

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Sub sailors allegedly created 'rape list'

New York Daily News

A new probe reveals that Navy submarine sailors compiled a list of female crew members that ranked them according to their attractiveness level.

The "rape list" comprised female sailors aboard the USS Florida — only the second American submarine to integrate women.

Military.com obtained the 74-page misconduct report.

The report notes that Navy leaders failed to address safety concerns after the sexually explicit list was discovered, which led to the dismissal of a commanding officer.

Capt. Gregory Kercher, of the Florida, was fired in August 2018 for a loss of confidence in his leadership abilities, noted the report, which also found "lewd and sexist comments and jokes were tolerated, and trust up and down the chain of com-

mand was nonexistent."

Two former submarine sailors are no longer in service, and an undisclosed number have been subjected to administrative punishment in connection with the list, Navy officials said.

Kercher's senior adviser alerted him about two lists in June 2018 — one that graded female crew members via a star system, and the second which included sexually explic-

it comments next to each name, according to the probe.

"Rumors of a 'rape list' were promulgated throughout the crew, significant numbers of females became concerned for their safety and male members who learned of the list were equally repulsed," Rear Adm. Jeff Jablon wrote to his superior days before Kercher was relieved of duty. "Very few knew what limited action was being taken by the [command]."

Drill instructors, officers punished in hazing incident

The Washington Post

The Marine Corps punished at least eight drill instructors and some officers in response to allegations of hazing and other abuses last year at the service's recruit training center at Parris Island, S.C., according to Marine officials and documents obtained by The Washington Post.

Investigators found numerous incidents in which recruits had been abused by the Marines training them despite efforts by Marine Corps leaders to stamp out the problem following the death of a trainee, Pvt. Raheel Siddiqui, 20, in 2016.

A Marine spokesman, Capt. Bryan McDonnell, said in a statement that the drill instructors "received appropriate administrative actions of varying degrees relative to substantiated allegations," indicating commanders determined criminal charges were not necessary.

Several officers overseeing the drill instructors also received some form of administrative punishment, McDonnell said, without providing specifics.

The cases, which have not

previously been disclosed to the public, occurred in the 4th Recruit Training Battalion, a unit in which female drill instructors train female recruits. The investigations were opened as the service began considering more fully integrating male and female recruits during training, as in the other services.

Investigators examined numerous allegations against drill instructors in the battalion's Papa Company, including one case in which a recruit's tooth was chipped in July 2018.

In a handwritten statement, the recruit recalled that she tried to tell other recruits to slow down while they were moving in formation, upsetting the senior drill instructor. The recruit could not recall whether the Marine pushed her arm or the weapon itself.

"I knew I was in the wrong for overstepping when I shouldn't have, but I wasn't used to anyone messing with the weapon," the recruit wrote.

The senior drill instructor later found the recruit on a bathroom bench at night writing to a former Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor, a sergeant major, about the inci-

dent. The recruit told an investigating officer the instructor confiscated several letters and asked other recruits the next day whether they would say she had abused them.

The drill instructor said she eventually told others in control about the incident, and the recruit was transferred to a different platoon. The drill instructor was informed she could be charged with failure to obey an order or regulation, according to military documents, which do not clarify what commanders chose to do.

In August, another 4th Recruit Battalion drill instructor slammed a recruit's hand with a footlocker, according to the documents. The recruit received medical treatment and later reported she believed the incident was an accident. However, other recruits said drill instructors told them to say it was unintentional, according to the investigation.

One recruit interviewed in the case reported she and three other Marines were forced to go through a chamber that introduces recruits to CS gas twice within minutes during train-

ing, instead of once as typically required.

Another investigation was launched in February 2018 after several recruits reported anonymously that they had been roughed up, and one said a drill instructor had threatened to break her neck.

The senior officer in charge of Parris Island, Brig. Gen. James Glynn, said in an email to the Post that the investigations help the service determine what is necessary to maintain "effectiveness and discipline" during recruit training. He defended the behavior of the majority of the Marines under his command.

The Post has obtained documents outlining more than 20 other substantiated hazing and abuse cases at Parris Island and the service's West Coast recruit training center in San Diego that span the past seven years.

In the most serious, former Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Felix was convicted of maltreatment and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for subjecting Muslim recruits, including Siddiqui, to verbal and physical abuse.

Iran conflict tests limits of 'America First'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump won the White House in part by pledging to wind down the nation's many foreign entanglements and to put "America first." But as his administration in recent days has sent mixed signals on the prospects of a military conflict with Iran, Trump's campaign trail promise is being put to the test.

With the 2020 election approaching, the political pitfalls ahead for the first-term Republican president could be serious.

While Trump enjoys overwhelming support from his party, there is little appetite among his loyalists for a new military conflict in the Middle East. Many are willing to give him the benefit of the doubt for now, but a string of recent moves has sparked concerns that the administration was beating the drums toward war. Among the possible precursors to military conflict: new sanctions on Iran's Revolutionary Guards, the deployment of a U.S. aircraft carrier to the region and public warnings of unspecified intelligence that Iran might strike at American interests.

Asked last week if the U.S. was going to war with Iran, Trump said simply: "I hope not."

Aware of the potential backlash from within his party, the president is trying to play down the possibility of hostilities. He held the door open for negotiations over Iran's nuclear program and malign activities in the region amid reports that he was pushing back against his more hawkish advisers' preference for a military solution.

Prominent Trump supporters offered a pointed warning on Friday about the prospect of a new war, which they view as a direct violation of his "America First" pledge.

"It would be a disaster for him and for the country getting into another military engagement in the Middle East," said Corey

US warns airliners about flying over Persian Gulf

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — U.S. diplomats warned Saturday that commercial airliners flying over the wider Persian Gulf faced a risk of being "misidentified" amid heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran.

The warning relayed by U.S. diplomatic posts from the Federal Aviation Administration underlined the risks the current tensions pose to a region crucial to global air travel. It came as Lloyd's of London warned of increasing risks to maritime shipping in the region.

Meanwhile, oil giant ExxonMobil began evacuating staff from Basra, Iraq, where the U.S. Consulate has been closed for months following a rocket attack America blamed on Shiite militias backed by Iran, local authorities said. The island nation of Bahrain also ordered its citizens out of Iraq and Iran over regional tensions.

Concerns about a possible conflict have flared since the White House ordered warships and bombers to the region to counter an alleged, unexplained threat

from Iran that has seen America order nonessential diplomatic staff out of Iraq.

President Donald Trump since has sought to soften his tone. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also stressed Saturday that Iran is "not seeking war," comments seemingly contradicted by the head of the Revolutionary Guard, who declared an ongoing "intelligence war" between the nations.

Regional tensions remain high. Authorities allege that a sabotage operation targeted four oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates, and Iran-aligned rebels in Yemen claimed responsibility for a drone attack on a crucial Saudi oil pipeline.

Saudi Arabia directly blamed Iran for the drone assault, and a local newspaper linked to the Al Saud royal family called on Thursday for America to launch "surgical strikes" on Tehran.

This all takes root in Trump's decision last year to withdraw the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and world powers and impose wide-reaching sanctions.

Stewart, who led Trump's 2016 campaign in Virginia. "It does concern me that the president has (national security adviser John) Bolton and a lot of these neocons advising him. That's clearly not what he ran on and what most Americans want."

Foreign policy threatens to be a significant political liability for Trump heading into his 2020 reelection campaign.

Overall, 63% of Americans said they disapproved of his job handling foreign policy,

according to a January poll conducted by Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Like other issues, the partisan divide was overwhelming: 76% of Republicans approved, while just 8% of Democrats said the same.

Yet the Republican Party under Trump's leadership has shifted away from wanting the United States to play an aggressive role in world affairs. Foreign policy hawks in the GOP who have long embraced a mus-

cular foreign policy have been marginalized in recent years, dismissed as "globalists."

By contrast, Democrats are now far more likely than Republicans to say the U.S. should play a more active role in solving the world's problems.

In the AP poll, 43% of Democrats said they thought the U.S. should be more active abroad, compared to just 13% of Republicans.

Trump on Friday sought to blame the media for the sense of mounting unease over Iran.

"They put out so many false messages that Iran is totally confused," he told a crowd of real estate agents in Washington, complaining about media coverage of his administration's recent moves. "I don't know, that might be a good thing."

People close to the president acknowledge that an armed conflict in the region is a real possibility.

Liberty University President Jerry Falwell Jr., a Trump confidant, signaled support for a military solution if needed to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon — so long as the United States wouldn't take the lead role in a prospective war.

"Whatever needs to be done to keep Iran from becoming a nuclear power needs to happen," Falwell said in an interview. "I'm not saying the United States needs to do it. Somebody is going to need to do it."

He added: "The way that it balances out, it might be Saudi Arabia and Israel that go to war with Iran."

J.D. Gordon, director of national security for Trump's first campaign, described Iran as "a delicate balance" for the president, who is surrounded by advisers who "generally agree with his worldview."

"Preventing an aggressive state sponsor of terrorism from acquiring nuclear weapons through primarily economic and diplomatic pressure isn't as simple as many people would like us to believe," Gordon said.

Judges hearing 2 cases against president's plan for border wall

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — President Donald Trump is moving fast to build a wall on the Mexico border with billions of dollars secured under his declaration of a national emergency, but he first must get past the courts.

On Friday, a federal judge in Oakland, Calif., heard arguments in two lawsuits seeking to block the White House from spending money from the Defense and Treasury departments for the project.

California and 19 other states brought one lawsuit; the Sierra Club and Southern Border Communities Coalition, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, filed the other.

The plaintiffs asked U.S. District Judge Haywood S. Gilliam Jr. to block the shifting of funds and construction on the wall. They want a quick decision,

arguing that some of the Pentagon-funded projects could begin in eight days.

Gilliam said he will issue a decision this week.

In another case, a federal judge in Washington on Thursday will consider a bid by the House to prevent Trump from spending any Defense Department money for a border wall.

At stake is billions of dollars that would allow Trump to make major progress on his signature campaign promise heading into his campaign for a second term.

The president's adversaries say the emergency declaration was an illegal attempt to ignore Congress, which authorized far less wall spending than Trump wanted.

Trump grudgingly accepted congressional approval of \$1.375 billion to end a 35-day government shutdown on Feb. 15 and declared the emergency in almost the same breath. The

White House says it has identified up to \$8.1 billion that it could spend on the project.

Trump's actions "amount to a usurpation of Congress' legislative powers in violation of bedrock separation of powers principles embedded in the Constitution," the state attorneys general wrote.

The administration argues that Trump is protecting national security as unprecedented numbers of Central American asylum-seeking families arrive at the U.S. border.

"The increasing surge of migrants, the highest in over a decade, has placed a tremendous strain on the limited resources of the Department of Homeland Security and exacerbated the risks to border security, public safety and the safety of the migrants themselves," the Justice Department said in a court filing.

Alligator lounges on runway at Florida Air Force base

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Staff at a U.S. Air Force base in Florida had to bring in a front-end loader to remove an alligator that was lounging on a runway.

The Tampa Bay Times reported that the large reptile was spotted Tuesday morning on a MacDill Air Force Base flight line.

The base shared a photo of the creature on Facebook, saying the friendly alligator was just "preparing for take-off."

MacDill spokesman 2nd Lt. Brandon Hanner said alligator sightings are common around the base, which is located on Tampa Bay. He said the alligator probably surfaced from one of the base's bodies of water.

The wing safety office's wildlife manager organized the animal's removal, scooping it into the bucket of the loader.

Military detonates weaponry on jet that crashed in Calif.

Los Angeles Times

An F-16 military fighter jet was armed before it crashed into a Riverside County, Calif., commercial building, officials said Friday, and the unexploded weaponry has since been detonated.

The jet was flying with a standard armament package. The weaponry has been secured, and TV news helicopters captured video of the ordnance being blown up in a nearby field, allowing Interstate 215 to reopen Friday afternoon.

There was no smoke or fire from the crash or serious injuries. The plane went down just before 3:45 p.m. Thursday. Ten people, including some first responders, were treated in an emergency room and released, including some who were decontaminated after they were

exposed to fumes and debris at the crash scene.

Three other people were taken to a hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening, said physicians at Riverside University Health System in Moreno Valley.

"In light of the event, we feel very fortunate and blessed," said Dr. Michael Mesisca, medical director for the hospital's emergency department. The hospital, which trains for the possibility of crashes at March Air Reserve Base, had been preparing for a much greater catastrophe — perhaps more than 50 patients — in the moments after hearing about the crash.

The jet crashed into the roof of the See Water Inc. warehouse, just west of the airfield at March Air Reserve Base and

adjacent to Interstate 215 and Metrolink train tracks between the Moreno Valley/March Field and downtown Perris stations. The freeway and the Metrolink tracks around the crash site had been ordered closed until the jet's weapons were found and detonated. g into which the jet crashed.

Military officials said the jet, a single-engine Fighting Falcon, was returning to March Air Reserve Base in Moreno Valley after a routine training mission when it slammed into the building.

The pilot had reported hydraulics problems and said he was returning to base, just across the freeway from the warehouse, when he was forced to eject moments before impact, authorities said. Captured by a freeway commuter's dash-

board camera, the jet appeared to be leaning to one side as it dropped to the ground outside the base.

The jet, assigned to the 114th Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls, S.D., was on a training mission for North American Aerospace Defense Command, according to the U.S. Air Force.

The pilot, who has not been identified publicly, landed with a parachute in a nearby airfield. He was taken to a hospital and is in good condition, Col. Thomas McNamara, vice commander of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing at the base, said during a news conference Friday morning.

The crash ruptured the building's sprinkler system, and water was raining down when law enforcement and fire officials arrived.

Prosecutors: Mom plotted to acquire baby

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A mother plotted for months to acquire a newborn before she and her daughter strangled a pregnant Chicago woman and cut her baby from her womb using a butcher's knife, prosecutors said Friday as they revealed gruesome new details about the case.

Marlen Ochoa-Lopez, 19, was lured to the home where Clarisa Figueroa lived with her daughter, Desiree, 24, by Facebook postings offering free baby clothes. When she arrived, the daughter showed her a photo album of her late brother to distract her as her mother started trying to strangle her with a cord, prosecutor Jim Murphy said.

When Ochoa-Lopez managed to get her fingers under the cord, Clarisa Figueroa

yelled at her daughter — “You’re not doing your f---ing job!” The daughter then pried Ochoa-Lopez’s fingers from the cord “one by one” while her mother continued to strangle the teen for another five minutes, Murphy said.

Once Ochoa-Lopez showed no signs of life, Clarisa Figueroa cut her open with a butcher’s knife, removed the placenta and the baby, then put the baby in a bucket with the umbilical cord still attached, said Murphy, reading from court documents.

The plot may have originated in late 2018, when Clarisa Figueroa told her family she was pregnant and later posted on Facebook an ultrasound and photos of a room decorated for a baby. Desiree Figueroa was surprised, Murphy said, because her mother had previously had her fallopian tubes tied

to prevent pregnancy.

Prosecutors highlighted that Clarisa Figueroa made the announcement about being pregnant not long after one of her adult sons died of natural causes.

Clarisa Figueroa connected with Ochoa-Lopez on March 5 via a Facebook page for pregnant women. “Who is due in May?” Clarisa Figueroa asked in one message. “Where is the May mammas at?” Ochoa-Lopez, seven months pregnant at the time, responded, and Clarisa Figueroa made the offer of free clothes, prosecutors said.

When Clarisa Figueroa first asked her daughter to help her kill someone to get a baby, the daughter said no, Murphy said. He also revealed publicly for the first time that Desiree Figueroa is four months pregnant.

Metals tariffs on Canada and Mexico lifted

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Boggled down in a sprawling trade dispute with U.S. rival China, President Donald Trump took steps Friday to ease tensions with America’s allies — lifting import taxes on Canadian and Mexican steel and aluminum and delaying auto tariffs that would have hurt Japan and Europe.

By removing the metals tariffs on Canada and Mexico, Trump cleared a key roadblock to a North American trade pact his team negotiated last year. As part of Friday’s arrangement, the Canadians and Mexicans agreed to scrap retaliatory tariffs they had imposed on U.S. goods.

“I’m pleased to announce that we’ve just

reached an agreement with Canada and Mexico, and we’ll be selling our product into those countries without the imposition of tariffs, or major tariffs,” Trump said in a speech to the National Association of Realtors.

In a joint statement, the U.S. and Canada said they would work to prevent cheap imports of steel and aluminum from entering North America. The provision appeared to target China, which has long been accused of flooding world markets with subsidized metal, driving down world prices and hurting U.S. producers. The countries could also reimpose the tariffs if they faced a “surge” in steel or aluminum imports.

In Washington, some were urging Trump to take advantage of the truce with U.S. al-

lies to get even tougher with China.

“China is our adversary,” said Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb. “Canada and Mexico are our friends. The president is right to increase pressure on China for their espionage, their theft of intellectual property and their hostility toward the rule of law. The president is also right to be de-escalating tension with our North American allies.”

Earlier Friday, the White House said Trump is delaying for six months any decision to slap tariffs on foreign cars, a move that would have hit Japan and Europe especially hard. Trump still is hoping to use the threat of auto tariffs to pressure Japan and the European Union into making concessions in ongoing trade talks.

‘Hoss’ the Ohio hairball is 125 pounds and counting

The Columbus Dispatch

CAMBRIDGE, Ohio — What’s 4 feet tall, 125 pounds and covered in hair? It’s Hoss, the giant ball of human hair.

Hoss, named after Dan Blocker’s character from “Bonanza,” is an oblong shape and is, well, hairy. Hundreds of people have donated their hair to its creation, so its exterior is an ever-changing mess of different colors and textures.

The hairball was created by Steve Warden, a hairstylist from Cambridge, Ohio, who began crafting it after years of conversations with his four children.

“When my kids were younger, they

would always say, ‘Dad, you should make a hairball and get it in the Ripley’s Believe It Or Not book,’” Warden said.

So in 2013, with his children all grown, Warden decided it was time to give it a shot. After a few months of haircuts, it was time to start construction.

It started small. Warden would take some hair and wad it into a ball using glue to make it stick. (Gorilla Wood Glue is the only thing that works, Warden said).

He would let the ball dry for a week and then add more on top. Warden continued this process for months until the ball was as big as a basketball. From there, Warden used a combination of liquid glue and spray

adhesive to attach the hair. Hairspray is used for touch-ups.

Finally, Warden reached out to Ripley’s Believe It Or Not to donate his masterpiece last year.

Kurtis Moellmann, exhibit and interactive coordinator for Ripley’s, said Warden’s hairball has quickly become one of the company’s most popular items.

Warden has not, in fact, created the world’s largest ball of human hair. That honor goes to Henry Coffey, a barber from Charleston, Mo., who claimed the title in 2008 with a 167-pound ball of hair, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman fired after duct-taping student

NY ROCHESTER — The three adults present in a special education classroom when a 12-year-old had his wrists duct taped together have all resigned or been fired.

The Democrat and Chronicle of Rochester reported that Latoya Davis, the paraprofessional who police said did the duct-taping, was terminated from her job at Flower City School 54 in Rochester.

One of the teachers present in the special education classroom described in a deposition how Davis used two separate types of tape to try and bind together the boy's arms and close his mouth.

Bird lays eggs on fake turf, displaces teams

NJ TEANECK — A little birdie has displaced soccer players in New Jersey.

The Record reported that a killdeer laid its eggs about two weeks ago on a patch of synthetic grass near the south goal in Teaneck's Votey Park.

Public works employees have cordoned off the nest with cones and yellow tape.

It could take one to two months for the eggs to hatch and the chicks to leave the nest.

Farmer amputates leg with knife to escape

NE OMAHA — A farmer is recovering after cutting off his own leg with a pocket knife to save himself from a piece of farm equipment he had become caught in.

Omaha television station KETV reported that Kurt Kaser, 63, of Pender, was unloading corn last month when he got out of his truck and ac-

cidentally stepped on the grain hopper opening. An auger in the hopper caught Kaser's leg, pulling it in and mangling it.

Kaser said he couldn't pull his leg out and didn't have his cellphone. There was no one around to help.

So, he took his pocket knife out and sawed off his leg below the knee.

After he was freed, he crawled 150 feet to the nearest phone and was flown to a hospital. Kaser said he never lost consciousness.

Bull causes hubbub for drivers on highway

MA NORTON — No bull, drivers would have done well to steer clear of a Massachusetts highway during a recent morning commute.

State police said they got multiple reports from drivers about a bull along Interstate 495 in Norton just after 7 a.m. Monday.

A department spokesman said the bull appeared to have escaped from a nearby farm.

Farmworkers corralled the wayward animal with the help of state troopers.

Merah the orangutan celebrates turning 50

MO ST. LOUIS — A popular animal at the St. Louis Zoo celebrated a milestone birthday: Merah the Sumatran orangutan turned 50 years old.

Merah was born May 13, 1969, at a zoo in the Netherlands. She came to St. Louis in 1992.

Merah is a five-time mother, grandmother of two and great-grandmother of one.

The zoo said that when Merah gave birth to Ginger in 2014 at age 45, she became the oldest Sumatran orangutan

in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Orangutan Species Survival Plan to give birth and rear her offspring.

Man pleads no contest in attack over fish

HI LIHUE, HAWAII — A Kauai man pleaded no contest after telling police he was under the influence of a hallucinogenic when he used a machete to wreak havoc on his former boss' home because of a fish dispute.

Forrest Broyles told police he was on ayahuasca, a hallucinogenic brew from the Amazon, when he broke into his former boss' home on Dec. 3 to get his share of fish they caught together, according to a detective's report.

According to police, Broyles threatened his former boss and wife, "saying that he owed him fish and that he was going to kill him and chop him up."

Dogs' disease can be passed to humans

IA DES MOINES — Officials said a dog disease that can be passed to humans has been confirmed in Iowa.

State veterinarian Dr. Jeff Kaisand said several cases of canine brucellosis were confirmed at a commercial breeding facility for small dogs in Marion County.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship said it is notifying people who have custody of the exposed dogs. The animals and the facilities are quarantined while the dogs undergo testing.

Signs of the disease in a dog include infertility, spontaneous abortions and stillbirths. State health officials said symptoms for humans include fever, sweats, headache, joint pain and weakness.

Pair leads police on 100 mph car chase

NH LEE — Two people with outstanding arrest warrants led police on a high-speed chase in New Hampshire that topped 100 mph at times.

The New Hampshire State Police said it was notified by Pittsfield police that the department was in pursuit of a vehicle for numerous traffic violations. Troopers in Dover used spike strips and assisted the Pittsfield department after the chase moved from a highway to Route 4.

The vehicle finally came to a stop after the Lee Police Department deployed another spike strip. Police arrested the driver, Jessica Michaud, 36, of Manchester, who faces numerous charges. The passenger, Javier Luna of Manchester, 39, was also found to have an outstanding warrant for parole violation.

Man charged in church fires was 'mad at God'

PA BETHLEHEM — A man charged with setting two fires at a Pennsylvania church that had kicked him out of the congregation said he was "mad at God."

Wilmer Ortiz Torres, 43, is a former member at Iglesia Pentecostal De Bethlehem and faces arson and related charges over the April fires.

Northampton County District Attorney John Morganelli said Torres, who remains in jail, has "some mental health issues."

The first fire gutted the church's sanctuary. A second fire damaged the roof. No one was injured.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES

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Koepka shoots 36-hole record in PGA

Associated Press

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — The power. The putting. The poise. Brooks Koepka has it all at this PGA Championship, along with the lowest 36-hole score in major championship history and the largest lead by anyone at the halfway point of a Grand Slam event in 85 years.

It was daunting to so many players who watched Koepka pull away to a seven-shot lead Friday at Bethpage Black.

And it looked all too familiar to Tiger Woods, who won't be around to see the ending.

Koepka backed up his record-tying 63 with a round that put him in a league of his own. He opened with three birdies in a four-hole stretch and made three birdies over the closing four holes for a 5-under 65 that broke by two shots the lowest 36-hole score — 128 — in any major.

Woods was along for the ride — a short one, in this case, because he missed the cut. He marveled at Koepka hitting 7-iron into a par 5, and a 9-iron into the uphill, 477-yard 15th hole.

"Relative to the field, I was about that long early in my career," Woods said. "When you're able to hit the ball much

further than other players, and get on the right golf courses where setups like this is penalizing if you are a little bit crooked, and if he does miss it, he misses on the correct side, and he's far enough down there to where he was able to get the ball on the green. And he did all the little things right."

That describes Woods at Bethpage Black the first time this working man's public course hosted a major at the 2002 U.S. Open. Woods went wire-to-wire when he was winning majors at an alarming rate.

Koepka, who has won three of the last seven majors, appears to be headed down a similar path.

Jordan Spieth had a 66 in the morning in a bid to keep in range. Adam Scott had a 64 in the afternoon. They were seven shots behind, victims of the largest 36-hole lead in a major since Henry Cotton led by nine in the 1934 British Open.

"It has to come to an end eventually, that good front-running," Scott said with a smile. "Let's hope it's not 12 years like Tiger's front-running lasted."

Woods didn't hit a fairway until the ninth hole, and then he started the back nine with

three straight bogeys, turning his mission into making the cut. He wound up with a 73 and missed by one shot, only the ninth time in 76 majors as a pro he failed to advance to the weekend.

But he saw quite a show for two days.

"He's driving it 330 yards in the middle of the fairway. He's got 9-irons when most of us are hitting 5-irons, 4-irons, and he's putting well," Woods said. "That adds up to a pretty substantial lead, and if he keeps doing what he's doing, there's no reason why he can't build on this lead."

Just imagine what Koepka could do if he really brings it.

"This probably sounds bad," Koepka said, "but today was a battle. I didn't strike it that good. The way I hung in there today and battled it, I think that was probably more impressive than yesterday, not having your 'A' game but still being able to shoot a great score."

Spieth was hopeful of being in contention at a major for the first time since the British Open last summer, and he made key putts for par and a 40-foot birdie putt toward the end of his 66 to get within two shots before Koepka teed off

in the afternoon. It was close enough — at the time, anyway — for Spieth to get queried about the missing piece of a career Grand Slam at the PGA Championship.

"If I'm able to put some good work in tomorrow, I will be in contention on Sunday. And at that point, it will be just more of trying to win a golf tournament," he said.

His goal was to stay in range, and Spieth felt he did enough.

And then Koepka flipped a wedge into 3 feet for birdie on No. 1, hit another wedge to 8 feet for birdie on No. 2 and hit 7-iron to 18 feet on the par-5 fourth hole that set up a two-putt birdie.

He really poured it on at the end as Scott moved closer.

On two of the strongest holes in the finishing stretch, Koepka mashed a drive down the middle of the 15th fairway and hit 9-iron to 3 feet, one of only 10 birdies from 155 players in the field. He hit wedge into 5 feet on the 473-yard 16th hole for another birdie, and the record was in sight.

He finished with a wedge out of thick grass right of the 18th fairway, making a final birdie from just inside 12 feet. It was his 14th birdie of the week.

Woods cards 73 in second round, misses cut by 1 shot

Associated Press

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — Tiger Woods gave a hop with his left leg and prepared to pump his fist as his birdie putt rolled toward the 17th hole in the PGA Championship on Friday.

Then the ball kept on rolling.

Down came his leg. A groan rose from the crowd. And Woods was all but done for the week.

The Masters champion shot a 3-over 73 at Bethpage Black in the second round to finish at 5 over for 36 holes and miss the cut by one stroke. It's the first time Woods has missed the cut at a major in the same year he won a major since 2006.

"You know," he told reporters afterward, "I'm the Masters champion and 43 years old and that's a pretty good accomplishment."

Woods said he had not been feeling well since winning at Augusta National last month — his 15th major tournament victory, but his first since 2008. So he decided to rest to get ready for the PGA, which moved up on the calendar to May this year for the first time since 1949.

"It's a nice problem to have," Woods said. "I've enjoyed being the Masters champion again, and the PGA was a quick turnaround, and unfortunately

I just didn't play well. As I said, I didn't do all the little things I need to do correctly to post good scores and put myself in position to shoot good scores."

Asked if he might have benefited from playing more between the majors, Woods alluded to an illness that kept him from competing.

"Just don't feel well and just not able to do it," he said. "Thought resting would be better, so I would have energy to play."

But he needed more than energy to make it to the weekend on the punishing par-70, 7,459-yard course. After shooting a 72 in the opening round — already

nine strokes off the lead — he hit just three fairways on Friday, his fewest at a PGA since the final round in 2010.

It started on his very first hole, when he sent his drive into the gallery far to the left of the fairway, causing fans to part and clear a path for his approach to the green. He went into the greenside bunker but got up-and-down from about 5 feet to save par.

He wasn't so lucky on the second, when he went into the rough on the right and took the safe way out by chipping onto the fairway. The bogey put him at 3 over and flirting with the cut line for the first time.

Blues win, even series with Sharks

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Jordan Binnington made save after save to pull off yet another playoff victory — and make some team history — for the Blues.

The rookie goalie stopped 29 shots to set a franchise record with his 10th postseason win this year and St. Louis edged the San Jose Sharks 2-1 on Friday night to even the Western Conference final at two games apiece.

“He’s been dynamite back there for us all year and his first game he came in and had a goose egg and just took over from there,” Blues defenseman Colton Parayko said of Binnington. “It’s been fun to watch.”

“He’s just doing his thing.”

Binnington moved past Brian Elliott (2016) and Roman Turek (2001) for the most wins by a Blues goalie in a single playoffs. He is the 10th rookie netminder to win at least 10 games in a single postseason in

league history.

“It’s a great honor,” Binnington said. “Obviously, I’m having a lot of fun back here playing with this team. They’re doing a great job. They limited chances tonight. They played a complete game and I just tried to do my job.”

Tyler Bozak and Ivan Barbashev scored in the first period for the Blues, giving Binnington all the scoring he needed.

Tomas Hertl scored for the Sharks, and Martin Jones made 20 saves.

Game 5 is in San Jose on Sunday.

Barbashev gave the Blues a quick lead when his shot deflected off of Gustav Nyquist’s stick and into the net just 35 seconds in. Alexander Steen’s hip check of Brent Burns behind the Sharks’ net created a turnover that led to Barbashev’s first career playoff goal.

There have been seven goals scored in the opening minute of playoff games this year, with

three of them coming against San Jose — the most since the Boston Bruins allowed four during their Stanley Cup run in 2011.

“We’ve got to be more ready at the start of the game, for sure,” Jones said. “With the way the last game ended, we should have known how they were going to come out and we were just a little more casual at the start of the game.”

The Blues needed just 9 seconds to convert on a power play as Bozak’s shot found its way through several skates and past Jones to make it 2-0 with 2:07 left in the first.

“We kind of were stressing we’ve got to get more pucks on net with traffic and we were just kind of passing it around the outside a little too much,” Bozak said. “Great shot by Vlady (Tarasenko) and Patty (Maroon) got a tip. Just a loose puck in front and I got kind of lucky that it ended up on my stick and went in.”

San Jose tilted the ice in its favor in the second period, but Binnington stopped all 11 shots the Sharks sent his way. Burns had the Sharks’ best chance, hitting the crossbar with about three minutes left in the period.

“I thought that they came out hard in the second and obviously had some offensive zone time on us,” Blues coach Craig Berube said. “We’ve got to do a better job of not allowing them to take control of the game that way. I thought the second period, we just sat back too much. We didn’t play aggressive enough in the second period.”

Hertl banged home a rebound off of a slap shot by Burns on the Sharks’ second power play of the game at 6:48 of the third period to cut the Blues’ lead to 2-1. The goal snapped San Jose’s scoreless streak of 226 minutes, 48 seconds in Game 4s this postseason after being shut out in the first two rounds.

Antetokounmpo takes over, Bucks grab 2-0 series lead

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo started the game with an emphatic dunk. The next possession, a sprawling block to deny Marc Gasol. The next possession, another dunk.

The tone was set.

And it never changed.

The Eastern Conference doesn’t belong to Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks — yet. But they’re two wins away, after Antetokounmpo had 30 points and 17 rebounds, Ersan Ilyasova came off the bench to add 17 points and the Bucks never trailed on the way to a 125-103 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Friday night and a 2-0 lead in the East finals.

“He plays so hard, he lays it all on the line, every time,” Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. “It was a great start for us. I think everybody fed off

of Giannis and how he started the game.”

How he finished, too.

Antetokounmpo scored 11 points in the fourth for the Bucks, who wound up with six players in double figures — three of them reserves. Nikola Mirotic scored 15, Malcolm Brogdon had 14, George Hill 13 and Khris Middleton 12.

“We really rely on each other ... especially the bench,” Ilyasova said. “The starting five set the tone.”

Kawhi Leonard scored 31 points for Toronto, which gave up the game’s first nine points, never led and trailed by double digits for the final 39 minutes. Kyle Lowry scored 15 and Norman Powell had 14 for the Raptors.

“We didn’t do much well tonight, obviously,” Raptors coach Nick Nurse said.

Game 3 is Sunday in Toronto.

“We get to go back home and

protect our home court, like they did these last two games,” Lowry said. “We’ve got a chance to go home, protect home court and do what we’re supposed to do.”

Milwaukee, an NBA-best 60-22 record during the regular season, became the 16th team to start a postseason with at least 10 victories in its first 11 games. Only three teams — the 1989 Los Angeles Lakers, the 2001 Lakers and the 2017 Golden State Warriors — opened the playoffs 11-0.

The Bucks led by as many as 28 before Toronto did just enough chipping away to keep some semblance of hope.

Eventually, Antetokounmpo decided enough was enough.

With 5:51 left to play Antetokounmpo backed Leonard down on the block, spun back toward the center of the lane, scored while getting hit and starting a three-point play. He yelled to the crowd and punched the air.

The knockout blow was landed, and the Bucks are two wins from their first NBA Finals berth in 45 years.

“At times, I forget that I have to stay aggressive,” Antetokounmpo said.

Not in that moment, he didn’t.

Aggression wasn’t an issue for the Bucks at any point.

Milwaukee’s lead was 35-21 after the first, 64-39 at the half. It was the first time Toronto had been outscored by 10 or more points in each of a game’s first two quarters since May 25, 2016, against Cleveland and the 25-point halftime hole was, by far, the Raptors’ worst of the season. They trailed Houston 55-37 on March 5.

“The beginning kind of set us in a real bad spot,” Gasol said. “We couldn’t get a grip of the game early on.”

Toronto was down 21 when Lowry got his third foul with 1:27 left until the break.

Yanks move into first place in AL East

Associated Press

NEW YORK — CC Sabathia shouted salty insults at the Tampa Bay Rays and said he tried to hit one of their batters.

A little while later, it was Gio Urshela who had the last word for the New York Yankees.

Urshela's RBI single capped a three-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning, and the surging Yankees leapfrogged Tampa Bay into first place in the AL East with a rousing 4-3 victory Friday night.

"When Gio came up, I said: 'Turn off the lights,'" Sabathia recalled.

Urshela, subbing spectacularly for injured third baseman Miguel Andujar, sent a two-out drive over Kevin Kiermaier's head in deep right-center field for his first walk-off hit.

"The kid's just been unbelievable and every time there's a big situation, he always comes through," teammate Luke Voit said.

"He's been the energy of this team so far," Sabathia said.

Voit homered on the first pitch from Jose Alvarado (0-3) to make it 3-2. New York tied it when pinch-runner Thairo Estrada scored on a bases-loaded

wild pitch by Alvarado, who entered with a 1.04 ERA.

Urshela and Voit had three hits apiece. Kendrys Morales clubbed an early solo shot for his first home run since joining the Yankees on Wednesday following a trade from Oakland.

Willy Adames homered off Sabathia, who pitched six strong innings, and rookie Brandon Lowe hit a tiebreaking double against Chad Green with two outs in the eighth. Tampa Bay added another run on shortstop Gleyber Torres' throwing error before rain caused a 35-minute delay in the bottom of the inning on "Game of Thrones"

night at Yankee Stadium.

Torres doubled on the 10th pitch of his at-bat in the ninth to put runners at second and third with one out.

"There's no excuse for what happened," Alvarado said through a translator. "They must have been sitting on my fastball."

Jonathan Holder (3-1) struck out two in a perfect inning.

With their fourth straight victory and ninth in 11 games, the injury-ravaged Yankees took over the division lead for the first time since falling to 1-1 on March 30.

MLB roundup

Dodgers hit four homers, Hill shuts out Reds

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Cody Bellinger hit the last of Los Angeles' four homers, Rich Hill stuck out a season-high 10 and the Dodgers won their fourth in a row Friday night, 6-0 over the Cincinnati Reds.

Corey Seager, Joc Pederson and Max Muncy also homered at one of the Dodgers' most comfortable road stops. They're 34-22 at Great American Ball Park, the second-best mark by any NL team, trailing only the Mets' 32-19 record.

Bellinger also had a double, raising his batting average to .410.

Hill (1-1) gave by far his best performance in four starts since returning from a sprained right knee. The left-hander allowed two hits and didn't walk a batter in six innings. He fanned 10 for the first time since June 29 last year against Colorado. Hill also extended the Dodgers' stretch of solid starts. Since April 25, LA's rotation is 11-1 with a 2.19 ERA.

Cincinnati was blanked for the sixth time, second most in the majors. Only Miami is worse with nine shutouts.

Astros 3, Red Sox 1: George

Springer hit his American League-leading 17th home run and visiting Houston picked up its ninth straight victory by beating Boston.

Springer's two-run shot in the eighth off Rick Porcello put the Astros up 2-1 and Houston held on. The Astros improved to 12-3 this month and matched the 2017 World Series championship team for the best start in franchise history at 30-15.

Will Harris (1-0) got the win with one scoreless inning of relief. Roberto Osuna picked up his 11th save.

Houston won the opener of the three-game series between the last two World Series winners and a rematch of last year's ALCS, which Boston won in five games.

Christian Vazquez went 3-for-4 with a pair of doubles and an RBI for Boston, which stranded 10 runners and went 1-for-11 with runners in scoring position.

Porcello (3-4) pitched seven shutout innings for Boston.

Pirates 5, Padres 3: Rookie Bryan Reynolds hit a go-ahead, two-run home run and Jordan Lyles struck out a career-high 12 in seven innings in

Pittsburgh's win over host San Diego.

Angels 5, Royals 2: Mike Trout and Albert Pujols had two hits each and Los Angeles beat visiting Kansas City.

Orioles 5, Indians 1: Dylan Bundy kept host Cleveland's lineup in check — and in the ballpark — for 5²/₃ innings and Jonathan Villar hit a three-run homer as Baltimore ended a three-game slide.

Rangers 7, Cardinals 3: Rougned Odor and Shin-Soo Choo homered in a seven-run second inning, Adrian Sampson got his first career win following opener Jose Leclerc in his first major league start and host Texas beat St. Louis for its third straight win.

Athletics 7, Tigers 2: Frankie Montas pitched two-run ball into the ninth inning and visiting Oakland beat Detroit for the 14th straight meeting.

Marlins 8, Mets 6: Miami scored for the first time in 27 innings, pounded Jacob deGrom for seven runs and snapped a seven-game losing streak by beating visiting New York.

Phillies 5, Rockies 4: Andrew McCutchen hit a two-run

homer, Bryce Harper lined a two-run double and Cole Irvin tossed six effective innings to lead host Philadelphia past Colorado.

Cubs 14, Nationals 6: Kris Bryant matched a career high with three home runs and drove in five as visiting Chicago routed Washington.

Blue Jays 10, White Sox 2: Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered and Toronto used an offensive barrage to beat host Chicago.

Diamondbacks 7, Giants 0: At Phoenix, Eduardo Escobar hit a three-run triple and David Peralta homered, lifting Arizona over San Francisco.

Adam Jones had three hits to help Torey Lovullo win his 200th game as Arizona's manager.

Twins 7, Mariners 1: Martin Perez rebounded from his first loss of the season to overpower Seattle into the seventh inning and Max Kepler drove in three runs as visiting Minnesota won its fourth straight.

Braves 12, Brewers 8: Max Fried allowed two hits in six scoreless innings, Dansby Swanson hit a drought-breaking, three-run homer and Atlanta beat visiting Milwaukee.