

# STARS AND STRIPES®

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Biden arrives at festive Yokota, set for talks

By **SETH ROBSON**  
AND **JOSEPH DITZLER**  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Thousands of Americans and Japanese greeted President Joe Biden as Air Force One landed here Sunday in the midst of an annual base festival that celebrates the two countries' partnership.

Biden, fresh off two days of talks with South Korea's new president and a visit with U.S. troops there, arrived just after 5 p.m. for three more days of meetings with Japan's leaders and two other key Indo-Pacific partners.

Biden touched down during the waning hours of Yokota's annual Friendship Festival, the first since the global coronavirus

pandemic took hold in March 2020. Thousands of people, most of them Japanese, in rows six deep lined the flight line for hundreds of yards. They waited hours like concertgoers anticipating the overdue headliner.

"Voodoo Chile," played by a tribute band, wafted over the concourse as Air Force One materialized in the sky to the south. As the jumbo jet rolled down the runway, the crowd began to clap and then to cheer.

Marine Brig. Gen. James Wellons, deputy commander of U.S. Forces Japan, and Maj. Gen. Leonard Kosinski, deputy commander of 5th Air Force, stood behind the crowds as Biden's plane touched down. Both commands are headquartered at Yokota.

"Just look around you at the thousands of people who are here enjoying this opportunity to learn more about each other and to regain contacts that might have been lost over the past two years," Wellons told Stars and Stripes. "And to be able to watch Air Force One land while we participate in this great event is, I think, a powerful sign of the strength of our alliance and where we are right now."

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel and U.S. Forces Japan commander Lt. Gen. Ricky Rupp were among those who welcomed the president after he exited the plane.

Biden shook hands with members of the party, embraced

Emanuel and appeared to hand a coin to a service member before boarding his Marine One helicopter to fly to central Tokyo.

The president began the five-day Asia trip on Friday, and the next day met with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol. The two agreed to strengthen their nations' collective defense and expand their combined military exercises in light of a series of missile tests by North Korea.

Biden is scheduled to meet Japanese Emperor Naruhito and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Monday and attend a summit with Kishida and the leaders of India and Australia on Tuesday.

Biden and Kishida are expected to reaffirm their sanctions on Russia and their support for embattled Ukraine, NHK reported.

## Russia presses Donbas offensive; Polish leader visits Kyiv

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia pressed its offensive in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region Sunday as Poland's president traveled to Kyiv to support the country's Western aspirations, becoming the first foreign leader to address the Ukrainian parliament since the start of the war.

Ukrainian lawmakers stood to applaud Polish President Andrzej Duda, who thanked them for the honor of speaking where "the heart of a free, independent and democratic Ukraine beats." Duda received more applause when he said that to end the conflict, Ukraine did not need to submit to conditions given by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Unfortunately, in Europe there have also been disturbing voices in recent times demanding that Ukraine yield to Putin's demands," he said. "I want to say

clearly: Only Ukraine has the right to decide about its future. Only Ukraine has the right to decide for itself."

Duda's visit, his second to Ukraine's capital since April, came as Russian and Ukrainian forces engaged in battles scattered along a 342-mile wedge of the country's eastern industrial heartland, and as Ukraine pursues European Union membership.

After declaring full control last week of a sprawling seaside steel plant that was the last defense holdout in the port city of Mariupol, the Russian military launched artillery and missile attacks in the Donbas, seeking to expand the territory Moscow-backed separatists have held since 2014.

To bolster its defense against the invasion, Ukraine's parliament voted Sunday to extend martial law and the mobilization of armed forces for a third time,

until Aug. 23.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has stressed that the 27-member EU should expedite Ukraine's request to join the bloc as soon as possible due to Russia's invasion. Ukraine's potential candidacy is set to be discussed at a Brussels summit in late June.

Poland's government is ramping up efforts to persuade other EU members that are more hesitant about accepting the war-ravaged country as a member. Zelenskyy said Duda's visit represented a "historic union" between Ukraine, which declared independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 and Poland, which ended communist rule two years earlier.

"This is really a historic opportunity not to lose such strong relations, built through blood, through Russian aggression," Ze-

lenskyy said. "All this not to lose our state, not to lose our people."

Poland has welcomed millions of Ukrainian refugees and become a gateway for Western humanitarian aid and weapons going into Ukraine. It is also a transit point into Ukraine for some foreign fighters, including from Belarus, who have volunteered to fight against the Russian forces.

"Despite the great destruction, despite the terrible crime and great suffering that the Ukrainian people suffered every day, the Russian invaders did not break you. They failed at it. And I believe deeply that they will never succeed," Duda told the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's legislature.

Duda also credited "the United States and the leadership of President Joe Biden" for the unity Western nations have shown in supporting Ukraine and imposing sanctions against Russia.

# Some get gas off base as prices rise

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Gas prices on U.S. bases in Japan have climbed so high that some military motorists are shopping around for bargains on the economy.

Army and Air Force Exchange Service fuel prices in the Pacific, which topped \$5 a gallon for premium in March, are due to rise again Saturday, according to the weekly price update provided by the exchange.

AAFES customers in South Korea and on Guam will pay \$5.32 a gallon for premium, up from \$5.15 a gallon, according to exchange figures.

At Yokota, the headquarters of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo, AAFES customers will pay \$5.31 a gallon for premium, up from \$5.14. The same price hike will take effect at all other U.S. bases in mainland Japan and on Okinawa.

Meanwhile, a Shell service station just up the street from Yokota's main gate was selling high octane for 170 yen a liter, or about \$5.04 a gallon, on Friday. The gas station was also selling regular, not available at Yokota, for 159 yen a liter or about \$4.71 a gallon.

AAFES prices for regular are rising from \$4.39 to \$4.56 a gallon at Camp Zama and on Okinawa and from \$4.41 to \$4.57 a gallon in South Korea and Guam, according to exchange data.

AAFES diesel prices have bucked the trend and will fall from \$5.69 a gallon to \$5.68 in Japan, including Okinawa, and from \$5.70 to \$5.69 in South Korea, the data show.

Sean Sullivan, a civilian worker at USFJ, posted about off-base gas deals on a local Facebook group May 11.

The strong dollar, now worth almost 128

yen, makes Japanese gas prices more attractive, he told Stars and Stripes by phone the next day.

"I buy gas off base for my motorcycle," he said. "I normally buy petrol for my car on base, but next time I fill up I will go off base."

Gasoline prices at U.S. bases in Japan have more than doubled in two years. In March 2020, just as the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus pandemic, a gallon of regular cost about \$2.30.

However, the average price per gallon of regular fuel at exchange gas stations in the Pacific, as of May 11, was 13.8% lower than the Japanese national average, AAFES spokesman Chris Ward said in an email Thursday.

"Premium fuel at the Exchange was 4.7% lower than the national average," he said, adding that fuel dispensed at exchange gas stations in Japan does not contain ethanol.

## Ramstein AB sends plane full of baby formula to US

BY PHILLIP WALTER  
WELLMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The first shipment of baby formula from Europe to help address a national shortage in the United States left Germany on an Air Force cargo plane Sunday.

More than 130 pallets filled with formula departed for Indianapolis on a C-17 aircraft a little after 5 a.m. Germany time as part of Operation Fly Formula. Each pallet of Nestle Health Science Alfamino Infant and Alfamino Junior formula held more than 430 of the 14.1-ounce containers of formula, labels on the packaging showed.

Another 114 pallets of Gerber Good Start Extensive HA formula are expected to arrive soon, the White House said in a statement Thursday, adding that the equivalent of up to 1.5

million 8-ounce bottles of the three formulas will be delivered.

The effort comes as stores in the U.S. have rationed supplies and some brands are out of stock. Baby formula availability had been affected by pandemic-related supply chain issues but was exacerbated when the largest plant producing formula in the U.S. was shuttered in February due to contamination concerns.

The squadron was informed of the operation less than a day before, but squadron commander Lt. Col. Benjamin Taber said the tight turnaround didn't pose a challenge.

"This is what we do, whether it's baby formula, whether it's vaccines — which we were a big part of — or helping 35,000 Afghan travelers move through this area," Taber said. "When somebody needs our help, they can depend on us."

## Corporal killed in crash on Okinawa identified

*Stars and Stripes*

The Marine Corps on Friday identified Cpl. Jovennie Anthony Jeremiah as the Marine who died May 14 following a single-car crash outside Camp Foster, Okinawa.

Jeremiah, 23, of the Headquarters and Service Battalion at Foster, was pronounced dead at 6:14 a.m. at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa on the base, Takaho Kinjo, an Okinawa city police interpreter, told Stars and Stripes at the time.

"Our deepest sympathy and steadfast support go out to his family and loved ones during this difficult time," spokeswoman LaDonna Davis of Marine Corps Installations Pacific told Stars and Stripes by email Friday. The command provided no further information.

Okinawa police said Jeremiah's car veered off Route 58 not far from a Foster gate and

crashed into a light pole and pedestrian fence. It was the second fatal accident and the fourth this month along a stretch of road that Okinawa authorities deem one of the most dangerous on the island.

Police have yet to identify the accident's cause, a spokesman for the Okinawa Police Station told Stars and Stripes by phone Friday. Government spokespeople in Japan customarily speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

Officers are checking the security cameras around the area to see what caused the crash, including how fast the car was moving.

However, police have asked the South National Highway Office on Okinawa to take preventive actions, including installation of traffic poles and application of a non-slip coating to the accident area, the spokesman said.

# No commission for 3 AF Academy cadets

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Three cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy who have refused the COVID-19 vaccine will not be commissioned as military officers but will graduate with bachelor's degrees, the academy said Saturday.

Academy spokesman Dean Miller said that a fourth cadet who had refused the vaccine until about a week ago, decided to be vaccinated and will graduate and become an Air Force officer.

In a statement, Miller said that while the three will get a degree “they will not be commissioned into the United States Air Force as long as they remain unvaccinated.” He added that a decision on whether to require the three to reimburse the U.S. for education costs in lieu of service will be made by the secretary of the Air Force.

As of Saturday, the Air Force is the only military academy where cadets are not be-

ing commissioned due to vaccine refusal. All of the more than 1,000 Army cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., graduated and were commissioned as officers earlier in the day and all were vaccinated.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who is the scheduled speaker at the Air Force graduation, last year made the COVID-19 vaccinations mandatory for service members, including those at the military academies, saying the vaccine is critical to maintaining military readiness and the health of the force.

Military leaders have argued that troops for decades have been required to get as many as 17 vaccines in order to maintain the health of the force, particularly those deploying overseas. Students arriving at the military academies get a regimen of shots on their first day — such as measles, mumps and rubella — if they aren't already vaccinated, and they routinely get flu shots in the fall.

# US sees risk of COVID supply rationing without more funds

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The White House is planning for “dire” contingencies that could include rationing supplies of vaccines and treatments this fall if Congress doesn't approve more money for fighting COVID-19.

In public comments and private meetings on Capitol Hill, Dr. Ashish Jha, the White House coronavirus coordinator, has painted a dark picture in which the United States could be forced to cede many of the advances made against the coronavirus over the last two years and even the most vulnerable could face supply shortages.

Biden administration officials have been warning for weeks that the country has spent nearly all the money in the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan that was dedicated directly to COVID-19 response.

A small pool of money remains, and the administration faces critical decisions about how to spend it. That means tough decisions, like weighing whether to use it to secure the next generation of vaccines to protect the

highest risk populations or giving priority to a supply of highly effective therapies that dramatically reduce the risks of severe illness and death.

That decision may be made in the coming week, according to the administration, as the White House faces imminent deadlines to begin placing orders for vaccines and treatments before other nations jump ahead of the U.S. in accessing supply.

Jha has warned that without more money, vaccines will be harder to come by, tests will once again be scarce and the therapeutics that are helping the country weather the current omicron-driven surge in cases without a commensurate increase in deaths could be sold overseas before Americans can access them.

Already, the domestic production of at-home testing is slowing, with workers beginning to be laid off. In the coming weeks, Jha said, manufacturers will sell off equipment and “get out of this business,” leaving the U.S. once again dependent on overseas suppliers for rapid test.

# Biden: US exploring monkeypox vaccines

*The Washington Post*

President Joe Biden said Sunday that the United States is looking into what vaccines might be available to protect people against monkeypox, saying that “everybody” should be concerned as cases continue to spread around the world and some countries beef up their treatment stockpiles.

“We're working on it hard to figure out what we do and what vaccine, if any, might be available for it,” Biden said from South Korea, where he is on an official visit.

Biden said the recent spread of monkeypox infections — identified by the World Health Organization in at least 12 countries where the relatively rare disease is not endemic — could be “consequential” if it continues. Health advisers “haven't told me the level of exposure yet, but it is something that everybody should be concerned about,” Biden said. “It is a concern in that if it were to spread it would be consequential.”

U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Sunday that the United States has vaccines available to treat a potential monkeypox outbreak and that Biden has been briefed on the case tracks domestically and abroad.

Scientists are rushing to figure out what is causing the infections and how to respond. The WHO has received reports of 92 cases confirmed in a lab and 28 suspected cases under investigation in the U.S., Canada, Australia and nine countries in Europe. Two countries not on the WHO list — Israel and Switzerland — reported their first confirmed cases on Saturday.

Studies suggest the smallpox vaccine is at least 85% effective against monkeypox, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which notes that the U.S. has licensed two vaccines to prevent smallpox, with one being authorized specifically for monkeypox.

At this point, the general risk to the public from monkeypox is considered “very, very low,” Tom Inglesby, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, previously told The Washington Post.



# Texas runoff tests abortion issue among Dems

*Associated Press*

SAN ANTONIO — By the time Dr. Hector Gonzalez arrived in Laredo, Texas, in 2001, the last abortion clinic had already closed. He spent the next 20 years experiencing firsthand where the largely Hispanic and heavily Catholic community along the border with Mexico usually sided.

“Definitely it was, ‘No abortion,’” said Gonzalez, the city’s former public health director.

That culture has helped protect the region’s nine-term con-

gressman, Henry Cuellar, who is one of the last anti-abortion Democrats in Congress. But he’s facing the stiffest challenge of his career on Tuesday in a runoff election against progressive rival Jessica Cisneros, a 28-year-old immigration attorney who supports abortion access.

With the U.S. Supreme Court poised to potentially overturn abortion rights in a ruling this summer, the runoff is being closely watched for clues about whether the issue will animate Democratic voters. An infusion

of money that outside groups have poured on the ground and across TV in South Texas is an indicator of an important race, with abortion rights advocates trying to lower expectations about broader implications.

“National trends are not set by one election and not determined by one election,” said Laphonza Butler, president of Emily’s List, which backs women who support abortion rights and has endorsed Cisneros.

Regardless, the race will provide insight about the direction of

the Democratic Party. Progressives have scored some notable wins so far this primary season, defeating a moderate candidate in last week’s Senate primary in Pennsylvania and potentially unseating an incumbent congressman in Oregon, where vote counting is still underway.

The runoff’s outcome could reveal the limits of abortion as a galvanizing issue for voters. National polling before the leaked draft found abortion trailing other concerns, including high inflation and gun control.

## More horrors likely after \$550B retail earnings loss

*Bloomberg*

Soaring costs and swollen inventories have retailers on the ropes, and investors fear that the punishment won’t ease anytime soon.

With companies from Costco to Dollar General and Best Buy set to report earnings this week, investors are bracing for more bad news after a disastrous few days that sent giants like Walmart and Target to their worst stock-price drops since 1987.

In all, some \$550 billion in market value was erased from consumer stocks over the past five days, adding to the downward pressure on a market already strained by fear of inflation and rising interest rates. On Friday, the S&P 500 — weighed down by the heavy losses in its consumer sectors — briefly dipped into bear-market territory, a 20% decline from its most recent high.

“This week has been an absolute bloodbath for retail,” said Neil Saunders, an analyst at GlobalData. “To a certain extent, I think that’s the rebalancing of expectations, and people seeing more crimp on profit.”

Part of the problem is that stores are awash in products that consumers don’t want. At the

same time, the cost of finding new goods to sell and getting them into stores is surging as fuel, labor and other expenses climb. Walmart and Target both slashed their forecasts for profit this year as inventories ballooned and price increases failed to keep up with rising costs.

Walmart and Target are seen as some of the savviest supply-chain managers in the business, and they’ve been contending with disruptions since the pandemic began. Even so, they were caught flat-footed when oil prices surged after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

More retailers will likely be forced to cut their forecasts to account for increases in fuel and freight costs, which show no sign of abating soon, Saunders said. Price hikes won’t be able to cover the full brunt of this challenge, he said.

The rising cost of everything is also forcing shoppers to make tough decisions. While overall U.S. retail sales remain robust, Walmart and Target both said more customers are trading down to cheaper, private-label groceries.

“The needs are squeezing out the wants,” said Michael Baker, an analyst at D.A. Davidson.

## Calif. church leaders, shooting survivors hold prayer service

*Associated Press*

LAGUNA WOODS, Calif. — When a gunman began shooting at a Taiwanese American church luncheon, Shoei Su said he froze.

The retired appraiser uses a walker and said he and many of the elderly congregants didn’t immediately know what was happening. He said the shooter said nothing before firing on churchgoers who were snapping photos after finishing lunch following last Sunday morning’s prayer service.

Nearly a week later, Su said he can’t sleep and is struggling to heal from the attack that killed one and wounded five in the close-knit congregation in the Southern California community of Laguna Woods, which is made up largely of retirees.

“At that time, we were not afraid,” he said. “Later, when we think about it, we’re afraid.”

His comments came as survivors, churchgoers and leaders from the Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church joined in prayer Saturday and thanked community members for their support at an event on the campus of Geneva Presbyterian Church, where the Taiwanese congregation shares space.

Authorities have said the gun-

man, David Chou, 68, of Las Vegas, was motivated by hatred of Taiwan, where he was born and grew up after his family was forced from mainland China when Communists took control. He had no connection to the church but spent about an hour with attendees apparently to gain their trust so he could execute his plot, authorities said.

Authorities said Chou had two 9 mm handguns and three bags containing four Molotov-cocktail-type incendiary devices and ammunition. They said he chained doors shut and glued locks before he began shooting.

Dr. John Cheng, the 52-year-old son of a congregant, charged him and was shot. He died at the scene, but his quick action disrupted the shooter, who was then hit by a chair thrown by the church’s former pastor, Billy Chang, and jumped on by several congregation members who used an extension cord to tie him up until police arrived.

Cheng was the only person killed. Five others were wounded, including four men aged 66 to 92 and an 86-year-old woman.

On Sunday, the congregation planned to resume its weekly prayer service. Security will be tight with no media coverage allowed on the Geneva campus.

**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**Pediatrician charged in murder-for-hire plot**

**KY** LOUISVILLE — A Louisville pediatrician has been arrested on charges she hatched a murder-for-hire scheme targeting her former husband, federal officials said.

Dr. Stephanie Russell, 52, contacted someone she believed was a hitman, but it was a person working undercover for the FBI, according to the U.S. Attorney's office in Louisville.

Russell agreed to pay \$7,000 for the hit, a media release from the U.S. Attorney said. She allegedly placed half that amount in a dropbox outside her medical office, and federal agents arrested her.

She has been charged with using interstate commerce in a murder-for-hire scheme, according to the U.S. Attorney.

**School bus driver charged with selling fentanyl to kids**

**CA** RIVERSIDE — A bus driver at a private Southern California school was charged with selling fentanyl to special-needs students on campus, including a girl who was treated for an overdose.

Melissa Harloam-Garrison, 46, was charged with child endangerment and furnishing controlled substances to a minor, along with other drug and weapons charges.

She and her husband, David Garrison, 58, were arrested. He was charged with possession of controlled substances while armed, illegal possession of a gun and being a convicted domestic abuser in possession of a firearm.

Police said they seized more than 100 suspected fentanyl pills and two handguns from the couple's cottage.

**Teen wearing earbuds hit by train while on tracks**

**FL** EDGEWATER — A 14-year-old Florida girl was critically injured when a train struck her as she walked along the tracks, police said.

The conductor told a 911 dispatcher that the train hit a "juvenile trespasser" on the tracks, according to Edgewater police.

The impact threw the teen into a wooded area. She was airlifted to a hospital in nearby Daytona Beach with injuries to her legs, authorities said.

Members of the girl's family told FOX 35 in Orlando that they believe she was wearing earbuds and didn't hear the train, which approached from behind in the same direction in which she was walking.

The girl was in a coma at the hospital, her aunt told the television station.

The girl had told her mother she was going to a park to meet friends, the aunt said. The family believes she turned around when she realized her friends were not there and was walking along the tracks with her earbuds in.

**Remains in river ID'd as woman missing since '78**

**NH** LANCASTER — Human remains that were found in a car in the Connecticut River last year are those of a New Hampshire woman who disappeared in 1978 in a motor vehicle acci-

dent, authorities said.

"The remains are those of Alberta Leeman, who was last seen in July, 1978," New Hampshire State Police and other agencies said in a news release. "At the time of her disappearance, Ms. Leeman was 63 years old."

Her death was determined to be an accident from a motor vehicle collision and the cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries, the news release said. The events surrounding her death aren't considered to be suspicious.

Leeman's daughter told WMUR-TV last year she never gave up looking for her mother and is grateful law enforcement did not stop, either.

**Dozens of rescuers help save stranded dolphins**

**MA** WELLFLEET — More than 40 people — including marine mammal experts, interns and volunteers — spent several hours battling an incoming tide to help rescue seven dolphins that got stranded in the shallow waters of a Cape Cod river.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare first got word that the Atlantic white-sided dolphins got stranded in a shallow gut of the Herring River in Wellfleet, the organization said in a statement.

It's not unusual for dolphins to get stranded in the area because of its shape as a hook within the larger hook of Cape Cod's shoreline, and because of large tidal fluctuations in Cape Cod Bay.

The tide was also coming in, and dolphins often risk getting stranded again when it rolls out,

she said.

The dolphins, all likely young males, were 6 to 8 feet in length and weighing up to 250 pounds and were then taken in a vehicle custom-designed to transport dolphins and released in deeper waters off Provincetown.

**Robert E. Lee street on base renamed for veteran**

**NY** NEW YORK — A street inside New York City's sole army base now bears the name of a Black Congressional Medal of Honor recipient rather than a Confederate general.

Fort Hamilton changed the road's name to John Warren Avenue, following a years-old push by local officials to remove Confederate symbols nationwide. The base had previously been called the street General Lee Avenue, after Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Lt. John Warren, of Brooklyn, was killed at age 22 in 1969 in the Vietnam War when he fell in the direction of a grenade and shielded at least three men from the blast.

His Congressional Medal of Honor citation said Williams' "ultimate action of sacrifice to save the lives of his men was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit on him, his unit, and the U.S. Army."

Warren is buried in Long Island National Cemetery, and his Congressional Medal of Honor was posthumously presented to him in 1970.

The base will also rename its Stonewall Jackson Drive, which is named after another Confederate general.

— From wire reports



**STARS AND STRIPES**

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

**Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News**

# After a 79, Tiger pulls out of the PGA Championship

Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — Tiger Woods produced a couple of firsts Saturday, neither a cause for a fist pump. He posted his highest score ever in the PGA Championship, and later withdrew from a major for the first time in his pro career.

Hours after Woods limped his way to a 9-over 79 in the third round at Southern Hills, he informed the PGA of America of his withdrawal.

Anyone who watched the staggered steps from a right leg that was battered 15 months ago in a car crash should not have been surprised. Woods declined media interviews after his round, speaking only to a pool reporter.

He was asked if days like this — high pain, high score — made him question the process it takes to play and if he would tee it up on Sunday.

“Well, I’m sore. I know that is for a fact,” he said. “We’ll do some work and see how it goes.”

The PGA of America announced his withdrawal after the third round ended. Woods was 21 shots behind Mito Pereira of Chile, who takes a three-shot lead into the final

round.

For Woods, attention now turns to next month at the U.S. Open. When he made the cut at the Masters in his first time walking and competing against the best since the February 2021 car crash in Los Angeles, he said he would be at the British Open at St. Andrews in July.

Even as he grimaced at times, Woods produced his most compelling golf on Friday afternoon with he rallied to make the cut with a series of clutch putts and short-game wizardry.

Woods has played through pain during his career, more memorably the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines that he won with a double stress fracture in his left leg and shredded ligaments in his left knee that required sea-son-ending surgery when it was over.

But on Saturday, walking gingerly on a course soaked by a half-inch of rain in the early morning, he had reason to wonder if making the cut was worth it.

“I didn’t do anything right,” Woods said after making a 5-foot par putt on the 18th to break 80. “I didn’t hit many good shots. Consequently, I ended up with a pretty high score.”

## Pereira leads at PGA by 3 strokes

Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — Mito Pereira spent four hours soaring and sliding at Southern Hills in the cold and wind, calling it the biggest round of his life Saturday in the PGA Championship and one that gave him an idea of what to expect Sunday.

Pereira soared to a five-shot lead. He nearly lost it all in six holes. And when a third round as fickle as the wind finally ended, the 27-year-old from Chile stood on the cusp of fame.

He made three birdies over his last six holes, the final hole from just outside 25 feet that he called a bonus, giving him a 1-under 69 and a three-shot lead over Matt Fitzpatrick of England and Will Zalatoris.

“It’s by far the biggest tournament I play, the biggest round of golf. And tomorrow is going to be even bigger,” Pereira said. “Just try and keep it simple. Try to do the things I’ve been doing. Try to not even look at the people that’s around me.”

His inspiration for moments like this is Tiger Woods, who won’t be around. Woods, limping badly on his battered right leg from his car crash 15 months ago, withdrew from the final round after posting a 79, his highest score ever in a PGA Championship.

Pereira was at 9-under 201 as he tries to become Chile’s first major champion and the third player from South America.

If he lacks experience — this is his first PGA and only second major — so do the players closest to him. None of the top six have ever won a major. The leading four players have yet to win on the PGA Tour, the toughest circuit in golf.

Fitzpatrick birdied his last two holes for a 67 and is the most tested of the bunch.

Zalatoris also had a late recovery, though his early damage was significant. Leading by one at the start of the round, confident as ever that his game is suited for the toughest tests, Zalatoris dropped four shots in seven holes to fall five behind.

## Adebayo, Heat top Celtics for 2-1 edge in East

Associated Press

BOSTON — Still angry over a blowout loss in Miami that cost them home-court advantage in the Eastern Conference finals, the Heat jumped to a 26-point first-half lead over the Boston Celtics in Game 3.

Then Bam Adebayo made sure it was enough — just barely — to give Miami a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

The Heat center scored 31 points with 10 rebounds, filling a void left by injured All-Star Jimmy Butler and leading Miami to a 109-103 victory Saturday night. Adebayo also had six assists and four of the Heat’s franchise post-season-record 19 steals.

“He did his version of what Jimmy does: ‘Do what’s necessary for the game,’” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “Tonight we needed the scoring and we needed that offensive punch early on.”

“Then, when Jimmy was out in the second half, he just stabilized us,” Spoelstra added. “It got a little gnarly out there and when it did, we were able to get the ball to Bam and just get something coherent.”

Boston never led, but it cut a 46-20 deficit to one point, 93-92, with 2:40 to play on a three-pointer from Jaylen Brown, who finished with 40 points. Max Strus answered with a three and then Adebayo bounced off defender Al Horford and made a basket at the shot-clock buzzer to give Miami a six-point cushion.

The Celtics never came any closer.

Game 4 is Monday night in Boston.

“In the previous game, as everybody noticed, they beat us like we stole something,” Adebayo said. “That should wake everybody up. Getting beat at home like that, that says it all.”

In a bruising game that saw Butler and the Celtics’ Jayson Tatum and Marcus Smart leave with injuries — though both Boston players returned — Kyle Lowry came back from a four-game absence and scored 11 with six assists for the Heat. P.J. Tucker — like Lowry, a game-time decision — scored 17 for Miami.

Horford scored 20 points with 14 rebounds, and Smart scored 16. Tatum had 10 points on 3-for-14 shooting; he also had six turnovers, and Brown committed seven of the Celtics’ 2022 playoff-high 24 turnovers.

“Six turnovers, and no field goals in the second half — that is unacceptable,” Tatum said. “Honestly, I’ve got to play better. I feel like I left the guys hanging tonight. That’s on me.”



# Binnington injured as Avs drop Blues

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Despite regaining the edge in their second-round series, the Colorado Avalanche aren't satisfied.

Artturi Lehkonen scored twice, Darcy Kuemper stopped 29 shots and the Avalanche beat the St. Louis Blues 5-2 in Game 3 on Saturday night to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Logan O'Connor, Nazem Kadri and Gabriel Landeskog also scored as Colorado bounced back from a 4-1 loss at home two nights earlier, and improved to 3-0 on the road in the postseason.

"Of course it was a good answer from the last game," Lehkonen said. "We still know that we can clean up some stuff in our game and we've got to move on to the next one."

Ryan O'Reilly had a goal and an assist, and Colton Parayko also scored for the Blues, who might've lost goalie Jordan Binnington.

Binnington made three saves before leaving the game 6:45 into the first period after Kadri and St. Louis defenseman Calle Rosen collided into him after getting their skates tangled up in the crease. No penalty was called.

"Look at Kadri's reputation," Blues coach Craig Berube said. "That's all I've got to say."

The coach added that Binnington was being evaluated for a lower body injury.

"I just see a loose puck, really" Kadri said. "I was just kind of sitting behind him and just tried to poke it with my stick. I think their defenseman kind of collided with me and pushed me into him. Had that not been the case, I don't think I would have hit him at all."

After the game, while Kadri was being interviewed on television, he said a St. Louis player threw a water bottle at him and Kadri said he believed it was Binnington.

Ville Husso stopped 19 of 23 shots in relief.

"I think there was a little bit of a momentum swing there," O'Connor said about the Blues changing goaltenders. "I think even before that, we felt our game coming a little more. We weathered it early. They were hard on us to begin with, really closing down in the defensive zone. Then we started rolling things over a little more, getting a little more confidence with the puck."

Parayko scored his second goal of the postseason on a slap shot from the point 3:55 into the game to put the Blues ahead 1-0.

O'Connor got his first at 11:54 to tie it, and Kadri followed with his second of the postseason when he deflected Cale Makar's slap shot past Husso.

Lehkonen scored to put the Avalanche up 3-1 with 2:45 remaining in the second period. Nathan MacKinnon assisted to give him points in seven straight.

# Early Voting holds off Epicenter in Preakness

Associated Press

BALTIMORE—Maybe extra rest isn't such a bad thing for a racehorse after all.

In the Preakness Stakes that was run without the Kentucky Derby winner because Rich Strike's owner felt he needed more time off after his 80-1 upset, Early Voting validated a gutsy decision to skip the Derby and aim for the second leg of the Triple Crown.

Early Voting held off hard-charging favorite Epicenter to win the Preakness on Saturday, rewarding trainer Chad Brown and owner Seth Klarman for their patience. Early Voting stalked the leaders for much of the race before moving into first around the final turn and finished 1¼ lengths ahead of Epicenter, who was second, just like in the Derby.

"We thought he needed a little more seasoning, the extra rest would help him," Klarman said. "He was pretty lightly raced — only three races before today. And as it turned out, that was the right call. We wanted to do right

by the horse, and we're so glad we waited."

The initial plan in the Preakness was for Early Voting not to wait and for jockey Jose Ortiz to take him to the lead. That looked especially important on a day when the dirt track at Pimlico Race Course was favoring speed and making it hard for horses to come from behind down the stretch.

But when Armagnac jumped out to the lead, Ortiz settled Early Voting, who had plenty left in the tank before the finish line with Epicenter threatening inside at the rail.

"I was never worried," Brown said. "Once we had a good target, I actually preferred that. We were fine to go to the lead, but I thought down the back side it was going to take a good horse to beat us. And a good horse did run up on us near the wire, and it was about the only one that could run with us."

After just two Triple Crown winners in the past four-plus decades, Rich Strike owner Rick Dawson took plenty of criticism

for skipping the Preakness because he felt the horse needed more rest to prepare for the Belmont Stakes on June 11.

Some of that might be muted in the aftermath of Early Voting's impressive performance.

"That's very hard to get an owner to pass on the Derby, and they did the right choice," said Ortiz, who won the Preakness for the first time. "The horse, I don't think he was seasoned enough to run in a 20-horse field and they proved that they were right today. I've been on him since he was a baby. We always knew he was very talented, but we knew he was going to be a late developer."

Klarman and Brown cast doubt on the possibility of Early Voting taking on Rich Strike in the Belmont to make it a showdown between the Derby and Preakness winners. They said Early Voting might not be suited for the mile-and-a-half Belmont.

But Early Voting had no problem with 1⅓ miles in the Preakness, which did not have a blaz-

ing fast pace like the Derby.

"It's just beautiful when a plan comes together," Brown said.

Early Voting, who went off at 5-1, gave Brown his second Preakness victory. Cloud Computing, the 2017 winner, is also owned by Klarman's Klaravich Stables.

"Cloud Computing was a once in a lifetime, and now I have a twice in a lifetime," said Klarman, who grew up three blocks from Pimlico and was celebrating his 65th birthday. "Really hard to believe it could've happened."

Early Voting won the race in 1:54.54 and paid \$13.40, \$4.60 and \$3.60. Epicenter paid \$2.80 and \$2.40 for place and show, and Creative Minister was third and paid \$4.20 to show.

Although Epicenter was passed by Rich Strike in the Derby and couldn't make a similar move in the Preakness, it was a familiar feeling for trainer Steve Asmussen and jockey Joel Rosario. A disappointed Asmussen said his horse "just had too much to overcome" after a rough start.

# Betts, Dodgers keep win streak alive

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Mookie Betts stumbled rounding second base — a rare misstep for one of baseball's most all-around All-Stars — and braced his fall with his left hand. Betts popped up clutching his left arm as he bounced back to second.

His stinger temporarily gave the Dodgers quite a scare.

His right arm was at full strength and with one throw, he helped keep Los Angeles' winning streak alive.

Betts homered, doubled and singled, knocked in three runs, threw out the potential go-ahead run at the plate and sparked the Dodgers to their seventh straight win, 7-4 over the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday night.

"That's why he's one of the best players in baseball," manager Dave Roberts said. "What he did in the box, what he did in right field, he's just playing elite baseball right now. We need every bit of it."

Betts, the five-time All-Star and 2018 AL MVP, about did it all with his arm and at the plate to help Los Angeles rally from a 4-1 hole. He also drew a walk.

Betts has reached base in 20 of 21 games, batting .333 (29 for 87) with seven doubles, seven homers, 18 RBIs, 22 runs and a 1.041 OPS in that stretch.

"Once I kind of changed my mind just to enjoy the process in working each and every day, let the game be the game, it's kind of come out being pretty good," Betts said.

**Mets 5-3, Rockies 1-11:** Brian Serven hit a pair of two-run homers — his first two major league hits — to lead host Colorado over New York for a doubleheader split.

C.J. Cron also went deep for the Rockies, and Connor Joe had three hits.

In the opener, Starling Marte homered in his return to the lineup as the Mets rolled.

**Blue Jays 3, Reds 1:** Bo Bichette hit two home runs, pitcher Alek Manoah matched his career-high with eight innings, and host Toronto beat Cincinnati.

Manoah (5-1) allowed one run and seven hits to snap a three-start winless streak and getting his first win since April 28.

**Red Sox 6, Mariners 5:** Rafael Devers hit two homers, Christian Vázquez had a tie-breaking single in the eighth inning and host Boston's bullpen held Seattle scoreless for six innings.

Devers drove in three runs and had three hits for the Red Sox, who posted their season-high fourth straight win.

**Padres 2, Giants 1:** Joe Musgrove pitched seven scoreless innings of four-hit ball to remain unbeaten, Manny Machado homered and visiting San Diego beat San Francisco.

Wilmer Flores homered for the Giants, who lost their third straight.

**Braves 4, Marlins 3:** William Contreras homered twice, Ronald Acuña Jr. extended his two-season on-base streak to 28 games and visiting Atlanta beat Miami.

Acuña singled, walked twice, stole a base and scored a run. His string began last summer and was interrupted when the star outfielder injured his knee in Miami on July 10, ending his year.

**Diamondbacks 7, Cubs 6 (10):** Daulton Varsho drilled a two-out, three-RBI double in the 10th inning then scored on a throwing error by Andrelton Simmons to give visiting Arizona a comeback win over Chicago.

The Diamondbacks only got one hit off Cubs starter Justin Steele, but came to life against the bullpen, riding a three-run eighth inning

into extras. Rowan Wick (1-1) gave up Varsho's double.

**Cardinals 5, Pirates 4:** Paul Goldschmidt went 4-for-5 with two doubles and two RBIs to lead visiting St. Louis over Pittsburgh.

Goldschmidt extended his hitting streak to 14 games and his on-base streak to 28.

**Rays 6, Orioles 1:** Randy Arozarena hit a pair of homers, Jeffrey Springs threw shutout ball into the sixth inning and visiting Tampa Bay spoiled the debut of Baltimore's top prospect Adley Rutschman. The switch-hitting Rutschman was the No. 1 pick in the 2019 draft and is ranked as baseball's No. 1 prospect by MLB Pipeline. He batted sixth and had a stand-up triple in the seventh for his first major league hit.

**Twins 9, Royals 2:** Joe Ryan struck out six and visiting Minnesota capped the game with a four-run ninth inning in a win over Kansas City.

**Astros 2, Rangers 1:** Justin Verlander had another strong start, leading host Houston over Texas.

Verlander (6-1) scattered six singles across six scoreless innings without a walk to earn his major league-leading sixth win. The 39-year-old right-hander tied a season high with eight strikeouts.

**Brewers 5, Nationals 1:** Andrew McCutchen hit a leadoff home run, Luis Urias added a solo shot and a defensive gem, and Brandon Woodruff allowed one run in six effective innings for host Milwaukee in a win over Washington.

**Angels 5, Athletics 3:** Mike Trout scored his 1,000th run in the majors, Michael Lorenzen threw six innings of three-hit ball for his fifth win and host Los Angeles snapped a four-game losing streak with a win over Oakland.

## Anderson: Yankees' Donaldson made racist remark

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chicago White Sox star shortstop Tim Anderson accused Yankees slugger Josh Donaldson of making a racist remark by calling him Jackie Robinson during Saturday's game against New York.

"He just made a, you know, disrespectful comment," said Anderson, who is Black. "Basically, it was trying to call me Jackie Robinson. Like, 'What's

up, Jackie?'"

"I don't think it was called for," Anderson added after New York's 7-5 win at Yankee Stadium.

Major League Baseball is investigating the incident and speaking to those involved.

White Sox manager Tony La Russa called Donaldson's comment "racist," adding, "That's as strong as it gets."

Asked how he heard it, Anderson agreed with La Russa's

charge, saying: "Same, along that same line, yeah."

Anderson, an All-Star who is among the leading Black voices in baseball, told Sports Illustrated in 2019: "I kind of feel like today's Jackie Robinson ... because he changed the game, and I feel like I'm getting to a point to where I need to change the game."

Donaldson said that early in the game, "I called him Jackie." The white ballplayer also said

he has "joked around" with Anderson in the past using the same reference and mentioned that Sports Illustrated interview.

"My meaning of that is not any term trying to be racist by any fact of the matter," Donaldson said. "Obviously, he deemed it disrespectful," he said. "And look, if he did, I apologize. That's not what I was trying to do by any manner and that's what happens."