

US hopeful with Biden, Xi poised for talks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials expressed hope Monday that this week's highly anticipated face-to-face meeting between President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping will produce some concrete results, including the possible reestablishment of military communication between the two nations and a shared effort to combat illicit fentanyl trafficking.

The two leaders will meet Wednesday on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco. The Biden-Xi bilateral will be the marquee moment of the forum, which is dedicated to promoting trade, investment and economic development among nations around the Pacific Ocean.

Biden and Xi have not spoken in a year. Their last meeting was at the Group of 20 summit in Indonesia last fall. And since then, tensions between the two nations

have grown following a series of events touched off by the shooting down of a Chinese spy balloon that had wafted across the U.S. earlier this year.

The frosty relationship between the two economic superpowers has global implications: China and the U.S. produce roughly 40% of the world's goods and services.

U.S. officials have set relatively low expectations for the Biden-Xi meeting, suggesting that simply getting back to a baseline of routine communication would be a good benchmark for success. Still, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Monday there could be some movement toward shared goals, through "intense diplomacy."

"All in all we're looking forward to a productive meeting," Sullivan said. "President Biden has a long history with President Xi and their conversations are direct, they're straightforward and

President Biden believes there is no substitute for leader-to-leader, face-to-face diplomacy to manage this complex relationship."

Among those goals: the reestablishment of communications between military leaders of the two nations. U.S. military contacts with China have eroded, particularly since the pandemic, and are now almost nonexistent, even as the number of unsafe or unprofessional incidents between the two nations' ships and aircraft have spiked.

The U.S. has consistently viewed military relations with China as critical to avoiding any missteps and to maintaining a peaceful Indo-Pacific region. They became even more important as China stepped up its efforts to aggressively militarize manmade islands in the Pacific as part of a broader campaign to control the South China Sea, including international transit by other ships and aircraft.

China has also long complained about U.S. Navy and Air Force movements in the western Pacific, along with other U.S. moves to impose sanctions and other economic restrictions. Canceling military talks is viewed by China as a way to punish Washington.

But there are small signs of progress. China's defense ministry last week said the two militaries held a conference call on the search for the remains of American prisoners of war and missing personnel.

Sullivan said Biden would also use the meeting to address China's relations with Iran and Taiwan. China has perceived American contact with Taiwan as encouragement to make the island's decades-old de facto independence permanent.

Sullivan said Biden would "set out a vision for peace and stability and the maintenance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

S. Korea mulls suspending military agreement with North

By DAVID CHOI

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — An inter-Korean agreement designed to lower tensions on the peninsula could be partially suspended if North Korea attempts a military satellite launch, according to a South Korean news report.

Seoul is considering suspending provisions within the Comprehensive Military Agreement "as a precautionary measure against North Korean provocations," including the launch of a spy satellite, Yonhap News reported Tuesday, citing an unnamed South Korean government official.

South Korea may restart re-

connaissance operations near the border's coasts if the North attempts to put a spy satellite into orbit.

The agreement, which prohibits armed troops at the border and establishes no-fly zones, also constrains Seoul's military readiness and reconnaissance capabilities against North Korea, according to a statement Tuesday from the South's Ministry of National Defense.

The agreement was signed in 2018 by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and then-South Korean President Moon Jae-in, following three summits that year at the Demilitarized Zone and in Pyongyang.

The measures were "based on

the common understanding that easing military tension and building confidence on the Korean Peninsula is integral to securing lasting and stable peace," according to the Comprehensive Military Agreement.

The agreement established deconfliction measures, including a no-fly zone for all types of aircraft above the Military Demarcation Line separating the two Koreas, an end to live-fire artillery drills within 3.1 miles of the border and the withdrawal of soldiers from guard posts within 1,093 yards of the DMZ.

Gen. Kim Seung Kyum, chairman of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, criticized the agreement last month during a National As-

sembly hearing in Seoul. The 5-year-old deal was a "disguised peace offensive" and negatively affected Seoul's security, he said.

North Korea has failed to put a satellite into orbit twice so far this year. The first attempt failed on May 31. Five weeks later, the South's military salvaged pieces of the launch vehicle that had "no military utility" in the Yellow Sea, according to the Ministry of National Defense.

The communist regime last tried to put a Malligyong-1 satellite into orbit on Aug. 24. That launch failed due to a flaw in the rocket's third stage emergency blasting system, the state-run Korean Central News Agency reported at the time.

High school senior earns wings through Navy flight program

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A high school senior at this Marine Corps base on Okinawa has earned his wings through a Navy flight program for exceptional students.

Jackson Coberley graduated in August from the eight-week Naval Air Forces Flight Academy, a scholarship program for high-performing 11th- and 12th-graders. He aims one day to fly for the Air Force.

The program allows students from the Navy and Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps to pursue their private pilot's license while receiving college credit, the Navy said in a June 7 news release.

Coberley was one of three students from the Indo-Pacific region chosen for this year's program.

"It was a lot of fun," he recently told Stars and Stripes. "It's not difficult if you're willing to put in the work."

The program, which takes place at three locations in North Carolina and Delaware, was launched in 2021 to expose a diverse group of students to naval aviation and inspire them to join the Navy.

It features classroom instruction, more than 40 hours in single-engine training aircraft and 17 hours of solo flights.

This year, 28 students were chosen to participate but only 21 graduated with a pilot's license, Coberley said.

Program costs of \$26,000 per student are paid by the Naval Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Coordi-

nation Office under a new STEM initiative.

The U.S. military has been hampered by a "significant" pilot shortage in recent years, the Defense Department reported to Congress in July 2019.

As of August, the Air Force had a backlog of around 900 prospective pilots awaiting training, mostly due to a lack of civilian simulator instructors, unscheduled inspections and issues with training aircraft, Air Force spokeswoman Rose Riley wrote in an emailed statement Nov. 7.

The Navy has dealt with similar issues with training aircraft and instructor manning, spokeswoman Lt. Alyson Hands recently told Stars and Stripes. Over the summer, the service had 617 prospective pilots awaiting training.

Coberley, the son of Air Force avionics technician Senior Master Sgt. Darren Coberley, grew up around planes. He arrived on Okinawa eight years ago after stints in South Dakota and England.

Jackson Coberley said he decided to fly after taking five free discovery flights through the Civil Air Patrol in the U.S. in the summer of 2022. He applied for the Navy program later that year.

"It's so pretty up there," he said. "You see the world from a whole different view."

In addition to flying, he is taking six Advanced Placement classes and is student council executive president, vice president of the National Honor Society and an officer with the JROTC and Civil Air Patrol.

Wife jailed for threats to US troop's alleged lover

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**
AND **MARI HIGA**
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese police, after a two-month investigation, jailed the wife of a U.S. service member on Okinawa this week on suspicion of trespassing and threatening her husband's supposed lover with a knife.

Police took the unidentified 32-year-old American into custody around 2:20 p.m. Monday on a street in central Okinawa, an Okinawa police spokesman said by phone Tuesday.

The woman lives on a Marine Corps base on Okinawa, he added.

Police allege the spouse entered another woman's apartment in the same area on Sept. 11 and threatened her with a

knife. No injuries resulted, the spokesman said.

Okinawa police declined to release some details of the case, including the military spouse's name, her husband's unit affiliation and which base she lives on, to protect the privacy of the woman police said the spouse threatened.

The spouse remained jailed Tuesday, the spokesman said.

"The suspect's husband is a service member and seems to be in an intimate relationship with the woman," the spokesman said.

"That seems to be the reason why the suspect went to the woman's house and threatened her."

Some government officials in Japan may speak to the media only on condition of anonymity.

Militants hit US bases in Mideast 4 times in 24 hours

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

WASHINGTON — Iran-backed militant groups this week attacked U.S. bases in Iraq and Syria four more times in 24 hours, increasing their strikes to more than 50 in the last month despite American bombings in retaliation, a military official said Monday.

The militant groups began increasing attacks on U.S. bases in the two countries in mid-October, not long after Hamas militants from Gaza launched a surprise attack on Israel that killed hundreds of civilians. Since then, American troops have been targeted dozens of times at bases in Iraq and Syria.

"Most of these attacks were successfully disrupted by our military. Most failed to reach

their targets, thanks to our robust defenses," a U.S. military official said Monday on condition of anonymity. "Between Oct. 17 and [today], U.S. and coalition forces have been attacked at least 52 times."

The official said 28 attacks occurred in Syria and 24 in Iraq and the groups used a "mix of one-way attack drones and rockets."

The most recent strike occurred on Monday at Rumalyn Landing Zone in northeastern Syria.

"One [enemy] drone was shot down. The other impacted [the landing zone]," the military official said. "No casualties and minor damage to [four tents]."

The four most recent attacks occurred between Sunday and Monday.

Speaker set with plan to avoid shutdown

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The last time Congress tried to fund the government to prevent a federal shutdown, it cost House Speaker Kevin McCarthy his job.

This time, new Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana appeared on track Tuesday for a temporarily better outcome as the House prepared to vote on a stopgap package to keep the government running into the new year. If approved, the Senate would act next, ahead of Friday's shutdown deadline.

But the new Republican leader faces the same political problem that led to McCarthy's ouster — angry, frustrated, hard-right GOP lawmakers rejecting his approach, demanding budget cuts and determined to vote against the plan. Without enough support from his Republican majority, Johnson would be forced to rely on Democrats to ensure passage to keep the federal government running.

"We're not surrendering," Johnson assured after a closed-door meeting of House Republicans at the Capitol. "But you have to choose fights you can win."

Johnson, who announced his endorsement Tuesday of Donald Trump as the Republican nominee for president, was working furiously and hit the airwaves to

sell his approach. He met privately the night before with the conservative Freedom Caucus.

Under his proposal, Johnson is putting forward a unique — critics say bizarre — two-part process that temporarily funds some federal agencies to Jan. 19 and others to Feb. 2. It's a continuing resolution, or CR, that comes without any of the deep cuts conservatives have demanded all year. It also fails to include President Joe Biden's request for nearly \$106 billion for Ukraine, Israel, border security and other supplemental funds.

Johnson says the innovative approach would position House Republicans to "go into the fight" for deeper spending cuts in the new year — but many Republicans are skeptical there will be any better outcome in January.

The conservative House Freedom Caucus announced its opposition, ensuring dozens of votes against it.

"I think it's a very big mistake," said Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, a member of the hard-right group of lawmakers.

"It's wrong," said Rep. Andy Ogles, R-Tenn.

Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said his party was "carefully evaluating" the proposal from the Republican leader-

ship before giving approval.

But Democrats remain concerned about the two-part approach. Veteran lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have called it cumbersome, unusual and unworkable.

Jeffries in a letter to Democratic colleagues noted that the GOP package met the Democratic demands to keep funding at current levels without steep reductions or divisive Republican policy priorities.

"Extreme MAGA Republicans have repeatedly demonstrated that they cannot govern without House Democrats," Jeffries said on NPR. "That will be the case this week in the context of avoiding a government shutdown."

With the House narrowly divided, Johnson cannot afford many defections from his Republicans, which is forcing him into the arms of Democrats.

Winning bipartisan approval of a continuing resolution is the same move that led McCarthy's hard-right flank to oust him in October, days after the Sept. 30 vote to avert a federal shutdown. For now, Johnson appears to be benefiting from a political honeymoon in one of his first big tests on the job.

"Look, we're going to trust the speaker's move here," said Rep. Drew Ferguson, R-Ga.

Semi crashes into bus carrying Ohio students

Associated Press

ETNA, Ohio — A charter bus carrying students from a high school was rear-ended by a semi-truck on an interstate in Ohio on Tuesday morning, leaving three people dead and 18 others injured, according to an emergency official.

Five vehicles were involved in the crash, including a Pioneer Trails charter bus that was transporting students from the Tuscarawas Valley Local School District in eastern Ohio, Licking County Emergency Management Agency Director Sean Grady said. There were a total of 57 people onboard, he said. Lt. Nathan Dennis of the Ohio State Highway Patrol confirmed that people were killed

in the crash, but he declined further comment since they were still notifying the victims' families.

The bus was carrying Tuscarawas Valley students and chaperones to an Ohio School Boards Association conference in Columbus, Superintendent Derek Varansky said.

The conference was canceled after organizers learned of the crash.

The accident occurred shortly before 9 a.m. on Interstate 70 West in Licking County, near the Smoke Road underpass and about 26 miles east of Columbus. The cause was not immediately known.

The injured were being treated at seven hospitals.

House vote pushes off DHS secretary impeachment

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House voted Monday to push off a Republican effort to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, ending for now a threat against the Cabinet secretary that has been brewing ever since Republicans took the House majority in January.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, a hard-right Republican from Georgia, forced a vote on impeaching Mayorkas to the floor through a rule that allows any single member to force a snap vote on resolutions, including constitutional matters such as impeachment. Eight Republicans joined with Democrats to vote 209-201 to send her resolution to committees for possible

consideration, like any other bill. They are under no obligation to do anything.

Impeachment is usually reserved for grave misconduct in office but is instead being wielded in an extraordinary effort to remove Mayorkas for his handling of the southern border. The vote and its GOP support showed a growing appetite to reach for Congress' most powerful weapons and redefine what the Constitution means by impeachable "high crimes and misdemeanors." Impeaching a Cabinet official for their policy decisions would be unprecedented.

Greene said she may try again to push an impeachment vote to the floor.

Palestinians call for evacuating hospital

Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip — Palestinian authorities on Tuesday called for a cease-fire to evacuate three dozen newborns and other patients trapped inside Gaza's biggest hospital as Israeli forces battle Hamas in the streets just outside and seize more ground across northern Gaza.

For days, the Israeli army has encircled Shifa Hospital, determined to seize the facility it says Hamas hides in, and beneath, to use civilians as shields for its main command base.

Hospital staff and Hamas deny the claim. Meanwhile, hundreds of patients, staff and displaced

people are trapped inside, with supplies dwindling and without electricity to run incubators and other life-saving equipment. With refrigeration out for days, staff on Tuesday were digging a mass grave in the yard for more than 120 bodies in the morgue, health officials said.

Six weeks into the war, the standoff at Shifa and other hospitals comes as Israeli forces control larger swaths of Gaza City and the surrounding northern part of the Gaza Strip, saying they are driving out and killing Hamas fighters.

Israel has vowed to crush Hamas rule in Gaza after the militants' Oct. 7 surprise attack into

Israel in which they killed some 1,200 people and dragged roughly 240 hostages back to Gaza. But even as its troops control more of a devastated north Gaza, the Israeli government has acknowledged it doesn't know what it will do with the territory after Hamas' defeat.

The onslaught — one of the world's deadliest and most intense bombardments this century — has been disastrous for Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians.

More than 11,200 people, two-thirds of them women and minors, have been killed, according to the Health Ministry of the Hamas-run territory — which has been unable to update its figures

since Friday, citing the difficulty of collecting information. About 2,700 people have been reported missing. The ministry's count does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths.

Fighting has raged for days around Shifa Hospital, a complex several city blocks across at the center of Gaza City that has now "turned into a cemetery," its director said in a statement.

The Health Ministry said 40 patients, including three babies, have died since Shifa's emergency generator ran out of fuel Saturday. Another 36 babies are at risk of dying because there is no power for incubators, according to the ministry.

Papers: WHO paid sexual abuse victims in Congo \$250

Associated Press

LONDON — Earlier this year, the doctor who leads the World Health Organization's efforts to prevent sexual abuse traveled to Congo to address the biggest known sex scandal in the U.N. health agency's history, the abuse of well over 100 local women by staffers and others during a deadly Ebola outbreak.

According to an internal WHO report from Dr. Gaya Gamhewage's trip in March, one of the abused women she met gave birth to a baby with "a malformation that required spe-

cial medical treatment," meaning even more costs for the young mother in one of the world's poorest countries.

To help victims like her, the WHO has paid \$250 each to at least 104 women in Congo who say they were sexually abused or exploited by officials working to stop Ebola. That amount per victim is less than a single day's expenses for some U.N. officials working in the Congolese capital — and \$19 more than what Gamhewage received per day during her three-day visit — according to internal documents obtained

by The Associated Press.

The amount covers living expenses for less than four months in a country where, the WHO documents noted, many people survive on less than \$2.15 a day.

The payments to women didn't come freely. To receive the cash, they were required to complete training courses intended to help them start "income-generating activities." The payments appear to try to circumvent the U.N.'s stated policy that it doesn't pay reparations by including the money in what it calls a "complete pack-

age" of support.

Many Congolese women who were sexually abused have still received nothing. WHO said in a confidential document last month that about a third of the known victims were "impossible to locate." The WHO said nearly a dozen women declined its offer.

The total of \$26,000 that WHO has provided to the victims equals about 1% of the \$2 million, WHO-created "survivor assistance fund" for victims of sexual misconduct, primarily in Congo.

EU struggles to provide ammo it pledged for Ukraine

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — European Union nations acknowledged on Tuesday that they risk failing to provide Ukraine with the ammunition they pledged to help Kyiv stave off the Russian invasion and win back its territory.

Early this year, EU leaders promised to provide 1 million rounds of ammunition to Ukraine's front line by spring next year in what would have

amounted to a serious ramp-up of production.

But the 27-nation bloc, for over half a century steeped in a "peace, not war" message and sheltering under a U.S. military umbrella, is finding it tough to come up with the goods.

"The 1 million will not be reached, you have to assume that," said German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, ahead of a meeting of EU defense and

foreign affairs ministers in Brussels.

Estonia's defense minister, Hanno Pevkur, said it was crucial to ramp up supply of the ammunition.

"Look at Russia. They are producing today more than ever. They are getting shells from North Korea. Europe cannot say that. ... 'Russia and North Korea can deliver and we cannot,' " he said.

Some 300,000 rounds have been delivered from existing stocks in the EU so far. With the rest becoming increasingly elusive to source before spring, Latvian Defense Minister Andris Spruds insisted the original target should not be taken too literally.

"Well, of course, 1 million rounds are symbolic. I think aspiration and ambition is important," he said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Scholar picks in person; 1st time since COVID

DC WASHINGTON — A new batch of Rhodes scholars from the United States has been selected to study at the University of Oxford in a screening process that was conducted in person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe in 2020.

The Office of the American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust said in a statement on Saturday that the class of 32 scholars for 2024 — 20 female and 12 male recipients — is due to begin their studies in October, and it is “pleased to return to in-person interviews this year.”

For three consecutive years, the selection process had been carried out online.

The scholars, who are among students selected from more than 70 countries, are due to pursue graduate degrees.

VSU officer stable after critical shooting wound

VA PETERSBURG — A Virginia State University police officer was in stable condition Sunday after being critically wounded in a shooting near campus, university officials said.

The shooting happened at about 1:30 a.m. when an on-duty VSU police officer responded to a disturbance at the campus in Petersburg, Va., according to Chesterfield County police.

The suspect, who remains at large, ran off campus before shots were fired, injuring the officer.

The university was put on lockdown after the shooting. The lockdown was lifted at about

noon, the university said.

Chesterfield police Chief Col. Jeffrey Katz said in a social media post that Virginia State Police and the FBI are assisting in the investigation.

Man arrested in fire that killed 30 racehorses

NY NICHOLS — Authorities are investigating the deaths of at least 30 racehorses in a barn fire at an upstate New York track they believe was deliberately set.

The horses were killed early Thursday after the barn where they were housed at the Tioga Downs Casino Resort complex was set on fire, the state police said in a news release. The track and casino are in Nichols, a town of about 2,500 people near the border with Pennsylvania and roughly 150 miles northwest of New York City.

A 32-year-old Athens, Pa., man was charged with arson, burglary and other counts.

According to the state police, an investigation revealed that an individual entered the barn and intentionally set a fire. The agency didn’t disclose a possible motive.

Humane societies probe small animal transfer

AZ TUCSON — Roughly 250 small animals that were transferred from California to Arizona may have ended up being fed to reptiles, according to two humane societies.

Tucson TV station KVOA investigated the animals’ whereabouts in September, a month after 300 small animals were transferred from the over-

crowded San Diego Humane Society to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona in Tucson.

The Arizona Republic reported that the transfer was a collaboration between the two groups and that the animals then went to a man who ran a reptile breeding company that also sold both live and frozen animals for reptile feed.

The newspaper said the man ended up returning 62 of the animals to the Tucson-based humane society, leaving about 250 rabbits, guinea pigs, rats and mice to an unknown fate.

3rd man captured out of 4 who escaped jail

GA MACON — The third of four men who escaped from a Georgia jail last month was captured Sunday morning at a home in Augusta, local and federal authorities said.

Johnifer Darnard Barnwell, 37, was captured in a home where police also found large quantities of drugs, according to the Bibb County Sheriff’s Office and the FBI. Barnwell was being held on drug charges when he and three other inmates escaped through a damaged window and a cut fence at the jail early Oct. 16.

Authorities continue to search for Joey Fournier, 52. Chavis Demaryo Stokes, 29, was caught on Oct. 26; Marc Kerry Anderson, 25, was captured Nov. 3.

Child dead, 4 more hurt in flea market shooting

TX PEARLAND — Two children and three other people were shot at a Texas flea market Sunday evening

and one child later died at a hospital, police said.

Officers responded to a call of shots fired at Cole’s Flea Market in the Pearland area at 5:34 p.m., the Pearland Police Department posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. The victims were transported to hospitals.

The shooting happened following an argument between two people who did not know each other, Officer Chad Rogers said in an evening news conference. The two people exchanged gunfire inside the market, police said.

One suspect was still at large, police said.

Man shot in face by fellow hunter, dies

IA PANORA — An Illinois hunter died after being shot in the face by someone in his hunting party, an official with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources said Saturday.

The department said in a written statement that its law enforcement arm is investigating the shooting death of Seth Egelhoff, 26, of Chesterfield, Ill..

Someone called 911 around 1 p.m. Saturday to report that Egelhoff had been shot while hunting waterfowl in the Bays Branch Wildlife Area, just north of Panora, according to the statement. Emergency medics rushed Egelhoff to a spot to be picked up by a medical helicopter, but he died en route, the department said.

Conservation Officer Jeremy King said the shooting appeared to be accidental. The Guthrie County Sheriff’s Office and the Iowa State Patrol are helping in the investigation.

— From wire services



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FG lifts Broncos over struggling Bills

Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Broncos kicker Wil Lutz made good on his do-over field-goal attempt, much like Denver has done in rebounding from one of its most embarrassing defeats in franchise history.

Getting a second chance after missing wide right from 41 yards thanks to Buffalo being flagged for too many players, Lutz connected on a 36-yard field goal attempt as time expired to secure a 24-22 win over the sloppy, turnover-prone Bills on Monday night.

The Broncos (4-5) have won three straight and four of six since a 70-20 loss at Miami. And they came out of their bye week carrying over the momentum of a 24-9 victory over Kansas City, which ended a 16-game skid against their AFC West rival.

“We believe in each other. We believe in what we can do,” said quarterback Russell Wilson. “To beat the Chiefs, to beat these guys, it sets a standard of who we should be, who we can be and who we are going to be.”

The Bills (5-5) continue to sink out of the playoff picture, having dropped four of six. Forget defending their AFC East ti-

tle for a fourth consecutive season, the Bills are suddenly in jeopardy of missing the playoffs altogether for the first time since 2018.

“Yeah, I’m still confident. But it’s no secret. The clock’s ticking. Got to have some urgency now,” quarterback Josh Allen said after throwing two interceptions and losing a fumble.

Coach Sean McDermott had few answers on what’s required to turn around a team whose offense is sputtering and defense held up for the most part despite missing five starters to injury.

“I think I need a little bit of time here after the game to assess that,” McDermott said. “Obviously I’m not real happy right now, so I’ll evaluate that in the next 24 hours here and see where that takes us.”

McDermott called the too many men penalty to be “inexcusable,” because it’s a situation the team practices at least two or three times a week.

Lutz was relieved. “Extremely grateful that we get another opportunity, and you don’t get that opportunity every day,” Lutz said. So, huge win. Just grateful I was able to

get another kick there.”

Lutz also overcame his own struggles in a game he missed an extra point by hitting the left upright, and was unable to get another extra-point attempt off when holder Riley Dixon bobbed the snap.

Lutz made four field goals and Javonte Williams scored on a 3-yard run.

After Allen scampered for a 6-yard touchdown to give Buffalo its only lead with 1:55 left, Wilson responded by overseeing a 10-play, 57-yard drive to set up Lutz’s field goal for his 42nd career game-winning drive — the most among quarterbacks since 2012.

The key play of the drive came on third down and 10 from Buffalo’s 45 when Wilson — facing an all-out blitz — lobbed a pass deep over the middle intended for Jerry Jeudy, who was clearly interfered with by defensive back Taron Johnson.

Johnson was flagged for pass interference, giving Denver the ball at Buffalo’s 17.

After allowing 181 points in going 1-4 in their five outings, the Broncos have clamped down to allow 67 points in their past four. The Broncos have 16

takeaways over their past five outings.

Wilson finished 24-for-29 for 193 yards, including a perfectly placed 7-yard touchdown pass to Courtland Sutton. What initially appeared as if Wilson was simply throwing the ball out of bounds instead landed in Sutton’s hands, with the receiver able to get both feet in bounds. The play was initially ruled an incompletion before being overturned upon a replay review.

The Broncos forced four turnovers two weeks after forcing five against the Chiefs.

“It just feels so good to win, man. I’m sitting here thinking about the adversity that we hit, and how everybody kind of answered the bell there,” safety Justin Simmons said of the Broncos’ down-then-up season. “You’re always going to face adversity, it’s just a matter of how you respond.”

Allen has turned the ball over in all but two games, and thrown an interception in six straight — the longest run of his career. He finished 15-for-26 for 177 yards, including a 22-yard touchdown to rookie tight end Dalton Kincaid.

Rantanen, Colton help lead Avalanche past Kraken

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Mikko Rantanen and Ross Colton scored two minutes apart midway through the second period and the Colorado Avalanche beat the Seattle Kraken 5-1 on Monday night.

Cale Makar, Jonathan Drouin, and Valerie Nichuskin also scored for the Avalanche. Nathan MacKinnon had three assists, and Devon Toews and Tomas Tatar each had two for Colorado. Alexandar Georgiev had 18 saves as Colorado won two of three in the season series, with the road team winning each time.

The win was coach Jared Bednar’s 300th, coming in his 550th game. He is the franchise’s all-time winningest coach.

“As a coach, you want them all to get rewarded for their hard work,” said Bednar. “One way to get rewarded is me giving them more ice time, but the production is what they’re looking for and what you need in order to win hockey games. So guys are feeling good about themselves, and it can carry over and give your team a little bit of confidence that you can get the job done under difficult circumstances.”

Brandon Tanev scored his first goal of the season for Seattle, making his return to action after suffering a lower body injury in the season opener at Vegas on Oct. 10.

Rantanen lifted Colorado into a 1-1 tie with 7:55 left in the second period. MacKinnon had a shot from the left circle that went off the side of the net. It bounced to Rantanen who swept it in for his 10th goal in 14 games.

Colton gave the Avalanche a 2-1 lead with 5:48 left in the period when he was at the left post to poke in the rebound of Toews’

shot that had bounced off the chest of Dacord. It was his fourth of the year.

Oilers 4, Islanders 1: Leon Draisaitl had a goal and three assists, Connor McDavid had a goal and an assist, and host Edmonton beat New York in Kris Knoblauch’s debut as Oilers coach.

Zach Hyman and Evander Kane also scored for Edmonton and Stuart Skinner stopped 32 shots.

It was Knoblauch’s first game since taking over for the fired Jay Woodcroft on Sunday following the Oilers’ 3-9-1 start.

Henderson, Carroll voted top MLB rookies

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Baltimore's Gunnar Henderson and Arizona's Corbin Carroll were the types of exciting players Major League Baseball hoped for when it tweaked its rules to encourage athleticism.

The young stars were rewarded Monday by being voted unanimous winners of the sport's Rookie of the Year awards.

Henderson won the American League honor and Carroll the National League award after they both used power, speed and defense to help their teams reach the playoffs just two years after 110-loss seasons.

MLB made a series of rules changes during the offseason, including a pitch clock, bans on extreme infield defensive shifts and limits on the number of times a pitcher can disengage from the rubber. Henderson and Carroll were among several young players who took advan-

tage of the emphasis on athleticism, providing value all over the field.

Some big-league players were skeptical of the rules changes before the season. Carroll and Henderson — who had played with them in the minors — embraced them.

"My perspective, having played with them, was just let people see," Carroll said. "I think people are going to enjoy it. I think this athletic brand of baseball is going to be good for the game. And it was."

It was just the fifth time both the AL and NL selections were unanimous, the first since the New York Yankees' Aaron Judge and the Los Angeles Dodgers' Cody Bellinger in 2017.

The 22-year-old Henderson split time between third base and shortstop, providing above-average defense at both spots, while batting .255 with 28 hom-

ers, 82 RBIs, 100 runs, 29 doubles and 10 stolen bases. The numbers were strikingly similar to Orioles Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr.'s first full season — another shortstop who won the award in 1982.

"I just tried to go out there and play as hard as I can," Henderson said. "And I felt like that showed."

Henderson received all 30 first-place votes and 150 points. Cleveland pitcher Tanner Bibee was second with 20 second-place votes and 67 points. Boston slugger Triston Casas was third with 25 points.

Texas third baseman Josh Jung finished fourth. Houston catcher Yainer Diaz was fifth.

Carroll's season ended with a surprise appearance in the World Series, where the Diamondbacks fell to the Rangers in five games. The 23-year-old hit .285 with 25 homers and 54 stolen bases during the regular

season, making the All-Star team and becoming the first rookie to join the 25-50 club.

The D-backs had been the last of the current 30 teams without a Rookie of the Year winner. He was pegged as a future star by the organization even before this season started, signing a \$111 million, eight-year deal during spring training.

Mets pitcher Kodai Senga finished second with 22 second-place votes and 71 points. Dodgers outfielder James Outman was third, Colorado slugger Nolan Jones was fourth and Cincinnati infielder Matt McLain was fifth.

Henderson and Carroll both earned \$750,000 from the pre-arbitration bonus pool for their wins. Bibee and Senga both get \$500,000 for finishing in second.

The Baseball Writers' Association of America votes on its awards before the postseason begins.

Georgia getting healthy, gaining steam on offense

Associated Press

The injury list for No. 1 Georgia's offense this season could have been lifted from a preseason summary of the team's all-star candidates.

Right tackle Amarius Mims, one of the nation's top offensive line NFL prospects, missed six games.

Ladd McConkey, the Bulldogs' leading wide receiver from 2022, missed four games. Brock Bowers, last year's Mackey Award winner as the nation's top tight end, was held out two games. Top running backs Daijun Edwards and Kendall Milton also missed games.

Somehow, two-time defending national champion Georgia kept plugging the holes and extending its school-record winning streak. That success made it easy to overlook how much more productive the offense

might be with all its top players on the field.

Finally, with Bowers making a dramatic comeback sooner than expected following ankle surgery and Mims returning to the O-line, Georgia's offense was close to full strength for last week's 52-17 runaway win over then-No. 10 Mississippi. The result was a season-high 611 total yards and impressive momentum for Saturday's visit to No. 21 Tennessee.

A replenished offensive line helped Georgia run for 300 yards with five touchdowns against Ole Miss. Coaches rolled in fresh linemen during the game.

"I thought it helped us a lot," left guard Dylan Fairchild said Monday. "I think we do a really good job of playing for each other. Being able to do that with guys splitting time, I think that speaks a lot about our line as a

unit. We're really connected."

Georgia (10-0, 7-0 Southeastern Conference, No. 2 CFP) has already secured its SEC championship game matchup against No. 8 Alabama. The Bulldogs will be playing to protect their hopes for a third straight national title against Tennessee.

Milton and Edwards each ran for two touchdowns, and Carson Beck passed for 306 yards with two touchdowns against the Rebels.

"Offensively, they've got dynamic playmakers," Tennessee coach Josh Heupel said Monday. "A few of those guys are just getting back and getting truly healthy right now. (Beck) is playing extremely well. Really efficient, been accurate. He's done a really nice job."

The barrage of yards was so impressive that Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin challenged the popular belief that the 2023 Bull-

dogs, like the past two championship teams, rely first on defense.

"I think that offense is overlooked," Kiffin said.

The statistics support Kiffin's claim.

Even with coach Kirby Smart and his staff having to plug holes most of the season, Georgia ranks fifth in the nation in total offense and sixth in passing and scoring, averaging 40.6 points.

Mims, who also had surgery on an injured ankle, returned for Georgia's second possession against Ole Miss, allowing Xavier Truss to move to left tackle.

Bowers had three catches for 34 yards, including an 8-yard scoring reception.

"I'm sure he had more snaps in other games," Smart said. "But he's in good shape. He's conditioned. I don't know that he's 100%, but he's healthy and safe enough to play."

Tatum, Celtics end Knicks' winning streak

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Celtics were missing a lot of 3-point shots. They missed a bunch of layups, too.

Coach Joe Mazzulla would have been happy to make adjustments, but his options were limited.

"If I could come up with another shot besides a 3 or a layup, I'll do it," Mazzulla said after the Celtics snapped out of a shooting funk to beat the New York Knicks 114-98 on Monday night. "You can't kick it in. I mean, we couldn't throw it in the ocean."

Jayson Tatum scored 17 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter, when the Celtics turned a 91-88 lead into a runaway. After missing seven of his first eight 3-point attempts, he hit four straight down the stretch — in-

cluding a contested one that led to a four-point play after the Knicks cut the deficit to three points.

"I've played enough games, had enough tough shooting nights," said Tatum, who finished 13 for 23 in the game after going 6-for-8 in the fourth quarter. "All really, really good scorers know it just takes one to change your momentum, change how you feel about yourself shooting the ball. And once you see one go in, you just feel a lot better about yourself."

Jalen Brunson scored 26 points and Julius Randle had 25 points and nine rebounds for New York, which was without RJ Barrett, who missed the second night of a back-to-back with a migraine headache. The Knicks had won three in a row

since opening the season 2-4, including a loss to Boston in their opener.

Bucks 118, Bulls 109: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 35 points and 11 rebounds and Bobby Portis also had a double-double in host Milwaukee's victory over Chicago.

Milwaukee's Damian Lillard returned to action after missing two games with a calf injury, though he shot just 3 of 17 while scoring 12 points. The Bucks lost both games they played without the seven-time all-NBA guard.

Portis had 19 points and 10 rebounds, both season highs. Milwaukee's Khris Middleton scored 13 points to enable him to overtake Michael Redd for fifth place on the Bucks' career scoring list.

Raptors 111, Wizards 107: Pascal Siakam scored a season-high 39 points and host Toronto overcame a 23-point deficit to beat Washington.

Siakam sparked Toronto's comeback with 22 points in the third quarter. He finished with 11 rebounds.

Kings 132, Cavaliers 120: De'Aaron Fox had 28 points and six assists in his return after missing two weeks with an ankle injury, and host Sacramento gave coach Mike Brown his 400th career victory by beating Cleveland.

Domantas Sabonis added 23 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds for the Kings, who swept the Cavs a season ago. Keegan Murray had a season-high 25 points with five 3-pointers.

Edey, Smith help Purdue pass 1st real test vs. Xavier

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Zach Edey's second-half presence Monday night put pressure on Xavier.

His Purdue teammates took advantage of the openings he created and, of course, having the contributions of the reigning national player of the year.

Edey scored 20 of his 28 points in the second half while grabbing 11 rebounds and Braden Smith added 12 points and seven assists as the second-ranked Boilermakers pulled away late for an 83-71 victory over the Musketeers in their final Gavitt Tipoff game.

"We tried to keep him between a body and the basket and limit his offensive rebounds, his deep catches," Xavier coach Sean Miller said. "We held him to 28 and 11 and fouled out the whole team."

The Boilermakers (3-0) extended their school record for consecutive regular season wins against non-conference opponents to 27. They also snapped a five-game losing streak in the series by beating the Musketeers for the first time since December 2001. The schools hadn't met since 2012.

Xavier (2-1) was led by Desmond Claude with 15 points and six assists. Three players had 10 points.

But, as most teams do, the Musketeers struggled to contend with the 7-foot-4 Edey,

who drew 11 fouls and went 10-for-11 from the free-throw line. Abou Ousmane, a 6-10 forward, spent most of the night in foul trouble before picking up his fifth foul with 8:04 to play.

"If you watch him, you expect him to make every shot, but so does he," coach Matt Painter said of Edey. "His gauge isn't somebody else, his gauge is himself. But I know as long as we win, he's happy."

No. 3 Arizona 97, Southern 59: Keshad Johnson scored a career-high 17 points and the host Wildcats used a 17-0 run to pull away.

Arizona (3-0) trailed by five midway through the first half before outscoring the Tigers 60-18 over the next 20 minutes.

Motiejus Krivas and KJ Lewis had 12 points each and were among six Wildcats to score in double figures. Arizona has gotten 10 or more points from at least five players in each game this season.

No. 6 Houston 79, Stetson 48: L.J. Cryer scored 21 points, Damian Dunn added 15 points and the host Cougars defeated the Hatters.

Mylik Wilson scored 11 points, and Terrence Arceneaux had 10 points for Houston, which leaned on its defense, forcing 23 turnovers and turning them into 39 points. The Cougars (3-0) had 17 steals.

Alec Oglesby and Jalen Blackmon each scored 11 points to lead Stetson (1-2).

No. 12 Miami 86, FIU 80: Matthew Cleveland scored 23 points, Bensley Joseph and Wooga Poplar each added 18 and the host Hurricanes rallied from a 12-point second-half deficit to beat the neighboring Panthers.

Nigel Pack scored 17 points and Norchad Omier had 11 rebounds for Miami (3-0), which won a game with wild back-and-forth momentum swings.

No. 14 Arkansas 86, Old Dominion 77: El Ellis scored 15 of his 17 points in the second half, and the host Razorbacks held off the Monarchs.

Devo Davis scored a season-high 16 points for Arkansas (3-0).

Penn 76, No. 21 Villanova 72: Tyler Perkins scored 22 points and the Quakers trailed for only 53 seconds in a victory over the Wildcats at the Palestra that ended with students from the Ivy League underdog mobbing the court for a wild celebration.

Penn students tossed the traditional Big 5 streamers, and many paused to snap photos of the scoreboard. The Quakers stuck around to help sing the fight song with cheerleaders and fans.

Penn (3-1) won for only the 19th time in 70 games against the Wildcats in a series that dates to 1922.