

IG: Bradley maintenance issues systemic

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The Army is struggling to ensure that Bradley Fighting Vehicles used by troops in Europe are mission-ready, according to a new Pentagon watchdog report that found a brigade's worth of the vehicles initially reported as fit to fight were unusable.

The Defense Department Inspector General said last week that deployed units are confronted with systemic problems when it comes to keeping their armored vehicles in working order in connection with persistent shortages of mechanics and an intense operational tempo.

The IG audit examined a fleet of Bradleys used during the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's 2023 deployment in support of efforts aimed at de-

terrering Russian aggression on NATO's eastern flank.

"The Army did not effectively manage the repairs of the BFVs," the report, dated March 16, said. Moreover, when the brigade ended its deployment it "improperly reported the condition of the BFVs turned in as fully mission capable."

The Pentagon watchdog audit found that 96 of 117 Bradleys (about 82%) were initially reported by the unit as fully mission-ready. A subsequent joint inspection, however, determined all 117 vehicles were unfit for use and riddled with mechanical issues, the report said.

One Bradley alone had 36 different faults, rendering it inoperable despite being listed as fully mission capable, the IG said. As a result, the Army had to pull 97 replacement Bradleys

from its prepositioned stocks warehoused in Germany to equip the next incoming unit's 2024 rotation.

U.S. Army Europe and Africa maintains numerous locations where key pieces of equipment, such as Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Abrams tanks, are stored for use by incoming units. The idea behind the program is to ensure that forces, either arriving in Europe for planned drills or in a crisis, can quickly fall in on combat-ready gear.

The IG said subsequent Army efforts to repair the 117 Bradleys lagged. As of July 2025, only 51 of the 117 vehicles had been repaired to the Army's maintenance standard, the report said.

Among the initial challenges was a lack of sufficient mechanics within the deployed brigade, which commanders said could

increase repair times by 50%. Troops were also spread across multiple locations during the deployment, complicating maintenance work, the report said.

The commander of the brigade told the IG that during their deployment, most of the Bradleys were able "to run, shoot and communicate" and were therefore deemed mission capable. That outlook, however, "provided a false readiness level" and "gave the impression that the BFVs would not need extensive repairs," the report said.

USAREUR-AF said it has implemented several initiatives to address the problems, such as establishing a forward-stationed maintenance augmentation team that can surge support when needed.

Trump tells Pentagon to pause strikes for Iran talks

By LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump said the United States is pausing its attacks on Iranian power plants and energy infrastructure, following what he called "very good and productive conversations" regarding a complete and total resolution of hostilities in the Middle East.

Writing on Truth Social, the president said he has instructed the Pentagon to postpone such military strikes for a period of five days, subject to the success of the ongoing meetings.

Iran denied talks had been held, The Associated Press reported. "No negotiations have been held with the U.S.," Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf posted on X, adding that "fake news is used to manipulate

the financial and oil markets."

Trump told reporters Monday that Iran wants "to make a deal," and claimed U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner had held talks with an Iranian leader Sunday.

The announcement from Trump came as the U.S. prepared to enter its fourth week of Operation Epic Fury, which has targeted Iranian military capabilities and government leaders. Iran has responded by targeting U.S. bases in the region and threatening oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, prompting global concerns about rising fuel costs.

Trump on Saturday had threatened to attack Iran's energy infrastructure if it did not open the critical commercial waterway within 48 hours.

Trump had given Iran until

Monday evening New York time to reopen the Strait of Hormuz — a vital waterway for oil and gas flows — or the U.S. and Israel would start bombing the country's power plants. Iran had vowed to hit energy, information technology and water facilities across the Middle East in response, Bloomberg News reported.

Iran also said it would mine the "entire Persian Gulf" in the event of further attacks on its coastline, the country's National Defense Council said Monday.

Trump's announcement Monday sent oil prices plummeting. The cost of Brent crude, the international benchmark for oil prices, was hovering around \$113 per barrel before Trump's post and quickly dropped to about \$100 a barrel.

Iranian state television characterized the pause as a win, saying, "U.S. president backs down following Iran's firm warning," according to The Associated Press.

The president's timeline for an end to the war remains unclear. On Friday, he posted on Truth Social that the U.S. is considering "winding down our great military efforts in the Middle East."

At the same time, the military is preparing to deploy an additional 2,500 Marines and at least three more ships to the region.

Various Middle Eastern countries, including Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Oman, have been involved in backchannel talks with Iran in the past two weeks to try to contain the war and, ideally for them, to get the Islamic Republic and the U.S.-Israeli coalition to agree to a truce.

Army hypersonic battery nears readiness

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

TACOMA, Wash. — The top general for the Army's hypersonic weapons program says the Dark Eagle battery based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in the Pacific Northwest will receive its first operational missiles soon.

"We are so close to that first battery being fully equipped with all of its capabilities that I don't want to spoil the surprise when we actually get there, but we're within a few weeks," Lt. Gen. Frank Lozano said in a Bloomberg News report published Wednesday.

Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force, based at JBLM, has been designated to operate Dark Eagle, the popular nickname for the officially named Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon system.

Hypersonic weapons can travel at five times the speed of sound (Mach 5) and combine high speed with maneuverability, making them difficult for anti-missile systems to target.

Dark Eagle is a trailer-launched boost-glide vehicle system.

The first stage uses a common booster developed in coopera-

tion with the Navy, which plans to field a sea-launched hypersonic weapon.

The second stage of Dark Eagle is a warhead that can travel in excess of 3,800 mph, with aerodynamics that allow Army controllers to shape its trajectory and move it erratically in ways to avoid interception by anti-missile batteries. Its maximum range is 2,175 miles.

Russia has developed hypersonic weapons such as the Avangard, and China has both the DF-17 and longer-range DF-27 hypersonic glide missiles.

The Pentagon has said Dark

Eagle would carry only conventional, non-nuclear warheads. The main damage effect would be the kinetic energy of hitting a target at an extremely high speed.

The Russian and Chinese missiles are rated by U.S. intelligence sources as being capable of carrying nuclear and conventional warheads.

The Army designation of an operational hypersonic missile battery would be a major step for the \$12 billion Dark Eagle program, which has faced development and testing delays. Lockheed Martin is the prime contractor.

Study: Effects of Hawaii jet-fuel exposure unknown

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Doctors treating patients exposed to water contaminated by jet fuel in Hawaii five years ago should carefully document those cases to build a database of long-term effects, according to a National Academies study issued Thursday.

Little is known of the risks of specific long-term health outcomes associated with exposure to JP-5 jet fuel, according to the report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine that was jointly sponsored by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

JP-5 spilled from the Navy's underground Red Hill storage facility in Hawaii in 2021 and contaminated groundwater used by thousands. The facility has since been closed.

"Diagnostic or screening tests to determine past exposure are not currently available, underscoring the importance of clinical evaluation and ongoing patient-centered care," the

study committee said in a news release Thursday.

However, the study found "limited, suggestive evidence" linking jet fuel exposure to short-term respiratory, gastrointestinal, skin and mental health symptoms.

The report calls for continued environmental oversight of the Navy's drinking water system and robust health surveillance of the exposed community.

The contaminated groundwater near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam made its way into the Navy's water system that serves military housing on and around the base.

More than 93,000 people were impacted by the jet-fuel spill. Thousands were forced to temporarily relocate while the Navy flushed the system after isolating its contaminated well.

Many residents complained of conditions such as headaches, nausea and fatigue in the immediate aftermath; some say health problems continue to this day.

USS Ford docks in Greece for repairs after ship fire

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — USS Gerald R. Ford is at a Navy base in the Mediterranean Sea for repairs and maintenance following a fire aboard the carrier earlier this month during operations in the Middle East.

The Ford arrived at U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay on the Greek island of Crete on Monday following operations in the Red Sea, U.S. 6th Fleet said in a statement the same day. The Ford was operating in support of Operation Epic Fury, the ongoing joint American and Israeli military campaign against Iran.

The port call in Greece allows the carrier to "undergo efficient assessment, repairs, and resupply," 6th Fleet said, adding that the Ford remains "fully mission capable."

The Ford's arrival at NSA Souda Bay follows a March 12 fire that started in the carrier's main laundry areas. The fire was fully contained the same

day, the Navy said at the time.

Three sailors aboard the ship were injured as a result of the blaze. None of the injuries were life-threatening, and two of the sailors have since returned to duty, while the third was in stable condition last week after being flown off the ship for treatment.

Officials have released few details on the cause of the fire, only saying that it is under investigation.

It did not impact the ship's propulsion plant, the service has said.

The New York Times reported last week that more than 600 sailors and crew members had been uprooted by the fire, sleeping on the floor and on tables. It took more than 30 hours to fully extinguish the fire, according to the report.

The U.S. 6th Fleet did not reference the fire in its statement but did say that the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group continues its overseas deployment.

Jet and fire truck collide on runway at LaGuardia Airport

New York Daily News

Two pilots were killed when a jet landing at LaGuardia Airport collided with a Port Authority fire truck, authorities said Monday.

The dramatic seconds before and after the crash, which happened just before 11:40 p.m. Sunday, was captured on audio, with an air traffic controller saying he “messed up” by failing to prevent the collision.

The Queens airport was ordered shut down entirely until 2 p.m. Monday as the crash is investigated by a raft of agencies.

The Air Canada jet, arriving from Montreal, struck the fire truck, which was crossing the runway as it responded to an unrelated incident, about 11:35 p.m. Sunday.

The plane’s nose was sheared off from the impact, leaving the pilot and co-pilot dead. Their names were not immediately released.

Forty-one people — passengers, crew members and two police officers — were taken to area hospitals, with 32 treated for minor injuries and the other nine more seriously hurt, authorities said.

On the audio, from LI-VEATC.net, a website that captures air traffic control communications, the fire truck operator can be heard asking for permission to cross runway No. 4 and getting permission to do so.

Less than four seconds later, however, the controller changed up, telling the truck operator and the pilot of a Frontier Airlines plane, to stop.

“Stop, stop, stop, stop,” the controller yelled. “Truck 1, stop, stop, stop. Stop, Truck 1, stop.”

It was too late.

The controller then ordered a Delta Airlines plane to maneuver around the crash site and assured the Air Canada pilots, their fatal injuries unbeknownst

to him at the time, to “hold position.”

“Vehicles are responding to you now,” the air traffic controller assures them.

A few moments later, a Frontier pilot lamented what he just saw.

“That wasn’t good to watch,” the pilot said.

“Yeah, I tried to reach out to (inaudible)... And we were dealing with an emergency and I messed up,” the controller replied.

“Nah, maybe you did the best you could,” the Frontier pilot assured him.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani said he had been briefed on the crash.

“The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the incident, and the City is in close contact with federal, state and local partners,” Mamdani said. “I am grateful to our first responders, whose swift actions saved lives.”

ICE agents head to 14 US airports

New York Daily News

President Donald Trump Monday rejected a bipartisan deal that could end the partial government shutdown and ordered Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to patrol some airport security checkpoints as air travel delays kept getting worse.

As ICE agents headed to 14 airports nationwide, Trump refused a proposed deal with Democrats that would end the airport chaos by having the Senate pass a spending package for the entire Department of Homeland Security except for ICE.

He wants the GOP to keep pushing Democrats to cave and accept his unrelated bill imposing new voting restrictions.

ICE agents, which have sparked controversy with their aggressive tactics, were deployed early Monday at Newark Liberty Airport and were also expected at John F. Kennedy and LaGuardia.

The immigration agents were expected to help understaffed Transportation Security Administration screeners operate airport security checkpoints as lines stretched for hours at busy airports, especially during busy morning periods.

The president Monday said ICE agents should not wear masks covering their faces while patrolling airports.

Hundreds of thousands of Homeland Security workers, including TSA, U.S. Secret Service and Coast Guard, have worked without pay for a month since Congress failed to renew DHS funding. Many airport screeners are calling out sick in protest or to work other jobs.

An ICE document identified all three major New York-area airports along with Philadelphia, Atlanta and a handful of other major hubs as initial locations for the new operation, several media reports said.

Court skeptical of late-arriving ballots

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court’s conservative majority sounds skeptical of state laws that allow the counting of late-arriving mail ballots, a persistent target of President Donald Trump.

The court was hearing arguments Monday in a case from Mississippi that also could affect voters in 13 other states and the District of Columbia, which have grace periods for ballots cast by mail. An additional 15 states that have more forgiving deadlines for ballots from military and overseas voters also could be impacted.

A ruling is expected by late June, early enough to govern the counting of ballots in the 2026 midterm congressional elec-

tions.

The court challenge is part of Trump’s broader attack on most mail balloting, which he has said breeds fraud despite strong evidence to the contrary and years of experience in numerous states.

Several conservative justices gave voice to some of Trump’s complaints. Justice Samuel Alito wondered about the appearance of fraud in situations where “a big stash of ballots” that arrive late “radically flipped” an election.

Defending the state law, Mississippi Solicitor General Scott Stewart pointed out that the Trump administration has yet to submit a single case of fraud due to late-arriving mail ballots.

The court’s liberal justices in-

dicated they would uphold state laws with post-Election Day deadlines.

“The people who should decide this issue are not the courts, but Congress, the states and Congress,” Justice Sonia Sotomayor said.

Forcing states to change their practices just a few months before the election risks “confusion and disenfranchisement,” especially in places that have had relaxed deadlines for years, state and big-city election officials told the court in a written filing.

California, Texas, New York and Illinois are among the states with post-Election Day deadlines. Rural Alaska, with its vast distances and unpredictable weather, also counts late-arriving ballots.

UK probing fires as antisemitic attack

Associated Press

LONDON — Four ambulances belonging to a Jewish charity were set on fire early Monday morning in London, in what British police are investigating as an antisemitic hate crime.

Though it has not been classified as a terrorist incident, counter-terror officers have been put in charge of the investigation. No one was injured.

Religious and political leaders condemned what Prime Minister Keir Starmer called a “horrific” antisemitic attack.

Officers were called to Golders Green, a north London

neighborhood with a large Jewish population, after receiving reports of a fire, the Metropolitan Police force said.

Four ambulances belonging to Hatzola Northwest, a volunteer organization that provides emergency medical response, were damaged, according to the London Fire Brigade.

Multiple oxygen cylinders on the vehicles exploded, breaking windows in an adjacent apartment block.

What appeared to be footage from a security camera showed three figures in black wearing hoods carrying a canister to-

ward one of the ambulance before flames erupted around the vehicle. Police said they are looking for three suspects, but no arrests have been made yet.

Mark Reiser, who lives in the neighborhood, heard loud explosions and arrived at the scene “just as the third ambulance was blowing up,” he told Sky News.

The attack spread fear and alarm through Britain’s Jewish community, which feels increasingly vulnerable.

Shomrim, a nonprofit organization which operates a neighborhood watch in the area, con-

demned the attack on the social network X as “a targeted and deeply concerning incident affecting a vital emergency service serving the local Jewish community.”

The number of antisemitic incidents reported across the United Kingdom has soared since Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel and Israel’s ensuing war against Hamas in Gaza, according to the Community Security Trust, which works to protect the Jewish community.

The group recorded 3,700 incidents in 2025, up from 1,662 in 2022.

France far right misses key targets in municipal elections

Bloomberg News

Marine Le Pen’s National Rally fell short in its bid to take control of a host of major French cities in Sunday’s municipal election, signaling potential difficulties for the far-right party ahead of next year’s presidential ballot.

The National Rally was defeated in a handful of large municipalities they targeted, including Marseille, Toulon and Nimes. A far-right candidate aligned with Le Pen, however,

won in Nice, the fifth-largest city in France.

Le Pen and National Rally President Jordan Bardella sought to use the ballots in 35,000 cities across France to consolidate support ahead of next year’s election, when Emmanuel Macron is barred from running again. And while the far right broadly improved its vote count, the National Rally failed to translate that into key victories in the two-round electoral system.

In an interview with France 2 TV, Le Pen said she was “of course a bit disappointed” by the results in large cities but stressed that her party will become the main opposition party in many municipalities.

Le Pen and Bardella were seeking to use the regional vote as an opportunity to establish momentum ahead of the 2027 presidential election, with opinion polls showing either of them as front-runners for that race. Le Pen has said Bardella

would replace her as the party’s official candidate if an appeals court ruling in July upholds a ban on her running.

A survey of 1,000 adults conducted just after polls closed on Sunday by Toluna Harris Interactive found about 35% intended to vote for the National Rally’s Bardella in the first round of next year’s presidential election, well ahead of the 18% who said they planned to vote for the center-right candidate Edouard Philippe.

Italy citizenship ruling may affect Italian Americans

The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — Jillian Emory of Philadelphia’s Fairmount neighborhood spent years connecting to her Italian roots. She learned the language, studied and worked abroad and hired a genealogist to help track down her family members in Italy.

“I genuinely want to be a part of that culture,” she said. “I speak the language and have spent a lot of time there.”

Then, a new Italian court ruling on citizenship dropped,

dashing that dream abruptly for Emory and millions of others in her shoes.

Italy’s Constitutional Court upheld a law that ends the country’s long-standing policy of unlimited generational citizenship.

The new restrictions — which are active right now — limit Italian citizenship to the children and grandchildren of Italian citizens.

Those predecessors must have solely held Italian citizenship at the time of their de-

scendant’s birth, effectively outlawing dual citizenship.

The new guidance leaves Italian Americans everywhere concerned.

Philly’s American-Italian Society said it’s already held two webinars for members on the subject.

Philadelphia has the highest share of Italian Americans among the 10 largest U.S. cities.

The new law:

■ Ends “unlimited” transfer of citizenship, restricting it to second-generation Italian-born

citizens (children or grandchildren).

■ Requires the Italian-born ancestor to have active or recent residency (or for them to have lived there most recently if they’ve died).

■ Ends automatic residency for children born outside of Italy to Italian citizens, requiring additional paperwork.

■ Moves citizenship processing away from local consulates — including the one in Philadelphia — and centralizes it all in Rome for uniform processing.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Six injured after floor collapses at wedding

NH TAMWORTH — Six people were taken to area hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries after a floor collapsed at a wedding venue in Tamworth, N.H., around 4:30 p.m. Saturday, a spokesperson for the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office said.

The collapse happened while a wedding party of about 140 people were present, according to a joint release from the Tamworth Fire/Rescue Department and the State Fire Marshal's Office. The office confirmed there were no fatalities and said late Saturday that four of the people treated at the hospital had already been released.

The Fire Marshal's Office said when more than 100 people gathered in a building called the Sap House at the venue, the floor buckled creating a 20-foot by 20-foot opening and sending about 70 people into the basement. Several people were trapped by the fallen beams and by farm equipment that had been stored on the lower floor.

Investigators believe the building "was over capacity" prior to the floor collapse, a spokesperson said in a release.

Beach contamination levels low after wildfire

CA LOS ANGELES — Researchers investigating the long-term effects of the 2025 firestorms on Los Angeles' beaches have found that rarest of things: good news.

In the year following the Palisades and Eaton fires, levels of harmful metals like lead in coastal sand and seawater have remained far below California's

limits for safe drinking water and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's safety thresholds for aquatic life.

The Palisades and Eaton fires burned more than 40,000 acres and destroyed at least 12,000 buildings, blanketing the ocean in ash for up to 100 miles offshore. Heavy rains a few weeks later washed the charred remnants of plastics, batteries, cars, chemicals and other potentially toxic material into the sea and up onto beaches via storm drains and rivers.

Initial testing by the nonprofit environmental group Heal the Bay in the weeks after the fires documented a spike in lead, mercury and other heavy metals in coastal waters.

NASA's new astronaut class gets Platypi name

FL ORLANDO — NASA's newest class of astronaut candidates just found out what people will call them.

The tradition of the previous astronaut class — the Flies — bestowing the name on the following class has continued, according to a news release from NASA. The 10 candidates of NASA's 24th astronaut class, chosen in 2025 and not expected to graduate until 2027, are now known as the Platypi.

The platypus, native to Australia, is unique in that it is a mammal that lays eggs and has a bill like a duck, a tail like a beaver and the body of an otter.

"For NASA's newest astronaut candidates, the name reflects a similar idea: a team with a wide range of strengths working together toward a common goal," according to the news release.

The first class of NASA astro-

nauts, known as the Mercury 7, was chosen in 1959.

High temperature of 77 degrees breaks record

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Less than a week after a blizzard and subzero temperatures, the mercury in Minneapolis soared to 77 degrees on Saturday, breaking a record set 88 years ago.

On March 21, 1938, the recorded high was 76 degrees, according to the National Weather Service Twin Cities office. "We went from a blizzard and lows below zero to near record warmth in just 6 days," a KSTP meteorologist posted on X. "Now THAT is March Madness!"

The weather service said cooler temperatures are expected for the rest of the week.

School reportedly built on land with industrial waste

SC COLUMBIA — South Carolina's environmental agency plans to test the soil at an elementary school near Darlington for toxic forever chemicals after learning the property may have been a disposal site for a textile plant's contaminated sewer sludge.

The S.C. Department of Environmental Services said it has records showing that 91 tons of Galey and Lord's waste sludge were spread on part of the property where Black Creek Elementary School now stands. Sludge basins at the Galey and Lord plant have been found to contain elevated levels of forever chemicals.

In 1998 and 2001, Galey and Lord representatives deposited sludge on about 55 acres of what

later became the Black Creek school property, the agency says, as the company sought places to dispose of the waste generated at the textile factory in nearby Society Hill. Department records indicate sludge may also have been spread there in 2006.

Environmental Services will begin testing property in coming weeks, while the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is continuing a broader investigation of more than 10,000 acres Galey and Lord once targeted for sludge disposal.

State House votes to impeach judge

KY LEXINGTON — The Kentucky House of Representatives on Friday voted to impeach a Fayette County judge after a committee issued articles of impeachment against her earlier in the week.

In a 73-to-14 vote Friday, the House approved the articles of impeachment against Fayette Circuit Judge Julie Muth Goodman, sending the matter to the Senate for a trial.

Killian Timoney, a former lawmaker seeking to win back his Lexington-area House seat this year, filed the petition in January, arguing Goodman had abused her office.

On Monday, the special Impeachment Committee heard testimony from Goodman, who has served as a judge for 18 years. By Wednesday, the House committee drafted articles of impeachment that say Goodman defied binding precedents and statutes enacted by the General Assembly, and interfered with the rights and powers of judicial bodies.

— From wire reports

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and Military News

Iowa takes down defending champ Florida

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Alvaro Folgueiras told Bennett Stirtz he'd be ready for the ball, and he delivered in the clutch.

Folgueiras nailed a 3-pointer with 4.5 seconds remaining and Iowa eliminated defending national champion Florida, sending the top-seeded Gators home with a 73-72 victory Sunday in the second round of the men's NCAA Tournament.

Under first-year coach Ben McCollum, the Hawkeyes reached the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1999, while Florida (27-8) became the first No. 1 seed to be knocked out of this year's March Madness.

"This is really special," Folgueiras said. "March is for the dreamers, and there's no better dreamer than us. It's incredible. We have to keep going. We are one of the 16 best teams in the country. We're still hungry."

Iowa (23-12) wasted a 12-point lead in the second half but rallied in the final minutes, becoming the first No. 9 seed to beat a No. 1 since 2018, when Florida State shocked Xavier. The Hawkeyes will face No. 4 seed Nebraska in the South Region semifinals Thursday night in Houston.

"They fight, they compete, they exemplify everything we want in Iowa basketball," said McCollum, who brought Stirtz and three other players with him from Drake.

Florida didn't get a shot off before the buzzer, with Xaivian Lee's desperate drive ending with a pass that Thomas Haugh couldn't handle.

Coming off a 59-point victory over Prairie View A&M on Friday night, the Gators played like a team that hadn't been tested. The Hawkeyes outfought Florida on both ends.

"Five grown men vs. five grown men and we wanted it more," Folgueiras said.

East

No. 2 UConn 73, No. 7 UCLA 57: Alex Karaban scored a ca-

reer-high 27 points to help send the Huskies back to the Sweet 16 with a win over the Bruins.

UConn (31-5) will play third-seeded Michigan State in the East Region semifinals on Friday night in Washington.

Karaban was about a one-man show for the Huskies in the first half with a pair of 3s and 11 points and the fourth-year senior remains in the hunt for this third national championship.

UCLA (24-12) had no answer for Karaban or how to slow the rest of UConn as it gamely tried to make due in the absence of leading scorer Tyler Biloudeau. Xavier Booker led the Bruins with 13 points.

No. 5 St. John's 67, No. 4 Kansas 65: Dylan Darling hit a driving layup as time expired for his only bucket of the game, and the Red Storm advanced to their first Sweet 16 since 1999 with a victory over the Jayhawks.

Darling, St. John's tenacious point guard, coolly won it after Kansas (24-11) erased a 58-45 deficit with 7½ minutes to play, making a furious 20-7 run capped by Darryn Peterson's two free throws to tie it with 13.1 seconds left.

Zuby Ejiofor and Bryce Hopkins scored 18 points apiece for the fifth-seeded Red Storm (30-6), who have roared back to college basketball prominence in just three seasons under coach Rick Pitino.

St. John's advanced to face No. 1 overall seed Duke in the East Region semifinals in Washington.

Midwest

No. 2 Iowa St. 82, No. 7 Kentucky 63: Tamin Lipsey had 26 points and 10 assists to help the Cyclones make up for the absence of injured All-American Joshua Jefferson, and Iowa State suffocated the Wildcats on defense, earning a trip back to the Sweet 16 with an 82-63 victory in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Milan Momcilovic added 20 points and Nate Heise scored 12 for the Cyclones (29-7), who will play No. 6 seed Tennessee in the Midwest Region semifinals on Friday night in Chicago.

It will be the eighth Sweet 16 trip for Iowa State and the third under T.J. Otzelberger, though the question now is whether they will be whole for it. Jefferson, their second-leading scorer and top rebounder, watched from the end of the Cyclones bench with the ankle that he sprained in a first-round win over Tennessee State still in a boot.

No. 6 Tennessee 79, No. 3 Virginia 72: Ja'Kobi Gillespie scored 21 points, Nate Ament and Bishop Boswell made critical free throws down the stretch and the Volunteers advanced to their fourth straight Sweet 16, beating the Cavaliers in the NCAA Tournament.

A year after he helped Maryland reach the Sweet 16, Gillespie led the way for Tennessee. The Vols have been a consistent first-weekend winner under coach Rick Barnes, who has yet to lead the school to the Final Four.

Against Virginia, he made the shot of the game on a desperation 3-point heave as the shot clock expired and followed that with a tremendous lob pass for an alley-oop to J.P. Estrella for a 62-53 lead.

No. 4 Alabama 90, No. 5 Texas Tech 65: Latrell Wrightsall Jr. scored 24 points and the Crimson Tide earned a fourth straight trip to the Sweet 16 with a second-round rout of the Red Raiders in the NCAA Tournament.

Alabama (25-9), which also got 15 points from Houston Mallette, advanced to the Midwest Region semifinals against top-seeded Michigan in Chicago next Friday night. The Tide built an early double-digit lead against Texas Tech (23-11), exploiting a size advantage inside to dominate the backboards

and making 11 3-pointers on the way to leading 49-25 at half-time.

The Red Raiders, who reached the Elite Eight a year ago, didn't get closer than 18 the rest of the way. Alabama, two years removed from a Final Four run, led by 34 in the second half.

West

No. 1 Arizona 78, No. 9 Utah St. 66: Jaden Bradley scored 12 of his 18 points in the second half, Motiejus Krivas had 11 points and 14 rebounds and the Wildcats beat the Aggies to advance to the Sweet 16 for the fourth time in five seasons under coach Tommy Lloyd.

Arizona (34-2) takes an 11-game winning streak into Thursday's game against No. 4-seeded Arkansas in the West Region in San Jose.

The Wildcats will be looking to reach the Elite Eight for the first time since doing so in both 2014 and 2015. They began their March Madness run by breezing to an opening 92-58 victory over Long Island on Friday.

No. 2 Purdue 79, No. 7 Miami 69: Fletcher Loyer scored 24 points, Trey Kaufman-Renn had 19 points and nine rebounds, and the Boilermakers beat the Hurricanes in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, advancing to the Sweet 16 for the third straight time and seventh in the last nine years.

In his first game since breaking Bobby Hurley's NCAA career record for assists, Braden Smith had 12 points and eight assists but was also harassed by Miami's athletic guards into eight turnovers, matching his career high.

Purdue (29-8) advances to face 11th-seeded Texas in the West Region semifinals Thursday in San Jose, Calif. It'll be the teams' first meeting since the Boilermakers eliminated the Longhorns in the second round of the 2022 NCAA Tournament.

Reddick's win at Darlington is 4th of year

Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — A malfunctioning battery, a cool suit that got very hot and a big deficit to the leader with less than 50 laps remaining at Darlington Raceway.

The “Track Too Tough To Tame” tested Tyler Reddick in every way possible Sunday, and this year’s top star in NASCAR naturally passed with flying colors for his fourth victory of the season.

“I know never to give up,” said Reddick, who broke through after three runner-up finishes on the tricky 1.366-mile oval. “I think it’s very fitting that when we finally get our first win here at Darlington that ‘The Lady in Black’ would test us like that. We’ve been so close so many times.”

Starting on the pole position for the 23XI Racing team co-owned by Denny Hamlin and Michael Jordan, Reddick led 77 laps in the No. 45 Toyota for his

12th career victory. Chasing down Brad Keselowski after his final pit stop, Reddick breezed to a 5.847-second margin of victory.

Ryan Blaney finished third, followed by Carson Hocevar and Austin Cindric.

The problems started on the first lap for Reddick, who radioed his team about an alternator problem that caused his voltage to drop dangerously low. The team swapped a battery with larger capacity into his Camry after the first stage, but the charging problems remained.

Reddick had to toggle off his cockpit fans and the power to his cool suit, which provides driver comfort through a water circulation system. During a later pit stop, Reddick pumped water out of the suit, which had begun to cook because of temperatures in the high-80s.

“The battery wasn’t charging at all,” Reddick said. “All day

long just not running fans and sweating my tail off inside the race car. We knew it was going to be physical. Really wore out, but I guess I don’t need as much of that cooling stuff as I normally have.”

It might not quite have been a performance on par with the “flu game” that Jordan delivered in Game 5 of the 1997 NBA Finals, but it still pleased the basketball great.

“Pretty sure it’s frustrating for him because he had an unbelievable car, and I think the key to him winning was just keeping his head,” said Jordan, who has been on hand for every Reddick win this season and got to celebrate Sunday at a track he attended with his family decades ago as a child growing up in North Carolina. “We just had to get the car right, and I think he did an unbelievable job. I just wanted everything to be good, because once he gets back out there, then I feel like his com-

petitive juices are going to carry him all the way to the end. He earned it all week, and I’m real proud of the team.”

Keselowski led a race-high six times for 142 laps. But the Roush Fenway Keselowski driver made his final pit stop four laps earlier than Reddick, who made the most of fresher rubber to erase a seven-second gap and complete the winning pass on the 266th of 293 laps.

“We didn’t have the best car today, not compared to Tyler,” Keselowski said. “Tyler drove a hell of a race, and he’s driving a rocket and making it count right now.”

Reddick began the season with a Daytona 500 win on the way to becoming the first driver in NASCAR history to win the first three races of the season. He joined NASCAR Hall of Famers Dale Earnhardt (1987) and Bill Elliott (1992) as the only Cup drivers to win four of the first six races in a season.

Nuggets sparked by Watson's return, top Trail Blazers

Associated Press

DENVER — Nikola Jokic had his 35th triple-double of the season and both he and Jamal Murray scored 22 points Sunday when the Denver Nuggets celebrated the return of Peyton Watson by cooling off the Portland Trail Blazers 128-112.

Jokic had 22 points, 14 rebounds and 14 assists. Cam Johnson added 19 points as Denver stopped Portland’s three-game winning streak, all on the road.

Deni Avdija led the Trail Blazers with 23 points and Donovan Clingan added 18 for Portland, which never led in the last of a five-game trip.

Watson, who hadn’t played since Feb. 4 due to a hamstring injury, scored 14 points in just under 20 minutes. He was one of seven Nuggets to score in double figures.

Kings 126, Nets 122: Malik Monk scored 10 of his 32 points in the final five minutes, Devin Carter made a pair of clutch free throws with 6.6 seconds remaining and host Sacramento held off Brooklyn.

Monk made seven 3-pointers and went 9-for-9 from the line to help the Kings (19-53) end a two-game skid.

Carter had 16 points and five rebounds, but it was his two free throws in the final seconds that were crucial.

The Nets (17-54) had one final possession, but Nolan Traore stepped out of bounds and turned the ball over.

Knicks 145, Wizards 113: Karl-Anthony Towns had 26 points and 16 rebounds, Jalen Brunson scored 23 points and host New York beat Washington for its sixth straight victory.

Josh Hart made all three 3-

point shots and added 16 points as the Knicks handed the Wizards their 16th straight loss. Mikal Bridges had 14 points and six assists, while Mitchell Robinson came off the bench to make all five shots and finish with 10 points and 10 rebounds in 17 minutes.

New York rang up 77 points in the second half against one of the NBA’s worst teams and shot 58.5% from the floor and 53% from 3-point range. The Knicks also made 18 of 19 free throws (94.7%).

Timberwolves 102, Celtics 92: Bones Hyland scored 23 points, Jaden McDaniels had 19 and Minnesota snapped an 18-game losing streak in Boston.

Ayo Dosunmu added 17 points, eight rebounds and six assists for the Timberwolves, and Rudy Gobert had 14 rebounds and nine points. Minne-

sota’s last win at TD Garden came in 2005.

Jaylen Brown led the Celtics with 29 points, Jayson Tatum overcame a slow start to score 16 points and add 11 rebounds. Derrick White had 15 points. The loss snapped Boston’s four-game winning streak and left it just a half-game ahead of New York in second place in the Eastern Conference.

Suns 120, Raptors 98: Devin Booker scored 25 points, Jalen Green added 20 and host Phoenix snapped a five-game losing streak by beating Toronto.

The Suns won their 40th game of the season, which is already a four-win improvement over last year with 10 games to play.

Phoenix never trailed and took an 18-point lead into half-time.

Terry scores in OT, Ducks rally to beat Sabres

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Troy Terry scored on a breakaway 1:29 into overtime for his second goal of the game after Mikael Granlund tied it late in regulation and the Anaheim Ducks rallied to defeat the Buffalo Sabres 6-5 on Sunday night.

Anaheim ended Buffalo's seven-game road winning streak when Tague Thompson couldn't keep the puck in the Ducks' zone and Terry held on a 2-on-0 break to score on a backhand.

Granlund tied the game at 5 with 1:44 remaining in the third period on a power play with Ville Husso pulled for an extra attacker.

Chris Kreider and Jackson LaCombe had power-play goals in the first period, Beckett Sennecke also scored, Husso made 24 saves and the Ducks have won consecutive games as part of a four-game points streak.

Avalanche 3, Capitals 2 (OT): Alex Ovechkin scored his 1,000th career NHL goal combining the regular season and playoffs, but league-leading Colorado beat Washington in overtime.

Ovechkin's goal, his 26th of the season, came from his traditional spot on the power play and tied the score with 5:43 left in regulation. He extended his career record to 923, nearly a year since passing Wayne Gretzky for the most in league history.

Gretzky has 1,016 NHL goals: 894 in the regular season and 122 in the playoffs, the latter being a record the "Great One" still holds.

U.S. Olympic gold medal winner Brock Nelson scored 82 seconds into 3-on-3 OT off a pass from Martin Necas, his 32nd goal of the season. Gabriel Landeskog and Nicolas Roy scored earlier for the Avalanche, who have won back-to-back games and on Friday became the first team this season to clinch a playoff spot.

Jets 3, Rangers 2 (SO): Gabriel Vilardi tied his career high with his 27th goal of the season and won the game in a shootout, captain Adam Lowry ended his lengthy scoring drought and visiting Winnipeg ended its three-game losing streak by beating New York.

Vilardi and Kyle Connor scored in the shootout to spoil the NHL debut of Rangers goal-tending prospect Dylan Garand. The 23-year-old impressed by stopping 35 of the 37 shots he faced in regulation and overtime and was arguably one of the best players on the ice.

Garand's biggest save came midway through the second period when he denied Connor on a shorthanded 2-on-0 breakaway. He was fortunate minutes later when Cole Perfetti's shot from in tight clanked off the crossbar and out.

Lowry scored on a tic-tac-toe passing play from Perfetti and Lowry 13 minutes in that Garand had little chance of preventing. Lowry's goal was his first since Jan. 13, which was 25 games ago.

Hurricanes 5, Penguins 1: Seth Jarvis scored on a power play and assisted on two other man-advantage goals as visiting Carolina beat Pittsburgh.

Sebastian Aho and Nikolaj Ehlers also scored on power plays for the Hurricanes, who beat the league's best penalty kill team for three goals.

Aho, who scored his 25th goal of the season, became the first player in Carolina or Hartford Whalers history with eight 25-goal seasons.

Jalen Chatfield and Mark Jankowski also scored for the Hurricanes, who have won seven of their last 10 games. Carolina has points in 24 of its last 29 games. Frederik Andersen made 18 saves for his fifth straight win. He's 6-1 in his last seven starts.

Predators 3, Blackhawks 2 (OT): Filip Forsberg scored his second goal of the game at 1:05

of overtime to lift visiting Nashville over Chicago.

Forsberg stole the puck from Andre Burakovsky behind the Blackhawks net, skated to the left side and fired a high shot past Spencer Knight for his 32nd goal, giving the Predators their longest winning streak of the season at four games.

Forsberg also set up Steven Stamkos' team-leading 34th goal that tied it at 2 at 9:43 of the third period, about 11 seconds after a high-sticking penalty to Connor Bedard expired. Stamkos notched his third goal in two games by redirecting Forsberg's pinpoint pass off the right post and in.

Bedard scored his team-leading 29th goal and Nick Lardis connected as Chicago lost its second straight game.

Islanders 1, Blue Jackets 0: Ilya Sorokin made 26 saves for his NHL-leading seventh shutout of the season, Bo Horvat scored the only goal on the first shot of the game and host New York moved back into a playoff spot with a victory over Columbus.

Sorokin bounced back a night after he allowed six goals on 32 shots before being pulled in the Islanders' 7-3 loss at Montreal. The shutout was his franchise-record 29th and Sorokin tied his single-season high set in 2021-22.

New York snapped a two-game skid that briefly knocked it out of a playoff spot. With 85 points, the Islanders are in the second wild-card position in the Eastern Conference and tied with the Blue Jackets. Columbus is in third place in the Metropolitan Division because it has played one fewer game than New York.

Greaves finished with 21 saves for the Blue Jackets, who had their four-game winning streak and 12-game points streak stopped.

Golden Knights 3, Stars 2: Reilly Smith scored the tie-breaking goal with 3:38 left in

the third period and visiting Vegas beat Dallas, denying the Stars' bid to clinch a playoff berth.

The Golden Knights' Mitch Marner skated into the high slot and his shot ricocheted off two Dallas players and landed near Smith, who scored from close range past a defenseless Casey DeSmith. The deciding goal came after the teams played more than seven minutes without a whistle.

Brayden McNabb and Ivan Barbashev also scored for Vegas, which snapped a three-game skid and won for just the third time in nine games. Adin Hill made 13 saves for the Golden Knights, who outshot Dallas 33-15.

Flames 4, Lightning 3 (OT): Ryan Strome scored 26 seconds into overtime and host Calgary beat Tampa Bay for its third straight win.

Victor Olofsson, Morgan Frost, with his team-leading 17th, and Mikael Backlund also scored for the Flames. Devin Cooley made 32 saves.

Ryan McDonagh, Darren Raddysh and Pontus Holmberg scored for the Lightning, and Nikita Kucherov had an assist to push his NHL-leading points total to 119. Second in the Atlantic Division, Tampa Bay had won three in a row.

Mammoth 4, Kings 3 (OT): Nick Schmaltz scored his second goal of the game on a break at 1:46 of overtime to give host Utah a victory over Los Angeles.

Schmaltz carried the puck in on a 2-on-1 with defenseman Mikhail Sergachev on his left and fired a snap shot between goalie Darcy Kuemper's legs.

After the Kings controlled play in the 3-on-3 overtime and nearly ended it on Alex Lafriere's shot that went off the right post, Kevin Stenlund won a faceoff against Quinton Byfield to set up Schmaltz's seventh winning goal of the season.