

## Ship sails Taiwan Strait; 11th Navy trip in '21

By ALEX WILSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

A U.S. Navy destroyer passed through the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday, marking at least the 11th trip through the contested waterway by an American warship this year.

The USS *Milius*, homeported at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, made the transit on Tuesday, according to a news release that day from the 7th Fleet.

Navy warships regularly steam through the approximately 110-mile strait that separates China and Taiwan. The Chinese government routinely condemns those operations as provocative.

Beijing considers Taiwan, a functioning democracy, a breakaway province that must be re-

united with the mainland, possibly by force.

The *Milius'* trip through the strait came just over a month after two other vessels — the destroyer USS *Dewey* and the Canadian frigate HMCS *Winnipeg* — made the same transit Oct. 14-15.

The October transits drew a rebuke from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which said its military monitored the ships closely.

"U.S. warships have repeatedly flaunted their prowess in the Taiwan Strait, provoking and stirring up trouble, and even gone further to collude with its allies to provoke, disrupt and mess around," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian in a statement Oct. 18. "The vile acts

of the U.S. are by no means commitment to freedom and openness, but rather deliberate disruption and sabotage of regional peace and stability. The international community sees this crystal clear."

The Navy, which has sent a warship through the strait roughly once per month this year, frequently describes those trips as routine and a demonstration of "the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific."

China had not responded to the *Milius'* transit as of Tuesday afternoon.

Tensions in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the South China Sea, have continued to rise over the past year. In October, China sent a record number of aircraft toward Taiwan's air defense

identification zone, while Beijing has made increasingly open remarks about a reunification of the island and the mainland.

Last week, China used a water cannon to deter two Philippine vessels that were carrying supplies to Philippine troops on a contested shoal in the South China Sea.

The incident prompted outrage from the Philippine government, as well as a reminder that Manila's supply vessels are protected by a mutual defense treaty with the United States.

Despite the setback, the Philippine military defiantly redeployed two supply boats Monday to reach those same troops, and they successfully reached their target Tuesday without any major incident.

## China looms large over House delegation's Pacific trip

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — A U.S. congressional delegation heard from U.S. military commanders on Okinawa of China's increasing provocations in the region, but left Tuesday saying conflict with the Asian power must be avoided.

"There's a growing sense of a new reality with China, a stronger China, a more equipped China, a China that is closing the innovation gap," Rep. Mark Takano told *Stars and Stripes* as the five-member delegation prepared to depart Kadena. "And that new reality hasn't really sunk in, in a clear way, in an informed way, with all of our colleagues, I think even with the American people."

Takano, a California Democrat and chair of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, is leading three other Democrats and Republican Nancy Mace, of South Carolina, on a fact-finding mission to Japan and South Korea. The trip over Thanksgiving week includes meetings with troops serving

abroad.

Delegation members Mace, Elissa Slotkin, of Michigan, and Colin Allred, of Texas, serve with Takano on the Veterans Affairs Committee; Slotkin and Sara Jacobs, of California, serve on the House Armed Services Committee.

Slotkin, a former CIA analyst, said something must be done, short of war, to maintain order in the region following China's repeated "Sputnik moments." One such moment was the July 27 launch of a hypersonic missile that circled the globe and caught some U.S. military leaders by surprise.

Slotkin said a top-down societal approach — using military, economic and even agricultural tools — is needed to maintain deterrence.

Referring to China's posturing toward Taiwan, the island democracy China regards as a breakaway province, Takano said he wants to see the status quo maintained. Some U.S. military leaders have said China is building toward an attempt to reclaim Taiwan by force within several years.

"We don't want to see unification by force," he said.

The delegation met with representatives of all four service branches, including members of the Special Forces, Takano said. The House members also had lunch with U.S. military veterans living on Okinawa and toured U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

"I felt it was an important gesture for members of Congress to give up their Thanksgiving and spend it with the troops and on behalf of the American people show gratitude for their service and sacrifice," Takano said.

The troops complained of the myriad, continuing travel restrictions imposed to stem the spread of the coronavirus, Takano said. Members of the delegation promised to speak to Japanese leaders to try and ease those restrictions.

"It's been a tough year and a half here, coinciding, of course, with an increasingly tense security situation," said Allred, a former NFL linebacker.

# Barbie inspired by film hits shelves

BY DANIEL BETANCOURT  
*Stars and Stripes*

The long-awaited Tom Cruise-vehicle “Top Gun: Maverick” is still in a holding pattern but the limited-edition Barbie inspired by the film is gear up and climbing.

Mattel Creations is taking orders on its website for the “Top Gun: Maverick” doll modeled after a character in the sequel to Cruise’s hit from 33 years ago. “Barbie Signature Members,” Mattel’s collectors’ collective, got first crack at the \$40 doll from its Nov. 10 release until Nov. 18. Now the toymaker is taking pre-orders, limit two per customer, for delivery Dec. 1.

Other retailers, including Amazon, Target and Walmart, have some of the collec-

tible Barbie available, although it appears to be selling fast, according to media reports.

The inspiration for fighter-pilot Barbie is Natasha Trace, call sign “Phoenix,” who is played in the sequel by Monica Barbaro.

Her character, “a supremely confident and capable pilot at the fiercely competitive Top Gun flight school,” is “(w)hip-smart and talented,” according to the figure’s description on the Mattel website. She commands the respect of her fellow pilots “while conquering barriers in and out of the sky.”

The movie, a sequel to the 1986 original “Top Gun,” was originally set for release in July 2019, but was pushed back to June

2020, then delayed again thanks to the coronavirus pandemic and its strictures on large gatherings.

It was set again for release Friday, but that day delivered only a new release date, May 27, 2022, according to MilitaryTimes.com on Friday.

The original “Top Gun” included no characters based on women fighter pilots. Congress lifted that ban only in 1991, five years after the movie came out.

The sequel stars Cruise as the marquee character, Pete “Maverick” Mitchell, apparently still flying 33 years after the original film. At least one other original cast member, Val Kilmer, makes the sequel, reprising his character, “Iceman,” the foil for Cruise’s “Maverick.”

## Navy: Fuel, water leaked from facility near Pearl Harbor

*Associated Press*

HONOLULU — The U.S. Navy said Monday it has stopped the spill of a water and fuel mixture from a drain line near an underground fuel storage facility that serves Pearl Harbor.

The Navy said in a statement the liquid flowed from a fire suppression system into a tunnel, but it stopped this at about 2 a.m. The Navy removed 14,000 gallons of the mixture from the tunnel and placed it in an above ground stor-

age tank.

The Navy said there were no signs the fuel had escaped into the environment and drinking water was safe. It’s investigating the incident.

Officials said the leak was downhill from the Red Hill fuel storage facility and not directly connected to the main tanks.

The facility has faced increasing scrutiny in recent years after a series of leaks.

Earlier this month, the four members of Hawaii’s congressional delegation asked the Department of Defense’s inspector general to investigate the Navy’s handling of the facility.

Red Hill holds 20 underground fuel storage tanks, which sit above an aquifer that supplies drinking water to Oahu. A 2014 leak from one of the World War II-era tanks caused concern the facility could contaminate drinking water.

## Defense contractor agrees to repay government \$3.5M

*Associated Press*

BOSTON — A Massachusetts-based nonprofit research company and defense contractor has agreed to pay nearly \$3.5 million to resolve allegations that it improperly overcharged the federal government for some U.S. Navy contracts, federal prosecutors said Monday.

According to the agreement, an audit of Charles Stark Draper Laboratory Inc.’s 2016 fiscal year costs charged to the government found, among other things, that Draper improperly billed the government for costs associated with internal projects called “opportunity investments,” the U.S.

attorney’s office in Boston said in a statement.

Many of those projects were not of interest to the government, or Draper lacked sufficient documentation to justify the costs, prosecutors said.

The audit also found that Cambridge-based Draper, which helps develop weapons systems for the Navy, lacked sufficient internal accounting controls regarding such projects, prosecutors said.

“Draper fully cooperated in the government’s investigation and is pleased that the matter has now been closed,” Draper said in an emailed statement.

The settlement protects taxpayer dollars, authorities said.

“Draper Lab’s overcharging on Navy contracts wasted valuable taxpayer money and undermined the integrity of the Department of the Navy’s procurement process,” Michael Wiest, special agent in charge of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service Northeast Field Office, said in a statement. “NCIS and our law enforcement partners remain committed to investigating contracting irregularities that diminish the operational readiness and war-fighter superiority of the Navy and Marine Corps.”

# Parade crash suspect's bail raises issues

*Associated Press*

WAUKESHA, Wis. — The suspect in a Christmas parade crash in suburban Milwaukee that killed five people was free on \$1,000 bail posted just two days before the deadly event, a fact that is leading to a review of what happened and renewed calls for giving judges more power to set higher bails.

One pending case against Darrell Brooks Jr. included an allegation that he deliberately hit a woman with his car in early November after a fight. Prosecutors in Milwaukee County on Monday called their bail recommendation “inappropriately low” given the facts of that case and the Sunday crash, and said they would review it.

Julius Kim, a defense attorney

and former assistant prosecutor, said the bail could easily have been set more than twice as high.

“He was accused of running over the mother of his kid, and to put it at \$1,000 strikes me as low,” Kim said. “It could have been an inexperienced attorney who happened to be reviewing cases that day.”

Police said Brooks, 39, was behind the wheel of the SUV that sped through the parade route in Waukesha on Sunday, killing five and injuring 48 others. Waukesha Police Chief Dan Thompson said Brooks was leaving the scene of a domestic dispute that had taken place just minutes earlier.

Brooks has been charged with crimes 16 times since 1999 and

had two outstanding cases against him at the time of the parade disaster. That included resisting or obstructing an officer, reckless endangering, disorderly conduct, bail jumping and battery for the Nov. 2 incident.

Thompson said police were going to recommend he face five charges of first degree intentional homicide, which is punishable by life in prison. He was to appear in court Tuesday afternoon.

Legal experts cautioned that one extreme case should not be reason to push for higher bail amounts that would keep poorer defendants behind bars longer while they await trial.

“We don’t want to have a kneejerk reaction here and say ‘Let’s lock up a lot of people pre-trial,’” said John Gross, a law

professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School and also director of its Public Defender Project.

“I’m sure the district attorney’s office is going to look back at this and ask themselves, ‘Did we get this wrong?’” said Gross, the law school professor. “This is such an extreme incident ... could they reasonably expect he would get behind a vehicle and run people down on a parade route? What would have alerted you to the capacity he would have had for this kind of violence?”

Thompson, the police chief, said that there was no evidence the bloodshed Sunday was a terrorist attack or that Brooks knew anyone in the parade. Brooks acted alone, the chief said.

## Jan. 6 committee subpoenas Alex Jones and Roger Stone

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — A committee investigating the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol insurrection has issued subpoenas to five more individuals, including former President Donald Trump’s ally Roger Stone and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, as lawmakers deepened their probe of the rallies that preceded the deadly attack.

The subpoenas issued Monday include demands for documents and testimony from Stone and Jones, as well as three people accused of organizing and promoting the two rallies that took place on Jan. 6.

“The Select Committee is seeking information about the rallies and subsequent march to the Capitol that escalated into a violent mob attacking the Capitol and threatening our democracy,” said Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, the Democratic chairman of the panel. “We need to know who organized, planned, paid for

and received funds related to those events, as well as what communications organizers had with officials in the White House and Congress.”

The subpoenas are the latest in a wide net the House panel has cast in an effort to investigate the day when a group of Trump’s supporters, fueled by his false claims of a stolen election, brutally assaulted police and smashed their way into the Capitol to interrupt the certification of Democrat Joe Biden’s victory.

The committee has already interviewed more than 150 people across government, social media and law enforcement, including some former Trump aides who have been cooperative. The panel has subpoenaed more than 20 witnesses, and most of them, including several associates who helped plan the massive “Stop the Steal” rally the morning of Jan. 6, have signaled they will cooperate.

## Arbery prosecutor: Defendants can’t use claim of self-defense

*Associated Press*

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — The case of three white men charged with murder in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery went to a jury Tuesday after a 13-day trial in which prosecutors argued the defendants provoked a confrontation with the 25-year-old Black man and defense attorneys said their clients acted in self-defense.

“You can’t claim self-defense if you are the unjustified aggressor,” Linda Dunikoski told jurors in her final closing arguments. “Who started this? It wasn’t Ahmaud Arbery.”

The prosecution gets the final word because it carries the burden of proving its case beyond a reasonable doubt. Prosecutors and defense attorneys spent hours on Monday delivering closing arguments that spilled into a second day.

Dunikoski spent two hours Tuesday morning hammering at defense attorneys’ attempts to blame Arbery for his own death. The defense attorneys said Arbery lashed out violently with his

fists to resist a lawful citizen’s arrest by the defendants.

Dunikoski said Arbery’s pursuers had “no badge, no uniform, no authority” and were “just some strange guys in a white pickup truck.” And she cited their own words to police immediately after the shooting: that they saw Arbery running but were unsure if he had committed a crime.

“You can’t make a citizen’s arrest because someone’s running down the street and you have no idea what they did wrong,” Dunikoski said.

Once the prosecution wrapped up, Superior Court Judge Timothy Walmsley began giving instructions to the disproportionately white jury on how to apply the law before it can start deliberations at the Glynn County courthouse in the port city of Brunswick.

Arbery’s killing became part of a larger national reckoning on racial injustice after a graphic video of his death leaked online two months later.



# With prices up, US releases 50M oil barrels

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Tuesday ordered 50 million barrels of oil released from the strategic reserve to help bring down energy costs, in coordination with other major energy consuming nations, including China, India and the United Kingdom.

The move is aimed at global energy markets, but also at voters who are coping with higher inflation and rising prices ahead of Thanksgiving and winter holiday travel. Gas prices are at about \$3.40 a gallon, more than 50% higher than their price a year ago, according to the American Automobile Association.

There was no discernable impact on the price for a benchmark barrel of U.S. crude after the announcement Tuesday. Prices have been up and down all

month, and are up less than 1% so far in this holiday shortened week.

Biden has scrambled to reshape much of his economic agenda around the issue of inflation, saying that his recently passed \$1 trillion infrastructure package will reduce price pressures by making it more efficient and cheaper to transport goods. Republican lawmakers have hammered the administration for inflation hitting a 31-year high in October. The consumer price index soared 6.2% from a year ago — the biggest 12-month jump since 1990.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell tore into the White House in a floor speech last week, saying the victims of higher prices were middle class Americans.

“The three biggest drivers of

the staggering 6.2% inflation rate we logged last month were housing, transportation, and food,” the Kentucky senator said. “Those aren’t luxuries, they’re essentials, and they take up a much bigger share of families’ budgets from the middle class on down.”

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is an emergency stockpile to preserve access to oil in case of natural disasters, national security issues and other events. Maintained by the Energy Department, the reserves are stored in caverns created in salt domes along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coasts. There are roughly 605 million barrels of sweet and sour petroleum in the reserve.

The Biden administration has argued that the reserve is the right tool to help ease the supply problem. Americans used an av-

erage of 20.7 million barrels a day during September, according to the Energy Information Administration. That means that the release nearly equals about two-and-a-half days of additional supply.

The pandemic made energy markets — like everything else — haywire on multiple fronts. As the closures began in April 2020, demand collapsed and oil futures prices turned negative. Energy traders did not want to get stuck with crude that they could not store. But as the economy recovered, prices jumped to a seven-year high in October.

U.S. production has not recovered. Energy Information Administration figures indicate that domestic production is averaging roughly 11 million barrels daily, down from 12.8 million before the pandemic started.

## Nuclear watchdog chief seeks more Iran access

*Associated Press*

TEHRAN, Iran — The head of the United Nations’ atomic watchdog met Tuesday with Iranian officials to press for greater access in the Islamic Republic ahead of diplomatic talks restarting over Tehran’s tattered nuclear deal with world powers.

Rafael Mariano Grossi of the International Atomic Energy Agency again faces tightrope-style talks with Iranian officials as his inspectors remain unable to access surveillance footage and face greater challenges in trying to monitor Tehran’s rapidly growing uranium stockpile. In the wake of then-President Donald Trump’s unilateral withdrawal from Iran’s deal, the Islamic Republic now enriches small amounts of uranium up to 60% purity — its highest ever and close to weapons-grade levels of 90%.

While Iran maintains that its program is peaceful, regional ri-

val Israel has repeatedly warned it won’t allow Tehran to build a nuclear weapon, and is suspected of launching attacks targeting its program as part of a wider regional shadow war playing across the Mideast in recent years. The United States under President Joe Biden, meanwhile, has said it’s willing to return to the deal, but has warned time is running out.

All this raises the risk of a wider confrontation with Iran, which has taken a harder tack under new President Ebrahim Raisi, a protégé of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Writing on Twitter on Monday, Grossi said he hoped to “address outstanding questions” with Iranian officials.

“I hope to establish a fruitful and cooperative channel of direct dialogue so the (IAEA) can resume essential verification activities in the country,” Grossi wrote.

## Philippines gets supplies to its forces at China-guarded shoal

*Associated Press*

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine navy successfully transported food supplies to Filipino forces guarding a disputed shoal in the South China Sea on Tuesday, a week after China’s coast guard used water cannons to force the supply boats to turn back, sparking outrage and warnings from Manila, officials said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the two wooden boats carrying navy personnel reached government forces stationed on a military ship at Second Thomas Shoal without any major incident. President Rodrigo Duterte strongly condemned last week’s Chinese blockade of the supply boats, in a regional summit led by Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday.

Lorenzana said that while the Philippine navy personnel were unloading supplies from the boats, however, a Chinese coast guard ship deployed a rubber

boat with three personnel who took pictures and video of the delivery.

The supply boats reached the shoal without a Philippine military escort in accordance with a request by China’s ambassador to Manila, who assured Lorenzana over the weekend that the boats would not be blocked again, the defense chief said.

But a Philippine military plane flew over as the supply boats arrived around noon at the remote shoal, which has been surrounded by Chinese surveillance ships in a yearslong territorial standoff. A Philippine coast guard ship also patrolled the waters a few miles away and military officials in Manila closely monitored the 30-hour journey of the supply boats, officials said.

The Philippines says the shoal is in its internationally recognized economic zone, but China insists it has sovereignty over the waters and has the right to defend it.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

**Wife runs over husband trying to dislodge ball**

**MO** KANSAS CITY — A man was critically hurt when his wife drove over him twice as he tried to dislodge a bowling ball that had been thrown in front of their car.

The couple ran over the bowling ball in Kansas City, Mo., and the ball became lodged under their car, Kansas City Police spokeswoman Donna Drake said. Later in the day, a suspect went to a police station and admitted to throwing a bowling ball in front of a moving car.

After they stopped, the 25-year-old man crawled under the vehicle to try to remove the ball. Then a suspect approached the vehicle and tried to grab the 25-year-old woman's purse while the man was trying to reach the bowling ball, according to the Kansas City Star.

During a struggle over the purse, the woman pressed her foot on the gas pedal and heard a yell from under the car, which had rolled over her husband.

Police said the woman then put the car in reverse and rolled over her husband a second time.

**Man beats pet store customer with dog bone**

**NV** LAS VEGAS — A man has been accused of beating another customer over the head with a dog bone during a quarrel over a Las Vegas pet store's mask policy, according to authorities.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police said Juan Hamilton, 22, was arrested on a warrant after the incident that left the unidentified victim with a skull fracture.

The Las Vegas Review-Jour-

nal reported that witnesses told police Hamilton was in line behind another man when the two began arguing over the Pet-Smart store's mask mandate.

Witnesses said Hamilton left the store before returning and allegedly beating the victim over the head with a bone.

**Cat alerted residents to 1st-floor apartment fire**

**NY** SYRACUSE — A cat may be the reason three Syracuse residents escaped a apartment fire.

Fire officials told Syracuse.com the fire was reported on the first floor of the building in the city's Westcott neighborhood.

According to Deputy Fire Chief Barry Lasky, the residents were asleep when the fire broke out, but a cat inside the home woke them up and they were able to evacuate.

When fire crews arrived, they were able to knock down the fire in about 20 minutes. The fire was confined to the building's first floor, but officials said the second floor of the building also had to be evacuated.

**Possible DWI driver had 4 kids in truck for chase**

**TX** HOUSTON — A suspected drunk driver led deputies in Houston on a high-speed chase with four children inside his truck, authorities said.

The 13-mile chase began when a deputy spotted a white truck driving erratically, said Harris County Sheriff's Office Lt. K.R. Benoit.

The driver of the truck ignored a request by the deputy to pull over and led authorities on a

chase that reached speeds of up to 100 mph.

The chase ended after the driver stopped his truck in a parking lot and got out of his vehicle while holding an infant. Deputies found three other children in the truck, with the oldest being 8 years old.

**Health officials confirm Nigeria monkeypox case**

**MD** BALTIMORE — A case of monkeypox has been confirmed in a Maryland resident who recently returned from Nigeria, state health officials announced.

The person had mild symptoms and is recovering in isolation, but isn't hospitalized, the Department of Health said in a news release. The general public doesn't need to take any special precautions, officials said.

Monkeypox is in the same family of viruses as smallpox but generally causes a milder infection, officials said. It can be spread through direct contact with lesions or body fluids, or contaminated materials like clothing or large respiratory droplets. Illness typically begins with flu-like symptoms and lymph node swelling, and progresses to a rash on the face and body.

**19th-century farmhouse to be moved, not razed**

**IN** NEW ALBANY — A brick farmhouse that's one of the last remaining 19th-century buildings of its kind in a southern Indiana city will be saved from demolition and moved to a new location by a developer.

Under an agreement ap-

proved by the New Albany City Council, the Smith Farmhouse will be donated to Indiana Landmarks, a historic preservation organization, and moved to a nearby location in the Ohio River city.

The agreement between developer Hogan Real Estate and Indiana Landmarks states that the brick farmhouse will be placed on a matching brick foundation, the News and Tribune reported.

The farmhouse dates to the 1830s, when the dwelling's frame was built by a German immigrant named Martin Smith. His son William is credited with adding a two-story brick section in the 1850s.

**State facing shortage of snowplow drivers**

**CT** HARTFORD — Already facing higher fuel and salt prices, the state of Connecticut is looking for snowplow drivers to fill a shortage as winter approaches.

The state department of transportation is seeking to hire nearly 140 more drivers to address a 13% driver shortage, The Day reported. DOT spokesperson Kafi Rouse told the newspaper the shortage is due to a recent spate of retirements and a shortage of applicants who have commercial driver's licenses.

It can be difficult to recruit snowplow drivers because of unpredictable scheduling, Rouse said.

Kurt Hayes, owner of Hayes Services, a snow removal service in East Lyme, told The Day he has reduced his customer list due to supply shortages for snowplow parts.

— From wire reports

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and Military News

# Holmgren drawing raves for No. 1 Zags

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Every summer they converge on Seattle at some point, a mix of the occasional pros, some college players with connections to the area and even some high school standouts.

The destination is the summer pro-am run by former NBA star Jamal Crawford. And after Gonzaga's Chet Holmgren made his first visit this past summer, Crawford was quick with some lofty praise.

"It was unreal to see a unicorn in real life!" Crawford tweeted in August. "Chet Holmgren is special."

Fast-forward three months and as much as top-ranked Gon-

zaga might be downplaying all the "unicorn" talk, it's clear Holmgren is a special talent unlike any that's come through the Bulldogs' program.

Holmgren is a 7-foot freshman with the ballhandling of a wing, the court sense of a point guard and the length and athleticism of a dominant interior force.

And the biggest stage of his young career is this week in Las Vegas for three games, highlighted by Tuesday's Final Four rematch against No. 2 UCLA and Friday's clash against No. 7 Duke.

The matchups in Las Vegas will feature some of the top players in the country. But the

most unique talent on the court is going to be Gonzaga's freshman star.

"We are going against the top of the top. We'll see what we're made of," Holmgren said.

While Gonzaga's profile has rapidly grown over the past decade, the past few years have changed its scope on the national scale because of the caliber of recruits the Zags have landed. It started a year ago when Jalen Suggs played his one year of college ball for Gonzaga and continued when his close friend followed him to Spokane.

But Holmgren coming to Spokane was a step up even from Suggs — the No. 1 recruit in the country choosing the school

1,400 miles to the West.

"Their willingness to work and to be a part of what we're all about here is hugely important to us," Zags assistant coach Brian Michaelson said. "And that's why we are selective with those types of guys that have that type of one-year talent because they have to fit what we do."

While Holmgren's unique size immediately stands out, his new teammates see other aspects of his game that are just as critical to his success.

"I think just his IQ and versatility. He sees the game really well. He sees the whole court, not just a part of it," Gonzaga forward Drew Timme said.

## Cincinnati escapes early deficit, routs No. 14 Illinois

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Mike Saunders Jr. scored 20 points, Jeremiah Davenport added 19 and Cincinnati overcame an early 15-point deficit to blow out No. 14 Illinois 71-51 on Monday night in the semifinals of the Hall of Fame Classic.

The Bearcats (5-0) trailed 23-8 in the opening minutes before charging back to take a 34-31 lead at the break. They piled on from there, pushing the advantage past 20 by the midway point of the second half.

Kofi Cockburn, who was suspended the first three games of the season for violating NCAA rules, had 18 points and seven rebounds for the Fighting Illini (2-2).

**No. 1 Gonzaga 107, Central Michigan 54:** At Las Vegas, Chet Holmgren scored 19 points and the top-ranked Bulldogs breezed past the Chippewas in the Empire Classic.

Gonzaga (5-0), the No. 1 team for the 19th straight week, has defeated its first five opponents by an average margin of 33.6 points.

Nolan Hickman finished with

16 points, Julian Strawther scored 15 points, and Drew Timme and Rasir Bolton each had 11.

**No. 2 UCLA 75, Bellarmine 62:** At Las Vegas, Peyton Watson had 19 points, Johnny Juzang added 13 and the Bruins beat the Knights in the Empire Classic.

David Singleton added 13 points, shooting 5-for-8 for UCLA (5-0).

**No. 5 Duke 107, The Citadel 81:** The host Blue Devils won after Bulldogs coach Duggar Baucom collapsed on the court early in the first half and was taken to a hospital.

Baucom fell along the sideline barely a minute into the game and was taken to Duke University Hospital. The 61-year-old Baucom was conscious as he was helped out of the gym.

Freshman forward Paolo Banchero scored a career-high 28 points and Wendell Moore Jr. had 22 for Duke (6-0), which completed a five-game homestand with five double-digit victories. It was the Blue Devils' last tuneup before Friday

night's clash with top-ranked Gonzaga.

**No. 10 Kentucky 86, Albany 61:** TyTy Washington Jr. scored 20 points for the second straight game, Keion Brooks Jr. added 17 points and the host Wildcats beat the Great Danes for their fourth consecutive victory.

DeVondre Perry scored 18 points and Trey Hutcheson had 12 for Albany (0-5), which shot 34% and made 6 of 13 from the foul line.

**No. 12 Houston 70, Butler 52:** At Las Vegas, Fabian White Jr. scored 21 points and the Cougars rode a dominant first half to a win over the Bulldogs in the opening round of the Maui Invitational.

Bryce Bolden had 16 points for Butler, which had 20 turnovers that led to 27 Houston points.

**No. 13 Arkansas 72, Kansas State 64:** At Kansas City, Mo., Connor Vanover scored 14 points, Chris Lykes was perfect from the foul line down the stretch and the Razorbacks survived after blowing most of an 18-point lead to beat the Wild-

cats in the Hall of Fame Classic.

Lykes was 10-for-10 from the foul line on the way to 14 points. Au'Diese Toney added 13 points and JD Notae had 11 — though he was just 4-for-17 from the field — as Arkansas (4-0) advanced to play Cincinnati for the title Tuesday night.

**Ohio State 79, No. 21 Seton Hall 76:** At Fort Myers, Fla., Meechie Johnson Jr. made a three-pointer with 2.3 seconds left and the Buckeyes beat the Pirates in the Fort Myers Tip-Off.

E.J. Liddell led Ohio State with 28 points, making all 10 of his free throws and shooting 8-for-17 from the floor.

**No. 23 Florida 80, California 60:** At Fort Myers, Fla., Colin Castleton scored 16 points, Tyree Appleby added 15 and the Gators handled the Golden Bears in an opening game of the Fort Myers Tip-Off.

Myreon Jones added 13 points and Phlandrous Fleming Jr. had 11 for Florida (5-0), which will meet Ohio State for the title on Wednesday after the Buckeyes knocked off No. 21 Seton Hall in the first game.



# Brady tosses 2 TDs, Bucs end skid

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tom Brady stepped up in the pocket to scramble, high-stepped a tackler, slid hard for a first down and got up pumping his arm and screaming.

That's one way to erase the taste of losing.

Brady threw for 307 yards and two touchdowns and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat the New York Giants 30-10 on Monday night.

The Super Bowl champion Buccaneers (7-3) snapped a two-game skid as Brady avoided dropping three in a row for the first time since 2002.

"We're at a decent point, but we can play a lot better than we've played," Brady said. "Hoping our best football is ahead of us."

Brady started 10-for-10 before misfiring on a deep ball to Mike Evans. On the next play, the 44-year-old scrambled 10

yards on third-and-4 to extend Tampa Bay's drive that ended with Ryan Succop kicking a 25-yard field goal that made it 10-3.

"Eleven-yard run. They don't happen very often, so I do remember how far they go," Brady said, unaware it was officially ruled 10 yards.

Rob Gronkowski joked that he was open up the seam for a touchdown on the play.

"He could've just chucked it up, but I saw him running and that was pretty dope," Gronkowski said. "That was pretty impressive."

Daniel Jones threw a TD pass to left tackle Andrew Thomas and the Giants (3-7) stayed close for one half before unraveling.

"We have to do a better job of putting our players in position to make plays," New York coach Joe Judge said. "We have to make sure we sit down (Tuesday) as a coaching staff and understand how we're going to

play this game and give our players a chance to make plays."

Down 17-10, the Giants drove to the Buccaneers 25 on the opening drive of the third quarter before Jones, under pressure from Devin White, threw an incomplete on fourth-and-1 after rushing to the line to beat the play clock.

Brady then connected with Evans on a 5-yard TD pass to extend the lead to 24-10. Evans set a franchise record with his 72nd touchdown, passing Mike Alstott. He made sure to keep the ball after giving away Brady's 600th TD pass to a fan earlier in the season.

"I'm very proud of that accomplishment. Hopefully I can extend it really far," Evans said. "I'm very proud. A-Train was an unbelievable player. I'm happy to be in the same sentence as him, let alone break his record. It's a blessing."

Jones threw an interception to 310-pound nose tackle Steve McLendon on New York's next possession, but Tampa Bay settled for Succop's 40-yard field goal despite starting at the Giants 37. It was McLendon's first career pick in 12 seasons.

Jones was picked by Mike Edwards in the fourth quarter and Succop hit a 30-yarder to cap the scoring.

Brady finished 30 of 46 with one interception. He improved to 6-1 against the Giants in the regular season but has lost two Super Bowls to New York, including one that prevented New England from a perfect season.

The seven-time Super Bowl champion leads the NFL with 29 TD passes and is second in yards passing with 3,172.

Gronkowski was back in the Bucs' lineup after missing five of the previous six games. Brady targeted his buddy eight times.

## Faulk gets 100th goal as Blues top Golden Knights

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Justin Faulk scored his 100th career goal to cap a quick three-goal outburst by St. Louis in the first period, and the Blues beat the Vegas Golden Knights 5-2 on Monday night.

"It's a number everyone seems to like, right? ... Every 100 seems to be a milestone within our sport," Faulk said. "I'm not going to complain about it by any means. I'll take it, and I hope I can continue to get a few more. I'll probably keep a little memento from it."

Ryan O'Reilly, Tyler Bozak, Brandon Saad and Niko Mikkola also scored for the Blues, who entered with two wins in their previous 10 games. Jordan Binnington, who had lost six of his last seven starts, was sharp and made 32 saves.

Chandler Stephenson and

Reilly Smith scored for the Golden Knights, who had won five of six.

St. Louis trailed 2-0 before it exploded midway through the first period.

"If you're going to win on the road in this league, you can't beat yourself," Vegas coach Peter DeBoer said. "I thought that was the case in the first period. We made some mistakes and had some penalties, and that's a recipe for disaster when you're on the road."

**Sharks 2, Hurricanes 1 (OT):** Alexander Barabanov scored 1:42 into overtime and host San Jose handed Carolina only its third loss of the season.

Kevin Labanc tied it for the Sharks early in the third period before Barabanov won it just after a power play expired to give San Jose its second win in six games. Tomas Hertl sent

the puck to Barabanov, who was alone at the side of the net for a tap-in.

**Avalanche 7, Senators 5:** Alex Newhook scored the go-ahead goal with 1:33 left, sending host Colorado past Ottawa for its fifth straight win.

Zach Sanford got his first career hat trick for the Senators but it wasn't enough as the team played its first game in a week.

**Blue Jackets 7, Sabres 4:** Jack Roslovic had two goals and an assist to lead Columbus to a win at Buffalo.

Roslovic and defenseman Vladislav Gavrikov each scored their first two goals of the season for the Blue Jackets. Max Domi added a goal and two assists, and Joonas Korpi also made 29 saves fresh off a two-game West Coast trip to give Columbus its third victory in

four games.

**Predators 3, Ducks 2:** Yakov Trenin scored the tiebreaking goal at 12:10 of the third period and had an assist in Nashville's victory over visiting Anaheim.

Ryan Johansen added a goal and an assist for the Predators. Mikael Granlund also scored and Juuse Saros made 29 saves.

**Penguins 3, Jets 1:** Danton Heinen scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period and Tristan Jarry allowed one goal after back-to-back shutouts to lead Pittsburgh to a win at Winnipeg.

Dominic Toninato scored in the first period, but that was it for the Jets as Jarry finished with 30 saves after posting shutouts at Montreal and Toronto in the first two games of the Penguins' three-game swing through Canada.

# Sixers spoil Gentry's debut with Kings

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Tyrese Maxey had 24 points and the short-handed Philadelphia 76ers beat the Sacramento Kings 102-94 on Monday, spoiling Alvin Gentry's debut as interim Kings coach.

Shake Milton scored 16 points and Mattheus Thybulle added 15, helping the Sixers to their second win in eight games. Andre Drummond had nine points and 23 rebounds.

De'Aaron Fox had 23 points and Buddy Hield scored 21 for the Kings.

Gentry was promoted to interim coach after Sacramento fired Luke Walton on Sunday. Gentry most recently served as head coach for the New Orleans Pelicans (2015-20). He's also had head coaching stops with Miami, Detroit, the Los Angeles Clippers and Phoenix.

**Suns 115, Spurs 111:** Devin Booker had 23 points, Deandre Ayton had 21 points and 14 rebounds and Phoenix won its 13th straight, rolling to a win at San Antonio.

Cameron Payne added 20 points off the bench for the Suns, who had six players finish in double figures. Phoenix finished with 25 assists and went 45-for-87 (51.1%) from the field.

**Celtics 108, Rockets 90:** Jayson Tatum scored 30 points, Jaylen Brown had 19 in his return from missing eight games with an injury and host Boston sent Houston to its 15th straight loss.

Dennis Schröder added 18 points for the Celtics, who have won three straight and eight of 11. Al Horford had 11 points and 11 rebounds. It was Tatum's fourth straight game with 30 or more points.

**Bucks 123, Magic 92:** Jrue Holiday scored 18 points and host Milwaukee opened the biggest halftime lead in franchise history on its way to a blowout of Orlando.

The Bucks' 77-36 lead at the break also was the Magic's biggest halftime deficit ever. Milwaukee eventually built the margin to 51, becoming the first team to lead a game by at least 50 points this season.

**Pacers 109, Bulls 77:** Domantas Sabonis scored 21 points, Malcolm Brogdon added 16 more, and Indiana rolled to a win at Chicago.

Myles Turner also scored 12 points and hauled in 10 rebounds in the Pacers' second straight win.

**Nets 117, Cavaliers 112:** Kevin Durant returned to Brooklyn's lineup and scored 27 points, James Harden added 14 points and a season-high 14 assists, and Brooklyn won at Cleveland.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 21 points and 11 rebounds off the bench for the Nets, who won for the sixth time in seven games.

**Hornets 109, Wizards 103:** Terry Rozier scored a season-high 32 points and hit his eighth three-pointer of the game with 12.9 seconds left as Charlotte won at Washington.

LaMelo Ball had 28 points and 13 re-

bounds to help the Hornets to their second win over the Wizards in the last week.

**Grizzlies 119, Jazz 118:** Jaren Jackson scored a season-high 26 points, winning a jump ball and hitting a three-pointer in the final seconds, to lift Memphis to a win at Utah.

Ja Morant had 32 points and Desmond Bane added a career-high 28 as the Grizzlies scored the final seven points for their third win in their last four games.

**Hawks 113, Thunder 101:** Trae Young scored 21 of his 30 points in the second half, Clint Capela finished with 10 points and 15 rebounds, and Atlanta closed a perfect five-game homestand with a win over Oklahoma City.

Thunder rookie Josh Giddey, a 19-year old guard from Australia, had 15 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, and Luguentz Dort added 15 points. Oklahoma City was without leading scorer Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, who missed his first game of the season with a sprained right ankle.

**Timberwolves 110, Pelicans 96:** Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points and 10 rebounds, and Minnesota extended its winning streak to four with a victory at New Orleans.

Anthony Edwards scored 13 of his 18 points in the second half and Jarred Vanderbilt, who came in averaging five points per game, matched his season high with 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds.

## After latest fracas, NBA hits back at misbehavior

Associated Press

LeBron James is missing one game.

Markieff Morris is missing his eighth, with no end in sight.

Those two things are more connected than some might realize.

By suspending James for Tuesday night's game against New York — the Los Angeles Lakers' lone visit to Madison Square Garden this season — over his role in an incident in Detroit on Sunday, the NBA sent a very loud, very clear message to anyone who might want to partake in future on-court dustups.

Enough is enough.

Sunday night's mess in Detroit

— the second significant on-court fracas in the NBA this season — earned James the first suspension of his 19-year career, plus got the Pistons' Isaiah Stewart a two-game suspension on top of the eight stitches that were needed to close a gash in his head.

"He felt like he got a cheap shot across his brow," Pistons coach Dwane Casey said. "On the street, it'd be a different story."

Maybe so. But the league doesn't want anything like that happening on its watch. So, after two very ugly incidents separated by only a couple of weeks, the NBA decided to hit back by sit-

ting down its biggest name.

James was ejected for throwing the elbow that turned the scuffle into a melee. The NBA had options about what other sanctioning was needed. There was precedent for just fining James, as has been the case in some similar situations. But the league evidently thought that wouldn't be enough and went with the suspension, for a nationally televised game in arguably the world's most famous arena.

And that message should resonate loudly at a couple of upcoming games in the next few days — a Pistons-Lakers rematch in Los Angeles on Sunday, a game that both James and

Stewart will be eligible to play in, and Denver's trip to Miami on Monday.

Nuggets-Heat II will be the rematch of a game on Nov. 8, marred in the final moments by Morris overzealously fouling reigning MVP Nikola Jokic of Denver and Jokic responding with a hard forearm into Morris' back.

Of all the players in these two on-court incidents, with all due respect to Jokic and James combining to lose about a half-million dollars in salary and Stewart being bloodied up, nobody has come away with a worse fate than Morris. He can't play and the Heat have missed him.