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US, Israel track and kill al-Qaida No. 2

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States and Israel worked together to track and kill a senior al-Qaida operative in Iran this year, a bold intelligence operation by the allied nations that came as the Trump administration was ramping up pressure on Tehran.

Four current and former U.S. officials said Abu Mohammed al-Masri, al-Qaida's No. 2, was killed by assassins in the Iranian capital in August. The U.S. provided intelligence to the Israelis on where they could find al-Masri and the alias he was using at the time, while Israeli agents carried out the killing, according to two of the officials. The two other officials confirmed al-Masri's killing, but could not provide specific details.

Al-Masri was gunned down

in a Tehran alley on Aug. 7, the anniversary of the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Al-Masri was widely believed to have participated in the planning of those attacks and was wanted on terrorism charges by the FBI.

Al-Masri's death is a blow to al-Qaida, the terror network that orchestrated the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the U.S, and comes amid rumors in the Middle East about the fate of the group's leader, Ayman al-Zawahri. The officials could not confirm those reports but said the U.S. intelligence community was trying to determine their credibility.

Two of the officials — one within the intelligence community and with direct knowledge of the operation and another former CIA officer briefed on the matter — said al-Masri was

killed by Kidon, a unit within the secretive Israeli spy organization Mossad allegedly responsible for the assassination of high-value targets. In Hebrew, Kidon means bayonet or "tip of the spear."

The official in the intelligence community said al-Masri's daughter, Maryam, was also a target of the operation.

The U.S. believed she was being groomed for a leadership role in al-Qaida and intelligence suggested she was involved in operational planning, according to the official, who, like the others, spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence.

Al-Masri's daughter was the widow of Hamza bin Laden, the son of al-Qaida mastermind Osama bin Laden. He was killed last year in a U.S. counterterrorism operation in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.

The news of al-Masri's death was first reported by The New York Times.

The CIA and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, which oversees the Mossad intelligence agency, declined to comment.

Al-Masri had been on a kill or capture list for years, but his presence in Iran, which has a long history of hostility toward al-Qaida, presented significant obstacles to either apprehending or killing him.

Iran denied the reports, saying the government is not harboring any al-Qaida leaders and blaming the U.S. and Israel for trying to foment anti-Iranian sentiment. U.S. officials have long believed a number of al-Qaida leaders have been living quietly in Iran for years and publicly released intelligence assessments have made that case.

Exchange shoppers set sights on new Xbox, Playstation

BY THERON GODBOLD

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Military department stores in the Pacific scheduled lotteries for Friday and Saturday to draw lucky purchasers of two new generations of gaming consoles.

Sony's PlayStation 5 and the Microsoft Xbox Series X were released on Thursday and Tuesday, respectively. Supplies are limited and demand is high.

The coronavirus pandemic, which has made gaming products very popular, also complicates their sales. New versions of either system would normally attract a surge of buyers the first day the consoles are available.

"The pandemic has created unprecedented demand in the gaming category. Shoppers are staying home and purchasing more gaming items, which has created worldwide supply shortages," said Col. Scott Maskery, the Army and Air Force

Exchange Service's Pacific Region commander, in an email to Stars and Stripes on Nov. 9. "This, combined with the excitement over the new console launches, will likely make more popular items harder to find through the holidays."

The exchanges started taking preorders online for both systems in September, spokespeople for both exchange commands said. Those orders will be shipped to the customer or available for in-store pickup.

"The level of interest and business surpassed any of our expectations for either preorder campaign," Kristine M. Sturkie, a public affairs specialist at the Navy Exchange Service Command, said in an email Tuesday. "All stores have created 'pickup' schedules with customers to avoid any larger crowd issues."

Individual stores, however, received their own shipment of game consoles. Those were the systems available by lottery. Winners had the opportunity to buy

the system of their choice at the store and take it home immediately.

At Yokota, home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo, the drawing was held at 5 p.m. Friday for the new Xbox X and Xbox S consoles. The PlayStation drawing was scheduled for the following day.

Some AAFES exchanges could expect larger quantities than they anticipated, Maskery said. Manufacturers determine unit allocations to different retailers and purchasing specialists work with vendors to secure more units as they become available, he said in his email.

"These efforts are paying off for authorized shoppers looking to pick up a PS5, Xbox Series X or Xbox Series S as the Exchange secured 50% more units than previous console launches," Maskery said. "To ensure all authorized shoppers have an equal chance, Pacific Exchanges are conducting lotteries to distribute these limited supply products."

SEALs, Green Berets join in defense drill in Sweden

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — U.S. special operations forces are drilling with military responder units in Sweden to rehearse how they would jointly confront an enemy force in the Baltics, U.S. Special Operations Command Europe said Friday.

Navy SEALs, Green Berets, special boat teams and aircraft are all taking part in the drills to test the ability of U.S. and Swedish forces to contend with an imminent threat, officials said.

The bilateral exercise with Sweden is the latest push by SOCEUR into the Baltic Sea region, where coastal nations

are concerned about a more aggressive Russia.

SOCEUR, in cooperation with the Swedish Defense University, authored a paper in 2019 that details a “Resistance Operating Concept” strategy for fighting back against a larger adversary like Russia.

“When a nation loses control of territory, resistance is applicable (and) potential adversaries must be put on notice that they will not succeed; they will be ousted,” Maj. Gen. Kirk Smith, then-SOCEUR commander, wrote in a forward to the strategy document.

The training unfolding in Sweden incorporates some aspects of the resistance concept, SOCEUR spokesman Maj. Juan

Martinez said.

For example, U.S. special operators are linking up with Swedish homeland defense reserves, who would play a central role in a guerrilla warfare campaign in the event of a foreign armed incursion.

SOCEUR, in a statement detailing some of the training, said some efforts were taking place at an undisclosed location while other parts were happening in the Baltic Sea near the Swedish naval base of Karlskrona.

The training also incorporates the Navy destroyer USS Ross and the England-based U.S. Air Force’s 48th Fighter Wing and 100th Air Refueling Wing.

Sailors welcomed home via Facebook

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Sailors manned the rails 6 feet apart aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan as it returned to its homeport here on Saturday.

Homecoming isn’t the same during the coronavirus pandemic. There were no loved ones on the pier, no bands and no fanfare to welcome the crew home after a five-month patrol that included rare dual-carrier operations and three visits to the South China Sea.

Families instead watched their sailors pull into port via a live-streamed video posted to the carrier’s Facebook page. More than 1,500 were viewing the event at 10:15 a.m.

The Reagan deployed in early June, but many of the crew had not seen their families since going into pre-deployment quarantine as early as April.

During its patrol, the Reagan twice participated in operations with the carrier USS Nimitz, based in Bremerton, Wash. In June, the carriers trained together in the Philippine Sea, and in July met for exercises in the South China Sea.

Dual-carrier operations are relatively rare. The Navy has conducted just eight in the Indo-Pacific since 2001, three of them this year.

Some poll workers contract virus

Associated Press

Despite painstaking efforts to keep election sites safe, some poll workers who came in contact with voters on Election Day have tested positive for the coronavirus, including more than two dozen in Missouri and cases in New York, Iowa, Indiana and Virginia.

The infections cannot be tied definitively to polling places. Because COVID-19 is spreading rapidly in the U.S., there is no way to determine yet wheth-

er in-person voting on Election Day contributed to the surge, public health experts said.

Still, the infections among poll workers raise concerns because of how many people passed through voting sites, which implemented social-distancing rules, erected protective barriers and stocked sanitizer, masks, gloves and other safety gear. In most places, poll workers were required to wear masks.

The cases emerged while

election workers continued counting thousands of ballots. As a hand tally of the presidential race began in Georgia, the state’s top election official placed himself under quarantine after his wife tested positive for the coronavirus.

Election workers in Jackson County, Mo., in the Kansas City suburbs, seem to be the hardest hit, with about 28 staffers testing positive in the past couple of weeks.

German ad pays tribute to the ‘humble couch potato’

Associated Press

BERLIN — The German government has released a tongue-in-cheek ad hailing an unlikely hero in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic: the humble couch potato.

The 90-second video posted online Sat-

urday begins with an elderly man recalling his “service” to the nation back when he was just a young student “in the winter of 2020, when the whole country’s eyes were on us.

“Suddenly the fate of this country lay in our hands,” he says. “So we mustered all our courage and did what was expected of us, the only right thing. We did nothing.”

“Days and nights we stayed on our backsides at home and fought against the spread of the coronavirus,” the narrator continues. “Our couch was the front line and our patience was our weapon.”

The ad ends with a government message that “you too can become a hero by staying at home.”

Violent clashes break out in DC during election results protests

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After several thousand supporters of President Donald Trump protested the election results and marched to the Supreme Court, nighttime clashes with counterdemonstrators led to fistfights, at least one stabbing and more than 20 arrests.

Several other cities on Saturday also saw gatherings of Trump supporters unwilling to accept Democrat Joe Biden's Electoral College and popular vote victory as legitimate. Cries of "Stop the Steal" and "Count Every Vote" rang out despite a lack of evidence of voter fraud or other problems that could reverse the result.

The demonstrations in the nation's capital went from tense to violent during the night and early Sunday. Videos posted on social media showed fights, projectiles and clubs as Trump

backers sparred with those demanding they take their MAGA hats and banners and leave.

Police said they made 21 arrests on a variety of charges, including assault and weapons possession, and recovered eight firearms. Four officers were injured. No arrest has been made in the stabbing, and the victim was hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries.

Trump himself had given an approving nod to the gathering Saturday morning by sending his motorcade through streets lined with supporters before rolling on to his Virginia golf club. People chanted "USA, USA" and "four more years," and many carried American flags and signs to show their displeasure with the vote tally and insistence that, as Trump has baselessly asserted, fraud was the reason.

A broad coalition of top government and industry of-

ficials has declared that the Nov. 3 voting and the following count unfolded smoothly with no more than the usual minor hiccups — "the most secure in American history," they said, repudiating Trump's efforts to undermine the integrity of the contest.

The marchers included members of the Proud Boys, a neo-fascist group known for street brawling with ideological opponents at political rallies.

The issues that Trump's campaign and its allies have pointed to are typical in every election: problems with signatures, secrecy envelopes and postal marks on mail-in ballots, as well as the potential for a small number of ballots mis-cast or lost. With Biden leading Trump by wide margins in key battleground states, none of those issues would have any impact on the outcome of the election.

Iota grows, heads to battered countries

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Iota became the 13th hurricane of the Atlantic season early Sunday, threatening to bring another dangerous system to Nicaragua and Honduras — countries recently clobbered by a Category 4 Hurricane Eta.

Iota was already a record-breaking system, being the 30th named storm of this year's extraordinarily busy Atlantic hurricane season. Such activity has focused attention on climate change, which scientists say is causing wetter, stronger and more destructive storms.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Sunday morning that Iota had maximum sustained winds of 85 mph, making it a Category 1 hurricane. But, forecasters said Iota would rapidly strengthen and was expected to be a major hurricane by the time it reaches Central America.

Iota was centered about 240 miles east of Isla de Providencia, Colombia, and was moving west-northwest at 6 mph Sunday morning. Forecasters said Iota was expected to pass or cross over Providencia sometime Monday and then approach the coasts of Nicaragua and Honduras on Monday evening.

The system was forecast to bring up to 30 inches of rain from northeast Nicaragua into northern Honduras. Costa Rica, Panama and El Salvador could also experience heavy rain and possible flooding.

Forecasters said the island of Providencia and parts of Nicaragua and Honduras were under hurricane warnings.

Iota threatened to wreak more havoc in a region where people are still grappling with the aftermath of Eta. That system hit Nicaragua just over a week ago as a Category 4 hurricane, killing at least 120 people.

GOP leaders in 4 states decline to act in scheme to flip their states to Trump

Associated Press

Republican leaders in four critical states won by President-elect Joe Biden say they won't participate in a legally dubious scheme to flip their state's electors to vote for President Donald Trump. Their comments effectively shut down a half-baked plot some Republicans floated as a last chance to keep Trump in the White House.

State GOP lawmakers in Arizona, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have all said they would not intervene in the selection of electors, who ultimately cast the votes that secure a candidate's victory. Such a move would violate state law and a vote of the people, several noted.

The idea loosely involves GOP-controlled legislatures

dismissing Biden's popular vote wins in their states and opting to select Trump electors. While the endgame was unclear, it appeared to hinge on the expectation that a conservative-leaning Supreme Court would settle any dispute over the move.

Still, it has been promoted by Trump allies, including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, and is an example of misleading information and false claims fueling skepticism among Trump supporters about the integrity of the vote.

The theory is rooted in the fact that the U.S. Constitution grants state legislatures the power to decide how electors are chosen. Each state already has passed laws that delegate this power to voters and appoint electors for whichever candi-

date wins the state on Election Day. The only opportunity for a state legislature to then get involved with electors is a provision in federal law allowing it if the actual election "fails."

If the result of the election was unclear in mid-December, at the deadline for naming electors, Republican-controlled legislatures in those states could declare that Trump won and appoint electors supporting him. Or so the theory goes.

The problem, legal experts note, is that the result of the election is not in any way unclear. Biden won all the states at issue. It's hard to argue the election "failed" when Trump's own Department of Homeland Security reported it was not tampered with and was "the most secure in American history."

Fla. reports over 4K new virus cases again

From wire reports

MIAMI — Florida's Department of Health on Saturday confirmed 4,544 new cases of COVID-19 and Miami-Dade's surge puts the county over 200,000 cases. The state now has 875,096 confirmed cases, the third-highest state in the country, after Texas and California, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The state also announced 44 resident deaths, bringing the resident death toll to 17,489. One new nonresident death was also announced, bringing the nonresident toll to 215.

Though Saturday's count was lower than Friday's 6,933 new cases — the highest single-day count since Aug. 12 when Florida added 8,109 cases, excluding the Sept. 1 Quest Diagnostics data dump of 7,569 single-day cases — testing was also down due to the lingering floods of Tropical Storm Eta.

Most South Florida coronavirus testing sites reopened Tuesday and Thursday after Eta drenched the area and brought tropical storm force winds.

Connecticut

Bridgeport Hospital is joining others across Connecticut in implementing visitor restrictions again because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The restrictions, which took effect Saturday, prohibit visitors, with possible exceptions for pediatric patients, maternity patients, those at the end of life and others.

Other hospitals with similar restrictions include Yale New Haven Hospital, Norwalk Hospital and Waterbury Hospital.

The Connecticut Post reported that Bridgeport's other major hospital, St. Vincent's Medical Center, is still allowing visitors, though it does have tighter guidelines than it did before the pandemic.

Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois reported 11,028 new or probable coronavirus cases Saturday and 166 deaths.

A delay in data had prevented earlier reporting of 66 of the deaths, the Department of Public Health said.

Illinois hospitals said they had 5,415 patients with COVID-19 on Friday night, including 9% on ventilators.

Local health officials issued a stay-at-home advisory for suburban Chicago. Mayor Lori Lightfoot also urged Chicago residents to stay home to fight a surge in COVID-19 cases. Gov. J.B. Pritzker has made similar pleas, saying he could step up restrictions if things don't change.

Mississippi

JACKSON — Officials have identified a coronavirus outbreak at a prison in the Mississippi Delta in which more than 50 inmates have tested positive for COVID-19.

The Mississippi Department of Corrections and the Mississippi State Department of Health confirmed the outbreak occurred at the Marshall County Correctional Facility in Holly Springs. The facility is operated by private prison management group Management & Training Corporation of Centerville, Utah. Marshall County borders the Mississippi-Tennessee state line and the greater Memphis metropolitan area.

Dr. Raman Singh is the medical director for the correction department's medical provider, VitalCore Health Strategies. He said three inmates in the prison's 959-inmate population became symptomatic last week and tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday.

Singh said the facility began contact tracing and identified 109 inmates who were either living in the area of the three positive inmates or had contact with them.

Arizona

WINDOW ROCK — The Navajo Nation on Monday will reinstate a stay-at-home lockdown for the entire reservation while closing tribal offices and requiring new closures and safety measures for businesses due to rising COVID-19 cases.

The lockdown goes into effect Monday for a three-week period, tribal officials announced Friday night. A previously ordered 56-hour weekend curfew began Friday night.

Much of the Navajo Nation was closed between March and August as the coronavirus swept through the vast reservation that covers parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah in the U.S. Southwest.

Nevada

CARSON CITY — A day after announcing he'd tested positive for COVID-19, Gov. Steve Sisolak warned Saturday that Nevada's response to the coronavirus outbreak was at "a critical juncture" as the state reported a record number of new confirmed cases for the second day in a row.

The new cases announced Saturday with 15 additional deaths increased the state's totals to 119,006 cases and 1,908 deaths.

Sisolak warned Nevadans earlier in the week that if the state fails to slow the spread of the virus within two weeks, he will be forced to reimplement stricter measures. He asked residents to commit to a "Stay-at-Home 2.0" mentality to ensure the state's hospitals don't become overwhelmed.

Sisolak, a 66-year-old Democrat, told reporters Friday he was not experiencing any symptoms.

New Hampshire

A Wolfeboro church has suspended in-person services after at least 14 members tested positive for the coronavirus.

Church officials said on their website that several people began feeling ill the week of Nov. 2. By Nov. 11, 14 had tested positive.

Meanwhile, the coronavirus pandemic continues to wreak havoc with fall tournaments for New Hampshire's high school athletes. The Valley News reports that at least 20 state tournament games across five sports involving 15 schools have been canceled. Most recently, Lebanon joined Exeter,

St. Thomas and Winnisquam as football teams forced out of their postseasons, in most cases because too many players have been exposed to someone who tested positive for the virus.

Vermont

Vermont will start testing K-12 teachers and staff for COVID-19 starting next week as a strategy that health officials hope will help to track the spread of the coronavirus in communities.

Teachers and school staff are not at a higher risk of contracting the illness caused by the virus, but they "represent a large group of individuals in an organized setting" and could help the state better identify cases before a potential outbreak, Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine said this week.

The tests will be given voluntarily starting next week and resume monthly after the Thanksgiving holiday break, the Burlington Free Press reported. Those who are tested will not be required to quarantine while awaiting their results.

Texas

HOUSTON — The value of oil fields in West Texas have plummeted due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has caused the demand for crude to go down.

Eli Huffman, a land broker and attorney at Houston-based Lone Star Production Co., said he has seen land prices fall below \$1,000 an acre for property that used to be worth more than \$10,000 an acre.

The average price of U.S. shale acreage has fallen by more than 70% in two years — from \$17,000 per acre in 2018 to \$5,000 per acre in 2020, according to Norwegian energy research firm Rystad.

Despite that, the prices of some shale plays have held up, the Houston Chronicle reported. The Permian-Delaware basin is still valued at \$30,000 per acre and the Midland basin is currently valued at \$17,000 an acre, Rystad added.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Mom charged after kids test positive for meth

KY ELIZABETHTOWN — A 27-year-old Kentucky mother was arrested after three of her young children tested positive for meth while police were investigating an injury her infant son sustained.

Child Protective Services and Elizabethtown police were called to investigate how Malaynah Root's infant son received a large bruise on his forehead, according to an arrest citation.

While the children were in protective custody, officials tested them for drugs and determined Root's 5-year-old, 3-year-old and 2-year-old children all had methamphetamine in their systems, according to police. Two of the children also tested positive for THC, investigators said.

The injured infant was not able to be tested because authorities could not obtain a hair sample, the citation said.

Gray seal returns to ocean after recovery

MD ASSATEAGUE ISLAND — A gray seal pup that was found on a Delaware beach with infections and other health problems was released in Maryland after nine months of recovery.

The Daily Times of Salisbury reported that the seal was released at Assateague State Park.

The pup was one month old when it was found in February in Dewey Beach. She was dehydrated, malnourished and suffering infections on her front flipper and in her ear.

The Marine Education Research Rehabilitation Institute coordinated the seal's recovery at the National Aquarium's Animal Rescue Center in Baltimore.

Gator survives crash, returns to swamp

FL COCOA. — A motorist hit and injured a small alligator that crawled onto U.S. 1 on Florida's Atlantic Coast.

Cocoa police said in a tweet that patrol officers rescued the gator after "he wandered into dangerous territory."

The alligator was fine and the driver wasn't injured either, police said.

Officers called the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. A wildlife officer took the gator to a safer place for it to roam.

Nude man arrested after driving into store

MT COLUMBIA FALLS — A man who crashed his car into a Montana grocery store and fled the scene was later arrested after running nude through a nearby retirement home, police said.

The man is accused of driving through the front doors of a Super 1 Foods in Columbia Falls and continuing to drive through the store before turning around and driving out the way he had entered, police said.

Shortly after discovering the vehicle, police received a report of a nude male running down the hallway of a retirement home that was adjacent to the abandoned vehicle. Officers found the man about one block west of the home and detained him.

Septic hauler fined in illegal dumping lawsuit

MA BOSTON — A Massachusetts septic hauling company agreed to pay up to \$500,000 to settle allegations that it dumped waste into a local town's sewer system to avoid paying disposal fees.

State Attorney General Maura Healey said that as part of the settlement, Midstate Sewerage Company of Millbury will also be barred from seeking state or municipal contracts for two years.

State authorities accused Midstate of dumping septic waste at a municipal pump station instead of the regional treatment facility where it would be required to pay fees.

Officials say water not safe to drink for 6,000

ME SKOWHEGAN — Authorities in Maine told 6,000 residents not to drink water from their faucets following a report of a strange odor and taste.

Officials said they observed a sheen on two ponds that feed the water treatment plant and Maine Water said in a Facebook post that they believed the ponds were also the source of a soapy smell.

The ponds are no longer feeding water into the system, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement, but it may take several days for any contaminated water to be flushed out.

Store workers beaten after mask request

MD EDGEWATER — Police in Maryland said they're looking for a man and a woman who attacked employees of an ice cream store after they were asked to wear masks because of the coronavirus pandemic.

WBAL-TV reported two employees ended up in the hospital. One is still there with broken bones.

Anne Arundel County police said the incident took place inside a Cold Stone Creamery. Police said the mask request turned into a sidewalk beating.

Armed carjacking leads to pursuit, 2 arrests

WI SHEBOYGAN — Two teens are in custody after shots were fired during a carjacking in Sheboygan and a law enforcement pursuit, according to authorities.

Sheriff's officials said the boys, ages 16 and 17, were in a stolen vehicle when they tried carjacking another vehicle. The driver drove away and the vehicle was hit by gunfire. No one was hurt.

A short time later the boys took a vehicle at gunpoint in Sheboygan. Officers deployed spike strips on Interstate 43 near Belgium in Ozaukee County. The vehicle was stopped, but the boys fled on foot. They were eventually taken into custody.

Ex-Microsoft worker sentenced in scam

WA SEATTLE — A former Microsoft worker was sentenced to nine years in prison for a scheme to steal \$10 million in digital currency — money authorities said he used to buy a \$160,000 car and a lakefront home.

Volodymyr Kvashuk, 26, a Ukrainian citizen living in Renton, was responsible for helping test Microsoft's online retail sales platform.

Prosecutors said he stole digital currency such as gift cards or codes that could be redeemed for Microsoft products or gaming subscriptions, then resold them on the internet.

A federal jury convicted Kvashuk in February of tax, money laundering and fraud charges. U.S. District Judge James Robart sentenced him and ordered him to pay more than \$8.3 million in restitution.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Harvard's Amaker pressing for change

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — When George Floyd died under the knee of a Minneapolis policeman, Harvard basketball coach Tommy Amaker knew it was time to get to work.

Or, more precisely, back to work.

He lined up guest speakers, many of them Black leaders and veterans of the civil rights movement. A program to place minority interns in college athletic departments was launched. Harvard coaches made sure every player on the team had registered to vote.

None of it was new for Amaker, nor was it a surprise to those who have watched him invigorate the Harvard basketball program even as he made it a model for others only now awakening to social justice causes.

"In Tom's case, he's been doing it for years. And it's been authentic," said Kentucky coach

John Calipari, who partnered with Amaker on the internship program named for John McLendon, one of basketball's first Black coaches. "You know, it's not for optics. He's not doing it now because this all hit. He was doing it for these kids because he knew it would make a difference."

Floyd's death this spring sparked an unprecedented outpouring of anger over police violence against Black men and women — a concern that soon spilled into sports.

NBA players walked off the court, refusing to play without the promise of change. The WNBA's Atlanta Dream took a stand against their team owner, U.S. Sen. Kelly Loeffler, a Georgia Republican, when she belittled the Black Lives Matter movement. Even the long-dismissive NFL painted slogans such as "End Racism" in its end zones (while players such as Colin Kaepernick and Eric

Reid remain out of the league).

But in college basketball, where most of the players are Black — and all of them are supposed to be there to study — programs have been presented with the teachable moment of our times.

Some of them are looking at Harvard for the blueprint.

"I've had many coaches, many people who have called and inquired, 'Talk to me more about what you guys have done. Can you help me maybe do this where I am?'" Amaker said. "And I've had so many former players that reach back and say how grateful they were to be a part of this program."

A former Duke point guard who coached at Seton Hall and Michigan before arriving at Harvard in 2007, Amaker took over a program that had never won an Ivy League championship, beaten a ranked team or cracked The Associated Press Top 25. Under his leadership,

the Crimson have claimed seven conference titles, twice advancing in the NCAA Tournament as a double-digit seed. (He won't add to those totals this season, as the Ivy League on Thursday canceled winter sports because of the pandemic.)

Ask Amaker about his successes, though, and he is as likely to point with pride to former captain Christopher Egi, who while in school created a nonprofit called "No More Names" to fight for fairness in the criminal justice system and encourage the youth vote.

Or 2018 Ivy League Player of the Year Seth Towns, who a day after his remote Harvard graduation this spring was detained by police at a protest over Floyd's killing.

"He's looking at the whole person, and he realizes that it doesn't end with the box scores and how many points they got," said sports sociologist Harry Edwards.

Aztecs get rare visit from No. 22 UCLA in opener

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Uncertainty due to the coronavirus pandemic and a long friendship between coaches Brian Dutcher of San Diego State and Mick Cronin of UCLA led to the No. 22 Bruins committing to a rare regular-season appearance on the Aztecs' home court.

The Aztecs will host the Bruins on Nov. 25 as part of a four-team event at Viejas Arena, with Pepperdine playing UC Irvine. On Nov. 27, SDSU will play UC Irvine and UCLA will play Pepperdine.

Fans will not be allowed.

SDSU will face UCLA for the first time since beating the Bruins 78-69 in the 2012 John R. Wooden Classic in Anaheim.

It will be UCLA's first regular-season game on SDSU's home floor since Dec. 14, 1991.

SDSU has played several home-and-home series with other Pac-12 schools in recent seasons. UCLA, which has 11 NCAA championship banners hanging in Pauley Pavilion, hasn't been one of them.

"UCLA, which is their history, rarely goes on the road in Southern California," Dutcher said. "They don't play a road game

in the state. You have to go to Pauley to play them. But Mick Cronin and I have been friends a long, long time."

Both teams had been scheduled to play in a bubble in Orlando.

"Neither one of us were overly excited about putting our teams on a flight for five hours to play basketball during COVID," Dutcher said.

When the bubble was canceled, "Mick was more than willing to come play us as part of a Southern California event, along with Pepperdine and UC Irvine, where teams can just get on a bus, come down to San Diego and get a couple of really quality games out of the event."

The only drawback, Dutcher said, will be a lack of fans at the 12,414-seat campus arena, where a raucous student section has given the Aztecs a formidable home-court advantage over the years.

"That's what we're going to be missing, obviously. Maybe that was one of the reasons Mick agreed to come. He knew the building would be empty," Dutcher said with a chuckle.

San Diego State was 30-2 last year, won the Mountain West regular-season title and was expected to receive either a No. 1 or 2

seed in the NCAA Tournament before it was canceled due to the pandemic. The Aztecs lost Mountain West Conference Player of the Year Malachi Flynn to the NBA Draft.

UCLA was 19-12 last season under Cronin, who was named Pac-12 Coach of the Year in his first season in Westwood.

Dutcher and Cronin are both sons of coaches. They've known each other since Cronin was an assistant at Cincinnati and Dutcher was an assistant at Michigan.

"Our relationship goes back many, many years," Dutcher said. "I've followed his career with great interest as he's done an outstanding job at Cincinnati as a head coach and now at UCLA, bringing the Bruins back to national prominence and rankings."

Dutcher put this event together quickly, with Cronin's help.

"He was excited by the idea. He wanted to play good teams," Dutcher said. "He knew that we had been historically good. It's a credit to him. He's not afraid to go to a neutral floor in order to play good games. It will be a lot more neutral than it would have been if we had fans in the stands, but I'm excited by him wanting to come here and then to play a very good Pepperdine team in another game here."

Johnson takes charge at Augusta

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Dustin Johnson began his assault on Augusta National with a 5-iron for a tap-in eagle, and he never relented until he matched the 54-hole record at the Masters and built a four-shot lead to put himself in prime position for another major.

Johnson has been in this position before, and he plans to lean on his experience.

Not from the 82 he shot at Pebble Beach in the 2010 U.S. Open. Not the three-putt from 12 feet on a bumpy 18th green that cost him at Chambers Bay. Not even the one-shot lead he lost three months ago at Harding Park. They were among four times he had at least a share of the 54-hole lead in a major without converting.

He's talking about the last three days at Augusta National. It's been a masterful performance.

"If I can play like I did today, I think it will break that streak," Johnson said Saturday. "Tomorrow, it's just 18 holes of golf. I need to go out and play solid. I feel like I'm swinging really well. If I can just continue to give myself a lot of looks

at birdie, I think I'll have a good day."

A third round that began with 10 players separated by one shot turned into a one-man show.

The No. 1 player in the world looked every bit the part with a 7-under 65, pulling away with the eagle and two birdies in the opening four holes, nearly holing a wedge from the seventh fairway, handling the par 5s on the back nine with two-putt birdies and going the last 30 holes without a bogey.

He was at 16-under 200, matching the 54-hole record Jordan Spieth set in 2015 when he won the Masters by four shots over Phil Mickelson and Justin Rose.

The cast of challengers are not nearly as experienced.

Two of them are Masters rookies. Sungjae Im, the supreme ball-striker from South Korea who won his first PGA Tour title two weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down golf in the spring, birdied the last hole for 68. Abraham Ancer of Mexico saved par on the 18th for a 69.

Joining them at 12-under 204 was Cameron Smith of

Australia, who had 12 straight pars before running off three straight birdies and then closing with three scrambling pars for a 69.

"He's been there before multiple times, and No. 1 in the world," Ancer said. "I think he's right where he wants to be. We know that we have to go low, and that's it. It's very simple. If DJ goes out there and plays really solid like today, it's going to be pretty much impossible to catch him. Whatever has to be done out there has to be pretty special."

Still, there is enormous pressure on Johnson because of his history. He has not converted two 54-hole leads, nor has he won at two majors where he shared the 54-hole lead. His only major was the 2016 U.S. Open, when he rallied from four shots behind.

"Anyone with a four-shot lead is expected to win," Smith said. "There's going to be plenty of boys firing tomorrow."

Attacking flags is what Augusta National has allowed in November, with rain earlier in the week and warm, calm conditions that have kept the turf soft. Johnson, who had to sit out

two tournaments after testing positive for the coronavirus a month ago, still came into the Masters having won twice, finishing runner-up three times and tying for sixth in the U.S. Open.

"I'm very comfortable with having the lead going into tomorrow. I've been in this situation a lot of times," Johnson said. "I'm looking forward to the challenge. It's still going to be a tough day. I'm going to have to play well if I want to get it done."

Justin Thomas and Jon Rahm had their chances only to make untimely mistakes. Rahm nearly topped his second shot on the par-5 eighth, which he attributed to mud on his golf ball, and hit his next one off a tree and into the bushes on his way to a double bogey.

Thomas sailed his second shot over the 15th green and into the water, making bogey on a par 5 where he was hoping to make up ground. Both bogeyed the 18th hole. Thomas shot 71, Rahm had a 72.

Asked to describe his day, Rahm didn't mince words.

"Seriously? How would I describe? Pretty awful," he said.

McIlroy has found No. 13 to be very unlucky

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Stuck in the bushes. Behind a tree. Caught in the branches.

Rory McIlroy saw every part of the 13th hole at Augusta National this week — except for the middle of the fairway. On Saturday, he turned a 9-foot birdie chance into a three-putt bogey and cost himself any chance at a Masters victory that would complete his career Grand Slam.

"I have zero thoughts about winning this golf tournament right now," he said after shooting a 5-under 67 to finish the day at 8-under par, eight strokes behind leader Dustin Johnson. "I think I've left myself too far back after the bad first day. But I'll go and give it a good effort tomorrow and see where that leaves me."

Following an opening 75 with a 66 on Friday, McIlroy was on his way back to

contention after chipping in from the greenside bunker on No. 12 for his fifth birdie in a bogey-free round. But the 13th, where he took a drop on Thursday and got blocked by a tree trunk on Friday, stymied him again in the third round. The 31-year-old from Northern Ireland caught some branches with his drive; he laid up with his second shot to avoid the tributary of Rae's Creek that fronts the green, then chipped to within 9 feet of the hole. But he slid the birdie putt 4 feet past the hole, then lipped out on the comebacker for his second bogey on No. 13 in three rounds.

Instead of improving to 6 under, he was back to 4 under. He made birdie on No. 16.

"Eleven under for the last two days, I think that sort of speaks for itself," he said. "The good golf was in there, I just didn't allow myself to play that way on the first 18 holes. This course can do that. This course

can make you a little bit careful and a little bit tentative at times."

On Thursday, McIlroy was even at the turn and 1 over when he arrived at No. 13, where he flew his drive into the heavy brush to the left of the fairway; he took a drop, punched out, landed an approach 18 feet from the pin and two-putted.

That started a string of three bogeys in four holes.

"I try to view everything as a learning experience," McIlroy said. "But, yeah, I'll look back at that and rue some of the shots that I hit and some of the thought processes I had and just try to learn from it and be better the next time."

McIlroy won the U.S. Open in 2011, the British Open in 2014 and the PGA Championship twice, in 2012 and '14. His best finish at Augusta was fourth in 2015.

College football roundup

Irish give Kelly his 100th win at school

Associated Press

BOSTON — Ian Book threw three touchdown passes and ran for a score and No. 2 Notre Dame overcame an early deficit to roll to a 45-31 victory over Boston College on Saturday.

The Fighting Irish gave coach Brian Kelly his 100th career victory at the school, tying him with Lou Holtz for second place — five behind Knute Rockne. Notre Dame has won eight straight in the series between the FBS's only Catholic institutions.

Coming off a thrilling victory over Clemson, the Irish (8-0, 7-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) racked up a season-high 561 total yards against the Eagles (5-4, 4-4).

Book was 20-for-27 for 283 yards, and ran for a 85 yards and a touchdown. Ben Skowronek caught all three of Book's TD passes, but also had one of three Notre Dame fumbles. C'Bo Flemister ran for two touchdowns before leaving the game in the fourth quarter with an apparent left leg injury.

Boston College's Phil Jurkovec, a transfer playing against his former team for the first time, was 18-for-40 for 272 yards, a touchdown and an interception.

No. 6 Florida 63, Arkansas 35: Kyle Trask extended his school record for consecutive games with at least four touchdown passes to six and the host Gators overwhelmed the Razorbacks.

Trask threw for 356 yards and six scores against Arkansas (3-4), which was without coach Sam Pittman and without much of a chance by halftime. It was the second time this season Trask tossed six TDs in a game. He's the only player in school history to accomplish that feat.

Razorbacks quarterback Feleipe Franks, a three-year starter for the Gators (5-1), was booed in his return to Florida Field and unable to do much to steal the spotlight from Trask.

No. 9 Miami 25, Virginia Tech 24: D'Eriq King threw for 255 yards and a touchdown and ran for a score in the Hurricanes' comeback win on the road.

Miami (7-1, 6-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) overcame an 11-point, third-quarter deficit to win its fourth consecutive game and stay alive for a spot in the ACC championship game.

The Hurricanes scored the final 12 points and held the Hokies (4-4, 4-3) scoreless on their last five possessions.

No. 10 Indiana 24, Michigan State 0: Michael Penix Jr. threw for 320 yards, hitting Ty Fryfogle with two scoring passes, and the Hoosiers beat the host Spartans to

remain unbeaten.

Indiana (4-0) set up a showdown next weekend at Ohio State, the only other unbeaten team in the Big Ten East.

Penix threw two interceptions in the first half, but that didn't matter much. Michigan State (1-3, 1-3) was just as sloppy — to the point where quarterback Rocky Lombardi was pulled in the second quarter.

No. 11 Oregon 43, Washington State 29: Tyler Shough threw for 312 yards and four touchdowns and the Ducks rallied for a road win.

Travis Dye caught two second-half touchdown passes to help Oregon improve to 2-0. The Ducks piled up 582 yards of total offense.

Oregon has won 17 of its past 19 games and is on track to claim a second consecutive Pac-12 championship.

No. 13 Wisconsin 49, Michigan 11: Nakia Watson and Mason Stokke each scored two touchdowns in the first half, helping the Badgers build a big lead over the host Wolverines.

Wisconsin (2-0) returned to competition after canceling two games of its all-Big Ten schedule due to a COVID-19 breakout within the program and didn't look rusty at all against a hapless team.

Michigan (1-3) fell behind 28-0 at halftime, their largest deficit at home since the Big House opened in 1927, and the Wolverines are off to their worst start since 1967.

No. 16 Marshall 42, Middle Tennessee 14: Redshirt freshman Grant Wells threw a season-high five touchdown passes and the Thundering Herd commemorated the 50th anniversary of the worst disaster in U.S. sports history during a home win.

Marshall (7-0, 4-0 Conference USA) got another standout performance from its defense and turned three turnovers into scores on a day when the university and community remembered 75 people killed in a Nov. 14, 1970, plane crash.

Tulsa 28, No. 19 SMU 24: Zach Smith threw for 325 yards and three touchdowns to help the host Golden Hurricane recover from a 21-point second quarter deficit and beat the Mustangs.

After throwing an interception and losing a fumble that led to another touchdown on his first two possessions, Smith bounced back. He completed 26 of 38 passes, including a 4-yard touchdown toss to James Palmer with 2:11 remaining.

No. 20 Southern California 34, Arizona 30: Vavae Malepeai bulldozed his way through multiple tacklers for an 8-yard touchdown run with 25 seconds left, and the No. 20 Trojans won on the road with a late rally.

USC was outplayed by the Sun Devils last week in its opener before scoring two touchdowns in the final three minutes to win 28-27. The Trojans again had two late scoring drives to win a game they were outplayed in for most of the afternoon.

No. 22 Liberty 58, Western Kentucky 14: Malik Willis threw for 306 yards and three touchdowns and ran for two more scores, leading the host Flames over the Catamounts.

Liberty (8-0) won its 10th straight game and remained second behind Notre Dame for the nation's longest active winning streak. It was Western Carolina's opener.

No. 23 Northwestern 27 Purdue 20: Peyton Ramsey threw for 212 yards and three touchdowns, all to Ramaud Chiaokhiao-Bowman, and the Wildcats won on the road.

Northwestern's defense also made two late stops to preserve a fifth straight Big Ten win and the school's first 4-0 start in league play since coach Pat Fitzgerald was still playing in 1996.

No. 25 Louisiana-Lafayette 38, South Alabama 10: Levi Lewis passed for 252 yards and three touchdowns and the Ragin' Cajuns ran for 254 yards to wrap up a third straight Sun Belt Conference West Division title with a win over the visiting Jaguars.

Lewis tossed TD passes of 5 yards to Jalen Williams and 3 yards to Errol Rogers. He also hit running back Trey Ragas for a 25-yard score on a fourth-down conversion, with Ragas narrowly staying inside the left sideline to put the game away in the fourth quarter.

Tulane 38, Army 12: Michael Pratt threw for 197 yards and two touchdowns, Amare Jones scored a rushing touchdown and the Green Wave broke open a close game with the visiting Black Knights.

Tulane (5-4) built a two-score lead in the first quarter when Pratt threw a 4-yard touchdown to Tyrick James and Jones had a 50-yard scoring run just before the end of the quarter.

Nebraska 30, Penn State 23: Luke McCaffrey had a hand in two touchdowns in his first start, the host Cornhuskers' defense made two huge late defensive stops and Nebraska (1-2) held on for its first win.

McCaffrey took over for Adrian Martinez, who had started all of his 23 previous games but turned in flat performances in the Cornhuskers' first two games.