

## China eyes ‘significant’ nuke expansion

*The Washington Post*

China is in the midst of a “significant” expansion of its nuclear capabilities and may have as many intercontinental ballistic missiles as the United States or Russia by 2030, according to a new global analysis of nuclear weapons.

Beijing is both growing and modernizing its nuclear arsenal, according to an annual report released Sunday by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, a group that tracks global security and arms control. China’s military stockpile grew from 410 nuclear warheads last year to 500 as of January, the report found.

The expansion of China’s capabilities came as SIPRI warned that even as the total number of nuclear warheads around the world was declining as Cold War-era weapons were phased out, there were steady year-on-year increases in the number of operational warheads that could be used quickly in the event of conflict.

Around 2,100 deployed nuclear warheads are being kept in a state of “high operational alert” on ballistic missiles — and while almost all belonged to Russia or the United States, China was believed to have placed some warheads on this level of alert for the first time, SIPRI found.

Hans M. Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project at the nonprofit group Federation of American Scientists and an associate senior fellow with SIPRI, said in a statement that China was “expanding its nuclear arsenal faster than any other country” but added that “in nearly all of the nuclear-armed states there are either plans or a significant push to increase nuclear forces.”

SIPRI’s estimates aligned with figures recently included in a Pentagon report to Congress, which stated that China probably had “more than” 500 operational nuclear warheads by May and was “on track to exceed previous projections.”

At a recent conference on nuclear disarmament, a senior Biden administration official warned that the U.S. might need to deploy a greater arsenal of nuclear weapons if rivals such as Russia and China continue on this path.

“Absent a change in the trajectory of adversary arsenals, we may reach a point in the coming years where an increase from current deployed numbers is required,” Pranay Vaddi, a National Security Council official who specializes in nuclear weapons, said at an annual meeting of the Arms Control Association in Washington this month.

China had for years maintained a relatively small arsenal of about 200 warheads, but it has been shoring up that stockpile “very quickly” in recent years, said Tong Zhao, a senior fellow with the Nuclear Policy Program and Carnegie China at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace who was not involved in SIPRI’s research.

Beijing denies that it is in the middle of a major nuclear build-up, but based on the current trajectory, it could have more than 700 warheads by 2027 and 1,000 by the end of the decade, Zhao said, assuming growth continues at its current pace.

The 2030 estimate would still be less than a fifth of the current size of the U.S. inventory, which, according to the SIPRI report, was 5,044 warheads as of January. Russia has 5,580, according to the report.

“Personally, I don’t think China has made the decision to reach nuclear parity with the United States,” Zhao said. “But I understand that many American experts already assume nuclear parity is the goal of the Chinese expansion.”

Speaking at the arms control event in Washington this month, Vaddi said that China, along with Russia and North Korea, were “expanding and diversifying their nuclear arsenals at a breakneck pace, showing little or no interest in arms control.”

## China blames Philippines for crash in South China Sea

*Associated Press*

TAIPEI — A Chinese vessel and a Philippine supply ship collided near the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea on Monday, China’s coast guard said, in the latest flare-up of escalating territorial disputes that have sparked alarm.

The coast guard said a Philippine supply ship entered waters near the Second Thomas Shoal, a submerged reef in the Spratly Islands, part of a territory claimed by several nations.

The Philippines says the

shoal falls within its internationally recognized exclusive economic zone and often cites a 2016 international arbitration ruling invalidating China’s expansive South China Sea claims based on historical grounds.

The Chinese coast guard said the Philippine craft “ignored China’s repeated solemn warnings ... and dangerously approached a Chinese vessel in normal navigation in an unprofessional manner, resulting in a collision.”

“The Philippines is entirely responsible for this,” the coast

guard said in a statement on the social media platform WeChat.

Meanwhile, the Philippine military called the Chinese coast guard’s report “deceptive and misleading,” and said it would “not discuss operational details on the legal humanitarian rotation and resupply mission at Ayungin Shoal, which is well within our exclusive economic zone.”

It used the Philippine name for the shoal, where Filipino navy personnel have transported food, medicine and other supplies to a long-grounded war-

ship that has served as Manila’s territorial outpost.

“We will not dignify the deceptive and misleading claims of the China coast guard,” military spokesperson Col. Xerxes Trinidad said. “The main issue remains to be the illegal presence and actions of Chinese vessels within the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone, which infringes on our sovereignty and sovereign rights.”

“The continued aggressive actions of the CCG are escalating tensions in the region,” Trinidad said.

# COLA to reappear in Japan after long absence

By KELLY AGEE  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIRBASE, Japan — Changes in the cost-of-living adjustments in U.S. service members' pay in Japan will rise from nothing for the first time in Japan in nearly two years.

"Effective 16 June 2024 (to reflect in 01 July 2024 pay), changes in Japan COLA rates will be implemented. Notably, those Japan locations that previously were reduced to zero will be receiving COLA again," U.S. Forces Japan posted on its official Facebook page Friday.

The new COLA rate for Japan was not available Monday. The online Overseas COLA Rate Lookup calculator was not updated, and U.S. Forces Japan did not re-

ply to a phone call on Monday.

For more information about COLA rates in their areas, service members may contact their local command administrative personnel pay sections, USFJ stated in its Facebook post.

Service members in Japan have been without COLA — a tax-free allowance to help offset the costs of living in expensive areas overseas — since Oct. 1, 2022. A strong U.S. dollar and a comparatively weak Japanese yen are partially behind the reduction in COLA. U.S. service members and their families, paid in dollars, usually paid less for essential items in Japan.

To help determine COLA, data is collected from active-duty service members and other repre-

sentatives at locations outside the contiguous United States, according to the Defense Travel Management Office's website. The Retail Price Schedule records the cost of approximately 150 goods and services whose local prices are collected annually by Country Allowance Coordinators.

The Living Pattern Survey asks service members to identify how and where they purchase certain goods and services. These location-specific surveys are conducted on a rotational basis every three years. Surveys run for approximately four weeks.

When the military surveyed troops in March and April 2022 about their purchasing habits,

the allowance had already fallen by 15% to 22% compared to 2021 rates.

A COLA increase this year would ease rising household costs on and off U.S. military bases, said one noncommissioned officer Monday.

"It's a huge help, especially when it comes to the prices of everything in the commissary going up and then prices off base also going up," Staff Sgt. Melvin Herrera-Lopez, 373rd Training Squadron, told Stars and Stripes outside the Army and Air Force Exchange Service at Yokota. "So that helps take some of the burden off when it comes to actual usable income, so being able to use it towards bills and everything else."

## Israeli PM Netanyahu dissolves War Cabinet

*Associated Press*

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dissolved the influential War Cabinet tasked with steering the war in Gaza, a government spokesperson said Monday, a move that comes days after a key member of the body bolted the government over frustrations surrounding the Israeli leader's handling of the war.

The move was widely expected following the departure earlier this month of Benny Gantz, a centrist former military chief. Gantz's absence from the government increases Netanyahu's dependence on his ultra-nationalist allies, who have opposed a cease-fire. That could pose an additional challenge to the already fragile negotiations to end the eight-month war in Gaza.

Government officials said Netanyahu would hold smaller forums for sensitive war issues, including with his Security Cabinet, which includes far-right governing partners who oppose cease-fire deals and have voiced support for reoccupying Gaza.

The War Cabinet was formed in the early days of the war, when Gantz, then an opposition party leader and Netanyahu rival, joined the coalition in a show of unity following the Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel by Hamas.

Gantz demanded that a small decision-making body direct the war effort, in an endeavor to sideline far-right members of Netanyahu's government. It was comprised of three members — Gantz, Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

## Global meeting for peace in Ukraine packs little punch

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia and Ukraine are set to remain locked in battle for the foreseeable future after an global gathering billed as a first step toward peace delivered no eye-catching diplomatic breakthrough that might suggest a coming end to Europe's biggest conflict since World War II.

The absence of Russia and China from the two-day conference in Switzerland on the weekend and the decision by some key countries — including India, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Mexico — not to sign the meeting's final document Sunday meant that the gathering had little to show beyond some goodwill and pledges to keep working for peace after more than two years of war.

Meanwhile Ukraine, after being starved of ammunition due to late deliveries of promised Western military aid, is trying to hold on against a Russian onslaught in

eastern parts of the country until its prospects improve.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday that the conference's outcome was "close to zero."

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is trying to line countries up behind his version of what an eventual peace agreement should look like, said international meetings of advisers and government ministers would follow up on the talks and lay the ground for a second meeting at some future time.

Nearly 80 countries approved the final communique covering steps toward nuclear safety, food security and the release of prisoners and deportees, including thousands of children abducted by Russia.

It did not resolve the bedrock — and seemingly intractable, for now — issue: Ukrainian land occupied by invading Russian forces.

# Surgeon general seeks social media warnings

Associated Press

The U.S. surgeon general has called on Congress to require warning labels on social media platforms similar to those now mandatory on cigarette boxes.

In a Monday opinion piece in *The New York Times*, Dr. Vivek Murthy said that social media is a contributing factor in the mental health crisis among young people.

“It is time to require a surgeon general’s warning label on social media platforms, stating that social media is associated with significant mental health harms for adolescents. A surgeon general’s warning label, which requires congressional action, would regularly remind parents and adolescents that social media has not been proved

safe,” Murthy said. “Evidence from tobacco studies show that warning labels can increase awareness and change behavior.”

Murthy said that the use of just a warning label wouldn’t make social media safe for young people, but would be a part of the steps needed.

Last year Murthy warned that there wasn’t enough evidence to show that social media is safe for children and teens. He said at the time that policymakers needed to address the harms of social media the same way they regulate things like car seats, baby formula, medication and other products children use.

To comply with federal regulation, social media companies already ban kids under 13 from

signing up for their platforms — but children have been shown to easily get around the bans, both with and without their parents’ consent.

Other measures social platforms have taken to address concerns about children’s mental health can also be easily circumvented. For instance, TikTok introduced a default 60-minute time limit for users under 18. But once the limit is reached, minors can simply enter a passcode to keep watching.

Murthy said Monday that Congress needs to implement legislation that will protect young people from online harassment, abuse and exploitation and from exposure to extreme violence and sexual content.

“The measures should prevent platforms from collecting sensitive data from children and should restrict the use of features like push notifications, autoplay and infinite scroll, which prey on developing brains and contribute to excessive use,” Murthy wrote.

The surgeon general is also recommending that companies be required to share all their data on health effects with independent scientists and the public, which they currently don’t do, and allow independent safety audits.

Murthy said schools and parents also need to participate in providing phone-free times and that doctors, nurses and other clinicians should help guide families toward safer practices.

## Md. governor issues 175K pardons for pot convictions

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland Gov. Wes Moore signed an executive order to issue more than 175,000 pardons for marijuana convictions Monday.

The administration described the pardons as the largest state pardon to date.

The governor’s action regarding cases relating to use of paraphernalia make Maryland the first state to take such action, his office said.

The pardons forgive low-level marijuana possession charges for an estimated 100,000 people, according to *The Washington Post*, which first reported on the order Sunday night.

Moore signed an executive order Monday morning in the state Capitol in Annapolis with Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown in attendance.

Recreational cannabis was legalized in Maryland in 2023 after voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2022 with 67% of the vote.

Maryland decriminalized possession of personal use amounts of cannabis on Jan. 1, 2023. Now, 24 states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational cannabis.

“The Moore-Miller Administration is committed to promoting social equity and ensuring the fair and equitable administration of justice,” the governor’s office said.

“Because the use and possession of cannabis is no longer illegal in the state, Marylanders should not continue to face barriers to housing, employment, or educational opportunities based on convictions for conduct that is no longer illegal.”

Brown, a Democrat, described the pardons as “certainly long overdue as a nation” and “a racial equity issue.”

The pardons reflect the number of convictions. Some individuals may have had more than one conviction pardoned. The pardons will not result in anyone being released from incarceration.

## IRS wants to end major tax loophole, raise \$50B

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The IRS plans to end a major tax loophole for wealthy taxpayers that could raise more than \$50 billion in revenue over the next decade, the U.S. Treasury Department says.

The guidance and ruling being announced Monday includes plans to essentially stop “partnership basis shifting” — a process by which a business or person can move assets among a series of related parties to avoid paying taxes.

Biden administration officials said after evaluating the practice that there are no economic grounds for these transactions, with Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo calling it “really just a shell game.” The officials said the additional IRS funding provided through the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act had enabled increased oversight and greater awareness of the practice.

“These tax shelters allow

wealthy taxpayers to avoid paying what they owe,” IRS commissioner Danny Werfel said.

Due to previous years of underfunding, the IRS had cut back on the auditing of wealthy individuals and the shifting of assets among partnerships and companies became common.

The IRS says filings for large pass-through businesses used for the type of tax avoidance in the guidance increased 70% from 174,100 in 2010 to 297,400 in 2019. However, audit rates for these businesses fell from 3.8% to 0.1% in the same time frame.

Treasury said in a statement announcing the new guidance that there is an estimated \$160 billion gap between what the top 1% of earners likely owe in taxes and what they pay.

Monday’s announcement is part of the IRS’s ongoing effort to zero in on high-wealth tax cheats who manipulate the tax code or don’t pay their taxes at all.



# Crews fight LA-area fire in high temps

Associated Press

GORMAN, Calif. — Firefighters increased their containment of a large wildfire in mountains north of Los Angeles on Monday after a weekend of explosive, wind-driven growth along Interstate 5.

The Post Fire was 8% surrounded after scorching nearly 23 square miles and forcing the evacuation of at least 1,200 campers, off-roaders and hikers from the Hungry Valley recreation area on Saturday.

"That 8% is good because it means we are increasing and bolstering our containment lines,"

said Kenichi Haskett, a Los Angeles County Fire Department section chief.

Firefighters hoped to hold the fire at its current size, but further growth was possible, Haskett said.

The fire broke out as weather turned hot and windy in a region where grasses spawned by a rainy winter have long since dried out and easily burn.

The massive columns of smoke that marked the fire's initial rampage were gone by Monday morning.

In Northern California, a wildfire sparked Sunday prompted

evacuation orders and warnings for a sparsely populated area near Lake Sonoma. Known as the Point Fire, it was 20% surrounded Monday after charring nearly 2 square miles about 80 miles north of San Francisco, and destroyed at least one structure.

Ben Nicholls, division chief of the Cal Fire district in area covering the Point fire, said Monday morning that fire activity subsided overnight.

The Southern California fire erupted Saturday afternoon near I-5 in Gorman, about 60 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Two structures burned within the

evacuated recreation area.

Flames were moving toward Pyramid Lake, a popular destination for boaters that was closed as a precaution on Father's Day. No houses were threatened Sunday, but officials warned residents of Castaic, home to about 19,000 people, that they should prepare to leave if the fire pushes further south.

"If you're in a warning area, be prepared with a 'go bag,' with overnight clothes and your cellphone, your medicines, your glasses. Have your car fueled up," said Haskett. "Be ready to evacuate."

## Forecasts in US ranging from extreme heat to snow

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Hot and cold extremes are expected this week in the U.S. Officials warned Southwest residents to take precautions as a heat wave moves east, while heavy rains and flooding could drench the Gulf states and snow threatens parts of the Rockies and Northwest.

Extreme heat spread across Arizona, New Mexico and parts of Texas, Colorado and Kansas as severe weather swept across many parts of the U.S. on Sunday. There was unseasonable cold in the Pa-

cific Northwest, snow headed to the northern Rocky Mountains and heavy rainfall forecast from the northern Plains to the Upper Midwest.

The National Weather Service estimated more than 63 million people were under heat advisories on Sunday, stretching from the Southwest northward up through Denver and into Chicago.

Temperatures in Phoenix, which hit 112 degrees Fahrenheit on Saturday, eased slightly on Sunday to 110 F. Weather service forecasters say the first two weeks of June in

Phoenix already have been an average of 5.6 F hotter than normal, making it the hottest start to June on record.

"We have already seen some pretty significantly high temperatures in our area," said Ted Whittock, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Phoenix. "We are recommending that everyone reduce their time outdoors between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., stay hydrated and wear light, looser fitting clothing."

The heat in metro Phoenix will ease a bit Monday

through Wednesday, with the highs pushing back up as the week progresses, likely prompting another excessive heat warning, Whittock said.

In neighboring New Mexico, a heat advisory was in effect over the weekend for the Chavez County plains including Roswell, where the high was forecast to hit 107 F on Monday. The high for Albuquerque reached 99 F on Sunday and is forecast to cool slightly to 98 F on Monday. The high Sunday was 104 F in El Paso, Texas, which opened five cooling centers.

## Stanford graduates walk out in protest of war in Gaza

Los Angeles Times

Hundreds of Stanford University students walked out of their graduation ceremony Sunday in a show of support for Palestinians, capping a tumultuous year on campus rocked by protests related to the Israel-Hamas war.

Videos circulating on social media show a trickle of students, many waving kaffiyehs and Palestinian flags, get up from their chairs as Stanford President Richard Saller delivers his speech to

the graduating class. Within minutes, hundreds can be seen streaming out of the stadium.

The walkout was planned by a pro-Palestinian student group, which had encouraged students to leave the formal ceremony and instead go to a "People's Commencement" at a different location.

"We invite graduates, friends, and family to walk out of commencement... to show support for divestment and honor Palestine

this graduation weekend," the group wrote on Instagram.

Standing on a makeshift podium, a speaker at the alternative ceremony called the walkout a "final act of protest."

"You have made history with a record-breaking sit-in and a beautiful encampment," the speaker told the relocated crowd. "Today, you are graduating with a head held high."

The university did not immediately respond to a request for

comment.

Stanford has been rocked by protests this year led by students furious over mounting casualties of innocent Palestinians. This month, campus police arrested 13 pro-Palestinian protesters, made up of students and alumni, who had barricaded themselves inside the president's office. The university said at the time that the students involved were suspended and that seniors were told they could not graduate.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## City pulls ban on psychic readings amid growth

**VA** NORFOLK — The City Council in Norfolk, Va., repealed a 45-year-old ban on “the practice of palmistry, palm reading, phrenology or clairvoyance, for monetary or other compensation.”

Soothsaying, it turned out, had been a first-degree misdemeanor and carried up to a year in jail.

It’s unclear exactly why this city of 230,000 people on the Chesapeake Bay, home to the nation’s largest Navy base, nullified the 1979 ordinance. Versions of the ban had existed for decades before.

Norfolk spokeswoman Kelly Straub said it was repealed “because it is no longer used.” City Council members said little during their vote, although one joked that “somebody out there predicted that this was going to pass.”

Jokes aside, the city’s repeal comes as the psychic services industry is growing in the U.S., generating an estimated \$2.3 billion in revenue last year and employing 97,000 people, according to a 2023 report from market research firm IBIS World.

## Tesla was on ‘self-drive’ when parked cop car hit

**CA** FULLERTON — A Tesla apparently operating on one of the company’s automated driving systems crashed into a parked police vehicle near Los Angeles, narrowly missing an officer who was managing traffic at another crash.

The Tesla driver told police in Fullerton, Calif., that he engaged the vehicle’s “self-drive”

system and used his cellphone, according to a police statement.

Police said the crash is still under investigation, but called the California driver’s conduct a “clear violation of responsible driving practices and California law.”

The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which has made Tesla recall its “Full Self-Driving” and “Autopilot” systems, said it is aware of the crash and has contacted Tesla for more information.

## Governor vetoes one of toughest data privacy bills

**VT** MONTPELIER — Vermont’s governor has vetoed a broad data privacy bill that would have been one of the strongest in the country to crack down on companies’ use of online personal data by letting consumers file civil lawsuits against companies that break certain privacy rules.

Republican Gov. Phil Scott said in his veto message the legislation would have made Vermont “a national outlier and more hostile than any other state to many businesses and non-profits.”

“I appreciate this provision is narrow in its impact, but it will still negatively impact mid-sized employers, and is generating significant fear and concern among many small businesses,” he wrote.

The legislation would have prohibited the sale of sensitive data, such as Social Security and driver’s license numbers, as well as financial information and health data. It also would have set meaningful limits on the amount of personal data that companies can collect and use, according to the nonprofit Electronic Privacy Information

Center based in Washington, D.C.

## Casino, sports betting revenue at nearly \$510M

**NJ** ATLANTIC CITY — New Jersey’s casinos, horse tracks that take sports bets and their online partners won nearly \$510 million from gamblers in May, an increase of 8.3% from a year earlier, according to figures released by state gambling regulators.

Internet gambling continued its strong performance in May, falling just shy of the record it set in March.

And while the casinos’ core business — money won from in-person gamblers — collectively surpassed the pre-pandemic total of May 2019, only three of the nine casinos won more from in-person gamblers last month than they did in May 2019.

Figures released by the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement showed the nine casinos won nearly \$223 million from in-person gamblers, an increase of 5.2% from a year earlier.

## City Hall remains closed after ransomware attack

**OH** CLEVELAND — Cleveland’s City Hall remained closed to the public Friday, as officials in Ohio’s second-largest city continued to grapple with the effects of a ransomware attack.

City operations have been hampered for a week by the threat, which was first detected June 9.

A spokeswoman for Democratic Mayor Justin Bibb told Cleveland.com on Friday that the ransomware has since been “contained,” but she couldn’t say whether the city has agreed

to pay the ransom or will consider paying it.

She also declined to say how much ransom was sought, adding that there was little she could disclose to the public because of the ongoing investigation by state and federal authorities.

After shutting down most systems and closing City Hall and a second government location to both residents and employees early in the week, Bibb tried bringing employees back on Wednesday. A host of problems ensued, including trouble processing building permits and birth and death certificates.

## Police say woman died after attack by stray dogs

**MD** BALTIMORE — A 50-year-old woman died and two other people were injured after being attacked by a group of stray dogs in West Baltimore, according to Baltimore Police.

Around 9 p.m. police were called to the 2000 block of North Pulaski Street in Mondawmin for reports of a dog bite. When police arrived at the scene, they were told two stray pit bulls had attacked three people.

Two officers fired at the dogs, striking one of them, a police spokesperson said in an email to The Baltimore Sun.

The dogs were recovered by police and animal control. A spokesperson for the Baltimore City Health Department, which includes the city’s Office of Animal Control, was not available for comment.

Two people who were attacked by the dogs were taken to hospitals, a police spokesperson said. Police did not have an update on their condition.

— From wire reports

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# DeChambeau captures second US Open

Associated Press

PINEHURST, N.C. — Bryson DeChambeau climbed back into the most famous bunker at Pinehurst No. 2, this time with the U.S. Open trophy instead of his 55-degree sand wedge, filling the silver prize with grains of sand to commemorate the best shot of his life.

Rory McIlroy wanted to bury his head in the sand.

DeChambeau won his second U.S. Open title on Sunday by getting up-and-down from 55 yards in a bunker — one of the toughest shots in golf — to deliver another unforgettable finish at Pinehurst and a celebration just as raucous as when his hero, Payne Stewart, won with a big par putt in 1999.

“That’s Payne right there, baby!” DeChambeau screamed as he walked off the 18th green.

This was nothing like DeChambeau winning at Winged Foot in 2020, when there were no fans and no drama. This was high suspense that ultimately

came down to a trio of short putts.

McIlroy, who for so much of the final round looked certain to end 10 years without a major, had a one-shot lead until missing a 30-inch par putt on the 16th hole. Tied for the lead on the 18th, with DeChambeau behind him in the final group, McIlroy missed a par attempt from just inside 4 feet.

He was in the scoring room watching, hoping, for a two-hole playoff when DeChambeau got into trouble off the tee as he had done all day. But then DeChambeau delivered the magic moment with his bunker shot to 4 feet and made the par putt for a 1-over 71.

“That bunker shot was the shot of my life,” DeChambeau said.

Moments later, McIlroy was in his car, the wheels spinning on the gravel to get out of Pinehurst without comment. There wasn’t much to say. This one will sting.

“As much as it is heartbreaking for some people, it was heartbreaking for me at the PGA,” said DeChambeau, who a month ago made a dramatic birdie on the 18th hole at Valhalla, only for Xander Schauffele to match him with a birdie to win the PGA Championship.

“I really wanted this one,” DeChambeau said. “When I turned the corner and saw I was a couple back, I said, ‘Nope, I’m not going to let that happen. I have to focus on figuring out how to make this happen.’”

True to his form as one of golf’s great entertainers, he put on quite the show.

The par putt wasn’t as long or as suspenseful as Stewart’s in 1999. The celebration was every bit of that. DeChambeau repeatedly pumped those strong arms as he screamed to the blue sky, turning in every direction to a gallery that cheered him on all week.

As much as this U.S. Open will be remembered for De-

Chambeau’s marvelous bunker shot, McIlroy played a big part. He had not missed a putt under 4 feet for 69 holes on the slick, domed Donald Ross greens. And then with the U.S. Open on the line, he missed two over the final three holes for a 69.

McIlroy had the look of a winner. He ran off four birdies in a five-hole stretch around the turn. He was a model of cool, the opposite of DeChambeau’s exuberance. He walked confidently to the 14th tee with a two-shot lead as the chants grew louder.

“Ror-EE! Ror-EE!”

DeChambeau could hear them, and he pounded a 3-wood on the reachable par-4 13th — the tees were moved forward to 316 yards — to the middle of the green for a birdie to stay close.

McIlroy took bogey on the 15th hole, but he stayed one ahead when DeChambeau, playing in the group behind him, had his first three-putt of the week on the 15th when he missed from 4 feet.

## Walsh follows world record with first Olympic berth

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Gretchen Walsh followed up a world record in the 100-meter butterfly with something that felt just as good.

Her first trip to the Olympics.

Walsh didn’t go quite as fast as a night earlier in the semifinals, but she touched in 55.31 seconds to claim the coveted Olympic berth against a loaded field at the U.S. Olympic swimming trials on Sunday.

“I was definitely nervous,” Walsh said. “There were a lot of what-ifs. Coming off breaking the world record, I was thinking, ‘Do I need to do that again just to make the team? What if I get third? What’s that even even going to look like?’”

No worries. She’s heading to Paris.

So is Carson Foster. He made up for the disappointment of 2021, when he just missed out on the Olympics, with a victory in the men’s 400 individual medley.

And 30-year-old Nic Fink, whose wife is expecting a child, made it quite a Father’s Day — or should that be Expectant Father’s

Day? — by winning the 100 breaststroke on the second night of the trials.

Looking into the stands at massive Lucas Oil Stadium, he spotted Melanie Margolis Fink — herself a swimming gold medalist at the 2016 Rio Games — and made a rocking motion.

Clearly, Nic Fink’s mind was on more than just a gold of his own. The couple’s first child, a boy, is due in mid-September.

“It’s one of those things that doesn’t really make sense to me,” Fink said. “I feel like I haven’t earned it yet. But the next (Father’s Day) will feel like one for sure after diapers and late nights and stuff like that.”

Facing three medalists from the Tokyo Games, Walsh knew she had her work cut out for her — even after setting a world record in the semifinals with a time of 55.18 that broke the mark held by Sweden’s Sarah Sjöström since the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

Following the same strategy, Walsh went out strong again in the final and was under her world-record pace at the turn.

Then, it was a matter of hanging on for the

21-year-old native of Nashville, Tenn., who swims for the University of Virginia.

She finished with the second-fastest time in history, while Torri Huske grabbed the second Olympic spot with a time of 55.52 that made her the third-fastest woman in swimming history.

“I couldn’t ask for a better start to the meet,” Walsh said.

Regan Smith became the fourth-fastest female ever at 55.62 — but the third-place showing wasn’t enough to get her to Paris on the powerhouse American team. She’ll have more chances later in the meet to claim her spot.

The first final of the night produced another first-time Olympian when Foster knocked off Tokyo gold medalist Chase Kalisz.

But Kalisz should get a chance to defend his gold in Paris, taking the runner-up spot to claim the expected second American slot.

Jay Litherland, the 400 IM silver medalist in Tokyo, missed out on his third Olympics with a third-place showing.



# Blaney dominates 1st Cup race in Iowa

Associated Press

NEWTON, Iowa — Ryan Blaney had his concerns heading into the final laps Sunday night in the inaugural NASCAR Cup Series race at Iowa Speedway.

The problem was he didn't hear his crew chief's reassurance.

There was no need to worry, though, with the defending series champion holding on for his first victory of the season and a spot in the playoffs.

Blaney seemed in control of the race, but was worried about fuel a couple of weeks after running out on the final lap while leading at World Wide Technology Raceway. It's why crew chief Jonathan Hassler came on the radio with less than 10 laps to go in this race to let him know he was good on fuel.

"I don't even remember him saying that," Blaney said. "I figured we were (OK). But I don't remember him saying that."

"I wanted to make sure he knew the whole situation," Hassler said. "Sometimes I forget he doesn't know what I know. So I just try to communicate as much as I can so he knows what's going on."

Blaney led four times for a career-high 201 laps, finishing 0.716 seconds ahead of William Byron for his 11th Cup victory.

"Ryan and those guys were really good," Byron said. "He had a really good car. He was up front, contending a lot."

Blaney regained the lead on Lap 263 after taking just two tires on a caution-flag pit stop. He led the rest of the way, getting through lapped traffic as Byron tried to close.

It was the decision to take two tires, on a weekend when tire wear was a concern for the Cup Series and Xfinity Series cars, that worried Hassler.

"There were not a lot of guys on two tires," Hassler said. "At

some point those guys are going to be a little bit better than you are. So, yeah, really nervous."

It was fitting the first Cup Series race at the 0.875-mile track would go to a Team Penske driver — Penske cars have won seven IndyCar Series races and three NASCAR Xfinity Series races at the track.

"I think, as a whole company, we do a good job of these places we go to for the first time," said Blaney, who also has wins at the track in the Xfinity and Truck series.

But Blaney, who started on the outside of the front row, admitted he had concerns about how good his car would be for the race.

"Friday, I didn't feel very good," he said. "I wasn't very confident in the speed in our car. And we really went to work — we got a lot better qualifying to the race and got better through the night tonight. And I

think we're great at some points of the night. The last few runs were phenomenal."

Chase Elliott was third. Christopher Bell, who had to start from the back of the field in a backup car after crashing during practice Friday, was fourth. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., who like Blaney took two tires on the final pit stop, finished fifth.

Joey Logano finished sixth. Rookie Josh Berry, who led 32 laps, was seventh, followed by Alex Bowman, Daniel Suarez and Brad Keselowski.

Kyle Larson, the series points leader and pole-sitter for the race, led 81 laps and won the second stage, but hit the wall on Lap 219 after contact from behind by Suarez. Larson had surged into the middle of a three-wide jam, with Suarez to his left and Keselowski to his right, when the contact happened. Larson finished 34th in the 36-car field.

## Panthers hope to rebound back home on cusp of title

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — There was lots of chatter at the Florida Panthers' breakfast the morning after the Edmonton Oilers blew them out 8-1 in Game 4 of the Stanley Cup Final to send the series back across North America.

As lopsided as that loss was in their first chance to close out the series, the Panthers return home to South Florida up 3-1 in the Final with another opportunity to win the first championship in franchise history in front of their home fans.

"It's all about us (needing) to manage the losses," captain Aleksander Barkov said. "Obviously it only counts as one win. It doesn't matter how much you lose, 2-1 or 8-1, so just obviously we need to bounce back. We need to recover now and think about the next one."

The next one is Game 5 on

Tuesday night in Sunrise, which is sure to be a packed house with a crowd anticipating some hockey history. So far 21 of the NHL's 32 teams have won the Cup, and Florida is looking to become the 22nd in its 30th season of existence.

To finish the job, though, some adjustments will need to be made after a letdown in which Sergei Bobrovsky was pulled for allowing five goals on 16 shots and the Oilers dominated just about every facet of the game, scoring short-handed, on a 5-on-3 power play and six more times at even strength.

"We gave up eight goals, and zero of them were the goalies' fault," winger Matthew Tkachuk said. "So a lot to learn from. Yeah, a lot to learn from."

Barkov believes the Panthers learned just how good Edmonton can be at its best, with reigning and three-time MVP Connor

McDavid leading the way, along with lessons about falling behind early. That happened Saturday night on a 2-on-1 short-handed rush three minutes in and speaks to what Tkachuk and coach Paul Maurice think the biggest issue was in defeat.

"There was an obvious theme in that game last night: They got to us off the rush in a big way," Maurice said Sunday before flying back home. "They were strong and they pushed the rush game, and we didn't handle the one on one in some ways and we lost a bit of coverage on some. But they were good, they were fast and we need to get ready to be better."

Better Florida is exactly what the Oilers are expecting the next time the puck drops, knowing full well the Panthers are coming off their worst game of these entire playoffs and first loss since early in the Eastern

Conference finals against the New York Rangers, which they won in six after falling behind 2-1 in that series.

"They're going to be much more prepared for Game 5 than they were in Game 4," Oilers coach Kris Knoblauch said, citing the distractions his opponent dealt with in getting family and friends up to Alberta for a potential clincher. "Going back home, now that you have been beaten, they're going to respond. They're going to be better. What they do, I don't know."

The Panthers need to control their emotions in a situation a vast majority of their players and coaches have never been in before. Maurice acknowledged that after Game 4 — the human element of dealing with the excitement of being one victory from accomplishing a lifelong dream that seemed to affect them.

# Mariners shut out Rangers for series sweep

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Logan Gilbert struck out nine and gave up two hits over eight innings and the Seattle Mariners beat the Texas Rangers 5-0 on Sunday to sweep the series.

Rookie Tyler Locklear hit a solo home run to help back Gilbert (4-4) and help Seattle improve to 12 games over .500. The Mariners have won seven of eight games and nine straight home series.

"It really feels like a playoff atmosphere in mid-June, which is kind of weird to say," Gilbert said. "But the ballpark was packed all three games, the crowd's going crazy. That's a really good team. We're playing really well right now."

Mitch Haniger and Luke Raley hit back-to-back doubles off starter Dane Dunning (4-6) in the fourth to put the Mariners up 1-0. And Josh Rojas made it 2-0 after doubling with two outs in the fifth and scoring from second on Dunning's wild pitch that skipped short of the plate and under catcher Andrew Knizner's glove.

Rojas took third as the ball bounced off the backstop and skipped toward the Mariners' dugout, then raced home and slipped under Dunning's tag at home plate to make it 2-0.

**Twins 6-8, Athletics 2-7:** Carlos Correa continued his offensive tear with two home runs in the first game as part of a five-hit day, and host Minnesota cruised past Oakland to sweep the dou-

bleheader and the four-game series.

Jose Miranda hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning of the second game, as Willi Castro added three hits. The Twins have won five straight and seven of eight.

JJ Bleday had four hits and Tyler Soderstrom had three, including a home run each in the last game, but Oakland lost for the ninth straight time. Pitching coach Scott Emerson was ejected in the sixth inning.

**Orioles 8, Phillies 3:** Gunnar Henderson hit his eighth leadoff homer of the season, and three more teammates also went deep off Zack Wheeler to help host Baltimore beat Philadelphia.

The pitching matchup between Wheeler (8-4) and Corbin Burnes (8-2) didn't live up to expectations, but it was still an eventful series finale before a third straight sellout crowd at Camden Yards. Phillies manager Rob Thomson was ejected in the top of the sixth, and soon after that, play paused for a few seconds on multiple occasions because of loud plane flyovers related to Baltimore's Fleet Week celebration.

**Astros 4, Tigers 1:** Ronel Blanco had the second hitless outing of his brief major league career but was pulled after seven innings as host Houston beat Detroit.

Blanco (7-2), who threw the only no-hitter in the majors this season on April 1 against Toronto,

was just as good this time in the 20th start and 37th appearance of his career. The 30-year-old right-hander threw 94 pitches with 65 strikes and tied a season best with eight strikeouts.

**Brewers 5, Reds 4:** Willy Adames hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning and host Milwaukee threw out the tying run at the plate to end the game and beat Cincinnati.

Brewers center fielder Blake Perkins threw out Stuart Fairchild at home when he was trying to score from second on Santiago Espinal's bloop hit. Catcher William Contreras remained down for several seconds after applying the tag, but he got up and appeared fine while participating in Milwaukee's postgame celebration.

**Red Sox 9, Yankees 3:** Zack Kelly escaped a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the seventh before Connor Wong had a two-run triple in the bottom of the inning, lifting host Boston to a victory over MLB-best New York.

**Dodgers 3, Royals 0:** Shohei Ohtani had his second two-homer game this season, Tyler Glasnow pitched seven innings of three-hit ball and host Los Angeles defeated Kansas City as Mookie Betts left in the seventh inning after being hit by a pitch in the left hand.

**Cardinals 2, Cubs 1:** Miles Mikolas pitched four-hit ball into the seventh inning, and visiting St. Louis beat Jameson Taillon

and Chicago.

**Nationals 3, Marlins 1:** Jacob Young hit his first major league homer, Lane Thomas went deep for the third day in a row and host Washington beat Miami to complete a three-game sweep.

**Rays 8, Braves 6:** Jose Siri hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the ninth inning off Atlanta closer Raisel Iglesias, and visiting Tampa Bay won to avoid a three-game sweep.

**Blue Jays 7, Guardians 6:** Daulton Varsho hit his third career grand slam, Ernie Clement added a two-run home run and host Toronto held on to beat Cleveland.

**Mets 11, Padres 6:** Pete Alonso had a season-high five RBIs, combining with Francisco Lindor on first-inning home runs that built a three-run lead against Dylan Cease after 16 pitches, and surging New York beat visiting San Diego for its fifth straight win.

**Giants 13, Angels 6:** Jorge Soler hit a three-run homer in host San Francisco's nine-run fourth inning as it beat Los Angeles to avoid a three-game sweep.

**Diamondbacks 12, White Sox 5:** Christian Walker drove in three runs with a home run and a double and host Arizona routed Chicago.

**Pirates 8, Rockies 2:** Jared Triolo had two hits and two RBIs, Jason Delay had a three-run double and visiting Pittsburgh beat Colorado.

## Vols stay unbeaten, top Heels in College World Series

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Kavarese Tears and Reese Chapman homered, Drew Beam limited North Carolina to one hit over five shutout innings and Tennessee took control of its bracket at the College World Series with a 6-1 win Sunday night.

The Volunteers (57-12), trying to become the first No. 1 national seed since 1999 to win the championship, will advance to the best-of-three finals if they can beat Florida State or North Carolina (48-15) on Wednesday.

Those teams will meet Tuesday in an elimination game.

The Vols, 2-0 in a CWS for the first time, would have to lose twice to be denied a first appearance in the finals, meaning the streets of downtown Omaha will be filled with orange-clad fans most of the coming week.

Beam (9-2) limited North Carolina to three baserunners through five innings, and his team was up 4-0 when he went out for the sixth.

**Florida State 7, Virginia 3:** Jaime Ferrer hit two homers, Carson Dorsey turned in a third straight strong start and the Seminoles stayed alive by beating the Cavaliers in an elimination game.

Florida State (48-16) has won at least one game in five straight CWS appearances since 2010 and will play Tuesday against North Carolina.

The Cavaliers (46-17) went 0-2 in Omaha for the second straight year and have lost six straight CWS games since 2021.