

Iran puts US drone defense to the test

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Iran war quickly tested America's ability to combat the swarms of cheap drones that have become a staple of the modern battlefield after Ukraine and Russia demonstrated how effective they could be.

The Islamic Republic launched so many drones across the region at once that some slipped through the defenses, including a strike that killed six U.S. soldiers at an operations center in Kuwait.

Experts and defense leaders stress that the U.S. military has been able to shoot down the majority of Iran's drones and take out much of Iran's drone capabilities. But critics said that too often missiles that cost millions of dollars were being used to down small drones that cost tens of thousands.

American forces face a steep learning curve as they scramble to deploy more cost-efficient defenses against Iran's Shahed drones, which fly low and buzz like mopeds before smashing into their targets.

"We are crushing them — there's no doubt about it — but if even one drone gets through our defenses and hurts an American, for me, that is enough to warrant fixing the problem," said drone warfare expert Brett Velicovich, who operated Predator drones in the U.S. Army and co-founded a drone manufacturing company.

Here's what to know about Iran's drones and efforts by the U.S. to shoot them down:

Gen. Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Tuesday the number of drones launched by Iran had fallen 83% since the beginning of the war on Feb. 28.

Iran launched more than 2,000 drones in the days after the initial U.S. and Israeli attacks, other top military officials said.

Caine told reporters that U.S. forces were striking military and industrial targets in Iran "to deny them the ability to continue to generate those one-way attack drones."

"We also have struck several one-way drone factories to get at the heart of their autonomous capability," he said.

Hundreds — if not thousands — of Patriot missiles have been used by the U.S. and its allies across the Middle East to defend against Iranian missiles and drones. But now the U.S. seems to be relying more on attack helicopters and machine guns as a more cost-effective way to shoot down Iranian drones, experts say, and President Donald Trump suggested as much.

"Now we have low-cost interceptors effectively combating Iranian drones," the Republican president said Monday.

The military also is bringing in an anti-drone system proven to work against Russian drones in Ukraine that are similar to the ones Iran flies, The Associated Press reported. Known as Merops, the system flies drones against drones, fits in the back of a pickup truck and uses artificial intelligence to navigate when electronic communications are jammed.

The U.S. military has been paying attention to Russia's war in Ukraine, but experts say it has been slow to overhaul its arsenal and tactics to respond to the new threat from fleets of drones.

"This is going to be a big wake-up call for how the U.S. military defends its citizens and

fight wars forever," Velicovich said. "Because it's sort of like we're the best military on the planet, but stuff's still getting by us."

Pentagon officials have conceded in classified briefings to Congress that they have struggled to stop the waves of Iranian drones, leaving U.S. service members and Persian Gulf allies vulnerable. High-profile targets like a Dubai skyscraper and airports across the region have been struck.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said last week that "thousands of Iranian missiles and drones have been intercepted and vaporized." But he conceded, "this does not mean we can stop everything."

Available in big numbers, the Shahed drones have shown their capability to oversaturate air defenses and inflict painful damage. And while the Shahed flies slowly at just over 110 mph, it can range as far as 1,240 miles and carry a relatively big load of 88 pounds of explosives.

The U.S. military has typically operated complicated reusable drones that fire off missiles and return to base, such as the Predator.

But Ukraine has shown that relying on large numbers of cheap drones, which carry their payloads directly into the target and become warheads themselves, can be extremely effective.

"There is going to be a learning curve, but the more that the Ukrainians can provide us in terms of guidance and expertise I think the better off we all are," said Brandon Blackburn, who is a former CIA targeting officer who conducted counterterrorism operations throughout the Middle East.

DOD: 140 service members wounded in 10 days of war

Stars and Stripes

About 140 U.S. service members have been wounded in the first 10 days of the conflict with Iran, the vast majority of which are minor, Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in an emailed statement Tuesday.

Of those wounded, 108 have already returned to duty, Parnell

said. Eight remain severely wounded "and are receiving the highest level of medical care," he said.

Seven service members have been killed in combat, one in Saudi Arabia and six in Kuwait. Another soldier died in Kuwait of a medical issue.

The U.S. military has struck more than 5,000 targets across

Iran in the first 10 days of Operation Epic Fury, said Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a news conference with Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth on Tuesday, the 11th day of the conflict.

Later Tuesday, President Donald Trump said in a post on Truth Social that the U.S.

had "completely destroyed" 10 inactive mine-laying vessels after reports of Iranian action to close the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world's oil is carried.

U.S. Central Command later said that U.S. forces destroyed 16 total mine-laying vessels and released unclassified footage of some of the vessels.

S. Korea objects to moving THAAD to Mideast

By SETH ROBSON
AND YOONJIN LEE
Stars and Stripes

The president of South Korea this week opposed the removal of U.S. air defense systems from his country to the Middle East but said doing so will not significantly affect Seoul's ability to deter Pyongyang.

"While we have expressed opposition to the possible redeployment" of some U.S. air defense assets, "the reality is that we cannot fully impose our position," President Lee Jae Myung said at a Tuesday cabinet meeting live-streamed online.

The Pentagon is moving parts of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system from South Korea to the Middle East, according to unnamed officials quoted by The Washington Post that day.

The military is also drawing on Patriot interceptors in the Indo-Pacific to counter Iranian drone and missile threats, the officials said in the report.

The U.S. was rushing to replace a THAAD radar — critical to shooting down ballistic missiles — that was damaged in an Iranian-backed drone strike in Jordan, according to an unnamed U.S. official quoted March 6 by The Wall Street Journal.

"For operational security reasons, we do not comment on the movement of specific military capabilities or assets," the Pentagon and U.S. Forces Korea said in statements Wednesday. "United States Forces Korea remains focused on maintaining a combat-credible force posture on the Korean Peninsula."

South Korea's government ex-

pects USFK to fully contribute to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, Lee told the cabinet.

"However, one thing to consider is that if you ask whether this significantly disables our deterrence strategy against North Korea, my answer is absolutely not," he said.

THAAD is too essential for North Korean deterrence to move off the peninsula, said Riki Ellison, founder of the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, which lobbies for missile defense, deployment and development.

A \$20,000 Iranian drone has destroyed THAAD radars and disabled the systems, Ellison wrote in an email Wednesday. The conflict shows layers of air defense are needed, including defense of fixed-site radars from drones, he added.

"If you cannot do that, why would you send any fixed-site radar to the Middle East?" he wrote.

The U.S. deployed air defense personnel from South Korea to the Middle East last year.

A Patriot missile battalion — 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment — returned to South Korea in October after a six-month deployment.

The mission's timing and language in a statement announcing the unit's return suggested its troops participated in missile defense operations at a U.S. base in Qatar after a June 22 strike by Air Force B-2 bombers on three Iranian sites. Soon after that attack, Patriot air defense crews reportedly intercepted Iranian missiles targeting Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, home to U.S. Central Command's forward headquarters.

Iran strikes ships, Dubai airport, Gulf oil facilities

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran attacked Emirati commercial ships on Wednesday and targeted Dubai International Airport, escalating a campaign of bottling up the oil-rich Persian Gulf as global energy concerns mounted and American and Israeli airstrikes pounded the Islamic Republic.

Iran's response to the surprise Israeli and U.S. bombardment 12 days ago has upended trade routes, choked supplies of fuel and fertilizer coming out of the Gulf and threatened air traffic through one of the world's most-traveled regions.

An Israeli intelligence assessment found that Iran's new supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, was wounded at the start of the war — on the day when his father and predecessor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed in an Israeli airstrike.

The 56-year-old, whose wife was also killed in the Israeli strike, has not been seen since becoming supreme leader on Monday. Yousef Pezeshkian, the son of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, wrote on social media that he had heard Mojtaba was wounded but that friends said "he is healthy and there is no problem."

The fallout across the Middle East has widened as Israel strikes what it says are targets connected to Iran-backed Hezbollah militants in Lebanon.

Two Iranian drones hit near the Dubai airport, home to the long-haul carrier Emirates and the world's busiest for international travel. Four people were wounded but flights continued, the Dubai Media Office said.

Meanwhile, Israeli strikes set a building ablaze in central Beirut. Lebanon's Health Ministry said four people were wounded.

Officials say early strikes in Iran cost \$5.6B in munitions

The Washington Post

The Pentagon burned through \$5.6 billion worth of munitions during the first two days of its military assault on Iran, according to three U.S. officials, a figure that underscores the deepening alarm among some on Capitol Hill over the speed at which U.S. forces have eaten into the scarce supply of America's most advanced weaponry.

The estimate, shared with Congress on Monday, raises new questions about the Trump administration's broad dismissal of lawmakers' concerns that the Iran operation is quickly eroding the U.S. military's readiness.

The Trump administration also is expected to send Congress a supplemental defense budget request as soon as this week — potentially totaling tens of billions of dollars — to help sustain its campaign, officials said. That, too, is

expected to face opposition from many Democrats whose attempts to restrain the administration from further military action in Iran have come up empty.

In response to questions from The Washington Post about the state of U.S. weapons inventories, Sean Parnell, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, issued a statement saying that the Defense Department has "everything it needs to execute any mission at the time and place of the President's choosing and on any timeline."

The \$5.6 billion figure highlights how costly the strikes were before that transition began, said the officials, who like some others spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive estimate. They did not specify how many and what kinds of munitions were expended in the war's opening days.

Tornadoes tear through Illinois and Indiana

Associated Press

Major storms whipped up tornadoes in parts of Illinois and Indiana that leveled homes, killing at least two people and injuring others, and another round of rain, hail and strong winds made its way through the region Wednesday, authorities said.

“Please do not come here. Do not try to help right now,” Newton County Sheriff Shannon Cothran said in a video update in front of what looked to be a destroyed home in the small northwestern Indiana community of Lake Village.

The deaths in Lake Village were confirmed by Laurie Post-

ma, a spokeswoman for the Lake Township Fire Department, at a news conference held by the sheriff, state police and local authorities Wednesday.

She said fewer than 10 people were hurt in Tuesday’s storms, which also knocked down trees and power lines.

Multiple homes in the community were destroyed in an apparent tornado, and Indiana State Police Cpl. Eric Rot said people had been injured.

Severe storms dumping rain and hail in parts of the Midwest were threatened to bring intense tornadoes, damaging winds and very large hail from

the southern Plains to the southern Great Lakes, according to the National Weather Service. Parts of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio were under a tornado watch Wednesday morning.

Several tornadoes formed across northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana, but the exact number won’t be available until officials conduct damage surveys, said Andrew Lyons, a meteorologist with the weather service Storm Prediction Center.

A tornado struck down near the Kankakee, Ill., fairgrounds, about 57 miles south of Chicago,

before traveling northeast into Aroma Park, where it caused extensive damage, according to the Kankakee County Sheriff’s Office. No injuries have been reported.

In video shared on social media, the twister is seen ripping across a field of farmland near an airport while vehicles lined the road.

More than 2 million Americans were at a moderate risk of severe weather in Illinois and Indiana. Nearly 22 million were at a slightly lesser risk in a zone that includes Chicago, Fort Worth, Texas, and Oklahoma City, Okla.

Inflation was elevated even before Iran war

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Inflation stayed stubbornly elevated last month as gas prices rose in a snapshot of what prices looked like before the Iran war sent energy costs soaring.

Consumer prices rose 2.4% in February compared with a year earlier, the Labor Department said Wednesday, matching January’s 2.4% increase. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core prices climbed 2.5% from a year ago, also matching January’s level. Both figures are above the Federal Reserve’s 2% target.

Wednesday’s data has been overtaken by the conflict that began when the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28, which has caused wild gyrations in oil prices as shipping lanes through the Persian Gulf have suffered a rare shutdown.

Gas prices have already jumped and are expected to push inflation much higher when inflation data for this month is released in early April.

The price spike will challenge officials at the Federal Reserve and could slow consumer spending, which drives two-thirds of the nation’s economic

growth each year. The increase could be a one-time event and potentially reverse if the war ends soon, as President Donald Trump has hinted.

But the spike in gas prices threatens to worsen inflation for at least a few months with Americans already worn down by nearly five years of stubbornly high prices.

“Affordability” is already a thorny political issue for congressional Republicans who will face voters later this year.

Oil prices soared as high as nearly \$120 a barrel late Sunday before falling closer to \$85 by

Wednesday after Trump suggested that the conflict would be a “short-term excursion.” Still, he has also threatened ongoing attacks.

Some analysts warn prices will move much higher if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed, which has removed roughly three-quarters of the Persian Gulf region’s oil production from world markets, according to Wood Mackenzie, an energy analytics firm. On Wednesday, a projectile hit a Thai cargo ship off the coast of Oman in the Strait of Hormuz, setting it ablaze.

Psychedelics beat nicotine patches to help smokers quit in study

Bloomberg News

A single dose of psilocybin, the active compound in magic mushrooms, appears significantly more effective than nicotine patches at helping people quit smoking, a new study shows.

Researchers conducted a randomized trial involving 82 adult smokers who were “psychiatrically healthy.”

It compared the efficacy of nicotine patches given for eight-

to-10 weeks with a single high dose of psilocybin.

Both treatments were combined with 13 weeks of talk therapy.

Over 40% of those in the psilocybin group weren’t smoking after six months, compared to only 10% of the nicotine patch group.

At the six-month mark, those receiving psilocybin were three times more likely to have avoided cigarettes in the previous

week and six times more likely to stay off nicotine long term.

In 2022, half of American smokers attempted to quit, with a 1 in 10 success rate, according to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Existing treatments such as medications, antidepressants, nicotine replacement therapy and counseling typically fail after six months, according to the study published Tuesday in JA-

MA Network Open. It’s hard to stop smoking because nicotine, a stimulant and the main addictive drug in cigarettes, triggers a chemical in the brain that makes people feel good.

Researchers think psilocybin was effective because it influenced psychological systems, changed self-perception and influenced behaviors, rather than targeting withdrawal or altering the way nicotine acts in the body.

China irked by Xi-Trump summit scramble

Bloomberg News

With three weeks until President Donald Trump meets Xi Jinping, Beijing is frustrated by what it sees as insufficient U.S. preparation that may limit the landmark summit to trade agreements and leave key diplomatic and security matters untouched.

Chinese officials are dissatisfied with what they consider last-minute planning ahead of Trump's arrival on March 31, according to one person familiar with the preparations.

The White House's lack of communication about Trump's expectations for the visit has also been an issue for Beijing, said a separate person familiar with

the matter, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

The Chinese frustrations stem, in part, from the White House's departure from Beijing's standard practice of hosting U.S. high-level officials to lay the groundwork for a state visit. Before Trump's last trip to China in 2017, the U.S. dispatched both a secretary of state and commerce chief to China months before the U.S. leader's arrival.

A White House official, who was granted anonymity to discuss the planning, said the Trump administration is very comfortable with trip preparations regarding both logistics and policy outcomes. China's

Foreign Ministry said both sides "maintain communication on the interaction between the two heads of state," without elaborating.

As preparations now get underway, an advance party of lower-level U.S. officials arrived in Beijing earlier this month, according to people familiar with the matter. Their visit and Chinese irritation with the pace of planning were first reported by the South China Morning Post.

Sending a clear signal both sides remain committed to the leaders' meeting, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng are also expected to con-

vene this weekend in Paris for their latest round of talks that have typically been focused on trade.

In the absence of more elaborate coordination, business deals look set to become the main outcomes of the summit, including China's order of 500 jets from Boeing, Bloomberg News previously reported. Trump is also hoping to strike an agreement for Nvidia to export its advanced H200 chips to non-military Chinese companies.

The concern among some China analysts is the current format has left little time to lay the groundwork on thorny issues outside of tariffs and business deals.

N. Korea leader, daughter watch cruise missile tests

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his teenage daughter observed tests of strategic cruise missiles fired from a warship, state media reported Wednesday, as North Korea threatened responses to U.S.-South Korean military drills.

Images sent by the Korean Central News Agency showed the two in a conference room looking at a screen showing weapons being fired from the Choe Hyon, a year-old naval destroyer.

Kim Jong Un watched the missiles launches via video on Tuesday and underscored the need to maintain "a powerful and reliable nuclear war deterrent," KCNA reported in a dispatch that did not mention his daughter.

The girl, reportedly named Kim Ju Ae and about 13, has accompanied her father at numerous prominent events including military parades and weapons launches since late 2022. South Korea's spy agen-

cy assessed last month Kim Jong Un was close to designating her as his heir.

KCNA said the missiles hit target islands off North Korea's west coast.

It quoted Kim Jong Un as saying the launches were meant to demonstrate the navy's strategic offensive posture and get troops familiarized with weapons firings.

Kim Jong Un observed similar cruise missile launches from the Choe Hyon in person last week, but his daughter was not seen at that appearance.

Tuesday's missile firings came after the start of the springtime U.S.-South Korean military drills that North Korea views as an invasion rehearsal.

On Tuesday, Kim Jong Un's sister and senior official, Kim Yo Jong, warned the drills reveal again the U.S. and South Korea's "inveterate repugnancy toward" North Korea. She said North Korea will "convince the enemies of our war deterrence."

Army OKs first new hand grenade since Vietnam era

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

U.S. soldiers have a new baseball-sized weapon in their arsenal designed to give them an advantage in close-quarter fighting.

The Army on Tuesday approved for full release of a hand grenade built for urban combat, marking the first new grenade to enter the service since the Vietnam War era.

According to the service, the M111 will provide an advantage in confined spaces while augmenting the M67, which is the primary hand grenade American soldiers have fought with since 1968.

Unlike the M67, which replaced the older "pineapple" grenade and releases steel fragments in all directions to inflict injury, the M111 leverages blast overpressure, the force generated by an explosion that can lead to severe injuries, according to an Army statement.

The M67 is more suited to fighting in open terrain, a key lesson the Army learned during

door-to-door urban combat in Iraq, Col. Vince Morris said in the statement.

Inside a building, M67 shrapnel can be limited by enclosed spaces or barriers, the Army said. Fragments can pierce a thin wall and risk the lives of American service members on the other side, Morris said.

The blast overpressure generated by the M111 "can clear a room of enemy combatants quickly, leaving nowhere to hide while ensuring the safety of friendly forces," said Morris, project manager for Close Combat Systems at the Capabilities Program Executive Ammunition and Energetics.

The canister-shaped M111 was developed by Army engineers at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey.

It replaces the obsolete Mk3A2 hand grenade series, which stopped being issued in 1975 due to asbestos in its exterior coating. The M111 uses a plastic body that is fully consumed during detonation, according to the Army.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Rihanna, kids there when shots fired at their home

CA LOS ANGELES — Rihanna, her partner A\$AP Rocky, their three children and her mother were all at home when a woman now charged with attempted murder and many other felony counts is alleged to have fired at the property, a prosecutor said Tuesday.

Ivanna Lisette Ortiz, 35, of Orlando, Fla., was charged with attempting to kill Rihanna, along with 10 counts of assault on a person with a semiautomatic firearm and three counts of shooting at an inhabited vehicle or dwelling, authorities said. No one was injured.

The singing superstar and her rap star partner were together in a trailer on the property at the time of the Sunday afternoon shooting, while other family members and staffers were in the Beverly Hills-area home, Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said outside a court hearing.

Inside court, Deputy Public Defender Jamarcus Bradford, Ortiz's attorney, at first entered a plea of not guilty on her behalf, but then withdrew it in favor of postponing arraignment until March 25. She was ordered held on \$1.8 million bail.

How state bird evolved to become 'Rebel Loon'

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Take Minnesota's state bird, the loon, combine it with the "Star Wars" Rebel Alliance symbol, and the Rebel Loon is born.

During Operation Metro

Surge, Moorhead-based software engineer Bernardo Anderson felt inspired when he saw friends come together across the political spectrum.

"I kept thinking about how this is a big coalition or alliance or some kind of group, that we're all banding together to fight this," said Anderson. "Then, I remember 'Star Wars' Rebel Alliance, where they're from different worlds and yet they come together to fight for a common cause."

Anderson, 42, anonymously released his Rebel Loon logo on Reddit on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Since then, it has spread across Minnesota in countless formats as a symbol of the resistance — and people in Hawaii, Michigan, Ohio and other states have adapted it, replacing the loon with their own state bird.

Even Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong sported a Rebel Loon sticker on his guitar during his Super Bowl LX performance. Anderson released it with a Creative Commons Zero license, which allows anyone to use it and adapt it however they'd like.

State senator's wife faces embezzlement charges

MI LANSING. — Kellie Lauwers, the wife of Michigan state Sen. Dan Lauwers, is facing two felony charges, according to court records, after a small chamber of commerce in St. Clair County accused her of stealing from the organization.

On Friday, Kellie Lauwers, who had been the treasurer of the Yale Area Chamber of Commerce, was charged with one

count of embezzlement and one count of using a computer to commit a crime, according to a complaint filed in Port Huron's 72nd District Court and obtained by The Detroit News.

Each charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years behind bars.

In a lawsuit that was previously filed against Kellie Lauwers, the Yale Area Chamber of Commerce said it uncovered "discrepancies" in its financial statements and eventually determined Kellie Lauwers "had been writing herself checks in large amounts out of the chamber's bank accounts."

Teen charged after TPing results in death of teacher

GA GAINESVILLE — It was a prank that turned deadly, authorities said: A group of teenagers unspooled rolls of toilet paper outside the home of a beloved high school teacher who tripped in the street and was struck by a pickup truck as the pranksters started to drive away.

After Jason Hughes was struck, the teens stopped and tried to render aid until emergency responders arrived, according to the sheriff's office.

Hughes, 40, died after being brought to a hospital late Friday, the Hall County Sheriff's Office said. The 18-year-old driver of the pickup was arrested on a felony charge of vehicular homicide, and four other teens were charged with misdemeanors.

Hughes' family said he knew and loved the five students involved and urged authorities to drop all charges against them.

Hughes taught math and

helped coach golf, football and baseball at North Hall High School in Gainesville, about 55 miles northeast of Atlanta.

State's message: 'Plan your trip before you trip'

CO DENVER — Colorado transportation officials, anticipating dangerous driving resulting from voters' decriminalization of certain psychedelic drugs and the growing practice of microdosing, have launched a campaign to prevent driving under the influence: "Plan your trip before you trip."

Estimating that as many as 5 million people, including 140,000 Coloradans, used psilocybin over the past year, the Colorado Department of Transportation and State Patrol officials announced they'll team with facilitators at healing centers to encourage safe rides home. Colorado's laws against driving under the influence of alcohol and cannabis also apply to natural psychedelics and synthetics such as LSD.

"With psilocybin growing in popularity, hundreds of thousands of people across America may now be microdosing," CDOT spokeswoman Tamara Rollison said. "We know many of these people must be driving."

As part of the campaign, state social media postings warn that users' perceptions, reaction time, and decision-making can be altered for hours, advising would-be drivers to "plan your trip before you trip" and stating that "decriminalization doesn't mean driveable."

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES

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

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Adebayo scores 83 as Heat beat Wizards

Associated Press

MIAMI — Bam Adebayo scored 83 points, the second-best scoring effort in NBA history, to carry the Miami Heat to a 150-129 win over the Washington Wizards on Tuesday night.

Adebayo had 31 points in the first quarter, 43 by halftime and 62 by the end of the third quarter. He finished 20 for 43 from the field, 36 for 43 from the foul line and 7 for 22 from 3-point range.

Adebayo's free throw makes and attempts both set NBA records for a game. The record for attempts was 39 by Dwight Howard — who got to the line that many times on two occasions. The record for free throws made in a game was 28, set by Wilt Chamberlain and Adrian Dantley.

Chamberlain got the 28 free throws on the night he scored 100 points in 1962 — the only game better than Adebayo in NBA history. Adebayo passed his basketball idol, Kobe Bryant, for the second-highest scoring game ever; Bryant's career-best was 81.

LeBron James had the previous Heat single-game scoring mark; his 61-point effort against Charlotte happened on March 3, 2014. Denver's Nikola Jokic had the previous season high in the NBA this season with 56.

Adebayo passed them both in the third quarter — and just kept going.

Simone Fontecchio scored 18 points for Miami (37-29), which has won six straight and moved a season-best eight games over .500. The Heat were without Norman Powell (groin), Tyler Herro (quadriiceps), Nikola Jovic (back) and Andrew Wiggins (toe).

Pistons 138, Nets 100: Jalen Duren scored 26 points, Cade Cunningham had 21 points and 15 assists, and visiting Detroit snapped a season-worst four-game skid, beating Brooklyn.

Duren shot 9-for-10 from the

field and Cunningham was 8-for-10, including 4-for-5 from 3-point range. Duncan Robinson added 15 points and Marcus Sasser finished with 14 for the Eastern Conference-leading Pistons, who never trailed.

Michael Porter Jr. had 19 points and Jalen Wilson added 14 for the Nets, who saw their two-game winning streak end.

Part of Detroit's skid was an improbable loss to visiting Brooklyn on Saturday night in a game it led by 23 points midway through the third quarter. The Nets ended a 10-game skid with that victory.

76ers 139, Grizzlies 129: Cam Payne scored 13 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter, rookie VJ Edgecombe added 21 points in his return to the lineup and host Philadelphia rallied to beat Memphis.

Edgecombe took over point guard duties for Maxey after missing three consecutive games with a lumbar contusion. He provided the game's highlight, showing his back is OK, with a two-handed, leaping dunk midway through the second quarter.

Ty Jerome scored 26 points for the Grizzlies, who have lost five straight and 12 of 15.

Hawks 124, Mavericks 112: Nickeil Alexander-Walker scored 29 points, Jalen Johnson had 27 and host Atlanta won its seventh in a row, holding off Dallas.

The Hawks, who have the NBA's longest active winning streak, led nearly the entire game but couldn't pull away from the Mavericks until the final period.

Dallas tied the score at 97 on Khris Middleton's step-back jumper with just over nine minutes remaining. Atlanta took control from there to hand Dallas its eighth straight loss.

Alexander-Walker hit two straight 3-pointers in the closing minutes to put the game away.

Suns 129, Bucks 114: Devin

Booker scored 27 points, Jalen Green had 25 and Royce O'Neale 21 as visiting Phoenix pulled away in the fourth quarter to win a shootout with Milwaukee.

Phoenix shot 53.9% and made a season-high 24 3-pointers on 51 attempts. Milwaukee shot 51.2% and went 16 of 38 from 3-point range.

In a game that featured 15 ties and 12 lead changes, O'Neale put the Suns ahead for good with a tiebreaking buzzer-beater from about 50 feet to end the third quarter. Phoenix then scored the first seven points of the final period to extend its lead to 107-97.

Phoenix stayed in front by at least seven points the rest of the way.

Kings 114, Pacers 109: Devin Carter scored 22 of his career-best 24 points in the fourth quarter to power Sacramento to a comeback home win over Indiana.

Carter scored 13 straight points down the stretch for Sacramento, who trailed by as many as 20 points and were down by 10 heading into the final frame.

The Kings shot 46% from the field and 35% from deep, while the Pacers shot 41% and 30% respectively. Carter was 9-for-13 from the field and 3-for-4 from beyond the arc.

Maxime Raynaud's and-1 jumper with 16 seconds remaining finished off the win.

Spurs 125, Celtics 116: Victor Wembanyama had 39 points and 11 rebounds and host San Antonio beat Boston to sweep a contentious two-game season series.

Jayson Tatum's fourth and final 3-pointer cut the Celtics' deficit to 118-113 with 1:43 remaining, but Spurs Stephon Castle followed 18 seconds later with his own 3 to secure the victory.

Boston All-Star Jaylen Brown was ejected after becoming in-

censed when no foul was called after he lost the ball out of bounds with 3:42 remaining in the first half.

Brown had to be restrained by teammates after official Tyler Ford assessed the first technical. Official Suyash Mehta assessed a second technical seconds later, resulting in an automatic ejection.

Rockets 113, Raptors 99: Kevin Durant scored 29 points and Amen Thompson scored 23 points as host Houston beat Toronto.

Houston shot 60% in the first quarter and outrebounded the Raptors 11-5, but with the help of six Rockets' turnovers the game was tied at 29. The Rockets closed the first half on a 14-4 run to take a 58-49 halftime lead.

The Rockets shot 49% from the field for the game and outrebounded the Raptors 53-30, finishing with 22 second chance points to Toronto's five.

Lakers 120, Timberwolves 106: Luka Doncic had 31 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds in his seventh triple-double of the season, and host Los Angeles overcame LeBron James' latest injury absence to sweep its season series with Minnesota with a victory.

The Lakers improved to 13-8 without the top scorer in NBA history in their lineup, including 10-2 when Doncic and Austin Reaves both play without James.

Minnesota has lost two straight after a five-game winning streak.

Hornets 103, Trail Blazers 101: Brandon Miller had 21 points and eight rebounds, LaMelo Ball had 12 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter and visiting Charlotte overcame a 19-point deficit to beat Portland.

The Hornets trailed 43-24 in the second quarter but edged ahead late by holding the Trail Blazers to 19 points in the fourth quarter.

Ravens nix trade for Raiders DE Crosby

Associated Press

The blockbuster trade sending star pass rusher Maxx Crosby to the Baltimore Ravens is off — and the fallout from that reversal could have a ripple effect throughout the NFL as the new league year begins.

The Ravens quickly pivoted to Trey Hendrickson, agreeing on a four-year, \$112 million deal with the four-time Pro Bowl edge rusher on Wednesday morning, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the contract can't be finalized until the start of the league year at 4 p.m. EDT.

The Las Vegas Raiders said Tuesday night that Baltimore backed out of the trade that was supposed to send Crosby to the Ravens for two first-round draft picks. The deal was agreed to last Friday but couldn't be finalized until Wednesday.

A person with knowledge of Baltimore's decision told The Associated Press that Crosby failed his physical. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because those results are private.

Crosby underwent surgery in January to repair a torn meniscus in his left knee. He missed the final two games of the season because of the injury despite wanting to play through it at the time.

Crosby said on a recent appearance on "The Herd with Colin Cowherd" that he was "ahead of schedule" in his rehab.

One of his agents, CJ LaBoy, posted on social media Tuesday night that Crosby is recovering well under the care of noted orthopedist Dr. Neal ElAttrache.

"Maxx remains on track to return during the offseason program & will undoubtedly return as the dominant game wrecker he has been these past 7 seasons," LaBoy posted.

Crosby's addition was supposed to help lift the Ravens over the top, with the draft picks expected to be part of a rebuilding effort for the Raiders. The 28-year-old Crosby had 10 sacks and a career-high 28 tackles for loss last season and has reached double-digit sacks four times in his seven seasons.

Trading even one first-round pick for a veteran was out of character for Baltimore, which has taken drastic measures to

try to recover from last season's 8-9 showing. The Ravens fired coach John Harbaugh after 18 seasons and then were prepared to give up a lot for Crosby. His expected addition made Monday — when Baltimore lost several free agents to new agreements elsewhere — a bit easier for Ravens fans to bear.

Tyler Linderbaum, a Pro Bowl center for Baltimore, agreed to a contract with the Raiders. Tight end Isaiah Likely, punter Jordan Stout and safety Ar'Darius Washington reached deals to follow Harbaugh to the New York Giants. There were other departures too, such as pass rusher Dre'Mont Jones.

The Raiders, meanwhile, own the No. 1 pick in the draft and are widely expected to select Indiana quarterback Fernando Mendoza. Las Vegas has been extremely aggressive at the start of free agency, agreeing to deals with several new players and agreeing to trade quarterback Geno Smith to the New York Jets, according to several people familiar with the moves who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deals can't be finalized until Wednesday.

The biggest move the Raiders made was agreeing to a deal with Linderbaum, a three-time Pro Bowler. He gets a three-year, \$81 million contract with \$60 million guaranteed to leave Baltimore and join Las Vegas.

That was one of a number of moves the Raiders made on Monday. They were the NFL's busiest team in agreeing to contracts with free agents and their own players.

Because they entered free agency with nearly \$112 million in salary cap space, according to overthecap.com, Raiders general manager John Spytek has room to continue to be aggressive with or without Crosby's cap hit. He signed a three-year extension a year ago worth \$106.5 million, with \$91.5 million guaranteed, that briefly made him the highest-paid non-quarterback in league history.

Where the Raiders go from here remains to be seen. It's unlikely they can bring back Crosby given the enmity between him and the organization.

If the Raiders shop him again — which they probably will be forced to try — getting the same kind of offer the Ravens made likely would be difficult at best.

Stunning WBC loss leaves US fate 'out of our control'

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The surprising loss by the United States to Italy in the World Baseball Classic Tuesday night means that the Americans need help to advance to the quarterfinals.

The 8-6 defeat left the team with a 3-1 record at the end of its pool schedule. Mexico and Italy wrap up Pool B play Wednesday night where a win by the Italians will give the U.S. second place and a spot in the next round.

If Mexico wins then all three teams will move to 3-1 and 1-1 against each other and send it to a tiebreaker.

The tiebreaker is the number

of runs allowed in games between the tied teams. So, the U.S. could also advance even if Mexico wins if it scores at least five runs.

Aaron Judge, who struck out in the ninth to end it Tuesday night, is disappointed that the team failed to take care of business against Italy.

"It's the toughest thing," he said. "You always like having your destiny in your own hands and we had it right in front of us and Italy came out swinging."

The Italians hit three home runs in the first four innings to build a five-run lead and were up 8-0 before the U.S. got on the

board.

After the game U.S. manager Mark DeRosa fielded questions about whether he thought his team had already secured a spot in the quarterfinals with Monday night's win over Mexico because of his comments on a television appearance Tuesday morning.

In that interview he said: "Ton of respect for Italy — it's weird — we want to win this game even though our ticket's punched to the quarterfinals because Mexico plays Italy actually tomorrow. So, the way the schedule lines up this is an important game for us."

In the interview room he said

he "misspoke" in that segment and in a later interview outside the clubhouse he reiterated that he did not think they had already clinched a spot.

"One hundred percent... I misspoke," he said. "Bottom line."

Judge said the players didn't think that they had already secured a spot in the quarterfinals and that he didn't know about DeRosa's television interview.

Judge added that the team will probably gather at the hotel to watch Wednesday's game.

"It's out of our control now," he said. "We just need a little luck and we'll see what happens."

Quinn leads Sabres to win 8th in row

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Jack Quinn capped his three-goal outing with an empty-netter, and the Buffalo Sabres won their eighth straight by beating the San Jose Sharks 6-3 on Tuesday night.

Jason Zucker and Beck Malenstyn broke the game open by scoring four minutes apart in the second period. Alex Tuch also scored, posting his 300th career point with Buffalo, in his 600th career NHL game, and captain Rasmus Dahlin and Ryan McLeod had three assists each.

Alex Lyon stopped 17 shots, improving to 15-2 in his past 17 starts.

Macklin Celebrini, Kiefer Sherwood and Alexander Wennberg scored for San Jose, which opened a five-game road trip a point behind eighth-place Seattle in the Western Conference standings. Yaroslav Askarov finished with 20 saves.

Celebrini's goal was the 19-year-old Canadian Olympian's 33rd and 90th point in his 62nd game of the season. The only NHL players in their teens to reach 90 points in fewer games are Sidney Crosby (54 games in 2006-07) and Wayne Gretzky (56, 1979-80).

The Atlantic Division-leading Sabres, coming off a thrilling 8-7 win over Tampa Bay, improved to 29-5-2 in their past 36 outings — a run that began with a 10-game win streak.

Hurricanes 5, Penguins 4 (SO): Jackson Blake converted on the decisive shootout goal and host Carolina recovered after relinquishing a two-goal lead late in regulation to beat Pittsburgh.

Mark Jankowski and Seth Jarvis scored 59 seconds apart in Carolina's three-goal third period and Logan Stankoven and Alexander Nikishin also scored for the Hurricanes, who extended their home-ice points streak to 12 games.

The Penguins are 1-2-2 in

their last five games.

Ben Kindel converted in the shootout for the Penguins and Andrei Svechnikov matched that for the Hurricanes before Blake's tally.

Bruins 2, Kings 1 (OT): Charlie McAvoy scored 39 seconds into overtime and Jeremy Swayman stopped 14 shots to earn Boston's 13th straight victory at home, beating Los Angeles.

Mason Lohrei scored midway through the third period to snap a scoreless tie. But the Kings tied it five minutes later when Drew Doughty's shot from the blue line deflected off the heel of Bruins forward Elias Lindholm and into the net.

In the overtime, Mark Kastelic blocked a shot in the defensive zone and made a long pass to David Pastrnak. The Bruins defenseman skated in on Darcy Kuemper and went to his backhand for the winner.

The Kings entered the night one point out of the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference. The victory kept Boston in possession of the East's second wild-card spot.

Canadiens 3, Maple Leafs 1: Oliver Kapanen scored his 20th of the season as Montreal held on for a home win and handed Toronto its eighth consecutive loss.

William Nylander scored for struggling Toronto, which is on track to miss the playoffs after nine consecutive trips to the postseason.

The Maple Leafs entered the night 11 points outside the playoffs and 13 behind the Canadiens, who held the second wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference.

Panthers 4, Red Wings 3: Carter Verhaeghe scored two goals in the final 90 seconds to rally Florida to a home victory over Detroit.

With Florida goalie Daniil Tarasov on the bench, Verhaeghe scored with 1:30 remaining to make it 3-all.

Then, with 15 seconds left, Verhaeghe took a pass from Matthew Tkachuk and his shot went off the skate of Detroit defenseman Justin Faulk and past goalie Josh Gibson.

Ducks 4, Jets 1: Ryan Poehling had a goal and an assist to lead Anaheim to a road victory over Winnipeg.

After a scoreless first period in which Anaheim outshot Winnipeg 8-2, the Jets opened the scoring at 5:04 of the second when Barron notched his 10th of the season, assisted by Elias Salmomsson and Cole Perfetti.

The Ducks quickly flipped the script, scoring three times in less than two minutes. Washe tied the game at 6:24 and Poehling gave Anaheim the lead just 14 seconds later. Killorn added the insurance marker at 8:08 to give the visitors a two-goal lead.

Stars 2, Golden Knights 1: Jamie Benn scored the go-ahead goal on a power play in the second period and Jake Oettinger stopped 25 of 26 shots as host Dallas beat Vegas.

Oskar Back also scored for the Stars, who extended their points streak to 13 games (12-0-1).

Benn batted the puck in from the edge of the crease with 5:44 left in the second period to break a 1-1 tie and give Dallas' second-ranked power play a goal in 10 consecutive games.

Rangers 4, Flames 0: Alexis Lafreniere got his second career hat trick and Jonathan Quick stopped 21 shots as host New York defeated Calgary.

Quick earned his second shutout of the season and the 65th of his career. He passed Henrik Lundqvist for 17th most career shutouts in the NHL and sits one behind Patrick Roy.

Dustin Wolf made 25 saves for the Flames.

Islanders 4, Blues 3 (OT): Mathew Barzal scored in overtime to cap New York's rally from a three-goal deficit for a road win over St. Louis.

Jimmy Snuggerud had a goal

and two assists as the Blues had their season-high four-game winning streak snapped.

It was the third-straight multipoint game for Snuggerud. The 21-year-old has 17 points (6 goals, 11 assists) in his last 13 games.

Blue Jackets 5, Lightning 2: Conor Garland scored two goals for the second consecutive game and visiting Columbus defeated Tampa Bay.

Kiril Marchenko, Dante Fabbro and Ivan Provorov also scored for Columbus, who improved to 15-2-3 in the past 20 games. Blue Jackets goaltender Elvis Merzlikins made 15 saves and registered his second assist of the season.

Wild 5, Mammoth 0: Kirill Kaprizov scored his 37th goal of the season, Matt Boldy notched his 36th, and Filip Gustavsson earned his fourth shutout of the season as host Minnesota defeated Utah.

Bobby Brink scored his first goal since the Wild acquired him from the Flyers on Friday. Brink, a Minnesota native, put his new team up 3-0 early in the third period.

Oilers 4, Avalanche 3: Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored two goals, Connor McDavid had a goal and an assist, and visiting Edmonton defeated Colorado.

McDavid's goal, his 36th of the season, came on a snap shot on the power play with 10:57 remaining in the third period, breaking a 3-3 tie.

Predators 4, Kraken 2: Ryan Ufko scored his first NHL goal with 5:35 to play in the second period to put Nashville ahead to stay in a road win over Seattle.

The rookie skated in from the right of the goal, dodged between two defenders and tucked the puck past Seattle goalie Joey Daccord to give the Predators a 3-2 lead and two critical points in their chase for a wild-card playoff spot. Right now the team is on the outside of the playoff picture.