

## Decoys may be key in US defense from Iran

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

The key to protecting billion-dollar U.S. air defense systems from enemy attack could be one of the oldest tricks in warfare: decoys.

The time-tested tactic, most recently used by Ukrainian air defenders to deceive Russian forces, could be useful in protecting high-value U.S. targets in the Middle East, where expensive military radar systems have been destroyed in recent Iranian attacks, according to a new Army research report.

“These techniques have enabled Ukrainian Patriot units to survive for more than three years under constant threat of surveillance, targeting and attack by a capable and motivated enemy,” the report published by the Modern War Institute at West Point said.

Those same methods could help protect U.S. air defenses in

the Middle East, according to the report, which notes Iran is receiving targeting support from Russian intelligence.

Decoys that have proved effective in Ukraine could therefore help thwart strikes in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, it said.

The report adds, however, that U.S. air defense commanders currently lack the resources, authority and training needed to effectively employ decoys.

The report’s authors, Lt. Col. Trevor Alexander and Capt. Christopher Burlison, are currently attached to Security Assistance Group—Ukraine, a command based in Wiesbaden, Germany, focused on capturing and applying lessons learned from the Russia-Ukraine war.

Since receiving U.S.-made Patriot air defense systems from Western countries, Ukraine has used them to defend against missile and drone at-

tacks, making them one of Moscow’s highest-priority targets.

To protect the Patriot systems, the Ukrainians have built convincing replicas using wood, metal and salvaged equipment, the report said. That has yielded decoys that look real to reconnaissance drones flying overhead.

“Although decoys can sometimes be identified upon closer inspection and review of attack footage, by the time one is identified as a decoy it has served its purpose,” the report said. “It delayed enemy targeting efforts and disrupted the targeting cycle, allowing the real unit to either conduct engagements or move to a new location.”

To add realism, Ukrainian teams will remain near a struck decoy, repositioning other elements of the system such as fake radars, launchers or life support equipment, which is intended to leave Russian forces

with the impression their attack succeeded.

Russian forces have posted videos on Telegram celebrating the destruction of Patriot systems only for closer inspection to reveal they had struck decoys, the report said.

While Alexander and Burlison focused on lessons from Ukraine, the use of decoys in warfare is hardly new.

Ahead of the D-Day invasion in 1944 during World War II, Allied forces used inflatable equipment, dummy landing craft and fake radio traffic to convince German commanders that the main assault would occur elsewhere.

In the new Army report, the authors said military bureaucracy and regulations can slow innovation. The service needs to delegate authority to lower-level commanders when it comes to developing such equipment, the report said.

## US, Iran continue attacks as peace talks stall

*Bloomberg News*

The United States and Iran appear to be making little progress toward an interim deal to end the war Washington and Israel began 100 days ago, as fresh attacks pile pressure on a fragile ceasefire.

The past week saw the worst flare-up in tensions since the truce started around April 8. Negotiations between Washington and Tehran are bogged down over the fate of billions of dollars of frozen Iranian assets and a parallel conflict between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.

U.S. Central Command said early Sunday that it downed two

Iranian attack drones which threatened international maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, the waterway crucial to global energy exports that’s also been at the heart of discussions.

On Friday, six ballistic missiles fired at Bahrain and Kuwait were intercepted and another failed to reach their intended target, hours after four unmanned craft headed to Hormuz were shot down, CENTCOM said. The U.S. struck Iranian coastal surveillance radar sites in Goruk and on Qeshm Island, it added.

Since the U.S. and Israel began hitting Iran on Feb. 28, Tehran and its proxies have launched missile and drone attacks on oil

infrastructure, industrial sites and U.S. military facilities across the Gulf. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain have all sustained damage.

In Washington, President Donald Trump’s administration is floating a plan to steer Iranian assets frozen in the U.S. toward helping those Gulf allies rebuild from damage inflicted by the Islamic Republic.

Trump said in an interview broadcast Sunday that he would not unfreeze any Iranian assets or lift any sanctions against Iran as part of an initial deal.

“If they behave, if they do a good job, we start talking” about

releasing the assets, Trump told Kristen Welker in the interview taped Friday for NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

Tehran, meanwhile, has insisted those assets be released. The dispute risks derailing the discussions on a truce extension, reopening the strait and future talks over Iran’s nuclear program.

Iran’s neighbor Pakistan has played a key mediating role. The Islamic Republic’s foreign ministry said Sunday that Pakistani Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met Iran’s top envoy Abbas Araghchi in Tehran and passed along a letter from his premier to Iran’s supreme leader.

# Provision to explain officer firings adopted

BY SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The secretary of defense would have five days to explain to Congress why a senior military officer was removed from their position under a provision adopted by the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday.

The requirement was unanimously added by the panel as it debated the annual National Defense Authorization Act and comes after the controversial firing of several top officers, including Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George in April.

Former Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. C.Q. Brown, former chief of naval operations Adm. Lisa Franchetti and other senior officers have also been dismissed since the beginning of President Donald Trump's second term.

George's dismissal was particularly criticized by Democrats and Republicans. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth refused to provide a rationale for it during an appearance before the committee in April, "out of respect to these officers."

He later added that "we all serve at the pleasure of the president."

The adopted provision mandates a re-

port to the panel, as well as its counterpart in the Senate, that describes "the performance concerns, actions, or inactions of that officer that are cause for such removal, transfer, or relief of duty."

It was introduced by Democrat Pat Ryan of New York, a former Army intelligence officer, and agreed to by voice vote without objections.

The provision's inclusion in the committee's draft of the defense policy bill does not guarantee it will be enacted. The language will have to be approved by the full House as well as the Senate before it could be sent to Trump's desk.

## Sailor set to plead guilty in killing of petty officer

BY ALISON BATH  
AND KAYLYN BARNHART  
BATISTA

*Stars and Stripes*

NORFOLK, Va. — A Navy sailor with a lengthy history of sexual assault and domestic violence accusations is expected to plead guilty on Monday to killing a fellow service member last year and dumping her body near a Virginia naval base.

Seaman Jermiah Copeland is slated for a general court-martial starting Monday at Naval Station Norfolk stemming from the death of Petty Officer 3rd Class Angelina Resendiz in May 2025.

Resendiz's mother, Esmeralda Castle, told Stars and Stripes that he would admit to killing the sailor as part of a plea agree-

ment. Castle said prosecutors notified her of the deal, to which she agreed.

A Navy Region Mid-Atlantic spokeswoman did not immediately respond to questions about the case. But during a Friday hearing in Norfolk, military judge Frank Hutchison agreed to the plea deal.

It's not clear what charges Copeland will plead guilty to or how long he could serve in prison. Court records show that Copeland originally was charged with premeditated murder, which under the Uniform Code of Military Justice can carry a potential death sentence or life in prison.

During Friday's hearing, Copeland's defense attorney asked for a sentence reduction of three

days for every one day his client already has served in confinement. Copeland, in his dress whites, was present during the approximately hour-long hearing, staring impassively ahead.

Copeland's attorney made the sentence reduction request, arguing that his client had been illegally held in solitary confinement for 22 hours a day for nearly a year. As a result, Copeland was not being treated as a human being and his mental health had deteriorated, said Todd Mihill, a Coast Guard attorney.

Prosecutors countered that there were lawful reasons for the confinement, which was within the authority granted to brig officials.

Navy investigators believe Copeland killed Resendiz and

hid her body in his barracks room before disposing of it in a wooded area about 10 miles from the Norfolk base, USNI News reported in September.

Castle said she will attend the Monday hearing and hopes to talk privately with Copeland but doesn't know whether the meeting will be approved.

"I want to get to a place where I can find compassion and forgiveness," Castle said.

Castle has strongly criticized the Navy's handling of her daughter's disappearance. She also questions why Copeland, who is accused of raping two other women and committing other sexual and violent crimes prior to Resendiz's death, was allowed to continue serving among fellow sailors.

## Latest US strike on alleged drug boat kills 2 people

*Stars and Stripes*

A U.S. strike Wednesday on a suspected drug boat in the eastern Pacific Ocean killed two men, U.S. Southern Command said.

The strike raises to at least 207 the total number of people killed since the U.S. campaign

against "narcoterrorists" in the region began in early September.

"Intelligence confirmed the vessel was transiting along known narco-trafficking routes in the Eastern Pacific and was engaged in narco-trafficking operations," SOUTHCOM said in

a statement. A post on X included an 11-second video of the strike. No U.S. forces were harmed.

It was the first strike the military launched in the eastern Pacific last week, and the fifth in eight days.

Operation Southern Spear

has continued despite the U.S. military's focus on the Middle East. Strikes under the operation have increased in frequency in recent weeks after a relative lull that followed the capture of former Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro in January.

# Judge ends immigration applications freeze

*Miami Herald*

A federal judge on Friday lifted a freeze on the immigration applications of more than a million Haitians, Cubans and Venezuelans in a ruling that struck down cornerstones of the Trump administration's immigration agenda.

Chief Judge John J. McConnell Jr., of the U.S. District Court of Rhode Island, ruled that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services overstepped its authority, made decisions without providing the necessary explanations, and used national security as a pretext for making decisions based on anti-immigrant sentiments.

The judge struck down several USCIS policies issued across

three memos in late 2025 and early 2026. They include a freeze on all applications for asylum and withholdings of removals across all nationalities and a hold on pending immigration applications from 39 countries, including Cuba, Haiti and Venezuela.

Those applications are for work permits, family-based green cards, employment visas, citizenship and more.

Also declared unlawful in Friday's ruling were a mandate to review all approved immigration applications during the Biden era from the 39 countries, and a requirement that USCIS officials deem certain nationalities as a negative factor when deciding applications.

The challenged policies placed

the lives of countless individuals on hold — solely by virtue of their countries of birth, the judge, appointed to the federal bench by President Barack Obama, wrote. "Over six months later, many of those individuals remain without work, without legal status, and without any meaningful ability to plan for their futures."

In a statement to the *Miami Herald*, James Percival, the Department of Homeland Security's general counsel, said that "The Left has been running the same gambit with so called 'animus' claims since 2017. It is sabotage dressed in legal clothing. It goes like this: (1) the admin is racist, (2) therefore a policy I don't like is motivated by race, (3) therefore it is invalid. They have used it on

virtually every Trump era Department of Homeland Security policy."

Meanwhile, advocates, experts and lawyers celebrated the decision on Friday.

Tessa Petit, the executive director of the Florida Immigrant Coalition, called the ruling a "powerful affirmation of a simple but fundamental principle: the rule of law must apply to everyone equally." She called the targeting of certain countries, many of them majority Black, "a blatant discrimination based on xenophobia and racism."

Many of the people affected are already in the United States, and the limbo left them unable to work or vulnerable to detention and deportation.

## Judge pauses plan to tie SNAP benefits to ideology

*Los Angeles Times*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A federal judge sided with California and other Democratic states on Friday in a preliminary injunction that blocked the Trump administration's attempt to condition food benefits on compliance with the president's policies on gender and immigration.

Twenty states and the District of Columbia filed a lawsuit in March against the Trump administration in U.S. District Court in Massachusetts, arguing that the "unlawful" and "unconstitutional" funding requirements are vague and designed to force policies on states.

Billions in federal funding are ultimately at stake, including money for school lunch programs that provide meals to 30 million children nationwide and food stamps that support about 40 million Americans living in low-income households.

"As the Trump Administration tries to use essential programs and billions in funding as leverage to advance their hateful, dis-

crimatory agenda, California continues to fight to uphold the law and ensure that our communities can continue to access the funding they need to thrive," said California Attorney General Rob Bonta in a statement.

The policy shift from the U.S. Department of Agriculture marks another effort by the president to force left-leaning states to submit to his positions on hot-button political and cultural issues to receive government funding. California's current budget relies on \$174.5 billion in federal dollars, or roughly one-third of the overall state budget funds.

States argue that the conditions do not explain what activities are prohibited for entities that receive grants. The USDA did not cite any law allowing the organization to impose anti-discrimination policies that go beyond federal law, the suit states. The states that joined the lawsuit contend that they are left with the "unlawful" choice of adhering to the conditions or risk losing federal assistance from the USDA.

## Astronauts on space station shelter amid cracks repair

*Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel*

Astronauts are sheltering on board a docked SpaceX Crew Dragon as cracks in need of repair got worse on the International Space Station on Friday, according to NASA.

Russian space agency Roscosmos has opted to try to repair the worsening leaks on its Zvezda service module tunnel, which "has suffered from cracks and leaks for some time, and has been mitigated by Roscosmos as much as possible to date," reads an update from NASA spokesperson Bethany Stevens. "The cracks have always been a concern that NASA watches very closely."

"Out of an abundance of caution, NASA has directed all four of the agency's SpaceX Crew-12 members and NASA astronaut Chris Williams to assume an elevated safety posture in the Dragon spacecraft while the repair is underway," she wrote.

The two agencies have been trying to determine the root cause of the cracks and so far Roscosmos has managed it with "oper-

ational mitigation measures and periodic partial-repair efforts," Stevens said.

"We continue to work with our Russian counterparts, along with the rest of the international community that supports the space station, to arrive at a more permanent resolution," she wrote.

The Crew Dragon Freedom launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida in February to bring the four members of Crew-12 for their months-long mission on board. The four crew are NASA astronauts Jessica Meir and Jack Hathaway, European Space Agency astronaut Sophie Adenet and Roscosmos cosmonaut Andrey Fedyaev.

Williams flew to the station with Roscosmos cosmonauts Sergey Kud-Sverchikov and Sergey Mikayev on a Soyuz spacecraft last November.

Kud-Sverchikov and Mikayev will perform the repairs while the five others on board the station remain sheltered within the Dragon spacecraft docked to the American half of the station.

# Ukraine targets St. Petersburg with drones

*Bloomberg News*

Ukraine launched a drone barrage at St. Petersburg on Saturday, the final day of a major investment forum, hours after President Vladimir Putin spoke there and refused a proposal for talks with Kyiv.

The strikes on the city and the surrounding region set a defense ministry facility ablaze and disrupted operations at Russia's second-largest commercial airport for several hours.

Russian air defense shot down 144 drones over the Leningrad region, Gov. Alexander Drozdenko said in post on Telegram, describing it as an unprecedented assault. A fire

broke out at a defense ministry site in the Lomonosovsky district, prompting a partial evacuation of nearby residents.

Kronstadt, the naval base on Kotlin Island, west of the city, was briefly closed to traffic, the district administration said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed strikes on St. Petersburg region and said they were targeting the Russian navy's arsenals as well as Kronstadt. An oil depot in the Krasnodar region of southern Russia was also struck, Zelenskyy said.

Explosions were recorded at Kronstadt naval base, a hub for the basing, repair and support of Russia's Baltic Fleet, Uk-

raine's General Staff said in a statement on Facebook. The Petergofskaya oil depot and Neste oil terminal in the city of Lomonosov in the Leningrad region were hit, as well as a logistics center in Bolshaya Izhora.

Separately, Russian authorities reported that the area affected by a fire at the Ust-Labinsk oil depot in the Krasnodar region of southern Russia is about 54,000 square feet.

Leningrad region is a key commodities export hub in northwestern Russia that has been repeatedly targeted by Ukraine this year, including attacks that damaged energy export terminals. No damage to ports was reported from Satur-

day's attack so far.

Speaking Friday at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Putin rejected Zelenskyy's call to meet and negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine, now well into its fifth year.

The forum, the Kremlin's premier economic and investment event, was overshadowed earlier in the week when Ukrainian drones struck a St. Petersburg oil terminal. The Kronstadt base was also targeted.

Russia, meanwhile, kept up its own attacks on Ukraine. At least 12 civilians were killed and over 70 injured across the nation over the past day, regional authorities said on Saturday.

## CDC warns Ebola outbreak could be one of largest ever

*Bloomberg News*

Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo jumped by 71 in a day and another 21 deaths were recorded as health workers expanded testing in the mining town where the outbreak is believed to have begun, pointing to an epidemic that may be much bigger than previously understood.

The infections brought the number of laboratory-confirmed cases to 452 and deaths among confirmed patients to 82, according to a report released Friday by Congo's National Institute of Public Health.

Health authorities have begun processing samples in Mongbwalu, an artisanal gold-mining center in Ituri province and the epicenter of the outbreak, reducing delays in confirming suspected cases in the area.

Researchers at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned Friday that the Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak could become one of the largest Ebola epidemics ever recorded

if control measures fail to accelerate.

The outbreak has spread across more than two dozen health zones in three eastern Congolese provinces and into neighboring Uganda.

Unlike the Zaire strain responsible for most major Ebola epidemics, there is no licensed vaccine or approved therapy specifically for Bundibugyo virus disease, though several experimental vaccines and treatments are under development.

A U.S. citizen who contracted Ebola while working as a doctor on a humanitarian mission in Congo has been discharged from a hospital in Germany after receiving treatment and testing negative for the virus.

Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin admitted Peter Stafford, who had pronounced symptoms of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola, on May 20.

Stafford's five family members were also quarantined at the hospital, but none of them developed symptoms or tested positive for Ebola.

## Trump's inner circle subpoenaed by BBC in libel lawsuit against it

*Bloomberg News*

WASHINGTON — The British Broadcasting Corp. issued a wave of subpoenas to dozens of members of President Donald Trump's inner circle as part of its defense in his \$10 billion defamation lawsuit, raising fresh questions about Trump's speech before the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

The BBC in recent weeks sent 47 subpoenas to members of Trump's family and Cabinet, as well as the Department of Justice and other federal agencies, seeking information about the president's intent and state-of-mind before the speech. Recipients include Donald Trump Jr., Ivanka Trump, Jared Kushner, Steve Bannon, Stephen Miller and Michael Flynn.

Trump sued over a 2024 BBC documentary that included a misleading edit of a speech he made before the assault by his supporters, making it appear that he'd made a direct call for

violence. The BBC apologized but failed to prevent Trump's suit.

The news outlet moved to dismiss the suit in March but has continued to build a defense should the case go to trial.

In a joint filing Wednesday in federal court in Florida, lawyers for Trump and the BBC requested a hearing on the subpoenas. Trump argues the demands are part of a "fishing expedition," while the BBC says Trump's lawsuit opened the door to the requests for information about his conduct.

To win the case, Trump "must prove that he did not foment or incite the January 6 Capitol riot," the BBC said. "Plaintiff has placed that question directly at issue in bringing this libel lawsuit — he cannot now prevent defendants from seeking records that would shed light on his true knowledge, intent, and state of mind in delivering his speech."

**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**City's voters become first to ban data centers**

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Residents of Monterey Park voted overwhelmingly to ban data centers on Election Day, making the San Gabriel Valley city the first in the nation to do so by public vote.

As of Wednesday, 86% of votes were in favor of Measure NDC, the city ban, according to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

Other cities and towns have passed moratoriums on data centers, as a wave of opposition sweeps the country. But the Monterey Park vote can only be overturned by another ballot measure, making it the most permanent data center ban in a jurisdiction.

Monterey Park's City Council had already banned data centers by ordinance, after a proposed 247,000-square-foot data center met an outpouring of public anger and concern. The developer withdrew that plan.

**NYC crime hits historic lows so far this year**

**NY** NEW YORK — Crime across the Big Apple has hit historic lows, with record reductions in murders, shooting incidents and shooting victims, according to the NYPD.

Major crime across the city declined 10.6% across the five boroughs — and more than 6% in the city's subways — in May, according to the latest Police Department figures.

Year to date, murders were down nearly 21%, 102 versus 129 at this time last year, the lowest level ever recorded for the first five months of any year, beating the previous record of 113, set in

2014 and 2017, officials said.

Even New York City's public housing projects are off to their safest year in history, with the fewest murders, shooting incidents, shooting victims and robberies, according to the stats.

**No charges for protesters at anti-ICE rally at church**

**MN** ST. PAUL — The St. Paul City Attorney's Office says it does not have sufficient evidence to file charges against protesters who interrupted a church service during Operation Metro Surge last winter.

Federal charges against more than 30 people arrested following an anti-ICE protest at Cities Church on Jan. 18 continue.

Among those still facing federal charges are former CNN journalist Don Lemon, Minneapolis civil rights activist Nekima Levy Armstrong, military veteran Will Kelly, St. Paul school board member Chauntyll Allen and student activist Jerome Richardson.

Irene Kao said her office conducted a thorough review of evidence submitted by law enforcement related to the demonstration protesters carried out after they learned that one of the church's pastors, David Easterwood, was the acting director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement field office in St. Paul.

**Tax revenue for wholesale pot far below projections**

**MI** LANSING — Michigan's new 24% wholesale tax on marijuana brought in less tax revenue than projected in the first quarter of its existence, generating less money for repairing roads, according

to a state treasury report.

When lawmakers voted to implement the wholesale tax last year, a nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency analysis estimated it would bring in about \$420 million a year, or about \$105 million a quarter.

But the Michigan Treasury Department report indicates the new tax has brought in nearly \$34 million through the end of April, less than 33% of the original projection. The new tax, which went into effect Jan. 1, is supposed to be a key contributor to a revamped state plan to fund road improvements.

The Michigan Cannabis Industry Association pointed to the lower-than-expected collections in the first quarter of 2026 as proof of its prediction that sales would decline because of the new tax.

**Prediction market bets by Santos draw scrutiny**

**NY** NEW YORK — Disgraced ex-Rep. George Santos is facing a federal probe of insider trading over successful bets on a prediction market that he would not attend President Donald Trump's State of the Union address.

The convicted fraudster, who was pardoned by Trump and freed from prison, allegedly used the Kalshi prediction site to bet against his appearance after publicly boasting that he would attend the Feb. 24 speech, sources told several media outlets.

Kalshi reportedly notified federal prosecutors and officials with the agency that regulates prediction markets after identifying Santos as the person who made the winning bets.

No charges have been filed

and Santos refused to comment on the reports. It's unclear how much Santos bet or how much he won.

The self-proclaimed fashionista and social media influencer repeatedly vowed to attend the State of the Union, which came just four months after he was granted clemency by Trump.

With Santos insisting he would be present, Kalshi's odds of Santos showing up soared to nearly 75%, meaning anyone who bet against his appearance would make a windfall of about \$3 for every dollar wagered when he was a no-show.

**Candidate answers vegan taunts with BBQ feast**

**TX** OAK CLIFF — After weeks of Republican taunts that he's a vegan, Democratic Senate candidate James Talarico sat down Tuesday to a platter piled with brisket, ribs, sausage and brisket boudin.

Then he dug in.

"It's so good," Talarico said at Smokey Joe's BBQ in Oak Cliff. "I'm from Central Texas where there is great barbecue, but they don't have anything on Oak Cliff."

Talarico's taste in food has become an unlikely campaign issue in his Senate race against Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton. Republicans have mocked him as a vegan and culturally out of step with Texas, an attack that gained traction after Talarico joined former President Barack Obama at Austin's Taco Joint last month.

Talarico, a state representative from Austin, ordered two potato, egg and cheese breakfast tacos, which an employee later said was his usual order.

— From wire reports



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**Reporting World, National and Military News**

# Knights top Canes after losing 4-goal lead

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A four-goal lead in what has been a wacky, compelling and highly entertaining Stanley Cup Final nearly wasn't enough for the Golden Knights on Saturday night.

A four-goal, third-period rally by the Hurricanes nearly made NHL history and in the process sent shockwaves through T-Mobile Arena.

And this game ended in a way perhaps befitting all the craziness, a shot from Vegas defenseman Shea Theodore off the skate of Brandon Bussi — the backup goalie put in the game in the third period after not playing for two months — that went into the net at 5:38 of double overtime to give the Golden Knights a 5-4 victory over Carolina.

"I have experienced a lot of games in playoffs," Golden Knights coach John Tortorella said. "I haven't experienced one like this."

Almost overlooked was the four-point night by Vegas' Mitch Marner, who also produced the fastest hat trick in Cup Final histo-

ry. The Golden Knights took a 2-1 series lead. The teams take two days off before meeting in Game 4 on Tuesday night in Las Vegas. Teams with a 2-1 series lead went on to win the Cup 46 of 57 times, or 80.7%.

Carolina had been 6-0 in overtime this postseason. The Hurricanes were trying to become the first team to win after trailing by at least four goals in the third period, but now clubs in that situation are 0-109.

"We just left our foot off the gas," Theodore said on the ABC broadcast. "I think we have to be sharper in the third, but I liked the resiliency out of our group. I liked the way we started that second overtime, and I felt like we were more on our toes."

This was the 10th time the first three games of a Cup Final were decided by a point. The last time was in 2016 between Pittsburgh and San Jose.

The Golden Knights seemed to have it in hand after scoring four times in the second, including a natural hat trick by Marner.

But Jordan Martinook, Taylor

Hall and Jordan Staal scored goals for the Hurricanes. Their goals, occurring 39 seconds apart, are the fastest three in a Cup Final game.

Andrei Svechnikov jammed in a puck on a six-on-four power play with 1:42 left to force overtime.

"I love that we feel like we can come back from anything, but you can't put yourself in a hole like we did," Martinook said.

"The second period, for them to come out like that and take total control of the game, it's something that can't happen, especially this time."

Marner's scoring outburst came over a 6:10 stretch of the second period, and he had four points in the period. He had the secondary assist on Tomas Hertl's goal midway through the period.

The last time a player had four points in a period of the Cup final was in 1919 when Frank Foyston of the Seattle Metropolitans pulled off that feat.

Marner nearly added to the total in the third period, but failed to

capitalize on a breakaway and a penalty shot.

Those missed chances came back to bite the Golden Knights.

The Hurricanes made the comeback after changing goalies to open the third, going with Bussi, who made 18 saves. Frederik Andersen had given up those four goals on 16 shots. Carolina also rallied without forward and former Golden Knight William Carrier, who had an upper-body injury in the second period.

Vegas' Carter Hart stopped 29 shots.

Vegas twice thought it took the lead early in the second period, but the Hurricanes successfully challenged both goals to keep the game scoreless.

The Golden Knights received a major boost when defenseman Brayden McNabb took the ice. He took a puck in the face in the first period Thursday night at Carolina and didn't return to the game. McNabb, who had on a cage to protect his face, is Vegas' best defensive defenseman. He was on the first defensive pair with Theodore.

# Zverev defeats Coboli, finally wins first Grand Slam title

Associated Press

PARIS — Alexander Zverev is no longer one of the best players never to win a major title.

He's finally a Grand Slam champion.

In his fourth major final, Zverev beat Flavio Cobolli 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-1 for the French Open title on Sunday.

It was a unique opportunity for Zverev without Jannik Sinner or Carlos Alcaraz across the net and the third-ranked German took full advantage on the red clay of Roland Garros.

When Cobolli missed an overhead on the second championship point after more than four hours of the five-set encounter, Zverev dropped on his back to the clay and covered his face with his hands as he began sobbing. When he got up, with his shirt and arms covered in clay, Zverev put his hands back on his face before he lifted both arms in celebration.

Zverev has now joined an elite group of players that captured their first major in their fourth final: Eight-time major champion

Andre Agassi, 2001 Wimbledon winner Goran Ivanisevic and 2020 U.S. Open champion Dominic Thiem.

Zverev had been an overwhelming favorite for the title ever since the top-ranked Sinner struggled in the first week's heat wave and wasted a two set and 5-1 lead against Juan Manuel Cerundolo in the second round.

Alcaraz, the two-time reigning champion, withdrew before the tournament with an injured right wrist.

It was Zverev's second French Open final, having wasted a lead of two sets to one against Alcaraz in the 2024 championship match. He was also beaten in straight sets by Sinner in the 2025 Australian Open final.

It was the 25th title of Zverev's career.

## Cobolli's 1st Slam final

The 14th-ranked Cobolli had never been past a Grand Slam quarterfinal until this week. He was attempting to become the first Italian man to raise the singles trophy at Roland Gar-

ros since Adriano Panatta 50 years ago.

The honors, however, were going to Zverev.

Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva won the women's singles trophy Saturday.

## Zverev took control early

The match was played in perfect conditions and Zverev's game was almost flawless at the start. Zverev broke Cobolli's serve in a long opening game when Cobolli shanked a forehand into the first row of the stands. The break came after Zverev had a bit of luck when a backhand return hit the net but dribbled over on game point for Cobolli.

Cobolli likes to stand way over near the corner of the court and hit big kick serves out wide into the ad court. Zverev knew what was coming and returned one such kick serve early in the first set with a backhand that he wrapped around the outside of the net post. Cobolli ended up winning the point, but it was a message from Zverev that he knew his opponent's tactics.

# US confident after tight loss to Germany

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Antonee Robinson struck the ball perfectly with his left foot, and it rocketed into the corner of the goal. Surrounded by a delirious sellout crowd at Soldier Field, the defender celebrated with a cartwheel and a backflip.

Not a bad way to go into the World Cup.

Robinson's spectacular goal was the biggest highlight for the United States in a 2-1 loss to Germany on Saturday. It was the ninth consecutive loss for the U.S. against European opponents dating to 2022, but the Americans were encouraged by their performance in their final World Cup tuneup.

"I mean against a really good team, I thought we were dangerous at times," forward Christian Pulisic said. "We had good stretches of possession, defended well for good portions of it. And, yeah, I mean honestly, I think, we're feeling good."

Members of the 1994 U.S. team were recognized on the field before the game.

Coach Mauricio Pochettino started what figures to be close to his World Cup lineup, with Matt Freese in goal, Sergiño Dest at right back, Alex Freeman, Miles Robinson and Tim Ream in central defense, Antonee Robinson at left back, Tyler Adams and Malik Tillman in defensive midfield, Pulisic and Weston McKennie in advanced midfield and Folarin Balogun up front.

The U.S. played without top defender Chris Richards, sidelined since tearing a pair of left ankle ligaments May 17. Richards, Mark McKenzie or Auston Trusty could replace Miles Robinson in the World Cup opener Friday against Paraguay.

In its final test before the tournament, the U.S. generated a handful of promising scoring opportunities, led by Pulisic and Balogun. The 16th-ranked Americans controlled the last part of the first half and finished with 10 corner kicks, compared to two for the 10th-ranked Germans.

But the U.S. also made a couple of costly mistakes that Pochetti-

no will look to clean up in his final preparations for the World Cup.

The U.S. has 14 wins, 10 losses and two draws since Pochettino took over as coach in October 2024.

"We compete. Unlucky. I think was an even game," Pochettino said. "If you see the stats, similar stats in some stats for us. I am so happy with the commitment and how the team was."

The Americans got off to a tough start when Adams was called for tripping Felix Nmecha with the German's back to the goal just 43 seconds into the game. Ream was picked by Nico Schlotterback on the resulting free kick, and a wide-open Kai Havertz broke past Miles Robinson and converted an easy header in the second minute.

On Germany's final goal, Miles Robinson was late in stepping up as Leroy Sané got a short pass from Havertz and beat Freese to the far post in the 57th minute.

"Disappointed that we lost, but many positives to take," Antonee Robinson said. "I feel like conceding that early, we could have

easily crumbled, and it could have been a very, very bad day to be going into the tournament with. But we fought back and at times played some really good football and looked good, looked competitive."

Nothing on the U.S. side looked better than Antonee Robinson's fifth international goal in the 37th minute. Jonathan Tah's headed clearance attempt on Pulisic's corner kick went just outside the area, and Robinson had perfect form on his volley past Germany goalkeeper Oliver Baumann.

The 28-year-old Robinson, who gave himself the nickname of "Jedi" when he was just a kid, said he had never scored a goal like that in a competitive game.

It was reminiscent of Benny Feilhaber's tiebreaking goal for the U.S. against Mexico in the 2007 CONCACAF Gold Cup final at Soldier Field.

"Going into a World Cup, it means a lot to have that kind of in my mind that I've scored something like that and a bit of freedom to shoot again if I'm in that position," Robinson said.

# Derby champ Golden Tempo grabs 2nd triple crown win

Associated Press

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Golden Tempo showed exactly why he is a great closer, and his stretch run at the Belmont Stakes on Saturday delivered more history for trainer Cherie DeVaux.

Ridden by jockey Jose Ortiz from 12 lengths off the lead, Golden Tempo surged from the back of the pack to win the 158th rendition of the race. The victory came five weeks after his last-to-first charge to win the Kentucky Derby.

"Golden Tempo is amazing. Jose is amazing," said DeVaux. "I think he needed to do this to kind of show that he was meant to win the Derby and that he is a horse that belongs in that conversation of being one of the top 3-year-olds."

Golden Tempo held off Commandment to win by a length and a quarter at odds of 6-1. Commandment was second and favorite Renegade placed third.

"I followed them closely in the second turn," Ortiz said. "They started to pick it up, so I did as well. I was just waiting for the right time to go all in. When I asked him to go, my horse responded."

DeVaux, after becoming the first woman to train a Kentucky Derby winner, is the second in four years to do so at the Belmont. Jena Antonucci won it with Arcangelo in 2023. DeVaux is the first woman to win multiple Triple Crown races.

"It's overwhelming," DeVaux said. "All the credit goes to Golden Tempo, who won the race, and Jose did a wonderful job of mak-

ing it happen. But I'm just so fortunate to be in this position. It's history-making, and I've kind of shied away from it, but I'm really grateful that I am that person."

DeVaux was born in Saratoga Springs and began her training career there, but she doesn't call herself a Saratoga native. She spends most of her time in Kentucky now and said she grew up in southern Florida. But after all the support she's received from the town, she has started to embrace it.

"Everyone is kind of calling me the hometown girl," DeVaux said. "So that's kind of fun. I'm going to miss our appetizer (at) Saratoga, as we call it, the 'Bellatoga.'"

Golden Tempo won two-thirds of the Triple Crown after DeVaux and owners decided to bypass the

Preakness. He is the second horse in as many years to win the Kentucky Derby and the Belmont after not running in the middle jewel.

This was the third and final time for the Belmont at Saratoga in upstate New York, while its traditional home on the border of Queens and Long Island is getting demolished and rebuilt. Run at 1¼ miles because of the track at Saratoga, the race is set to return to Belmont Park next year when it will return to its traditional 1½-mile distance.

"It's so meaningful," DeVaux said. "A lot of family here. Saratoga, it's been wonderful to have such a historic race here. ... It's so meaningful because the town gets to have this and celebrate it along with us."

# Guardians' Bibee gets 1st win this season

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Tanner Bibee got his first win of the season in his 14th start, allowing three hits over eight innings to lead the Cleveland Guardians over the Texas Rangers 6-0 on Saturday.

A 27-year-old right-hander, Bibee (1-7) had been winless in a franchise-record 13 regular-season starts since beating Detroit last Sept. 24.

He needed 87 pitches to get through eight innings, striking out three and walking two. Bibee had received one or zero runs of support in 10 previous starts this year.

Tim Herrin pitched a hitless ninth to finish Cleveland's third shutout, all on the road. Texas was blanked for the fifth time, and fourth in the Rangers' last 24 games.

José Ramírez and Brayan Rocchio homered for the Guardians.

**Braves 6, Pirates 3:** Dominic Smith hit a two-run homer, Spencer Strider allowed three runs in five innings and host Atlanta recovered after losing an early three-run lead to beat Pittsburgh and clinch another series win.

The Braves led 3-0 after three innings. The Pirates pulled even in the fifth on Brandon Lowe's sacrifice fly off Strider (4-1).

Atlanta delivered a quick answer by scoring three runs off Braxton Ashcraft (5-3) in the bottom of the third. Ronald Acuña Jr. and Matt Olson reached on singles before their double-steal set up a go-ahead sacrifice fly by Ozzie Albies. Smith then lined the two-run homer just inside the foul pole in left field.

**Royals 3, Twins 2:** Bobby Witt Jr. hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning to give visiting Kansas City a come-from-behind victory over Minnesota.

With the Royals trailing 2-1, Isaac Collins led off top of the

inning with a single against Eric Orze (2-2). Pinch runner Tyler Tolbert stole second and Josh Rojas reached base on a failed sacrifice attempt.

Kyle Isbel successfully bunted the runners up a base, and Tolbert scored on Carter Jensen's sacrifice fly to tie it. Witt then drove in Rojas with a single to left.

**Cubs 3, Giants 2 (10):** Michael Busch singled to right in the 10th inning, allowing automatic runner Dansby Swanson to advance from second and score on an error, and host Chicago edged San Francisco.

Leading off the 10th, Busch grounded the ball to right off Sam Hentges' 2-2 slider. Victor Bericoto charged the ball but couldn't come up with it and was charged with an error. That allowed Swanson — who was slowing at third — to continue home.

Pete Crow-Armstrong's second solo shot of the game, with two outs in the ninth off Keaton Winn, tied it at 2-2. The Cubs center fielder added two singles on a 4 for 5 afternoon to extend his hitting streak to a career-high 11 games.

**Marlins 4, Rays 3:** Javier Sanoja homered and singled twice, Tyler Zuber earned his first career save and host Miami held off Tampa Bay.

Sanoja led off the fifth inning with a 363-foot drive to left field against Shane McClanahan (6-3) to help the Marlins build a 4-1 lead until the ninth, when the Rays rallied against closer Pete Fairbanks.

Ben Williamson drew a lead-off walk and scored with two outs on a wild pitch by Fairbanks to make it 4-2, followed by an RBI single from Yandy Díaz. After loading the bases, Fairbanks exited to a smattering of boos before Zuber entered and struck out Junior Caminero.

**Mariners 4, Tigers 0:** Bryce Miller allowed one hit in six scoreless innings and visiting

Seattle got back on track with a win over Detroit.

Dominic Canzone drove in two runs with a pair of long extra-base hits for the Mariners, who had lost two straight after an eight-game winning streak.

**Cardinals 6, Reds 5:** Lars Nootbaar hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the eighth inning and Jordan Walker also homered as host St. Louis beat Cincinnati.

George Soriano (3-0) pitched a scoreless eighth inning, and Riley O'Brien allowed two hits and a walk in the ninth inning but got Sal Stewart to ground out to second with the bases loaded to earn his 16th save in 20 chances this season.

**Blue Jays 6, Orioles 4:** Ernie Clement hit a three-run home run, Brandon Valenzuela had three hits and an RBI, and host Toronto beat Baltimore.

Pete Alonso hit a two-run home run for the Orioles, and Colton Cowser and Blaze Alexander both had solo shots, but it wasn't enough for Baltimore.

**Nationals 6, Diamondbacks 1:** Curtis Mead launched a two-run homer in the first inning, Dylan Crews also went deep and visiting Washington held Arizona to two hits in a victory.

Nasim Nuñez drove in two runs and Crews scored twice for the Nationals (33-32), who improved to 21-12 away from home. Only NL East-leading Atlanta has more road wins with 23.

**White Sox 6, Phillies 3:** Jacob Gonzalez hit his first major league home run, Colson Montgomery also went deep and visiting Chicago defeated Philadelphia.

The White Sox scored four runs in the first inning off Andrew Painter (1-7) as each of the first four batters reached base and eventually touched home. Painter was wild, hitting leadoff hitter Sam Antonacci to start the game and then walking two others in the inning.

**Astros 13, Athletics 2:** Yor-

dan Alvarez hit a grand slam for his American League-leading 22nd home run, Tatsuya Imai struck out eight and host Houston defeated the Athletics.

LaMonte Wade Jr. and Jose Altuve also homered for the Astros, who roughed up Kade Morris (0-1) in his major league debut and scored all of their runs before the sixth inning.

**Brewers 7, Rockies 1:** Jacob Misiorowski threw a record-setting 103.7 mph pitch and Brice Turang hit two of visiting Milwaukee's five solo home runs in a win over Colorado. David Hamilton, William Contreras and Jake Bauers also went deep for the Brewers.

Misiorowski (7-2) fired a 103.7 mph fastball that was low and outside to Kyle Karros in the third inning, the fastest pitch by a major league starter since tracking began in 2008. Misiorowski allowed just an unearned run on four hits and struck out eight in seven innings to lower his ERA to 1.50.

**Dodgers 9, Angels 2:** Yoshinobu Yamamoto (6-4) retired 22 consecutive batters over eight dominant innings, Andy Pages and Shohei Ohtani homered to highlight a nine-run first and the host Dodgers routed the Angels.

The Dodgers battered Angels starter Jack Kochanowitz (2-5) for seven runs — six earned — and six hits in one-third of an inning. The right-hander had a strikeout and a walk in 38 pitches.

**Padres 3, Mets 2:** Light-hitting catcher Freddy Fermin launched his first homer this season to lift host San Diego over New York, snapping a six-game losing streak.

The Mets had two on and one out in the eighth when Juan Soto scorched a line drive to second baseman Sung-Mun Song. He snagged it and then flipped the ball to shortstop Xander Bogaerts to double off Carson Benge at second base.