

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy reaches deal for next batch of subs

*Bloomberg*

The U.S. Navy has reached an agreement with General Dynamics Corp. on a multibillion-dollar deal to buy the next batch of Virginia-class attack submarines, according to the service.

After protracted negotiations, the deal was cut from 11 submarines to nine, with an option to buy a 10th vessel in 2023, because funding was running more than \$1 billion short, according to service documents and congressional correspondence. The value of the resulting agreement wasn't disclosed.

"We have reached a multiyear" agreement "and are working to announce a con-

tract" by Dec. 31, Navy spokesman Danny Hernandez said in a statement. It "will achieve significant savings, will include important lethality enhancements" and "provide critical stability to the industrial base. Further information will be available upon contract award," he said.

Elizabeth Power, a spokeswoman with General Dynamics' Electric Boat unit, which makes the Virginia-class sub with Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc., said, "We have been working closely with the Navy and stand ready to support their needs. The contract being contemplated allows us to maintain a stable Virginia-class build rate."

By law, the Pentagon must

submit a detailed justification for proceeding with a multi-year contract, including outlining "significant savings" that would be realized over annual purchases that give Congress more oversight. Last week, the Defense Department submitted to congressional defense committees a proposal certifying savings of 6.8%, or \$1.8 billion, from a nine-ship contract.

Ellen Lord, the Pentagon's acquisitions chief, said in letters to the four defense committees that "while there are sufficient funds" to execute the program through 2024, "there are shortfalls" in fiscal 2022 and 2023 that the Navy has committed to address in its next proposed budget.

Reps. Joe Courtney, D-

Conn., and Rob Wittman, R-Va., the Democratic chairman and ranking Republican on the House Armed Services seapower panel, wrote Defense Secretary Mark Esper in September to "express our very serious concern" over the "reduced scope for the contract due to funding shortfalls." They represent districts where the subs are built or workers live.

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer acknowledged in a Sept. 27 reply to lawmakers the reduction to nine submarines with an option to add at least one. The Navy "has been in negotiations" to "achieve a balanced approach with full considerations of technical risk, the industrial base capability and fleet requirements."

## Trainer: Malinois ideal dog to track down insurgents

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY

*Stars and Stripes*

The canine that led the charge into a tunnel to corner Islamic State's top terrorist has a soft, cuddly side, said the man who helped train the famous military working dog.

"You could come here and visit and I could put him in your lap," trainer and former Air Force Master Sgt. Ken Licklider said. "Conan would crawl up and let you feed him a bonbon."

On the other hand, under certain circumstances, you could be the bonbon.

Conan, who was wounded after cornering Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a dead-end tunnel in a compound in Syria, just before the ISIS leader blew himself up along with two children, is a Belgian Malinois.

The breed is generally considered fiercer, fleetier, more driv-

en and perhaps less intelligent than the German shepherd it's been gradually replacing in the military and law enforcement.

German shepherds "do try to think things through more than a driven Malinois," said Licklider, who owns Vohne Liche Kennels. The company contracts with Special Operations Command to provide their forces with "multi-purpose canines" — dogs trained to track insurgents, subdue armed terrorists, sniff out weapons and explosives, parachute out of planes and fast-rope out of helicopters.

"I don't want the smartest dog," Licklider said. "I want the ones that storm the beach under a hail of machine-gun fire and think they're going to live through it."

Sometimes referred to as "Maligators," the breed once used for herding has been widely embraced by the U.S.

military. "There was no better dog to handle the task of tracking down insurgents, biting armed terrorists, finding weapons caches and just generally scaring the [expletive] out of everyone that faced them," according to a Vohne Lichte website essay.

Israeli soldiers also prefer Malinois, said Dr. Haggai Schermann, a doctor and researcher who led a study that documented how often military dogs bite their handlers.

Malinois are "more aggressive and less careful," Schermann said soldiers told him. "That's why they prefer Malinois. They say German shepherds are too smart. They didn't want to attack the terrorists."

Schermann's 2017 study found that the 78 soldiers who took part in the research were bitten 139 times, and about half were bitten by their own dogs, usually during training.

"Belgian Malinois were involved in a majority of bite events," the study found.

The bites posed a significant burden on readiness, requiring treatments ranging from antibiotics to surgery, Schermann said. Some bite injuries were career-ending, he said.

Cairo, the Belgian Malinois that took part in the 2011 raid that killed Osama bin Laden, wore a muzzle when he met President Barack Obama, according to press reports. That was at the direction of the Secret Service, which also uses the breed to patrol the White House grounds.

Two of them — Hurricane and Jordan — were also hailed as heroes after they took down a man who jumped the north fence in 2014.

"They're fast, they're fearless and their drive is out of this world," Licklider said.

# Top submariner taking over STRATCOM

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Navy's top submariner will take over command of the U.S. military's nuclear enterprise after his unanimous confirmation by the Senate last week to become the leader of U.S. Strategic Command.

Vice Adm. Charles Richard will be promoted to four-star admiral when he takes the helm of STRATCOM at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska following his confirmation Thursday. Richard has most recently been serving as the Navy's submarine forces commander since August 2018. He has also served in recent years as the deputy commander at

STRATCOM, according to his Navy biography.

Richard will replace Air Force Gen. John Hyten, who was confirmed in September to become the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the No. 2 ranking officer in the U.S. military.

In his new command, Richard will be responsible for the three-legged U.S. nuclear enterprise, which can deliver nuclear arms from land- and sea-based missiles and by using aircraft.

Richard, like his recent predecessors, listed upgrading the nuclear triad among the top priorities within STRATCOM when he testified Oct. 24 before the Senate Armed Services Committee. The nuclear en-

terprise, he testified, must be modernized as soon as possible to ensure the United States can maintain a legitimate nuclear deterrent against adversarial nations such as China and Russia.

"We have delayed and life-extended the triad systems to the maximum extent possible," Richard said. "What I mean by that is we are bumping into physics and engineering limits."

Richard adopted the same opinion as several past STRATCOM bosses on the potential for the United States to use nuclear weapons first in a time of conflict. The admiral said America should retain the right to use such power first, telling the Senate committee that adopt-

ing a so-called no-first-use policy could leave allied nations questioning whether they might need their own nuclear deterrent.

"I think adoption of a no-first-use policy would have a significant negative effect on our commitments to our allies," he said.

No-first-use policies have been championed by several lawmakers in Congress including Rep. Adam Smith, D-Calif., the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and one of the front-runners among Democrats seeking the presidential nomination in 2020.

## Space-available mail to take longer to get to Europe

By JENNIFER H. SVAN

*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Mom will have to knit that sweater a little earlier if she wants to send it by space-available mail from the States to an Air Force post office in Europe in time for the end-of-year holidays.

Starting Nov. 16, space-available mail sent from the U.S. to Air Force-serviced post offices in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands will once again

cross the Atlantic by boat, taking between a month and 45 days to arrive, U.S. Air Forces in Europe Air Postal Squadron officials said Tuesday.

Space-available — or deferred — mail costs less to ship to APO/FPO addresses overseas than priority and express mail services. It is moved by ground across the U.S. and, until last spring, was put in containers and shipped by boat across the ocean.

But even though space-available mail wasn't filling the ship-

ping containers, the Air Force was still paying for a full container. Since May, the USAFE Air Postal Squadron has been paying to transport space-available mail by commercial air from the U.S. to Europe along with more expensive priority and express mail, said Lt. Col. Derek Molloy, USAFE Air Postal Squadron commander.

"It ended up costing a little more, but not a whole lot more" to fly the mail over to Europe, Molloy said. As a result, "anything coming space available

and priority was getting here around the same time."

That's about to change, he said. With the added mail volume expected for the holidays, "We can fill the containers," he said. That, and the fact that it "becomes prohibitively expensive" to use air transportation for all classes of mail during the holidays, mean the Air Force in Europe will go back to putting space-available mail on ships until the end of the holiday mailing season, around Jan. 15, Molloy said.

## US fleets conduct drills to boost security in East Africa

By SCOTT WYLAND

*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy's 5th and 6th fleets are conducting exercises in tandem to help East African and Indian Ocean nations combat seagoing crimes and other threats in the region.

This first-time coupling of the sea policing drill Cutlass Express with the large-scale

International Maritime Exercise, or IMX, will boost security efforts among the more than 60 participating navies as well as the two U.S. fleets whose theaters border each other, the Navy said.

"As we all know, crime at sea doesn't heed any imaginary lines that we've drawn that separate our fleets," Rear

Adm. Nancy Lacore, 6th Fleet's vice commander, told Stars and Stripes. "They flow freely across the Indian Ocean regardless of where we put a line down."

Cutlass Express, hosted by U.S. Africa Command and Naval Forces Europe and Africa, is taking place a few months early to run concur-

rently with the broader IMX, hosted by Naval Forces Central Command.

The three-week dual exercise runs until Nov. 16. Most of the two fleets' drills are separate but in proximity. The fleets will exercise together in the Gulf of Aden, practicing explosive ordnance disposal, port protection and other defensive tactics.



# N. Korea: Terrorism blacklist hurts talks

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Tuesday the U.S. redesignation of Pyongyang as a sponsor of terrorism is dimming prospects for nuclear diplomacy between the countries.

The North's statement comes as the country is escalating its pressures on the United States over a stalemate in nuclear negotiations. Last week, North Korea test-fired projectiles from what it called a newly developed "super-large" multiple rocket launcher in the country's first weapons test in about a month.

The North's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday the State Department's terrorism blacklist report released last week proves again the United States maintains a "hos-

tile policy" and "inveterate repugnancy" toward North Korea.

"This is an insult to and perfidy against a dialogue partner," said the statement carried by state media. "The channel of the dialogue between (North Korea) and the U.S. is more and more narrowing" due to the U.S. stance.

North Korea had been on the terrorism blacklist for two decades after its agents were blamed for the bombing of a South Korean airliner that killed 115 people in 1987. It was delisted in 2008 as Washington tried to entice North Korea into a nuclear deal. But the Trump administration relisted it in 2017, saying the North repeatedly supported acts of international terrorism.

The most glaring recent case was the assassination of Kim Jong Nam, the es-

tranged half brother of leader Kim Jong Un, using VX nerve agent at a Malaysian airport in 2017.

Last year, North Korea and the United States launched on-and-off diplomacy on under what terms North Korea would give up its advancing nuclear arsenal. But the talks largely have stalled since the second summit between Kim and President Donald Trump collapsed in February due to disputes over sanctions on North Korea. Negotiators met in Stockholm last month but made no meaningful progress.

South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers in a closed-door meeting Monday it expects the U.S.-North Korea talks to resume by early December at the latest, according to Lee Eun-jae, one of the lawmakers who attended the meeting.

## Trump attacks political foes at rally for Ky. governor

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Pushing to help a Republican governor hold onto his office, President Donald Trump barnstormed for Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin on Monday, at a raucous election eve rally in which he delivered a series of attacks on Democrats and the impeachment inquiry that is imperiling his presidency.

The campaign finale at Rupp Arena in Lexington reinforced one of Bevin's main themes throughout his bitter, closely fought reelection campaign — his alliance with Trump, whose popularity eclipses the governor's in the Bluegrass State.

Trump praised Bevin and linked the governor's contest against Democrat Andy Beshear, the state's attorney general, with his own battle against possible impeachment, saying a victory in Kentucky would signal the rise of "an angry majority that will vote the do-nothing Democrats the hell out of office."

"We are sending a signal to the rest of the country, to the rest of the world, what the Republican party stands for," said Trump. "While we are creating jobs and killing terrorists, the radical Democrats are going totally insane."

"Beshear doesn't represent

you; he represents the Washington swamp and represents the same people who are trying to overthrow the last election," declared Trump, before adding of Bevin, "He's such a pain in the ass, but that's what you want."

As he so often does, Trump turned the rally meant for a fellow Republican into a venue to air his own grievances against a litany of familiar foes, including the news media and the House Democrats who voted last week to open an impeachment inquiry into the president's push for Ukraine to investigate one of his political foes, former Vice President

Joe Biden.

"With last week's vote, the Democrats have declared war on democracy itself," Trump declared. "In their crazed thirst for power, the Democrats are trying to tear our country apart."

The impeachment inquiry also loomed large for many in the packed arena. A few dozen supporters seated directly behind the president wore matching "Read the transcript" T-shirts, echoing Trump's claim that the memo released by the White House of his call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy showed he did nothing wrong.

## Turkey says Kurdish fighters still at Syrian border

Associated Press

SURUC, Turkey — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called Tuesday for Russia and the United States to keep to their promises and ensure that Syrian Kurdish fighters pull out of a so-called safe zone along Syria's northern border with Turkey.

In his weekly speech to ruling party legislators, Erdogan said Syrian Kurdish fighters

were still present in some of the border areas in northeastern Syria. That's despite two cease-fire agreements — brokered by the U.S. and Russia — that halted Turkey's military offensive to allow Kurdish fighters to pull back from the border.

Turkey considers these Kurdish-led forces to be terrorists, but the same fighters had also made up the core of the U.S.-backed force that battled

Islamic State.

"We know that terrorists are present within the limits of the safe zone we have designated with both sides," Erdogan said. "They cannot deceive us by saying, 'We have taken the terrorists out of these places. We have cleared them of terrorists.'"

He said the Kurdish fighters were still present in the Tal Rafat and Manbij regions, as well as an area east of the town

of Ras al-Ayn.

Turkey's agreements with Moscow and Washington allowed for the Kurdish fighters to withdraw 19 miles away from the border.

Erdogan also said Turkish troops were being attacked by some Syrian Kurdish fighters from areas they had retreated to, adding that Turkey would not "remain a spectator" to these assaults.

# Cartel attack kills at least 9 US citizens

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Drug cartel gunmen ambushed three SUVs along a dirt road, slaughtering at least six children and three women — all of them U.S. citizens living in northern Mexico — in a grisly attack that left one of their vehicles a burned-out, bullet-riddled hulk, authorities said Tuesday.

The dead included 8-month-old twins. At least five other youngsters were wounded by gunfire.

Mexican Security Secretary Alfonso Durazo said the attackers may have mistaken the group's large SUVs for those of rival gangs.

All of the victims were believed to be members of the extended LeBaron family,

who live in a decades-old settlement founded by an offshoot of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and have run afoul of the drug traffickers over the years. A LeBaron was killed a decade ago after denouncing the cartels.

In a tweet, President Donald Trump immediately offered to help Mexico “wage WAR on the drug cartels and wipe them off the face of the earth.”

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador rejected that approach, saying his predecessors waged war, “and it didn’t work.”

A relative said the victims lived in the hamlet of La Mora in Sonora state, about 70 miles south of Douglas, Ariz.

A number of extended Mormon fami-

lies live in farming communities clustered around the Chihuahua-Sonora state border. Many members were born in Mexico and thus have dual citizenship. While some of the splinter groups were once polygamous, many no longer are.

The group was attacked Monday while traveling in a convoy of three SUVs toward Pancho Villa in Chihuahua. The relative asked not to be named for fear of reprisals.

The relative said he had located the burned-out SUV containing the remains of his nephew’s wife and her four children — the twin babies and two other children. Authorities said the Chevy Tahoe’s gas tank had apparently been hit by gunfire and exploded.

## Family: Suspect in acid attack a vet with PTSD

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Milwaukee police arrested a man suspected of throwing battery acid on a Hispanic man who said his attacker asked him, “Why did you come here and invade my country?”

Police said Monday they arrested a white man suspected in Friday night’s attack and were investigating the case as a hate crime. They refused to release his name pending charges, but the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel identified him as Clifton A. Blackwell, 61, a military veteran whose mother said had struggled with post-traumatic stress.

Mahud Villalaz suffered second-degree burns to his face. He said the attack happened after a man confronted him about how he had parked his car and accused him of being in

the U.S. illegally. Villalaz, 42, is a U.S. citizen who immigrated from Peru.

The attack comes amid a spike in hate crimes directed at immigrants that researchers and experts on extremism say is tied to mainstream political rhetoric.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett expressed shock at the attack and blamed President Donald Trump for inciting hatred against minorities. The president has repeatedly referred to migrants attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border as an “invasion.”

“To single out someone because they’re from a Hispanic origin is simply wrong. And we know what’s happening,” said Barrett, a Democrat. “Everybody knows what’s happening. It’s because the president is talking about it on a daily basis

that people feel they have license to go after Hispanic people, and it’s wrong.”

White House spokesman Judd Deere said the Trump administration has “repeatedly condemned racism, bigotry and violence.”

“The only person responsible for this heinous act is the person who committed it, and it’s disgusting the mayor of Milwaukee would rather point the finger at the president of the United States for political reasons instead (of) responsibly confronting the violence in his own community,” Deere said in a statement.

Jacqueline P. Blackwell, of California, told the Journal Sentinel that her son had moved to Milwaukee seeking to get help. She said she had not been in touch with him recently and had not heard of his arrest.

“I was comfortable that he was getting good care with the [Department of Veterans Affairs],” she told the paper.

Blackwell’s brother, Arthur Blackwell, 63, of Evergreen, Colo., told The Associated Press on Monday that Blackwell “was not a confrontational person.” He said his brother served nearly four years in the U.S. Marines.

State court records show Blackwell was convicted in a 2006 Rusk County case of false imprisonment and pointing a gun at a person. Details aren’t available online, but the Journal-Sentinel reported that the case involved Blackwell confronting men who had come onto his farm property tracking a deer.

Surveillance video shows the confrontation but does not include audio.

## Police: Man is fatally stabbed over Popeyes sandwich

Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. — Police are calling on a suspect to surrender in a fatal stabbing over a chicken sandwich at a Popeyes restaurant in Maryland.

One man accused the other of cutting in front of him in the chicken sandwich line at an Oxon Hill Popeyes on Monday night,

Prince George’s County police spokeswoman Jennifer Donelan told news outlets.

Their fight then spilled outside where one of the men stabbed the other.

Police said the 28-year-old victim was from the Washington area. He died less than an hour later at a hospital.

The suspect remains at large. Neither

man has been publicly identified.

Popeyes resumed selling its chicken sandwich on Sunday. It was first released in August, and the chain credited popular demand to its supply selling out that month. Marketing around the sandwich has built a frenzy that’s causing long lines and waits at the chain’s restaurants.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Couple arrested after son left home alone

**RI** NEWPORT — A Rhode Island man and his wife were arrested for locking their 2-year-old son in a bedroom and leaving him home alone.

The Newport Daily News reported Lazaro SHEMELEY, 37, and Leah SHEMELEY, 25, were charged with cruelty or neglect of a child Friday. A judge issued both a no-contact with the child order.

Lazaro SHEMELEY was initially arrested on a domestic disorderly conduct charge. Leah SHEMELEY reportedly left the couple's child at home to attend her husband's arraignment Friday morning.

She told police she left the child with a babysitter, but authorities received a call about a crying child apparently left at home.

## Firefighters rescue surveyor stuck in mud

**ME** FREEPORT — Freeport firefighters said a surveyor had to be rescued when he became stuck in mud up to his waist.

Deputy Fire Chief Eric SYLVAIN told the Times Record the episode unfolded Sunday in a pond that has been drained near Interstate 95 by Exit 22 in Freeport.

He said the more the man wiggled, the more he became stuck. A Freeport police officer nearly became stuck and retreated.

Sylvain said it took 90 minutes for firefighters to get the man to safety. Firefighters used a system of ladders across the mud to reach the man and then used shovels and straps to free him.

Officials said the surveyor was exhausted but wasn't hurt.

## Couple accused of breaking in, squatting

**DE** LEWES — A husband and wife accused of breaking into a Delaware home with the intention of staying there have been charged.

A Delaware State Police news release says Ray POLLARD, 46, and Michelle POLLARD, 42, of Dagsboro were arrested Saturday afternoon in Lewes.

Master Cpl. Melissa JAFFE said the couple parked their minivan in the garage and their 16-year-old child was inside the vehicle. The owners of the Lewes home weren't at home at the time.

The POLLARDS have been charged with burglary, resisting arrest, endangering the welfare of a child and other offenses.

## Reservist relieved of her Fair Queen duties

**IL** ROCKFORD — A Rockford woman crowned 2019 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen will keep her title but won't be allowed to perform duties associated with the honor.

The Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs, which runs the pageant, said in a Saturday statement that Alexi BLADEL will keep the title until January when a successor is named. Her name will remain on a historical roster, but she's "released" from duties.

The association declined to give a reason, citing privacy.

Bladel's family said her decision to join the U.S. Army Reserve led to the dismissal, but a pageant chairman told the Rockford Register Star it wasn't a factor.

Bladel is expected to graduate from basic training this month.

## Police say man slept in theater to rob it

**TN** NASHVILLE — Police in Nashville are searching for a man they say paid for a movie ticket and spent the night inside a theater waiting to rob the business once it opened.

Metro police identified Lloyd Eugene RHODES, 57, on Friday as the suspect who they allege robbed an AMC theater at gunpoint the day before.

News outlets reported that investigators think Rhodes bought a movie ticket and hid inside the theater during closing. When an employee opened the business the next morning, police say Rhodes pointed a gun at her and demanded cash.

He's also accused of stealing the employee's cellphone and car.

## Cause of widespread grass fire probed

**KS** BURRTON — Authorities are investigating the cause of a grass fire that burned about 300 to 400 acres in central Kansas.

Harvey County spokesman Kyle McCASKEY said in a news release that emergency crews responded around 1 p.m. Sunday to an area northeast of Burrton. The Wichita Eagle reported that as of about 4:30 p.m. Sunday, firefighters had stopped the spread of the flames.

No injuries or damage to homes was reported. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

## Woman reunited with wallet lost years ago

**WV** HUNTINGTON — A West Virginia woman has been reunited with a wallet

she lost in 2004.

Catrina NAPIER told WCHS-TV she got the wallet back on Friday after a student found it in a Spring Valley High School bathroom.

Michael TYREE said he found the wallet in the rubble of a bathroom ceiling that collapsed. He said he reached out to Napier on social media.

Among the items inside the wallet were a driver's license, a Social Security card and high school photos.

Napier said she doesn't know how her wallet ended up in a ceiling but suspects that pranksters were behind it. She said she's glad to get back "a little piece of your childhood that you had forgot about."

## Police charge man with stabbing 4

**VA** NORFOLK — Police in Virginia charged a man with stabbing four people at a pizza restaurant.

Norfolk police said Joshua FISERS, 30, turned himself in Friday after a stabbing Thursday at Cogans Pizza.

When first responders arrived, they found a 34-year-old man suffering from multiple stab wounds. The man was taken to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Officers found three other men had also been stabbed. They were treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Police told WVEC-TV that the three men were injured while attempting to break up a fight.

Fisers was charged with four counts of malicious wounding.

From wire reports

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## Reporting World, National and Military News

# Suprising Louisville back in contention

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville is back in the national championship conversation after the basketball program was knocked on its heels amid the fallout of embarrassing scandals, including the school's involvement in a federal investigation into college basketball and escorts performing in the players' dorm.

In just his second year, Chris Mack has the Cardinals opening the season ranked in the Top 25.

"It was just like, imagine that you get knocked down by a boxer and the ref is counting, helping you up," senior guard Ryan McMahon said. "And then right when you stand up, the ref doesn't even say time back in and the other boxer comes in and just punches you again while you're still trying to get your wherewithal."

"We had just kind of recovered from that first scandal and then boom, we got hit with another one. ... I'm just I'm glad I stuck it out and stayed around."

It would have been hard to blame McMahon if he hadn't stuck around.

The school had acknowledged it was being investigated in a federal corruption investigation of college basketball. Ten people were initially arrested, including an Adidas executive alleged to have paid the family of former Louisville recruit Brian Bowen to attend school. Bowen never played for the Cardinals and transferred to South Carolina.

That announcement came just months before the NCAA vacated 123 victories and Louisville's 2013 men's basketball title as discipline for a 2015 sex scandal — all of which ultimately resulted in the firing of Hall of Fame coach Rick Pitino.

An escort had alleged in a book that former Cardinals men's basketball staffer Andre McGee hired her and other dancers to strip and have sex with players and recruits in the team dormitory. Pitino denied knowledge of the activities described in the book. He wasn't

named in the federal complaint but denied knowing and participating in payments to a recruit's family.

David Padgett did an admirable job holding things together, going 22-14 as interim coach before being replaced by Mack, who blended holdovers with transfers and led the program back to the NCAA Tournament last spring in what was supposed to be a transitional season.

Five teammates have also toughed it out, including leading scorer Jordan Nwora — a preseason Associated Press All-America selection — and Louisville native Dwayne Sutton. Now they lead one of the Cardinals' most experienced rosters in years.

Mack has also made a splash on the recruiting trail, signing high school All-America forward Samuel Williamson and St. Joseph's graduate transfer Lamarr "Fresh" Kimball.

With all the lofty projections of reaching the Final Four, Mack reminds the Cardinals that they haven't done anything

yet.

But the former Xavier coach also believes they can meet the high bar.

"I was left with tremendously talented players," said Mack, noting Sutton, McMahon and others were recruited by Pitino. "Those guys are our stalwarts, our warriors, our better players, our most experienced players. I've coached them really hard, and our staff has coached them hard. The type of character they have has allowed them to be coached, maybe by somebody they didn't sign up for."

"Are we satisfied with the preseason ranking? If I were to show that satisfaction to you all (media) about where our program is, I'd think I'd be a little hypocritical to our players."

Mack knows what he has with the veterans, but there's still the challenge of mixing them with 10 newcomers. Even then, Louisville will be shorthanded for a few weeks as 6-foot-11 junior forward Malik Williams (foot) and freshman guard David Johnson (shoulder) recover from offseason injuries.

## Changes on the horizon as new season gets underway

Associated Press

For coaches and other leaders in college basketball, the approach of the upcoming season has been nothing like business as usual.

Not in Indianapolis, where lawyers at the NCAA are busy trying to circumvent a newly passed law that threatens the foundation of an enterprise built on a simple commandment: thou shall not pay players.

Not in California, where that law was passed, and where the clock is now ticking: It goes into effect in 2023 and has an outside chance of leaving the state's biggest colleges, including UCLA and Stanford, on the outside looking in at March Madness.

And certainly not in Kansas, where the storied Jayhawks face serious questions about

whether they will remain eligible come March in the wake of NCAA allegations of recruiting fraud that could sink both the program and its Hall of Fame coach, Bill Self.

"Absolutely, Kansas will always prevail," Self said last week. "I'd like to think I will as well."

These two issues will serve as background noise for the upcoming season — not quiet enough to completely be forgotten, but almost certainly not loud enough to drown out the frenzy the sport produces during its three-week title chase at the end.

Trouble is, Kansas could have company. North Carolina State got an NCAA notice in July, and Arizona, Auburn, Creighton, Louisville, LSU and USC have been under scrutiny in the wake of the FBI's inves-

tigations and subsequent court cases detailing back-channel deals between shoe companies, agents and recruits.

The Kansas scenario, involving payments to recruits Billy Preston and Silvio De Sousa, could have the most immediate repercussions, in large part because the NCAA alleges Self knew what was going on (if he didn't, it could make an even stronger case for the dreaded "lack of institutional control" allegation). Kansas is fighting the charges and Self has vowed he "won't cut and run" but the No. 3 Jayhawks' eligibility for the postseason is in flux as the case plays out over the season.

It's hardly the first time a major program will play a season under the shadow of an investigation (North Carolina won the national title in 2017 while its athletic program was

mired in a long-running academic-fraud case).

What makes this season different, however, are the undercurrents of change rippling across the sport. The possibilities bring with them the fantastical thought that, if things really change and players can make some money, maybe they won't be so dependent on under-the-table payments, and maybe the programs they play for won't have to break so many rules to sign them.

But it will take time.

California's Fair Pay to Play Act does not call on colleges to directly pay players — that would be the most straightforward route to turning the NCAA into a pro league — but does allow them to hire agents and sign endorsement deals and make money using their names and likenesses.



# Prescott rallies Cowboys past Giants

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — First, the black cat ran on the field.

Then the Dallas Cowboys scampered past the New York Giants.

Dak Prescott shook off an interception on his first pass and threw for three touchdowns, and the Cowboys turned three Daniel Jones turnovers into 13 points on their way to a 37-18 victory over the Giants in a Monday night game that was briefly delayed in the second quarter by an elusive feline.

"Things weren't good up to that point," Prescott said about the game before the cat appeared. "It could only get better from there. I definitely thought about that. I guess we'll start rolling now that the black cat's come in bad for the Giants. It was fun. First time I've seen an animal run on the field that I've been a part of."

Ezekiel Elliott ran for a season-high 139 yards as Dallas (5-3) beat New York (2-7) for the sixth consecutive time. DeMarcus Lawrence had one of the Cowboys' five sacks.

Prescott hit Blake Jarwin for a much-needed 42-yard touchdown late in the second quarter. He added a 15-yarder to Michael Gallup and a 45-yarder to Amari Cooper in the fourth.

Brett Maher kicked three field goals, including a 52-yarder in the waning seconds of the first half that gave Dallas the lead for good after falling behind 12-3 in the second quarter. Jourdan Lewis scored on a 63-yard fumble return in the final seconds.

"You can't lose the turnover battle and expect to win any game," Giants defensive back Michael Thomas said. "We're making young mistakes. If we stop them we'll start playing winning football. It's not just the offense, it's defense and special teams, too. It's two or three plays a game where we hand the other team points."

Aldrick Rosas' 25-yard field goal gave the Giants a 12-3 lead with 2:50 left, but the Cowboys scored 10 points in the final 52 seconds of the half to take a 13-12 lead.

The victory gave the Cow-

boys a half-game lead over Philadelphia (5-4) in the NFC East and improved their record in the division to 4-0, including a win over the Eagles.

Jones threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Cody Latimer for New York. Aldrick Rosas kicked four field goals, but he also missed an extra point attempt that was important in sending New York to its fifth consecutive loss.

Jarwin, who has scored five of his six career touchdowns against the Giants, rambled most of the 42 yards on the score to get Dallas within 12-10 with 52 seconds remaining in the half.

Xavier Woods intercepted a third-down pass by Jones on the ensuing series and returned it to the Giants 38, setting up Maher's go-ahead field goal on the final play.

The teams exchanged field goals in the third quarter, with a Jones fumble forced by Woods setting up Dallas. Rosas answered for New York.

The chippy fourth quarter belonged to Dallas and Prescott, who completed 22 of 35 passes

for 257 yards. He has thrown for 12 TDs against New York in the last four games.

Jones completed 26 of 41 for 210 yards, including a 65-yard reception by Saquon Barkley, his longest reception.

"I just thought we started to play the way we wanted to play," Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said of his team's slow start coming off a bye week. "I do think we dominated them up front. Zeke ran the ball really well. That's certainly a part of us playing our best offensive football."

Before the game was suspended by the cat, the Giants were winning 9-3 and Prescott had 84 yards and an interception by Antoine Bethea on the opening play from scrimmage. After El Gato appeared, Dallas outscored New York 34-9 and Prescott had 173 yards, three TDs and no interceptions.

Jones has dropped five in a row after winning his first two starts. The only other rookie quarterback who lost five in a row after winning his first two was John Elway in 1983, according to STATS LLC.

## Finding franchise QB fickle no matter draft position

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Finding a franchise quarterback is a tough job that often defines the career of a personnel boss in the NFL.

In Philadelphia, general manager Howie Roseman is praised for landing Carson Wentz after trading up twice to secure the No. 2 pick in the 2016 NFL Draft. Wentz led the Eagles to a division title in his second season and finished third in NFL MVP voting.

Chicago Bears GM Ryan Pace tried the same strategy the following year, trading up to take Mitchell Trubisky. It seemed like a good pick when Trubisky led Chicago to 12 wins and a division championship his second season.

But Trubisky and the Bears (3-5) are struggling this year and every football fan in Chicago is quick to point out that Pace passed on Patrick Mahomes (No. 10) and Deshaun Watson (No. 12) to select Trubisky.

Wentz easily outplayed Trubisky on Sunday in Philadelphia's 22-14 win over the Bears. Trubisky finished just 10-for-21 for 125 yards. Chicago's offense was so bad in the first half — five three-and-outs, 9 total yards — that some observers wondered why Bears coach Matt Nagy didn't bench Trubisky for veteran Chase Daniel.

"We knew that we could collectively be better," Nagy said when asked if he considered a quarterback change. "Again, it was us as a unit overall. Wheth-

er it was the offensive line, running backs, wide receivers, tight ends and the quarterback, in general we didn't start fast."

Trubisky had no chance against the Eagles (5-4). His frustration was obvious.

"It's not playing up to what we know we are capable of," he said. "It's making simple mistakes. It's getting out-executed, getting outplayed when we know we are capable of much more, when we know we have more inside of us, when we know we are talented but we are still coming up short. There is a lot of really simple things that we did last year that we do in practice that on game day we are coming up short. And that's why you have this crappy feeling, and that's where the frustration comes. Losing sucks."

Wentz gets his share of criticism in Philly, especially from those still hung up on Nick Foles leading the team to a Super Bowl victory after the 2017 season and a playoff win last season. Foles was 10-3 filling in when Wentz was injured over the past two seasons. He left for Jacksonville in free agency and Wentz got a contract extension that includes \$108 million guaranteed.

Other quarterbacks drafted among the top five picks since 2016 are having varying degrees of success. Jared Goff, selected ahead of Wentz with the first overall pick by the Rams in 2016, is 31-19 since his rookie year. He's a two-time Pro Bowl selection and already led Los Angeles to the Super Bowl.

## NBA roundup

## Booker, Suns hand Sixers first defeat

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Devin Booker was pouring in buckets from every corner of the court during the second half and the home crowd loved every minute of it, serenading the Phoenix Suns star with MVP chants as he finished with 40 points in a 114-109 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night.

The 23-year-old guard did a lot of losing during his first four seasons in the desert.

That's why these moments — even though it's very early in year five — are feeling awfully good.

"That's the love I get here. It's been unconditional since day one," Booker said. "It's good to feel the energy in there. The fans are getting what they want — a hard-working team that pushes the issue every night."

Phoenix (5-2) continued its run as one of the most surprising teams in the NBA, knocking off the previously undefeated 76ers, who played without star center Joel Embiid because of his two-game suspension for an altercation with Minnesota's

Karl Anthony-Towns on Oct. 30.

Ricky Rubio added 21 points and 10 assists for the Suns, who are three games over .500 for the first time in more than four years. Phoenix is on a three-game winning streak and off to its best seven-game start since 2013.

Booker finished 15-for-19 from the field, including 3-for-4 from three-point range, and 7-for-7 on free throws.

**Nets 135, Pelicans 125:** Kyrie Irving had 39 points and nine assists, and host Brooklyn withstood Brandon Ingram's career-high 40 points to beat New Orleans.

The Nets had 67 points at halftime and a 20-point lead in the third quarter, but could never get comfortable until the final minute as Ingram kept coming at them.

He shot 17-for-24 from the field in his first 40-point game and the Pelicans scored a franchise-record 48 points in the third quarter. They got within two in the fourth but could never get enough stops to catch the Nets.

**Warriors 127, Trail Blazers 118:** Rookie forward Eric Paschall hit a key three-pointer with 4:05 remaining and finished with 34 points and 13 rebounds on his 23rd birthday, leading injury-plagued Golden State over Portland for its first home win at last.

Without all their injured stars, the young Warriors shined against a Western Conference contender to give Golden State its first victory at new Chase Center as Klay Thompson cheered from the sideline.

Damian Lillard notched his fourth 30-point performance in the first seven games with 39 points on 15-for-26 shooting, including five three-pointers.

**Rockets 107, Grizzlies 100:** James Harden scored 44 points, and visiting Houston recovered from a poor performance one night earlier to earn a victory over Memphis.

Harden carried the load for the Rockets, who didn't shoot particularly well and were without Russell Westbrook because he had the night off for rest. The 2018 NBA MVP finished 12-for-28 from the field,

including 7-for-16 from three-point range. He added 10 rebounds and six assists.

Rookie guard Ja Morant led the Grizzlies with 23 points and six assists.

**Bucks 134, Timberwolves 106:** Giannis Antetokounmpo had 34 points and 15 rebounds as Milwaukee beat host Minnesota.

Last season's NBA MVP has posted a double-double in all seven games this season.

Khris Middleton added 26 points to match his season high, and Eric Bledsoe set a season best with 22.

**Wizards 115, Pistons 99:** Bradley Beal's 22 points and six assists helped host Washington shake off an ugly loss and beat depleted Detroit in a half-empty arena while ending Andre Drummond's 20-20 streak.

Two days after losing by 22 at home to Minnesota, the Wizards improved to 2-4 thanks to 14 points and seven rebounds from Thomas Bryant, and nine points and six assists from Isaiah Thomas in his first start of the season.

## NHL roundup

## Marchand's two goals help Bruins hold off Penguins

Associated Press

BOSTON — Brad Marchand scored his second goal of the game with 1:57 left in the third period, and the Boston Bruins beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 6-4 Monday night after blowing a three-goal lead.

David Pastrnak, Jake DeBrusk and Torey Krug also scored for Boston (11-1-2), which has won six straight. Marchand added three assists, extending his point streak to 13 games.

Dominik Kahun, Nick Bjugstad, Bryan Rust and John Marino scored for Pittsburgh.

Marino's was his first career NHL goal.

Marchand skated in down the left wing and fired a wrist shot that hit the far post and went into the net off the back of goalie Tristan Jerry. Krug's one-timer from the right circle had tied it 4-4 midway into the third.

Patrice Bergeron added an empty-net goal and Jaroslav Halak made 40 saves.

Players on Pittsburgh's bench were jumping up and down when Marino scored to cap the huge comeback and a frustrated Halak smashed his stick off the crossbar into a cou-

ple of pieces, tossing the handle off the backboards.

**Senators 6, Rangers 2:** Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored twice and Anders Nilsson stopped 32 shots as visiting Ottawa routed New York for its first road win of the season.

Tyler Ennis, Ron Hainsey, Brady Tkachuk and former Ranger Vladislav Namestnikov also scored for the Senators, who have four victories in 13 games. Ottawa also snapped the Rangers' two-game winning streak.

**Predators 6, Red Wings 1:** Nick Bonino scored the first of his team's five second-period

goals, and visiting Nashville easily dispatched Detroit.

Matt Duchene scored the last two goals of the middle period for Nashville, and Kyle Turris and Colton Sissons contributed a goal apiece. The first four goals by the Predators came in a span of 5:36. Filip Forsberg added a goal for Nashville in the third.

**Coyotes 3, Oilers 2 (OT):** Derek Stepan scored at 2:01 of overtime and visiting Arizona beat Edmonton.

Stepan took a feed from Nick Schmaltz and picked the corner on goalie Mikko Koskinen for the winner.