

US strikes 3 Iranian nuclear sites

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The United States inserted itself into Israel's war against Iran early Sunday by dropping 30,000-pound bombs on a uranium enrichment site buried under a mountain, a risky gambit that aimed to destroy the Islamic Republic's nuclear program after months of failed diplomacy. The attack prompted fears of a wider regional conflict as Iran lashed out at the U.S. for crossing "a very big red line."

The U.S. also fired dozens of missiles, and President Donald Trump said in a televised address from the White House that the combination of strikes "completely and fully obliterated" three nuclear sites. However, U.S. defense officials said an assessment of the damage wrought by the attack still was ongoing.

Hours later, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the time for diplomacy had passed and that his country had the right to defend itself. Araghchi said he would immediately fly to Moscow to coordinate positions with Russia, an ally of Iran.

"The warmongering and lawless administration in Washington is solely and fully responsible for the dangerous consequences and far-reaching implications of its act of aggression," he told reporters in Turkey in the first comments by a high-ranking Iranian official since the strikes. "They crossed a very big red line by attacking nuclear facilities."

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran confirmed that attacks took place on the Fordo and Natanz enrichment facilities as well as its Isfahan nuclear site, but it insisted that its nuclear program will not be stopped.

Both Iran and the U.N. nuclear watchdog said there were no immediate signs of radioactive contamination around the three locations following the strikes.

It was not clear whether the U.S. would continue attacking Iran alongside its ally Israel, which has been engaged in a war with Iran for nine days. But U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the U.S. does not "seek war" and that the operation would not be "open-ended," though Trump earlier warned there would be additional strikes if Tehran retaliated against U.S. forces.

"There will either be peace or there will be tragedy for Iran," said Trump, who acted without congressional authorization.

With the attack, the United States has inserted itself into a war it spent decades trying to avoid because of the dizzyingly high stakes. Success would mean ending Iran's nuclear ambitions once and for all and eliminating the last significant threat to Israel's security. But failure — or overreach — could plunge the U.S. into the vortex of another long and unpredictable conflict in the Middle East.

For Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, this is the culmination of a decadeslong campaign to get the U.S. to strike Israel's chief regional rival and its disputed nuclear program. For Iran's supreme leader, the 86-year-old Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, it could mark the end of a similarly ambitious campaign to transform the Islamic Republic into a regional power and counterweight to the West.

Hours after the U.S. strikes, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said it launched a barrage of 40 missiles at Israel, including its Khorramshahr-4,

which can carry multiple warheads. Israeli authorities reported that more than 80 people suffered mostly minor injuries, though one multistory building in Tel Aviv was significantly damaged, with its entire facade torn away to expose the apartments inside.

Following the Iranian barrage, Israel's military said it had "swiftly neutralized" the Iranian missile launchers that had fired, and that it had begun a series of strikes toward military targets in western Iran.

Iran has maintained that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only, and U.S. intelligence agencies have assessed that Tehran is not actively pursuing a bomb. However, Trump and Israeli leaders have argued that Iran could quickly assemble a nuclear weapon, making it an imminent threat.

The decision to directly involve the U.S. in the war comes after more than a week of strikes by Israel that significantly degraded Iran's air defenses and offensive missile capabilities, and damaged its nuclear enrichment facilities.

But U.S. and Israeli officials have said the 30,000-pound bunker-buster bomb offered the best chance of destroying sites program buried deep underground — and the U.S. is the only military that has both the munitions and the planes to drop them.

Fourteen of the bombs were used on two nuclear sites, including Fordo, according to Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In all, he said, 75 precision-guided weapons were used, including missiles fired from a submarine.

Satellite images taken by

Planet Labs PBC and analyzed by The Associated Press showed damage to the Fordo facility, which is dug deep into a mountain, while light gray smoke lingered in the air.

Several Iranian officials, including Atomic Energy Organization of Iran spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi, have claimed that Iran moved nuclear material out of the targeted sites before the strikes. Satellite images suggest the entrance tunnels to Fordo were packed with dirt ahead of the attack.

"Questions remain as to where Iran may be storing its already enriched stocks ... as these will have almost certainly been moved to hardened and undisclosed locations, out of the way of potential Israeli or U.S. strikes," said Darya Dolzikhova, a senior research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute focused on nonproliferation issues.

"It is also unclear what secret facilities may exist inside Iran that Tehran could use for continued centrifuge production enrichment and weapons-relevant activities."

The International Atomic Energy Agency did not respond to a request for comment Sunday over the possibility that nuclear material was moved.

The decision to attack was a risky one for Trump, who won the White House partially on the promise of keeping America out of costly foreign conflicts and scoffed at the value of American interventionism.

But Trump also vowed that he would not allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon, and he had initially hoped that the threat of force would bring the country's leaders to give up its nuclear program.

Decoys, bunker-busters used in attack

By **MATTHEW ADAMS**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military employed more than 125 aircraft — some used as decoys — and more than a dozen bunker-buster bombs to attack three nuclear sites in Iran causing “extremely severe damage and destruction,” the Pentagon said Sunday.

“It was powerful, and it was clear. We devastated the Iranian nuclear program,” Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said during his first briefing with news reporters at the Pentagon.

The U.S. attacked the Iran nuclear facilities at Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz in a mission dubbed Operation Midnight Hammer. The operation took weeks of positioning and preparing.

The attack began overnight Friday and went into Saturday, said Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“This was a highly classified mission with very few people in

Washington knowing the timing or nature of this plan,” he said.

A group of B-2 stealth bombers launched from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. Part of the package proceeded west as far as the Pacific Ocean as part of a decoy only known by a small number of planners in Washington and Tampa, Fla., where U.S. Central Command is based, Caine said. The main strike group comprised seven B-2 Spirit stealth bombers, each with two crew members, proceeded east with minimal communications throughout the 18-hour flight to the target area.

At about 5 p.m. EST on Saturday prior to the strike, a U.S. submarine in the CENTCOM area of responsibility launched more than two dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles on infrastructure targets at the Isfahan site.

At 6:40 p.m., the lead B-2 bomber launched two bunker-buster bombs, which weigh about 30,000 pounds, at the Fordo site, Caine said. All three Iranian nu-

clear sites were hit between 6:40 p.m. and 7:05 p.m. EST.

“We are unaware of any shots fired at the [U.S. aircraft] on the way out. It appears Iran’s surface-to-air missile systems did not see us,” the general said. “Throughout the mission, we retained the element of surprise.”

More than 125 aircraft participated in the mission, including the B-2 bombers, fighter jets, refueling planes and surveillance aircraft.

“This mission was not and has not been about regime change,” Hegseth said. “[President Donald Trump] authorized a precision operation to neutralize the threats to our national interests posed by the Iranian nuclear program and the collective self-defense of our troops.”

Leaders for Iran, which has been fighting with Israel through an exchange of bombing campaigns for almost two weeks, have accused the U.S. of launching “a dangerous war.”

The U.S. is on high alert for any retaliation in the Middle

East from Iran following the strike. There are about 40,000 U.S. troops stationed in the region.

Iran has maintained its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only. However, Trump and Israeli leaders have argued Iran could quickly assemble a nuclear weapon, making it an imminent threat.

The decision to directly involve the U.S. in the fighting comes after strikes by Israel that significantly degraded Iran’s air defenses and offensive missile capabilities and damaged its nuclear enrichment facilities. But U.S. and Israeli officials have said American B-2 bombers and the bunker-buster bombs offered the best chance of destroying heavily fortified sites connected to the Iranian nuclear program buried deep underground.

Trump said Saturday night in an address to the nation from the White House that Iran’s key nuclear sites were “completely and fully obliterated.”

US bases in Mideast in lockdown amid threats from Iran

By **SHANNON RENFROE**
AND LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The Navy installation that is home to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command was put on heightened alert Sunday, as a representative of Iran’s supreme leader called for a retaliatory attack on the American fleet there.

Naval Support Activity Bahrain remained under lockdown Sunday, with access limited to mission-critical personnel in the wake of U.S. strikes earlier in the weekend that President Donald Trump said had “obliterated” three of Tehran’s nuclear facilities.

All NSA Bahrain personnel not deemed mission-critical were instructed to limit their movements to essential activities, such as commuting for approved work duties or leaving home for necessities like medical appointments or shopping for grocery staples.

Core services, including the island’s only Navy Federal Credit Union branch and all medical facilities, have been shut down. The post office, which has been closed since June 14, briefly attempted to resume operations, but mail delivery was suspended again early Sunday.

The precautions come as Hossein Shariatmadari, a close aide of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said it’s

Iran’s turn “to act without delay.”

“As a first step, we must launch a missile strike on the U.S. naval fleet in Bahrain and simultaneously close the Strait of Hormuz to American, British, German and French ships,” Shariatmadari told the pro-government Kayhan newspaper.

The closure of the on-base credit union has made it difficult for service members to pay rent in Bahrain, where payments typically require in-person currency conversion and cashier’s checks in dinars. A credit card option exists for the rent portion only but comes with a surcharge of up to 5% per transaction.

With no clear reopening time-

lines and little guidance, some sailors said they are stressed and face the added pressure of being just as much in the dark as their landlords. That’s on top of being confined to their apartments with no services to rely on.

“It feels like COVID all over again but with bombs,” Chief Petty Officer Daniel Hinton said.

Since Israel launched its first strikes against Iran just over a week ago, the U.S. has been moving nonessential personnel, including embassy staff and families of service members, out of the theater. The U.S. maintains about 40,000 troops in Mideast countries, according to the Council on Foreign Relations.

Iranian strike causes heavy damage in Tel Aviv

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Hours after the U.S. struck three Iranian nuclear sites, Iran launched more than 40 missiles toward Israel on Sunday, wounding 23 people and destroying apartment buildings and homes in three cities.

At an impact site in Tel Aviv, the blast had sheared off the face of a multistory residential building and damaged several others — including a nursing home — in a radius of hundreds of yards.

But few people were wounded, as many residents had been evacuated and others made it to bomb shelters.

Deputy Mayor Haim Goren, who assisted at the scene, said it was nevertheless “miraculous” that more people were not hurt.

Relatives and health aides helped residents — many with wheelchairs or walkers — to leave the nursing home, where windows were blown out up to the top on the 11th floor.

“It’s like a typhoon came through my apartment,” said Ofer Berger, who lives near the impact site on the seventh floor of a high-rise. “All of the apartments in this area are destroyed,” he said.

Emergency services said one person was moderately wounded by shrapnel in Sunday’s missile barrage while dozens of others were lightly injured.

Berger said he hoped the war with Iran would end soon. “Most of the tit-for-tat strikes like this end with a lot of tears,” he said.

Residents sat with their pets

and suitcases outside the damaged buildings. One person sat next to a cart filled with Buddha statues and a child’s bicycle.

Families gathered what they could and stepped gingerly around piles of glass and twisted metal. Dozens of volunteers from an organization called “One Heart” showed up to help residents salvage their belongings.

Strikes have displaced more than 9,000 people from their homes since the start of the war, according to the Israeli military. Missiles have damaged 240 residential buildings, including more than 2,000 individual apartments.

Mira Goshen, 79, said her entire apartment was destroyed.

“My mamad was shaking like a leaf, and I thought it was the

end of the world,” Goshen said, referring to the reinforced safe rooms that are required in all new construction. She said the shelter had saved her life. In some areas where entire homes were flattened, the reinforced rooms stood intact.

Goshen’s pet bird, Chica, survived an 11-story drop when her cage was knocked off the balcony by the explosion. A rescuer retrieved her, and she was trembling and burrowing into Goshen’s neck hours later as Goshen spoke with neighbors and authorities outside her building.

Hours later, municipality workers worked to sweep up the shattered glass and remove debris, while others handed out sandwiches and water at an aid station.

Navy hits its 2025 recruitment goal with time to spare

By ALISON BATH

Stars and Stripes

The Navy is having a banner year for filling its ranks, meeting the 2025 target of signing up more than 40,000 future sailors well before the end of the annual recruiting period, according to the service.

It had contracted 40,600 recruits as of Wednesday, three months before the Sept. 30 conclusion of the fiscal year, a Navy statement the same day said.

The achievement reflects focus and the ability to capitalize on the previous year’s momentum, the statement said. The total of 40,978 future sailors contracted in 2024 was the highest since 2002, the service said.

Last year, the Navy beat its recruitment goal by 378.

“More qualified and motivated Americans than ever are stepping forward and answering the call to serve their country,” Navy Secretary John Phe-

lan said in the statement.

Meeting the goal early will allow the service to be more thorough in its efforts to match recruits’ fields of interest with fleet needs, the service said.

Recent Navy recruiting success was due in part to real-time monitoring of recruitment data and introduction of a prep course for potential recruits designed to improve accession success, the service said.

The Navy also noted that

since November, its recruitment had soared. That was evidence of President Donald Trump’s leadership and recruiters’ hard work, the statement said.

“When we remove barriers, accelerate processes, and meet people where they are, the right individuals answer the call,” Rear Adm. Jim Waters, commander of Navy Recruiting Command, said in the statement.

ICE arrests Russian woman trying to enter Marine base

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

Agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested a Russian woman on June 12 after she attempted to enter Marine Corps Base Hawaii, the base said Friday.

Anastasiia Vorobeveva was detained by entry guards at the base’s main gate off the H-3 freeway.

“Military Police initiated a traffic stop after the individual failed to present valid identification,” the base said.

Vorobeveva had “no affiliation to the military or Marine Corps Base Hawaii,” according to the statement.

“Upon confirmation of her immigration status, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement took custody of the indi-

vidual and transported her off the installation,” the base said.

ICE posted a photo of Vorobeveva, adding that she had entered the United States at the San Ysidro port of entry in San Diego on July 18, 2023.

The agency gave no details about her immigration status.

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and U.S. Northern Command increased their security levels

at all installations on June 14, saying it was being done as a general precautionary measure rather than a specific threat.

In Hawaii, that meant suspension of the Trusted Traveler program, which allows a holder of the Defense Department’s common access card to accompany visitors onto installations without them needing to show identification.

FBI: Shooting suspect, wife are 'preppers'

The Washington Post

Hours after a Minnesota state lawmaker and her husband were fatally shot in their home, Vance Boelter, the man charged by authorities with the killing, texted his wife instructions to prepare for the worst, according to an affidavit unsealed on Friday.

Boelter had sent a message in their family group chat stating "something to the effect of they should prepare for war, they needed to get out of the house and people with guns may be showing up to the house," FBI agent Terry Getsch wrote in the affidavit.

Getsch added that Boelter and his family were "preppers" — people who go to extreme lengths to prepare for catastrophic events that could require survival skills and stockpiles of supplies.

Boelter's wife, Jenny, shared this information with authorities on the morning of June 14 after she was stopped by police

in Onamia, a small town about 90 miles north of Minneapolis, according to the affidavit. Jenny Boelter, driving with her four children, was pulled over as authorities were carrying out the largest manhunt in Minnesota's history for her husband.

She allegedly told authorities that her husband had given her a "bailout plan" to follow in an emergency, which involved driving to her mother's residence in Spring Brook, Wis.

In her vehicle, police said, they found a safe, the family's passports, around \$10,000 in cash and two weapons — a revolver in the glove box and a semiautomatic pistol in a cooler.

Earlier that day, Democratic state Rep. Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, were shot and killed in their home just north of Minneapolis.

Another lawmaker, Democratic state Sen. John Hoffman, and his wife, Yvette, were also shot at home and seriously injured. Authorities say the kill-

ings were part of a "calculated plan to inflict fear and violence upon Minnesota elected officials and their families."

Boelter is believed to have started preparing for the rampage nearly five days earlier, according to officials, who also say that he stalked his victims by collecting addresses and information about their families.

Over several hours on June 14, Getsch wrote in the affidavit, Boelter visited the homes of multiple members of the state's legislature in a "spree of violence," intending to kill, injure, intimidate or harass them.

Costumed as a law enforcement officer, he knocked on Hoffman's door first at 2 a.m. on Saturday, the affidavit said. After the lawmaker and his wife opened the door, Boelter allegedly shot them multiple times before fleeing. He went to two more homes before reaching the Hortman residence, the affidavit said.

After being challenged by po-

lice officers responding to the Hortman home, Boelter fled through the house's back door, sparking a 40-hour search. On Sunday, a neighbor of Boelter's in Green Isle, Minn., spotted him while visiting another neighbor's house, alerting law enforcement to the area. Boelter soon surrendered.

People in the community who knew the Boelters have been struggling to reconcile the neighbor they knew with the man authorities say tried to rampage and kill Minnesota politicians.

He declared himself a born-again Christian at age 17, and based on his recent online activity, an expert said his views appeared to align with those of the political "far right" of American Christianity. Boelter spent most of his career in the food industry, but he had hoped to launch a security business. His family spent time at the public pool or at Bible study, according to neighbors.

Texas law now require Ten Commandments in public school classrooms

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas will require all public school classrooms to display the Ten Commandments under a new law that will make the state the nation's largest to attempt to impose such a mandate.

Gov. Greg Abbott announced Saturday that he signed the bill, which is expected to draw a legal challenge from critics who consider it an unconstitutional violation of the separation of church and state.

The Texas measure easily passed in the Republican-controlled state House and Senate in the legislative session that ended June 2.

"The focus of this bill is to look at what is historically important to our nation educationally and judicially," said Republican state representative Candy Noble, a co-sponsor of the bill.

Texas' law requires public schools to post in classrooms a 16-by-20-inch poster or framed copy of a specific English version of the commandments, even though translations and interpretations vary across denominations, faiths and languages and may differ in homes and houses of worship.

Opponents, including some Christian and other faith leaders, say the Ten Commandments and prayer measures infringe on others' religious freedom.

Ukraine says it received bodies of Russian soldiers

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine's president said that Russia repatriated at least 20 of its own dead soldiers in recent exchanges with Ukraine, describing it as a result of Moscow's disorganization in carrying out large swaps of wounded POWs and remains.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that an Israeli citizen was among the dead Ukraine had received in recent exchanges. Officials did not disclose the identities of the bodies.

"They threw the corpses of their citizens at us. This is their attitude toward war, toward their soldiers. And this is already documented. Sometimes these bodies even have Russian passports," he said.

He said the Russian side in-

sisted the dead were all Ukrainians.

Journalists were shown a Russian passport and ID belonging to one of the 20 dead Russians. According to the document, the man came from the Moscow region.

The exchanges of the dead and wounded soldiers are the only tangible result of direct peace talks in Istanbul. In June, Ukraine and Russia agreed to exchange the bodies of fallen soldiers in a 6,000-for-6,000 format during the second round of negotiations.

Ukraine was concerned that the number was too high and that the sides did not have enough time for forensic examinations and checking the identities of the dead.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Sig Sauer gets protection from legal action in state

NH CONCORD — Faced with mounting lawsuits over a popular pistol, New Hampshire-based Sig Sauer asked for — and got — protection in the form of a new state law that makes it harder to take the gunmaker to court.

Supporters in the Republican-led Legislature said the law was needed to help a major employer. The lawsuits say Sig Sauer's P320 pistol can go off without the trigger being pulled, an allegation the company denies.

The law covers all gun manufacturers and federal firearm licensees in product liability claims regarding the "absence or presence" of four specific safety features. One of those features is an external mechanical safety that people suing Sig Sauer say should be standard on the P320, based on its design. Claims can still be filed over manufacturing defects.

Rebuilding of old church starts on Juneteenth

VA WILLIAMSBURG — The rebuilding of one of the nation's oldest Black churches, whose congregants first gathered outdoors in secret before constructing a wooden meetinghouse in Virginia, started Thursday with a ceremonial groundbreaking.

The First Baptist Church of Williamsburg officially established itself in 1776, although parishioners met before then in fields and under trees in defiance of laws that prevented African Americans from congregating. Free and enslaved members erected the original

church house around 1805, laying the foundation with recycled bricks.

Reconstructing the 16-foot by 32-foot building will help demonstrate that "Black history is American history," First Baptist Pastor Reginald F. Davis said before the Juneteenth groundbreaking.

The original building was destroyed by a tornado in 1834. First Baptist's second structure, built in 1856, stood there for a century. But the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, a living history museum, bought the property in 1956 and turned the space into a parking lot.

City plans to relocate some of its peacocks

CA LOS ANGELES — Spotting a trademark colorful and elegant bird on the Palos Verdes Peninsula can be exciting for visitors or vacationers, but as the peacock population has rocketed, officials say some of those birds have got to go.

This fall, Rancho Palos Verdes will restart a rarely used program to trap and relocate peafowl from the peninsula in an effort to curb the growing population and limit the animals' nuisance behaviors — with a goal of trimming the numbers by about 30%.

Although some residents are still enamored by the fowl — Rancho Palos Verdes resident Efran Conforty told KCAL News they are the "best neighbors" — the birds have also attracted a lot of haters.

City Council members said they received many letters in support of the trapping and removal program, some that even asked the city to expand it.

"They're running across the road all the time — it's dangerous," said Council member George Lewis at a May meeting.

15-year-old struck by lightning in Central Park

NY NEW YORK — A teenager out for a walk was struck by lightning in a freak occurrence in Central Park, police said Thursday.

The 15-year-old boy was strolling through the famed park when a thunderstorm suddenly broke out, with lightning striking him around 3:45 p.m. on the park's East Drive, according to police. He was standing under a tree when lightning struck it, and the electric current jumped from the tree to a metal chain he was wearing around his neck, according to a police source.

"We found him sitting on the path right there," a police officer told a Daily News reporter. "He was still conscious. He's lucky to be alive."

EMS transported the boy to Weill Cornell Medical Center with a neck injury, police said. He is in serious but stable condition, according to police.

Turtle on runway leads to plane crash that kills 2

NC MOCKSVILLE — Two people died and one was seriously injured after a small private plane crashed in North Carolina while avoiding a turtle on the runway on June 3, according to a preliminary report by the National Transportation Safety Board.

A UNICOM operator spotted the turtle and warned a pilot who had landed on the runway at Sugar Valley Airport in Mocksville. The pilot then lifted

the right main wheel to avoid hitting the reptile, the report said.

A witness said the wings of the plane "began to rock back and forth" before it took to the air again. The witness lost sight of the plane after it dipped behind the hanger and over the trees, the report said. The witness then "heard a loud crash and saw smoke."

The pilot and a passenger were killed, and another passenger was severely injured, per the report. The identities of the individuals who died have not been publicly released.

'Highly sophisticated' border tunnel discovered

CA SAN DIEGO — An incomplete but "highly sophisticated" drug-smuggling tunnel between Tijuana and Otay Mesa was located and disabled by the U.S. Border Patrol, officials said Wednesday.

The cross-border tunnel was actively under construction when it was uncovered by U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the sector's Tunnel Team in early April. The team made entry into the passageway, which ran beneath part of the Otay Mesa port of entry, officials said.

Officials believe the tunnel's intended exit point was "near or within a nearby commercial warehouse space." Cross-border tunnels have been found in the surrounding areas before.

The tunnel was equipped with electrical wiring, lighting, ventilation systems and a track system intended for transporting contraband, the Border Patrol said.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

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

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Source: Suns trading Durant to Rockets

Associated Press

The Houston Rockets are acquiring 15-time All-Star and four-time Olympic gold medalist Kevin Durant from the Phoenix Suns in a blockbuster deal struck Sunday, a person with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press.

The Rockets are giving up Dillon Brooks, Jalen Green and six future picks — including the No. 10 selection in Wednesday's opening round of this year's draft — according to the person who spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the deal was still pending NBA approval.

It ends weeks of speculation about where Durant would end

up. Many teams were involved at various times, including Miami and Minnesota, but in the end Phoenix took the Rockets' offer.

ESPN first reported the trade. Fans learned of the news while Durant was on stage in New York at Fanatics Fest NYC, and when they began reacting, Durant started smiling broadly.

"We're gonna see, man," Durant said from the stage. "We're gonna see."

Boardroom, the ever-growing media company that Durant and his business partner, Rich Kleiman, co-founded in 2019, teams up with Fanatics on a number of projects. The panel that Durant was set to appear on

there Sunday was called "Global Game Changers."

He certainly figures to change the game for Houston.

Houston finished No. 2 in the Western Conference in the regular season, albeit 16 games behind No. 1 Oklahoma City. It now adds a two-time champion to its young core as it looks to make another jump next season.

Durant averaged 26.6 points this season, his 17th in the NBA — not counting one year missed because of injury. For his career, the 6-foot-11 forward is averaging 27.2 points and seven rebounds.

Durant was the college player of the year before going as the

No. 2 pick in the 2007 draft by Seattle.

Houston will become his fifth franchise, joining the SuperSonics (who then became the Oklahoma City Thunder), Golden State, Brooklyn and Phoenix. Durant won his two titles with the Warriors in 2017 and 2018, and last summer in Paris he became the highest-scoring player in U.S. Olympic basketball history and the first men's player to be part of four gold-medal teams.

Durant is a four-time scoring champion, a two-time Finals MVP and one of eight players in NBA history with more than 30,000 career points, joining the club on Feb. 11.

LSU wins CWS opener behind Anderson's 3-hitter

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Kade Anderson made his final start in an LSU uniform on Saturday night, and it was a masterpiece that put the Tigers on the cusp of their second national championship in three years.

Anderson pitched a three-hitter and struck out 10 in a 1-0 victory over Coastal Carolina in Game 1 of the College World Series finals, his second straight dominant performance in Omaha.

"That's what we've seen all year," LSU coach Jay Johnson said. "He's the best pitcher in the country. And did it again tonight. That's been on the regular every game one of the entire season. Everybody got to see what we've seen and known for an entire season."

The Chanticleers (56-12) lost for the first time in 27 games and must win Sunday to force a third and deciding game Monday night.

LSU (52-15) made Steven Milam's RBI single in the first inning stand up with Anderson getting stronger as the game

progressed against a Coastal Carolina team that had won its first three CWS games by a combined 24-9.

"If it was going to be easy, there would be more than one national champion," Chanticleers coach Kevin Schnall said. "We've got to regroup. We've won 26 in a row. Let's just call it is what it is — the odds were not in our favor to go 28-0 and win this national championship."

Anderson, a lefty projected to be a top-three pick in next month's MLB amateur draft, threw 130 pitches and was just as good as he was in LSU's CWS opener against Arkansas last weekend. He has allowed one run and six hits and struck out 17 in 16 innings in Omaha.

Anderson grew up in Madisonville, La., as a big fan of LSU baseball.

Asked how often he dreamed of a CWS performance like Saturday's and winning a title, he said, "Probably every night."

"That wasn't necessarily to end the College World Series," he said. "We've got one more that we're preparing for. We'll

go back to the hotel and start preparing for that one as well."

Against the Chanticleers he had to deal with traffic on the baselines after issuing three of his five walks in the first two innings and hitting two batters. He was up to the challenge. The Chanticleers were 0 for 9 with runners in scoring position.

"It's the College World Series. You're going to pitch with runners on base," Johnson said. "It's the best teams in the country, and that's one of the best teams in the country. They do a great job of finding their way on base. And they did a few times tonight."

Anderson (12-1) walked pinch-hitter Domenico Tozzi with two outs in the ninth, prompting a mound visit from pitching coach Nate Yeskie.

Anderson then got Wells Sykes to fly out to end the game. Anderson and catcher Luis Hernandez embraced, and then their teammates mobbed them behind the mound to celebrate the first complete-game shutout in the CWS since 2022. Anderson worked around two walks in

the first inning, got out of the third when Sebastian Alexander was caught stealing third base, and he struck out three in a row after Blagen Pado's double leading off the fourth.

After he gave up LSU's early run, Coastal Carolina's Cameron Flukey (8-2) matched zeroes with Anderson from the second to sixth inning. Flukey limited the Tigers to four hits, walked two and struck out nine before turning the ball over to Dominick Carbone to start the seventh.

The Tigers are 16-0 when they have a lead at any point when Anderson is pitching. It was Anderson's second shutout of the season. He threw 135 pitches in a 2-0 win over Oklahoma on April 3. Anderson said he wasn't bothered by the conditions. The temperature was 97 degrees at first pitch with a gusty wind blowing out to left.

"I think that's the real benefit of playing in Louisiana," he said. "Growing up there, this was honestly not nearly as bad as it was in the super regional."

LSU will try to lock up its eighth national title Sunday.

Devers hits 1st HR as Giant vs old team

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — For Rafael Devers, his first home run for San Francisco felt similar to the 215 he hit for Boston—even if this one came against the Red Sox just six days after his surprising trade to the Giants.

Devers delighted his new fans in San Francisco when he connected for a two-run homer against his former team on Saturday to help fuel a 3-2 win for the Giants.

“Nothing more special than any other home run that I hit,” he said through an interpreter. “I’m just here and happy that I was able to contribute for the team’s win.”

Devers began his first series against the Red Sox by going 0-for-5 on Friday night and grounding out in his first at-bat Saturday. He then delivered just what his new team had been expecting when he hit an opposite-field drive off Brayan Bello over the left-field fence for a two-run homer in the third inning.

“That’s kind of typical him too,

just let it travel and catch it late and block it out to left field,” manager Bob Melvin said. “He’s done it so many times in Boston. This park kind of plays that way to lefties as well. I think to get that one off his back, feels good about that, obviously being incredibly impactful in the outcome of the game. Now he can settle in and do his thing.”

Devers sent an opposite-field drive off Brayan Bello (3-2) over the left-field fence. He got loud cheers from the Oracle Park crowd of 39,027 as he rounded the bases for his 216th career home run that just happened to be caught by a fan in a Red Sox T-shirt.

“As soon as he hit it, you kind of feel almost a little weight fell off his shoulders when he hit that ball,” Giants starter Landen Roupp said. “You could just see it. We expect many more from him in that area. Really excited to have him on the team and he will be a huge help.”

Devers became the 10th player to homer for and against the same

team in a span of seven days or fewer, according to Sportradar. The last player to do it was Abraham Toro, who homered for Houston against Seattle on July 26, 2021, and then for the Mariners against the Astros the next day.

This is the third time it happened with a player traded by the Red Sox.

Don Lenhardt and Walt Dropo both did it in 1952, with their homers for Detroit against Boston coming in the same game on June 6 that season, three days after they were traded together in an eight-player deal.

Devers also joined Willie Mays, Jimmie Foxx and four other players who hit their first 200 career homers with one team and then had their first homer on their new team come against their former team.

Devers was traded by Boston less than two years into a 10-year, \$313.5 million contract extension that he signed in 2023.

Devers’ relationship with the Red Sox began to deteriorate

when the team signed Gold Glove third baseman Alex Bregman during spring training and asked Devers to move to DH; he balked before agreeing to the switch. When first baseman Triston Casas sustained a season-ending knee injury, the Red Sox approached Devers about playing the field and he declined, saying the front office “should do their jobs” and look for another player.

A day after Devers’ comments to the media about playing first, Red Sox owner John Henry, team president Sam Kennedy and chief baseball officer Craig Breslow flew to Kansas City to meet with Devers and manager Alex Cora.

Devers’ stance didn’t change and he was eventually traded to San Francisco where he is practicing at first base to play there later this season.

Devers said Friday that he wouldn’t have done anything differently in his time in Boston, adding that he was as happy as he has been in years after joining the Giants.

Boca Juniors’ traveling fans take over South Florida

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Boca Juniors plays two of its three group-stage games of the Club World Cup in South Florida, and the Argentinian club’s traveling fans have made their presence known.

In the club’s first game of the tournament, a 2-2 draw against Benfica, the announced attendance of 55,574 at Hard Rock Stadium was mostly Boca fans. For Boca’s second game, a 2-1 loss to Bayern Munich on Friday night, the 63,587 fans were again mostly clad in blue and yellow.

Supporters of the club have been highly visible in Miami-Dade County, gathering on the beach in the thousands and singing in local Walgreens.

Sammy Icarina has supported Boca Juniors his whole life.

“I am a Boca fanatic. I’m 76 now, so imagine how long I’ve been a fan for. The minute the tickets came out I bought them,” Icarina told the Associated Press.

The enthusiasm Boca has brought to the Club World Cup is known to those who love the team.

“It is always like this,” said Daniel Mata, who traveled from Argentina to watch.

Silvana Gomez goes to Boca’s home stadium in Buenos Aires, the Bombonera, frequently and said the traveling support is typical and expected.

“Whether we go to Japan, Rio de Janeiro, wherever Boca plays we are always there,” Gomez said.

Miami-Dade police have been present and heavily equipped at the stadium’s multiple check-

points. New procedures have not posed any problem for the passionate Boca Juniors fans and no incidents have been reported at the venue.

“For now I think (the security) is five stars, everything has been good, the police, the security, everything,” Icarina said.

Boca Juniors and one of the top clubs in the world, Real Madrid, have among the highest turnout of fans for their group-stage matches.

After helping Bayern beat Boca, star striker Harry Kane noted the challenges of playing against such passionate supporters.

“I expected them to be loud like they were, but it was an incredible atmosphere, I loved playing in front of them, one of the best in my career,” Kane said.

On the sporting side, Boca Ju-

niors and their continental counterparts have fared well against European and global powerhouses. There are six South American teams in this Club World Cup and they have all brought tens of thousands of fans to their games.

South American clubs began this expanded Club World Cup without a defeat in their first nine matches, with wins against European powers Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea and ties against Borussia Dortmund, Benfica and Porto.

“We want our people to know that we are grateful for their support and it helps us play better,” Boca Juniors defender Ayrton Costa said after Friday night’s loss.

Although Boca has not won in regulation in six games, its fans will be vocal no matter what.

Yanks' Schmidt pulled after 7 no-hit innings

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Clarke Schmidt pitched seven hitless innings and the New York Yankees held the Baltimore Orioles to one hit in a 9-0 rout on Saturday.

Schmidt walked off the mound after getting through his seventh and exchanged a glance with manager Aaron Boone in the dugout.

That was it for Schmidt. Done for the day.

While the right-hander was disappointed, he certainly understood Boone's decision to take him out of the game even with a no-hitter going. Schmidt was pulled after tying a career high with 103 pitches, and the Yankees lost a no-hit bid Saturday when Gary Sánchez singled to start the eighth off JT Brubaker for the Orioles' only hit.

"It's more him like looking at me like, this is it for you right here," Schmidt said after the 9-0 win. "There's a little bit of a back-and-forth where you're having a conference, some dialogue, but you can tell with the look in his eyes it's, 'You're at (103). We're not driving you to 130 today.'"

"You're going to power through pitch limits, or within reason," Boone said. "Today was not that day for Clarke."

Schmidt (4-3) was bidding to throw New York's first no-hitter since Domingo Germán threw a perfect game on June 28, 2003.

Schmidt struck out five and issued both walks in the first inning when he threw 29 pitches. The right-hander threw first-pitch strikes to 16 of 24 hitters.

Rays 8, Tigers 3: Junior Caminero, Danny Jansen and Christopher Morel each hit a solo homer, helping Ryan Pepiot and host Tampa Bay beat Detroit.

Taylor Walls had two RBIs for Tampa Bay, and Yandy Díaz extended his hitting streak to 12 games. Pepiot (5-6) struck out seven while pitching five in-

nings of one-run ball.

With its second straight win over AL Central-leading Detroit, Tampa Bay moved a season-best nine games over .500 at 43-34. The Rays are a major league-best 22-8 since May 20.

Brewers 9, Twins 0: Jose Quintana pitched six innings of three-hit ball, and host Milwaukee beat Minnesota.

Isaac Collins had two hits and three RBIs for Milwaukee in its third consecutive win. Brice Turang had two hits and scored two runs.

The Brewers improved to 6-2 in their last eight games and moved a season-high seven games over .500 at 42-35.

The Twins had four hits in their eighth loss in nine games. They lost 17-6 in the series opener on Friday.

The game was played under an excessive heat warning.

Blue Jays 7, White Sox 1: Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Bo Bichette homered, helping José Berrios and host Toronto beat lowly Chicago.

Berrios surrendered an unearned run and two hits in a season-high 7 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings. The right-hander struck out five and walked three in his first win since May 29.

The last-place White Sox finished with two hits in their ninth loss in 10 games. They dropped to 8-32 on the road this year.

Davis Schneider had two hits and three RBIs as Toronto bounced back nicely from Friday's 7-1 loss in the series opener.

The crowd of 41,488 rose for a standing ovation when Berrios (3-3) exited after walking Ryan Noda. The lengthy start was a welcome one for a Toronto bullpen that used six relievers to cover seven innings Friday.

Cubs 10, Mariners 7: Ian Happ homered twice and drove in four runs, and Chicago held off Cal Raleigh and Seattle for a home victory.

Raleigh opened the ninth inning with his major league-leading 30th homer after he also went deep twice on Friday. Luke Raley hit a two-out single for Seattle, but Daniel Palencia closed it out when he retired Donovan Solano on a foul pop-up.

Cardinals 6, Reds 5 (11): Yohei Pozo had a two-out RBI single in the 11th inning to give St. Louis a comeback home victory over Cincinnati.

The Cardinals overcame a 5-2 deficit, tying it in the ninth on Nolan Arenado's leadoff homer off Emilio Pagán. Alec Burleson had a two-run homer and an RBI single for St. Louis.

Rangers 3, Pirates 2: Corey Seager singled in the tiebreaking run in the sixth inning, rookie Kumar Rocker won his second straight start, and visiting Texas beat Pittsburgh.

Seager's sharp single to center field scored Josh Smith and put the Rangers ahead 2-1. Marcus Semien followed with a sacrifice fly.

Braves 7, Marlins 0: Ronald Acuña Jr. had two hits, walked twice and drove in a run as visiting Atlanta beat Miami.

Drake Baldwin homered while Marcell Ozuna hit an RBI double and singled for the Braves, who have won seven of nine after falling to a season-low 10 games under .500 on June 10.

Padres 5, Royals 1: Fernando Tatis Jr. launched a three-run homer to end his long power drought and Dylan Cease pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning as host San Diego beat Kansas City.

Luis Arraez gave San Diego a 2-1 lead with an RBI single in the third, and the Padres won for the third time in 10 games.

The loss halted Kansas City's four-game winning streak.

Mets 11, Phillies 4: Juan Soto and Brandon Nimmo each hit two home runs, and New York connected for seven solo shots to snap a seven-game losing

streak with an away win over Philadelphia.

The Mets went ahead in the third when Francisco Lindor led off with the first of three consecutive homers off Mick Abel (2-1).

After the switch-hitter broke an 0-for-20 skid with a drive to center field, Nimmo clubbed a curveball into the seats in right before Soto made it 4-3 with the first of his two shots.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 3: Eugenio Suárez and Geraldo Perdomo homered, Ketel Marte went 4 for 4 and visiting Arizona beat Colorado in hot conditions for their third straight victory.

The Rockies said the first-pitch temperature of 98 degrees was highest for a major league game this season.

Angels 9, Astros 1: José Soriano pitched 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ strong innings and Logan O'Hoppe hit a pair of two-run shots to end a long home run drought and help visiting Los Angeles beat Houston.

Soriano (5-5) struck out 10 and allowed one run on three hits and three walks. He has allowed just two runs in his last three starts covering 20 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings with 28 strikeouts.

Guardians 4, Athletics 2: Luis Ortiz struck out 10 in six scoreless innings of two-hit ball and José Ramírez capped a four-run second with his 900th RBI as visiting Cleveland beat the Athletics.

Bo Naylor and Johnathan Rodríguez had back-to-back RBI doubles off Athletics starter Mitch Spence (2-2). Steven Kwan and Ramírez added run-scoring singles for a 4-0 lead.

Nationals 7, Dodgers 3: Nathaniel Lowe hit two of Washington's five home runs and the visiting Nationals beat Los Angeles.

James Wood, CJ Abrams and Luis García Jr. also went deep for the Nationals, who won a road game for the first time this month. They are 2-12 in their past 14 games overall.