

Attacks on troops in Mideast increasing

By **DOUG G. WARE**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The number of attacks against U.S. bases in Iraq and Syria and the number of injuries to American troops keeps rising, the Pentagon said Monday.

Close to 50 U.S. service members at several bases in the two countries have been injured by drone or rocket attacks fired by militant groups aligned with Iran between Oct. 17 and Oct. 26, Pentagon officials said. At al-Tanf garrison in southern Syria, 32 troops have been injured and another 13 troops have been hurt at al Asad Air Base in western Iraq.

There also has been at least one injury at a base in Irbil in northern Iraq.

“All of these injuries occurred prior to the self-defense strikes we took [in Syria] on Oct. 26,” said Air Force Brig. Gen.

Pat Ryder, the Pentagon’s top spokesman. “To my knowledge, there have been no injuries reported since then.”

Of the known injuries, about half were traumatic brain injuries, which can vary in severity. Ryder said two American service members with head injuries briefly returned to duty before they were sent to a medical base in Germany for further evaluation. They are in stable condition, he said.

The updated casualty figure is higher than the 21 troops that the Pentagon announced last week. Ryder said the figures often fluctuate because sometimes injuries aren’t immediately apparent.

“This can happen for a number of reasons, [such as] individuals initially dismissing the severity of the injuries they sustained ... or symptoms presenting themselves after initial re-

porting,” he said. “It’s not unusual for service members to come in after the fact, days later.”

There’s also been a rise in the number of attacks on the bases. Pentagon officials said Monday that there have been 38 separate strikes in the last three weeks — up eight since Friday — and five of them had occurred in the past 24 hours.

“Since Oct. 17, we have had 20 attacks in Iraq, 18 in Syria,” Ryder said, describing them as “harassing attacks” involving drones and rockets.

The Pentagon previously said the groups behind the attacks are essentially Iranian proxy groups, sponsored, funded and trained by Tehran, but the Defense Department has been reluctant to connect the rise in attacks to the fighting between Israel and Hamas militants, who are also backed by Iran.

Recently, the U.S. military deployed an additional 1,200 troops to the Middle East to support Israel and protect other troops in the region.

But the Pentagon has said their primary objective is to deter others from escalating the Israel-Hamas fight.

The service members in Iraq and Syria are part of the U.S. forces in the region deployed to support the ongoing campaign against the Islamic State.

“A major focus for the Department of Defense is to deter a broader regional conflict, and so you’re seeing ... groups that may try to exploit the situation to benefit their own interests, to include Iranian proxy groups,” Ryder said. “We have known for a long time that one of Iran’s broader strategic goals is forcing the United States out of the region, and they have employed these proxy groups.”

Study: Troop, veteran private info easy to buy

By **JOHN VANDIVER**
Stars and Stripes

Sensitive data about current and former U.S. service members is for sale for as little as 12 cents per record, exposing details ranging from financial and medical information to religious practices, according to a new study commissioned by the U.S. Military Academy.

Adversaries could use the details to target Americans with ties to the armed forces for profiling, blackmail, disinformation campaigns and more, the report said.

Released Monday, the report details how the multibillion-dollar data brokerage industry collects, licenses and

sells data in ways that could pose national security risks.

Researchers at Duke University examined hundreds of data broker websites, contacting scores of them to inquire about the purchase of information on service members.

For example, the study found 7,728 hits for the word “military” and 6,776 hits for the word “veteran” across 533 data broker websites, which were developed from state data broker registries in Vermont and California.

Search topics included veterans who own motorcycles, military family mailing lists and information from the phrase “Hard Core Military

Families.” Veteran claim and discharge numbers also were available for purchase.

One vendor offered the researchers data sets with contact information for 5,000 active-duty military personnel. Another provided data on 5,000 friends and family members of military personnel.

And a purchase from a third vendor included contact data for 15,000 military personnel plus 15 check-boxes indicating ailments and health conditions.

From a fourth vendor, the researchers acquired home addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for 5,000 active-duty military personnel at

a cost of about 13 cents per service member.

“Meaningful policy action is needed to address this ecosystem and mitigate national security risks facing the United States,” the report said.

The report included a series of recommendations. It said Congress should pass a comprehensive U.S. privacy law that puts strong controls on the data brokerage industry. Congress and the executive branch should supplement that with data controls focused on national security that could prohibit the collection and sale of government employees’ and military members’ personally identifiable data.

Navy carries out multi-carrier drill with Japan

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

ABOARD USS CARL VINSON IN THE PHILIPPINE SEA — The roar and rumble of fighter jets began early Sunday and carried on steadily through the night, part of a joint U.S.-Japan drill meant to showcase the two nations as a “cornerstone of peace and deterrence” in the region.

Dubbed a “multiple large deck event” by the Navy, the exercise included the aircraft carriers USS Ronald Reagan and USS Carl Vinson, the Japanese helicopter carrier JS Hyuga, approximately 150 aircraft and more than 10,000 sailors in a demonstration of air and naval power in the Indo-Pacific.

But despite its scale, the U.S. Navy and Japan Maritime Self-

Defense Force repeatedly emphasized the training’s routine nature.

“The capabilities that you will see — and will not see — assembled here is indeed impressive; it is also somewhat routine,” Rear Adm. Pat Hannifin, commander of Carrier Strike Group 5, told reporters gathered Monday aboard the Ronald Reagan. “We can, and do, bring together bilateral and multilateral forces of this size, breadth and capability many times each year across the Indo-Pacific.”

Scheduled to run until an undisclosed time this week, the exercise began Saturday about 500 to 700 nautical miles east of Luzon, Philippines, Carrier Strike Group 5 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Seth Koenig told Stars and Stripes by email Tuesday.

That places the flotilla roughly 800 nautical miles southeast of Taiwan.

China often criticizes U.S.-led exercises in the Philippine Sea and the adjacent South China Sea as aggressive and counterproductive to peace in the region. Beijing claims nearly all the South China Sea as its territorial waters.

The United States and Japan, on the other hand, have said their presence preserves freedom of movement through the area.

The issue is a case of the “eye of the beholder,” Hannifin said, adding that both the U.S. and Japan have been operating and training in the region for decades.

“To fly, sail and operate everywhere that international law

allows is what ensures that flying, sailing and operating and free trade across this region is maintained,” he told reporters. “I would suggest it is not, certainly not, provocation. This is a standard and a normal exercise of our individual nations’ capabilities.”

Hannifin added that the exercise is not aimed at deterring any specific nation, but rather to indicate the capabilities of the U.S. and its allies to “any potential adversary, regardless of who they are.”

The Chinese aircraft carrier Shandong, along with two destroyers, a frigate and a support ship, were operating several hundred miles away in the South China Sea as of Sunday, Japan’s Joint Staff said in a news release Monday.

Senators demand improvements to military barracks

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Several senators are demanding the Pentagon improve the poor conditions of its barracks across the armed forces and better track costs associated with improving living quarters for troops.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin sent last week, the senators questioned the Pentagon’s apparent failure to properly evaluate the conditions in thousands of military barracks on bases worldwide and asked the service branches to invest more in their junior enlisted quarters in the years ahead.

The Oct. 31 letter signed by four Republicans and two Democrats cites findings in a damning September report from the Government Accountability Office that found junior enlisted troops in all the service branches living in barracks with mold, missing kitchenettes, sewage overflow, water-quality issues, rodent infestations, broken air conditioning and other unsafe conditions.

“At a time when the Department of Defense is rightly working to address serious

recruitment and retention issues, reports of poor living conditions serve only to dissuade qualified Americans from considering military service,” Sens. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., John Cornyn, R-Texas, Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., Ted Cruz, R-Texas, Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Ted Budd, R-N.C., wrote. “Moreover, those who have already answered the call to serve deserve a standard of living commensurate with the most modern and capable fighting force in the world. Anything less represents a failure to uphold the U.S. government’s commitments and endangers military readiness.”

Despite media attention in recent years highlighting problems with mold and other issues in barracks across the military, the Pentagon does not have standardized ways to track conditions in its living quarters, nor does it properly track costs associated with barracks upkeep, according to the GAO report.

The government watchdog said none of the military services could provide “complete or reliable” information on how much the services have spent to improve barracks, how much money that they have

available to improve barracks or how much they would need to meet basic living standards across all their barracks.

The GAO also charged that the military has failed to study how barracks issues affect the morale of troops or their desires to stay in uniform.

Pentagon officials have acknowledged the problems that troops face in on-post housing, including in the junior enlisted barracks. The Army in 2022 condemned more than a dozen barracks buildings on Fort Bragg, N.C. — now Fort Liberty — after senior service officials toured the outdated buildings with major heating, air conditioning and ventilation flaws. The Army moved some 1,200 soldiers out of those buildings, which were either marked for renovation or demolition.

Army officials at a House hearing on barracks conditions following the GAO report said it would need to spend at least \$6.5 billion in coming years to improve barracks conditions. Top Army officials said the service has some 6,700 barracks buildings across the service, and at least 300 of those are in poor or failing condition.

Israel says it will take over security responsibility in Gaza

Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip — Israel will take “overall security responsibility” in Gaza indefinitely after its war with Hamas, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, the clearest indication yet that Israel plans to maintain control there one month into a conflict that has claimed thousands of lives and leveled swaths of the territory.

In an interview with ABC News that aired late Monday, Netanyahu expressed openness to “little pauses” in the fighting to facilitate delivery of aid to Gaza or the release of some of the more than 240 hostages seized by Hamas in its Oct. 7 attack into Israel that triggered the war. But he ruled out any general cease-fire without the release of all the hostages. The White House said there was no agreement on President Joe Biden’s call for a broader humanitarian pause after a phone call between the leaders.

The war has already come at

a staggering cost, and Israel unleashed another wave of strikes across the territory Tuesday. Entire city blocks have been reduced to rubble, and around 70% of Gaza’s 2.3 million people have fled their homes, with many heeding Israeli orders to head to the southern part of the besieged territory, which is also being bombed.

Israeli troops have been battling Palestinian militants inside Gaza for over a week, and have succeeded in cutting the territory in half and encircling Gaza City. Food, medicine, fuel and water are running low, and United Nations-run schools-turned-shelters are overflowing.

The Palestinian death toll has surpassed 10,300, two-thirds of them women and minors, according to the the Health Ministry of the Hamas-run Gaza Strip. More than 2,300 people are missing and believed to be buried under the rubble of destroyed buildings, the ministry said. The ministry does not dis-

tinguish between civilians and combatants, and Israel says it has killed thousands of fighters.

About 1,400 people in Israel have died, mostly civilians killed during the Oct. 7 incursion by Hamas. Israelis observed a moment of silence Tuesday in memory of the victims. The 30th day is a milestone in Jewish mourning, and memorial events were planned in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The military says 30 Israeli troops have been killed in Gaza since the ground offensive began.

In southern Gaza, where Palestinians have been told to seek refuge, an Israeli airstrike destroyed several homes early Tuesday in the town of Khan Younis. An Associated Press journalist at the scene saw first responders pulling out five bodies — including three dead children — from the rubble. One man wept as he carried a bloodied young girl, until a rescue worker pried her from his arms, saying, “Let her go, let her go,” to rush her to an ambulance.

Ukraine starts probe of ceremony organizers

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine on Monday launched a criminal investigation into military officers who organized a troop-honoring ceremony that was hit by a Russian missile strike, killing 19 soldiers in one of the deadliest single attacks reported by Ukrainian forces.

The State Bureau of Investigation said it aims to hold military officials accountable for the Rocket Forces and Artillery Day event held Friday near the front line in Zaporizhzhia, where Russian reconnaissance drones could easily spot the crowded gathering.

The carnage sparked a wave of criticism among Ukrainians who questioned on social media the planning of an event so close to the battlefield. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy lamented the deaths of the men of the 128th Separate Mountain Assault Brigade of Zakarpattia as a “tragedy that could’ve been avoided.”

The investigation announcement came shortly before Ukraine’s commander-in-chief, Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi, said a top aide and close friend, Maj. Gennady Chastyakov, was separately killed by an explosive device hidden inside a birthday present as he celebrated with his family. Writing on his Telegram channel, Zaluzhnyi expressed his “inexpressible pain” for the “heavy” loss of Chastyakov and indicated a judicial investigation would establish how he died.

Earlier, officials said Russian drone and missile strikes in the city of Odesa wounded eight people and damaged an art museum that is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site, and satellite photos showed damage done by a Ukrainian missile strike to a Russian naval ship.

GOP: No border talks, no Ukraine aid

Bloomberg News

Senate Republicans predicted Monday that Democrats would be unable to pass fresh Ukraine aid without addressing their demands over the U.S. border and immigration policies — increasing the odds of an impasse that could delay such assistance indefinitely.

Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, the No. 2 Senate Republican, called on Democrats and the White House to negotiate on border policies, warning that his GOP colleagues are “dead serious about having border security in the bill.”

Thune and Sen. John Cornyn of Texas both predicted Senate

Democrats could not get the 60 votes they need to pass Ukraine aid without border policy changes Republicans are insisting on to stem the flow of migrants.

“We’re going to use this as frankly a maximum point of leverage to get the administration to do what they should have done a long time ago,” Cornyn said.

The threats worried Senate Democrats like Mark Kelly of Arizona, who argued it would be a “colossal mistake” to not aid Ukraine, and who considers some of the border policies being demanded to be unacceptable.

Republican Sens. James Lankford of Oklahoma, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Tom Cotton of Arkansas proposed an outline earlier Monday of a border package intended to make it harder for migrants to claim asylum as well as other restrictions.

Sen. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat who spoke to Republicans over the weekend, said the GOP package was too broad, and added that Democratic immigration priorities should also be addressed.

That includes a pathway to citizenship for people brought to the U.S. illegally as children and who are known as “dreamers.”

Trump lashes out at judge, AG in testimony

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A defiant Donald Trump sparred with a New York judge and slammed the state attorney general suing him Monday, using the witness stand at his civil fraud trial to defend his riches and lash out at a case that imperils his real estate empire.

The former president's barbed testimony spurred the judge to admonish: "This is not a political rally."

Trump's long-awaited testimony about property valuations and financial statements was punctuated by personal jabs at state Judge Arthur Engoron, whom he said was biased against him, and New York Attorney General Letitia James, whom he derided as a "political hack." He proudly boasted of his real estate business — "I'm worth billions of dollars more than the financial statements" — and disputed claims that he had deceived

banks and insurers.

"This is the opposite of fraud," he declared. Referring to James, a Democrat whose office brought the lawsuit, he said, "The fraud is her."

The testy exchanges and frequent rebukes from the judge underscored Trump's unwillingness to adapt his famously free-wheeling rhetorical style to a formal courtroom setting governed by rules of evidence and legal protocol. His presence on the stand was a vivid reminder of the legal troubles he faces as he vies to reclaim the White House in 2024.

It also functioned as a campaign platform for the former president and leading Republican presidential candidate to raise anew to supporters his claims of political persecution at the hands of government lawyers and judges.

"People are sick and tired of

what's happening. I think it is a very sad day for America," Trump told reporters outside the courtroom after roughly three-and-a-half hours on the stand.

The fraud case doesn't carry the prospect of prison as Trump's upcoming criminal cases do. But its allegations of financial impropriety cut to the very heart of the brand he spent decades crafting. Engoron has already ruled that Trump committed fraud by inflating his financial statements, putting the the ex-president's future control of Trump Tower and his other marquee properties into question.

The non-jury trial addresses other claims in the lawsuit brought by James against Trump, his company and top executives, including his eldest sons. She wants the defendants to fork over what she claims is more than \$300 million in ill-gotten gains and to be banned from do-

ing business in New York.

The civil trial is one of numerous legal proceedings facing Trump as he runs for a second term, including federal and state charges accusing him of crimes including illegally hoarding classified documents and scheming to overturn the 2020 presidential election. His legal and political strategies have now become completely intertwined as he hopscoches between campaign events and court hearings, a schedule that will only intensify once his criminal trials begin.

Trump has been particularly engaged in his fraud trial, aggrieved by the suggestion that he's worth less than he's claimed.

"I'm worth billions of dollars more than the financial statements," he said Monday on the stand, telling a state lawyer, "You go around and try and demean me and try and hurt me, probably for political reasons."

Justices seem likely to keep gun law that protects victims

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court seemed likely Tuesday to preserve a federal law that prohibits people under domestic violence restraining orders from having guns.

In their first guns case since last year's expansion of gun rights, the justices suggested they will reverse a ruling from an appeals court in New Orleans that struck down the 1994 ban on firearms for people under court order to stay away from their spouses or partners. Justices sounded persuaded by arguments from the Biden administration's top Supreme Court lawyer that the prohibition is in line with the long-standing practice of disarming dangerous people.

The case before the court involves a Texas man who was accused of hitting his girlfriend during an argument in a parking lot and later threatening to shoot her.

The decision in the new case could have ripple effects, including for Hunter Biden. The president's son has been charged with buying a firearm while he was addicted to drugs; his lawyers have indicated they will challenge his indictment.

The federal appeals court in New Orleans struck down the law following the Supreme Court's Bruen decision in June 2022. That high-court ruling expanded Americans' gun rights under the Constitution and changed the way courts are supposed to evaluate restrictions on firearms.

The outcome of the new case probably will come down to the votes of Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh. They were part of the six-justice conservative majority in Bruen, but Kavanaugh wrote separately, joined by Roberts, to underscore that not every gun restriction is unconstitutional.

Captain guilty of 'seaman's manslaughter' in boat fire

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A scuba dive boat captain was convicted Monday of criminal negligence in the deaths of 34 people killed in a fire aboard the vessel in 2019.

Jerry Boylan, 69, was found guilty of one count of misconduct or neglect of ship officer following a 10-day trial in federal court in downtown Los Angeles. The charge is a pre-Civil War statute colloquially known as seaman's manslaughter that was designed to hold steamboat captains and crew responsible for maritime disasters.

Boylan is the only person to face criminal charges connected to the fire. He could get 10 years behind bars when he's sentenced Feb. 8, though he can appeal.

His public defenders declined to comment as they left

the courthouse.

The verdict comes more than four years after the Sept. 2, 2019, tragedy, which prompted changes to maritime regulations, congressional reform and several ongoing civil lawsuits.

Relatives of those killed hugged one another and wept outside the courtroom Monday after the verdict was read.

The Conception was anchored off Santa Cruz Island, 25 miles south of Santa Barbara, when it caught fire before dawn on the final day of a three-day excursion, sinking less than 100 feet from shore.

Thirty-three passengers and a crew member perished, trapped in a bunkroom below deck.

Boylan was the first to abandon ship and jump overboard.

Four crew members who joined him also survived.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Bird flu at chicken farm kills nearly 48K birds

AL MONTGOMERY — After confirming the presence of highly pathogenic avian flu in a flock of chickens, nearly 48,000 birds were killed at a north Alabama farm, state agriculture officials said.

A Marshall County commercial pullet farm — one that raises chicks from hatching until they are ready to produce eggs when they are moved to a laying barn — was placed under quarantine after samples were confirmed positive for HPAI, the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries announced Friday.

HPAI is highly contagious to birds but considered low risk to humans and the virus is not considered a threat to food safety, the department said.

All poultry within a 6.2-mile radius of the farm are being tested and monitored, al.com reported. However, no other flocks have experienced an uptick in deaths, the news site reports.

Biologists monitoring rare wolf out of bounds

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Northern New Mexico or bust — that seems to be the case for at least one Mexican gray wolf that is intent on wandering beyond the boundaries set for managing the rarest subspecies of gray wolf in North America.

Federal and state wildlife managers confirmed Thursday that the endangered female wolf has traveled north of Interstate 40 and beyond a recovery zone that spans parts of south-

western New Mexico and southeastern Arizona. It was documented crossing the interstate west of Albuquerque last week and was most recently tracked to a mountainous area west of Jemez Springs.

This marks the second time the wolf — identified as F2754 — has ventured north. It reached the foothills of the Rocky Mountains near Taos, N.M., last winter before it was caught and released back into the wild in Arizona.

Both state and federal wildlife managers said they were monitoring the wolf's movements and have yet to decide whether it will be captured again and relocated.

Lawsuit says city let police corruption thrive

KS KANSAS CITY — Five women who said they were sexually assaulted or harassed by a former Kansas City detective filed a lawsuit Friday accusing the government of allowing police corruption to thrive for years.

The Kansas City Star reported that the federal lawsuit says the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City allowed its officers to “terrorize, abuse and violate” Black residents through a pattern of misconduct and assaults without being disciplined or investigated.

The government declined to comment because of the pending litigation, and a lawyer for former Detective Roger Golubski told the newspaper he couldn't comment because he hadn't read the lawsuit.

Golubski has been accused by federal prosecutors and civil

rights groups of framing Black citizens and sexually harassing Black women and girls for years in Kansas City.

Street named for Tupac 27 years after his death

CA OAKLAND — A stretch of street in Oakland was renamed Friday for Tupac Shakur, 27 years after the killing of the hip-hop luminary.

A section of MacArthur Boulevard near where he lived in the 1990s became Tupac Shakur Way, following a ceremony that included his family members and Oakland native MC Hammer.

MC Hammer, the “U Can't Touch This” rapper who spent many of Shakur's final months with him before his 1996 shooting death at age 25, said in his remarks that Shakur was, “hands down, the greatest rapper ever, there's not even a question of that.”

Shakur was born in New York and was raised there and in Baltimore, but he moved with his mother to the San Francisco Bay Area in the late 1980s. He would live in Oakland in the early 1990s and embraced it as an adopted hometown.

Homeless camp cleared; over 500 receive shelter

AZ PHOENIX — The city of Phoenix has successfully cleared out a massive downtown homeless encampment by Saturday's court-ordered deadline by helping more than 500 people find beds in shelters and motels.

The hundreds of tents that once lined blocks of streets in

the area are now gone, with just a few people milling about or pushing shopping carts filled with their belongings.

The process of clearing the area began in the spring, with city workers focusing on a block at a time, offering the street dwellers a place to sleep indoors, including emergency shelters, temporary stays at motels and longer term transitional housing for older people.

City officials said that over the course of several months, 718 people were offered help in finding shelter and 585 — approximately 80% — accepted placement. Phoenix has now also opened a city parking lot that was recently rezoned to allow homeless people to pitch tents under safer, controlled circumstances.

Uber, Lyft to pay \$328M in wage theft settlement

NY NEW YORK — Ride-hailing companies Uber and Lyft will pay a combined \$328 million to settle wage theft claims in New York, Attorney General Letitia James announced Thursday.

James said the settlements resolve investigations into the companies improperly charging drivers sales taxes and other fees when the costs should have been paid by customers.

Uber will pay \$290 million and Lyft will pay \$38 million. The money will be distributed to current and former drivers, she said. The companies have also agreed to provide drivers outside of New York City with paid sick leave and give drivers outside of New York City a minimum wage of \$26 per hour.

— From wire reports



Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting World, National and Military News

Chargers win as defense silences Jets

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Justin Herbert and the Los Angeles Chargers' offense didn't have to do much against the New York Jets.

Not when their sack-happy defense and opportunistic special teams were making big plays.

Derius Davis returned a punt 87 yards for a touchdown, Austin Ekeler ran for two scores and Joey Bosa and Los Angeles' defense stifled Zach Wilson and the Jets' bumbling offense in the Chargers' 27-6 victory Monday night.

"The defense played terrific today, came up with some big stops and got a lot of turnovers," Herbert said. "Offensively, we can move the ball better. We did a good job not turning the ball over. We had a couple punts and

a few miscues, but those are things that we could fix."

Herbert was 16-for-30 for just 136 yards, but became the fastest player in NFL history to 1,500 completions as the Chargers (4-4) snapped the Jets' three-game winning streak.

Keenan Allen had eight catches for 77 yards to reach 10,000 career yards receiving. Los Angeles, which forced New York (4-4) to fumble four times and recovered three of them, sacked Wilson eight times, including 2½ by Bosa and two each by Khalil Mack and Tuli Tuipulotu.

"We did the things that good defenses do," coach Brandon Staley said. "I thought we were physical, we did a really good job against the run game and we rushed the passer. We limited the explosions in the deep part of

the field and we were really good in the red zone.

"So it was a team win."

Wilson and the Jets couldn't get anything going despite facing the NFL's worst-ranked passing defense. Wilson was 33-for-49 for 263 yards, and New York went 3-for-17 on third downs and 0-for-2 in the red zone.

"Today was not good, obviously," coach Robert Saleh said. "We just never gave ourselves a chance."

After the Jets went three-and-out on their opening drive, Davis gave the Chargers a 7-0 lead when the rookie fielded Thomas Morstead's punt near the right sideline, avoided a tackle attempt, cut inside and took off — avoiding a few more tackle tries along the way — for an 87-yard

touchdown return.

"It was electric," Staley said. "He's got the stuff that's hard to find. He's the one that deserves the credit because he found the crease and hit it."

It was the longest punt return in the NFL this season, and the Chargers' first punt return for a TD since Desmond King brought one back 68 yards against Denver in 2019.

The Jets moved the ball on their next drive, helped in part by a roughing-the-passer penalty on Bosa — the first such call in New York's favor since 2021. But Garrett Wilson lost a fumble on the next play on a hit by Alohi Gilman, with Derwin James recovering.

"Too many self-inflicted wounds," Zach Wilson said. "Just not good enough."

Brewers taken aback as Counsell leaves for Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO—The Chicago Cubs hired manager Craig Counsell away from Milwaukee on Monday, landing the former big leaguer with a record-breaking contract and firing David Ross in a tandem of surprising moves.

The 53-year-old Counsell became the majors' highest-paid manager with a five-year contract worth more than \$40 million, according to a person with knowledge of the deal who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because terms weren't announced.

Ross, 46, went 262-284 in four seasons with Chicago, winning the NL Central in 2020 in his first year. He was also a beloved backup catcher for the Cubs when they won the 2016 World Series in a historic moment for the franchise.

Chicago was in position for an NL wild card spot this year before stumbling in September. It went 83-79 after finishing under .500 in the previous two seasons.

"On behalf of the Cubs organization, we express our deep gratitude for David's contributions to our club, both on and off the field," President of Baseball Operations Jed Hoyer said in a statement. "First as a player and then as a manager, David continually showcased his ability to lead. David's legacy will be felt in Chicago for generations and his impact to our

organization will stack up with the legends that came before him.

"Going forward, our major league team will be managed by Craig Counsell. We look forward to welcoming Craig at Wrigley Field early next week."

The addition of Counsell, who grew up in Milwaukee before becoming the Brewers' winningest manager, likely means the Cubs plan to be active in free agency. They are hoping to bring back Cody Bellinger for the middle of their lineup, and they also could seek rotation help.

Counsell led the budget-conscious Brewers to five playoff appearances in six years, including three NL Central titles. His contract expired at the end of the season, making him one of the biggest managerial free agents in recent years.

"We're all here today because we lost Craig, but I've reflected on this — Craig has lost us and he's lost our community, also," Brewers principal owner Mark Attanasio said. "It's really a special place to be."

Attanasio said Counsell informed him of his decision, and his response was "Are you messing with me?"

"For several weeks, we had an offer that would have made him the highest-paid manager in baseball, both per season and the total

package," Attanasio said. "I felt very good about that. And he made a decision to go another direction."

The Cleveland Guardians interviewed Counsell before announcing Monday that they hired former catcher Stephen Vogt. Counsell also was being pursued by the New York Mets, who already had hired former Brewers President of Baseball Operations David Stearns. The Mets ended up hiring Yankees bench coach Carlos Mendoza as their manager.

Vogt, a journeyman catcher with no managerial experience, will take over for Terry Francona, the team's beloved manager for 11 seasons and winningest manager in club history.

Vogt, who only retired as a player in 2022 before spending a season as Seattle's bullpen coach, is getting a three-year contract with the Guardians.

Stearns said the Mets would "cast a wide net" when searching for their next manager. He found what he was looking for a subway ride away.

Mendoza spent the past four seasons across town as Aaron Boone's top lieutenant with the Yankees. He replaces manager Buck Showalter, fired by the Mets at the end of last season after holding the job for two years.

James Madison upsets Michigan State

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — James Madison, not No. 4 Michigan State, opened the season with a lot of swagger.

And, a win.

Terrence Edwards had 24 points and Raekwon Horton made a 3-pointer with 8.6 seconds left in overtime, sending the Dukes to a 79-76 overtime win over the Spartans on Monday night.

“We’re not scared of names,” T.J. Bickerstaff said after scoring 21 points, including a tying shot with 30 seconds left in regulation. “We go hard.”

James Madison improved to 2-32 against ranked teams, knocking off a team in the AP Top 25 for the first time since beating No. 19 California on Dec. 29, 1992.

“I’m still catching my breath,” fourth-year coach Mark Byington said.

No. 1 Kansas 99, North Carolina Central 56: Hunter Dickinson had 21 points and eight rebounds in his debut with his new team, Kevin McCullar Jr. made four 3-pointers and finished with 22 points and the top-ranked Jayhawks cruised to a victory over the visiting Eagles.

Kansas had five players in

double figures, including Dickinson, the Michigan transfer and one of the most sought-after players to enter the portal.

No. 2 Duke 92, Dartmouth 54: Kyle Filipowski scored 25 points to help the host Blue Devils beat the Big Green to open Year 2 under Jon Scheyer.

No. 3 Purdue 98, Samford 45: Zach Edey opened the season by scoring 16 points and grabbing 11 rebounds and Camden Heide had 13 points as the host Boilersmakers beat the Bulldogs.

No. 5 Marquette 92, N. Illinois 70: Kam Jones scored 20 points and the host Golden Eagles beat the Huskies.

No. 6 UConn 85, Northern Arizona 52: Alex Karaban scored 22 points to lead five players in double figures and the defending national champion Huskies routed the visiting Lumberjacks.

No. 7 Houston 84, Louisiana-Monroe 31: Emanuel Sharp scored a career-high 20 points, Damian Dunn added 18 points and the host Cougars beat the Warhawks.

No. 9 Tennessee 80, Tenn. Tech 42: Dalton Knecht scored 17 points and the host Vols’ defense was in midseason form in

a rout of the Golden Eagles.

No. 12 Arizona 122, Morgan State 59: Kylan Boswell scored 18 points, Pelle Larsson added 15 and the host Wildcats demolished the Bears.

No. 13 Miami 101, NJIT 60: Wooga Poplar scored 21 points, and Norchad Omier had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the host Hurricanes.

No. 14 Arkansas 93, Alcorn St. 59: Khalif Battle scored 21 points and Tramon Mark added 16 as the host Razorbacks beat the Braves in an opener.

No. 15 Texas A&M 78, Texas A&M-Commerce 46: Hayden Hefner scored 19 points, Wade Taylor IV had 16 and the host Aggies opened the season with a win over the Lions.

No. 16 Kentucky 86, New Mexico St. 46: Rob Dillingham scored 17 points, D.J. Wagner had 13 and the host Wildcats shot 59% in the second half to rout the Aggies.

No. 17 San Diego State 83, Cal State Fullerton 57: Jaedon LeDee scored six of his career-high 27 points in the first three minutes of the second half and the host Aztecs broke open a close game to beat the Titans in their season opener.

No. 18 Texas 88, Incarnate

Word 56: Ithiel Horton scored 17 points and the host Longhorns unveiled their new transfer-heavy lineup with a romp over the Cardinals.

No. 19 North Carolina 86, Radford 70: Armando Bacot scored 25 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in the best opener of his career, helping the host Tar Heels beat the Highlanders.

No. 21 Southern California 82, Kansas State 69: Boogie Ellis had 24 points and eight rebounds as the Trojans defeated the Wildcats in Las Vegas.

No. 22 Villanova 90, American 63: Eric Dixon and Tyler Burton each scored 15 points to lead the host Wildcats to a win over the Eagles.

No. 23 Saint Mary’s 107, Stanislaus St. 28: Aidan Mahaney scored 15 points and the host Gaels rolled over the Division II Warriors.

No. 24 Alabama 105, Morehead State 73: Grant Nelson scored 24 points and Aaron Estrada added 16 in impressive debuts, leading the host Crimson Tide over the Eagles.

No. 25 Illinois 80, Eastern Illinois 52: Dra Gibbs-Lawhorn scored 18 points, Terrence Shannon Jr. added 16 and the host Illini pulled away.

Historic loss for LSU; freshmen show off in openers

Associated Press

It was a wild and historic opening day in women’s college basketball with a monumental upset and stellar debuts.

If Monday was any indication of the season ahead, there’s going to be a lot of excitement leading up to the crowning of a national champion in Cleveland in April.

Seven months after LSU won the national championship, the Tigers became the first No. 1 team to lose its season opener in 28 years when they were stunned by No. 20 Colorado 92-

78. UConn was the last team to do it in 1995-96, according to ESPN. They were also the defending NCAA champions that year, as well.

LSU coach Kim Mulkey knows her team has a lot of work to do.

“This is not going to devastate us,” she said. “I knew what we faced, but what I didn’t know about my team were all those (intangible) things. ... Those things are fixable, but I don’t know how long it’s going to take to fix it.”

Frida Formann scored 27

points and Aaronette Vonleh added 24 to lead Colorado.

Angel Reese had 15 points and 12 rebounds for LSU.

Unlike the Tigers, national runner-up Iowa cruised to an easy win in its opener behind Caitlin Clark. She had 28 points and 10 assists in the third-ranked Hawkeyes 102-46 win over Fairleigh Dickinson.

A bunch of freshmen had stellar debuts.

Juju Watkins scored 32 points to help No. 21 Southern Cal shock seventh-ranked Ohio State. Watkins’ effort was the

most by a freshman in her first game at the school topping Lisa Leslie’s 30 points in 1990 against No. 7 Texas.

Watkins wasn’t the only freshman who played great in her opener.

South Carolina first-year player Malaysia Fulwiley had a viral moment with an incredible transition layup where she put the ball behind her back and kept it, finishing with a flip shot in the Gamecocks’ 100-71 rout of Notre Dame in the first women’s college basketball game ever played in Paris.

76ers top Wizards, win fifth in a row

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Joel Embiid scored 29 of his season-high 48 points in the third quarter and the Philadelphia 76ers rolled to their fifth straight victory, 146-128 over the Washington Wizards on Monday night.

Philadelphia is unbeaten after a one-point loss at Milwaukee in its opener.

In the third quarter, Embiid was 10-for-10 from the floor and 9-for-9 at the foul line to help the 76ers extend their lead to 120-98.

Embiid has scored 40 or more points 40 times in the regular season. He also had 11 rebounds and six assists while sitting out the fourth quarter for the second straight game.

Tobias Harris had 18 and DeAnthony Melton a season-high 14 for the Sixers. Nicolas Baton, who was picked up as one of the pieces in the trade that sent James Harden to the

Los Angeles Clippers, scored 11 points on 4-for-5 shooting in his Sixers debut.

Kyle Kuzma scored 28 points for Washington, and Jordan Poole had 23. The Wizards have lost four straight to fall to 1-5.

Heat 108, Lakers 107: Bam Adebayo had the first 20-rebound triple-double in Miami history, Jimmy Butler scored 28 points and the host Heat survived a big offensive drought at the end to beat Los Angeles.

LeBron James had 30 points for the Lakers, who fell to 0-4 on the road.

Timberwolves 114, Celtics 109 (OT): Anthony Edwards scored eight of his 38 points in overtime and host Minnesota sent Boston to its first loss of the season

Jayson Tatum had 32 points and Jaylen Brown added 26 for the Celtics. Boston's 6-0 start is its best since 2009-10.

Knicks 111, Clippers 97: Ju-

lius Randle scored 27 points, RJ Barrett had 26 in his return to the lineup and host New York spoiled James Harden's debut with Los Angeles.

Nuggets 134, Pelicans 116: Nikola Jokic had his 108th triple-double with 35 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists and host Denver overcame a 20-point, first-half deficit to beat New Orleans.

Pacers 152, Spurs 111: Tyrese Haliburton scored 23 points and host Indiana routed San Antonio for coach Rick Carlisle's 900th career victory.

Spurs rookie sensation Victor Wembanyama had his worst shooting night in his first back-to-back, going 3-for-12 and finishing with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Bucks 129, Nets 125: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 36 points and 12 rebounds to help visiting Milwaukee beat Brooklyn.

Mavericks 117, Magic 102: Luka Doncic returned from a brief absence after bumping his head to score 12 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter, leading visiting Dallas past Orlando.

Paolo Banchero led Orlando with 22 points.

Warriors 120, Pistons 109: Steph Curry scored 34 points and visiting Golden State dominated on the offensive glass against Detroit.

Rockets 122, Kings 97: Alperen Sengun had 17 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds and Jalen Green scored 23 points in host Houston's victory over Sacramento.

Thunder 126, Hornets 117: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 30 points in host Oklahoma City's victory over Atlanta.

Bulls 130, Jazz 113: Zach LaVine scored 24 points, DeMar DeRozan had 21 and host Chicago beat Utah to snap a three-game losing streak.

Jarnkrok scores twice, leads Leafs past Bolts in OT

Associated Press

TORONTO — Calle Jarnkrok scored his second goal of the game 46 seconds into overtime to give the Toronto Maple Leafs a 6-5 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Monday night.

Auston Matthews added two goals and an assist, Mitch Marner had a goal and three assists and Matthew Knies had a goal and two assists. Toronto dug out of an early 4-1 hole to improve to 5-4-2 and end an 0-2-2 slide.

"We don't have any quit in this locker room," Marner said. "A lot of trust in our group that, regardless of the situation, we're never out of a game."

Jarnkrok scored his third goal of the season in the extra period after taking a pass from Morgan Rielly and redirecting the puck past Jonas Johansson.

Toronto starter Ilya Samso-

nov allowed four goals on 12 shots in just over 15 minutes of action before getting the hook. Joseph Woll made 18 stops in relief. Marner had his 15th four-point game to tie Frank Mahovlich for second in franchise history behind Darryl Sittler, who did it 26 times. William Nylander picked up an assist on the winner to extend his franchise-record points streak to start a season to 12 games.

Nikita Kucherov had two goals and two assists in the first period for Tampa (5-4-3). Victor Hedman added a goal and two assists, and Brayden Point and Brandon Hagel each had a goal and an assist. Johansson made 27 saves.

Bruins 3, Stars 2: Boston rookies John Beecher and Mason Lohrei scored their first NHL goals less than four minutes apart in the first period,

putting the visiting Bruins ahead to stay against Dallas.

Brad Marchand added a power-play goal in the third period, and Jeremy Swayman stopped 34 shots for the Eastern Conference-leading Bruins (10-1-1), who rebounded from their first regulation loss two nights earlier at Detroit.

Joe Pavelski and Wyatt Johnston scored for Dallas.

Panthers 5, Blue Jackets 4 (OT): Nick Cousins tied it for his team with 57 seconds to go in regulation and Carter Verhaeghe scored 1:26 into overtime to lift host Florida past Columbus.

Florida led 3-0 barely six minutes in, then gave up the next four goals.

Ryan Lomberg, Gustav Forsling and Aleksander Barkov also scored for the Panthers. Sergei Bobrovsky made 18 saves.

Sean Kuraly, Boone Jenner, Alexandre Texier and Kirill Marchenko scored for the Blue Jackets. Spencer Martin made 35 saves in relief of Elvis Merzlikins, who allowed three goals on 11 shots in the first 6:09.

Canucks 6, Oilers 2: Quinn Hughes, Pius Suter and Brock Boeser scored in a 3:22 span of the first period and host Vancouver beat slumping Edmonton for its fourth straight victory.

Hughes also had three assists, Boeser scored twice, Nils Hoglander and J.T. Miller added goals and Thatcher Demko made 40 saves to help the Canucks improve to 9-2-1 overall and 5-0-1 at home.

Mattias Ekholm and Leon Draisaitl scored for Edmonton and Stuart Skinner stopped 29 shots. The Oilers have lost three straight to drop to 2-8-1.