

Marines pin wings on one of last female Hornet pilots

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

When 1st Lt. Brenda McCarthy was preparing to earn her wings as the last female weapons systems officer in the Marine Corps, she wanted as her guest the first woman to earn those wings.

McCarthy wrote a letter inviting retired Lt. Col. Amy McGrath to the May “winging” ceremony at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. McGrath was the first woman in the Marine Corps to fly an F/A-18 into combat.

“I thought it would be a true inspiration for my sisters who are pretty young, and females in general in the military to see empowering women in aviation, in a men’s club, just honoring each other,” McCarthy was quoted saying in a Marine Corps statement. “And she accepted.”

Just before Memorial Day weekend, McGrath pinned the gold wings on McCarthy, signifying her completion of training to become a naval aviator.

McCarthy’s position as a weapons systems officer, also known as a “wizzo” or WSO, is behind the pilot in the two-seat F/A-18D Hornet, where she’ll provide situational awareness, navigation and communications support.

As the guest of honor at the May 27 winging ceremony, McGrath spoke to the 16 Navy and Marine graduates of Training Squadron VT-86 about her efforts to push for women to be allowed to fly fighter jets, recalling that she wrote letters to the newspaper on the issue when she was 12 years old.

A 1997 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, McGrath completed flight

school in 1999 and flew the first of her more than 85 combat missions in her career while deployed to Kyrgyzstan for Operation Enduring Freedom, the war in Afghanistan.

“We didn’t even know I was the first,” McGrath told *The New York Times* in 2018, after she retired the previous year. “It really wasn’t until after the first couple of missions that someone said, ‘Hey, I think you’re the first woman to do this in the Marine Corps.’”

Two male Marines also are training to become WSOs, but the Marine Corps is phasing out the Hornets by 2030 as it transitions to the F-35 Lightning II.

A squadron based out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., completed the last Marine Corps deployment of the legacy Hornets on an aircraft carrier earlier this year.

The last deployment of F/A-18D is slated for fiscal year 2028, but there may be some of those aircraft in service into the following year, Marine Corps spokesman Maj. J. A. Hernandez said in an email Friday to *Stars and Stripes*.

“With the reduction of multi-seat aircraft, the Marine Corps’ final weapons systems officers are scheduled to graduate in September 2021,” Hernandez said, but the Corps will maintain refresher training through fiscal 2026.

As for McCarthy, she’ll head next to follow-on training with a squadron in Miramar.

“I want to be a contributing member to whatever aircraft I’m flying in,” she said in the statement. “I want to make sure that my pilots know that I have their back wherever we are.”

INDOPACOM leader reaffirms Asia alliance

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Adm. John Aquilino on Thursday reaffirmed the United States’ commitment to “peace, security, and prosperity” during his first trip to South Korea as the head of Indo-Pacific Command.

The visit came days after North Korea pointed to a U.S. decision to lift restrictions limiting the range of South Korea’s missiles to about 500 miles. Pyongyang warned the revision could contribute to an “acute and instable situation,” according to *The Associated Press*.

The range is enough for a South Korean weapon to strike all of North Korea but is short of hitting potential key targets in other neighbors like China and Japan.

“The U.S. security commitment to [South Korea] is ironclad, and this visit provides the opportunity to listen to our allies’ security concerns and learn how we can strengthen our combined defense posture to ensure peace and stability in the region,” Aquilino said in a statement during his trip, according to INDOPACOM.

He met with senior South Korean officials, including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Won In-choul, Minister of Foreign Affairs Chung Eui-yong and Minister of National Defense Suh Wook.

Won emphasized the alliance between the two countries must be maintained, according to a Joint Chiefs of Staff press release, and that diplomatic efforts to achieve “the complete denuclearization” of the Korean Peninsula would continue to be supported.

Aquilino’s visit to South Korea follows a trip to Tokyo on Tuesday, where he likened the U.S.-Japan alliance as “the cornerstone of peace and security in the Pacific.”

The visits mark Aquilino’s first overseas trip since taking charge of INDOPACOM on April 30. During his Senate confirmation hearing, he warned of the “rejuvenation of the Chinese Communist Party” and added that he believed Beijing was prioritizing its plans to annex Taiwan.

As the INDOPACOM commander, Aquilino leads roughly 380,000 U.S. service members and oversees the military’s role in 36 nations.

The visits underscore the U.S.’s focus on the region’s security, particularly as China and North Korean relations have stalled in recent months.

President Joe Biden hosted South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the White House in May, which followed a separate trip from Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga in April.

Small events held to remember D-Day

Associated Press

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France — When the sun rises over Omaha Beach, revealing vast stretches of wet sand extending toward distant cliffs, one starts to grasp the immensity of the task faced by Allied soldiers on June 6, 1944, landing on the Nazi-occupied Normandy shore.

Several ceremonies were being held Sunday to commemorate the 77th anniversary of the decisive assault that led to the liberation of France and western Europe from Nazi control, and honor those who fell.

“These are the men who enabled liberty to regain a foothold on the European continent, and who in the days and weeks that followed lifted the shackles of tyranny, hedgerow by Normandy hedgerow, mile by bloody mile,” Britain’s ambassador to France, Lord Edward Llewelyn, said at the

inauguration of a new British monument to D-Day’s heroes.

On D-Day, more than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches code-named Omaha, Utah, Juno, Sword and Gold, carried by 7,000 boats. This year on June 6, the beaches stood vast and nearly empty as the sun emerged, exactly 77 years since the dawn invasion.

For the second year in a row, anniversary commemorations are marked by virus travel restrictions that prevented veterans or families of fallen soldiers from the U.S., Britain, Canada and other Allied countries from making the trip to France. Only a few officials were allowed exceptions.

At the U.K. ceremony near the village of Ver-sur-Mer, bagpipes played memorial tunes and warplanes zipped overhead trailing red-white-and-blue smoke. Socially dis-

tanced participants stood in awe at the solemnity and serenity of the site, providing a spectacular and poignant view over Gold Beach and the English Channel.

The new monument pays tribute to those under British command who died on D-Day and during the Battle of Normandy.

Visitors stood to salute the more than 22,000 men and women, mostly British soldiers, whose names are etched on its stone columns. Giant screens showed D-Day veterans gathered at Britain’s National Memorial Arboretum to watch the Normandy event remotely.

Over the anniversary weekend, many Normandy residents visited the monuments marking the key moments of the fight.

Some reenactors came to Omaha Beach in the early hours of the day to pay tribute.

V Corps soldiers commemorate WWII veterans at Omaha Beach

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

U.S. Army V Corps soldiers faced the daunting task of taking Omaha Beach 77 years ago during the D-Day invasion of Normandy, where the unit’s current commander paid homage Friday to the troops who carried out one of World War II’s most daring missions.

“Omaha Beach was the most heavily defended of the landing areas,” Lt. Gen. John Kolasheski said during a ceremony overlooking the WWII battleground. “V Corps troops encountered the worst conditions on D-Day and suffered the highest number of casualties.”

The observance, two days ahead of the June 6 anniversary of D-Day, was held in special honor of one of the soldiers who was part of the first wave to hit Omaha Beach: retired Master Sgt. Charles Shay.

As a 19-year-old medic, Shay saved more than 20 soldiers under “the most grueling of conditions,” Kolasheski said.

Shay, 96, who now resides in Normandy, received the Silver Star for his actions.

Ceremonies in Normandy surrounding the D-Day anniversary are normally major

international events, with thousands of people arriving from around the world to mark the occasion. This year, the events were scaled back again because of the pandemic.

Kolasheski spoke before a small gathering of people about the sacrifices made during Operation Overlord. V Corps was responsible for 50,000 troops that were part of the Omaha Beach assault force, mostly drawn from the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions.

In the first 15 hours of combat, V Corps suffered 2,500 casualties, but still managed to fight through the German defenses to secure the beachhead.

“Soldiers laden with equipment were dropped off in water anywhere from waist-high to depths over their head,” Kolasheski said. “Many of these men drowned and those who didn’t were caught in a barrage of machine gun fire with no cover to be had. The first wave suffered almost 50% casualties.”

For V Corps, honoring the contributions soldiers made during WWII takes on added significance this year given the command’s recent return to Europe. The Army expects headquarters to be fully operational by fall.

Navy resumes regular urine drug-testing

By ERICA EARL
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy is resuming its regular drug-testing regime, reduced a year ago because of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a recent naval administrative order.

The May 21 order cancels one from March 2020 that allowed commanders to gather urine samples less frequently and from smaller groups because of ongoing coronavirus concerns.

All sailors, including those who telework, will be subject to testing, except those in quarantine or whose movements are restricted, except for probable cause or if a commander has consulted with the judge advocate general office, according to the order.

Commands that feel they are unable to conduct drug testing because of coronavirus concerns will need to provide reasons to their leadership.

Each month, the Navy is required to test 15% of its assigned personnel, chosen at random.

Trial for Marine charged in death to begin

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

The court-martial for a Marine Raider charged with murder and other crimes in the 2017 strangulation death of a Green Beret in Mali is set to begin Monday on Naval Station Norfolk, Va., officials announced Friday.

Gunnery Sgt. Mario Madera-Rodriguez is expected to plead not guilty to the slew of charges — among them felony murder, involuntary manslaughter and obstruction of justice — that he faces in the death of Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar while they were deployed to the west African nation on a counterterrorism mission. Madera-Rodriguez is the fourth special operator to face a judge in the case,

after another Marine Raider and two Navy SEALs pleaded guilty in recent years to reduced charges for their roles in Melgar's death. All three were sentenced to prison.

Madera-Rodriguez's court-martial is scheduled to span three weeks and will begin with jury selection Monday and Tuesday, after he elected a trial by eight military members, according to a Navy statement. Opening statements for the trial are expected to begin Wednesday, said Brock Vergakis, a Navy spokesman.

The Marine faces the potential of life imprisonment if found guilty of the felony murder charge.

Colby Volkey, the attorney representing Madera-Rodri-

quez, did not immediately respond Friday to a request for comment.

Melgar, a 34-year-old member of the Army's 3rd Special Forces Group, was killed in the pre-dawn hours of June 4, 2017, when the quartet of U.S. special operators broke into his room where he was sleeping, in an incident those involved have described as a booze-fueled prank that went wrong. In previous court testimony, Special Forces colleagues described Melgar as a stellar Green Beret leader who was well liked, but his widow, Michelle Melgar, testified he was struggling through the Mali deployment and did not get along with some of the other troops, especially members of the elite SEAL

Team 6, with whom he shared housing.

Melgar, a Special Forces engineer sergeant, enlisted in the Army in 2012 and joined the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based 3rd Special Forces Group about one year later. In court testimony, Green Berets described him as a mature and fast-rising star in the unit who had proven himself in intense combat in Afghanistan.

"I would say the type of meticulousness, professionalism, candor and excitement Logan brought were extremely rare, even among elite operators," Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin Strupkus, who commanded Melgar in Afghanistan, testified in 2019. "Third Group lost a phenomenal operator."

Gen. Charles Flynn takes reins of US Army Pacific

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Gen. Charles Flynn took command of U.S. Army Pacific on Friday, vowing to continue transforming the 90,000-soldier force into one that can meet the challenge of a rising China.

"Today, as China trends on an increasingly concerning path, presenting challenge to the free and open Pacific, the Army is charged to change once more," Flynn said during a livestreamed ceremony at Fort Shafter. Media were not allowed to attend the event.

Flynn — the younger brother of Michael Flynn, who briefly served as national security adviser under former President Donald Trump — took the reins from Gen. Paul LaCamera, who will move on to command U.S. Forces Korea.

Flynn arrived from Washington, D.C., where he had served since June 2019 as dep-

uty chief of staff for Army operations, plans and training. He has been stationed in Hawaii numerous times, most recently as deputy commanding general at U.S. Army Pacific.

Adm. John Aquilino, the head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, welcomed Flynn back to Hawaii during an address at the ceremony.

"I'm going to ask you to focus on seizing the initiative by thinking, acting and operating differently, to continue to execute the integrated deterrence needed to ensure the free and open Indo-Pacific," Aquilino said.

Addressing the audience, the Army's chief of staff, Gen. James McConville, praised LaCamera for his part in developing and testing the Army's first Multi-Domain Task Force, which is aimed at coordinating air, cyberspace, land, maritime, space and the electromagnetic spectrum in a battle environment.

High court asked to review men-only draft registration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is being asked to decide whether it's sex discrimination for the government to require only men to register for the draft when they turn 18.

The question of whether it's unconstitutional to require men but not women to register could be viewed as one with little practical impact. The last time there was a draft was during the Vietnam War, and the military has been all-volunteer since. But the registration requirement is one of the few remaining places where federal law treats men and women differently, and women's groups are among those arguing that allowing it to stand is harmful.

The justices could say as soon as Monday if they will hear a case involving the Military Selective Service Act, which requires men to register for the draft.

Ria Tabacco Mar, the director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Women's Rights Project, who is urging the court to take up

the issue, says requiring men to register imposes a "serious burden on men that's not being imposed on women."

Men who do not register can lose eligibility for student loans and civil service jobs, and failing to register is also a felony punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 and five years in prison. But Tabacco Mar says the male-only requirement does more than that.

"It's also sending a tremendously harmful message that women are less fit than men to serve their country in this particular way and conversely that men are less fit than women to stay home as caregivers in the event of an armed conflict," she said.

If the court agrees to hear the case, it wouldn't be deciding whether women have to register, just whether the current system is constitutional. If it isn't, it would then be up to Congress to decide how to respond, either by passing a law requiring everyone to register or deciding registration is no longer necessary.

Harris, in first trip as VP, visits Latin America

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Kamala Harris, on her first foreign trip as vice president, is looking to deepen diplomatic ties with Guatemala and Mexico, two Latin American nations key to the Biden administration's efforts to stem the spike in migration at the U.S. border.

Harris, who departed from Washington late Sunday, is seeking to secure commitments for greater cooperation on border security and economic investment, but corruption in the region — a far more intractable challenge — will complicate her efforts.

It's already had a significant impact on her work in the region. Harris has yet to engage substantively with the leaders of Honduras and El Salvador, who are both embroiled in corruption scandals. And it's an issue that experts in the region say will need to be addressed to make any lasting changes.

While in Guatemala, Harris plans to meet community leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs. In Mexico, Harris will participate in a conversation with female entrepreneurs and hold a roundtable with labor workers. That's in addition to bilateral meetings with the leaders of both countries.

Harris said during a May meeting with Guatemalan justice leaders that corruption is a "significant deterrent" to economic investment there.

She's underscored the need to address corruption in public remarks and events. In her meeting with a number of leading voices on Guatemala's justice system, she noted her work as a prosecutor and said that "in-

justice is a root cause of migration."

"Part of giving people hope is having a very specific commitment to rooting out corruption in the region," she said.

Harris has also raised the issue during virtual meetings with the leaders of both countries, and aides have said she will do it again during meetings on her trip.

"There are acute factors — natural disasters, food insecurity, the climate crisis, and then there are root causes — poverty, violence, corruption," said Harris' chief spokesperson, Symone Sanders. "From the vice president's perspective, this is about helping build hope in the region, and that a better life is in fact possible at home."

While in Latin America, Harris will also have to navigate the politics of immigration. Congressional Republicans have criticized both Biden and Harris for deciding not to visit the border, and contend the administration is ignoring what they say is a crisis there. April was the second-busiest month on record for unaccompanied children encountered at the U.S.-Mexico border, following March's all-time high. The Border Patrol's total encounters in April were up 3% from March, marking the highest level since April 2000.

Eric Olson, director of policy at the Seattle International Foundation, which works to promote good governance in Central America, said that addressing corruption will take particular diplomatic skill. Harris will need to hold the leaders of Guatemala and Mexico accountable while also deepening trust and cooperation with the two nations.

New England could be model of true success against virus

Associated Press

BOSTON — For Dr. Jeremy Faust, the moment he realized the pandemic no longer dominated his workday came over Memorial Day weekend, when he didn't see a single coronavirus case over two shifts in the emergency room at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Massachusetts and the rest of New England — the most heavily vaccinated region in the United States — are giving the rest of the country a possible glimpse of the future if more Americans get their shots.

COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths in the region have been steadily dropping as more than 60% of residents in all six states have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

In Massachusetts, health officials this past week determined that none of the state's cities and towns are at high risk for the spread of COVID-19 for the first time since they started issuing weekly assessments last August.

In Rhode Island, coronavirus hospitalizations have hit their lowest levels in about eight months. New Hampshire is averaging about a death a week after peaking at about 12 a day during the virus's winter surge. And Vermont, the most heavily vaccinated state in the U.S. at more than 70%, went more than two weeks without a single reported coronavirus death.

Public health experts say the rest of the country could take some cues from New England as President Joe Biden pushes to get at least one vaccine dose into 70% of American adults by July 4.

GOP agenda clouded by Trump grievances

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Republicans are fighting to seize control of Congress. Just don't ask what they'd do if they win.

Look no further for evidence of the GOP's muddled governing agenda than battleground North Carolina, where party leaders packed into a convention hall Saturday night to cheer former President Donald

Trump. Even with a high-stakes U.S. Senate election looming, the Republicans there were united not by any consistent set of conservative policies or principles, but by Trump's groundless grievances about the 2020 election and his attacks against critics in both parties.

The lack of a forward-looking agenda stands in stark contrast to successful midterm elections

of past years, particularly 1994 and 2010, when Republicans swept into power after staking clear positions on health care, federal spending and crime, among other issues. Without such a strategy heading into 2022, Republicans on the ballot risk allowing themselves to be wholly defined by Trump, who lost his last election by 7 million votes nationally and has seen

his popularity slide further, even among some Republicans, since leaving office in January.

"I'm unaware of a GOP agenda. I would love to see one," said Texas-based conservative activist and former tea party leader Mark Meckler.

"Nobody knows what they're about," he said of today's Republicans. "They do this at their own peril."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man charged with drilling holes, stealing underwear

WI LA CROSSE — A La Crosse man was charged with drilling holes in his neighbor’s walls to spy on her and stealing \$80 worth of her underwear.

Robert Kautzmann, 30, was charged with felony burglary as well as misdemeanor counts of invasion of privacy and property damage.

According to a criminal complaint obtained by the La Crosse Tribune, a woman told police that Kautzman entered her home without permission. He left after she confronted him.

The woman then discovered a cellphone that appeared to be recording audio as well as a hole in the hallway near the bedroom. She reviewed the audio and video from the phone and determined the device belonged to Kautzman.

She also told police that Kautzman likely stole \$80 worth of her underwear during a previous break-in.

15 kids hurt after lightning struck cabin

IN TRAFALGAR — Medics evaluated about 15 children and took two to a hospital as a precaution after lightning struck a south suburban Indianapolis cabin, authorities said.

None of the injuries appeared serious. Several children and adults reported minor pain from being shocked, Johnson County deputies said.

The lightning struck a wooden cabin at the FFA Indiana Leadership Center in Trafalgar during a severe thunderstorm.

There was no damage to any

of the buildings at the FFA center, said Joe Ramey, the center’s executive director.

Dock worker pleads guilty for fake distress call

ME PORTLAND — A dock worker pleaded guilty to making a fake distress call in December that resulted in a fruitless, many-hour search by the Coast Guard.

Nathan Libby, 31, pleaded guilty to communicating a false distress call in U.S. District Court in Portland, The Courier-Gazette reported.

The Coast Guard said it received a distress call Dec. 3, 2020, that a boat was taking on water.

“Mayday. Mayday. We lost our rudder. And we’re taking on water fast. We don’t have enough pumps to keep up with it,” an unidentified man said in a recording released by the Coast Guard soon after the call.

The Coast Guard searched for several hours in the area near Spruce Head until it determined that there were no indications of distress or missing people in the area.

Driver falls asleep, crashes into toll booth

NH ROCHESTER — A pickup driver fell asleep as he approached the Rochester Toll Plaza and crashed into an unoccupied toll booth, New Hampshire State Police said.

Police said Austin Koontz, 39, of Rochester, was not hurt, but his truck sustained heavy damage in the northbound Route 16 crash.

Police said the vehicle impacted a concrete abutment.

The truck went airborne, crashing into the toll booth.

Huge fentanyl haul made in traffic stop

AZ CORDES JUNCTION — Arizona authorities said the routine traffic stop of a truck weaving in and out of freeway traffic led to the seizure of enough fentanyl powder to manufacture up to 10 million potentially deadly pills.

The Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office said the seizure occurred when deputies noticed a truck driving erratically on Interstate 17 near Cordes Junction.

A police dog discovered 22 pounds of the drug in the vehicle. Driver Daniel Antonio Guzman-Perez, 21, was arrested.

Yavapai County Sheriff David Rhodes said it was the second large amount of powdered fentanyl his department has seized in the past month.

Police probe reports of spiked drinks at eatery

VA BLACKSBURG — Police in Blacksburg are investigating reports that customers were drugged at a restaurant in the town.

News outlets report that police said there had been “multiple complaints and social media reports” of people being affected by something put in their drinks that caused “cognitive impairment” during their visit to Centro Taco Bar. No evidence has been found to substantiate the drugging, but police said there is an ongoing investigation involving town police, the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority and the state Department of Forensic Science.

Centro Taco Bar is cooperating with investigators, police said.

Police probe vandalism as possible hate crime

NY NEW YORK — A Manhattan art gallery featuring an exhibit observing the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre was struck by vandalism.

Police released a video clip from a street security camera showing someone suspected of smearing white paint on the front window of the Black Wall Street Gallery in SoHo. It was one of three acts of vandalism at the location that police were investigating as potential hate crimes.

Gallery owner Ricco Wright told police he discovered white paint on the windows on the 100th anniversary of the massacre on May 31 and June 1, 1921.

The exhibit honors those killed in the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.

Fire damages at least 17 semitrailers at facility

IL ADDISON — A fire at a Chicago-area truck service facility damaged at least 17 semitrailers.

Two semitrailers initially were reported to be burning at KDM Truck Service in Addison, fire officials said. Tanks containing diesel fuel ignited, spreading the fire to other trucks.

No injuries were reported. A hazardous materials team was called in to clean up spilled diesel fuel. Foul play was not suspected. The cause of the fire was under investigation.

— From wire reports



STARS AND STRIPES

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

**Reporting
World, National
and Military News**

US beats Venezuela, secures Olympic spot

Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Todd Frazier and his American teammates celebrated, dousing each other as if they had won the World Series.

“Playing for your country, it’s the coolest thing in the world,” the 35-year-old third baseman said.

The United States qualified for the Olympic baseball tournament on its second try, beating Venezuela 4-2 Saturday behind Frazier’s 4-for-4 night that included a solo homer, RBI double and two singles.

Frazier even stole a base, started a key double play to get the U.S. out of trouble in the first inning and fielded the grounder for the final out.

“He’s a guy that has kind of cemented the team. He’s the keystone,” U.S. manager Mike Scioscia said.

Before a pandemic-limited crowd of 2,202 at the New York Mets spring training ballpark, Frazier was spurred on by chants of “U-S-A!”

“I had one of my better games I’ve had in a long time,” Frazier said. “And I just kept telling myself, ‘I’m not letting this slip away.’”

Players did without the advanced video and computer metrics that have come to dominate the major leagues and determine who plays and what matchups to create.

“It goes to show you you really don’t need most of that stuff,” Frazier said. “It’s baseball at the end of the day. You play for your country. You play for pride. We didn’t hit on the field. We just hit in the batting cage — until our hands bled, to be honest with you. So we brought it back to youth days. Hit it. It doesn’t matter who’s throwing. Next guy up in line. And it really does go to show you guys that honestly, that guys really don’t need video.

All we need is a bat and a ball and a glove and the determination to be the best player you can be.”

Frazier thought back to memories of winning the 1998 Little League World Series with Toms River, N.J.

“I did my job at 12, dominated at 12 and now I’m 35 and it’s putting America on our backs again,” Frazier said. “I pinch myself every day.”

The U.S. finished 4-0 to win the Americas qualifying tournament and joined Japan, Israel, Mexico and South Korea at Olympic baseball, to be played in Japan from July 28 to Aug. 7 in Fukushima and Yokohama.

“Every pitch was intense,” Scioscia said, comparing it to “playing five elimination games in the playoffs or a pennant race, and you can’t stub your toe at all.”

A two-time All-Star, Frazier singled leading off the fourth against loser Aníbal Sánchez and scored on Eric Filia’s two-run homer onto the right field berm. Frazier hit an RBI double in the fifth for a 3-1 lead off Danny Rondon and homered in the seventh against Erick Leal, a drive off the facing of the bar behind the left-field wall.

Frazier was 3-for-35 for Pittsburgh this season before he was released on May 13.

“Was I upset? Sure. You want to play Major League Baseball as long as you can. But you move on. I had a Plan B,” Frazier said. “I can still play the game. I know it’s surprising to many people.”

Baseball is returning to the Olympics after being dropped for 2012 and 2016. Cuba won the gold medal in 1992, 1996 and 2004, the United States in 2000 and South Korea in 2008.

“To finish maybe my career, maybe winning the gold medal,” Frazier said, “God Almighty, that would be the best icing on the cake.”

Red Sox rally past Yanks

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Punchless during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, the Boston Red Sox have come back ready to fight.

“That’s what we preach,” Kiké Hernández said. “Battling from the first pitch until the last.”

Hernández snapped an 0-for-27 skid with a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning and the Red Sox completed their major league-best 20th comeback-from-behind victory, beating the New York Yankees 7-3 Saturday night.

Hernández got his first RBI since May 20 by roping a two-out, two-strike fastball from Chad Green (0-4) to the wall in left, scoring Rafael Devers from first.

“Nobody wants to go on a skid like I did,” Hernández said. “I don’t know how many at-bats it was, but it felt like it was a lot more. Felt really good to finally get on the board.”

Giants 4, Cubs 3: Unbeaten Kevin Gausman struck out 10 in seven innings, Alex Dickerson homered for the second consecutive game and host San Francisco beat Chicago.

The Giants won their third straight over the Cubs. San Francisco has won nine of 11 overall and is a majors-best 37-21.

Braves 6, Dodgers 4: Ozzie Albies drove in the go-ahead run in a five-run third inning off Clayton Kershaw, Abraham Almonte got a pinch-hit homer off Blake Treinen in the seventh, and host Atlanta topped Los Angeles.

Kershaw (7-5) allowed five runs, eight hits and one walk and striking out nine in six innings.

Mets 4, Padres 0: Jacob deGrom kept up his dominance of major league hitters, striking out 11 in seven innings and pitching New York to a win at San Diego.

Blue Jays 6, Astros 2: In Buffalo, N.Y., Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Joe Panik homered, and

Toronto beat visiting Houston.

Rays 3, Rangers 0: Rich Hill pitched another five scoreless innings as visiting Tampa Bay blanked Texas.

Indians 10, Orioles 4: Cesar Hernandez and Harold Ramirez homered off John Means, who exited in the first inning with shoulder fatigue, as Cleveland won at Baltimore.

Phillies 5, Nationals 2: Bryce Harper hit a run-scoring single that stopped an 0-for-18 skid in his return from the injured list, Andrew McCutchen hit a three-run homer and host Philadelphia defeated Washington.

Pirates 8, Marlins 7 (12): Jacob Stallings hit a game-ending single in the 12th inning that lifted host Pittsburgh over Miami and extended the Marlins’ longest losing streak in six years to eight games.

Reds 5, Cardinals 2: Yadier Molina left the game in the fourth inning with a bruised knee, and host St. Louis lost its fourth in a row.

Tigers 4, White Sox 3: Tarik Skubal struck out a career-high 11 to win consecutive starts for the first time in his major league career, Eric Haase homered twice and Detroit won at Chicago.

Twins 5, Royals 4: Ryan Jeffers, Kyle Garlick and Miguel Sanó homered, and Minnesota turned a game-ending double play with the potential tying run at third base to win at Kansas City and stop a four-game losing streak.

Brewers 7, Diamondbacks 5: Christian Yelich and Omar Narváez hit back-to-back homers in the eighth inning and Milwaukee dealt Arizona its team-record 16th straight road loss.

Athletics 6, Rockies 3: Cole Irvin pitched six strong innings, Matt Olson and Chad Pinder backed him with home runs and Oakland won at Colorado.

Angels 12, Mariners 5: Shohei Ohtani hit his 16th homer of the season, Taylor Ward hit the go-ahead drive and Los Angeles rallied past visiting Seattle.

Serena falls in 4th; Federer bows out

Associated Press

PARIS — Serena Williams turns 40 in September. Roger Federer hits that milestone the month before. No one knows how many more French Open appearances each will make, and this year's tournament ended for both on Sunday.

Williams fell way behind and could not put together a comeback against a much younger and less-experienced opponent in the fourth round at Roland Garros, losing 6-3, 7-5 to Elena Rybakina — who wasn't even born when the American made her tournament debut in 1998.

That defeat came hours after Federer withdrew, saying he needed to let his body recover ahead of Wimbledon after a long third-round victory that ended at nearly 1 a.m. on Sunday.

Williams has won 23 Grand Slam titles and Federer has won 20. They are two of the sport's greatest and most popular players, so it was quite a blow to the tournament, its TV partners and tennis fans to see both gone from the field one after the other — and a week after Naomi Osaka pulled out, citing a need for a mental health break.

Williams has won the French Open three times. But the American hasn't been past

the fourth round in Paris since she was the runner-up in 2016.

Rybakina is a 21-year-old from Kazakhstan who is ranked 22nd. This was just the seventh Grand Slam appearance for Rybakina — and the first time she ever made it so much as past the second round.

Against Williams, whose right thigh carried a heavy tape job, Rybakina hit big, flat serves. She dealt with, but managed to steady, her nerves. She even produced the occasional return winner off Williams' speedy and spectacularly gifted serve, breaking her five times, including in the next-to-last game.

"I am so happy with my match today. It was amazing," Rybakina said. "Of course I was nervous. I was not serving that well before. But I'm just happy that I just managed."

Williams was down 4-3 in the second set but pulled even again when Rybakina sailed a forehand well wide to get broken.

In the next game, Williams gave away the opening point when, near the baseline, she failed to get out of the way of a shot from Rybakina that was flying long. Williams smiled ruefully and leaned over, resting and propping herself up with her racket.

Rybakina now will meet Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova with a semifinal berth on the line. Pavlyuchenkova advanced with a 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 victory over two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka.

Federer always viewed this French Open as a step in his comeback from a pair of knee operations, rather than somewhere he seriously could pursue a title.

"After two knee surgeries and over a year of rehabilitation it's important that I listen to my body and make sure I don't push myself too quickly on my road to recovery," Federer said in a statement released by the French tennis federation. "I am thrilled to have gotten 3 matches under my belt. There is no greater feeling than being back on court."

Stefanos Tsitsipas is still looking for his first major final, too, and he reached the quarterfinals at Roland Garros for the second year in a row by eliminating 12th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta 6-3, 6-2, 7-5.

Tsitsipas next faces No. 2 Daniil Medvedev. Medvedev is a two-time Grand Slam finalist — at the 2019 U.S. Open and this year's Australian Open — but was 0-4 for his career in Paris until now.

Titans getting star WR Jones by trade from Falcons

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee has agreed to a deal with Atlanta for seven-time Pro Bowl wide receiver Julio Jones, allowing the Falcons to clear salary cap space while the Titans get help for Ryan Tannehill, Derrick Henry and A.J. Brown.

Both teams confirmed the trade Sunday.

The Falcons will receive the Titans' second-round pick in 2022 and their fourth in 2023 with Atlanta sending Jones and a sixth-round pick in 2023 to Tennessee pending Jones passing a physical.

The deal adds Jones to an offense that already has Henry, the AP NFL Offensive Player of the Year, and a Pro Bowl receiver in Brown. The defending AFC South champs ranked fourth in scoring in 2020, and

this move shores up a big hole in the Titans' offense after losing wide receiver Corey Davis and tight end Jonnu Smith in free agency in March.

Henry had recently shared photos of himself working out with Jones on social media.

Brown had been lobbying hard for Jones to join the Titans on social media, and Brown shared a photo on Twitter on Sunday of himself, Jones and Henry all in Tennessee jerseys celebrating.

Los Angeles Rams cornerback Jalen Ramsey also went to social media to express his feelings that his team missed out on Jones.

Jones' \$15.3 million base salary is guaranteed, and he was set to cost the Falcons slightly more than \$23 million against the salary cap next season. By trading

him after June 1, they can split the dead money over two seasons, which would greatly ease their tough financial situation.

Jones holds Atlanta records with 848 catches for 12,896 yards, and his 60 touchdowns are second. He had a career-best 136 catches for 1,871 yards in 2015. He had six straight seasons with more than 1,300 yards receiving until being limited to nine games in 2020 by a nagging hamstring injury.

The Titans have five straight winning seasons that rank behind only Seattle and Kansas City in the NFL. They lost to Kansas City in the AFC championship game in the 2019 season.

Tennessee tied for second in total yards per game and was fourth in points scored in 2020 with Tannehill throwing for a

career-best 33 touchdowns.

Coronavirus knocks Rahm out of Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio — Jon Rahm walked off the 18th green after tying the 54-hole record and building a six-shot lead, leaving him on the cusp of joining Tiger Woods as the only repeat winners of the Memorial.

Moments later, he doubled over behind the green and said in anguish, "Not again!"

Rahm was notified he tested positive for the coronavirus, knocking him out of the tournament.

A command performance, that included a hole-in-one Saturday morning to complete his second round followed by an 8-under 64 to tie two tournament records, went to waste.

Durant, Irving carry Nets past Bucks

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kevin Durant knew something was wrong when the Brooklyn Nets were trying to run a play and James Harden wasn't in the right spot.

Moments later, Harden wasn't even in the game, forced to leave with a right hamstring injury less than a minute into the Eastern Conference semifinals.

"That was tough," Nets coach Steve Nash said.

Durant and Kyrie Irving made sure it wasn't a knockout blow.

Durant scored 29 points, Irving had 25 and the two superstars carried Brooklyn to a 115-107 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday night in Game 1.

Harden's injury is the same one that forced him to miss two losses to the Bucks in May.

But the Nets beat Milwaukee when it mat-

tered most without him, getting 19 points from Joe Harris and 18 points and 14 rebounds from Blake Griffin.

"We try not to be too emotional out there, but losing one of your leaders like that on the first play of the game, we had to regroup for a couple of minutes and figure out what was next, but I think the coaches, the coaching staff did a great job of moving forward," Durant said. "Guys came in and just tried to play extremely hard. We didn't care about anything else but playing and executing the game plan and just leaving it all out there."

And they got a solid defensive effort despite giving up plenty of size, limiting the Bucks to 13 points below their NBA-leading average.

Durant grabbed 10 rebounds and Irving had eight assists, throwing some spectacular passes as the Nets moved the ball around quickly and had the Bucks a step or more

behind all night.

"We've got to guard defensively together, especially against this team," Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo said.

Game 2 is Monday night.

"Our guys got to execute defensively regardless of who's on the court, execute offensively regardless of who's on the court," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "We've got to be better. We'll be better Monday."

Antetokounmpo had 34 points and 11 rebounds, but the Bucks were just 6-for-30 from three-point range and lost for the first time in the playoffs after storming past Miami in a first-round sweep.

Brook Lopez scored 19 points for the Bucks and Jrue Holiday had 17 points and nine rebounds. Khris Middleton finished with 13 points and 13 rebounds but was 6-for-23, missing all five three-pointers.

Kucherov, Stamkos lead Lightning

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Just when it seemed the game might be slipping away, Nikita Kucherov asserted himself for the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Two goals and an assist later Saturday, the resilient, defending Stanley Cup champions had a 6-4 victory and a 3-1 lead in their second-round playoff series against the Carolina Hurricanes.

"To be honest, he might have taken the game over," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "Clearly we lost control a little bit in the second period, and he'd been hit in a tough manner by one of their guys, and he just channeled his energy the right way."

"It was a 5-on-5 shift and he was just a beast out there. Then we had our power-play opportunities, and he was just making plays all over the place. He might have been the best player on the ice tonight. When Kuch is doing some of the stuff he did, he's borderline unstoppable."

Kucherov and Steven Stamkos each had a pair of goals and an assist, and Tampa Bay improved to 10-0 in games following a playoff loss over the past two postseasons. Game 5 is Tuesday night at Carolina.

Each team scored four goals in the second, with the Lightning turning a 4-2 deficit into a 5-4 lead. Stamkos and Kucherov scored on the power play and Tyler Johnson also beat Petr Mrazek in the final 5:22 of the

period.

Teuvo Teravainen, Jesper Fast, Dougie Hamilton and Jaccob Slavin scored in the second for the Hurricanes. They hurt themselves by taking bad penalty after bad penalty while giving Tampa Baysix power-play opportunities.

"If you give that caliber of power play that many chances, it's not a recipe for success," Slavin said. "We've just got to stay more disciplined and play hard, but play smart as well and not give them chances that they don't need."

The Lightning finished 3 of 6 on the power play, and they have scored five times with the man advantage in the last two games.

Carolina had its highest scoring game of the series, too. But the Hurricanes were 0-for-2 on the power play and struggled after going up 4-2 on Slavin's goal at 12:41 of the second.

"It's weird. There were 11 goals in the series and to see eight go in in the second period, that was chaotic, it was a circus out there," Cooper said. "But definitely no refunds after that one. Take your coach's hat off. That was one helluva entertaining second period."

Vezina Trophy finalist Andrei Vasilevski weathered the Hurricanes' scoring barrage and didn't allow another goal the rest of the way. He finished with 21 saves.

Barzal sparks Islanders past Bruins to even it

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Mathew Barzal was at the right place at the right time for the New York Islanders.

Barzal scored the tiebreaking goal late in the third period and the Islanders beat the Boston Bruins 4-1 on Saturday night to even the second-round playoff series at two games apiece.

With the score tied 1-1, New York took its first lead of the game when Scott Mayfield's point shot was redirected and deflected in front, and Barzal batted the puck out of the air and past goalie Tuukka Rask with 6:57 left.

"A little bit of hand-eye (coordination), a little bit of luck," Barzal said after scoring for the second straight game. "The puck takes a weird skip. I don't think many people knew where it was, so just trying to get to the net as quick as I can. Fortunately, I don't think Tuukka could really see it; we had some good net presence."

Boston pulled Rask for an extra skater with 1:12 left. Casey Cizikas — who had the overtime goal in Game 2 — sealed it with an empty-netter nine seconds later, and Jean-Gabriel Pageau added one with three seconds to go.