

Study tracks earnings for new veterans

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Enlisted service members working in intelligence and information technology are more likely to find higher paying civilian jobs than troops in the combat arms or medical and transportation fields, according to a newly released study from Rand Corp.

“We can see from this work that there are certain types of occupations that seemed to have lower earnings, and that therefore would be the best places to concentrate [transition resources],” said Charles Goldman, senior economist and lead author on the study titled “Navigating a Big Transition: Military Service Members’ Earnings and Employment After Active-Duty Service.”

By matching more than 1 million military service records from 2002 to 2010 with tax records from the U.S. Social Security Administration, researchers tracked the first three years that troops are out of the military to see how the newly separated veterans’ income fared over time and compared to their final pay on active-duty service.

It can take several years to acquire this type of data because it has to be scrubbed to protect people’s privacy, Goldman said.

Though it is a decade old, he believes there is still value in understanding trends and patterns to inform policy decisions and resource allocation.

Outside of military occupations, the 72-page report also breaks down how wages vary in regard to gender, time of service, deployment history and discharge status.

While men serving in the Army as human intelligence operators averaged a first-year civilian salary of \$49,503, an infantryman and medic earned about \$21,680 and \$21,569, with those amounts back to 2013, according to the report.

Those military jobs that launch into higher civilian wages typically have more transferable skills, Goldman said. Looking at enlisted health care fields, such as combat medic, those skills typically transfer to the role of emergency medical technician, which is a low-paying job in the civilian sector.

Given the time frame of the data, he also thinks the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the growth in civilian contractor jobs requiring a top-secret security clearance might have benefited troops serving in intelligence and information technology positions. People who hold that level of clearance typically earn higher

wages, Goldman said.

Each of the services has made substantial improvements to their transition programs since the time period for this data, but Goldman said he still believes it shows insight into how and where to focus those programs and resources. Some of those changes include new programs to help troops earn civilian certifications through their military jobs and allowing more time before separation to prepare resumes, look for employment and participate in specialized training through partnerships with corporations, businesses and trade organizations.

Looking ahead, Goldman said future research could use this data to focus in on those time periods where changes were made to transition programs to see what impact they had.

Better civilian employment helps with recruiting and retention, but also the Pentagon’s bottom line, he said. The Defense Department paid more than \$900 million annually in unemployment to former service members during the early 2010s when the country experienced a “weak job market following the Great Recession,” according to the report, which cited the Congressional Budget Office.

Okla. National Guard leader rejects vaccine mandate

By CAITLIN DOORBOS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The new leader of the Oklahoma National Guard issued a memo Thursday ordering that no troops will be required to take a coronavirus vaccine despite a mandate from the Pentagon requiring it, according to a news report.

Oklahoma Adjutant General Thomas Mancino updated the Oklahoma National Guard’s vaccination policy as one of his first acts in the job, noting “no negative administrative or legal action will be taken” against Guard members who decline the coronavirus vaccine, *The Oklahoman* reported Friday.

The decision comes after Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in August issued a mandate requiring all service members to get

the vaccine or be separated from the military for failing to obey a lawful order.

The Oklahoma National Guard declined to release Mancino’s memo to *Stars and Stripes* on Friday.

However, it was unclear Friday whether the Oklahoma National Guard can override the National Guard Bureau’s federal mandate that requires all Guard members to be fully vaccinated by June 30, 2022, said Air Force Sgt. Matt Murphy, a bureau spokesman.

“It’s a legal gray area that would have to be reviewed by our lawyers,” he said.

The National Guard serves in state and federal capacities, which complicates the issue, Murphy said.

“This is where the difference between Title 32 and Title 10 becomes a real, becomes

an issue,” Murphy said. “In most instances, the guardsmen are in their Title 32 capacity, which means they’re on state duty. In order to be federalized, they have to be on Title 10.”

Title 10 of the U.S. Code gives the National Guard Bureau authority to issue its mandate for Guard troops activated for federal missions, while Title 32 gives an individual state the power to issue rules when Guard troops are operating under the state’s authority.

The National Guard Bureau’s vaccination deadline is different than the deadlines set by the Air Force and Army. The Air Force and Army require Guard airmen and soldiers to comply with their Nov. 2 and Dec. 15 respective vaccination deadlines to be mobilized on federal orders — more than six months before the bureau’s deadline.

Air Force: US to remain in Middle East

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The top U.S. Air Force general in the Mideast said Saturday that American airmen would continue to be stationed in the region even as military planners consider competition with China and Russia as Washington's next major challenge.

Speaking to journalists ahead of the Dubai Airshow, Lt. Gen. Gregory Guillot acknowledged that presence "could adjust" after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in August. The U.S. Air Force operates a major base in nearby Qatar, which oversaw operations in Afghanistan, as well as Iraq and Syria.

"But I don't see any scenario where the United States does not have an important role," Guillot said.

Guillot's comments come as tensions remain high between Iran and the U.S. after years of confrontations following then-President Donald Trump's decision to unilaterally withdraw America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. Israel meanwhile is suspected of launching a series of attacks targeting Iran's atomic program.

As talks over the deal remain stalled, Iran elected a hard-line protege of the country's supreme leader as president and has itself seized vessels at sea and is suspected of launching drone attacks.

Guillot several times declined to directly attribute recent drone attacks in the region to Iran, though he acknowledged the rising number of such assaults in the region.

"The collaborative defense of multiple

countries, you know, in the region is going to be our key to detecting those and staying one step ahead of the threat as it evolves," he said after appearing at the Dubai International Air Chiefs' Conference.

Russia is expected to display its Sukhoi Su-75 Checkmate fighter jet at the Dubai Airshow this week. It's a direct competitor to the American F-35 fighter, which the United Arab Emirates has been trying to buy since diplomatically recognizing Israel last year. That sale has slowed under President Joe Biden's administration.

Asked about the Checkmate, Guillot said he hoped that U.S. allies and partners would use equipment that would be "interoperable" with the American military. He said buying the Russian fighter "absolutely" would affect that.

Fort Hood soldier is indicted on charge of murder

BY ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

A Fort Hood soldier was indicted Wednesday on a charge of murder in the death of a fellow soldier who was the mother of his child.

Cpl. Nakealon Keunte Mosley, 24, was indicted by a grand jury in Bell County, Texas, which is located just outside the Army base in central Texas, according to online court records. He is charged with shooting Sgt. Francine Martinez, 24, on Sept. 4 following an argument outside of a nightclub in Killeen, Texas. After two weeks in the hospital, Martinez died Sept. 16.

Mosely was initially charged with aggravated assault of a family member, and he

has been in Bell County Jail since Sept. 5 with his bond set at \$505,000, according to online jail records. His arraignment for the enhanced charge is scheduled for Dec. 16.

In the days before the shooting, Martinez had filed a petition to establish paternity for the couple's child, according to Bell County court records. The case was closed Sept. 22.

Both soldiers had previously served at Fort Carson, Colo., before arriving at Fort Hood, according to their service records.

There is no record of a military protective order being filed between the two and neither Mosley nor Martinez have ever been charged with any wrongdoing based on an investigation from Army Criminal In-

vestigation Division, said Jeffrey Castro, a spokesman for the division.

Army special agents from the division are assisting the Killeen Police Department with their investigation, he said.

Witnesses of the shooting told Killeen police officers that Mosely and Martinez had been romantically involved in the past and had a child together, according to an arrest affidavit for Mosely.

The two soldiers ran into each other at a Killeen nightclub on Sept. 4, which led to an argument in the parking lot, according to the affidavit. As Martinez left in one vehicle, Mosely followed in a separate vehicle and fired gunshots at Martinez's vehicle, police said.

Government-allied forces exit, rebels retake Yemeni city

Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Forces loyal to Yemen's internationally recognized government have withdrawn from the strategic port city of Hodeida, allowing the rebels to retake their positions, Yemeni officials and the U.N. said.

The Joint Forces, backed by the United Arab Emirates, said late Friday they redeployed troops from Hodeida because there was no need to stay in the city amid a U.N.-brokered cease-fire deal.

They criticized the government for not allowing them to retake control of the city from the Houthi rebels. The Joint Forces say the rebels repeatedly violated the 2018 deal that ended their offensive against Hodeida.

A U.N. mission observing the cease-fire said government-allied forces have withdrawn from their positions in the city and areas south of the city and the Houthis have taken over the vacated positions. It said it wasn't notified before the withdrawal.

In 2018, heavy fighting erupted in Hodeida after government forces backed by a Saudi-led coalition moved in to wrest control of the strategic port city from the Houthis.

After months of clashes, the warring sides signed a U.N.-brokered agreement in December 2018 that included a cease-fire in the city and an exchange of more than 15,000 prisoners.

The deal, seen as an important first step toward ending the broader conflict, was never fully implemented.

Court reaffirms stay on vaccine order

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal court declined Friday to lift its stay on the Biden administration's vaccine mandate for businesses with 100 or more workers.

The New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted an emergency stay last Saturday of the requirement by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration that those workers be vaccinated by Jan. 4 or face mask requirements and weekly tests.

Lawyers for the Justice and Labor departments filed a response Monday in

which they said stopping the mandate from taking effect will only prolong the COVID-19 pandemic and would "cost dozens or even hundreds of lives per day."

But the appeals court rejected that argument Friday. Judge Kurt D. Engelhardt wrote that the stay "is firmly in the public interest."

"From economic uncertainty to workplace strife, the mere specter of the Mandate has contributed to untold economic upheaval in recent months," wrote Engelhardt, who was appointed to the court by

President Donald Trump in 2018.

At least 27 states have filed legal challenges in at least six federal appeals courts after OSHA released its rules on Nov. 4. The federal government said in its court filings Monday that the cases should be consolidated and that one of the circuit courts, where a legal challenge has been filed, should be chosen at random on Nov. 16 to hear it.

Administration lawyers said there is no reason to keep the vaccine mandate on hold while the court where the cases ultimately land remains undetermined.

Bannon indicted for defying Jan. 6 subpoena

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Steve Bannon, a longtime ally of former President Donald Trump, has been indicted on two counts of criminal contempt of Congress after he defied a subpoena from the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

On Friday, the Justice Department said Bannon, 67, was indicted on one count for refusing to appear for a deposition last month and the other for refusing to provide documents in response to the committee's subpoena. He is expected to surrender to authorities on Monday and will appear in court that after-

noon, a law enforcement official told the AP. The person was granted anonymity to discuss the case.

The indictment comes after a parade of Trump administration officials — including Bannon — have defied requests and demands from Congress over the past five years with little consequence, including during Democrats' impeachment inquiry. President Barack Obama's administration also declined to charge two of its officials who defied congressional demands.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said Bannon's indictment reflects the Justice Department's "steadfast commitment"

to the rule of law. Each count carries a minimum of 30 days of jail and as long as a year behind bars.

The indictment came as a second expected witness, former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, defied his own subpoena from the committee on Friday and as Trump has escalated his legal battles to withhold documents and testimony about the insurrection.

If the House votes to hold Meadows in contempt, that recommendation would also be sent to the Justice Department for a possible indictment.

Democrats who voted to hold Bannon in contempt praised the Justice Department's decision,

saying the charges reinforce the authority of Congress to investigate the executive branch and signal potential consequences for those who refuse to cooperate.

"The days of defying subpoenas with impunity are over," tweeted House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, who sits on the Jan. 6 panel and also led Trump's first impeachment inquiry. "We will expose those responsible for Jan 6. No one is above the law."

Meadows and Bannon are key witnesses for the panel, as they both were in close touch with Trump around the time of the insurrection.

Americans quit their jobs at record pace for 2nd month

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans quit their jobs at a record pace for the second straight month in September, while businesses and other employers posted a near-record number of available jobs.

The Labor Department said Friday that 4.4 million people quit their jobs that month, or about 3% of the nation's workforce. That's up from 4.3 million in August. There were 10.4 million job openings, down from 10.6 million in August, which was revised higher.

The figures point to a historic level of tur-

moil in the job market as newly-empowered workers quit jobs to take higher pay that is being dangled by increasingly-desperate employers in need of help. Incomes are rising, Americans are spending more and the economy is growing, and employers have ramped up hiring to keep the pace. Rising inflation, however, is offsetting much of the pay gains for workers.

It is typically perceived as a signal of worker confidence when people begin to leave the jobs they hold. The vast majority of people quit for a new position.

Competition for workers is particularly

intense for retailers and delivery companies, particularly as they staff up for what is expected to be a healthy winter holiday shopping season.

Online giant Amazon is hiring 125,000 permanent drivers and warehouse workers and offers pay between \$18 and \$22 an hour. It's also paying sign-on bonuses of up to \$3,000.

Seasonal hiring is also ramping up. Package delivery company UPS is seeking to add 100,000 workers to help with the crush of holiday orders, and plans to make job offers to some applicants within 30 minutes.

Myanmar court sentences US journalist

Associated Press

BANGKOK — A court in military-ruled Myanmar on Friday sentenced U.S. journalist Danny Fenster to 11 years in prison with hard labor, the maximum penalty under three charges, despite calls by the United States and rights groups for his release.

It was the harshest punishment yet among the seven journalists known to have been convicted since the military ousted the elected government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi in February.

Fenster, the managing editor of the online magazine Frontier Myanmar, still faces additional terrorism and treason charges under which he could receive up to life in prison.

The court found him guilty on Friday of spreading false or in-

flammatory information, contacting illegal organizations and violating visa regulations, lawyer Than Zaw Aung said.

Fenster wept after hearing the sentence and has not yet decided whether to appeal, the lawyer said.

The harsh penalty is the ruling military's latest rebuff of calls from around the world for a peaceful end to Myanmar's political crisis. The government is refusing to cooperate with an envoy appointed by Southeast Asian governments to mediate a solution, and has not bowed to sanctions imposed by the United States and several other Western countries.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price in a statement called Fenster's sentencing "an unjust conviction of an

innocent person."

Price added: "The United States condemns this decision. We are closely monitoring Danny's situation and will continue to work for his immediate release. We will do so until Danny returns home safely to his family."

U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said Fenster's conviction and harsh sentence "is emblematic of the wider plight of journalists in Myanmar who have been facing constant repression since the Feb. 1 military coup."

According to Bachelet, at least 126 journalists, media officials or publishers have been detained by the military since the military seized power and 47 remain in detention, including 20 charged with crimes.

Nine media outlets have had their licenses revoked, 20 others have had to suspend operations, and dozens of journalists remain in hiding due to outstanding arrest warrants, she said.

"Journalists have been under attack since Feb. 1, with the military leadership clearly attempting to suppress their attempts to report on the serious human rights violations being perpetrated across Myanmar as well as the extent of opposition to the regime," Bachelet said. "Myanmar has quickly reverted to an environment of information control, censorship and propaganda seen under military regimes in the past."

"I urge the military authorities to immediately release all journalists being detained in relation to their work," she said.

Bus in Afghan capital hit in deadly blast

Associated Press

KABUL — A bomb exploded on a minibus Saturday on a busy commercial street in a Kabul neighborhood mainly populated by members of Afghanistan's minority Hazara community, emergency workers and the bus driver said. At least one person was killed and five wounded.

Workers with the ambulance teams at the scene told The Associated Press that the blast appeared to have been caused by a bomb on the bus.

The bus driver, speaking to the AP at

the hospital, said that at one point during his route, a suspicious man got onto the bus and a few minutes later, the explosion went off at the back of the bus.

The driver, who goes by a single name Murtaza, said he saw two passengers with their clothes on fire falling out of the back of the vehicle while other passengers escaped out the front.

The spokesman for Afghanistan's ruling Taliban, Zabihullah Mujahid, told the AP that a fire broke out on the minibus and caused an explosion, killing one person and wounding another.

Photos from the scene showed the burning wreckage of a vehicle with a pall of smoke rising into the air. The explosion took place on the main avenue running through Dashti Barchi, a sprawling neighborhood on the west side of Kabul largely populated by Hazaras.

Afghanistan's Hazaras, who are mostly Shiite Muslims, have been the target of a brutal campaign of violence for the past several years, blamed on Islamic State. Militants have carried out several deadly attacks in Dashti Barchi, including a 2020 attack on a maternity hospital.

2 killed in Russian paratrooper accident in Belarus

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia sent paratroopers to Belarus on Friday, in a show of support for its ally amid tensions over migrants and refugees amassing on the Belarus-Poland border, but two of the Russian soldiers were killed in a parachute accident.

The Russian Defense Ministry said that as part of joint war games, about 250 Russian paratroopers jumped from heavy-lift Il-76 transport planes into the Grodno region of

Belarus, which borders Poland.

The ministry said in a statement later that the two paratroopers' parachutes collided in a gust of wind and deflated. It noted that one of the soldiers tried to use a reserve chute but the altitude was too low for it to deploy. Both died of their injuries in a hospital.

The ministry said that the paratroopers who took part in the drills re-boarded the transport planes and flew back to Russia after the exercise.

The Belarusian military said the exercise involving a battalion of Russian paratroopers was intended to test the readiness of the allies' rapid response forces due to an "increase of military activities near the Belarusian border."

It said the drills that involved Belarusian air defense assets, helicopter gunships and other forces envisaged targeting enemy scouts and illegal armed formations, along with other tasks.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Octogenarian fulfills dream of being physicist

RI EAST PROVIDENCE — An 89-year-old Rhode Island man has achieved a goal he spent two decades working toward and nearly a lifetime thinking about — earning his Ph.D. and becoming a physicist.

Manfred Steiner recently defended his dissertation successfully at Brown University in Providence. Steiner cherishes this degree because it's what he always wanted — and because he overcame health problems that could have derailed his studies.

As a teenager in Vienna, Steiner was inspired to become a physicist after reading about Albert Einstein and Max Planck. He admired the precision of physics.

But after World War II, his mother and uncle advised him that studying medicine would be a better choice in turbulent times. He earned his medical degree from the University of Vienna in 1955 and moved to the United States just a few weeks later, where he had a successful career studying blood and blood disorders.

Beloved 'Dolphin Tale' star mourned online

FL Parents, movie fans and animal care workers are among those taking to social media to express their sorrow at the death of Winter the dolphin, who was under treatment for a suspected gastrointestinal infection at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

Rescued from crab-trap rope near Cape Canaveral, Winter

was fitted with a prosthetic tail and became an inspiration to people with disabilities and fans worldwide at the aquarium where she lived for 15 years. Her story was told in the hit 2011 movie "Dolphin Tale" and a sequel featuring Hope, another dolphin cared for at the aquarium.

More than 20,000 people have already posted their condolences on the aquarium's Facebook page. Many more posted on Twitter and Instagram, including people who tagged the stars of the movie — Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd and Harry Connick Jr.

Man killed 2 women with meat cleaver

CA SANTA ANA — A Southern California man said he killed two women with a meat cleaver after a New Year's Eve party while his wife and son waited in a car outside.

Christopher Ireland, 42, of Huntington Beach is charged with the Jan. 1, 2017, murders of Yolanda Holtrey, 59, and Michelle Luke, 49, and with setting fire to Holtrey's Westminster home to destroy evidence. He could face life in prison if convicted.

Ireland's wife worked with Holtrey and Luke at a department store.

According to the Orange County Register, Ireland said the killings occurred after Holtrey caught him having sex with Luke while Ireland's wife and son, 11, were in a car parked outside, waiting for Ireland to leave.

Ireland testified that he killed the women after they attacked him, Holtrey with the cleaver

and later Luke with a kettlebell.

Program lets hunters help feed people in need

WV CHARLESTON — A West Virginia program allows hunters to help feed families and individuals in need.

The Hunters Helping the Hungry program is sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The agency said the program processes deer that are donated.

More than 1 million pounds of venison has been donated since the program started almost 30 years ago. In 2020, 500 deer, totaling more than 20,000 pounds of venison, were donated.

University proposes veteran tuition rate

TN KNOXVILLE — The University of Tennessee system is proposing a break that would let military veterans attend its campuses at the discounted in-state tuition rate.

The university said the board has shown support for President Randy Boyd's proposal and a request for approval from state lawmakers to make the change possible across the university's system.

If it's approved, the discount would apply to military-affiliated student groups starting next fall.

Police: Squatters buried long-dead homeowner

NV LAS VEGAS — Authorities in Las Vegas believe the body of a woman who died unnoticed in 2018 re-

mained in her home for more than two years until squatters found it, dismembered it and buried it in her backyard, a television station reported.

Lucille Payne's remains were found last April in a shallow grave behind the home she purchased in 1999 in northwest Las Vegas, KLAS-TV reported.

Las Vegas police have not identified suspects who authorities said could face fraud or theft-related charges for selling Payne's car and improper burial for leaving her body in a shallow grave.

"After finding her, the decision was made between several people that they were going to dismember her body and bury her and then basically drain her finances and sell off her belongings, fraudulently," homicide Lt. Ray Spencer told KLAS-TV.

Museum relinquishes allegedly looted artifacts

CO DENVER — Prosecutors have filed a complaint in federal court seeking the forfeiture of four Cambodian antiquities that were sold to the Denver Art Museum by a late art dealer accused of pillaging and illegally selling ancient artifacts.

The U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York filed the complaint and the museum has voluntarily relinquished possession of the artifacts, The Denver Post reported.

Douglas Landford was charged two years ago with a host of crimes associated with pillaging and selling artifacts. He died in August at 88 before he could stand trial.

From wire reports

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No. 2 Cincinnati rolls past South Florida

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Desmond Ridder threw two touchdown passes to break the Cincinnati career record and ran for a score to help the No. 2 Bearcats beat South Florida 45-28 on Friday night.

Cincinnati (10-0, 6-0 American Athletic, No. 5 CFP), one of four unbeaten FBS teams, has started the season with 10 consecutive wins for just the second time in school history. The Bearcats also did it in 2009, when they got off to a 12-0 start.

“We know we’re still climbing and when you’re climbing a mound there’s going to be struggles, there’s going to be obstacles and we had some tonight,” Cincinnati coach Luke Fickell said. “I thought Desmond Ridder had a phenomenal night.”

Ridder broke the school record with this 79th touchdown pass, a 21-yard strike to Josh Whyte early in the third that made it 31-7. Gino Guidugli, now Cincinnati’s quarterbacks coach and passing game coordinator, had 78 scoring passes from 2001-04.

“Something special, man,” Guidugli said. “He’s earned that. It just makes it that much more special if your record is going to be broken. I’m extremely happy for him. I love him like a son.”

Ridder completed 31 of 39 passes for 304 yards, and ran for 65 yards on 13 carries. He brought the record-breaking ball to his postgame media session.

“I told everyone in the locker room that this ball and this record wasn’t just me,” Ridder said.

The Bearcats played without running back Jerome Ford due to a leg injury that happened during last week against Tulsa. Ford has 888 yards and 15 rushing touchdowns.

Jaren Mangham had two rushing TDs for South Florida (2-8, 1-5), which has lost 19 consecutive games against teams ranked in the top 20 since upsetting Notre Dame on the road in October 2011. He has 15 touchdowns on the ground this season, tied for second-most in USF history.

Freshman Timmy McClain

completed 16 of 29 passes for 245 yards. His 80-yard hookup with Jimmy Horn Jr. got the Bulls to 31-21 late in the third quarter, and he added a 2-yard TD run that cut the deficit to 38-28 with six minutes to play.

“We’re not a good enough team right now to kind of turn it on and turn it off,” USF coach Jeff Scott said. “I’m proud of how this group continues to fight, continues to play, and eventually that’s going to pay off.”

Ridder had a 13-yard TD run, connected on a 1-yard scoring strike to Tre Tucker, and Alex Bales made a 27-yard field goal during the second quarter as the Bearcats took a 24-7 lead.

After turning the ball over on its first and fourth plays on offense, Cincinnati tied it at 7 when Ryan Montgomery scored on a 12-yard dash with 2:57 left in the first. He had a 55-yard TD run with just over a minute remaining and finished with 72 yards on six carries.

South Florida took a 7-0 lead midway through the opening quarter when Mangham had a

2-yard TD run.

The Bearcats limited USF to 39 first-half yards.

The takeaway

Cincinnati: Had several costly first-half penalties, including an offside call that gave USF a first down in a punting situation, and an ineligible receiver downfield that negated a Ridder TD pass. The Bearcats struggled to close out the win, allowing three long second-half scoring drives and losing a fumble at the USF 1 early in the fourth.

“That’s what keeps me laying awake at night, is just finding ways to finish things off,” Fickell said. “That’s where we’ve got to go if we want to be great.”

USF: Had periods of success against a top-20 team for the second straight week. The Bulls lost 54-42 to then No. 20 Houston last week.

Poll implications

Cincinnati will remain near the top in the AP poll but it remains to be seen how the voters will look at the relatively close win over USF.

US shuts out Mexico in World Cup qualifying

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Christian Pulisic sent a message — with his head and his undershirt.

Take that, Mexico. Pulisic and the Americans are back atop the region.

Pulisic scored on his very first touch in the 74th minute, Weston McKennie added a goal in the 85th and the United States beat Mexico 2-0 Friday night in a World Cup qualifier — the “Dos a Cero” scoreline that became traditional early in the 21st century.

When Pulisic scored on his first touch five minutes after entering, he ran to the endline and pulled up his jersey to show the

red-white-and-blue clad fans.

“Man in the mirror,” was scribbled in dark ink.

Earlier in the week, El Tri goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa was quoted as saying: “Mexico is the mirror in which the United States wants to see itself.”

A night that began with smoke — from fireworks during “The Star-Spangled Banner” as LED lights flashed through the stands — ended with Michael Jackson’s “Man in the Mirror” playing on the public address system.

U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said Thursday that Ochoa’s remarks showed “that we have a long way to go to get the respect of Mexico.”

Fans in the crowd of 26,000 at new TLQ Stadium booed Ochoa with every touch.

“I think you guys know the message. I don’t need to, like, speak on it too much,” Pulisic said. “It’s just an idea that came in the head.”

Tim Weah said he and defender DeAndre Yedlin inspired Pulisic’s shirt.

“Just to send a message,” Weah said. “Before the game, Mexico was talking a lot of smack. To shut them up, we have to continue to win games, continue to beat them. That’s the only way we’re going to earn their respect and get the world’s respect.”

The win was the third this year for the 13th-ranked Americans over No. 9 Mexico following a 3-2 victory in the Nations League final in June and a 1-0 victory in the CONCACAF Gold Cup final in August.

“To win three in a row is obviously amazing,” Pulisic said, “but that doesn’t mean that it’s time to be complacent or time to think, ‘Oh, we’re the best around.’”

Heated matches between Mexico and the U.S. are the norm, and this one ended with the U.S. a man short after Miles Robinson — who scored the Gold Cup goal — got a pair of yellow cards.

No. 2 UCLA tops No. 4 Villanova in OT

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Two highly ranked teams and a raucous crowd packed into historic Pauley Pavilion sure made it seem like it was already March Madness.

It's not just yet, although No. 2 UCLA backed up its Final Four run last spring with an 86-77 overtime victory against fourth-ranked Villanova on Friday night.

"We love these games," said Johnny Juzang, the NCAA Tournament star who scored 25 points. "This is where we have the most fun. It's a blast."

The Bruins overcame a 10-point, second-half deficit before taking control in overtime.

"They gutted it out and we didn't," Wildcats coach Jay Wright said.

Jules Bernard banked in a jumper that tied it at 67 with 30 seconds to go to force overtime, when more than 13,000 cheering, chanting fans remained on

their feet until the final buzzer.

"We were relentless but their efforts were relentless, too," UCLA coach Mick Cronin said. "Nobody should have lost this game."

The Bruins looked like they were going to when they fell behind by 10. But they rallied over the final 5½ minutes of regulation while holding Villanova at 67.

After getting to the line just seven times in regulation, UCLA made all 12 of its free throws in the five-minute extra session, when they outscored the Wildcats 19-10.

Caleb Daniels missed two three-point attempts and Collin Gillespie missed a layup before Jermaine Samuels hit a three in the closing seconds.

"They just made a lot of great plays towards the end," Samuels said. "Those are the plays that you've got to get and they got them."

Jaime Jaquez Jr. added 21

points and 13 rebounds and Bernard finished with 16 points for the Bruins (2-0).

Samuels scored 20 points and Gillespie scored 18 points to lead the Wildcats (1-1).

Villanova, the 2018 national champion, had its share of supporters under UCLA's record 11 national championship banners.

"It was a great game," Wright said. "Great atmosphere. This place is awesome."

Cronin added, "I told Jay, 'Let's just do it again tomorrow.' Doesn't get much better than that."

Neither team gave an inch until midway through the second half.

Leading by one, the Wildcats outscored the Bruins 11-2 to take the game's first double-digit lead, 60-50. Four different players scored in the spurt, with Eric Dixon's three-point play getting it going. Samuels

dunked and Justin Moore and Gillespie made consecutive three-pointers.

Three times the Bruins got within two over the final four minutes — the last when Juzang made a pair of free throws to trail 67-65. Moore missed a layup with 0.2 seconds left that forced overtime.

The game was the earliest matchup by date between AP top-five teams at a campus site in the history of the poll that began in 1948-49, according to ESPN Stats & Info. It also was the first nonconference matchup between two top-five teams in Pauley Pavilion since March 1, 1992, when then-No. 4 UCLA lost to top-ranked Duke.

The Wildcats settled down after an early deficit and outscored the Bruins 24-15, including 10 straight points, to end the half. They took their first lead of the game on a 3-pointer by Gillespie, the first of three treys in a row during the spurt.

Moore, Banchemo lead Duke past Army in home debut

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Wendell Moore Jr. looked comfortable and confident as a veteran captain in Duke's home opener. It certainly helped having the ninth-ranked Blue Devils' famously rowdy fans packed in again for the first time in more than 20 months.

The junior forward posted only the third triple-double of the Mike Krzyzewski era to help Duke beat Army 82-56 in Friday night's home opener.

Moore had 19 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists to join big man Shelden Williams (2006) and forward RJ Barrett (2019) as the only players to post a triple-double in Coach K's 42 seasons in Durham.

"He's our leader," Krzyzewski said of Moore. "He'll do anything that we need to have

done."

Moore finished with just one turnover in nearly 35 minutes.

"It all starts with my teammates," said Moore said, who needed IV fluids due to cramping after Tuesday's season-opening win against No. 10 Kentucky in New York. "They have instilled so much confidence in me over this preseason. I feel like I can do anything with them behind me."

Freshman Paolo Banchemo added 18 points for the Blue Devils (2-0), who are beginning their final season under Krzyzewski. He announced in June that he would retire this spring and hand off to associate head coach Jon Scheyer, the former Duke player who sat Friday to Krzyzewski's immediate right on the bench.

This game matched Krzy-

zewski against his alma mater and the program he led before taking over the Blue Devils in 1980. Duke jumped out to a 10-0 lead and never trailed, but had issues putting away the pesky Black Knights (1-1).

Jalen Rucker scored 19 points to lead Army, which trailed by between seven and 15 points much of the way before the Blue Devils stretched it out beyond 20 points in the final 5 minutes.

Big picture

Army: Picked to finish fourth in the Patriot League, the Black Knights hung around, both in turning away Duke's mini-bursts but also in their inability to seriously cut into the deficit after halftime. Army shot 39% and made just 5 of 22 three-pointers, while

committing 21 turnovers that led to 27 points for the Blue Devils.

Duke: The Blue Devils' season-opening win against the Wildcats in Madison Square Garden came behind big performances from freshman Trevor Keels and Banchemo (22 points). Banchemo followed with 12 rebounds, while Keels had 10 points and six steals.

Returning home

This was the first regular-season game for Duke with the Cameron Crazies — the screaming and chanting-in-unison fans — jammed back into the courtside bleachers since the March 2020 win against rival North Carolina. That was five days before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the sports world.

Celtics run past Bucks in overtime

Associated Press

BOSTON — When the Milwaukee Bucks scratched Giannis Antetokounmpo 90 minutes before the tipoff, Boston coach Ime Udoka worried that his team would expect an easy night against the rest of the defending NBA champions.

It took the Celtics a while to snap out of it. “There’s always a natural letdown. That was the message before the game,” Udoka said after Boston beat Milwaukee 122-113 in overtime Friday night. “The other guys are going to play hard and come in with a ‘nothing to lose’ attitude, and they did.”

Dennis Schröder scored a season-high 38 points — eight in overtime — as the Celtics took advantage of the reigning NBA Finals MVP’s absence to pull away. Jayson Tatum scored 27 with 11 rebounds for Boston, which has won four of five since opening the season 2-5.

Warriors 119, Bulls 93: Stephen Curry made nine three-pointers and scored 40 points with his old college coach from Davidson cheering him on, Draymond Green delivered another all-around effort and Golden State beat Chicago for its seventh straight victory.

Green added nine points, nine rebounds and seven assists after coming into the game questionable with a bruised left thigh. The Warriors improved to 11-1, wrapping up a

franchise-record eight-game homestand.

Nets 120, Pelicans 112: James Harden highlighted a 39-point, 12-assist performance with a game-sealing 27-foot three-pointer with 29 seconds left and Brooklyn rallied to win at New Orleans after blowing a 21-point lead.

Kevin Durant scored 28 for the Nets, who’ve won seven of their last eight, and Joe Harris scored 24 after opening his night by hitting his first seven shots, including six from three-point range, to help hand the Pelicans their ninth straight loss.

Timberwolves 107, Lakers 83: Karl-Anthony Towns scored 18 of his 29 points during his team’s dominant third quarter, and Minnesota snapped its six-game losing streak with a lopsided victory at Los Angeles.

D’Angelo Russell had 22 points against his former team and Patrick Beverley added 11 points and seven rebounds for Minnesota, which seized control while outscoring the Lakers 40-12 in the third as the Timberwolves rolled to their first win since Oct. 27.

Thunder 105, Kings 103: Lu Dort stole the ball from De’Aaron Fox, then drove and made a layup with 1.7 seconds left to lift Oklahoma City past visiting Sacramento.

The Kings’ Buddy Hield, the former University of Oklahoma star, missed a three-pointer at the buzzer that would have won it for the Kings.

Suns 119, Grizzlies 94: Devin Booker and Jae Crowder scored 17 points each, Chris Paul added 15 points and 12 assists and visiting Phoenix dominated Memphis for its seventh straight victory.

Mikal Bridges had 13 points as the defending Western Conference champion Suns controlled the game throughout, never trailing.

Hornets 104, Knicks 96: Miles Bridges scored 24 points, point guard LaMelo Ball had a career-high 17 rebounds to go with 12 points and nine assists and host Charlotte overcame an early 16-point deficit to beat New York.

Trail Blazers 104, Rockets 92: Damian Lillard scored 20 points, CJ McCollum added 17 and Portland cruised to a win at Houston for its first road victory of the season.

Mavericks 123, Spurs 109: Kristaps Porzingis had a season-high 32 points, Luka Dončić had 32 points, 15 assists and 12 rebounds and visiting Dallas routed San Antonio.

Nuggets 105, Hawks 96: Nikola Jokic had 22 points, 19 rebounds and 10 assists in his return from a one-game suspension for his second triple-double of the season, leading host Denver past Atlanta.

Cavaliers 98, Pistons 78: Darius Garland tied his season high with 21 points and rookie power forward Evan Mobley had 16 points and seven rebounds, leading host Cleveland past Detroit.

Ovechkin gets 742nd goal, Caps beat Blue Jackets

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Alex Ovechkin got his 742nd career goal, Conor Sheary scored with 1:22 left and the Washington Capitals beat the Columbus Blue Jackets 4-3 Friday night.

Garnet Hathaway scored twice to help Washington get its third straight win. Ilya Samsonov stopped 26 shots for his first win since Oct. 29.

“You got to like the perseverance, playing and traveling last night, and guys stepping up and getting it done in the third period, and winning in regulation,” Capitals coach Peter Laviolette said.

Sean Kuraly had two goals for Columbus, and Gustav Nyquist also scored. Joonas Kor-

pisalo had 24 saves.

Ovechkin’s laser shot from the right circle at 10:19 of the first period tied the score 1-1 with his league-leading 12th goal of the season. Ovechkin broke a tie with Bobby Hull for fourth on the NHL’s all-time goals.

Sabres 3, Oilers 2: Dylan Cozens scored twice, including the go-ahead goal, in a span of 5:14 and host Buffalo snapped a 0-4-1 skid.

Anders Bjork also scored during a second period in which the Sabres overcame a 2-1 deficit after Edmonton’s Leon Draisaitl scored two power-play goals. Dustin Tokarski stopped 33 shots — including bang-bang chances by

Draisaitl with 4:45 remaining — for his second win in seven starts.

The Pacific Division-leading Oilers dropped to 10-3 in failing to win 11 of their first 13 games of a season for the first time in team history.

Maple Leafs 2, Flames 1 (OT): Auston Matthews scored at 2:32 of overtime and host Toronto beat Calgary.

Ondrej Kase also scored, William Nylander had two assists and Jack Campbell made 30 saves to help the Maple Leafs win for the seventh time in eight games.

Flyers 2, Hurricanes 1: Zack MacEwen scored with 8:40 remaining and Philadelphia rallied to win at Carolina.

Joel Farabee also scored in the third period for the Flyers, who had been shut out in their previous game and couldn’t score in this one until the final period. Carter Hart stopped 39 shots for Philadelphia, which has won two of its past three games.

Blackhawks 2, Coyotes 1: Dylan Strome scored the tie-breaking goal midway through the third period, Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 22 shots, and host Chicago beat Arizona.

Alex DeBrincat also scored and Patrick Kane had two assists as the Blackhawks won their third straight since Derek King replaced the fired Jeremy Colliton as head coach last Saturday.