

Hegseth: US to ramp up China deterrence

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Friday that the Trump administration would work with allies to ramp up deterrence against threats across the world, including China's aggression in the South China Sea.

Hegseth, who was visiting the Philippines, blamed the Biden administration for insufficient actions that emboldened aggressors like China over the years. He said the U.S. military was being rebuilt under President Donald Trump and was reestablishing its "warrior ethos" in the region, but did not elaborate.

"What we're dealing with right now is many years of deferred maintenance, of weakness, that we need to reestablish strength and deterrence in multiple places around the globe," Hegseth told a news conference with his Philippine counterpart, Gilberto Teodoro, after meeting President Ferdinand Marcos

Jr. in Manila.

"There's a long line of countries in the past who have attempted to test U.S. resolve," Hegseth added. "We are resolved at this time ... to work with our partners."

Earlier, he told Marcos that deterrence was particularly needed in the Indo-Pacific region "considering the threats from the communist Chinese."

"Friends need to stand shoulder to shoulder to deter conflict, to ensure that there is free navigation whether you call it the South China Sea or the West Philippine Sea," he told Marcos.

The U.S. was not gearing up for war, Hegseth said — while underscoring that peace would be won "through strength."

The Philippines was the first stop in Hegseth's first trip to Asia.

He is due to travel next to Japan, another staunch U.S. ally.

Ahead of his visit to the region, China called the United States a "predator" and an unreliable ally.

liable ally.

Hegseth said the Trump administration would commit more security assistance to the Philippines in addition to a \$500 million fund to help the Philippine military modernize. The U.S. funding was first announced by the previous Biden administration.

The U.S. would also deploy an antiship missile system called the Navy Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System as well as unmanned sea vessels for large-scale military exercises involving thousands of American and Filipino forces next month in the Philippines, Hegseth said.

That would enable the allied forces to train together to defend Philippine sovereignty, he said.

Additionally, the allied forces agreed to stage special operations forces training in Batanes province, a cluster of islands in the northernmost tip of the Philippine archipelago

across a sea border from Taiwan, he said.

Taiwan is the self-ruled island that China regards as a province and has threatened to annex, by force if necessary.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea, a major security and global trade route. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have overlapping claims to the resource-rich and busy waters, but confrontations have spiked between Chinese and Philippine coast guard and naval forces in the last two years.

Hegseth said that U.S. Indo-Pacific Command chief Adm. Samuel Paparo, who heads the largest number of American combat forces outside the U.S. mainland, has "real war plans" and was ready to work with allied forces to create "strategic dilemmas for the communist Chinese that (will) help them reconsider whether or not violence or action is something they want to undertake."

Judge orders Trump aides to preserve Signal chat

The Washington Post

A federal judge on Thursday ordered the Trump administration to preserve the records of a Signal group chat about sensitive military operations in Yemen, an incident that sparked a firestorm in Washington.

James E. Boasberg, the chief judge of the U.S. District Court in D.C., ordered the agencies relevant to the case — the Defense Department, State Department, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency, Treasury Department and National Archives — "to preserve all Signal

communications between March 11 and March 15."

The defendants have until Monday to provide a "declaration regarding steps taken to implement such preservation," Boasberg added.

National security adviser Michael Waltz, Vice President JD Vance, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and other top national security officials earlier this month used the commercial messaging app Signal to discuss the strategy, timing, weapons and sequencing of a U.S. attack on Houthi militants in Yemen, according to a bombshell report

by the Atlantic on Monday. Waltz, who initiated the discussion, had inadvertently included the magazine's editor in chief, Jeffrey Goldberg, in the chat group.

The incident has triggered outrage on Capitol Hill, where Democrats have called for investigations and for the firing of key individuals in the chat, including Waltz and Hegseth, who they say endangered American lives and national security by recklessly handling such sensitive information.

American Oversight, a government watchdog group, on

Tuesday filed suit in U.S. District Court, arguing that the officials probably had violated federal records laws and requesting a court order that Hegseth, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, CIA Director John Ratcliffe, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and the National Archives preserve the chat records.

Boasberg's decision Thursday marked another legal decision against the Trump administration, which is facing a litany of court challenges and opposed American Oversight's motion.

Vance, wife visit US facility in Greenland after diplomatic spat

Associated Press

NUUK, Greenland — Vice President JD Vance, his wife and other senior U.S. officials visited an American military base in Greenland on Friday in a trip that was scaled back after an uproar among Greenlanders and Danes who were irked that the original itinerary was planned without consulting them.

Soon after arriving, Vance briefly addressed U.S. troops stationed at the base as he and his wife sat down to lunch with them, saying that that he's "really interested in Arctic security."

"As you all know, it's a big issue and it's only going to get bigger over the coming decades," said Vance, who was scheduled later to receive briefings from military officials and deliver remarks.

The revised trip to the semi-autonomous Danish territory comes as relations between the

U.S. and the Nordic country have soured after U.S. President Donald Trump repeatedly suggested that the United States should in some form control the mineral-rich territory of Denmark — a traditional U.S. ally and NATO member.

Friday's one-day visit to the U.S. Space Force outpost at Pituffik, on the northwest coast of Greenland, removed the risk of potentially violating diplomatic custom by sending a delegation to another country without an official invitation. It will also reduce the likelihood that Vance and his wife will cross paths with residents angered by Trump's announcements.

Vance's delegation includes the national security advisor, Mike Waltz, and Energy Secretary Chris Wright, as well as second lady Usha Vance.

According to a senior White House official, Vance was expected to make the case that Danish leaders have "spent dec-

ades mistreating the Greenlandic people, treating them like second-class citizens and allowing infrastructure on the island to fall into disrepair."

The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and requested anonymity to preview the vice president's message, added that Vance would emphasize the importance of bolstering Arctic security in places like Pituffik.

Ahead of Vance's arrival, four of the five parties elected to Greenland's parliament earlier this month signed an agreement to form a new, broad-based coalition government. The parties banded together in the face of Trump's designs on the territory.

"It is a time when we as a population are under pressure," the prime minister-designate, Jens Frederik Nielsen, said before the accord was signed to applause and cheers in the capital, Nuuk.

Suspected US strikes hit Yemen

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Suspected U.S. airstrikes pummeled sites across Yemen controlled by the Houthi rebels early Friday, including neighborhoods in the capital, Sanaa.

The extent of the damage and possible casualties wasn't immediately clear, though the number of strikes appeared particularly intense compared to those of other days in the campaign that began March 15.

Initial reports from the Houthis described at least seven people being hurt in the attacks Friday in Sanaa, Yemen's capital that the rebels have held since 2014.

Other strikes hit around the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, the rebel's stronghold of Saada and in Yemen's al-Jawf, Amran and Marib governorates.

The Houthis did not immediately acknowledge what at those sites had been targeted, other than Sanaa International Airport, which is used for both civilian and military traffic. Neighborhoods in the capital also are home to military and intelligence service sites — as well as crowded with civilians.

Other areas hit included mountainous terrain north of Sanaa in Amran, where military camps and other installations are believed to be.

The Houthis' al-Masirah satellite news network described communication networks going down after the attacks, which included at least 19 strikes there alone.

U.S. Central Command, which now has authority from the White House to strike offensively in Yemen without preapproval, did not immediately acknowledge conducting any strikes.

Order to end collective bargaining at agencies involved in national security

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump moved Thursday to end collective bargaining with labor unions in agencies with national security missions across the federal government, citing authority granted him under a 1978 law.

The order, signed without fanfare and announced late Thursday, appears to touch most of the federal government. Affected agencies include the Departments of State, Defense, Veterans Affairs, Energy, Health and Human Services,

Treasury, Justice and Commerce and the part of Homeland Security responsible for border security.

Police and firefighters will continue to collectively bargain.

Trump said the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 gives him the authority to end collective bargaining with federal unions in these agencies because of their role in safeguarding national security.

The American Federation of Government Employees, which represents 820,000 federal and D.C. government workers, said

late Thursday that it is "preparing immediate legal action and will fight relentlessly to protect our rights, our members, and all working Americans from these unprecedented attacks."

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said in a statement, "It's clear that this order is punishment for unions who are leading the fight against the administration's illegal actions in court — and a blatant attempt to silence us." She also vowed, "We will fight this outrageous attack on our members with every fiber of our collective being."

Trump targets Smithsonian over ideology

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Thursday revealed his intention to force changes at the Smithsonian Institution with an executive order that targets funding for programs that advance “divisive narratives” and “improper ideology,” the latest step in a broadside against culture he deems too liberal.

Trump claimed there has been a “concerted and widespread” effort over the past decade to rewrite American history by replacing “objective facts” with a “distorted narrative driven by ideology rather than truth,” adding that it casts the “founding principles” of the United States in a “negative light.”

The order puts Vice President JD Vance, who serves on the Smithsonian Institution’s Board of Regents, in charge of overseeing efforts to “remove

improper ideology” from all areas of the institution, including its museums, education and research centers and the National Zoo.

It marks the Republican president’s latest salvo against cultural pillars of society, such as universities and art, that he considers out of step with conservative sensibilities. Trump recently had himself installed as chairman of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts with the aim of overhauling programming, including the annual Kennedy Center Honors awards show. The administration also recently forced Columbia University to make a series of policy changes by threatening the Ivy League school with the loss of several hundred million dollars in federal funding.

The executive order also hints at the return of statues and monuments of Confederate figures, many of which were taken

down or replaced around the country after the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis in 2020 and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, which is detested by Trump and other conservatives.

The order also calls for improvements to Independence Hall in Philadelphia by July 4, 2026, in time for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Trump singled out the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened in 2016 near the White House, the Women’s History Museum, which is in development, and the American Art Museum for criticism.

“Museums in our Nation’s capital should be places where individuals go to learn — not to be subjected to ideological indoctrination or divisive narratives that distort our shared history,” he said.

Under Trump’s order, Vance will also work with the White House budget office to make sure future funding for the Smithsonian Institution isn’t spent on programs that “degrade shared American values, divide Americans based on race, or promote programs or ideologies inconsistent with federal law and policy.” Trump also wants to ensure that the women’s history museum celebrates women and not “recognize men as women in any respect.”

It also requires the interior secretary to reinstate monuments, memorials, statues and similar properties that have been removed or changed since Jan. 1, 2020, to “perpetuate a false reconstruction of American history, inappropriately minimize the value of certain historical events or figures, or include any other improper partisan ideology.”

Judge temporarily blocks parts of anti-DEI order

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A federal judge has temporarily blocked the Department of Labor from implementing parts of President Donald Trump’s executive orders aimed at curbing diversity, equity and inclusion efforts among federal contractors and grant recipients.

Judge Matthew Kennelly of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois halted the Labor Department from requiring federal contractors or grant recipients from certifying that they don’t operate any programs in violation of Trump’s anti-DEI executive orders.

That certification provision has stepped up pressure on companies and other organizations to revisit their DEI practices because if the gov-

ernment were to determine they violated the provision, they would be subject to crippling financial penalties under the False Claims Act.

Thursday’s ruling is in response to a lawsuit filed by Chicago Women in Trades, a nonprofit founded in 1981 that helps prepare women for work in skilled construction trades and has several contracts with the Department of Labor.

There was no immediate reaction from Chicago Women in Trades to Kennelly’s order. The Department of Justice did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

A hearing on Chicago Women in Trades’ bid for a longer-lasting halt on Trump’s anti-DEI executive orders is scheduled for April 10.

Slim GOP House margin cited as UN nomination withdrawn

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced Thursday that he was pulling Rep. Elise Stefanik’s nomination to be U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, a stunning turnaround for his Cabinet pick after her confirmation had been stalled for months over concerns about Republicans’ tight margins in the House.

Trump confirmed he was withdrawing the New York Republican’s nomination in a Truth Social post, saying that it was “essential that we maintain EVERY Republican Seat in Congress.”

The abrupt withdrawal reflects growing concern among House Republicans, led by Speaker Mike Johnson, that their historically slim majority could be at risk, particularly ahead of two special elections in

Florida next week. The loss of a mere handful of seats could swing the House majority to Democrats and derail their efforts to enact Trump’s sweeping agenda in the months ahead.

Johnson praised Stefanik, the former No. 4 House leader, as “selfless” and “patriotic” after Trump announced the move.

Stefanik said Thursday night that multiple issues factored into the decision, including the possibility that an election to replace her may be delayed; the upcoming special elections in Florida; and the threadbare GOP majority in the House.

Stefanik was seen as among the least controversial Cabinet picks, and her nomination advanced out of committee in late January. However, House Republicans’ razor-thin majority kept her ultimate confirmation in a state of purgatory.

Putin suggests putting Ukraine under UN-sponsored governance

Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed Friday to put Ukraine under external governance under the U.N. aegis as part of efforts to reach a peaceful settlement, a blustery statement that reflected the Kremlin leader's determination to achieve his war goals.

Speaking to the crew of a Russian nuclear submarine in televised remarks broadcast early Friday, Putin reaffirmed his claim that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose term expired last year, lacks the legitimacy to sign a peace deal. Under Ukraine's constitution it is illegal for the country to hold national elections while it's under martial law.

Putin claimed that any agreement that is signed with the current Ukrainian government could be challenged by its successors and said new elections

could be held under external governance.

"Under the auspices of the United Nations, with the United States, even with European countries, and, of course, with our partners and friends, we could discuss the possibility of introduction of temporary governance in Ukraine," Putin said, adding that it would allow the country to "hold democratic elections, to bring to power a viable government that enjoys the trust of the people and then begin negotiations with them on a peace treaty."

He added that such external governance is just "one of the options," without elaborating.

Putin's remarks came hours after the conclusion of a summit hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron that considered plans to deploy troops to Ukraine to cement an eventual peace deal. Macron said "sever-

al" other nations want to be part of the force alongside France and Britain.

Russia has warned it wouldn't accept any troops from NATO members as part of a prospective peacekeeping force.

Macron and other participants of the Paris summit on Thursday accused Russia of only pretending to want a negotiated settlement.

"They are playing games and they're playing for time," said U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer. "We can't let them drag this out while they continue prosecuting their illegal invasion."

Russia and Ukraine have agreed to a tentative U.S.-brokered deal to pause strikes on energy infrastructure, but quickly accused each other of violations, underscoring the challenges to negotiating a broader peace.

FAA acknowledges it must do better after deadly Washington air collision

Associated Press

The head of the Federal Aviation Administration told Congress during a hearing Thursday about a midair collision over Washington, D.C., that killed 67 people that the agency must do more to ensure flying remains safe.

The FAA's artificial intelligence-led review aimed at identifying safety threats at other airports with similar helicopter-airplane congestion should be finished in a couple weeks, said Chris Rocheleau, the agency's acting administrator.

During the hearing, the head of the National Transportation Safety Board and members of Congress again questioned how the FAA hadn't noticed an

alarming number of close calls near Ronald Reagan National Airport and addressed the problem before the January collision between an Army helicopter and a jetliner. The collision over the Potomac River was the nation's deadliest plane crash since November 2001.

"We have to do better," Rocheleau said. "We have to identify trends, we have to get smarter about how we use data, and when we put corrective actions in place, we must execute them."

The FAA is using AI to dig into the millions of reports it collects to assess other places with busy helicopter traffic including: Boston, New York, Baltimore-Washington, Detroit, Chi-

ago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles and along the Gulf Coast. Rocheleau promised to take immediate action if risks are found.

Investigators have highlighted 85 close calls around Reagan airport in the three years before the crash that should have signaled a growing safety problem. Rocheleau told the aviation subcommittee of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation that every close call is investigated and all the data was reviewed before, but this alarming trend was missed.

NTSB Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy said there clearly was an issue with identifying trends in the data the FAA collects.

Trump asks to resume Venezuelan deportations

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Friday asked the Supreme Court for permission to resume deportations of Venezuelan migrants to El Salvador under an 18th century wartime law, while a court fight continues.

The emergency appeal to the high court follows a rejection of the Republican administration's plea to the federal appeals court in Washington. By a 2-1 vote, a panel of appellate judges left in place an order temporarily prohibiting deportations of the migrants under the rarely used Alien Enemies Act.

The Justice Department argued in court papers that federal courts shouldn't interfere with sensitive diplomatic negotiations. It also claimed that migrants should make their case in a federal court in Texas, where they are being detained.

The order temporarily blocking the deportations was issued by U.S. District Judge James E. Boasberg, the chief judge at the federal courthouse in Washington.

President Donald Trump invoked the Alien Enemies Act for the first time since World War II to justify the deportation of hundreds of people under a presidential proclamation calling the Tren de Aragua gang an invading force.

Attorneys from the American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit on behalf of five Venezuelan noncitizens who were being held in Texas, hours after the proclamation was made public.

The court set a Tuesday deadline for a response from the ACLU.

The case has become a flash point amid escalating tension between the White House and the federal courts.

Yanks' Wells makes history on opening day

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Austin Wells became the first catcher to hit a leadoff homer on opening day, Anthony Volpe also went deep and the New York Yankees began their AL pennant defense by beating the Milwaukee Brewers 4-2 on Thursday.

Carlos Rodón (1-0), starting because of ace Gerrit Cole's season-ending elbow injury, allowed one run and four hits in 5 2/3 innings. Rodón got 13 swing and misses, including nine on sliders.

Devin Williams, an All-Star closer acquired from Milwaukee in December, loaded the bases with no outs in the ninth on two hits and a walk. He gave up Brice Turang's sacrifice fly, then struck out Jackson Chourio and Christian Yelich for the save. Chourio fanned five times, two more than his previous high.

Wells put the Yankees ahead when he sent a 2-0 fastball into the right-field short porch against Freddy Peralta (0-1).

Volpe homered in the second, Aaron Judge added an RBI double off third base in the seventh and Cody Bellinger followed with a sacrifice fly that made it 4-1 in his Yankees debut.

Vinny Capra hit his first big league homer in the third for Milwaukee.

Cardinals 5, Twins 3: Lars Nootbaar homered and Sonny Gray pitched five solid innings to help St. Louis to a win over Minnesota.

ever opening day power display.

O'Neill went 3 for 3, walked twice and scored three times.

Zach Eflin (1-0) allowed two hits in six innings as the Orioles opened a big league season outside the United States for the first time.

Eflin retired the first 10 batters before walking Vladimir Guerrero Jr. in the fourth inning. Two batters later, Andrés Giménez hit a two-run home run, Toronto's first hit.

Making his fifth opening day start and third with the Blue Jays, José Berrios (0-1) allowed six runs and nine hits in five innings.

Toronto's Anthony Santander went 0 for 4 against his former team. Santander signed a five-year deal in January.

Cardinals 5, Twins 3: Lars Nootbaar homered and Sonny Gray pitched five solid innings to help St. Louis to a win over Minnesota.

Nolan Arenado also went deep late in the game for the Cardinals.

Harrison Bader hit a two-run shot for Minnesota against his former team.

Nootbaar slammed a two-run drive off Pablo Lopez in the second inning to stake the Cardinals to a 4-0 lead.

Gray allowed two runs and four hits. He struck out six and threw 49 strikes in his 77-pitch outing.

The Cardinals' bullpen gave up just one run over four innings. Ryan Helsley earned the save.

White Sox 8, Angels 1: Sean Burke pitched six sparkling innings and Will Venable got his first win as a big league manager, directing Chicago to a victory over Los Angeles.

White Sox, who traded him to Boston in December.

Andrew Benintendi, Lenyn Sosa and Austin Slater homered as Chicago began what it hopes will be a more promising season than a year ago, when it went 41-121 to break the post-1900 major league record for losses.

Venable, 42, stepped into a challenging rebuilding project when he was hired in October. The former big league outfiel- der was an associate manager for Texas the past two years.

Yusei Kikuchi (0-1) pitched six innings of three-run ball in his Los Angeles debut. The Japanese left-hander signed a \$63 million, three-year contract with the Angels in free agency.

Burke (1-0) allowed three hits, struck out three and walked none. Penn Murfee, Jordan Leasure and Mike Clevinger combined for three scoreless innings before Logan O'Hoppe homered for the Angels against Cam Booser in the ninth.

Red Sox 5, Rangers 2: Wi- lyer Abreu hit a three-run shot in the ninth inning for his second homer of the opener, powering Boston past Texas.

Abreu had a part in every run for Boston. He singled and scored on a fielder's choice grounder in the third. He homered in the fifth off Nathan Eovaldi and his game-winner was a 394-foot liner to right-center off new Rangers reliever Luke Jackson.

Aroldis Chapman pitched a scoreless eighth in his Red Sox debut for the win. Justin Slaten saved it with a perfect ninth.

Garrett Crochet struck out four, walked two and gave up two runs in five innings in his Red Sox debut. Crochet started the opener last year for the

White Sox, who traded him to Boston in December.

Eovaldi struck out nine without a walk, and allowed two runs in six innings. It was his second opening-day start in a row for Texas after starting three Boston openers from 2020-22.

Kevin Pillar, starting his 13th big league season with his 10th team, had an RBI single in his first at-bat for Texas in the second. He had a two-out single and scored on Kyle Higashioka's double for a 2-1 lead in the fourth.

Phillies 7, Washington 3 (10): Alec Bohm hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the 10th inning, and J.T. Realmuto added a two-run triple, lifting Philadelphia to a victory over Washington for a successful start to their NL East title defense.

Zack Wheeler went six innings for the Phillies, giving up two hits and one run — on Keibert Ruiz's homer in the fifth that put the Nationals ahead 1-0. Washington's MacKenzie Gore recorded a career-high 13 strikeouts and allowed one hit in six shutout innings.

In the seventh, Phillies slug- gers Bryce Harper and Kyle Schwarber — both ex-Nationals — hit first-pitch homers off relievers to put Philadelphia up 2-1.

The lead grew to 3-1 in the eighth before Washington tied it in the bottom half off Jordan Romano.

Jose Alvarado (1-0) pitched the ninth for the win. Matt Strahm threw the 10th.

Colin Poche (0-1) gave up Bohm's go-ahead double in the 10th. Eduardo Salazar allowed Realmuto's insurance hit.

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Flores' 3-run homer lifts Giants over Reds

FROM PAGE 5

Giants 6, Reds 4: Wilmer Flores hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning, and San Francisco rallied for a victory over Cincinnati, spoiling Terry Francona's debut as Reds manager.

The Giants scored four runs in the ninth off Ian Gibaut (0-1). Patrick Bailey's base hit to right-center tied it at 3-all before Flores drove a hanging sweeper into the left-field stands.

Heliot Ramos had a two-run homer for San Francisco in the fourth. Tyler Rogers got the win after pitching a scoreless eighth and Ryan Walker picked up the save.

After TJ Friedl's RBI single got the Reds within two runs in the ninth, Matt McLain flew out to Ramos to end the game.

Cincinnati's Jeimer Candelario drove in three runs. Starter Hunter Greene struck out eight in five innings.

Candelario got the Reds on the board in the first with an RBI single and then drove in a pair with the bases loaded in the third.

Cincinnati pitchers combined for 16 strikeouts.

Padres 7, Braves 4: Pinch-hitter Gavin Sheets' tying homer kicked off San Diego's four-run rally in the seventh inning, and Jackson Merrill drove in four runs as they beat Atlanta.

Fernando Tatís Jr. had three hits, while Luis Arraez and Manny Machado added seventh-inning RBIs in a rematch of last season's wild-card playoff series won by the Padres.

Ozzie Albies hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs for the Braves. Austin Riley also homered.

Chris Sale yielded three runs and six hits over five innings for Atlanta, striking out seven in his sixth opening day start.

Michael King couldn't escape the third inning for the Padres,

allowing three runs on four hits and four walks.

Marlins 5, Pirates 4: Kyle Stowers hit a run-scoring single in the ninth inning to give Miami a win over Pittsburgh in the debut of Marlins manager Clayton McCullough.

Nick Fortes tripled to lead off the inning against reliever David Bednar (0-1) and Xavier Edwards was intentionally walked. After Edwards stole second, Stowers sent a line drive to right that scored pinch runner Javier Sanoja.

Jesús Tinoco (1-0) pitched the ninth for the win.

The Marlins rallied tied it at 4-all on consecutive run-scoring singles by Otto López and Dane Myers in the eighth.

Pirates starter Paul Skenes, the reigning NL Rookie of the Year, struck out seven over 5 1/3 innings of two-run ball. Skenes gave up three hits and walked two.

Astros 3, Mets 1: Framber Valdez pitched seven scoreless innings and Josh Hader struck out Juan Soto with two on to save Houston's win over New York.

After loading the bases with nobody out in the ninth, Hader fanned backup catcher Hayden Senger in his first major league at-bat. Francisco Lindor's sacrifice fly made it 3-1, and there were runners on first and third when Hader struck out Soto swinging at a full-count slider wide of the zone for his 200th career save.

Soto singled and walked twice in his Mets debut.

Making his fourth straight opening day start, Valdez (1-0) allowed four hits and struck out four.

Converted reliever Clay Holmes (0-1) yielded five hits and three runs — two earned — while walking four in 4 2/3 innings.

Guardians 7, Royals 4 (10): Kyle Manzardo had a two-run double in the 10th inning to tie the club record for most RBIs

on opening day and Cleveland defeated Kansas City.

Manzardo joined Tris Speaker (1925) and Leon Wagner (1964) with four RBIs on opening day.

Steven Kwan led off the 10th with a run-scoring double. With two outs and Kwan at third, reliever Sam Long intentionally walked Carlos Santana to face Manzardo, who drove in both runners.

Emmanuel Clase took the win and Paul Sewald earned the save.

Vinnie Pasquantino broke the scoreless tie with a three-run homer in the third for Kansas City.

Dodgers 5, Tigers 4: Blake Snell won his Dodgers debut, Teoscar Hernández hit a three-run homer and Los Angeles defeated Detroit in its home opener.

Snell (1-0), a two-time Cy Young Award winner who signed with the Dodgers as a free agent in the offseason, allowed two runs and five hits in five innings. The left-hander struck out two and walked four.

Hernández homered off Tariq Skubal (0-1) on his first pitch with two outs in the fifth, putting the Dodgers back in front 4-2. Shohei Ohtani reached on a fielder's choice and Mookie Betts walked to set up Hernández.

Ohtani homered in the seventh, extending the lead to 5-3.

The Dodgers improved to 3-0, having opened the season with a pair of victories over the Chicago Cubs in Tokyo this month.

Mariners 4, Athletics 2: Jorge Polanco and Randy Arozarena hit eighth-inning home runs and Seattle rallied to beat the Athletics.

Polanco's two-out, two-run home run to dead center field sealed the win after Arozarena tied it at 2 with a shot to left.

Tyler Soderstrom — one of three players under the age of 24 in the Athletics' opening-day starting lineup — hit two solo home runs in his team's first

game of the post-Oakland era. The second put his team ahead 2-1 in the eighth.

Reliever Trent Thornton (1-0) earned the win after allowing the go-ahead run in the top of the eighth. Closer Andrés Muñoz earned the save with a strikeout and a double play in the ninth. Jose Leclerc (0-1) took the loss.

A's starter Luis Severino spread three hits over his six innings and got out of jams with runners in scoring position in the fifth and sixth innings. He struck out Rowdy Tellez with runners on second and third to end his night.

Seattle starter Logan Gilbert struck out eight and allowed just two hits in seven innings.

Cubs 10, Diamondbacks 6: Miguel Amaya hit two doubles and had five RBIs, and Ian Happ added a homer, double and three RBIs as Chicago beat Arizona.

Amaya's double with the bases loaded in the fifth bounced off the glove of Jake McCarthy, who couldn't come up with the catch after diving for the ball in center field. It brought home Michael Busch, Pete Crow-Armstrong and rookie Matt Shaw for a 7-3 lead.

Amaya pushed Chicago's lead to 10-5 in the ninth with a two-run double down the left field line.

Happ connected for a two-run double in the second for a 2-1 lead and added a solo homer in the fourth.

Lefty Justin Steele (1-1) gave up three runs over five innings, walking one and striking out two.

Arizona's Zac Gallen (0-1) gave up four runs over four innings, throwing 83 pitches and just 43 strikes. He walked four and struck out four.

Eugenio Suárez hit a solo homer and Josh Naylor — acquired from the Guardians in an offseason trade — had an RBI single in the first for an early 1-0 lead.

Texas Tech rallies from 16 down to win in OT

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Darrion Williams scored the tiebreaking basket with 7.3 seconds left in overtime after tying the game with a 3-pointer in the closing seconds of regulation to lead Texas Tech to an 85-83 win over Arkansas on Thursday night and a spot in the Elite Eight.

The first overtime game of March Madness came thanks to a furious comeback by the third-seeded Red Raiders (28-8) from 16 points down midway through the second half against coach John Calipari's

10th-seeded Razorbacks (22-14).

Texas Tech advanced to play top-seeded Florida in the West Region final on Saturday.

Florida 87, Maryland 71:

Will Richard scored 15 points, Aljiah Martin added 14 points and seven rebounds, and top-seeded Florida played a steady second half to run away from No. 4 seed Maryland and into the NCAA Tournament's West Region final with a win.

Walter Clayton Jr. contributed 13 points and four assists as Florida's Big Three seniors and

their deep supporting cast took down the Maryland "Crab Five" starters — one of Terrapins coach Kevin Willard's concerns coming into this matchup.

Alabama 113, BYU 88: Alabama broke the 35-year-old March Madness record for 3-pointers with 25 and Mark Sears scored 30 of his 34 points on 3s, a relentless long-range spree that ushered the second-seeded Crimson Tide past BYU 113-88 on Thursday night in an NCAA Tournament East Region semifinal.

Sears and the Crimson Tide

(28-8) showed they are no March fluke under coach Nate Oats.

Riding a wave of 3s, Alabama set itself up for a date against Duke for a shot at the Final Four.

Duke 100, Arizona 93: Duke

stud Cooper Flagg put on a skills clinic and overcame an onslaught from Arizona and Caleb Love, finishing with 30 points, six rebounds, seven assists and three blocks Thursday night in an NCAA Tournament victory that pulled the Blue Devils one win away from the Final Four.

Giddey's halfcourt buzzer-beater caps wild Bulls win

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Josh Giddey made a halfcourt heave at the buzzer to cap perhaps the wildest finish in the NBA this season, giving the Chicago Bulls a 119-117 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday night.

Patrick Williams and Coby White hit back-to-back 3-pointers in the closing seconds for the Bulls, who trailed by five points with 12.6 seconds remaining.

Giddey finished with 25 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists. White scored 26 points and Kevin Huerter added 21 as the Bulls won for the ninth time in 11 games.

And this one was easily their wildest in recent memory.

The Lakers looked like they had the game in hand leading 115-100 after Austin Reaves made two free throws with 13 seconds remaining. The Bulls weren't finished, though.

Williams nailed a 3 for Chicago with 10 seconds remaining. Giddey stole a pass from James and White hit a 3 with 6 seconds to go, putting the Bulls on top 116-115.

Austin Reaves then drove for a layup to give Los Angeles a 117-116 lead with 3 seconds to go. But the Bulls still found a way to pull this one out, mob-

bing Giddey after he buried the winner.

Pacers 162, Wizards 109:

Tyrese Haliburton scored 29 points, one of nine Indiana players in double figures as they set a franchise record for points in a game in a rout of Washington.

The final score could have been even more lopsided, but Indiana began taking shot clock violations with well over a minute remaining, drawing boos from the crowd in Washington. Indiana's previous record in an NBA game was 157 points, set most recently last season.

It was the most points ever allowed by Washington and the most points scored in an NBA game this season.

Cavaliers 124, Spurs 116:

Jarrett Allen scored a season-high 29 points, Donovan Mitchell had a career-high 14 assists and Cleveland looked more comfortable back home, holding off San Antonio.

Allen went 10 of 11 from the floor and added 16 rebounds for Cleveland, which went 2-4 on a just-completed six-game trip out West.

Mitchell scored 25 and flirted with his first career triple-double, finishing with eight rebounds.

Heat 122, Hawks 112:

Tyler Herro scored 36 points, Davion Mitchell and Andrew Wiggins each added 16 and Miami beat Atlanta for a third straight win.

Bam Adebayo had 12 points and 10 rebounds for Miami, which trailed by 14 in the first quarter but controlled the second half.

Trae Young had 29 points and 12 assists for the Hawks, who got 17 points from Caris LeVert and 15 from Oneyka Okongwu.

Mavericks 101, Magic 92:

Jaden Hardy scored 22 points, Anthony Davis added 15 points and seven rebounds and Dallas beat Orlando.

Paolo Banchero had 35 points and 10 rebounds for the Magic, who shot 5 of 30 from 3-point range. Franz Wagner added 20 points and nine rebounds.

Hardy came off the bench and made 5 of 6 3-point shots, three of them in a span of 90 seconds in the third quarter.

Thunder 125, Grizzlies 104:

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 37 points and Oklahoma City defeated Memphis, winning their eighth straight and team-record 61st game of the season.

All-Star guard Jalen Williams scored 20 points in his return for the Thunder after missing sev-

en games with a hip injury. Isaiah Hartenstein added 18 points and 11 rebounds for Oklahoma City (61-12), which remained two games ahead of Cleveland for the league's best record with nine games to play.

Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 27 points and Scotty Pippen Jr. added 17 points, 10 rebounds, seven assists and five steals for the Grizzlies.

Rockets 121, Jazz 110: Alperen Sengun had 33 points and 10 rebounds, Amen Thompson finished with 16 points, 10 rebounds and five assists, and Houston beat Utah.

Jalen Green added 21 points and Tari Eason scored 15 for Houston.

Kings 128, Trail Blazers 107:

Zach LaVine scored 29 points and Domantas Sabonis finished with 22 points, 19 rebounds and six assists to help Sacramento beat Portland and snap a four-game skid.

LaVine made 13 of 18 from the field and Sabonis was 9-of-11 shooting for the Kings. DeMar DeRozan had 21 points and 10 assists, Keegan Murray scored 17 points and Malik Monk 16.

Deni Avdija had 24 points and nine rebounds, Shaedon Sharpe scored 22 points and Anfernee Simons had 20.

Senators hold on to beat Red Wings 4-3

Associated Press

DETROIT — Thomas Chabot and Tim Stutzle scored in the first period for Ottawa and the Senators held off the Detroit Red Wings in a 4-3 victory Thursday night.

Linus Ullmark made 31 saves and David Perron and Michael Amadio also had goals for the Senators, who have won eight of their last 11 while holding the first wild-card playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Lucas Raymond had a goal and an assist for the Red Wings, who scored three times in the third period but lost for the fourth time in five games. Patrick Kane and Vladimir Tarasenko also scored for Detroit.

Alex Lyon allowed three goals on 10 shots and was replaced by Cam Talbot, who made 21 saves.

Sabres 7, Penguins 3: Jiri Kulich scored twice as part of a five-goal second period, and Buffalo routed Pittsburgh in an outing where Penguins captain Sidney Crosby broke an NHL record for point-per-game consistency he shared with Wayne Gretzky.

Buffalo won its fourth-straight home game with Tage Thompson, Alex Tuch, Peyton Krebs and Tyson Kozak each securing a goal and an assist. Mattias Samuelsson also scored, and backup James Reimer made 22 saves in winning his third consecutive start.

Crosby's goal 8:49 in to cut Buffalo's lead to 2-1 was his 80th point, to assure he'll finish his 20th NHL season averaging at least a point per outing. The 37-year-old surpassed Gretzky, who finished all but his 20th and final NHL season in 1998-99 averaging a point a game.

Kevin Hayes and Blake Lizotte also scored for Pittsburgh, which dropped to 1-3-1 in its past five.

Lightning 8, Utah 0: Jake Guentzel and Oliver Bjorkstrand scored two goals each, Andrei Vasilevskiy made 25

saves for his sixth shutout of the season, and Tampa Bay routed Utah.

Brayden Point, Nikita Kucherov, Gage Goncalves and Victor Hedman also scored for Tampa Bay, which won its second in a row and has won five of its last seven games. Kucherov also had three assists.

It was the fourth time this year Tampa Bay has scored eight goals in a game.

Utah starting goalie Karel Vejmelka — who had started 15 straight games — had a rough night, giving up four goals on 11 shots before being lifted after Kucherov made it 4-0 midway through the second period. He was replaced by Jaxson Stauber, who gave up four goals on 10 shots.

Flyers 6, Canadiens 4: Matvei Michkov had two goals and an assist and Philadelphia got off to a fast start in their first game after coach John Tortorella's morning firing, beating Montreal.

With Brad Shaw serving as interim coach, Philadelphia ended a six-game losing streak and handed Montreal its fourth straight loss.

Michkov opened the scoring at 1:55 of the first period, assisted on the first of Sean Couturier's two goals and added his 22nd goal in the third. Tortorella came under scrutiny when he scratched Michkov or benched him for long periods, explaining it was part of a tough-love approach toward the Russian rookie.

Nicolas Deslauriers and Tyson Foerster also scored, and Samuel Ersson made 26 saves.

Alex Newhook, Cole Caufield, Patrik Laine and Christian Dvorak scored for Montreal. Jakub Dobes stopped 24 shots.

Wild 4, Capitals 2: Matt Boldy had the go-ahead goal and an assist in the second period for Minnesota in the victory over Washington.

Frederick Gaudreau had two goals, Jon Merrill scored and

Filip Gustavsson made 28 saves for the Wild, the only NHL team this season that hasn't lost (28-0) when leading after two periods.

Matt Roy and Brandon Duhaime scored for the league-leading Capitals, who lost their second straight after a 9-1 stretch.

Alex Ovechkin had a third-period breakaway thwarted by Wild defenseman Jonas Brodin and stayed at 889 career goals. He needs six to pass Wayne Gretzky on the NHL's career list with 10 regular-season games remaining.

Minnesota got a big boost for its playoff push, having entered the game with a five-point cushion above the cut for the last West wild-card spot.

Blues 3, Predators 2: Dylan Holloway scored two goals to lead St. Louis to a comeback victory over Nashville for their season-best eighth straight win.

Cam Fowler also scored and Joel Hofer made 16 saves for the Blues. Robert Thomas had two assists.

Fedor Svechkov and Brady Skjei scored and Juuse Saros made 18 saves for Nashville, which has dropped two of three.

Nashville's Jonathan Marchessault appeared to tie it late in the third, but a video review determined that time had expired before the puck entered the net.

Stars 5, Flames 2: Casey DeSmith made 46 saves, and Roope Hintz and Mikko Rantanen each had a goal and an assist as Dallas beat Calgary.

Wyatt Johnston and Mikael Granlund also scored and Matt Duchene added an empty-net goal for the Stars, winners of four games in a row.

DeSmith got the start for Dallas after Jake Oettinger made 42 saves in the previous night's 4-3 win over the Edmonton Oilers.

Nazem Kadri scored twice for the Flames.

Flames starter Dustin Wolf stopped 14 of 18 shots in the loss.

Avalanche 4, Kings 0: Martin Necas had two goals and an assist, Jonathan Drouin and Logan O'Connor also scored, and streaking Colorado beat Los Angeles for their fourth straight win.

Mackenzie Blackwood made 23 saves for his third shutout with Colorado and fourth overall this season. Cale Makar had two assists.

O'Connor and Necas scored goals 1:32 apart early in the second, Necas added a power-play goal later in the period, and Drouin had another on a man-advantage in the third.

Nathan MacKinnon had the primary assist on Drouin's goal to extend his home point streak to 23 games.

Kraken 6, Oilers 1: Jaden Schwartz scored twice, linemates Jani Nyman and Matt Beniers scored 16 seconds apart and Joey Daccord made 36 saves to help Seattle beat Edmonton and snap a three-game skid.

Andre Burakovsky and Jared McCann also had goals for the Kraken, who scored five times in the second period.

Zach Hyman had Edmonton's only goal.

Maple Leafs 6, Sharks 5, OT: Tyler Toffoli scored two goals and had an assist and San Jose defeated Toronto in a shootout after blowing a late lead.

Collin Graf, Alexander Wennberg and William Eklund also scored for the Sharks, who led 5-3 with less than a minute left.

John Tavares cut Toronto's deficit to one with 59 seconds remaining and William Nylander tied it 45 seconds later with his second goal of the game.

Will Smith and Macklin Celerini scored in the shootout and Alexandar Georgiev stopped Auston Matthews and Mitch Marner to seal the win after allowing Nylander to score on Toronto's first shootout shot. Georgiev made 30 saves in regulation.