

## Trump found guilty on all 34 charges

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Donald Trump became the first former American president to be convicted of felony crimes Thursday as a New York jury found him guilty of all 34 charges in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election through a hush money payment to a porn actor who said the two had sex.

Trump sat stone-faced while the verdict was read after more than nine hours of deliberations.

"This was a rigged, disgraceful trial," an angry Trump said outside the courtroom. "The real verdict is going to be Nov. 5 by the people. They know what happened, and everyone knows what happened here."

Judge Juan M. Merchan set sentencing for July 11, just days before the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, where GOP leaders, who remained resolute in their support in the aftermath of the verdict, are expected to formally make him their nominee.

The verdict is a stunning legal reckoning for Trump and ex-

poses him to potential prison time in the city where his manipulations of the tabloid press helped catapult him from a real estate tycoon to reality television star and ultimately president.

As he seeks to reclaim the White House in this year's election, the judgment presents voters with another test of their willingness to accept Trump's boundary-breaking behavior.

Trump is expected to appeal the verdict and will face an awkward dynamic as he returns to the campaign trail tagged with convictions.

On Friday, Trump spoke to reporters at his namesake tower in Manhattan. As defiant as ever, he argued the verdict was illegitimate and driven by politics. In a message aimed to galvanize his supporters, he declared: "If they can do this to me, they can do this to anyone."

The falsifying business records charges carry up to four years behind bars, though Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg would not say Thursday whether prosecutors intend to

seek imprisonment, and it is not clear whether the judge — who earlier in the trial warned of jail time for gag order violations — would impose that punishment even if asked.

The conviction, and even imprisonment, will not bar Trump from continuing his White House pursuit.

Trump faces three other felony indictments, but the New York case may be the only one to reach a conclusion before the November election, adding to the significance of the outcome.

The case's general allegations have also been known to voters for years and, while tawdry, are widely seen as less grievous than the allegations he faces in three other cases that charge him with subverting American democracy and mishandling national security secrets.

Ahead of the verdict, Trump's campaign had argued that, no matter the jury's decision, the outcome was unlikely to sway voters and that the election would be decided by issues such as inflation.

Even so, the verdict is likely to

give President Joe Biden and fellow Democrats space to sharpen arguments that Trump is unfit for office, though the White House offered only a muted statement that it respected the rule of law.

Conversely, the decision will provide fodder for the presumptive Republican nominee to advance his unsupported claims that he is victimized by a criminal justice system he insists is politically motivated against him.

After the verdict, Trump lawyer Todd Blanche said in television news interviews that he did not believe Trump received a fair trial and that the team would appeal based on the judge's refusal to recuse himself and because of what he suggested was excessive pretrial publicity.

Republicans showed no sign of loosening their embrace of the party leader, with House Speaker Mike Johnson lamenting what he called "a shameful day in American history." He called the case "a purely political exercise, not a legal one."

## US, UK strike in Houthis in wake of attacks on ships

*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Joint British-U.S. airstrikes targeting Yemen's Houthi rebels killed at least 16 people and wounded 42 others, the rebels said Friday, the highest publicly acknowledged death toll from the multiple rounds of strikes carried out over the rebels' attacks on shipping.

Three U.S. officials described the strikes Thursday as hitting a

wide range of underground facilities, missile launchers, command and control sites, a Houthi vessel and other facilities. They called it a response to a recent surge in attacks by the Iran-backed militia group on ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden over the Israel-Hamas war.

The U.S. F/A-18 fighter jets involved in the strikes took off from the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier in the Red Sea, officials said. Other

U.S. warships in the region also participated.

But the Houthis focused Friday morning on a strike they said struck a building housing Hodeida Radio and civilian homes in the port city on the Red Sea.

Their Al Masirah satellite news channel aired images of one bloodied man being carried down stairs and others in the hospital, receiving aid. It said all the dead and nearly all the

wounded from the strikes came from there.

In the United Kingdom, the country's Defense Ministry said that Royal Air Force Typhoon FGR4s conducted strikes on both Hodeida and further south in Ghulayfiqah. It described its targets as "buildings identified as housing drone ground control facilities and providing storage for very long-range drones, as well as surface-to-air weapons."

# Ukraine allies ready for arms, advisers to go deeper into war

*Bloomberg News*

Ukrainian allies are bolstering efforts to shore up Kyiv's defenses with the U.S. and Germany authorizing attacks inside Russian territory and France assembling a coalition to send European military trainers into the country.

President Joe Biden's administration and the government of Chancellor Olaf Scholz said they would allow some Ukrainian attacks inside Russia with their weapons as Kyiv fends off a fresh offensive in the northeast. The U.S. and Germany have until now been particularly cautious about such strikes because of the risk of a broader conflict.

French President Emmanuel Macron meanwhile is in talks to forge a coalition aimed at sending military training personnel into Ukraine, people familiar with the matter said on

condition of anonymity. He may unveil the effort at a World War II commemoration ceremony in Normandy on June 6, they said.

The new initiatives by top NATO allies mark a shift as momentum has swung to the Kremlin, which has exploited Kyiv's dwindling ammunition stocks and manpower. As U.S. weaponry makes its way to the front line after months of delay, allies are keen to repel a counteroffensive by Moscow that's involved gains in Ukraine's east and a fresh attack on the northeast.

"Together with our closest allies and in close dialog with the Ukrainian government, we are continuously adapting our support to the development of the war," Scholz's chief spokesman, Steffen Hebestreit, said in a statement on Friday.

The training assistance, fo-

cusing on areas such as demining and equipment maintenance, would initially involve a limited number of personnel before dispatching a larger group potentially numbering in the hundreds, one of the people said. NATO members from the Baltic region, including Lithuania and Estonia, have already expressed willingness to send trainers to Ukraine.

Macron may announce the coalition at the anniversary of D-Day, marking World War II allies' 1944 ground invasion of Europe ahead of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Some NATO allies have quietly sent advisers to help Ukrainian forces operate western equipment, but sending more coordinated groups of personnel to aid in Ukraine's defense would amount to a significant step by allies in the military alliance.

## Harris tells academy graduates of past, future

*AP/Report for America*

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Vice President Kamala Harris spoke Thursday to a sea of white-capped graduates of the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado, looking back at U.S. airpower during D-Day and then forward to this generation's edge on technological innovation, such as artificial intelligence.

"Eighty years ago, over the beaches of Normandy, America won control of the skies, and we have kept it ever since," said Harris to the 974 graduates.

"Our nation is counting on you to preserve and defend that strength, including, I will add, through your ability to innovate," Harris said.

Harris praised the current roles the Air Force and Space Force are playing across the world, including U.S. air patrols deterring Russia on NATO's eastern flank, the rivalry with China in the Indo-Pacific, weapons shipments to Ukraine and defending Israel from attacks by Iran.

"America's national security and global security depend on our strength in the sky and in space," said Harris to the arrayed cadets who will become second lieutenants in the Air Force or Space Force. "America's security relies on you, I know you will make your country proud."

Harris highlighted the graduates' technological literacy, having grown up with computers and the internet, and encouraged them to take up the torch of innovation, including around AI, as warfare evolves.

## US, Chinese defense officials seek to restore communications amid tensions

*Associated Press*

SINGAPORE — U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with his Chinese counterpart for more than an hour Friday, as the two countries seek to repair lines of communications between their militaries that could be critical as tensions continue to rise between the two in the Indo-Pacific region.

The meeting behind closed doors with Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun was the first in person for the top defense officials since contacts between the American and Chinese militaries broke down in 2022 af-

ter then-U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan, infuriating Beijing.

It took place on the sidelines of the Shangri-La defense forum, Asia's premier security conference, which features defense officials, government leaders and diplomats from around the world.

Austin, who is due to address the conference on Saturday, reiterated the American position to Dong during their talks, according to Pentagon spokesperson Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder.

"The secretary made clear that the United States will continue to fly, sail, and operate —

safely and responsibly — wherever international law allows," Ryder said. "He underscored the importance of respect for high seas freedom of navigation guaranteed under international law, especially in the South China Sea."

Since territorial hostilities with China surged last year in the South China Sea, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s administration has taken steps to forge new security alliances with a number of Asian and Western countries and allowed a U.S. military presence in more Philippine bases under a 2014 defense pact.

# GOP states challenge new rule on Title IX

Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The Biden administration has put on hold a plan to prohibit across-the-board bans on transgender athletes on school teams during an election year in which Republicans are rallying around restrictions on trans youths. But GOP state leaders are making sure voters know the issue is still on the table.

At least two dozen Republican-controlled states have sued over a different federal regulation being implemented to protect the rights of transgender students that they argue would require governments to allow transgender girls to play on girls teams.

The rule they are challenging doesn't specifically mention transgender athletes. It spells out that Title IX, the landmark 1972 law originally passed to address women's rights at schools and colleges receiving federal money, also bars discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Republicans now are trying to

keep the focus on sports, appealing to parents' and athletes' sensitivities over fairness in competition. They have student athletes signing on as plaintiffs and appearing alongside attorneys general at news conferences announcing the lawsuits.

The states argue the new rule would open the door to forcing schools to allow transgender athletes to compete on teams aligning with their gender identity, even if the rule doesn't say so specifically. They may have a point.

The new regulation "gives a pretty good sense that says, 'You can't have a rule that says if you're transgender, you can't participate,'" said Harper Seldin, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, which has represented trans athletes in unrelated cases.

He said that while he hopes separate sports-related regulations will back that up, that's not yet clear.

Advocates for transgender athletes say the GOP officials' claims are more rooted in politics than reality and are aimed

more at undercutting litigation against state restrictions on transgender athletes.

"It is puzzling that these folks are talking about challenging a rule that does not do what they say is the thing they're objecting to," said Cathryn Oakley, senior director of legal policy for the Human Rights Campaign, a leading LGBTQ+ advocacy group. "It's pretty hard to see how they can expect to be taken seriously when they don't seem to know what the content of the rule they're challenging is."

And many transgender youths and their families say restrictions unfairly paint trans athletes as a risk. Erik Cole-Johnson, a New Hampshire father who spoke against a proposed ban, said being able to compete in cross-country running and Nordic skiing has allowed his daughter to flourish.

"My daughter's not a boogeyman; my daughter's not a threat," he told a state Senate panel in April as it heard the bill, now on Republican Gov. Chris Sununu's desk. "Transgender

girls are not a threat."

New Hampshire is not among the states challenging the rule. The GOP challenges have been filed in several federal circuit courts in hopes one will halt the new rule before it takes effect in August. Several states, including Arkansas and Oklahoma, have also said they don't plan to comply.

The White House originally planned to include a new policy forbidding schools from enacting outright bans on transgender athletes, but that was put on hold in what was widely seen as a political move to avert controversy before the fall election. The Education Department said it has received more than 150,000 public comments on the athletics policy but didn't give a timeline for release of the rule.

A lawsuit filed by Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach said the lack of guidance on athletics in the rule that instead is taking effect is a "red herring," given the department's default position that Title IX doesn't allow discrimination based on sex.

## Boeing outlines plans to fix safety, quality issues

Associated Press

Boeing officials explained their plan to improve manufacturing quality and safety during a three-hour meeting Thursday with federal officials, who will continue restrictions they placed on the company after one of its jetliners suffered a blowout of a fuselage panel in January.

Federal Aviation Administration chief Mike Whitaker said the plan is comprehensive and includes encouraging Boeing employees to speak up about safety concerns.

"This is a guide for a new way for Boeing to do business," Whitaker told reporters after the meeting. "Boeing

has laid out their road map, and now they need to execute."

Boeing released an 11-page summary of its "Product Safety and Quality Plan," which described steps the company is taking, including increased inspections and tighter controls over suppliers. It also says how Boeing will measure its improvement.

CEO David Calhoun, who announced after the Jan. 5 blowout during an Alaska Airlines flight that he would step down at the end of the year, said the document was crafted from comments by employees, the FAA, airlines and independent experts.

## Roberts declines request to discuss court's ethics

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice John Roberts on Thursday declined an invitation to meet with Democratic senators to talk about Supreme Court ethics and the controversy over flags that flew outside homes owned by Justice Samuel Alito.

Roberts' response came in a letter to the senators a day after Alito separately wrote them and House members to reject their demands that he recuse himself from major Supreme Court cases involving former President Donald Trump and the Jan. 6 rioters because of the flags, which are like those carried by rioters at the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., a member of the Judiciary panel, had written Roberts a week ago to ask for the meeting and that Roberts take steps to ensure that Alito recuses himself from any cases before the court concerning the Jan. 6 attack or the Republican former president's attempts to overturn his 2020 election defeat.

"I must respectfully decline your request for a meeting," Roberts wrote.

Justices decide for themselves when to step aside from cases, Roberts noted. Alito said he concluded nothing about the flags required his recusal.



# Israel confirms forces are operating in central Rafah

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military confirmed Friday that its forces are operating in central parts of Rafah in its expanding offensive in the southern Gaza city.

Israel launched its ground assault into the city on May 6, triggering an exodus of around 1 million Palestinians out of the city and throwing U.N. humanitarian operations based in the area into turmoil. Still, U.S. President Joe Biden has said Israel has not crossed the “red lines” of a full-fledged invasion that he has urged it against.

Friday’s statement by the Israeli military suggested its forces have been operating in most parts of the city. For its first weeks, the Israeli assault focused on Rafah’s eastern districts and areas close to the border with Egypt. Israeli troops

seized the Rafah crossing into Egypt on the first day of the offensive and have since claimed control over the Philadelphia Corridor, a road running the length of the Gaza-Egypt border on the Gazan side.

Earlier this week, Israeli troops also moved into Rafah’s western district of Tel al-Sultan, where heavy clashes with Hamas fighters have been reported by witnesses.

In its statement Friday, the military said its troops in central Rafah had uncovered Hamas rocket launchers and tunnels and dismantled a weapons storage site of the group. It did not specify where in central Rafah the operations were taking place, but previous statements and witness reports have pointed to raids in the Shaboura refugee camp and other sites near the city center.

Israel has said an offensive in Rafah is vital to uprooting Hamas fighters in its military’s campaign to destroy the group after its Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel.

Palestinians who fled the city have scattered around southern and central Gaza, most of them living in squalid tent camps. Up to around 300,000 people are believed to remain in the area, some of them still in the central urban parts of the city, a U.N. official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

Shaina Low, a spokesperson for the Norwegian Refugee Council, a humanitarian group that operates in the area, said most have flocked to rural area west of the city near the coast — an area that has seen deadly Israeli strikes and shelling the past week.

## US inflation gauge rises at slowest pace of year

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A price gauge closely tracked by the Federal Reserve cooled slightly last month, a sign that inflation may be easing after running high in the first three months of this year.

Friday’s report from the Commerce Department showed that an index that excludes volatile food and energy costs rose 0.2% from March to April, down from 0.3% in the previous month. It was the mildest such increase so far this year.

Measured from 12 months earlier, such so-called “core” prices climbed 2.8% in April, the same as in March. Overall inflation increased 0.3% from March to April, the same as in the previous month, and 2.7% from a year earlier, also unchanged from March’s figure.

The Fed tends to favor the inflation gauge that the government issued Friday — the personal consumption expenditures price index — over the better-known consumer price index. The PCE index tries to account for changes in how people shop when inflation jumps. It can capture, for example, when consumers switch from pricier national brands to cheaper store brands.

Inflation fell sharply in the second half of last year but then leveled off above the Fed’s 2% target in the first few months of 2024. With polls showing that costlier rents, groceries and gasoline are angering voters as the presidential campaign intensifies, Donald Trump and his Republican allies have sought to heap the blame on President Joe Biden.

Friday’s report also showed that income growth slowed and spending cooled sharply in April.

## Police arrest ‘many’ at Israel-Hamas war protest at UC Santa Cruz, school says

Associated Press

Police in riot gear surrounded arm-in-arm protesters Friday at the University of California, Santa Cruz, to remove an encampment and barricades where pro-Palestinian demonstrations have blocked the main entrance to the campus this week. Many people were arrested, the university said.

Campus, local and state police swarmed the protesters, and video from local news stations showed officers telling people to leave, then taking away signs and part of a barricade. There appeared to be some pushing and shoving between police and protesters. Officers carried zip ties and appeared to detain a few people.

“For weeks, encampment participants were given repeated, clear direction to remove the encampment and cease blocking access to numerous campus resources and to the campus itself,” Scott Hernandez-Jason, a spokesperson for the university, said in a statement Friday.

“They were notified that their actions were unlawful and unsafe. And this morning they were also given multiple warnings by law enforcement to leave the area and disperse to avoid arrest. Unfortunately, many refused to follow this directive and many individuals are being arrested,” he said.

It wasn’t known if anyone was injured. The university was holding classes remotely Friday.

Graduate student workers at the school continued a strike that began last week over the university system’s treatment of pro-Palestinian protesters.

Protest camps sprang up across the U.S. and in Europe this spring as students demanded their universities stop doing business with Israel or companies that they say support its war in Gaza. Organizers seek to amplify calls to end Israel’s war with Hamas, which they describe as a genocide against the Palestinians.

The Associated Press has recorded at least 83 incidents since April 18 in which arrests were made at campus protests across the U.S. More than 3,025 people have been arrested at 62 colleges and universities.

# Doncic, Mavericks topple Timberwolves

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Luka Doncic was in his element, hitting shots from everywhere on the court, hushing the crowd and flashing those sly smiles as the Dallas Mavericks delivered a knockout performance.

Now one of the global sport's young superstars gets his first trip to the NBA Finals.

Doncic had a 20-point first quarter on his way to 36 points for his high this postseason, and the Mavericks beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 124-103 on

Thursday night to breeze through the Western Conference finals in five games.

"He let his teammates know that it's time and they've got to take it up a notch," coach Jason Kidd said. "He sent the invites out, and they all came."

Kyrie Irving also scored 36 points for the Mavericks, who built a 29-point halftime lead on 61% shooting to deflate the once-energized crowd before most fans got up for their first snack break.

The Mavs went up by 36 in the

third quarter, consistently keeping the Timberwolves offense all out of whack.

"I just had that utmost confidence when I was going to sleep last night and went to shoot-around this morning," Irving said, "just feeling like we were going to play one of our best games."

The Mavs, the No. 5 seed in the West, have a full week to rest before the NBA Finals begin in Boston on June 6 for the franchise's first appearance since winning the championship in

2011 when Kidd was playing for them.

Anthony Edwards scored 28 points and Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points and 12 rebounds for the third-seeded Wolves, who met their match with the defense-smashing duo of Doncic and Irving after stifling Phoenix in a first-round sweep and then dethroning defending champion Denver in a seven-game series.

"We never clicked all together as a team in this series, not even one game," Edwards said.

## The NBA Finals are set, with Boston to face Dallas

Associated Press

Kyrie Irving returning to Boston. Luka Doncic's first trip to the title round. Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum, getting another chance at a ring. Kristaps Porzingis facing his former team, too.

Pick a storyline. There are many in these NBA Finals.

The matchup is now set: It'll be Boston against Dallas for the Larry O'Brien Trophy, a series that starts on the Celtics' home floor on June 6 — meaning everyone will be sitting around and waiting for about a week, a byproduct of the Celtics and Mavericks making short work of their respective conference finals.

Dallas eliminated Minnesota on Thursday night, winning 124-103 to finish off a 4-1 victory in the Western Conference finals. Boston's spot was clinched Monday night, after the Celtics beat Indiana 108-105 to cap a 4-0 series in the East.

"We're going to the NBA Finals," Doncic said during the

on-court celebration in Minneapolis on Thursday night. "Just can't believe it, man."

It's Boston's second time in the finals in the past three seasons, after falling to Golden State in six games in 2022. Dallas is in the title round for the first time since winning the championship against Miami in 2011.

Much will be made, and rightly so, of Irving and the Celtics meeting with a title on the line. Boston made a blockbuster move in 2017 by trading for Irving, with the hopes of seeing him grace its parquet floor in the NBA Finals.

Hey, it'll happen now — just not as the sides envisioned seven years ago.

Irving was an All-Star in both of his Boston seasons, then left as a free agent to join the Brooklyn Nets in 2019 a few months after saying — vowing, really — that he would be staying with the Celtics. There have been some interesting moments in his returns to Boston; he's been

routinely booed and had a water bottle thrown at him, while he's been fined for making an obscene gesture and raised ire by stomping on the Celtics' leprechaun logo at midcourt following a Brooklyn playoff win there.

"Boston's in the way and in between our goal," Irving said when the West finals ended Thursday night.

Irving's message to the Mavericks: Enjoy this moment.

"Nothing's guaranteed in this league, especially making it to the finals every year," said Irving, who won a title playing alongside LeBron James with Cleveland in 2016. "We couldn't have done it without a collective responsibility, us working together every single day, practicing hard, doing the little things. We should reward ourselves by playing hard."

Porzingis spent nearly three years in Dallas after being traded there by the New York Knicks in 2019. He's in his first season in Boston and has been a

huge part of the Celtics' success — but got hurt in Round 1 against Miami and hasn't played since, though it seems reasonable to think he may be ready for the NBA Finals.

"He's progressing well and he's working really hard to get back," Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla said.

The Celtics won the two meetings against the Mavericks in the regular season, 119-110 at Dallas on Jan. 22 and then 138-110 in Boston on March 1.

The Mavericks didn't have an answer for Tatum; he had 39 points in the January game, 32 in the March matchup. The Celtics didn't have an answer for Doncic; he had triple-doubles in both games — 33 points, 18 rebounds and 13 assists in January, then 37 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists in March.

"This group believes," said Mavericks coach Jason Kidd, who played for the Dallas team that won a title in 2011. "They believe in each other. ... This is a special group."

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# Panthers beat Rangers 3-2 in Game 5

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — The Florida Panthers are on the verge of going back to the Stanley Cup Final for the second straight year and third time in franchise history because they are finding ways to win the tight ones.

Anton Lundell broke a tie with 9:38 left and the Panthers beat the New York Rangers 3-2 on Thursday night in Game 5 of an Eastern Conference final where the teams have been separated by one goal the past four games. Unlike the previous three, this one didn't need extra time.

Gustav Forsling and Sam Bennett also scored, and Sergei Bobrovsky made 25 saves to help the Panthers — who lost to Vegas last year for the title — win their second straight in the best-of-seven series.

Bennett said the Panthers aren't talking about a return trip to the Cup final. They are focused on one game at a time, although, the memory of last season is a positive.

"I think it helps a lot," Bennett said. "Just to know the grind. How hard it is. How much it takes to have success — to make it this far — it takes a lot. We learned a lot last year."

Chris Kreider and Alexis Lafreniere scored for the Rangers, and Igor Shesterkin made 34 saves in another magnificent effort. The Presidents' Trophy winners need to win two straight to return to the final for the first time since 2014. Mike Zibanejad had two assists.

The Panthers can end the series Saturday in Florida. If a seventh game is necessary, it will be at Madison Square Garden, where the Panthers have won twice this series.

This is the first time the Rangers have faced elimination in the playoffs this season.

"There is nothing to say," Rangers captain Jacob Trouba said. "Your back is against the wall. We have to bring our best game to survive another day."

The go-ahead goal came after the Rangers lost the puck in the

Florida end. Eetu Luostarinen got the puck, found Lundell at the Rangers' blue line. His shot from the right circle beat Shesterkin.

While it appeared the puck was deflected, many of the Panthers gave veteran Vladimir Tarasenko credit for attempting to tip the puck in front of Shesterkin. They thought it might have affected the goaltender.

"We had chance after chance and just kept grinding," said Lundell, who along with Luostarinen was stopped in close by Shesterkin on shots made between their legs earlier in the period. "We had some great chances. Finally we got the goal."

Bennett added an empty-net goal with 1:52 left and it proved necessary when Lafreniere scored with 50 seconds to play. The Rangers never got another shot.

"As the emotion increases in this series — the closer you get to the end, every single play, small play counts," said Florida

coach Paul Maurice, whose team blocked 17 shots and had one giveaway.

Rangers coach Peter Laviolette said the series has been tight.

"We need to capitalize on some of the ones (chances) that we did generate, and we weren't able to do that tonight," he said. "It was like I said, it was tight. The game was tight. I thought we had looks and I thought we had chances and they didn't go in. Came down to one goal. So it's a 2-1 game."

Kreider and Zibanejad, who were scoreless in the first four games of the series, combined to give New York the lead with a short-handed goal at 2:04 of the second period.

Kreider broke up a Florida play at the blue line, nudged the puck to Zibanejad and then took a return pass entering the offensive zone and beat Bobrovsky with a nifty backhand move, evoking a roar that seemed to have Madison Square Garden shaking.

## Oh, Nelly! Korda makes a 10 on one hole, posts an 80

*Associated Press*

LANCASTER, Pa. — Nelly Korda was not even three holes into the U.S. Women's Open when she dropped to a crouch and bowed her head in disbelief after her third straight shot — all of them from inside 70 feet away — tumbled into a stream.

She walked off the par-3 12th hole at Lancaster Country Club with a 10.

It didn't get much better from there.

"Making a 10 on a par 3 will definitely not do you any good at a U.S. Open," Korda said when her nightmare start to the biggest championship in women's golf ended with an 80, leaving her 12 shots out of the lead.

"Just a bad day in the office."

Korda came into the U.S.

Women's Open as an overwhelming favorite, with six victories in her last seven tournaments, including a major that tied an LPGA record for five wins in a row.

That's what made the most imperfect 10 so shocking.

It didn't help that two groups were on the tee at the 161-yard 12th hole — Korda had about a 25-minute wait — and she watched trouble unfold before she pulled a club. In the group ahead, Gaby Lopez came up short of the water. Ingrid Lindblad's tee shot rolled into the water.

Korda curiously chose 6-iron — most players not as long as her hit 7-iron — and it took a hard hop into a back bunker. And then the trouble began.

Korda said she had a leaf under her golf ball, and the bunker shot came out a little hot and rolled — and rolled — past the front pin, off the false front and disappeared into the stream.

"Couldn't really do anything about that," she said. "Yeah, just hit some really bad chips, over and over again."

She played a low pitch up the slope, but it banged into the hill and rolled back down into the water.

She took another penalty drop, played another low pitch that was only slightly better, still not nearly enough to avoid rolling back into the water.

She got it right the third time, only to miss an 8-foot putt and take septuple-bogey 10. Korda walked off the green, removed

her visor and placed her hand over her forehead for a few seconds, then headed to the 13th tee.

A video crew kept the camera fixed on the walking scorer as "+1" was changed to a "+8" next to her name.

She still had 15 holes ahead of her on a course that didn't present a lot of scoring chances. Only three players from the morning wave broke par at 1-under 69. Her objective?

"I just didn't really want to shoot 80," Korda said. "And I just kept making bogeys."

It was her second straight round of 80 in the U.S. Women's Open, separated by 11 months and some 3,000 miles — Korda shot 80 in the final round at Pebble Beach last summer.



# Nats take four-game series over Braves

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Trevor Williams combined with four relievers on a five-hitter and Washington beat Atlanta 3-1 on Thursday night for the Nationals' first four-game series win over the Braves since 2016.

Williams (5-0) gave up only four hits and one run in 5½ innings. It marked the seventh start in his last eight outings he has allowed no more than one earned run. The right-hander lowered his ERA to 2.22.

The Nationals won three of four for their first four-game series win against Atlanta since Aug. 18-21, 2016 — the year before the Braves moved to Truist Park. The Braves have won the season series against the Nationals in each of the last six years, overlapping Atlanta's six-year run of NL East titles.

Washington closer Kyle Finnegan walked Ozzie Albies to open the ninth. Albies stole second, but Finnegan retired the next three batters for his 15th save.

Joey Meneses gave Washington a 2-0 lead over Ray Kerr (1-2) with a two-run double in a three-run third inning.

**Milwaukee 6, Cubs 4:** Gary Sánchez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning and host Milwaukee defeated Chicago.

The NL Central-leading Brewers won three of four games against Chicago in a series that marked Cubs manager Craig Counsell's return to American Family Field. Counsell, the winningest manager in Brewers history, was showered with boos every time he left the dugout this week.

After the Cubs twice came from behind with game-tying homers off Bryan Hudson (4-0), Sánchez delivered the biggest shot of all to put Milwaukee back in front for good. His 422-foot drive over the center-field wall came on a 3-2 sweeper from Tyson Miller.

The Brewers earlier wasted a

golden opportunity to score in the eighth. After Luke Little (1-1) walked Christian Yelich and Willy Adames to start the inning, pinch-hitter Owen Miller grounded into a double play on a 3-2 pitch.

Tyson Miller came out of the bullpen and gave up the towering homer from Sánchez.

**Rays 6, Athletics 5 (12):** Jose Siri tied the game in the ninth with a home run and Richie Palacios hit an RBI single in the 12th to give host Tampa Bay a win over Oakland.

Siri pulled the Rays even at 4 on his second homer of the game, a solo shot off Mason Miller. It was the rookie's first blown save in 12 chances.

Abraham Toro started the 10th with an RBI single off Pete Fairbanks, who then got out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam without further damage. Randy Arozarena had a sacrifice fly to keep the Rays in it.

In the 12th, Richard Lovelady (1-3) left runners stranded at second and third. Palacios' RBI then gave Tampa Bay its second win of the three-game series and third in its past 10 games.

Tyler Ferguson (0-1) got the loss for the A's after pitching 1½ innings. T.J. McFarland replaced him in the 12th and gave up the hit to Palacios.

Isaac Paredes had a two-run first-inning homer before Siri had a solo shot in the second against Oakland starter Hogan Harris.

**Twins 7, Royals 6:** Ryan Jeffers homered twice and Carlos Correa added a two-out, bases-clearing triple in the sixth inning and host Minnesota rallied from a four-run deficit for a win over Kansas City.

Reliever Chris Stratton (2-3) allowed pinch-hitter Max Kepler's RBI single and walked two batters to load the bases with two outs.

Correa lifted a 3-1 fastball down the right-field line to break a 4-4 tie. It was Correa's second triple of the season.

Jeffers' first home run of the game, a two-run blast into the left-field bullpen in the bottom of the fourth, cut the Royals' 4-0 lead in half. Jeffers, who leads the Twins with 12 home runs, had gone 5 for 43 since his previous homer on May 14.

Reliever Caleb Thielbar (2-1) got the win for the Twins, who took three of four in the series.

**Astros 4, Mariners 0:** Spencer Arrighetti allowed two hits over six shutout innings to help visiting Houston beat Seattle and avoid a four-game series sweep.

Alex Bregman hit a two-run homer in the fourth against Mariners starter Logan Gilbert (3-3). Kyle Tucker led off the inning with a single and Bregman put Houston up by a pair of runs with the shot that barely cleared the left-field wall.

Bregman added a triple in the sixth inning that just escaped the grasp of a leaping Julio Rodriguez in center field, and scored on a ground ball to second base from Victor Caratini to give Houston a four-run lead.

Caratini also hit a solo homer in the fifth against Gilbert, who allowed four earned runs and eight hits over six innings of work.

While the Astros found success against Gilbert, the Mariners offense couldn't do much against Arrighetti (3-5), who allowed just a pair of singles while walking three and striking out a career-high eight Seattle hitters.

**Mets 3, Diamondbacks 2:** J.D. Martinez hit a go-ahead, eighth-inning home run, Francisco Lindor had four hits and drove in the tying run after Pete Alonso doubled as a pinch hitter and host New York kept up their domination of Arizona.

Arizona ace Zac Gallen got hurt on his sixth pitch, forcing the NL champions to use relief pitchers for nearly the entire game. The Diamondbacks then wasted a two-run lead and lost their fourth straight, matching

their season high of six games under .500. Arizona has scored nine runs in its last six games.

New York stopped a four-game losing streak and won for just the second time in 10 games. The Mets have won 20 of their last 24 games against the Diamondbacks and 16 of their last 18 against Arizona at Citi Field.

Ketel Marte had a two-run double in the third off rookie Christian Scott, who allowed four hits in six innings.

Lindor hit a third-inning homer against Brandon Hughes and an RBI single in the seventh against Ryan Thompson (2-2) after Alonso doubled in his first pinch-hit showing since 2021.

**Tigers 5, Red Sox 0:** Jack Flaherty allowed one hit over 6½ innings, Akil Baddoo, Riley Greene and Gio Urshela hit home runs and visiting Detroit beat Boston.

Flaherty (2-4) carried a no-hitter through 6½ innings. His bid was snapped when Boston outfielder Rob Refsnyder singled into left field on a 3-2 pitch. The only other Red Sox player to reach against Flaherty came in the fifth when Rafael Devers opened the inning with a walk.

Flaherty struck out nine and threw 66 of his 104 pitches for strikes. He was still featuring a mid 90s fastball before getting taken out with Detroit up 2-0.

**Yankees 8, Angels 3:** Aaron Judge hit his 275th home run, Juan Soto broke things open with a bases-clearing triple in the seventh inning and visiting New York beat Los Angeles when a pair of streaks ended.

Anthony Volpe went 0 for 4, ending his hitting streak at 21 games. He matched Arizona's Ketel Marte for the longest in the majors this season.

Carlos Rodón (7-2) allowed three runs in six-plus innings, ending the starting staff's MLB-record run in which they had gone at least five innings and allowed two runs or fewer at 16 games.

# Stearns scores upset win at French Open

Associated Press

PARIS — Good thing the French tennis federation installed artificial lights on every court at Roland Garros in 2021, because they sure did come in handy Thursday, allowing match after match to stretch deep into the night, including one particular result that stood out: unseeded American Peyton Stearns' elimination of No. 10 Daria Kasatkina.

All of the waiting around all day to get on court did not disrupt Stearns one bit, and the 22-year-old from Cincinnati, who won an NCAA singles title at the University of Texas, used 17 forehand winners through the cold, damp and slow conditions to defeat Kasatkina 7-5, 6-2 in a match that didn't start until after 9 p.m. and didn't finish until after 10:30 p.m.

"You just kind of don't know what to expect," the 62nd-ranked Stearns said about waiting to get on court as showers created a start-stop-start scheduling fiasco all around the grounds. "You have to accept that."

How did she prepare to finally get started?

"I had a single espresso before I went out there," she said with a smile. "So it was like morning for me."

Kasatkina had a harder time with the situation.

"Mentally, it's tough to face the day when it's a long wait," said Kasatkina, a 2022 semifinalist at the French Open. "You have to be calm, but at the same time, you have to be ready to jump on the court. And you don't know when."

The last of the long day's 55 matches didn't wrap up until just about 1 a.m., when 17-year-old Russian Mirra Andreeva finally got through a 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 win against No. 19 seed Victoria Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open champion who is 34.

Andreeva next faces Stearns, with the winner reaching the fourth round in Paris for the first time.

Other seeded women sent home included No. 9 Jelena Ostapenko, the 2017 champion in Paris, who lost to Denmark's Clara Tauson 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-3; No. 11 Danielle Collins, defeated by Serbian qualifier Olga Danilovic 6-7 (3), 7-5, 6-4; No. 18 Marta Kostyuk, who was beaten 7-5, 6-4 by Donna Vekic; and No. 23 Anna Kalinskaya, eliminated 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 by oft-injured 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu.

Men's seeds who bowed out included No. 25 Frances Tiafoe and No. 31 Mariano Navone. A

frosty handshake came when Tiafoe and Denis Shapovalov — who are friends — met at the net after Shapovalov's 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 win. That's because Tiafoe sent a tennis ball off the side of Shapovalov's head with one on-the-run shot.

"I wasn't happy with it. But it's tennis, so you can do what you want," said Shapovalov, who joined Felix Auger-Aliassime to give Canada two men in the third round at Roland Garros for the first time in the Open era, which began in 1968. "Look, I'm sure we'll be fine in a couple days. Obviously, (in the) heat of the moment, it's not fun. But we'll get through it."

Auger-Aliassime and Shapovalov are among the players who originally were supposed to complete their second-rounders Wednesday. Because they didn't get done until Thursday, on account of the weather, they needed to get back on court Friday for the third round, losing the usual day off at a Grand Slam.

There were victories for several top men Thursday: No. 1 Novak Djokovic, who seeks his fourth French Open championship and 25th from all Grand Slam tournaments; No. 4 Alexander Zverev; No. 8 Hubert Hurkacz; and two-time runner-

up Casper Ruud. No. 5 Daniil Medvedev and No. 15 Ben Shelton both advanced when their opponents stopped because of injury.

Women moving on included No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, No. 4 Elena Rybakina, No. 14 Madison Keys and No. 15 Elina Svitolina.

This is the fourth tournament for Stearns since she began working with Tom Hill, who used to coach two-time Grand Slam semifinalist Maria Sakkaris.

Last week, Stearns claimed her first career WTA title, in an event on clay at Rabat, Morocco, celebrating by posing for photos while doing a handstand.

That skill is from her days in gymnastics, a sport her mother, Denise, used to do. Mom — who Stearns said good-naturedly offered some critiques of her form in the pictures — came to Paris with plans to watch just her daughter's first-round match, then fly home to Ohio. But a win that day prompted a new flight booking. Now after the win against Kasatkina, Stearns said her mother is sticking around for the third round, too.

"I was like, 'Look, just stay. Please,'" Stearns said with a laugh. "We've got to keep this going."

## Dolphins agree to 3-year extension with WR Waddle

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

As the Miami Dolphins are working through contract talks with their franchise quarterback this offseason, they completed their business with their young, rising wide receiver.

The Dolphins and standout receiver Jaylen Waddle agreed to a three-year contract extension, according to a league source Thursday.

The deal is reportedly for \$84.75 million and includes \$76 million guaranteed, according to ESPN and NFL Network.

Waddle was already under contract through 2025 before the extension and now is locked in with Miami through 2028.

"We want him here for a long time, and we think he's a big part of our now and our future here," Dolphins general manager Chris Grier said of Waddle months ago at the NFL scouting combine. "He's a great person on and off the field, and we still think as good as he is, he still has runway to keep getting better."

With an average annual value of \$28.25 million for the exten-

sion, that figure puts Waddle fourth in the NFL for receivers, behind teammate Tyreek Hill (\$30 million), the Detroit Lions' Amon-Ra St. Brown (\$30.002 million) and Philadelphia Eagles' A.J. Brown (\$32 million). His total guarantees now rank third in the league after Brown and St. Brown.

Waddle, a 2021 first-round draft pick, has his contract extension done before quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, who is entering the fifth and final year of his rookie contract after he was

drafted in 2020.

Earlier this offseason, though, Eagles wide receiver DeVonta Smith, also a first-rounder in the 2021 draft, got his three-year extension with Philadelphia. It put Waddle's long-term status in Miami into focus. Smith's deal was for \$75 million and a hair under \$70 million of it guaranteed, so Waddle's deal surpassed his former Alabama teammate.

Waddle has 251 receptions for 3,385 yards and 18 touchdowns in his first three NFL seasons.