

Fewer women choose recruit-starved Army

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Fewer women are choosing to join the Army as the largest military branch struggles through another difficult recruiting year, according to data from the service.

Army recruitment overall has dropped more than 29% since the coronavirus pandemic began in March 2020, with female enlistments down by 31% during the same time, according to data that the Army provided to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services at its most recent meeting.

"Female prospects view the Army as an inferior employer — neither aligned with their aspirations nor providing desired outcomes," according to the Army's slide presentation to the committee, which has provided the Pentagon with recommendations for more than 70 years on how to address the challenges women face

when serving in the military.

Only about 8% of women ages 16 to 24 have a propensity to serve in the military, according to a Defense Department document provided to the advisory committee, which will hold its next meeting June 27.

Though the crisis of sexual assault and harassment in the military attracts a lot of attention, Lorry Manning, a retired Navy captain and board co-chairperson of the nonprofit Service Women's Action Network, said it's not the only factor that affects a woman's decision to join the service.

"The Army has the biggest need for both men and women. It's [by] far the biggest service, so their recruiting job is harder, particularly in times when there's good employment opportunities in the civilian community," she said.

Manning also said the Army could be falling behind in recruit-

ing women because women might be choosing other service branches.

"In some ways, at least in some people's minds, it's kind of glamorous to be in the Marines or the Navy, or the Air Force or Space Force. The Army is something that I don't think is ever viewed as glamorous," she said.

The Army is struggling overall to attract enough recruits.

Last year, the service fell about 15,000 recruits short of its goal of 60,000. This year, the service set a goal of 65,000 recruits and projects it will fall short again.

The Army presentation made in March to the women's advisory committee might also point to another factor — the service does not assign recruiting goals based on gender or racial or ethnic background.

But retention remains high in the Army. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston, the top enlisted

soldier in the service, said Wednesday that the service has already met its goal this year for the number of soldiers it wanted to keep in the ranks.

More so, women are increasingly becoming a larger percentage of the active-duty force despite enlistments being down.

In 2010, women were 13.4% of active-duty soldiers. That percentage has grown slowly each year and has held at 15.5% since 2020.

To combat the drop in recruiting among women, the Army told the advisory committee that it has increased its number of female recruiters and expanded the locations where they work. It also has recruiters who speak 24 different languages, the service said.

The Army has also established a new Women's Initiative Team to advocate for female soldiers, said Madison Bonzo, an Army spokeswoman.

IG: US Army training of Ukrainians fast, but adequate

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The U.S. Army in Germany didn't quite train Ukrainians on artillery up to American military standards, but that's mostly because the seasoned Ukrainian soldiers they worked with had a war to get back to fighting.

The Army adequately taught Ukrainian troops how to use High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, howitzers and other hardware that is part of roughly \$40 billion in U.S. security assistance given to Ukraine since Russia's invasion last February, the Defense Department Inspector General said.

The 7th Army Training Command developed more than two dozen operating and maintenance programs, which it offered to Ukrainians at sites in Germany between April and December last year.

"Based on our analysis of the training provided and platforms approved for transfer to

Ukraine, we did not identify any instance when the 7th ATC did not provide (Ukraine)-requested operational or maintenance training," the IG said in a report released Thursday.

"We did not identify any critical gaps in [the] training," the report added.

Officials with the 7th ATC said they didn't train the Ukrainian troops "to U.S. Army standards or doctrine" because the Ukrainians weren't in Germany long enough to do so. For example, advanced individual training for a howitzer cannon crew member in the U.S. lasts seven weeks, while the instruction given to the Ukrainians was said to be just six days.

An unnamed Ukrainian official mentioned in the report said the short duration was sufficient, as most of the trainees were experienced fighters who only required familiarization with the systems.

The 7th ATC said their programs focused on critical tasks and skills needed to maintain and

operate the systems so that the troops could return quickly to the battlefield. Other platforms included Stinger shoulder-mounted rocket launchers, Q-64 Sentinel radar, Puma aerial drones and precision-guided munitions.

The training was given at the Grafenwoehr Training Area and Hohenfels Army Barracks in Bavaria. The type of training, total classes provided and number of trainees were redacted in the inspector general's report.

The most significant challenge to the Army's training programs was said to be the lack of manuals and other materials translated into Ukrainian. However, as of January — a month after the period the report examines — material for 15 of the 17 platforms had been translated. The Ukrainians did not request materials for the remaining two for reasons that weren't specified.

The IG said it had no recommendations following the audit but would continue to examine the Defense Department's training.

Bill with pay boost for junior troops advances

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Junior enlisted troops would see a big pay raise in a proposed \$826 billion defense spending bill for 2024 approved Thursday by Republicans on the House Appropriations Committee.

The Fiscal Year 2024 Defense Appropriations Bill, an annual must-pass law that funds the Pentagon and some intelligence agencies, would boost pay by an average of 30% for most troops below E-5, according to Republican appropriators. But the bill also includes efforts aimed at ending several Pentagon policies that many conservatives have derided as “woke,” such as providing travel funds for troops seeking abortions and implementation of various diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

The bill would boost defense spending about \$286 million above President Joe Biden’s 2024

budget request. It was approved — alongside funding bills for other parts of the federal government — by the House Appropriations Committee on Thursday in a 33-27 party line vote. The vote sends the bill to the full House for consideration.

The bill instructs the defense secretary to conduct an unprecedented overhaul of military pay tables for junior enlisted soldiers. It comes as the Pentagon has long struggled with poverty-level pay for its most junior troops, especially those with families. In 2019, for example, some 22,000 service members qualified for federal food benefits, according to the Agriculture Department.

The bill would set base pay higher for most troops below E-5 and for some as high as E-6. For an E-2, it would increase monthly base pay from \$1,917.63 to \$2,799.20. It boosts pay for E-4s with six years of service from

\$3,039.15 per month to \$3,210.30. It would also increase pay for E-5s with four or less years of service and E-6s with less than two years in the military. The bill would also fund a 5.2% pay raise for all troops, which would come in addition to the increased base pay for junior enlisted troops mandated by the legislation.

But proposals within the bill that could block diversity policies at the Pentagon already are being challenged by House Democrats.

More so, the bill in its current form might find even greater opposition in the Democrat-led Senate, and President Joe Biden could veto the legislation if it made it that far.

Democrats on Thursday railed against certain measures in the bill including proposals that would block funding climate-focused initiatives, prohibit medical procedures for transgender service members, block funds for

any efforts deemed to “promote or advance Critical Race Theory,” and defund the position of deputy inspector general for diversity and inclusion and extremism in the military. The bill also would stop the Pentagon from providing expense reimbursement for troops who travel out of state for reproductive care, including abortions, after several states passed recent laws restricting the procedure.

Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn., said the bill attacks the LGBTQ+ community “with hateful provisions” and puts politics ahead of national security.

“It is regrettable that the Republican majority has produced a defense appropriations bill that would undermine our military’s readiness and leave us less secure in the world, not more,” McCollum, the top Democrat on the defense appropriations subcommittee, said Thursday.

At BALTOPS, Navy tests drone boat to rescue pilot

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The U.S. Navy in Europe is experimenting with using ready-made, inexpensive unmanned boats to help rescue sailors, a method officials say will limit the risk inherent in many search-and-rescue operations at sea.

A commercial, remote-controlled speedboat was used to test the rescue of a pilot at sea for the first time as a part of the annual U.S.-led international sea exercise BALTOPS, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet said in a statement Wednesday.

The two-week exercise, which included the U.S., Britain, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Turkey and 13 other countries, ended Friday.

Using an unmanned surface vehicle, or drone boat, would allow the fleet to act quickly while eliminating the need to put more people and assets in harm’s way, especially in poor weather conditions or during combat, Joe Klein, the personnel recovery program manager for NAVEUR-AF, said in the statement.

“The military in general is working on building a capability to recover aviators who go down in high-threat areas, where we’ve been denied access. The (unmanned surface vehicle) is a possible solution to that dilemma,” Klein said.

The drone boat also could be used in other scenarios, such as rescuing an overboard sailor, according to its Florida-based manufacturer, MARTAC Systems.

20 years for sailor who sold illegal machine guns in Va.

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

A 28-year-old Navy master-at-arms was sentenced Tuesday to 20 years in prison for owning and selling unregistered machine guns from his Virginia home, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Tate Adamiak was convicted in October on five counts related to owning and selling illegal firearms after authorities found dozens of weapons, including anti-tank missile launchers and grenade launchers, in his Virginia Beach home.

At the time of his crimes, Adamiak was working as part of the Navy’s law enforcement community and assigned to the USS John F. Kennedy, a yet-to-be-

commissioned aircraft carrier located in Newport News, Va., according to service records.

As a master at arms, he provided physical security of ships and bases.

The Navy said Thursday that Adamiak is still employed but declined to say whether it has begun the process to discharge him.

“Due to privacy concerns, we do not comment on personnel actions,” a Navy spokesperson said.

Adamiak obtained illegal machine guns that were not registered, and he sold them online between October 2021 and April 2022, according to court records. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives purchased eight machine guns from him through a confidential source.

UK: Russia, Ukraine both suffer heavy casualties

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia and Ukraine are suffering high numbers of military casualties as Ukraine fights to dislodge the Kremlin's forces from occupied areas in the early stages of its counteroffensive, British officials said Sunday.

Russian losses are probably at their highest level since the peak of the battle for Bakhmut in March, U.K. military officials said in their regular assessment.

According to British intelligence, the most intense fighting has centered on the southeastern Zaporizhzhia province, around Bakhmut and further west in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk province. While the update reported that Ukraine was on the offensive in these areas and had "made small advances," it said that Russian forces were conducting "relatively effective defensive operations" in Ukraine's south.

The Ukrainian military said in a regular update Sunday morning that over the previous 24 hours Russia had carried out 43 airstrikes, four missile strikes and 51 attacks from multiple rocket launchers.

According to the statement by the General Staff, Russia continues to concentrate its efforts on offensive operations in Ukraine's industrial east, focusing attacks around

Bakhmut, Avdiivka, Marinka and Lyman in the country's Donetsk province, with 26 combat clashes taking place.

Donetsk regional Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said that two civilians were killed, with a further three wounded in the past day.

Ukrainian officials said Russian forces also launched airstrikes on other regions of the east and south of the country.

One civilian was killed and four more wounded in Kherson province as a result of Russia's attacks, said regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin, while Zaporizhzhia regional Gov. Yuri Malashko said one person was wounded in Russian attacks that hit 20 settlements in the province.

Vladimir Rogov, an official with the Moscow-appointed administration in the partially occupied Zaporizhzhia region, said Sunday that Ukrainian forces had taken control of the village of Piatykhatky on the Zaporizhzhia battlefield.

Serhiy Bratchuk, spokesperson of the regional government in the southwestern Odesa province, said Ukrainian forces destroyed a "very significant" ammunition depot near the Russian-occupied port city of Henichesk in nearby Kherson province.

"Our armed forces dealt a good blow in the morning," Bratchuk said.

Heat wave has southern states in stifling temps

Associated Press

Communities from Houston to New Orleans opened cooling centers to bring relief as steamy hot temperatures settled across a broad swath of the U.S. South on Saturday, and beachgoers fled a waterspout that swept ashore on a Florida beach.

Gov. Greg Abbott, meanwhile, visited Perryton in the Texas Panhandle, where officials said more than 1,000 customers were left without electricity after a tornado killed three people late Thursday. The Perryton Ochiltree Chamber of Commerce said it would open a cooling center in the town of 8,000 people, about 115 miles northeast of Amarillo, to counteract the effects of the high temperatures that followed the storm.

"At times of events like these, Texans come together," Abbott told reporters as he signed a disaster declaration that he said would "trigger all the resources the state can bring to bear ... to accelerate the ability to rebuild."

The Republican governor said he was shocked to see how much of the town had been destroyed and praised what he called "non-stop heroic efforts by health care providers" who he said treated 160 injured people at the local hospital that has just 25 beds.

The National Weather Service issued excessive heat warnings through Saturday night along the Gulf Coast from Brownsville, Texas, to Houston. It said heat indexes ranging from near 115 degrees Fahrenheit in Houston to near 120 F at Brownsville and Corpus Christi in Texas. Cooling shelters were set up in cities along the coast and farther inland for residents left without electricity.

Two women and an 11-year-old boy died when the tornado slammed into Perryton. On Saturday, authorities upgraded the intensity of the twister to EF-3, saying it packed winds of up to 140 mph.

Storm-related power outages were also reported in East Texas late Friday, ahead of a weekend promising sweltering days of high temperatures and high humidity.

In Louisiana, the National Weather Service projected daytime temperatures through Monday at about 94 F with high humidity and heat index values as high as 112 F.

The City of New Orleans opened cooling centers and hydration stations and advised residents to take extra precautions if they were spending time outside.

Microsoft says June disruptions to Outlook, cloud were cyberattacks

Associated Press

BOSTON — In early June, sporadic but serious service disruptions plagued Microsoft's flagship office suite — including the Outlook email and OneDrive file-sharing apps — and cloud computing platform. A shadowy hacktivist group claimed responsibility, saying it flooded the sites with junk traffic in distributed denial-of-service attacks.

Initially reticent to name the cause, Microsoft has now disclosed that DDoS attacks by the murky upstart were indeed to blame.

But the software giant has offered few details — and did not immediately comment on how many customers were affected and whether the impact was global. A spokeswoman confirmed that the group

that calls itself Anonymous Sudan was behind the attacks. It claimed responsibility on its Telegram social media channel at the time. Some security researchers believe the group to be Russian.

Microsoft's explanation in a blog post Friday evening followed a request by The Associated Press two days earlier. Slim on details, the post said the attacks "temporarily impacted availability" of some services. It said the attackers were focused on "disruption and publicity" and likely used rented cloud infrastructure and virtual private networks to bombard Microsoft servers from so-called botnets of zombie computers around the globe.

Microsoft said there was no evidence any customer data was accessed or compromised.

Shutdown fears rise as GOP seeks cuts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Speaker Kevin McCarthy's bid to appease Republican hard-liners and get the House moving again after a recent party rebellion on the floor has some Democrats warning of a difficult road ahead when it comes to passing legislation that will keep the government running.

Republicans teed up votes this past week on guns and on censuring one of former President Donald Trump's most prominent critics, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif. Those votes helped get the House moving again, though the latter effort failed, with Schiff helped by some 20 Republicans.

The most consequential move of the week, however, was an

announcement from GOP leadership that arrived with little fanfare. Republicans said they plan to pursue appropriations bills, which fund government programs and agencies, with less spending than the top-line numbers they agreed to in a deal with the White House last month. That compromise avoided what would have been an unprecedented federal default.

McCarthy argued that the numbers he negotiated with the White House amount to a cap and "you can always do less." GOP Rep. Kay Granger, of Texas, who leads the House Appropriations Committee, followed with a statement that said she would seek to limit nondefense spending at 2022 budget levels, saying the debt agreement "set

a top-line spending cap — a ceiling, not a floor."

The announcements delighted Republicans who had criticized McCarthy, R-Calif., and opposed the debt ceiling legislation because they felt that agreement allowed too much spending. But it drew immediate pushback from Democrats who say an attempt to circumvent the debt ceiling agreement's top-line numbers effectively guarantees a standoff with the Senate and White House and possibly even a damaging government stoppage when funding expires this fall.

"It is a prelude to a shutdown — what they are engineering," said Connecticut Rep. Rosa DeLauro, the top Democrat on the House Appropriations Commit-

tee.

The emerging dynamic raises the potential for another round of economy-rattling brinkmanship in Washington just months after lawmakers narrowly avoided a damaging federal default.

Partial government shutdowns have become increasingly common in the modern era, with the longest coming under President Donald Trump as he demanded money for a U.S.-Mexico border wall. With President Joe Biden facing down the Republican-controlled House as he runs for reelection in 2024 and some conservatives openly dismissive of the damage a shutdown can cause, the spending fight appears nearly certain to escalate.

Blinken in China on mission to cool tensions

Associated Press

BEIJING — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Sunday kicked off two days of high-stakes diplomatic talks in Beijing aimed at trying to cool exploding U.S.-China tensions that have set many around the world on edge.

Blinken opened his program by meeting Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang for an extended discussion to be followed by a working dinner. He'll have additional talks with Qin, as well as China's top diplomat

Wang Yi and possibly President Xi Jinping, on Monday.

Neither Blinken nor Qin made any substantive comments to reporters as they began the meeting.

Despite Blinken's presence in China's capital, prospects for significant breakthroughs are slim, as already strained ties have grown increasingly fraught in recent years. Animosity and recriminations have escalated over a series of disagreements that have implications for global security

and stability.

Blinken is the highest-level American official to visit China since President Joe Biden took office and the first secretary of state to make the trip in five years.

Biden and Xi agreed to Blinken's trip early at a meeting last year in Bali. It came within a day of happening in February but was delayed by the tumult brought on by the discovery of what the U.S. says was a Chinese spy balloon flying across the U.S. that was shot down.

Eviction filings up for some over pre-pandemic era

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Entering court using a walker, a doctor's note clutched in his hand, 70-year-old Dana Williams, who suffers serious heart problems, hypertension and asthma, pleaded to delay eviction from his two-bedroom apartment in Atlanta.

Although sympathetic, the judge said state law required him to evict Williams and his 25-year-old daughter De'mai Williams in April because they owed \$8,348 in unpaid rent and fees on their \$940-a-month apartment.

They have been living in limbo ever since.

They moved into a dilapidated Atlanta hotel room with water dripping through the bathroom ceiling, broken furniture and no refrigerator or microwave. But at \$275-a-week, it was all they could afford on Williams' \$900 monthly social security check and the \$800 his daughter gets biweekly from a state agency as her father's caretaker.

"I really don't want to be here by the time his birthday comes" in August, De'mai Williams said. "For his health, it's just not right."

The Williams family is among millions of

tenants from New York state to Las Vegas who have been evicted or face imminent eviction.

After a lull during the pandemic, eviction filings by landlords have come roaring back, driven by rising rents and a long-running shortage of affordable housing. Most low-income tenants can no longer count on pandemic resources that had kept them housed, and many are finding it hard to recover because they haven't found steady work or their wages haven't kept pace with the rising cost of rent, food and other necessities.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Town bans Pride flags on public property

MI HAMTRAMCK — A Detroit-area community has banned LGBTQ+ flags from publicly owned poles after an hourslong meeting that raised questions about discrimination, religion and the town's reputation for welcoming newcomers.

Some members of the all-Muslim council said the Pride flag clashes with the beliefs of some members of their faith. Businesses and residents aren't prohibited from displaying a Pride flag on their own property.

"We want to respect the religious rights of our citizens," Choudhury said.

Hamtramck, population 27,000, is an enclave surrounded by Detroit. More than 40% of residents were born in other countries, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, and a significant share are of Yemeni or Bangladeshi descent.

The council voted unanimously to display only five flags, including the American flag, the Michigan flag and one that represents the native countries of immigrant residents.

GOP senators end 6-week walkout after agreements

OR SALEM — Ending a walkout that held up key bills for six weeks, Republicans showed up for work in the Oregon Senate after wresting concessions from Democrats on measures covering abortion, transgender health care and gun rights.

The Republican boycott, which prevented the state Sen-

ate from reaching a two-thirds quorum needed to pass bills, was prompted by a sweeping measure on abortion and gender-affirming care that Republicans called too extreme. The measure would allow doctors to provide abortions regardless of a patient's age, with medical providers not required to notify the parents of a minor in certain cases.

As part of the deal to end the walkout, Democrats agreed to change language concerning parental notifications for abortion.

Morgue manager indicted in sale of body parts

PA SCRANTON — A former manager at the Harvard Medical School morgue, his wife and three other people have been indicted in the theft and sale of human body parts, federal prosecutors in Pennsylvania announced.

Cedric Lodge, 55, of Goffstown, N.H., stole dissected portions of cadavers that were donated to the school in the scheme that stretched from 2018 to early 2023, according to court documents. The body parts were taken without the school's knowledge or permission, authorities said, adding that the school has cooperated with the investigation.

Lodge sometimes took the body parts — which included heads, brains, skin and bones — back to his home where he lived with his wife, Denise, 63, and some remains were sent to buyers through the mail, authorities said. Lodge also allegedly allowed buyers to come to the morgue to pick what remains they wanted to buy.

Governor signs grocery tax reduction into law

AL MONTGOMERY — Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed legislation to reduce Alabama's sales tax on groceries.

The cut will reduce the state's 4% tax on groceries to 3% on Sept. 1. The tax will drop to 2% on Sept. 1, 2024, but only if tax collections to the Education Trust Fund rise at least 3.5% to offset the loss. If that growth requirement isn't met, the tax would be reduced to 2% in the next year that the growth requirement is satisfied.

Alabama is one of only three states that tax groceries at the same rate as other purchases. Advocates had long argued that taxing food at such a rate placed an unfair burden on families in the state, where 16% of the people live in poverty and the median household income hovers around \$54,000.

Protesters drop pants to protest climate change

MA BOSTON — Climate change protesters dropped their pants at the Massachusetts Statehouse during a debate on a proposed tax relief package to bring attention to what they say is the need for swifter action against the use of fossil fuels.

Protesters stood, turned their backs to the Senate chamber and lowered their pants to reveal letters that spelled out "STOP PASSING GAS!" on their bare backsides.

The protesters were all wearing pink thongs.

The eight protesters were

chanting and disrupting the Senate session, according to state police investigators.

After being warned that they were subject to arrest, the protesters refused to leave and were placed under arrest and escorted out of the chamber, investigators said. They were charged with trespassing on state property, disorderly conduct and indecent exposure.

The senators then returned and continued their debate.

Amazon debuts its headquarters complex

VA ARLINGTON — Amazon unveiled the first phase of its new headquarters complex in Virginia, a pair of gleaming, amenity-packed office towers that its leaders hope will persuade employees accustomed to working from home during the pandemic to happily return to the office.

The grand opening of the Met Park office complex in Arlington's Crystal City neighborhood near the nation's capital marks the biggest milestone in the headquarters project since the company announced in 2018 that it would build a second headquarters complex in northern Virginia to complement its existing headquarters in Seattle.

Initially, plans for the "HQ2" project called for Amazon to bring 25,000 jobs each to northern Virginia and New York City.

But opposition to the incentive package in New York helped derail those plans, and the Arlington complex became the sole site for HQ2.

— From wire reports

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Fowler, Clark tied for lead in US Open

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Rickie Fowler only had 3½ feet left for par on what should have been his last shot Saturday in a U.S. Open round filled with far bigger moments. At stake was his first 54-hole lead in a major. Shockingly, he missed and slipped into a tie with Wyndham Clark.

Fowler wasn't the least bit bothered.

He knows what to expect by looking ahead at a final round on a Los Angeles Country Club course getting tougher by the minute, and by looking behind at some of the players chasing them — Rory McIlroy, Scottie Scheffler, Dustin Johnson.

"It would be nice for that one to go in," Fowler said. "Really doesn't matter — having the lead, being one back, two back — you're going to have to play good golf tomorrow. Bummer to have that one slip away, but tomorrow is a whole new day.

"That's kind of when the tournament really starts."

Fowler brought the buzz to the U.S. Open with a 70-foot birdie putt only to lose the lead with a three-putt bogey on the 18th hole, which turned a two-shot lead into a tie for the lead when Clark boldly took on a tight pin he could barely see for a closing birdie.

Clark's birdie put him — and not McIlroy — in the final group. And he knew it.

"I wanted to be in the final group. Every shot matters out here," Clark said.

For all the drama over the final hour — big putts, Scheffler's eagle-birdie finish, Xander Schauffele going from a crash to a recovery to another crash — McIlroy played a steady hand with one birdie and one bogey over his final 14 holes.

He had a 69 that left him one shot behind, poised to end nine long years without a major.

"It's nice to be in the hunt," McIlroy said.

Fowler had to settle for an even-par 70. Clark escaped big trouble from the barranca right

of the 17th green with a 6-foot bogey putt to stay close, and then boldly took on a tight left pin at the 18th for a 6-foot birdie and a 69.

They were at 10-under 200.

The final hour brought a surprise at every turn. A long day of blazing sunshine baking the North course at Los Angeles Country Club gave way to the infamous marine layer that brought out some sweatshirts late in the day.

Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the world, never looked to be in the mix until he closed out his round of 68 by holing a 7-iron from 196 yards on the 17th hole and making a 20-foot birdie that put him in the penultimate group with McIlroy.

For so many others, it didn't take much to lose ground.

Schauffele began his round by taking three shots to get out of a fairway bunker, making three bogeys in five holes, only to get it all back before losing ground at the end with a series of poor drives. He was at 73, five

shots back.

Harris English kept pace with the leaders until he missed short putts, big drives and ended his day with a chip shot from the deep collar around the 18th green that didn't move the ball. His fourth bogey of the back nine gave him a 71, leaving him four shots behind.

The final hour saved what had been a stale atmosphere among the glitz of LA, with just about everyone playing a part. The five players within five shots of the lead included three major champions who have been No. 1 in the world — McIlroy, Scheffler and Johnson (71).

This is the third time Fowler has been in the final group at a major. This is only the third time Clark has played in the final round of a major. He showed plenty of mettle, following consecutive bogeys with a birdie on the 13th — right after Fowler wowed the gallery with his 70-footer — and smartly took a penalty drop on the 17th before a closing bogey.

Wake offense comes alive; Skenes leads way for LSU

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Danny Corona hit a go-ahead two-run single in the eighth inning to roust a dormant Wake Forest offense, and the Demon Deacons opened their first College World Series in 68 years with a 3-2 win over Stanford on Saturday.

The No. 1 national seed Deacons were held to three hits and one run before storms in the area caused a 1-hour, 28-minute delay in the seventh inning.

When play resumed, the Deacons were able to squeeze out enough production to win their first game in Omaha since they won the national championship here in 1955.

"We call ourselves the king of delay," Brock Wilken said. "Every time we have a delay we

come out with so much energy, and our vibe is immediately switched."

Wake Forest turned a double play to end the game, prompting closer Camden Minacci to pump both of his fists and do a little dance in front of the mound while infielders did jumping chest bumps.

The Deacons will play Monday against LSU to determine control of Bracket 2. Stanford plays Tennessee in an elimination game.

Paul Skenes struck out 12 and carried a shutout into the eighth inning before Tennessee broke through, and LSU held on to beat its SEC rival 6-3 in the second game on Saturday.

The big right-hander's fastball touched 100 mph or more 46

times as he ran his season strikeout total to 200, the first college pitcher to reach that mark in 12 years.

Skenes kept Tennessee batters off-balance by often starting them off with his secondary pitches — changeups, sliders and curves — rather than his devastating fastball. Coach Jay Johnson said pitching coach Wes Johnson adjusted the way he called pitches when they noticed the first few batters sitting on fastballs and making good contact.

"You could tell they were trying to jump him," Jay Johnson said, adding that batters must make their decision to swing early if they're going to catch up to Skenes' heater.

"If he starts throwing his

changeup, there's not much you can do," he said. "The execution was pretty elite."

Projected to be picked second overall behind teammate Dylan Crews in the amateur draft next month, Skenes recorded double-digit strikeouts for the 14th time in 18 starts.

In the first game, Seth Keener, the third of four Wake pitchers, struck out four of the five batters he faced and earned the win.

For four innings, Stanford starter Joey Dixon held down an offense that outscored its first five NCAA Tournament opponents 75-16 — the biggest run differential ever for a team heading into a CWS — and averaged 9.4 runs per game for the season.

WVU's Huggins resigns after DUI arrest

Associated Press

West Virginia basketball coach Bob Huggins has resigned a day after his arrest on suspicion of drunken driving in the latest incident in a Hall of Fame career that imploded quickly.

The university announced the resignation Saturday night. It came a month after the university suspended him for three games for using an anti-gay slur while also denigrating Catholics during a radio interview.

The 69-year-old Huggins leaves as the third-winningest coach in Division I with 935 career victories, behind only Mike Krzyzewski of Duke (1,202) and Jim Boeheim of Syracuse (998), both of whom are retired. Unlike the others, Huggins had no national titles, taking Cincinnati to the Final Four in 1992 and West Virginia in 2010.

Huggins had 16-year stints each with the Bearcats and Mountaineers. Both ended in the aftermath of arrests for drinking and driving.

Huggins was charged with

driving under the influence on Friday night after his SUV had stopped in the middle of traffic in Pittsburgh with a shredded tire and the driver's side door was open at about 8:30 p.m. According to a criminal complaint, a breath test determined Huggins' blood alcohol content was more than twice the legal limit.

Huggins was charged with driving under the influence, released from custody and will appear at a later date for a preliminary hearing, according to a police report.

In a statement to the West Virginia community on Saturday night, Huggins said: "Today, I have submitted a letter to President Gordon Gee and Vice President and Director of Athletics Wren Baker informing them of my resignation and intention to retire as head men's basketball coach at West Virginia University effective immediately."

In a separate statement Saturday night, West Virginia's athletic department said it accepted the resignation "in light

of recent events.

"We support his decision so that he can focus on his health and family. On behalf of West Virginia University, we share our appreciation for his service to our University, our community and our state."

No replacement was immediately named for Huggins. The athletic department statement said that "in the days ahead, we will focus on supporting the student-athletes in our men's basketball program and solidifying leadership for our program."

Huggins said his recent actions do not represent the university's values or the leadership expected in his role as coach.

"While I have always tried to represent our University with honor, I have let all of you — and myself — down," he said. "I am solely responsible for my conduct and sincerely apologize to the University community — particularly to the student-athletes, coaches and staff in our program. I must do better, and I plan to spend the next few

months focused on my health and my family so that I can be the person they deserve."

Huggins added that it was "the honor of my professional career" to lead the team at his alma mater. Born in Morgantown, he said it "will always be my home, and I will always be a Mountaineer. Thank you to everyone who has supported our program over the years. It has meant more to me and my family than you could ever know."

Friday night, officers directed Huggins to move off the road so they could help with the tire, then activated their lights when they observed Huggins having trouble maneuvering the SUV to allow vehicles to pass. Upon questioning, officers suspected he was intoxicated and asked him to exit the vehicle. The report said he failed standard field sobriety tests, was taken into custody without incident and transported for further testing.

It was Huggins' second such arrest. The other occurred in 2004, when he was the head coach at Cincinnati.

Grizzlies' title hopes take hit with Morant suspended

Associated Press

The Memphis Grizzlies put their future and title hopes in the hands of Ja Morant.

With Morant suspended, so are the franchise's championship plans.

The NBA has sidelined Morant for the first 25 games of the upcoming season. The suspension Friday of Memphis' franchise player was not unexpected for an organization that has made headlines for players' off-court issues and on-court antics.

The association still is a league where the best players matter.

Jeff Van Gundy, the former NBA coach and current ESPN and ABC analyst, said there are lot of questions about how much the Grizzlies will matter without

their best player.

"Are they healthy? Are they unselfish? Are they driven? And can they make enough right decisions to lead an organization?" said Van Gundy, who believes Memphis has strong leadership in general manager Zach Kleiman and an outstanding coaching staff led by Taylor Jenkins.

But Van Gundy added everything centers around their point guard and that "hopefully for Morant ... he makes the right choices."

He has shown he can on the court.

Morant has been the Grizzlies' biggest star; he was their first NBA Rookie of the Year in 2020 and the 2022 NBA's Most Improved Player of the Year. His

No. 12 jersey ranked among the NBA's top-10 best sellers on the league website the second half of this season, and Nike gave Morant a signature shoe deal.

Off the court, there has been a slew of questionable decisions.

Morant, 23, flashed a handgun not once, but twice between March 4 and May 13 all caught on social media video. The second came after an eight-game suspension in March that allowed Morant to be back for the playoffs.

Part of Morant's latest punishment is dealing with what Commissioner Adam Silver called "destructive behavior." The Grizzlies issued a terse statement, noting all team personnel are expected to follow NBA and

Memphis standards.

With Morant leading the way, Memphis has had regular-season success but mostly playoff disappointment for fans and the organization.

They were good enough to be the Western Conference's No. 2 seed the past two postseasons with only one playoff series win. They lost to the seventh-seeded Los Angeles Lakers in the first round in April.

Now, what the team will look like by the time next season comes around is unclear.

The Grizzlies have limited flexibility under the salary cap after doling out big contracts to Jaren Jackson Jr., this season's NBA Defensive Player of the Year, then Morant.

Schwarber's hit in 12th lifts Phillies

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Kyle Schwarber hit a go-ahead single in the 12th inning and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Oakland Athletics 3-2 on Saturday for their fifth straight win.

Cristian Pache began the inning on second base and scored on Schwarber's first hit of the day, off Ken Waldichuk (1-5). Bryson Stott hit a tying single in the sixth and go-ahead sacrifice fly in the 11th inning, only for the A's to tie it in the bottom half.

Andrew Vasquez (2-0), Philadelphia's seventh pitcher, struck out the final two A's in the 10th then gave up Carlos Pérez's tying double in the 11th. He earned the victory as the Phillies won their sixth in seven and 12th of their last 14 following a five-game losing streak.

Jeff Hoffman earned his second career save and first since 2020 with Colorado, finishing the 3-hour, 27-minute game.

Pérez broke up a scoreless game with a home run leading off the fifth inning once the Phillies turned to their bullpen. Pérez connected for his fourth homer

on the fourth pitch he saw from Matt Strahm, who manager Rob Thomson called upon after Christopher Sánchez struck out five over four scoreless innings in his second outing.

Lefty Sánchez, recalled from Triple-A Lehigh Valley to start, didn't allow a baserunner until Esteury Ruiz's hit leading off the fourth.

Cubs 3, Orioles 2: Justin Steele pitched five innings of two-run ball in his return from the injured list, and host Chicago got its fifth straight win.

Steele allowed five hits, struck out four and walked one in his first start since May 31. The left-hander had been sidelined by a strained forearm.

Royals 10, Angels 9: Samad Taylor hit a walk-off single in his MLB debut and host Kansas City snapped a 10-game losing streak.

Brandon Drury hit two home runs and drove in three runs and Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 23rd home run to build the lead for Los Angeles.

White Sox 4, Mariners 3 (11): Zach Remillard's base hit in the ninth inning scored the tying run,

his RBI single with two outs in the 11th gave visiting Chicago the lead, and the White Sox rallied to beat Seattle.

Padres 2, Rays 0: Blake Snell struck out 12 in six dominant innings against his former team to lead host San Diego past Tampa Bay.

Cardinals 5, Mets 3: Adam Wainwright pitched into the seventh inning for his 198th win, Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer and visiting St. Louis snapped a six-game losing streak.

Twins 2, Tigers 0: Minnesota's bullpen teamed up for a three-hitter, and Alex Kirilloff delivered an RBI single in a breakthrough fifth inning to lead the host team to a win over Detroit.

Rangers 4, Blue Jays 2: Josh Jung and Jonah Heim hit back-to-back homers, Adolis García had his MLB-leading 10th outfield assist among three defensive gems and host Texas beat Toronto.

Marlins 5, Nationals 2: Braxton Garrett pitched six strong innings, Bryan De La Cruz had a

two-run single and visiting Miami won its third straight.

Diamondbacks 6, Guardians 3: Jake McCarthy hit a go-ahead homer leading off the eighth, Corbin Carroll added a two-run shot three batters later and host Arizona launched three long balls in the inning to beat Cleveland.

Brewers 5, Pirates 0: Wade Miley pitched five scoreless innings in his return from the injured list and Joey Wiemer homered for the second straight game to lead host Milwaukee past Pittsburgh.

Reds 10, Astros 3: Jonathan India hit a two-run homer and Will Benson had three hits and two RBIs to power surging visiting Cincinnati to its seventh straight win.

Braves 10, Rockies 2: Matt Olson hit a first-inning grand slam and homer-happy host Atlanta won its fifth straight.

Giants 15, Dodgers 0: LaMonte Wade Jr. hit a three-run homer, J.D. Davis added a pinch-hit grand slam, and visiting San Francisco won its season-high sixth straight.

Foot injury will keep Sauerbrunn out of World Cup

Associated Press

U.S. national team captain Becky Sauerbrunn has a right foot injury that will keep her out of the Women's World Cup next month.

Sauerbrunn took to social media on Friday night, saying: "Heartbroken isn't even the half of it."

"I had hoped and worked and hoped some more to make it back in time to help lead the team at this World Cup, but after lots of discussion, unfortunately, there's just too much variability in my return to play timeline," she wrote. "So, I'll be home, working as hard as I can to get back on the field as quickly as I can."

The U.S. women's national team is expected to unveil its 23-player roster for the World Cup this week. The two-time defending World Cup champions will play a send-off match against Wales in San Jose, Calif., on July 9 before departing for the tournament, co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand.

The United States, winner of four World Cups overall, opens the World Cup with a match against Vietnam on July 22 in Auckland.

The loss of Sauerbrunn is a blow to the team. The 38-year-old defender is considered among the top players in the world at center back and anchored the backline for the

World Cup champs in 2015 and 2019.

Sauerbrunn originally hurt her foot in April. She briefly was a substitute in a June 3 match, but hasn't played since. The nature of the injury has not been made public.

Sauerbrunn has played for the senior national team since 2008, appearing in three total World Cups. She also won a gold medal at the 2012 London Olympics and a bronze at the Tokyo Games in 2021.

"It's been an honor to work and play alongside this incredible group of athletes," Sauerbrunn wrote. "They have my unwavering support. And, more importantly, they have

my unyielding belief. This program has always been about the collective and I have no doubt that the twenty-three players on the final roster have everything they need — in their feet, their heads and their hearts — to bring our fifth trophy home."

The United States has been hit with injuries ahead of the World Cup. Forward Mallory Swanson had surgery after injuring her left knee during an April exhibition match against Ireland. Fellow forward Catarina Macario recently announced that she would miss the World Cup after tearing her ACL playing for her club team in France last year.