

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## S. Korea and US begin Key Resolve drill

BY KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and South Korea kicked off annual computer-simulated war games on Monday against the backdrop of an increasingly dangerous North Korea.

The two-week command-post drill known as Key Resolve was being conducted simultaneously with a two-month field-training exercise called Foal Eagle that began March 1.

In preparation for the drills, U.S. Forces Korea tweeted Sunday that it was implementing General Order No. 1, meaning “alcohol consumption is strictly forbidden for all military personnel participating in or supporting Key Resolve.”

U.S.-South Korean military exercises are a major source of contention with Pyongyang, which considers them a rehearsal for an invasion despite the allies’ insistence that they are defensive in nature.

**‘South Korea should understand that all the military exercises it holds with the U.S. is like dancing with a powder-flask whose ignition has been lighted.’**

**Korean Central News Agency**

North Korea’s state-run news agency

North Korea called on “compatriots in South Korea and overseas” to protest the drills, according to a report Sunday on its state-run news agency, which cited an appeal by the International United Confederation of Koreans.

“South Korea should understand that all the military exercises it holds with the U.S. is like dancing with a powder-flask whose ignition has been lighted and that such an act will bring nothing good to the nation,” the Korean Central News Agency said.

China, which has been a tra-

ditional ally of its fellow communist state, suggested last week that North Korea could suspend its nuclear weapons program if Washington and Seoul would halt the exercises. Pyongyang has made similar proposals to no avail. The U.S. State Department rejected Beijing’s offer as well, saying it was not a “viable deal.”

The exercises also showed that the allied militaries are continuing with business as usual despite political turmoil over the impeachment of South Korean ex-President Park Geun-hye and preparations

for new elections that must be held by May 9.

Stakes are high this year as North Korea conducted two underground nuclear explosions and test-fired more than two dozen ballistic missiles, posing a major challenge for President Donald Trump’s new administration.

Many of the weapon tests failed, but some succeeded and experts have said Pyongyang is showing faster-than-expected progress in its efforts to develop a nuclear-tipped missile that could target the U.S. mainland.

U.S. Forces Korea also has begun the deployment of THAAD, an advanced missile defense system, despite opposition from China, which fears it may be used to spy on its military.

Separately, South Korea’s air force said it began a weeklong biannual air combat exercise Friday called Soaring Eagle, which includes F-15K and FA-50 fighter jets.

## US to deploy new attack drone system at Kunsan Air Base

BY KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. military is deploying a new Gray Eagle attack drone system in South Korea as it moves to bolster capabilities against a growing threat from the North.

A Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial Systems company will be permanently stationed at Kunsan Air Base, south of Seoul, U.S. Forces Korea said Monday.

Work has begun on upgrading infrastructure to pave the way for the company, which is expected to be active at the beginning of next year, Maj. Jennifer

Lovett, a USFK spokeswoman, told Stars and Stripes.

The company will be assigned to the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division, a USFK statement said. The military did not immediately say how many drones would be sent to the divided peninsula or give a timeline for their arrival.

It said the drone system will add “significant intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability” to U.S. forces in Korea and their South Korean allies. The stationing of the company directly supports the “strategic plan to add one Gray Eagle company to each division

in the Army,” it added.

A South Korean military official, who was not identified, also told the Yonhap news agency that the drone would enhance the allies’ abilities to strike ground targets in North Korea.

“In case of a war on the Korean Peninsula, the unmanned aircraft could infiltrate into the skies of North Korea and make a precision strike on the war command and other major military facilities,” the official told Yonhap.

The Gray Eagle, which is an advanced version of the Predator, was developed for the Army by General Atomics Aeronauti-

cal Systems. It is capable of carrying four Hellfire air-to-surface missiles, according to the company’s website.

The U.S. has about 28,500 servicemembers stationed in the South, which remains technically at war with the North after the 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

Tensions have risen sharply since last year when North Korea conducted two nuclear tests and launched two dozen ballistic missiles despite international condemnation and economic sanctions aimed at persuading it to stop its weapons program.

## Car bomb kills 6 near hotel in Somalia's capital

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — A suicide car bomber detonated near a hotel in Somalia's capital Monday morning, killing at least six people and injuring four others, police said.

The bomber detonated near the Wehe-liye hotel on the busy Maka Almukarramah road, Capt. Mohamed Hussein said. Ambulances rushed to the scene.

The al-Qaida-linked Islamic extremist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the blast, according to the group's Andalus radio. The group often has targeted hotels in Mogadishu, including a hotel attack in late January that killed at least 26 people.

In a separate blast Monday morning, a suicide bomber detonated a minibus laden with explosives at the gate of a military camp south of the capital. The bomber was killed and two people were wounded, said Col. Yusuf Burhan, a Somali military officer.

Somalian Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire condemned the two attacks, saying they were carried out by "bloodthirsty groups."

Despite being ousted from most of its key strongholds in south and central Somalia, al-Shabab continues to carry out deadly guerrilla attacks across the country. In the past couple of years it has started to target checkpoints and bases of both the Somali military and the multinational African Union force.

## Deal struck to let Syrian rebels leave city of Homs

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian opposition fighters will be allowed to leave the last rebel-held neighborhood in the city of Homs under a Russia-backed deal signed Monday, a Syrian official and an activist said.

According to Talal Barrazi, the governor of Homs province, where the city of Homs is the capital, the deal is to be carried out within six to eight weeks. The rebel fighters who decide to stay in Homs can benefit from a government amnesty that was issued earlier, he added.

Homs, the country's third-largest city, was once the center of the uprising against President Bashar Assad. During the civil war, now in its sixth year, wide parts of the city were held by rebels and insurgents, but the state eventually regained control of all areas of the city except for al-Waer, the last rebel neighborhood.

Al-Waer is home to about 75,000 people and has been under a government siege since 2013, triggering shortages of medicine and on occasion also food.

Barrazi's statement, carried by state news agency SANA, said the evacuation is the third phase of a deal reached last year that saw hundreds of fighters and their families leave al-Waer to other rebel-held areas.

Opposition activist Bebars al-Talawy,

who is from al-Waer, said the agreement was signed Monday, adding that a committee will be formed to prepare the lists of names of those who want to leave.

"People are happy that they will get rid of the siege, but sad because they will leave Homs," al-Talawy said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights criticized the agreement, saying it aims to displace 12,000 al-Waer residents, including 2,500 fighters. It said the first batch of 1,500 people will be evacuated next week and will be followed by similar groups over the coming weeks.

Those who leave will be taken to rebel-held areas elsewhere in Homs province, the northwestern province of Idlib and the town of Tel Abyad near the border with Turkey, the Observatory said. It said Monday's deal followed weeks of intense bombardment and airstrikes on the neighborhood that left 250 killed or wounded.

Syrian state TV said the first group will leave al-Waer on Saturday. The discrepancy between the TV report on the timing of the rebel departure and that of the Observatory could not be reconciled immediately.

Also on Monday, to the east of Homs, Syrian government forces regained control of a power station that has been held by the Islamic State group near the historic town of Palmyra, SANA reported.

## NATO chief seeks to reassure Trump on budgets

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — NATO's secretary-general on Monday urged European allies to spend more on their military budgets as he sought to reassure President Donald Trump that members will pay their fair share.

"We still do not have fair burden-sharing within our alliance," Jens Stoltenberg told reporters as he released his annual report on the world's biggest military alliance.

Only five allies meet the target of spending 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense: the U.S., Britain, Estonia, debt-plagued Greece and Poland.

"All allies should reach this goal. All allies have agreed to do it at the highest level," he said, recalling a commitment by presidents and prime ministers in 2014 to do so.

Trump suggested during election campaigning that he might not defend allies who fail to meet the target, rattling the 28-nation military alliance, particularly countries bordering Russia.

Stoltenberg's report, part of his drive to mollify Trump, shows that European allies and Canada spent a total of roughly \$10 billion more on defense last year in real terms than in 2015.

Faced with a more belligerent Russia that has sent troops into Georgia and Ukraine in recent years, NATO allies have halted the slide in spending, but many are still well below the target.

New spending figures in the report suggest that France and Turkey are not far from it, but that seven members would need to roughly double their spending to

get there. Of them, Luxembourg would have to boost spending four-fold.

Romania, Lithuania and Latvia all expect to reach the target before the end of next year.

The 2 percent target remains controversial. GDPs fluctuate in times of boom and bust, and just because a country spends a certain amount, it doesn't mean that the money is being spent wisely.

Correct spending levels don't guarantee that adequate forces can be efficiently deployed into battle and sustained by efficient supply lines.

If Germany met the figure, for example, it would be spending on defense more than Russia does, and it is unlikely that its armed forces could efficiently absorb the extra money anyway.



# Proposed budget would lead to sizable federal worker layoffs

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's budget proposal this week would shake the federal government to its core if enacted, culling back numerous programs and expediting a historic contraction of the federal workforce.

This would be the first time the government has executed cuts of this magnitude — and all at once — since the drawdown following World War II, economists and budget analysts said.

The spending budget Trump is set to release Thursday will offer the clearest snapshot of his vision for the size and role of government. Aides say that the president sees a new Washington emerging from the budget process, one that prioritizes the military and homeland security while slashing many other areas, including housing, foreign assistance, environmental programs, public broadcasting and research.

The cuts Trump plans to pro-

pose this week are also expected to lead to layoffs among federal workers, changes that would be felt sharply in the Washington area. According to an economic analysis by Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Analytics, the reductions outlined so far by Trump's advisers would reduce employment in the region by 1.8 percent and personal income by 3.5 percent, and lower home prices by 1.9 percent.

Administration officials have stressed discussions are ongoing between budget officials and agencies, and that the size of the budget cuts remains fluid. Moreover, the cuts cannot take effect unless they are authorized by Congress.

Already, Democrats have vowed to fight Trump's proposals, and some Republicans also have expressed unease at the size of the reductions.

The federal government is projected to spend \$4.091 trillion next year, with roughly two-thirds of that going mostly

toward Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, poverty assistance and interest payments on the government debt.

What Trump will propose changing is the rest of the budget, known as discretionary spending, which is authorized each year by Congress. Slightly more than half of this remaining money goes to the military.

Among Trump's expected proposals are an increase in military spending of \$54 billion, more money to start building a wall along the border between the U.S. and Mexico, and the creation of new initiatives that expand access to charter schools and other educational programs.

To offset that new money, Trump will propose steep cuts across numerous other agencies.

Trump and his advisers have said that they believe the federal workforce is too big, and that the federal government spends — and wastes — too much money.

## A familiar name joins fight over health care

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — A familiar name from Massachusetts, Rep. Joe Kennedy III, is carrying his family legacy into a new era, battling Republicans who want to undo Barack Obama's health-care law.

Kennedy, 36, the grandson of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and great-nephew of the late Sen. Ted Kennedy and President John F. Kennedy, has been a low-key presence in the House since he was elected in 2012. He emerged as a voice against the GOP health care bill, delivering several speeches that have been viewed millions of times online.

His support for the Obama-era health care law and more services for the poor are familiar Kennedy territory. Sen. Ted Kennedy was a proponent of the law before his death from brain cancer in August 2009.

Now his great-nephew is fighting Republicans trying to unravel the 2010 law. Kennedy challenged House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who had called the GOP bill an "act of mercy."

"With all due respect to our speaker, he and I must have read different scripture," Kennedy said. "The one that I read calls on us to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, and to comfort the sick. It reminds us that we are judged not by how we treat the powerful, but how we care for the least among us."

He added: "This is not an act of mercy. It's an act of malice."

"He's not someone that is front and center," Rep. Markwayne Mullin, 39, an Oklahoma Republican who entered Congress with Kennedy, said. "But health care is ... very important to him."

The internet took notice, with retweets and shout-outs from Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Chelsea Clinton and former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, who tweeted: "Wow. This is a Kennedy who could be President. A must watch."

## GOP lawmaker: US doesn't need 'somebody else's babies'

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — A veteran Republican congressman says America can't restore "our civilization with somebody else's babies" and warns of a liberal effort to break down Western civilization.

Rep. Steve King, of Iowa, in a tweet Sunday, paid tribute to a Dutch politician who opposes immigration and has spoken against Islam. It came as the Dutch prepare for an election Wednesday.

King, who has served in the U.S. House since 2003, said Geert Wilders "understands that culture and demographics are our destiny. We can't restore our civilization with somebody else's babies."

In an interview Monday on CNN, King said he stood by his remarks. King said, "I meant exactly what I said," and noted that he delivers the same message to countries in Europe.

"We need to get our birth rates up, or Europe

will be entirely transformed within a half a century or a little more," King said.

King said he wants Americans to promote its own birth rate and culture to avoid the same fate.

When asked whether he is promoting a kind of white nationalism, King said the debate isn't about advancing a particular race but rather advancing American culture and Western civilization.

"This is an effort on the left, I think, to break down the American civilization, the American culture and turn it into something entirely different. I'm a champion for Western civilization," he said.

King is known for making racially charged commentary. Last year, at the Republican National Convention, King questioned contributions to civilization by nonwhites. In 2013, he described children in the country illegally as having "calves the size of cantaloupes because they've been hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the desert."

## Saudi royal to meet Trump during White House visit

Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia's royal court said Monday the kingdom's second-in-line to the throne will meet President Donald Trump at the White House in the highest-level visit to Washington by a Saudi royal since November's presidential election.

Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who also is defense minister and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud's son, is scheduled to start his Washington visit Thursday. He departed for the United States on Monday.

The royal court, in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, said Prince Mohammed bin Salman will meet with Trump and a number of U.S. officials to discuss "the strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries and regional issues of mutual interest."

The prince is spearheading the kingdom's economic overhaul to become less dependent on oil and its major investments in U.S. technology firms.

No details were given on when he would meet Trump. He would be the first Gulf Arab royal to meet the president since his inauguration. There was no confirmation from the White House regarding the visit.

Key issues at the top of the agenda are likely to include discussion on global energy prices and the conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition backed by Washington has been bombing Iran-backed Shiite rebels for nearly two years.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter and biggest buyer of American-made arms, also is part of the U.S.-led coalition bombing campaign against the Islamic State group in Syria.

Saudi relations with Washington cooled under President Barack Obama after his administration secured a nuclear deal with regional rival Iran. The deal has been heavily criticized by Trump.

# Turkey protests minister's treatment in Netherlands

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's Foreign Ministry on Monday summoned a Dutch diplomat to formally protest the treatment of a Turkish minister in the Netherlands over the weekend and what it said was a "disproportionate" use of force against demonstrators in an ensuing protest.

The Dutch Embassy's charge d'affaires, Daan Feddo Huisinga, was called to the Foreign Ministry where a senior official handed him two formal protest notes, the ministry said.

The first protested against the treatment of Family Affairs Minister Fatma Betul Sayan Kaya, who was escorted out of the Netherlands after she entered by road from Germany to try to attend a rally to promote a constitutional-reforms referendum in Turkey next month.

In the note, the Turkish Foreign Ministry condemned what it said were practices contrary to international conventions, diplomatic courtesy and diplomatic immunities and requested a written apology from the Dutch authorities, a ministry statement said. Turkey also reserved its right to seek compensation, the Dutch diplomat was told.

The second note protested the treatment of Turkish citizens who had gathered outside the Turkish Consulate in Rotterdam, saying "disproportionate force" had been used against "people using their right to peaceful gatherings. It added that Turkish nationals had been subjected to "inhumane and derogatory" treatment and called for those responsible to be identified and punished.

It was the third time that the Dutch diplomat has been summoned since tensions broke out between the two countries after two ministers were prevented from campaigning in the Netherlands. In addition to Kaya being escorted out of the country, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu was denied permission to land to campaign for the April 16 referendum that would greatly expand the powers of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The Dutch government meanwhile, had no immediate reaction to news that Turkey had summoned its top diplomat.

However, it updated its travel advisory for Turkey, a popular vacation destination, warning travelers about the heightened diplomatic tensions. "Be alert and avoid gatherings and busy places throughout Turkey," the advisory warns.

## China assails human rights abuses in US

Associated Press

BEIJING — China assailed what it called America's "terrible human rights problems," in its annual report on rights abuses in the United States, citing police brutality, high levels of incarceration, racial prejudice and money politics.

The report issued Thursday by the Information Office of the State Council is a tit-for-tat response to the U.S. State Department's yearly report on human rights around the world that said repression and coercion of those involved in civil and political rights in China remained "severe."

As in previous years, China's report accused the U.S. of sitting in judgment of the human rights situations in other nations while ignoring its own defects. Mainly citing facts and figures from the U.S. media and civil rights groups, the report focused heavily on what it called a deterioration of race relations in 2016.

"With the gunshots lingering in people's ears behind the Statue of Liberty, worsening racial discrimination and the election farce dominated by money politics, the self-proclaimed human rights defender has exposed its human rights 'myth' with its own deeds," the report said.

The report specifically mentioned the killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile by police and the killing of five officers in Dallas, Texas, and pointed to a pattern of what it called law enforcement treating people of color more harshly than whites. It also said blacks and Hispanics were discriminated against in incarceration, employment and education, earning less and facing harsher penalties for violations.

Its final section dealt with what it called "gross violations of human rights in other countries," pointing to reports of civilian deaths from U.S. military action in countries including Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. It also criticized Washington's failure to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay and the U.S. government's electronic surveillance of other countries and foreign nationals.

China has issued the report every year since 2000 as a means of countering U.S. criticisms.

This year's U.S. report was issued amid concerns the U.S. was backing away from its traditionally vocal advocacy on human rights under President Donald Trump.

In a departure from past practice, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson skipped the launch of the report.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police find marijuana in new vehicles at rail yard

**MN** DILWORTH — Police are investigating the discovery of 217 pounds of marijuana that were stashed inside new vehicles at a rail yard in Dilworth.

Dilworth Police Chief Ty Sharpe told KFGO radio there were 14 separate packages found hidden inside spare wheel wells. He said the pot has a street value of about \$272,000.

The drugs were found during a routine inspection of the vehicles, which were brought to Dilworth on a BNSF freight train. Police are not saying where the drugs came from or their intended destination.

## Teen girl killed by tree while walking in woods

**WA** SEATTLE — A teenage girl died after a tree fell on her while she walked in the woods in a northern Seattle suburb.

The Seattle Times reported the girl was part of a group taking a walk at Meadowdale Beach Park in Lynnwood on Friday afternoon when the tree fell. Snohomish County Sheriff Lieutenant Steve McDonald said some of the other teens tried to move the tree, but it was too large.

The girl was dead when emergency responders arrived.

## Customs: Man 'busting out of pants' had drug

**NY** NEW YORK — Authorities say a drug smuggler flew into New York's Kennedy Airport with 10 pounds of cocaine taped to his legs.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said Friday that officers arrested Juan Carlos Galan Luperon on March 4

after they noticed he was "busting out of his pants."

Luperon, a U.S. citizen, had arrived from the Dominican Republic. Customs officials said officers noticed Luperon's pants were snug. The officers searched Luperon in a private room.

According to the agency, the officers found packages of white powder taped to Luperon's legs. The agency said the powder tested positive for cocaine. He was arrested on federal narcotics-smuggling charges.

## 2 critically ill after drinking toxic tea

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Two people are critically sick in San Francisco after drinking tea from the same Chinatown herbalist.

The tea leaves bought at Sun Wing Wo Trading Co. contained the plant-based toxin Aconite, the Department of Public Health said Friday.

A man in his 50s last month and a woman in her 30s this month became critically ill within an hour of drinking the tea, and both remain hospitalized, health officials said.

Each person grew weak, then had life-threatening abnormal heart rhythms that required resuscitation and intensive care.

Health officials are working to find the original source of the tea leaves; they are warning others to stop consuming it.

## Partner shoots foot of detective in dog attack

**PA** PITTSBURGH — A plainclothes detective in Pittsburgh was attacked by a dog during a drug investigation and was shot in the foot by his partner trying to stop the animal.

According to a statement from the department of public safety, the two detectives were

conducting the investigation about 2 p.m. Friday in the city's Hazelwood section when the dog attacked.

The injured detective was transported to UPMC Presbyterian Hospital, where he was treated and discharged. The dog also was hit by the gunfire but fled the area. It was found and was taken to a veterinarian for treatment of its injuries.

An investigation is ongoing.

## Panther cub found dead from vehicle strike

**FL** NAPLES — Officials said a Florida panther cub was found dead from an apparent vehicle strike in southwest Florida.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission reported that the 2-month-old cat's body was found Thursday on a rural road in Collier County. The remains will be taken to a Gainesville facility for a necropsy.

A total of seven Florida panthers have been found dead in 2017, with five road fatalities.

## Twitter troll takes over lawmaker's handle

**IN** INDIANAPOLIS — An Indiana state lawmaker who says he won't "give in to terrorists" is refusing an apology demand from an unknown person who took over his abandoned Twitter handle.

The trouble started when Republican Rep. Ed Soliday, of Valparaiso, got into an online spat last month with Indiana tech company CEO and philanthropist Don Brown, The Indianapolis Star reported.

Brown tweeted that a Soliday-sponsored measure was "stupid" because it effectively would bar electric car maker Tesla from selling vehicles in Indiana. Soliday tweeted back, "Not nearly as stupid as you

are!!!!" Then he deleted his account.

The Twitter handle, @Rep-Soliday, was eventually taken over by someone who said the real Soliday can have it back if he makes a "public, genuine" apology to Brown.

## \$14K in fines issued for passing stopped buses

**CT** WALLINGFORD — The school district for Wallingford issued \$14,000 in fines last year to drivers who were videotaped passing stopped school buses.

The school system worked with Arizona-based Redflex Traffic Systems to install cameras on two buses in January 2016. The Record-Journal reported police ticketed 31 drivers based on the video footage. The fine for illegally passing a stopped school bus is \$465 in Connecticut.

Wallingford police received footage of 71 vehicles passing school buses, but authorities didn't issue tickets in all cases.

## Man is charged after 30-mile police chase

**NJ** HAMILTON — Authorities said a Massachusetts man led New Jersey state troopers on a nearly 30-mile police chase on the New Jersey Turnpike.

State police said Sean Orgel, 45, refused to stop when a trooper tried to pull him over for a traffic violation around 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

They said he led the trooper on a chase and was only stopped when police deployed spike sticks in Hamilton.

He was charged with eluding and given other traffic summonses.

No one was injured in the chase.

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## Ex-Penn St. AD, VP plead guilty

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Two former Penn State University administrators have pleaded guilty in the Jerry Sandusky child molestation case, more than five years after the scandal broke.

Ex-Athletic Director Tim Curley and former university Vice President Gary Schultz each pleaded guilty Monday to a misdemeanor child endangerment charge.

Penn State ex-President Graham Spanier is also charged in the case, but he's not in court.

## Source: Cleveland to sign C Larry Sanders

CLEVELAND — A person familiar with the decisions says the Cleveland Cavaliers will sign free agent center Larry Sanders.

Sanders is in Cleveland taking his physical and is expected to be under contract by later Monday, said the person who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Cavs have not announced any roster moves.

The 6-foot-11 Sanders hasn't played since 2015. He averaged 6.5 points and 5.8 rebounds during five seasons for Milwaukee.

## Doping investigator hits back at criticism

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Doping investigator Richard McLaren says criticism of his report into Russian doping is "nitpicking."

McLaren tells The Associated Press the "substance" of his work for the World Anti-Doping Agency has "not really been challenged."

Recent comments by sports bodies, including the IOC, refer to inadequate translations of Russian documents, and the likelihood some athlete disciplinary cases will fail.

McLaren calls the issue "a complete red herring to obfuscate and disguise what is going on."

— Associated Press

# Selection Sunday tips off March Madness

Associated Press

There were tears in Syracuse, head-scratching about Duke and more than a few double takes at Wichita State.

At Northwestern, they simply celebrated.

On a Selection Sunday that was more about minor quibbles than pure outrage, Northwestern's first trip to the NCAA Tournament in program history stole the headlines — reminding hardcore fans and casual bracket-fillers alike that March Madness really is that time of year when anything can happen.

The forever also-rans from outside of Chicago knew they'd see their name pop up when the brackets were released, but when they did, they partied anyway. Group hugs. Selifes. A huge sigh of relief and a celebration for a Big Ten program that's always been big on smarts, short on hoops.

"I'm used to being part of all the 'firsts' here," said senior Vic Law. "I was Coach (Chris) Collins' first recruit. That belief that we all had — that vision that me and Coach Collins shared — was that this would be different."

Action in the tournament begins Tuesday with opening-round games, and things get into full swing Thursday. The Final Four starts April 1 in Phoenix.

Defending champion Villanova was the tournament's top seed, the first time a defending champion has earned that honor since Florida in 2007, when the Gators went back-to-back.

Joining Kris Jenkins and 'Nova on the "1" line were Kansas, North Carolina and Gonzaga.

A few more notes and notables from Selection Sunday:

**Syracuse:** Orange coach Jim Boheim said his players were crying when they didn't see their team's name come up during the selection show. Syracuse had an 18-14 record, nearly identical to its mark last year, when the Orange made it into the field to a chorus of protests. Syracuse responded by making a run to the Final Four.

Boheim: "I think our team was a little bit better than we were last year going into the tournament. We had the ability to win."

Instead, they'll try to win in the NIT.

**Duke:** Some bracketologists moved Duke into the '1' position over North Carolina on the strength of the Blue Devils' four-win-in-four-night run at the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament.

Not so fast, said selection committee chairman Mark Hollis. He said Duke began the week as a No. 4 seed and never really moved into consideration as a 1. Duke moved up until it ran up against two teams that took both their regular-season and tournament titles — Arizona and Kentucky.

**Wichita State:** In the latest Associated Press poll, Wichita State is ranked 20th. If rankings equaled seedings, that would make the Shockers no worse than a No. 5. Imagine their shock when their name showed up with a "10" by it.

"I'm just glad they didn't forget about us," coach Gregg Marshall said.

The Missouri Valley Tournament champs won 30 games. About that AP ranking, Marshall said: "Somehow, 20 divided by four equals ten. But that's OK. That's the way it's been for a long time. I don't know what we'd do if we were a really good seed most of the time."

Seeded first in 2014, the

Shockers ran into a Kentucky team that was surprisingly seeded eighth, and lost in the second round.

**Brain Bowl:** No matter how the game ends up, the guys from Northwestern and Vanderbilt will probably turn out OK.

The West Region's 8 vs. 9 matchup pits two of the strongest academic schools in the country.

Said Northwestern athletic director Jim Phillips: "Maybe at halftime we'll compare SAT and ACT scores."

**Underappreciated:** Oregon slipped to a No. 3 seed, in large part because of the season-ending injury to shot-blocking star Chris Boucher.

Middle Tennessee State, with 30 wins and most of the roster back from the team that beat Michigan State last year, is a 12 seed — possibly a couple slots too low and setting up No. 5 Minnesota for a tough opening game.

Baylor looked like a 2 on most lists but slid to a 3, in a flip-flop with Louisville.

**Matchups-Players:** Gonzaga's Przemek Karnowski vs. South Dakota State's Mike Daum. Karnowski is one of the biggest and craftiest big men in the country — a, 7-foot-1, 300-pound force on the inside.

Daum is the highest-scoring player in the tournament, at 25.3 points a game (with 8.2 rebounds).

**Coming in hot:** Teams carrying the longest win streaks into the tournament: Vermont (21 games), Princeton (19), SMU (15), Wichita State (15), Kentucky (11 games), Middle Tennessee State (10).

For more AP college basketball coverage: <http://collegebasketball.ap.org> and [http://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](http://twitter.com/AP_Top25)



# Great matchups for NCAA Tourney

Associated Press

Villanova is the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament to start its bid to become the first repeat national champion in men's basketball since Florida in 2006-07.

To get there, the Wildcats may have to face the Gators. If both teams win their first two games, they'll play in the Sweet 16. That's just one of the great potential match-ups and interesting story lines revealed when the NCAA Tournament bracket was released Sunday.

**Great openers:** Several opening games stick out, some for a contrast in styles, the other for the similarities.

In the East Region, No. 5 seed Virginia pits its shutdown defense against high-scoring UNC-Wilmington. The Cavaliers were No. 1 in adjusted defensive efficiency, according to KenPom.com, and the Seahawks were 10th nationally in scoring offense at 85.2 points per game.

Two more style clashes could come in the Midwest second round between power Big Ten teams and up-tempo Big 12 teams: Purdue against Iowa State and Michigan State

against Kansas.

Also the Midwest Region, two of the nation's top offensive teams will meet when Michigan faces Oklahoma State Friday in Indianapolis. Oklahoma State was the top team in offensive efficiency and Michigan was fifth.

And watch out for Oregon and Iona, in the Midwest Region as well. The cameras might have a hard time keeping up with these high-octane teams.

**Individual matchups:** Two games will have must-watch individual matchups.

In the West, it will be a battle of big men when Gonzaga's Przemek Karnowski faces South Dakota State's Mike Daum.

Karnowski is one of the biggest and craftiest big men in the country, 7-foot-1, 300-pound force on the inside. He'll have his hands full in Salt Lake City on Thursday against Daum, the highest-scoring player to make the tournament. The 6-9 sophomore was the Summit League player of the year after averaging 25.3 points and 8.2 rebounds.

Also worth watching will be the battle between Creighton's Justin Patton — a versatile 6-

11 freshman — and Rhode Island senior Hassan Martin on Friday in the Midwest Region. Martin was the Rams' second-leading scorer at 14.1 points and shot 59 percent from the floor.

Patton is a versatile 6-11 freshman who can shoot three-pointers or play inside. Martin, a senior, was Rhode Island's second-leading scorer at 14.1 points and shot 59 percent from the floor.

**In-state battles:** The selection committee occasionally throws in intriguing match-ups and this year was no different with two games between teams from the same state.

The battle of the Bluegrass State will take place Friday in Indianapolis when Kentucky faces Northern Kentucky, a game that's not expected to be close.

The West Region game between Florida State and Florida Gulf Coast could be a trendy pick for an upset, in large part because of their Dunk City run in 2013. The game is also in Orlando, adding to the in-state flair.

# Rockets top Cavs

Associated Press

HOUSTON — James Harden had a triple-double with 38 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds to out-duel LeBron James and lead the Houston Rockets to a 117-112 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Sunday night.

The Rockets were up by six when Nene made a layup before intercepting a bad pass by James. Patrick Beverley made a three-pointer on the other end to push the lead to 116-107 with less than two minutes left.

Kyrie Irving hit a three-pointer with less than a minute to go and added two free throws after that to get the Cavaliers within four. Harden added a free throw to end Cleveland's run and secure the victory.

It was the 16th triple-double this season for Harden and his 31st game with at least 30 points.

**Trail Blazers 110, Suns 101:** Damian Lillard scored 28 of his 39 points in the first half and Portland recovered to beat host Phoenix after blowing an 18-point second-half lead.

Lillard scored just four points in the fourth quarter, but fellow guard C.J. McCollum added 26. Portland pulled within 1½ games of Denver for the eighth and final Western Conference playoff spot.

**Celtics 100, Bulls 80:** Isaiah Thomas scored 22 points and later joined fans doing the wave as it circled TD Garden, and Boston handed Chicago its fifth straight loss.

**Nets 120, Knicks 112:** Jeremy Lin ended an 0-for-9 start with a three-pointer that halted a Knicks comeback, and Brooklyn beat New York for its first home victory of 2017.

**76ers 118, Lakers 116:** Rookie Dario Saric scored a career-high 29 points, and Jahlil Okafor added 23 to help visiting Philadelphia beat Los Angeles.

**Pacers 102, Heat 98:** Paul George had 28 points and 10 rebounds in host Indiana's win.

# US advances in World Baseball Classic

Associated Press

MIAMI — The United States bounced back to move on.

Nolan Arenado and Buster Posey homered and drove in three runs apiece to help Team USA shake off a deflating defeat and earn a berth in the second round of the World Baseball Classic by beating Canada 8-0 on Sunday.

The Americans finished 2-1 in pool play and rebounded after blowing a five-run lead Saturday and losing to the Dominican Republic 7-5.

"Good teams know how to turn the page," manager Jim Leyland said. "The expectations for the USA are high, and it's a thrill to get out of here. It wasn't easy."

The U.S. is trying for a WBC breakthrough after failing to reach the final in the three previous events.

"We're taking it real serious," Arenado said. "We're representing our country. It's not just a walk in the park."

The Dominicans also advanced to the second

round in San Diego by beating Colombia 10-3 in 11 innings Sunday. The Dominicans won the 2013 tournament.

Canada went 0-3 and has never advanced beyond the opening round. Manager Ernie Whitt said he wished more big league players from Canada took part.

"For us to compete at this level, we have to have all of our professional players," Whitt said. "We can't put our roster up against teams like the Dominican and the United States if we don't have all of our big league players."

After thinking they had been eliminated with an 11-9 loss to Mexico early Monday, Venezuela players were informed in the locker room that they could still advance thanks to a tiebreaker.

Venezuela was to play Italy in a one-game tiebreaker Monday night, with the winner advancing to the second round.

Also on Monday, Didi Gregorius drove in five runs to lead the Netherlands over Israel 12-2 and hand the tournament debutants their first loss.

# Brawl overshadows Truex win in Vegas

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The introduction of stage racing has so far provided the intended effect of spicing up the NASCAR Cup Series.

But nothing beats a good old-fashioned brawl to get everyone buzzing.

Martin Truex Jr. wasn't immune. After taking advantage of Brad Keselowski's mechanical issues to sweep all three segments and take Sunday's race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Truex came into the media center and was asked about the Kyle Busch-Joey Logano pit-road brawl.

"Who won?" Truex asked reporters.

Told that Busch ended up with a bloody forehead, Truex wanted details.

"Haymaker swings?" he replied as play-by-play trickled out. "Wow, I'm sure NASCAR is going to love that one."

And after Truex finished taking questions, he huddled in front of a tablet to watch what happened, an incident that provided the first big spark to the 2017 season.

Truex Jr. passed Brad Keselowski with two laps to go. And just before he crossed the finish line with his eighth career victory, Logano got into Busch as they raced

for third.

Busch's car spun onto pit road. Fireworks followed in a city used to hosting big-time fights, just not like this.

"It was nothing intentional," Logano said. "But obviously he thinks that."

As Truex headed toward victory circle, video showed Busch walking down pit road, then turning right and throwing a right hook at Logano's face. Logano's crew members brought Busch to the ground as NASCAR officials yelled for them to stop.

When they were separated and Busch got to his feet, he had a bloody gash above his right eye.

"There wasn't much talking, just a lot of swinging," Logano said. "I was racing hard there at end."

Busch, who had recovered from a speeding penalty that left him a lap down to get into contention, was escorted to the infield care center and quickly released as the track buzzed.

"I got dumped. He flat out just drove straight in the corner and wrecked me," Busch said. "That's how Joey races, so he's going to get it."

The fight overshadowed a dominating

day for Truex and a tough-luck finish for Keselowski, who appeared to be pulling away after a restart and on his way to his second win in as many weeks when he ran into mechanical problems.

"I just know it was something major," he said. "It wouldn't turn and I lost brakes."

Truex passed him and held on to become the first driver to win all three segments in NASCAR Cup's new stage racing.

Kyle Larson was second, followed by Chase Elliott, Logano and Keselowski.

Truex re-took the lead with 39 laps to go after a lengthy cycle of green-flag pit stops. After a hard-charging Keselowski went in front, Danica Patrick blew an engine, bringing out a caution.

Keselowski, who started from the pole, just beat Truex out of pit road road after their four-tire stops. He chose the outside lane on the restart and shot ahead until his car slowed at the end of the 267-lap race.

That gave Toyota a win after Ford victories in the season's first two races.

"I've been on the other side of those things plenty of times, so it definitely feels good to take advantage of somebody else's issue for once," Truex said.

## Ducks top slumping Caps

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Nearly 10 years after Corey Perry and Ryan Getzlaf won the Stanley Cup with the Anaheim Ducks, they put on a vintage performance to cap a celebratory reunion weekend with those 2007 teammates.

The Washington Capitals took a thrashing, but they're hoping it moves them closer to a championship of their own.

Perry had two goals and an assist, Getzlaf added a goal and two assists, and the Ducks sent the NHL-leading Capitals to their fourth consecutive loss, 5-2 on Sunday night.

Before the game, the Ducks welcomed home nearly all the players who raised California's first Stanley Cup, including captain Scott Niedermayer, Chris Pronger and Teemu Selanne, in a ceremony to mark the 10-year anniversary of the franchise's only title.

Ryan Kesler also had a goal and two assists for the Ducks,

who have won three of four to move ahead of the Calgary Flames for second place in the Pacific Division.

Washington was without defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk, who served the first game of his two-game suspension for charging Los Angeles' Kevin Gravel on Saturday night.

**Blackhawks 4, Wild 2:** Patrick Kane and Artemi Panarin scored on Chicago's first two shots and Corey Crawford made 42 saves as host Chicago pulled within a point of the Central Division-leading Wild.

**Rangers 4, Red Wings 1:** Ryan McDonagh scored twice and Kevin Hayes added a goal and an assist to help New York beat host Detroit.

**Canadiens 4, Oilers 1:** Paul Byron scored twice and added an assist in Montreal's victory over host Edmonton.

**Sharks 5, Stars 1:** Joe Pavelski scored twice, backup goalie Aaron Dell made 29 saves to win his fourth straight start, and host San Jose beat Dallas.

## Bourdais pulls off upset in Indy opener

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Sebastien Bourdais believed he could drive for tiny Dale Coyne Racing and really make a difference for a race team that has little chance against the big guns in IndyCar.

But he had a condition: Bourdais wanted to be reunited with the team players he was with when he was recognized as the top driver in open-wheel. So he brought with him engineer Craig Hampson, who led Bourdais to 31 victories, 31 poles and four consecutive titles from 2004 to 2007.

Bourdais also brought Olivier Boisson, who was the Frenchman's engineer at KVSH Racing the last several seasons. Bourdais and Boisson teamed to win four races for KVSH.

This squad showed Sunday it has the potential to be a major player this season in IndyCar.

Bourdais pulled off a major upset in the IndyCar season-opener, driving from last place to a victory on the streets of St. Petersburg that left him in tears.

Bourdais earned his 36th career victory, which broke a tie with Bobby Unser for sixth on IndyCar's win list. It was the fifth career win for the Coyne team, first since Carlos Huertas won at Houston in 2014.

"We were hoping we could win a race or two this year. We're halfway there. Maybe we can do better than that. We'll see," Coyne said. "The money we spent over the winter was starting to pay off."

Bourdais led 69 of the 110 laps to give Honda a much-needed victory over Chevrolet. He beat reigning series champion Simon Pagenaud, a fellow Frenchman, to the finish line by 10.350 seconds.