

Study: Sex assault risk high for men at Baumholder

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — Male soldiers based at Baumholder in Germany were more at risk of being sexually assaulted than at any other Army post, according to a service-commissioned study that found two other posts in Germany with similar risks.

A Rand Corp. report released Friday examined sexual assault data at U.S. Army bases worldwide and found elevated risks of male sexual assault at Vilseck and Landstuhl in Germany.

Among women, for whom the risks were found to be substantially higher, soldiers at Fort Hood and Fort Bliss in Texas faced the highest risks of sexual assault.

“These findings provide the Army with increased visibility on where exactly risk is consistently high for sexual assault and sexual harassment,” said Jenna Newman, an adviser with the Army Resilience Directorate, in a statement. “It suggests there are location-specific concerns that

require targeted interventions into climate and culture and will require additional research to understand.”

For years, the Army has grappled with how to deal with sexual harassment and assault in the ranks. Last year, the killing of Fort Hood-based Spc. Vanessa Guillén intensified the scrutiny. For women at Fort Hood, risk of assault was nearly a third higher than the average risk faced by all women in the Army, the Rand report said.

Less is generally known about harassment and assault of men in the Army. The Rand study found that sexual assault targeting men runs higher at some overseas installations.

Overall, sexual assault risk for male soldiers is about 0.64%, according to Rand, compared to 5.8% for women. Total risk for men was highest at H.D. Smith Barracks in Baumholder with an estimated 19 incidents in 2018, the year that was analyzed, the report said.

After Baumholder, risk was highest at Fort Polk, La., followed by Vilseck, Fort Richardson, Ark., and Landstuhl Regional

Medical Center, Rand found.

Among the factors known to elevate a soldier’s risk of being assaulted are being single, having a lower education level, being of lower rank and being in a combat unit. That means bases with large combat divisions will generally have higher risk factors. But to take a closer look at risk, Rand also conducted an adjusted analysis to isolate more vulnerable demographics within a given community.

When adjusting for key factors such as age, marital status and education, LRMC rated as the riskiest, followed by Baumholder and Daegu, South Korea, the report said.

Regarding total risk for women, no European installations were in the Army’s 10 highest, although Camp Humphreys in South Korea along with Daegu ranked seventh and eighth. But when adjusting to isolate how higher risk demographics fared, the study found that five of the 10 riskiest U.S. Army posts were overseas, including Daegu, LRMC and Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Officials: Afghan commandos ‘betrayed’ by forces

By J.P. LAWRENCE AND
ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least 21 members of Afghanistan’s special forces died fighting the Taliban last week after Afghan reinforcements failed to show up when the commandos were surrounded by the enemy and pounded by mortar fire, military and government officials said.

Most of the 170 troops who were supposed to back up the elite fighters during a battle in the northern town of Dawlat Abad stayed put out of fear that the operation had been leaked to the Taliban, an Afghan military official with knowledge of the operation said.

“The army did not come, police did not come, NDS did not come,” said the official, who asked to remain anonymous because he was not authorized to speak to the media. NDS is the acronym for the country’s intelligence agency, the National Di-

rectorate of Security.

“The other forces betrayed the commandos,” he said.

The failure to provide air and ground support to their own soldiers underscored fears that the Afghan military will struggle to hold off Taliban attacks when the U.S. completes its withdrawal from the country.

One of the soldiers who died was Maj. Sohrab Azimi, a decorated, U.S.-trained Afghan special forces officer who directed airstrikes on operations around the country. Azimi was posthumously promoted to brigadier general, a statement by the Afghan Defense Ministry said.

Azimi and the other troops were fighting to retake Dawlat Abad, a district center in Faryab province.

The battle plan, which was included in documents reviewed by Stars and Stripes, was to have 50 commandos recapture the town, after which troops from the army,

police and intelligence agency would arrive to secure it and fend off counterattacks.

The special forces defeated a small Taliban force and captured the district center around 6 a.m. Wednesday, the military official said.

But a much larger Taliban unit surrounded Dawlat Abad soon afterward and shelled the commandos, destroying their Humvees with mortar fire, he said.

The trapped soldiers called for ground and air support, but neither materialized, the official said.

While 50 of the soldiers and police who were supposed to provide backup tried to reach the commandos, the large number of Taliban in the town forced them to retreat, he added.

U.S. Forces — Afghanistan declined to say whether they had received requests for air support or if they attempted to help the commandos.

US envoy hopes N. Korea receptive to future talks

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — President Joe Biden's special envoy for North Korea said Monday he hopes to see a positive reaction from the North soon on U.S. offers for talks after the North Korean leader ordered officials to prepare for both dialogue and confrontation.

Sung Kim, Biden's special representative for North Korea, is in Seoul to speak with South Korean and Japanese officials about the U.S.'s stalled diplomacy with the North over its nuclear program and U.S.-led sanctions.

The trilateral talks followed a North Korean political conference last week where leader Kim Jong Un called for stronger efforts to improve his nation's economy, further battered last year by pandemic border closures and now facing worsening food shortages.

After his meeting with senior South Korean diplomat Noh Kyu-duk, the U.S. envoy Sung Kim said the allies took note of the North Korean leader's comments and are hoping the

North will give a "positive response to our proposal for a meeting soon."

Sung Kim spoke later with Noh and Japanese nuclear envoy Takehiro Funakoshi over the stalled push to resolve the nuclear standoff with North Korea. "South Korea and the U.S. will maintain close cooperation to keep the situation in the Korean Peninsula stable and find a way to resume the dialogue with North Korea as soon as possible," Sung Kim told reporters.

North Korea's economic setbacks followed the collapse of Kim Jong Un's ambitious summitry with then-President Donald Trump in 2019, when the Americans rejected the North Koreans' demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of their nuclear capabilities.

Kim Jong Un in recent speeches has threatened to bolster his nuclear deterrent and claimed the fate of diplomacy and bilateral relations depends on whether Washington abandons what he calls hostile policies.

Fort Benning seeks help locating soldier missing on Father's Day

Stars and Stripes

Fort Benning officials were seeking help Monday locating a soldier who went missing from the Georgia base on his first Father's Day as a dad.

"We are looking for information that would lead to the whereabouts of SPC Jared Ziehm," the Benning-based 4th Ranger Training Battalion said in a Facebook post late Sunday.

The base outside Columbus, Ga., is home to the Army's Ranger School, as well as Airborne, armor and infantry training. Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Donahoe posted the plea for help to Twitter early Monday.

Ziehm went missing around 12:30 p.m. when he went to sign in for work, leaving his phone and wallet at home, his wife said in a separate Facebook post earlier in the day.

"He has yet to sign-in or be seen/heard from by anyone," Gussy Ziehm wrote. "He

is in a 2008 red Corolla with black front/back bumpers. He's in a green tie dye Helen shirt with flannel plush pajama pants."

The vehicle's license plate is AYT1142, she said. She had contacted his chain of command, Army Criminal Investigative Command, military police, local hospitals, jails, "any and everyone."

Ziehm had his military ID card and withdrew about \$200 from the couple's joint account, she said.

"I am worried since it's Jared's first Father's Day and we have plans today to celebrate but no one has seen him," she wrote. "I've driven around for an hour and a half and his chain of command is also concerned."

Anyone with information about his possible whereabouts should contact the Airborne and Ranger Training Battalion staff duty at 706-544-6980.

Britain's newest aircraft carrier joins ISIS fight

Associated Press

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA — Britain's newest aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, is helping to take on the "lion's share" of operations against Islamic State in Iraq, U.K. naval commanders said. It has also piqued the interest of Russian warplanes, who try to keep tabs on its cutting-edge F-35 jet in a "cat-and-mouse" game with British and U.S. pilots.

Speaking aboard the 65,000-ton carrier on its first-ever deployment, Commodore Steve Moorhouse said the U.K. is carrying out most of the missions to wipe out the remnants of ISIS in Iraq as the U.S. focuses on its withdrawal from Afghanistan.

"At the moment, we're taking on the lion's share of that operation over Iraq, which is a fantastic, say, feather in our cap. But an achievement that 'A,' we're trusted and 'B,' that we're able to do that," Moorhouse told reporters Sunday.

It's the first time that a U.K. aircraft carrier is supporting live military operations on the ground in over two decades, projecting British military power on a global scale. Moorhouse said the carrier offers the U.K. flexibility in how to conduct military operations abroad and "keeps those that wish to cause us harm ... on their toes."

He said the eastern Mediterranean has become more "congested and contested" over the last decade in light of the heavier Russian military presence in Syria, which is resulting in regular encounters with Russian ships and warplanes.

The state-of-the-art F-35, armed with air-to-air missiles and laser-guided bombs, is being used over Iraq to look for other aircraft or unmanned drones, support troops on the ground as well as to carry out surveillance with its sophisticated sensor and radar systems.

The HMS Queen Elizabeth and its support ships, which include the U.S. destroyer The Sullivans, will remain in the eastern Mediterranean for two to three weeks before moving through the Suez Canal to continue with a 7 1/2-month deployment to India, South Korea and Japan.

Claudette regains tropical storm strength

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Claudette regained tropical storm status as it neared the coast of the Carolinas on Monday, less than two days after the system killed 13 people in Alabama, including eight children who died in a highway crash.

The children who died Saturday were in a van for a home for abused or neglected children when it erupted in flames in the wreck along a wet Interstate 65 about 35 miles south of Montgomery. Butler County Coroner Wayne Garlock said multiple vehicles probably hydroplaned.

The crash also claimed the lives of two people in another vehicle—a 29-year-old Tennessee man and his 9-month-old

daughter. Other people were injured.

Elsewhere, a 24-year-old man and a 3-year-old boy were killed Saturday when a tree fell on their house just outside Tuscaloosa, and a 23-year-old Fort Payne woman died after her car ran off the road into a swollen creek, authorities said.

A search was underway for a man believed to have fallen into the water during flash flooding in Birmingham. Television station WBRC reported that crews were using boats to search Pebble Creek.

By Monday morning, Claudette had maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. The storm was 30 miles south of Norfolk, Va., and moving east-northeast at 28

mph, the National Hurricane Center said.

The system was expected to move into the Atlantic Ocean, then pass near or south of Nova Scotia on Tuesday.

A tropical storm warning was in effect from Cape Fear, N.C., to the town of Duck on the Outer Banks.

About 1 to 2 inches of rain was expected in the Carolinas before Claudette moves out to sea, with isolated flash flooding possible.

The van in Saturday's crash was carrying children ages 4 to 17 who were being cared for at the Tallapoosa County Girls Ranch, a youth home operated by the Alabama Sheriffs Association.

The van was heading back to

the ranch near Camp Hill, northeast of Montgomery, after a week at the beach in Gulf Shores. Ranch Director Candice Gulley was the van's only survivor — pulled from the flames by a bystander.

"Words cannot explain what I saw," Michael Smith, the youth ranch's CEO, said of the accident site, which he visited Saturday. He returned from Gulf Shores in a separate van and did not see the crash when it happened.

Gulley remained hospitalized Sunday in Montgomery in serious but stable condition. Two of the dead in the van were her children, ages 4 and 16. Four others were ranch residents and two were guests, Smith said.

Tornado damages dozens of homes in Chicago suburbs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A radar-confirmed tornado swept through communities in heavily populated suburban Chicago, damaging more than 100 homes, toppling trees, knocking out power and causing multiple injuries, officials said.

At least five people, including a woman who was listed in critical condition, were hospitalized in Naperville, where 16 homes were left "uninhabitable" and dozens of other homes were damaged when a reported tornado touched down after 11 p.m. Sunday, said city spokeswoman Linda LaCloche.

More than 120 other reports of property damage had been received by 5 a.m. Monday in the city about 25 miles west of Chicago and those were expected to grow as residents surveyed the storm damage, she said. About 450 power outages were reported.

"We're lucky that it wasn't worse," LaCloche said Monday morning. "We have a lot of util-

ity poles and electrical wires down, and tree damage."

Video showed several large trees downed and damage to homes and vehicles in the path of the storm. Some gas leaks were reported in Naperville, and crews went door to door shutting off lines, she said.

Officials in the nearby town of Woodridge said a tornado touched down Sunday and a damage assessment was underway.

There were no reports of significant injuries in the community, but people were urged to avoid the area due to downed power lines and trees.

Matt Friedlein, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Romeoville, Ill., said a team from the weather service would be surveying storm damage Monday to determine the tornado's strength and path.

He said the same storm is believed to have rolled through Naperville, Woodridge and Darien, and may have also caused damage in Burr Ridge, about 20 miles southwest of Chicago.

Officials: Deadly Pride parade crash appears to be accidental

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A member of a men's chorus group unintentionally slammed into fellow chorists at the start of a Pride parade in South Florida, killing one member of the group and seriously injuring another, the group's director said Sunday, correcting initial speculation that it was a hate crime directed at the gay community.

Wilton Manors Vice Mayor Paul Rolli and Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis said the early investigation shows it was an accident. The 77-year-old driver was taken into custody, but police said no charges have been filed and the investigation is ongoing.

The elderly driver had ailments that prevented him from walking, according to a statement Sunday from Fort Lauderdale Police, who said he was cooperating with the investigation and that there was no evidence drugs or alcohol was involved.

The driver and the victims were a part of the Fort Lauder-

dale Gay Men's Chorus family, a small 25-member group of mostly older men.

"Our fellow Chorus members were those injured and the driver is also a part of the Chorus family. To my knowledge, this was not an attack on the LGBTQ community," President Justin Knight said.

Fort Lauderdale Police said no arrests have been made and that they are conducting a thorough investigation with the FBI, noting in a statement they are "considering and evaluating all possibilities."

Trantalis, who is Fort Lauderdale's first openly gay mayor, initially told reporters the act was deliberate, adding to the confusion Saturday night.

"It terrorized me and all around me. ... I feared it could be intentional based on what I saw from mere feet away," he said in a Twitter statement Sunday. "As the facts continue to be pieced together, a picture is emerging of an accident in which a truck careened out of control."

Next Iran leader says he won't meet with Biden

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran's president-elect said Monday he wouldn't meet with President Joe Biden nor negotiate over Tehran's ballistic missile program and its support of regional militias, sticking to a hard-line position following his landslide victory in last week's election.

Judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi also described himself as a "defender of human rights" when asked about his involvement in the 1988 mass execution of some 5,000 people. It marked the first time he's been put on the spot on live television over that dark moment in Iranian history at the end of the Iran-Iraq War.

"The U.S. is obliged to lift all oppressive sanctions against Iran," Raisi said at the news conference.

Raisi sat in front of a sea of microphones, most from Iran and countries home to militias supported by Tehran. He looked nervous at the beginning but slowly loosened up over the hour-long news conference.

Asked about Iran's ballistic missile program and its support of regional militias, Raisi described the issues as "non-negotiable."

Tehran's fleet of attack aircraft date largely back to before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, forcing Iran to instead invest in missiles as a hedge against its regional Arab neighbors, who have purchased billions of dollars in American military hardware over the years. Iran also relies on militias like Yemen's Houthis and Lebanon's Hezbollah to counterbalance against enemies like Saudi

Arabia and Israel, respectively.

On meeting Biden, Raisi simply answered: "No." His moderate competitor in the election, Abdolnasser Hemmati, had suggested during campaigning that he'd be potentially willing to meet Biden.

The White House did not immediately respond to Raisi's statements Monday.

Raisi, a protégé of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has been sanctioned by the U.S. in part over his involvement in the mass executions. His victory in the balloting last Friday came amid the lowest turnout in the Islamic Republic's history. Millions of Iranians stayed home in defiance of a vote they saw as tipped in Raisi's favor.

Raisi's election puts hard-liners firmly in control across the

government as negotiations in Vienna continue to try to save a tattered deal meant to limit Iran's nuclear program, at a time when Tehran is enriching uranium at 60% its highest levels ever, though still short of weapons-grade levels.

Top diplomats from nations involved in the talks said that further progress had been made Sunday between Iran and global powers to try to restore a landmark 2015 agreement to contain Iranian nuclear development that was abandoned by the Trump administration. They said it was now up to the governments involved in the negotiations to make political decisions.

Raisi's election victory has raised concerns that it could complicate a possible return to the nuclear agreement.

9 Catalan separatists to be pardoned in Spain

Associated Press

BARCELONA — Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said Monday that the Spanish Cabinet will approve pardons for nine separatist Catalan politicians and activists imprisoned for their roles in the 2017 push to break away from Spain.

Sánchez made the announcement Monday in Barcelona during a speech that was set to lay the road map for the future of the country's northeastern region before a few hundred representatives of the region's civil society. He said that the Cabinet would approve the pardons

Tuesday.

Nine separatist leaders were handed lengthy prison sentences for sedition and other crimes linked to a banned secession referendum and for declaring independence a few days later based on its results, even when most unionists boycotted the

vote.

No prominent pro-independence supporters attended Sánchez's speech at Barcelona's opera house. Outside the venue, an anti-establishment Catalan party and the main pro-independence civil society group were holding a protest.

Intact chicken egg from Byzantine era found in Israel

The Washington Post

Chicken eggs are so delicate they might not survive your shopping trip, let alone the journey home.

That explains archaeologists' surprise when they dug up an unbroken chicken egg in a 1,000-year-old cesspit dating from the Byzantine era.

Archaeologists were excavating in Yavne, Israel, where they've been digging into the remains of an industrial era, when they came across the egg, which they say is about 1,000 years old.

That a whole egg had been

deposited into a cesspit was noteworthy enough, but the egg's mostly pristine condition (sans yolk, which had leaked out of a small crack in the bottom) was even more striking.

Because of their fragile shells, hardly any whole chicken eggs have been preserved, Lee Perry Gal, an archaeologist with the Israel Antiquities Authority, said in a news release.

Cesspits and sewers aren't the most pleasant places, but they can yield gold for archaeologists. The waste pits often

reveal more about life in bygone societies — and it isn't unusual to find things that aren't related to human waste. Last year, for example, archaeologists in London found 100 artifacts in a 15th-century cesspit. The finds helped shed light on the lives of people who lived in a sumptuous medieval mansion.

The industrial zone is thought to have existed for several centuries. Other artifacts revealed thus far include an intricate 1,600-year-old mosaic thought to have been part of a wealthy residence nearby.

The egg's location seems to have been a lucky coincidence; the soft human waste that surrounded it served to preserve it for the ages. The researchers say that people began farming poultry in Israel about 2,300 years ago, and that poultry protein was especially important during the region's Islamic period, during which pork consumption was banned.

As the egg was excavated, the archaeologists accidentally cracked its shell. Conservators managed to repair it in the lab.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man drew gun on chief's daughter in drive-thru

FL MIAMI GARDENS — An angry Florida man pulled a gun on a drive-thru worker because they forgot the cream cheese with his bagel, according to Miami Gardens Police. The employee just happened to be the daughter of the police chief.

Police said Omar Wright became angry at a Starbucks drive-thru when they messed up his order. He returned to the window, screaming at the alleged victim. She asked whether he had paid for the cream cheese, at which point he became enraged and pulled out a gun, according to an arrest report.

Chief Delma Noel-Pratt told CBS4 that the experience traumatized her 23-year-old daughter. The chief's daughter told police that Wright did not point the gun at her, but she said she feared he would hurt her if she didn't give him the cream cheese.

Man stole U-Haul van, hid tracks with paint

NY VIENNA — A New York man is charged with stealing a U-Haul van after police said he drove it from Florida, kept it three months past the return date and painted the vehicle to hide its identity.

The van, rented in March and reported stolen when it wasn't returned, turned up on a property in Vienna, east of Syracuse.

Police said they found the vehicle during a burglary investigation. The sides were painted with black spray paint to disguise it, but a U-Haul logo could

still be seen at the top of the windshield.

The 25-year-old man from Blossvale was charged with possession of stolen property, criminal mischief and grand larceny.

Bandit who broke into cars is a black bear

NH THORNTON — Surveillance video helped police get to the bottom of a series of vehicle break-ins in Thornton.

Home security footage captured the bandit — a black bear — opening the door of a vehicle and then crawling inside.

Police believe the bear was rummaging for food and that it is responsible for damaging other vehicles. Police warned residents to remove food from their vehicles to avoid enticing the bear.

Fake body found in ditch after 911 call was made

MO MARBLE HILL — Authorities in rural southwest Missouri aren't amused after deputies and firefighters rushed to the scene of possible human body and found clothes stuffed with trash instead.

The Bollinger County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post that someone called 911 after spotting the duct-tape wrapped object in a roadside ditch. A picture taken at the scene shows a pair of worn boots at the end of stuffed coveralls wrapped in a black plastic covering.

The post described what happened as a "disturbing and unnecessary prank."

Bollinger County Sheriff Casey Graham said that whoever

made the fake body could face criminal charges, the Southeast Missourian reported.

7-year-old honored for helping save mom's life

IL CHICAGO — A 7-year-old Chicago boy was honored and showered with gifts for helping save his mother by calling 911 and calmly providing information on her condition as she was suffering a seizure.

Daniel Armani and his family got a tour of the Engine 16 fire station in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood. He got to sit behind the steering wheel of a fire truck and received several gifts, including a plastic fire helmet, a Lego fire truck, a new bicycle and a bike helmet.

Daniel, who goes by D.J., called 911 on May 30 as his mother was having an epileptic seizure. He then calmly and coolly relayed critical information while comforting his mother, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

4 rescued on sinking boat 32 miles off coast

VA WACHAPREAGUE — The Coast Guard rescued four people on a boat taking on water and sinking about 32 miles off Virginia's Eastern Shore.

After receiving a report via VHF-FM radio, the Coast Guard dispatched boats and a helicopter from stations at Wachapreague and Chincoteague, Va., and Elizabeth City, N.C. A crew transferred a pump to the sinking boat and took the vessel under tow. Six hours later, the vessel was moored in Wachapreague, where it was later trailered. No injuries were reported.

It's important to have a working VHF-FM radio and make sure everyone on board is wearing life jackets, Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Butierries, the search and rescue mission coordinator at Coast Guard Sector Virginia, said in a news release.

"Situations can change very quickly while you're out on the water, which is why it's so important to have the requisite safety equipment in case of an emergency," Butierries said.

WMBF-TV reported that the Darlington County Historical Commission and Clemson Professor Jim Frederick located the five graveyards near Dargan's Pond on current Clemson property.

Forgotten cemeteries found by historians

SC DARLINGTON — South Carolina historians are trying to shed light on five forgotten cemeteries in the state's Pee Dee region.

The experts identified two African American cemeteries, two Native American burial grounds and a graveyard that dates back to the Revolutionary War. One of the sites is the cemetery of Capt. William Standard, who was deeded land in Darlington County for his heroic service during the war.

The pair of Native American burial grounds could date back more than 500 years, and one of the African American cemeteries is connected to one of the county's oldest African American church congregations, the historians said.

— From wire reports

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Watch the birdies: Rahm wins U.S. Open

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Whether it was destiny or karma was of no relevance to Jon Rahm. He won the U.S. Open on Sunday at Torrey Pines, the perfect time and the perfect place to become a major champion.

How it unfolded was beyond his dreams.

One shot behind and running out of holes, Rahm made a sweeping, left-to-right birdie putt from 25 feet on the 17th hole to tie for the lead, and closed with another bending 18-foot birdie putt that gave him a one-shot victory over hard-luck Louis Oosthuizen.

No one had ever birdied the last two holes to win the U.S. Open by one shot in the previous 120 editions of the toughest test in golf until Rahm's storybook finish.

"It had to happen in a beautiful setting like this," he said.

At Torrey Pines, where he made a 50-foot eagle putt on the final hole to clinch his first PGA Tour victory.

On Father's Day, with his 10-week-old son in his arms and his father having flown in from Spain to witness his son winning his first major to return to No. 1 in the world.

And just two weeks after his six-shot lead was wiped out at the Memorial because of a positive COVID-19 test that knocked him out of the tournament and cut into his U.S. Open preparations.

"It felt like such a fairy tale story that I knew it was going to have a happy ending," Rahm said after those two career-changing birdies gave him a 4-under 67. "I could just tell, going

down the fairway after that first tee shot, that second shot, and that birdie, I knew there was something special in the air. I could just feel it.

"I just knew that I could do it and believed it."

He picked up two prizes Sunday. First, he cradled young Ke-pa when he walked off the 18th green with the roars still ringing in his ears. Then, he hoisted that silver U.S. Open trophy, the first champion from Spain.

Rahm was on the practice range when Oosthuizen, who fell two shots behind with a most untimely tee shot into the canyon that led to bogey on the 17th hole, failed to hole out his wedge for eagle at the end.

"Little man, you have no idea what this means right now," Rahm said to his son. "You will soon enough."

The final round was so tight that six players had a share of the lead at some point, and there were 10 players separated by a single shot.

Four players who were within one shot of the lead on the back nine made double bogeys, a list that included a shocking meltdown by defending champion Bryson DeChambeau.

No one was immune from trouble. Oosthuizen, who had a two-shot lead after his 30-foot birdie putt on No. 10, was the last to fall.

Trailing by one shot, Oosthuizen drove into the canyon left of the 17th fairway for a bogey that left him two shots behind, and then he missed the fairway on the par-5 18th that kept him from going for the green for an eagle to force a playoff.

He settled for a birdie and a 71.

Hawks take Game 7 from 76ers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Trae Young ripped off his jersey and bounded up the steps to toss his dad the souvenir from the first Game 7 road victory in Hawks history.

Young's going to need a new uniform.

He shook off a cold shooting night and improbably helped Atlanta become road warriors one more time, and now the Hawks are taking their stunning turnaround to the Eastern Conference finals.

"We did it in a big way," Young said.

They busted the Process along the way.

Young made a late three-pointer and scored 21 points to help Atlanta win for the third time in the series in Philadelphia, a 103-96 victory over the top-seeded 76ers on Sunday night in Game 7.

The Hawks will open their first East finals since 2015 against the Bucks on Wednesday night in Milwaukee.

"I felt like they were built for this moment tonight to win this game," coach Nate McMillan said.

Atlanta had been 0-9 in Game 7s on the road.

But the Hawks ignored their ignominious history and got one in Philly, where

they already won in Game 1 and Game 5 and knocked out Joel Embiid, Ben Simmons and closed the book on the debated rebuilding plan known as the Process.

"We gave them life from Game 1," 76ers forward Tobias Harris said. "It's a young, hungry team."

How's this for brazen confidence: John Collins, who had 14 point and 16 rebounds, wore for his postgame interview a T-shirt of him dunking on Embiid from Game 6.

Not so deep down, not even Atlanta could have seen this coming, especially in March when the team was 14-20, 11th in the Eastern Conference and fired coach Lloyd Pierce.

Under McMillan, the Hawks turned into birds of prey and Young led a charge into the postseason for the first time since 2017 that kept rolling with a first-round win over New York.

Embiid, the NBA MVP runner-up, Simmons and a high-priced cast of stars were supposed to put upstart Atlanta in its place. It never happened.

Young shook off an otherwise off night from the floor — 5-for-23 — and kept shooting until he hit that three for a 93-87 lead with 2:31 left.

Booker's first triple-double lifts Suns in Game 1

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Devin Booker's first exposure to playoff basketball continues to be a revelation.

Not necessarily for him, but for the rest of the NBA.

Booker had 40 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists for his first career triple-double and the Phoenix Suns overcame Chris Paul's absence to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 120-114 on Sunday in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals.

"I don't understand why everyone's acting surprised at this point," Suns forward Jae Crowder said about Booker's big day. "This is his first time on this stage, but he's capable. He's more than capable. He's more than ready. He prepares like no other."

Paul sat out because of COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Clippers star Kawhi Leonard missed his third straight game because of a sprained right knee.

Tied at 93 to start the fourth, Phoenix went on a 12-2 run and pulled ahead 105-95 on Cam Johnson's dunk with 8:08 remaining.

Roy lifts Vegas to OT win over Montreal

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Vegas goalie Robin Lehner took a rather unconventional method in getting fired up upon being informed he was getting the start in Game 4 of the Stanley Cup semifinal series against the Montreal Canadiens.

Lehner rode the team bus alone to the arena four hours before game time and spent much of his time reading his doubters question him on social media.

How do you like him now?

Lehner stopped 27 shots starting in place of Marc-Andre Fleury, Quebec native Nicolas Roy scored 1:18 into overtime with much of his family present, and the Golden Knights rallied to a 2-1 win Sunday night to even the series at 2-all.

Game 5 is Tuesday night at Vegas.

“I sat for two hours and watch you guys talk (trash) on Twitter on me to get me motivated,” Lehner said. He was referring to the media raising doubts following his only other postseason start in which he allowed seven goals on 37 shots in a second-round series-opening 7-1 loss to Colorado on May 30.

“People act like that I’m not very good, especially in our town,” he added. “It was

very enjoyable on Twitter today. Thank you very much for giving me that motivation.”

Coach Peter DeBoer had no doubt Lehner would respond, and added that his decision to switch goalies had nothing to do with Fleury’s late-game flub on Friday, which led to Josh Anderson scoring the tying goal with 1:55 in Montreal’s 3-2 overtime win. DeBoer was more concerned about fatigue, with Fleury having started 15 of Vegas’ first 16 playoff games.

Brayden McNabb also scored for Vegas, and the Golden Knights turned the tables in Game 4 by rallying from a one-goal deficit two days after blowing two one-goal leads Friday.

Paul Byron scored on a breakaway with 1:05 left in the second period, and Carey Price stopped 19 shots. The Canadiens dropped to 9-2 when scoring first this postseason and lost its first OT decision after winning its first four.

It’s now on Montreal to respond following a loss in which it outplayed Vegas for much of the first two periods, but was unable to convert several scoring opportunities.

“I feel bad for the players. They put a lot of effort in, really played the right way, played real hard,” Canadiens assistant

coach Luke Richardson said, standing in for interim coach Dominique Ducharme, who is in quarantine after testing positive for COVID-19. “We had a few chances to maybe make it 2-0 or 2-1 and we just couldn’t capitalize.”

Former Montreal captain Max Pacioretty — the target of a booing home crowd — played a key role in setting up Roy’s goal. Pacioretty got a shot off by spinning around in the left circle, only to be stopped by Price.

The rebound went directly to Roy in front. Price kicked out his left pad to stop Roy’s initial attempt, but was unable to control the rebound and made a lunging attempt as Roy lifted the shot over the goalie.

Golden Knights forward Alex Tuch thought it fitting in how Lehner and Pacioretty factored in the victory.

“It doesn’t matter what the outside noise is, we just lean on each other. Our confidence comes from within the room,” Tuch said. “Personally, I look up to both those guys and lean on them for a lot of wisdom. They showed up big for us tonight, and that’s what we need and that’s what we’re gonna get out of them I know for sure going forward.”

Yankees beat A’s, turn 3rd triple play in month

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees turned their record-tying third triple play this season to strand the go-ahead run in the ninth inning, bailing out closer Aroldis Chapman and closing down a 2-1 win over the Oakland Athletics on Sunday.

Gary Sánchez spoiled Sean Manaea’s gem with a go-ahead two-run double in the sixth inning, and Jonathan Loaisiga (7-2) and Lucas Luetge turned a 2-1 lead over to Chapman.

Jed Lowrie and Chad Pinder walked, and Sean Murphy grounded to Gio Urshela, who stepped on third and threw to DJ LeMahieu. The second baseman relayed the ball to first to get Murphy by a step.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 4: Reese McGuire had three doubles during a four-hit performance as Toronto won at Baltimore.

Nationals 5, Mets 2: Kyle Schwarber homered three times and tied a major league record with five in a two-game span, and host Washington took three of four from New York.

Indians 2, Pirates 1: Cleveland won at Pittsburgh as Josh Naylor hit an RBI single in the seventh off Chasen Shreve, who had re-

lieved starter JT Brubaker (4-6).

Cardinals 9-0, Braves 1-1: Drew Smyly (4-3) didn’t allow a hit until the sixth inning, Ronald Acuña Jr. hit his 100th career homer, his 19th this season, and host Atlanta earned a split of a day-night doubleheader.

Astros 8, White Sox 2: Dallas Keuchel (6-2) lost in his first appearance against Houston, and Abraham Toro had a career-high four hits, improving to 7-for-11 since his recall from the minor leagues as the Astros won at home.

Royals 7, Red Sox 3: Jarrod Dyson capped a 10-pitch at-bat with a tiebreaking, two-run double in a three-run third inning off Nathan Eovaldi (7-4) to lead host Kansas City.

Cubs 2, Marlins 0: Alec Mills (3-1) and three relievers combined on a six-hitter as host Chicago avoided a sweep after being outscored 21-3 in the previous two days.

Twins 4, Rangers 2: Minnesota’s Byron Buxton launched an early two-run homer into the second deck off Dane Dunning (2-6), a day after returning following 39 games out with a strained right hip, in a win at Texas.

Brewers 7, Rockies 6: Daniel Vogelbach hit a tiebreaking single in the ninth off Daniel

Bard (3-4) as Milwaukee won at Colorado.

Giants 11, Phillies 2: Wilmer Flores had four hits, including two of host San Francisco’s four home runs.

Padres 3, Reds 2: Wil Myers hit a two-run triple off Luis Castillo (2-10) in the third and scored on Joey Votto’s errant throw as host San Diego completed its first four-game sweep of any team since Aug. 18-21, 2011, against Cincinnati.

Mariners 6, Rays 2: Shed Long Jr. hit a grand slam against Diego Castillo (2-4) with two outs in the 10th inning and host Seattle completed a four-game sweep that extended Tampa Bay’s losing streak to six.

Dodgers 9, Diamondbacks 8: Albert Pujols hit a three-run homer and passed Mel Ott for 13th on the career runs scored list, and visiting Los Angeles extended Arizona’s losing streak to 17 games. Pujols’ 673rd home run put the Dodgers ahead 4-0 against Alex Young (2-5).

Tigers 5, Angels 3: Shohei Ohtani hit his 23rd homer, his sixth in six games, but Daz Cameron’s two-run single in the 10th off Raisel Iglesias (4-3) helped Detroit avoid a four-game sweep with a win at Los Angeles.

Felix, 35, on to Olympics for 5th time

Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — Flat on her back, gasping for breath, Allyson Felix kept her eyes on the scoreboard.

When her name came up in the second spot in the 400 meters, she kicked up her heels and covered her face with her hands.

No doubt, this fifth trip to the Olympics is her sweetest.

The 35-year-old mom rallied from fifth at the start of the homestretch to the second-place finish at U.S. track trials. It earned her the chance to win a 10th Olympic medal and break a tie with Jamaica's Merlene Ottey as the most decorated female track athlete in the history of the games.

"I'm just proud of making it to this moment," Felix said after Sunday's race. "There's so much that's gone into this. Many times, I wasn't sure if it was possible. I'm just proud of fighting and making a way somehow."

Running from outside her usual comfort zone, in Lane 8, Felix got off to a fast start and led 100 meters in. Slowly, she lost the lead, lost her grip on the third spot and was fighting just to stay close. But in a closing burst that will likely go down as one her best, she reeled in half the field.

Felix finished in 50.02 seconds, 0.24 behind Quanera Hayes, who also has a 2-year-old, and 0.01 ahead of Wadelin Jonathas.

Larson, Hendrick roll to win

Associated Press

LEBANON, Tenn. — Kyle Larson won his fourth race in seven days then finally headed home to sleep in his own bed.

For a night, anyway.

The busiest driver in motorsports won again Sunday in the Cup debut at Nashville Superspeedway, where Larson drove to NASCAR's victory lane for the fourth consecutive week.

Sandwiched in between his \$1 million victory in the All-Star race at Texas last Sunday and his Cup-leading fourth victory of the season at Nashville were two dirt racing wins in Ohio worth \$6,000 each to the winner. Next up for Larson: Brandon, S.D., for Monday and Tuesday night World of Outlaws races at Huset's Speedway.

"All of the racing helps for everything I do. I win a Cup race and it helps me for dirt racing," Larson said. "I think just racing a lot — I'm in

racing situations more than anybody else in the world, really — but especially in Cup and I think that helps me stay sharp, it helps me be aggressive and understand what things are doing and tracks changing.

"You're just getting into a rhythm and staying in a rhythm when none of these (Cup) guys are getting back in the car until Saturday. I think it's a big advantage for me to be in a car multiple times a week."

Larson led 264 of 300 laps at Nashville for his third consecutive win in a points race, fourth straight including the All-Star race. The Chevrolets from Hendrick Motorsports have won six consecutive weeks dating to Alex Bowman's May 16 win at Dover.

"My goodness, we don't have anything for those Chevrolets right now," said Aric Almirola, the highest-finishing non-Chevrolet driver at fourth in a Ford. He started from the pole.

Michaels, Abbott lead Cavs past Vols

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Logan Michaels gave his dad one of the greatest Father's Day gifts imaginable Sunday.

In his first College World Series at-bat, the light-hitting catcher for Virginia homered for the first time this season. Jeff Michaels, a three-year pancreatic cancer survivor, was there to see his son do it — and more — in the Cavaliers' 6-0 victory over Tennessee.

After the game, television cameras showed a beaming Jeff Michaels holding the treasured ball in the stands behind the Virginia dugout.

"For someone to bring him the home run ball, and obviously for it to happen on Father's Day and at the College World Series — definitely a special moment for our family and for my dad and I," Logan said.

Logan Michaels hit Chad Dallas' hanging breaking ball out to left in the second inning for only his second homer in 343 at-bats since he joined the Cavaliers in 2019. His RBI single to

center began a four-run seventh inning, and he singled and scored Virginia's final run in the ninth.

Virginia (36-25) continued its improbable post-season surge after making the tournament as a No. 3 regional seed. The Cavaliers are the first team since 2008 to make it to Omaha after losing openers in regionals and super regionals. They had to win six elimination games to advance to the CWS for the first time since they won the 2015 national championship.

Mississippi State 2, Texas 1: As Will Bednar's strikeout total kept climbing, it seemed everybody at TD Ameritrade Park was keeping track.

Bednar didn't want to admit it, but he was, too. "Uh, yeah," he said sheepishly when asked. "I wasn't trying to, but I kind of kept peeking up at the board."

The redshirt freshman struck out a career-high 15 over six innings, the most at the College World Series in 25 years, and Mississippi State held off Texas.

Troubled waters, but Manuel prevails in 50 freestyle

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — When Simone Manuel whipped around to see the "1" beside her name, months of emotions came pouring out.

She closed her eyes, brought her hands together in prayer and struggled to hold back the tears.

Abbey Weitzel, the woman she had just beaten, plunged over the lane rope with a

huge smile — so happy for her friend that she didn't mind settling for the runner-up spot Sunday.

The crowd in the stands leaped to its feet, saluting Manuel's perseverance with an ovation that rocked the arena in downtown Omaha.

Days after revealing she was diagnosed with overtraining syndrome, Manuel pro-

vided the most stirring moment of the entire U.S. Olympic swimming trials on its final night by winning the chaotic 50-meter freestyle.

"When I touched the wall, I was literally like, 'Please, God, please!'" she said.

It was all or nothing for Manuel, whose Olympic hopes came down to a frenzied dash from one end of the pool to the other.