

Report details failures around Jan. 6

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Capitol Police had specific intelligence that supporters of President Donald Trump planned to mount an armed invasion of the Capitol at least two weeks before the Jan. 6 riot, according to new findings in a bipartisan Senate investigation, but a series of omissions and miscommunications kept that information from reaching front-line officers targeted by the violence.

A joint report, from the Senate Rules and Administration and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committees, outlines the most detailed public timeline to date of the communications and intelligence failures that led the Capitol Police and partner agencies to prepare for the “Stop the Steal” protest as though it were a routine Trump rally, instead of the organized assault that was planned in the open online.

Released Tuesday, the report

shows how an intelligence arm of the Capitol Police disseminated security assessments labeling the threat of violence “remote” to “improbable,” even as authorities collected evidence showing that pro-Trump activists intended to bring weapons to the demonstration and “storm the Capitol.”

“There were significant, widespread and unacceptable breakdowns in the intelligence gathering ... The failure to adequately assess the threat of violence on that day contributed significantly to the breach of the Capitol,” Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., chairman of the homeland security panel, told reporters. “The attack was, quite frankly, planned in plain sight.”

The bipartisan report is the latest to examine the security failures that contributed to the mayhem as Congress tallied electoral college results certifying Joe Biden’s victory in the 2020 presidential election. Its

release comes just days after the Senate rejected legislation to create an independent investigative commission that passed the House with strong bipartisan support, and as lawmakers continue to wrestle with how to pay for security improvements to the Capitol campus.

The report’s recommendations, which call for better planning, training and intelligence gathering, largely mirror those of other investigators who have examined the topic, and its contents steer clear of offering any assessment or conclusion about Trump’s responsibility for the riot.

Still, the report provides a vivid picture of how poor communication and unheeded warnings left officers under-equipped to face violent threats about which they had not been made aware, leaving the Capitol vulnerable to an attack that otherwise might have been preventable.

According to the report, Cap-

itol Police intelligence officers knew as early as Dec. 21 that protesters planned to “bring guns” and other weapons to the Jan. 6 demonstration and turn them on any law enforcement officers who blocked their entry into the Capitol. They knew that would-be rioters were sharing maps of the Capitol campus online and discussing the building’s best entry points — and how to seal them off to trap lawmakers inside. But that information was shared only with command officers.

The only hints about what the Capitol Police’s Intelligence and Interagency Coordination Division knew appeared at the end of a 15-page report released on Jan. 3, which stated that “there is the possibility that the protesters may be inclined to become violent,” and that their desperation “may lead to a significantly dangerous situation for law enforcement and the general public alike.”

CENTCOM head prods 2 Afghan sides to hold talks

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. forces are now halfway through their withdrawal from Afghanistan, leaving little time for the country’s government and the Taliban to resume peace talks before foreign troops are no longer there, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East said Monday.

About five weeks into U.S. withdrawal efforts, the “time is now becoming very short” for talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government to ensue before American forces leave after nearly two decades in the country, Marine Gen. Ken McKenzie, the commander of U.S. Central Command, told reporters Monday during a teleconference.

“It is critical that the parties come together,” McKenzie said. “I believe the government of Afghanistan is ready to talk. I think the Taliban needs to show an equal commitment to talking very honestly in a straightforward way and try to find a political solution as we go forward.”

The Taliban met with the Afghan government for peace negotiations in September, but the talks have since stalled, causing some Afghan officials to suspect the group “will capitalize on their advantage on the battlefield to seize control of the country by force” once foreign forces leave, according to a Congressional Research Service report issued March 25.

“As we pull out, there needs to be something political that’s left in place,” McKenzie said. “I think the government of Afghanistan is willing to do that. I’m not sure the Taliban is willing to do that now.”

The U.N. Security Council in a report last week warned Taliban militants were preparing to take over the country after U.S. and NATO forces leave.

“The Taliban’s intent appears to be to continue to strengthen its military position as leverage,” the Security Council wrote in its June 1 report. “It believes that it can achieve almost all of its objectives by negotiation or, if necessary, by force.”

The drawdown, which began on May 1, is expected to end by Sept. 11 — a deadline McKenzie said his forces will meet. While U.S. troops will no longer be in the country, the Pentagon has said it will maintain remote counterinsurgency capabilities.

Carrier costs rising again, Navy budget shows

Daily Press (Newport News, Va.)

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — The cost of the Navy's next three carriers is on the rise, due in part for installation of equipment and electronics to handle the new F-35 Joint Strike Fighters.

The Navy's latest 390-page fiscal year 2022 budget justification document calls for increased spending for the carrier John F. Kennedy's electromagnetic catapult and arresting gear — systems that ran hundreds of millions of dollars over budget for the USS Gerald R Ford, the lead ship for the Navy's new class of carriers.

All in all, the cost of the Kennedy, now more than 80% complete at Newport News

Shipbuilding, will rise by \$531 million, or 4.7% from the estimate in last year's justification document, to \$11.93 billion, the Navy now says.

The cost of the third carrier in the Ford class, the Enterprise, will rise \$84 million, to \$12.41 billion, while the fourth carrier in the class, the Doris Miller, will see a \$33 million increase to \$12.48 billion.

The cost of Kennedy's basic construction — the hull, structures and mechanical systems, is set to rise by \$368 million.

The Navy said this will cover the cost of work to accommodate the F-35 fighters that are succeeding the Navy's current FA-18 SuperHornets.

Other F-35 related cost increases for the Kennedy include \$47 million for electronics systems.

The cost of the Kennedy's electromagnetic catapult, which is supplied to the shipyard by the Navy, is rising by another \$38 million, or 6.3%, from the year ago estimate to \$639 million, while its arresting gear cost is up \$11 million, or 4.7%, to \$243 million.

When the Navy first included these systems for Ford class carriers, it estimated the cost of the catapult at \$318 million and the arresting gear at \$75 million. By the time the Ford was commissioned, those costs had risen to \$670 million for the catapult and \$148 million for the arresting gear.

High court rejects case on gender bias in the draft

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court will not decide whether women should be required to register for the military draft, deferring the issue to Congress, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said in a statement Monday.

The court declined to hear a case brought by the National Coalition for Men challenging the Military Selective Service Act, which requires only men to register for the draft. Instead, the court will wait for Congress to decide the issue with legislation, Sotomayor said.

The coalition, which on its website describes itself as a "civil rights organization which aims to address the ways sex discrimination affects men and boys," argued that because women can now serve in combat roles, prior rulings against expanding the draft to women should be overturned.

The case challenged a 1981 ruling in

which the Supreme Court upheld the male-only draft "because women were categorically banned from serving in combat roles," the group wrote in its January petition to the court. However, the Pentagon lifted its ban on women in combat in 2013. More so, in 2015, all military roles were officially opened to women without exception.

"The registration requirement has no legitimate purpose and cannot withstand the exacting scrutiny sex-based laws require," the coalition wrote in its petition. "The Department of Defense and the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service unequivocally acknowledge that requiring women and men alike to register would 'promote fairness and equity' and further the goal of military readiness."

The Supreme Court declined to hear the case "while Congress actively weighs the issues," Sotomayor said in her statement,

citing ongoing discussions over a March 2020 congressionally ordered report on the issue by the Commission on Military, National and Public Service.

The commission was created as part of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act to review the need for and conduct of the draft. In the commission's report, it recommended ending the exclusion of women, noting "male-only registration sends a message to women not only that they are not vital to the defense of the country but also that they are not expected to participate in defending it."

Sotomayor cited a March 11 statement at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing by its chairman, Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., expressing "hope" that a gender-neutral registration requirement will be "incorporated into the next national defense bill" as proof of lawmakers' ongoing consideration of the issue.

Marine recruit dies during Parris Island boot camp test

Stars and Stripes

A Marine Corps recruit died during the final test of boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., a service statement said.

"On Friday, June 4th, Private First Class Dalton Beals passed away during the conduct of The Crucible with the new Marines of Echo Company," the Parris Island Recruit Depot statement said. "Our deepest

condolences go out to Dalton's family and to the Marines and staff of Echo Company."

The cause of death is under investigation. The statement did not provide Beals' age, hometown or details of how he died.

The Crucible, the final hurdle of Marine boot camp, consists of a grueling 54-hour test of the recruits' military skills and endurance. Once they complete the test, includ-

ing the final 9-mile march, the new recruits officially become Marines and receive their Eagle, Globe and Anchor pins.

A GoFundMe website post described Beals as "a son, a brother, a friend of many an incredible athlete and a United States Marine."

He was set to graduate June 18, the post said.

'Anxiety' for Dems as Biden agenda stalls

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hopes for a big infrastructure investment are teetering. An ambitious elections and voting bill is all but dead. Legislation on police brutality, gun control and immigration has stalled out.

Nearly six months of Democratic control in Washington, the party's progressive wing is growing increasingly restless as campaign promises go undone — blocked not only by Republican obstruction, but also by Democrats' own inability to unite fully around priorities.

The time ahead is pivotal for President Joe Biden and his allies in Congress to seize what some view as a transformative moment to rebuild the economy and reshape the country.

"There's a lot of anxiety," said Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., who had been a co-chair of Bernie Sanders' presidential bid. "It's a question really for President Biden: What kind of president does he want to be?"

The summer work period is traditionally among the busiest for Congress, but especially sharpened this year as Democrats strain to deliver on Biden's agenda. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer warned colleagues that June will "test our resolve." Infrastructure talks are dragging, though

Biden was expected to talk again Tuesday with Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, the lead Republican negotiator. But the limits of bipartisanship in the 50-50 Senate are increasingly clear.

The party suffered a debilitating blow over the weekend when Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., announced his opposition to the voting bill, titled S.1 because it is a top party priority. Many Democrats view it as crucial to protecting democracy and a direct response to restrictive new voting laws being passed in Republican-led states egged on by Donald Trump, the former president.

"Do I feel discouraged? Yes," said Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., chairwoman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, warning of a failure to deliver on the promises. "We will lose voters for a generation."

Schumer, in setting the agenda, is challenging senators to prepare to make tough choices. But he is also facing a test of his own ability to lead the big-tent party through a volatile period of shifting priorities and tactics in the aftermath of the Trump era and the Capitol insurrection.

While Democratic senators have been generating goodwill by considering bipartisan bills in the evenly split Senate, they face mounting pressure from voters who put

them in office to fight harder for legislation that Republicans are determined to block with the filibuster. Democrats hold the edge in the Senate because Vice President Kamala Harris can break a voting tie.

Fed up by the delays, some senators are ready to change the rules to eliminate the filibuster, which they blame for the inaction. The long-running Senate filibuster rules require 60 votes to advance most legislation, meaning as many as 10 Republicans would need to cross party lines to help Democrats achieve their priorities. Some senators propose reducing the voting threshold to 51.

But Manchin, in announcing his opposition to the voting rights bill Sunday as the "wrong piece of legislation to bring our country together," also restated his refusal to end the filibuster — for now, denying his party a crucial vote needed to make the rules change that could help advance its agenda.

While Manchin has talked about supporting another voting bill, the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, advocates of S.1 say both pieces of legislation are needed. Biden agrees Congress should move forward with both, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday.

Relieved, wary European allies to welcome Biden

Associated Press

LONDON — When U.S. President Joe Biden flies to Europe this week, he will find his hosts welcoming but wary. His predecessor Donald Trump may be gone, but he leaves a long shadow.

Biden's first foreign trip as president starts Wednesday and includes a gathering of the Group of Seven wealthy nations by the seaside in southwest England, a NATO summit, a meeting with European Union chiefs, and then a tete-a-tete in Geneva with his Russian counterpart and adversary, Vladimir Putin.

For most of America's allies, Biden is a relief. Trump often sowed chaos, accusing the NATO military alliance of leeching off the United States, in-

sulting the European Union and storming out of a G-7 summit in Canada in 2018. In contrast, Biden has stressed his support for international diplomacy and emphasized "America's renewed commitment to our allies and partners" in a recent Washington Post article.

"I think we can expect to see lots of rhetoric and lots of good-vibe messages in this first visit of Biden to Europe," said Renata Dwan, deputy director of international affairs think tank Chatham House.

But she added that five months into Biden's term, "it's time to be more than 'not Donald Trump.'"

Biden has already mended some fences with America's allies. The U.S. has rejoined

the Paris climate accord that Trump renounced, ended a minor trade war with the EU over aviation rivalry and is backing attempts to revive a deal meant to limit Iran's nuclear ambitions that Trump abandoned.

"America is back. And we are happy you are back," European Council President Charles Michel told Biden in March, when the president joined a video summit of EU leaders.

There are tensions and divergences among U.S. and its other allies, too. Biden has begun to rebuild ties with NATO, left angry and bewildered by Trump's unilateralism and his ambiguous relationship with Russia's Putin. Biden reassured the alliance that the U.S.

backed NATO's doctrine of collective defense and would come to the rescue in the face of Russian aggression.

But the U.S. still wants NATO's European members and Canada to spend more on defense — a constant Trump refrain, now taken up by Biden, if in a more muted way.

There is also continuing U.S.-European friction over the Nord Stream 2 pipeline being built to bring gas from Russia to Germany under the Baltic Sea. A persistent irritant between the U.S. and Germany during the Trump years, the pipeline still faces bipartisan U.S. opposition over concerns it makes Europe more dependent on Russia, though Biden has sought to take some of the heat out of the issue.

Pipeline CEO explains ransom to Senate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The chief executive of the massive fuel pipeline hit by ransomware last month told senators Tuesday that authorizing a multimillion-dollar payment to hackers was the right thing to do to bring an end to fuel shortages affecting much of the eastern United States, even as authorities have discouraged such payments.

Colonial Pipeline CEO Joseph Blount faced the Senate Homeland Security Committee on Tuesday, one day after the Justice Department revealed it had recovered the majority of the \$4.4 million ransom payment the company made in hopes of getting its system back online. A second hearing is set for Wednesday before the House Homeland Security Committee.

Blount's testimony marks his first appearance before Congress since the May 7 ransom-

ware attack that led Georgia-based Colonial Pipeline, which supplies roughly half the fuel consumed on the East Coast, to temporarily halt operations. The attack has been attributed to a Russia-based gang of cybercriminals using the DarkSide ransomware variant, one of more than 100 variants the FBI is currently investigating.

The company began negotiating with the hackers on the evening of the attack and, the following day, paid a ransom of 75 bitcoin, then valued at roughly \$4.4 million. Though the FBI has historically discouraged ransomware payments for fear of encouraging cyberattacks, Colonial officials have said they saw the transaction as necessary to resume the vital fuel transport business as rapidly as possible.

"It was one of the toughest decisions I have had to make in my life," Blount said in prepared re-

marks. "At the time, I kept this information close hold because we were concerned about operational security and minimizing publicity for the threat actor. But I believe that restoring critical infrastructure as quickly as possible, in this situation, was the right thing to do for the country."

The attack, which Blount says began after hackers exploited a virtual private network that was not intended to be in use and has since shut down, had significant collateral consequences, including gas shortages as concerned motorists rushed to fill their tanks.

The operation to seize cryptocurrency paid to the Russia-based hacker group is the first of its kind to be undertaken by a specialized ransomware task force created by the Biden administration Justice Department. It reflects a rare victory in the fight against ransomware as

U.S. officials scramble to confront a rapidly accelerating threat targeting critical industries around the world.

"By going after the entire ecosystem that fuels ransomware and digital extortion attacks — including criminal proceeds in the form of digital currency — we will continue to use all of our resources to increase the cost and consequences of ransomware and other cyber-based attacks," Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said at a news conference announcing the operation.

Cryptocurrency is favored by cybercriminals because it enables direct online payments regardless of geographical location, but in this case, the FBI was able to identify a virtual currency wallet used by the hackers and recovered the proceeds from there, Deputy FBI Director Paul Abbate said.

High court rules against temporary immigrants

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A unanimous Supreme Court ruled Monday that thousands of people living in the United States for humanitarian reasons are ineligible to apply to become permanent residents.

Justice Elena Kagan wrote for the court that federal immigration law prohibits people who entered the country illegally and now have Temporary Protected Status from seeking "green cards" to remain in the country permanently.

The designation applies to people who come from countries ravaged by war or disaster. It protects them from deportation and allows them to work legally. There are 400,000 people from 12 countries with TPS status.

The outcome in a case involving a couple from El Salvador who have been in the U.S. since the 1990s turned on whether people who entered the country illegally and were given humanitarian protections were ever "admitted" into the U.S. under immigration law. Kagan wrote that they were not.

"The TPS program gives foreign nationals nonimmigrant status, but it does not admit them. So the conferral of TPS does not make an unlawful entrant ... eligible" for a green card, she wrote.

On the other side were immigrant groups that argued many people who came to the U.S. for humanitarian reasons have lived in the country for many years, given birth to American citizens and put down roots in the U.S.

'Do not come': Harris seeking 'hope at home' for Guatemala

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY — Vice President Kamala Harris offered an optimistic outlook for improved cooperation with Guatemala on addressing the spike in migration to the United States after her meeting with Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei on Monday. She also delivered a direct warning to migrants considering making the trek: "Do not come. Do not come."

Her comments, during a press conference after she met privately with Giammattei, underscored the challenge that remains even as Harris engages in substantive talks with the Guatemalan and Mexican presidents during a three-day visit to the region this week, her first foreign trip as vice president.

"I want to emphasize that the goal of our work is to help

Guatemalans find hope at home," Harris said. "At the same time, I want to be clear to folks in this region who are thinking about making that dangerous trek to the United States-Mexico border: Do not come, do not come."

In conjunction with Harris' trip, the Biden administration announced that the Justice Department would create an anti-corruption task force and an additional task force to combat human trafficking and drug smuggling in the region. Harris also promised a new program focused on creating education and economic opportunities for girls there, among other new initiatives. And she told Giammattei that her goal in the region was to restore "hope" to residents so they no longer felt the need to flee their homeland for better opportunities in the U.S.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Naked bike ride event to require face masks

PA PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia bike riders won't need their shirts, pants, skirts or even underwear — just a mask.

Organizers of the annual Philly Naked Bike Ride said this year's event will take place Aug. 28 and will require masks, based on the city's earlier coronavirus restrictions.

The city lifted most of its COVID-19 rules this week, citing an increase in vaccinations and a decrease in cases. But ride organizers said they hadn't had a chance to chat since the city's guidelines changed so for the time being, they're "going to stick with our initial mask guidance."

Annual contest for Burmese pythons begins

FL MIAMI — Professional python hunters and amateurs alike have a chance to win prizes in Florida's annual hunt for the biggest snakes — the Burmese pythons that are ravaging the state's native species.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announced the state's annual contest. It will run from July 9 to 18 and include prizes for both pros and novices. In both categories, there will be a \$2,500 prize for catching the most pythons and \$1,500 for the longest.

The pythons, which can grow to 20 feet and 200 pounds, are descended from pets released starting five decades ago. The big serpents are overrunning the Everglades and have been devouring native mammal and bird populations.

Team disqualified for too many games

MI CASS CITY — A Michigan high school softball team was disqualified from the state playoffs because it played too many games.

Cass City athletic director Justin Ketterer broke the news saying the Michigan High School Athletic Association has a 38-game cap, the Huron Daily Tribune reported.

A May 7 game against Crosswell-Lexington that ended in the sixth inning apparently counted, Ketterer said in a letter to the community.

Cass City's softball team was 31-8.

Woman accused of theft of sheriff's car

NC GREENSBORO — A woman was accused of stealing a North Carolina sheriff's unmarked SUV, according to authorities.

The Guilford County Sheriff's Office said a 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe issued to Sheriff Danny Rogers was stolen from the sheriff's office parking lot in downtown Greensboro, WGHP reported.

The sheriff's office said video showed Jessica Gay Parks, 32, of Julian, walking into the sheriff's office parking lot and trying to get inside several parked vehicles.

She then walked over to Rogers' parked SUV, somehow got inside and rummaged through the vehicle until she found the spare electronic keys, started the SUV and drove off, the sheriff's office said. Using a GPS device, deputies found the vehicle at a gas station.

Rewards offered after Walmart fires in 2 states

AL MOBILE — Federal investigators are offering \$2,500 rewards for tips leading to people who set fires inside Walmart stores in Alabama and Mississippi.

The FBI posted security camera photos of masked people inside stores in Mobile and Gulfport, Miss.

News outlets reported firefighters extinguished a fire inside the Mobile store on May 28, and investigators concluded an accelerant was used to fuel it. No one was injured.

Two fires were reported inside a Walmart store in Gulfport.

Gulfport police spokesman Jason DuCre told WALA-TV that investigators suspect the same people are responsible for the Gulfport and Mobile fires.

California entry wins US tap water prize at tasting

WV BERKELEY SPRINGS — A southern California water district won the top prize for U.S. tap water at an international tasting contest.

California entries took the top two places for Best Municipal Water at the 31st annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting in West Virginia.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California finished first and Santa Ana, Calif., took second.

Third place went to the Southwest Water Authority of Dickson, N.D.

The top bottled water award was given to Ulunom in Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan.

Judges based their rankings on taste, odor, mouth feel and aftertaste.

Bear wanders downtown, eludes searchers

FL NAPLES — A black bear seen wandering in downtown Naples has eluded wildlife officials even as sightings of the animal continue.

Naples police said the bear was first spotted in the city. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to trap the bear in hopes of relocating the animal, the Naples Daily News reported.

Residents are reporting bear sightings around the city in southwest Florida.

Authorities said the bear has not been aggressive and avoided interactions with people.

Pilot crash lands small plane at intersection

NJ ROBBINSVILLE — A pilot walked away mostly unharmed after crash landing his small plane near an intersection in New Jersey, police said.

The pilot had taken off from Robbinsville Airport when the 1996 Piper aircraft had mechanical trouble, Lt. William Swanhart said.

He performed an emergency landing.

The pilot, a 47-year-old man from East Windsor, was taken to a hospital with minor back pain, police said.

The propeller and left wing sustained damage in the landing.

Federal aviation authorities were investigating the incident.

— From wire reports

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Lightning have variety of ways to win

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Lightning prioritized defense over scoring on the way to winning their second Stanley Cup title last season.

The reigning champions still feel that's the recipe for success in the playoffs, however that doesn't mean one of the NHL's most skilled offensive teams won't instinctively change gears and revert to old ways when needed.

"There was a time we were kind of the greatest show on ice a few years ago, and many times those ended up in disappointing playoff outs," coach Jon Cooper said.

"Probably why we've had success the last couple of years is because we've had the ability to win different ways. If you want to get into a shootout, we have a group that can do it that

way," he said. "But that's not ideal. We really have this belief that it's what you keep out of your net, not how much you put in the other net. We try and live by that."

The Lightning and Carolina Hurricanes each scored four times during the second period of Game 4 in their second-round matchup Saturday. Tampa Bay wound up with a 6-4 win and took a 3-1 series lead.

The Hurricanes scored four times to build a two-goal lead before unraveling. Nikita Kucherov, Tyler Johnson and Steven Stamkos countered for Tampa Bay in the closing minutes of the second period to put the Lightning up for good.

Tampa Bay had the firepower to adjust when Vezina Trophy finalist Andrei Vasilevski, one of the league's best goaltenders, was under siege.

Game 5 was Tuesday night at Carolina, where the Lightning won the first two games of the best-of-seven matchup.

"Does it always go as planned? No," Cooper said of the approach that's served his team well in winning a franchise-best five consecutive playoff series. "But if you want to go far, it's just the mentality you have to have."

Kucherov and Stamkos each had two goals and an assist in the Game 4 win.

"We've been in multiple situations throughout the runs that this core has been through. We've seen it all. Nothing's going to really surprise this group," Stamkos said. "At that point, you have to realize why you're down and change some things on the fly."

The Hurricanes will have to win three straight to come back

and win the series, a daunting task considering Tampa Bay is 10-0 in games following a play-off loss since beginning its 2020 Stanley Cup run.

"We've got to be way more disciplined. ... We made it a little too hard on ourselves by taking too many penalties," Carolina forward Jesper Fast said. "I really believe if we play our way and stay out of the box, we're going to turn this series around."

Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour agrees that to have a chance to rebound, his team will need to limit the Lightning's power-play opportunities moving forward. They have five man-advantage goals in the past two games.

"You can't give them too many cracks at it. ... They've got guys that can finish, that's what they do," Brind'Amour said.

Isles grab series lead

Associated Press

BOSTON — With five minutes left and his New York Islanders bleeding away their three-goal lead, coach Barry Trotz called a timeout and told his players to breathe.

"He just calmed everyone down," said forward Josh Bailey, who had a goal and an assist in the 5-4 victory that gave New York a 3-2 lead in the second-round series. "He told us to apply pressure, not sit back. Just getting everyone focused. You need that at certain times, and I thought that was a good time."

Mathew Barzal scored one power-play goal and assisted on another, and Semyon Varlamov stopped 40 shots Monday night, when the Islanders opened a 5-2 lead and held on to move within one win of the Stanley Cup semifinals.

New York would reach the NHL's final four for the second straight season with a victory in

Game 6 at home on Wednesday.

"We're excited to go back to the Coliseum," forward Jordan Eberle said. "You've seen how loud it is. It gives us some juice."

Barzal scored for the third straight game, and Kyle Palmieri, Bailey and Eberle all had goals in the second period, when the Islanders opened a 4-2 lead. Brock Nelson made it 5-2 just two minutes into the third, after Jeremy Swayman replaced Tuukka Rask in Boston's goal.

But David Pastrnak scored his second of the game two minutes later, and David Krejci brought Boston within one goal with 5:19 left in the third period.

That's when Trotz used his timeout.

The Bruins pulled goalie Jeremy Swayman in the final two minutes for an extra skater, but didn't threaten before Boston fans pelted the ice with cups and giveaway towels in what could be the final horn of the season.

Canadiens sweep Jets

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Tyler Toffoli scored at 1:39 of overtime, lifting the Montreal Canadiens to a 3-2 victory over the Winnipeg Jets on Monday night and a four-game sweep of their second-round playoff series.

Toffoli took a cross-crease pass from Cole Caufield and beat Connor Hellebuyck with a one-timer for the winner and his fourth goal of the postseason.

"I think that's definitely one of the bigger ones," Toffoli said of his series-clinching goal. "It's fun right now. We're doing a good job. It just feels like we're all kind of playing as one. We just have to continue like this. Hopefully, we just keep having success and keep winning games."

Erik Gustafsson and Artturi Lehkonen scored in regulation for Montreal, which has won seven straight playoff games since trailing Toronto 3-1 in the opening round. Toffoli, who

scored 28 times in the regular season, also had an assist.

Carey Price made 14 saves for the North Division's No. 4 seed in front of another boisterous crowd of 2,500 fans at the Bell Centre.

"These guys are playing as well as any team has ever played," Price said.

The 16th and final team to qualify for the playoffs after winning just one of their final nine regular-season games in regulation, the Canadiens are the first club to make the semifinals of the Stanley Cup tournament this year.

"Winning the fourth game is always the hardest one," defenseman Shea Weber said. "Going through playoff series, you know that when a team is down and they've got their back against the wall, they're going to bring their best effort. It's always the hardest one to close out."

Unseeded Zidansek reaches semifinals

Associated Press

PARIS — Before the French Open, Tamara Zidansek had never advanced past the second round at any Grand Slam.

The former snowboarder has become the first woman from Slovenia to reach the semifinals at a major tournament.

Spurred on by the vocal support of her coaching team on Court Philippe Chatrier, the 85th-ranked Zidansek defeated Spanish rival Paula Badosa 7-5, 4-6, 8-6 Tuesday at the clay-court tournament.

“It feels overwhelming,” she said.

The French Open is the only remaining Grand Slam where tiebreakers are not played in

the last set. Wimbledon recently installed tiebreakers at 12-12 in the final set.

After splitting the first two sets, Badosa violently threw her racket in anger at the change-over after Zidansek held for a 6-5 lead in the third. She regained her composure but Zidansek then saved three break points to take a 7-6 lead and converted her second match point with a big forehand in the next game.

Zidansek, a three-time national junior snowboarding champion in Slovenia, will face Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova for a spot in the final at Roland Garros. Pavlyuchenkova reached the first Grand Slam semi-

final of her career by coming back to beat doubles partner Elena Rybakina 6-7 (2), 6-2, 9-7.

In perfect weather conditions, Zidansek and Badosa pulled off some spectacular winners but also hit a lot of unforced errors.

Badosa applied pressure from the start with a flurry of deep groundstrokes from the baseline. The strategy worked as Zidansek dropped her first service game and then trailed 3-0. But an error-strewn game from Badosa gave her rival a break and a boost.

Zidansek started to return better and went for her shots, linking attacks with bold moves at the net to even the score at

3-3. Badosa saved a set point in the 12th game with a forehand attack but could not fend off the second as her poor drop shot ended up in the net.

Badosa trailed 4-2 in the second set after a series of unforced errors but Zidansek could not build on the momentum and struggled with her serve, too.

The Spaniard rallied, made the decisive break in the ninth game at love and sealed the set with a big forehand.

The 23-year-old Zidansek opened this year’s tournament by upsetting seventh-seeded Bianca Andreescu in the first round for her first career win over a top-10 player.

Durant leads Brooklyn’s blowout of Milwaukee

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kevin Durant left Giannis Antetokounmpo in his tracks and got to the rim for a reverse layup, with James Harden coming way off his baseline spot to cheer.

Harden may be hurt, but the Brooklyn Nets are showing no hint that they miss him.

“I think we’re capable of greatness every single night,” Kyrie Irving said.

And the Milwaukee Bucks don’t seem capable of stopping it.

Durant scored 32 points in three quarters of a top-to-bottom blowout that sent the Nets halfway to the Eastern Conference finals with a 125-86 rout on Monday night.

Brooklyn led by as much as 49 in its most lopsided playoff win and held the NBA’s highest-scoring team 34 points below its season average.

“For the most part we just did what we were supposed to do, win two at home and we’ve got to see if this game is going to travel on the road for us and

we’ve got to stay locked in,” Durant said.

Irving added 22 points and Bruce Brown filled in nicely for Harden with 13 points and six rebounds.

The Nets broke down the Bucks’ defense off the dribble all night, setting up uncontested shots that they mostly made. Brooklyn shot 52% from the field and was 21-for-42 from three-point range.

Milwaukee swept its first-round series against Miami but needs a big turnaround when its get back home to avoid being swept itself now.

Antetokounmpo had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Bucks, but was thoroughly outplayed by Durant in a matchup of NBA MVP winners and sat dejected on the bench early in the fourth quarter with the game long since hopelessly out of reach.

“We feel like we’re better than the way we’re playing and we know that,” guard Jrue Holiday said. “But at this point, we can’t really be down. We’ve got to stay positive.”

Rejuvenated Paul powers Suns past Nuggets in Game 1

Associated Press

PHOENIX — In the opening minutes of Monday night’s game, Chris Paul was bumped on his ailing right shoulder and grimaced for a second. His movements were a little tentative, his shots didn’t look quite right.

Then — seemingly almost out of nowhere — the “Point God” was back.

One mid-range jumper fell and then another. A short floater found the net and then a three-pointer splashed home as the crowd roared. The 11-time All-Star looked like his usual self, the rest of the Suns followed suit and Phoenix rallied for a 122-105 win over the Denver Nuggets in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals.

“It was fun to get out there and be involved,” Paul said. “That last series — that was tough — but I’m glad to be back helping the team.”

Paul and his rejuvenated right shoulder finished with 21 points and 11 assists while Mikal Bridges added a team-high

23 points on 8-for-12 shooting, including 4-for-8 from behind the arc.

The Suns trailed for most of the first half and 70-60 early in the third quarter but rallied to take the lead by late in the third. Devin Booker made a three-pointer and Bridges added a driving layup for a 79-72 advantage.

They pushed the lead to 88-79 going into the fourth. Paul — who played with the hurt shooting shoulder through most of the first round matchup against the Lakers — made back-to-back mid-range jumpers to put the Suns up 94-79 with 10:25 left.

“We felt that energy,” Booker said. “We felt the passion. He just made plays.”

The flurry came much to the delight of the sellout crowd of 16,319, who anxiously watched the point guard’s every move.

“This crowd is crazy,” Paul said. “There’s nothing like it. This is why we fought so hard during the regular season to get home-court advantage.”

Red Sox beat Marlins for 5th straight win

Associated Press

BOSTON — Christian Arroyo hit a two-run single during Boston's three-run fourth inning, and the Red Sox beat the Miami Marlins 5-3 on Monday for their fifth straight victory.

Alex Verdugo added an RBI double and two hits for the Red Sox, who were coming off their first three-game sweep at Yankee Stadium since June 2011.

"I'm a big believer that when you come from that series (in New York), sometimes you have letdowns," Boston manager Alex Cora said. "To win (tonight) meant a lot. They grind, they made pitches."

Starling Marte hit a solo homer and two singles for the

Marlins, who stranded 14 runners during its ninth loss in 10 games.

"I was really proud of the way the club played tonight," Miami manager Don Mattingly said. "We just kept giving ourselves some chances. ... If we play like that with the same sort of intensity, we'll be fine."

The Red Sox are a season-high 14 games over .500 at 37-23.

Hirokazu Sawamura (2-0) got four outs for the win, and Adam Ottavino worked 1½ innings for his third save.

Padres 9, Cubs 4: Manny Machado and Brian O'Grady each homered and had three RBIs to lead host San Diego over Chicago in the opener of a three-

game series between National League contenders.

Machado hit a solo home run and two sacrifice flies. O'Grady had a two-run homer and an RBI single.

Ryan Weathers (3-2) lasted five innings for the win, giving up three runs and five hits while striking out four.

Cubs starter Adbert Alzolay (4-5) left in the fourth with a blister on his right middle finger after walking leadoff batter Tommy Pham, who reached base four times. Alzolay threw 82 pitches in three-plus innings, giving up four runs, five hits and five walks. Ian Happ homered for Chicago.

Angels 8, Royals 3: Max Stas-

si homered and drove in three runs, and the Angels turned Jackson Kowar's major league debut into a nightmare as Los Angeles defeated visiting Kansas City.

Stassi had an RBI single off Kowar (0-1) during a four-run first inning and hit a two-run shot to right-center in the fifth. The Angels catcher, who finished with three hits, has a .318 batting average in 16 games this season. He is 7-for-15 with two home runs and five RBIs since returning last Tuesday from a concussion.

Dylan Bundy (1-6) snapped a 10-game winless streak. He allowed two runs and six hits in 5½ innings.

Oklahoma, FSU advance to play in WCWS championship series

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Giselle Juarez and Oklahoma head into the Women's College World Series final with loads of momentum. Same for Kaley Mudge and Florida State.

The Sooners and Seminoles also know a little something about coming up big in tense situations.

Juarez turned in another gem as Oklahoma beat Odicci Alexander and James Madison 7-1 on Monday. Mudge led the way as Florida State advanced with an 8-5 victory over Alabama.

Oklahoma and Florida State met for Game 1 of the best-of-three championship series Tuesday night. The top-seeded Sooners (54-3) are going for their fifth national title. The 10th-seeded Seminoles (48-11-1) won their only World Series championship in 2018.

Each school followed a similar path to the final. They lost their openers at the Women's College World Series, then reeled off four straight wins in elimination games.

Mudge went 5-for-5 to help Florida State rough up Alabama's Montana Fouts. The star right-hander threw a perfect game against UCLA on Friday, but she struggled against the Seminoles.

Elizabeth Mason connected for a three-run homer in the first, and Mudge's single knocked in Josie Muffley in the second. Ka-

lei Harding tacked on a two-run single in the third, making it 6-0 and chasing Fouts.

Fouts allowed one run in her first two World Series games and had 30 strikeouts without allowing a walk. Mason said patience was the key to solving her.

"Just trying to get the barrel to the ball, see it down," Mason said. "She does spot a couple down in the zone. So just doing our best to lay off the rise ball, and when she does miss, to make sure we're ready for that pitch."

Third-seeded Alabama (52-9) closed to 8-5 with three runs in the fifth, including Bailey Hemphill's two-run homer. But the Seminoles held on.

Hemphill was proud of the rally.

"It could have been a lot worse than 8-0," she said. "We're resilient and gritty. I think we showed that. It was a challenge coming back. I wish we could have come back and won it."

In the early game, Juarez struck out 11 in another stellar performance for Oklahoma.

Behind Alexander's pitching, unseeded James Madison surprised Oklahoma on the opening day of the tournament Thursday. The Sooners won two games on Saturday, and then beat James Madison on Sunday to force the winner-take-all game for a spot in the championship series.

Four more SEC teams advance in regionals

Associated Press

Four more Southeastern Conference teams earned spots in the NCAA baseball tournament super regionals Monday night, while Stanford, Dallas Baptist and the upstart South Florida Bulls also continued their seasons.

No. 1 overall seed Arkansas broke open its game against Nebraska late, got another superb pitching performance from Kevin Kopps and won 6-2 in Fayetteville for its third straight regional title.

The SEC champion Razorbacks, who haven't lost a three-game series since May 2019, won two of three against the Big Ten champion Cornhuskers in the regional.

"It's unbelievable, honestly," Arkansas coach Dave Van Horn said of his team's run, "and I told the team they were amazing. They just keep finding a way and they keep fighting and we get to hang out at least another week."

No. 7 Mississippi State finished a 3-0 run through its regional in Starkville with a 6-5 win over Campbell, and No. 12 Ole Miss bounced back from a Sunday loss to Southern Mississippi to beat the Golden Eagles 12-9 in Oxford.

LSU, a No. 3 regional seed, pushed back coach Paul Mainieri's retirement by at least another week, staving off elimination a fourth time with a 9-8 victory over No. 14 Oregon in Eugene.