamson posted a career-best four hits and Jonathan Aranda had three more and an RBI to give host Tampa Bay a win over Seattle.

The Mariners held a 1-0 advantage when Cole Young scored on Colt Emerson's second-inning sac fly. But they never saw another runner reach third base as Garrett Jax (5-6) and the three Rays relievers combined to retire 19 of the final 23.

Phillies 4, Tigers 2: Christopher Sánchez struck out seven in seven innings, Bryce Harper and J.T. Realmuto doubled and visiting Philadelphia ended Detroit's six-game winning streak with a victory.

Sánchez (11-4) allowed two runs on 10 hits, bouncing back from a career-worst outing against Kansas City ahead of a possible All-Star start in his home stadium. Jonathan Bower threw a hitless eighth, and Jhoan Duran had a 1-2-3 ninth for his 24th save.

Orioles 6, Royals 1: Kyle Bradish (6-9) carried a no-hitter into the seventh, Pete Alonso hit a two-run homer and host Baltimore beat Kansas City.

Coby Mayo, Taylor Ward and Gunnar Henderson also hit home runs for Baltimore, which has won three-straight games for the eighth time this season.

Cardinals 4, Braves 1: Lars Nootbaar hit a three-run home run and later scored a run, leading host St. Louis over Atlanta.

Matthew Liberatore (5-6) allowed four hits over six scoreless innings, striking out six on 71 pitches. A double play helped him escape a sixth-inning jam with runners on first and third.

Astros 9, Rangers 3: Yordan Alvarez had another moonshot for his AL-leading 31st home run, LaMonte Wade Jr. hit his first career grand slam and visiting Houston beat Texas.

Peter Lambert (8-5) pitched three-hit ball over six innings while striking out seven and walking one. The right-hander, who didn't make the Astros roster out of spring training, is 6-1 with a 2.84 ERA over his last nine starts.