

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## DOD reveals data breach of travel records

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Friday said there was a cybersecurity breach of Defense Department travel records that compromised the personal information and credit card data of U.S. military and civilian personnel.

According to a U.S. official familiar with the matter, the breach could have affected as many as 30,000 workers, but that number could grow as the investigation continues. The breach could have happened months ago but was discovered only recently.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the breach is under investigation, said that no classified information was compromised.

According to a Pentagon statement, a department cybersecurity team informed leaders about the breach on Oct. 4.

Lt. Col. Joseph Buccino, a Pentagon spokesman, said the department is gathering information on the size and scope of the hack and who did it.

“It’s important to understand that this was a breach of a single commercial vendor that provided service to a very small per-

centage of the total population” of Defense Department personnel, Buccino said.

The vendor was not identified and additional details about the breach were not available.

“The department is continuing to assess the risk of harm and will ensure notifications are made to affected personnel,” said the statement, adding that affected individuals will be informed in the coming days and fraud protection services will be provided to them.

Buccino said that for security reasons, the department is not identifying the vendor. He said the vendor is still under contract, but the department “has taken steps to have the vendor cease performance under its contracts.”

Disclosure of the breach comes on the heels of a federal report released Tuesday that concluded that military weapons programs are vulnerable to cyberattacks and the Pentagon has been slow to protect the systems. It mirrors a number of other breaches that have hit federal government agencies in recent years, exposing health data, personal information and Social Security numbers.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office in its Tuesday report said the Pentagon has worked to ensure its networks are secure but only recently began to focus more on its weapons systems security. The audit, conducted between September 2017 and October 2018, found that there are “mounting challenges in protecting its weapons systems from increasingly sophisticated cyber threats.”

In 2015, a massive hack of the federal Office of Personnel Management, widely blamed on China’s government, compromised the personal information of more than 21 million current, former and prospective federal employees, including those in the Pentagon. It also likely occurred months before it was discovered and made public, and it eventually led to the resignation of the OPM director.

Also that year, hackers breached into the email system used by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, affecting several thousand military and civilian workers.

The Defense Department has consistently said its networks and systems are probed and attacked thousands of times a day.

## Body is found in hurricane-stricken town

Associated Press

MEXICO BEACH, Fla. — Search and rescue teams have found a body in the Florida Panhandle town nearly wiped out by Hurricane Michael, and authorities said there is little doubt the death toll will rise further.

Traffic lights remained out Saturday, with police directing traffic at intersections, and lines at the few gas stations that were open were five to six cars deep.

The tally of lives lost across the South stood at 14, including the victim found in the rubble of Mexico Beach.

Miami Fire Chief Joseph Zahralban, leader of a search-and-rescue unit that entered the devastated community, said: “We have one confirmed deceased and are working to determine if there are others.”

Zahralban said searchers, who were using a trained dog, were trying to determine if that person had been alone or was part of a family.

He spoke Friday as his team was winding down its two-day search of Mexico Beach, the town of about 1,000 people that was nearly obliterated by Michael’s storm surge and devastating 155 mph winds when the Category 4 hurricane made land-fall Wednesday.

State officials said that by one count, 285 people in Mexico Beach defied mandatory evacuation orders and stayed behind.

Emergency officials said they had completed an initial “hasty search” of the devastation, looking for the living or the dead, and had begun more careful inspections of thousands of ruined buildings. They hoped to complete those inspections later Saturday.

They’ve received thousands of calls asking about missing people, but with cell-phone service out across a wide area, they found it impossible to know who among those unaccounted for were safe but just unable to dial out to friends or family.

Meanwhile, Federal Emergency Management Agency chief Brock Long said he expects the death toll will rise.

“We still haven’t gotten into the hardest-hit areas,” he said, adding with frustration: “Very few people live to tell what it’s like to experience storm surge, and unfortunately in this country we seem to not learn the lesson.”

Authorities have set up distribution centers to dole out food and water to victims, who just were coming to grips with the brutal realities of their situation.

“I didn’t recognize nothing. Everything’s gone. I didn’t even know our road was our road,” said 25-year-old Tiffany Marie Plushnik, an evacuee who returned to a home in Sandy Creek too damaged to live in.

Elsewhere, President Donald Trump announced plans to visit Florida and hard-hit Georgia early next week but didn’t say what day he would arrive.

# Taliban: Talks held with US special envoy

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban held talks with the U.S. special envoy tasked with finding a negotiated end to Afghanistan's protracted and increasingly bloody war, a Taliban official said Saturday.

In a statement, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the meeting with Zalmay Khalilzad was held Friday in the Middle Eastern state of Qatar, where the Taliban maintain a political office.

Taliban political chief Abbas Stanikzai led the five-member delegation that discussed with Khalilzad "ways of finding a peaceful end to the occupation of Afghanistan," the statement said.

It went on to say that the presence of "foreign forces" in Afghanistan was the biggest concern of the Taliban. Mujahid said the two sides discussed "finding a good way for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan."

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul

said only that Khalilzad was in the Afghan capital Saturday meeting with President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah.

Khalilzad arrived in Kabul from Qatar, winding up his first official trip since being named special envoy. He also visited Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

In a statement Saturday, Ghani said simply that Khalilzad briefed a meeting of Afghanistan's top officials on the series of meetings he has held

in the region since beginning his sojourn on Oct. 4. There was no mention of a meeting with the Taliban. The Taliban have been persistent in their demand for direct talks with the United States. In July, they said they held talks with Alice Wells, the most senior U.S. diplomat in the region at the time, also in Doha, the capital of Qatar. Washington has neither confirmed nor denied direct talks with the Taliban.

# ISIS reverts to origins after losing caliphate

Associated Press

BEIRUT — After being nearly defeated on the battlefields of its would-be caliphate, the Islamic State has reverted to what it was before its spectacular conquests in 2014, analysts say — a shadowy insurgent network that targets civilian populations with guerrilla-style attacks and exploits state weaknesses to incite sectarian strife.

In Iraq and Syria, hardly a week goes by without the group staging an attack on a town or village, keeping its opponents on edge even as it fights U.S.-backed forces advancing on the last remaining slice of territory under its control near the countries' shared border.

Hisham al-Hashimi, an ISIS expert who advises the Iraqi government, said the group now operates like it did in 2010, before its rise in Iraq, which culminated four years later with the militants seizing one of Iraq's biggest cities, Mosul, and also claiming the city of Raqqa in Syria and declaring an Islamic caliphate across large areas of both countries.

Al-Hashimi said the world's most dangerous insurgent group is trying to prove that despite losing its territorial hold, "it still has long arms to strike."

While it fends off attacks on its remaining pockets in Syria, a recent surge in false claims

of responsibility for attacks also signals that the group is struggling to stay relevant after losing its proto-state and its dominance on the international news agenda. The main figures behind the group's once sleek propaganda machine have mostly been killed. Raqqa fell a year ago this month, and the group has lost all but 2 percent of the territory it held in Iraq and Syria.

There are concerns, however, that while ISIS might never be able to recreate the kind of territorial hold it once had, it is trying to latch on to new territory.

One of the group's deadliest attacks since the collapse of the supposed caliphate came in late July, when dozens of masked ISIS fighters stormed the southern city of Sweida and nearby villages inhabited by members of Syria's Druze minority, gunning down more than 200 people and kidnapping about 30, mostly women and children.

The ambush shook the community, which had stayed on the sidelines of Syria's seven-year civil war and took many by surprise, raising fears that as the militants are on the retreat, they will try to regroup in remote pockets of territory like this once quiet corner of the country.

Last month, ISIS fighters stormed the northern Iraqi village of Gharib, killing three vil-

lagers and wounding nine after residents refused to collaborate with them and give them supplies such as food and ammunition. Last week, ISIS attacked the village of Saadiyah, south of the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, killing three and abducting one.

The group regularly stages attacks in villages in the provinces of Diyala, Salahuddin and Kirkuk and elsewhere, targeting local officials or police because they work for the state.

Iraqi military spokesman Big. Gen. Yahya Rasoul said this week that security forces have begun a broad operation in the western province of Anbar that borders Syria to take out ISIS sleeper cells.

Analysts warn that this could be the beginning of a new resurgence of the group similar to the one that preceded their rise in 2010, after many thought the group's predecessor, the Islamic State in Iraq, had been defeated during the U.S. surge there in 2007.

Hassan Hassan, senior research fellow at George Washington University's Program on Extremism, wrote in a recent article that ISIS has been able to undergo an orderly transition from caliphate to insurgency without fracturing.

Last month, U.S.-backed Syrian fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces began a final push to retake Hajin, the last pocket

held by ISIS on the eastern banks of the Euphrates River near the Iraq border. They have had to advance slowly as the extremists rely on mines, sniper fire and suicide attacks in defending their positions.

Clashes last week in the Syrian village of Sousah left more than two dozen fighters on both sides dead as ISIS fighters took advantage of a sandstorm and bad visibility to attack SDF positions.

It's not clear how many militants are still fighting with ISIS. A United Nations report released in August said IS has up to 30,000 members distributed roughly equally between Syria and Iraq, and said its global network increasingly poses a threat.

The U.N. report said that despite the defeat of ISIS in Iraq and most of Syria, it is likely that a reduced "covert version" of the militant group's "core" will survive in both countries, with significant affiliated supporters in Afghanistan, Libya, Southeast Asia and West Africa.

"Make no mistake about it, as (ISIS) has collapsed inward, in their own way, they have reinforced a center as they've been forced into what is now less than 2 percent of their original territory," U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said in Paris this month.

# Report: Audio of death came from watch

Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Turkish officials obtained an audio recording of the alleged killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi from the Apple Watch he wore when he walked into the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul over a week ago, a pro-government Turkish newspaper reported Saturday.

The new claim published by the Sabah newspaper, through which Turkish security officials have leaked much information about the case, didn't immediately explain how officials there also reportedly have video of Khashoggi's alleged slaying.

However, it puts more pressure on Saudi Arabia to explain what happened to Khashoggi, who has written critically

about Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, after he walked into the consulate Oct. 2. The kingdom has maintained the allegations against it are "baseless," though an official early Saturday acknowledged for the first time some believe Khashoggi was killed by the kingdom.

Authorities recovered the audio from Khashoggi's iPhone and his iCloud account, the newspaper said. The journalist had given his phones to his fiancée before entering the consulate.

The newspaper also alleged Saudi officials tried to delete the recordings first by incorrectly guessing Khashoggi's PIN on the watch, then later using the journalist's finger. However, Apple Watches do not

have a fingerprint ID unlock function like iPhones. The newspaper did not address that in its report.

An Apple Watch can record audio and can sync that later with an iPhone over a Bluetooth connection. The newspaper's account did not elaborate on how the Apple Watch synced that information to both the phone and Khashoggi's iCloud account.

Turkish officials have not answered queries from The Associated Press about Khashoggi's Apple Watch.

Turkish officials say they believe a 15-member Saudi "assassination squad" killed Khashoggi at the consulate. They've also alleged that they have video of the slaying, but not explained how they have it.

## US pastor released from Turkey headed home

Associated Press

IZMIR, Turkey — An American pastor flew out of Turkey on Friday after a Turkish court convicted him of terror links but freed him from house arrest, removing a major irritant in fraught ties between two NATO allies still strained by disagreements over Syria, Iran and a host of other issues.

The court near the western city of Izmir sentenced North Carolina native Andrew Brunson to just over three years in prison for allegedly helping terror groups, but let him go because the 50-year-old evangelical pastor had already spent nearly two years in detention. An earlier charge of

espionage was dropped.

Hours later, Brunson was transported to Izmir's airport and was flown out of Turkey, where he had lived for more than two decades.

He was to be flown to the U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, then on to Washington, where he was to meet with U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday.

"I love Jesus. I love Turkey," an emotional Brunson, who had maintained he was innocent of all charges, told the court during Friday's hearing. He tearfully hugged his wife Norine Lyn as he awaited the court decision.

"PASTOR BRUNSON JUST RE-

LEASED. WILL BE HOME SOON!"

Trump tweeted after the American was driven out of a Turkish prison in a convoy. Later, after Brunson was airborne, Trump told reporters the pastor had "suffered greatly" but was in "very good shape," and that he would meet with him at the Oval Office on Saturday.

Trump predicted at a campaign rally in Ohio that Brunson will be "going to be in great shape."

Brunson's release was a diplomatic triumph for Trump, who is counting on the support of evangelical Christians for Republican candidates ahead of congressional elections in November.

## Congress headed for showdown over border wall

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is heading toward a postelection showdown over President Donald Trump's wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, as GOP leaders signal they're willing to engage in hardball tactics that could spark a partial government shutdown and the president revs up midterm crowds for the wall, a centerpiece of his 2016 campaign and a top White House priority.

Trump is promising voters at rallies across the country that Republicans will bring tougher border security in campaign speeches that echo those that propelled him to office two years ago. House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., promised a "big fight" over the border wall money and Senate

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has not ruled out a mini-shutdown as GOP leaders look to help Trump "get what he's looking for" on the wall.

"Democrats want to abolish America's borders and allow drugs and gangs to pour into our country," Trump said without evidence Wednesday during a swing through Erie, Pa. "Right after the election, we're doing something very strong on the wall," Trump added Thursday in an interview on "Fox & Friends."

Republicans steered clear of shutdown politics ahead of the Nov. 6 midterm election. They know voters have soured on government dysfunction, hold low views of Congress and are unlikely to reward Republicans — as the party in control of

Congress and the White House — if post offices, national parks and other services are shuttered.

GOP leaders struck a deal with Democrats earlier this year to fund most of the government into next year. They presented their case to Trump in a White House meeting in September — complete with photos of the border wall under construction. Trump, who previously warned he would not sign another big budget bill into law without his border funds, quietly signed the legislation before the start of the new budget year Oct. 1.

Left undone, however, is the portion of the government that funds the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the border, and a few other agencies.

## Pints for pups: Couple brews beer for dogs

*Houston Chronicle*

HOUSTON — When Megan and Steve Long tell friends and customers about their newest venture, Good Boy Dog Beer, more often than not, they're met with the same three questions.

One: Is it really for dogs? (Yes.)

Two: Is it alcoholic? (No.)

Three: Can I drink it? (Um, sure?)

The beer doesn't exactly dance on a human palate, thanks to a complete lack of sodium. But that was never the intention. The Longs, who own Henderson Heights bar in the Sixth Ward and Reserve 101 downtown, wanted to create a new product that mixed two of their favorite things on the planet — beer and dogs.

They're not pretending to be the first people with the idea. There's been a scatterplot of breweries offering pints for pups for more than a decade now. But they do seem to be the first in Houston, a city that has become increasingly dog-friendly in recent years, thanks to a growing number of patio bars willing to let four-legged friends tag along for Sunday funday. And that Fido-forward culture has helped the Longs find immediate success.

Within weeks of their launch, all three flavors of their beer — IPA Lot in the Yard, Mailman Malt Licker and Session.squirrel! — are available in 15 bars

throughout the city, including Front Porch Pub and FM Kitchen and Bar, for a recommended price of about \$5 a can. And they're getting requests to ship cans across the country.

"Everyone likes the idea of having a beer with their dog, you know?" says Steve, who is 41. Still, while the Longs saw the potential in their brew from the very beginning, they had no idea it would take off so quickly. The entire idea began as a way to fix a problem in their own home.

"It all started with our oldest dog, our Rottweiler, Rocky," says Megan, who is 30.

Rocky, who is 9, started having digestive issues as he progressed from middle age to his current status as a senior dog.

"We had to change up his food. He was having allergic reactions, and his body was just kind of changing into an old man's, so we had to adjust to it," she says. "We talked to our vet, and our vet said the best, easiest thing to do was to just start making his own food and treats."

It was a time-consuming process, but the Longs began cooking food at home for Rocky, and their 5-year-old German Shepherd mix, Chloe. They'd start with a bone-in chicken, so they'd get all the good stuff from the bone marrow, then add vegetables and other natural ingredients.

## Union defends NYPD detective accused in Weinstein's case

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — A New York City police union on Friday defended a detective accused of coaching a witness in the Harvey Weinstein investigation and then keeping prosecutors in the dark.

The Manhattan District Attorney's office dropped part of Weinstein's criminal case last week, saying the detective failed to tell them a witness had raised doubts about a charge that Weinstein forcibly sexually assaulted an aspiring actress, Lucia Evans, in his office in 2004.

In a letter unsealed on Thursday, prosecutors said Det. Nicholas DiGaudio had urged the witness not to tell her full story, advising her that "less is more."

The Detectives' Endowment Association fired back in a statement Friday, saying DiGaudio had told prosecutors everything he knew and wasn't trying to influence the investigation.

"He was simply trying to get to the truth," said union President Michael Palladino, who speculated that prosecutors had forgotten or ignored what DiGaudio told them.

In their letter, prosecu-

tors said DiGaudio admitted he didn't tell them important details of his discussion with the witness. The witness told DiGaudio that sometime after an office meeting where Evans alleged Weinstein forced her to perform oral sex, Evans suggested what happened was consensual, according to the letter. Weinstein had promised to get Evans an acting job if she agreed to perform oral sex, and she agreed, the witness said, according to the letter.

Evans' lawyer, Carrie Goldberg, has denied that account. She said her client never consented to anything.

Weinstein lawyer Ben Brafman, reacting to the union statement, said: "We are not talking about faulty memory. We are talking about a conscious decision to withhold that information from (prosecutors)."

Palladino said Brafman was twisting DiGaudio's words and using what he said out of context in an attempt to exonerate Weinstein.

Weinstein still faces five charges over allegations that he raped an unidentified woman in his Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and performed a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006.

## English parliamentarians told to clean up their act

*The Washington Post*

In 1943, during a debate over whether to rebuild the House of Commons chamber, the cradle of British democracy, after it had been destroyed during the Blitz, Winston Churchill observed, "We shape our buildings and afterwards our buildings shape us."

Seventy-five years later, if the state of Westminster is any

indication, there is a rot at the core of British politics. The Houses of Parliament are again in a desperate state of disrepair. But that's not all. Members of Parliament are being warned about rules of decorum after vomit and used condoms were found by cleaners tasked with tidying up Westminster offices, according to a report in the Sunday Times. The national newspaper revealed that clean-

ers have grown so exasperated with raucous parliamentarians and their staffs that they have complained to the Commons clerk.

"The House of Commons provides offices to MPs and their staff to enable them to carry out their parliamentary duties," a spokesperson for the chamber said in a statement provided to The Washington Post. "Any use of such facilities

must be in support of those duties, as specified in the Members' Handbook and Code of Conduct. Any reported misuse of facilities will be taken seriously and investigated."

Commons authorities are weighing a new "service agreement" enforcing standards for the use of professional space and applying penalties for the "worst culprits," the Times reported.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man greets someone, stabs him, shot dead

**CT** NEW HAVEN — Police in Connecticut say a man walked up to another man and said, “Happy Halloween” before stabbing him, then was fatally shot by the stabbing victim’s cousin.

New Haven police say a 27-year-old city man was walking on the street at about 10 p.m. Tuesday when a knife-wielding assailant approached him, said “Happy Halloween,” and stabbed him.

The victim’s cousin, a 24-year-old Hamden man, was waiting in a nearby car and heard a commotion, so got out and was also stabbed. But he pulled out a gun and shot the assailant in the chest.

Police say the cousin was legally allowed to carry the gun, which was lawfully registered to him.

Both stabbing victims are expected to survive. No names were released and the incident remains under investigation.

### Small gator found under suburban car

**KS** OLATHE — Authorities say a small alligator has been found under a vehicle in suburban Kansas City.

Police in Olathe said in a Facebook post that an animal control officer captured the gator earlier this week. The post says it’s “Something you don’t expect to see in Kansas.” The gator is spending the week in a shelter before heading to a reptile rescue in Manhattan, Kan., next week. Alligators aren’t allowed to live in the city.

The alligator appears to be about a foot long.

Photos posted online show it soaking in a tub of water

and someone holding up the animal.

### Cellphone explosion on school bus hurts 1

**MD** EARLEVILLE — An exploding cellphone has injured a high school student on the bus ride home from school.

News outlets reported the school bus was bringing students home from Bohemia Manor High School in Chesapeake City on Tuesday afternoon when students pointed out a smoking cellphone laying on the floor to the driver.

Authorities believe a student tried to pick up the phone to throw it out of the window and suffered burns. He was treated at a hospital.

Frank Redford with the Hacks Point Fire Company says all students were evacuated from the bus, which didn’t sustain fire damage. He says it appears the phone’s battery exploded. It’s unclear to whom the phone belonged. Officials were still investigating.

### Man aka Willy Wonka pleads guilty to crimes

**MA** SALEM — The leader of a multistate ATM and vehicle burglary ring known as Willy Wonka or the “Chocolate Man” has pleaded guilty to 60 charges.

The Salem News reports that 47-year-old William “Willy Wonka” Rodriguez pleaded guilty Thursday to his role in crimes in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut that netted more than \$300,000 in property and currency.

The Lawrence man was one of five people arrested in August during a police investigation dubbed Operation Golden Ticket.

Rodriguez remains jailed on \$500,000 bail pending sentencing Nov. 7, where he faces 10 to 12 years in prison.

Authorities say the gang wore black clothing and masks, carried police scanners, two-way radios and power tools. They often stole vehicles, which they used to crash into businesses so they could steal ATMs.

### Police: Woman stole cars on test drives

**AL** TARRANT — Police say an Alabama woman took a BMW and several other cars for test drives and never returned them to the dealerships.

Tarrant police Cpl. Jay Jenkins tells AL.com 34-year-old Cynthia Kay Lord was taken into custody on Sunday. She’s charged with two counts of first-degree theft of property, and could likely be charged with additional offenses in other cities.

Police say Lord took at least four cars from dealerships in the Birmingham area and that they believe the most recent spree wasn’t her first.

Jenkins says Lord gave a car lot in Tarrant a driver’s license that wasn’t hers when she asked to test drive the 2010 BMW on Oct. 3. An investigation began when the dealership called police.

It’s unclear if Lord has a lawyer who could comment.

### Runner struck by deer finishes half-marathon

**NJ** SANDY HOOK — A runner who was struck by a deer during a half marathon in New Jersey still managed to cross the finish line.

Christina Sanchez tells the Asbury Park Press she was on Mile 10 of the Jersey Shore Half Marathon at Sandy Hook on Sunday when a large buck

took her out.

Sanchez says the deer came dashing out of the woods and struck her in a “blur of brown and white fur.”

The Fair Haven woman was knocked down before the deer sprinted back into a wooded area near Gunnison Beach. She received attention from emergency personnel who gave her the OK and encouraged her to finish the race. Sanchez finished about 10 minutes slower than her goal time. But she says she wasn’t going to give up.

### Government trying to unload 5 lighthouses

**FL** KEY WEST — The U.S. government is trying to unload five lighthouses in the Florida Keys.

The Coast Guard has declared the lighthouses to be “excess,” so the government will try to turn their operation over to a nonprofit group or government agency.

The Miami Herald reports that if that fails, the General Services Administration will try to sell them at auction.

The 150-year-old lighthouses are built offshore, making their maintenance costly and labor intensive.

### Police say man robbed at drive-thru ATM

**CT** MILFORD — Police in Connecticut are looking for a suspect they say robbed a man using a bank’s drive-thru ATM.

Milford police said the driver was using the drive-thru at a People’s United Bank at about 6:40 p.m. Monday when someone walked up, pointed a gun at him, demanded he withdraw money from his account and hand it over. The suspect then fled the area on foot.

From wire reports

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Reporting  
World, National  
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# Unbeaten Chiefs face tough test in Pats

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Watching Patrick Mahomes this season has made Tom Brady feel like an old man.

At least old enough to remember a much different era for young NFL quarterbacks.

As a rookie in 2000, Brady remembers being nowhere near seeing the field as a starter.

“I was sitting in the stands, eating nachos before games. I wasn’t playing,” he joked last week.

Now he looks around at a league in which Mahomes is one of several young quarterbacks in their first or second year starting for teams. Brady also started his second season, but it was hardly the plan as he replaced an injured first stringer, Drew Bledsoe.

“Football was different then,” Brady said. “I think now in some ways pro football is more glorified college football ... the transition is a more similar game than it used to be when I first started.”

It’s an atmosphere that has allowed Mahomes, who will be starting for Kansas City when

the Chiefs (5-0) visit New England (3-2) on Sunday night, to emerge as the most electrifying quarterback in the NFL this season.

Mahomes leads the NFL with 14 touchdown passes through Week 5 and has won his first six NFL starts, dating back to his lone start last season. With a victory against the Patriots, Mahomes would become the sixth quarterback since 1970 to win his first seven career starts.

It’s put the second-year Texas Tech product under the microscope in his first year as Kansas City’s full-time starter, following the offseason trade of Alex Smith to the Washington Redskins.

While Mahomes said running the jet sweeps and run-pass option plays he did in college has helped with his transition, he also spent a fair amount of time studying Brady’s approach in New England.

“My coach in college was Kliff Kingsbury, and he actually was a backup for Brady at one point, and so he showed me things that he liked with Tom

and his pocket movements and stuff he did within the pocket that I’ve tried to put in my game a little bit,” he said.

Chiefs coach Andy Reid won’t disparage Smith, but he acknowledges Mahomes brings a lot of intangible qualities to their offense. Reid also is cognizant that the season is still young.

Mahomes, 23, is not a rookie, but he basically is, Reid said.

“He’s going through an NFL season — his first one — and there are all kind of challenges that come with that, and no bigger one than this week,” Reid said.

Here are some things to watch for in Sunday night’s game:

## Not an underdog

Despite Kansas City’s unblemished record, the Patriots enter Sunday’s game as a three-point favorite. It’s for good reason. Since 2001, 41 times a team has visited Foxborough with a better record than the Patriots. In those games New England is 30-11.

Since starting the season 1-2, New England has outscored opponents 76-31 over its past two victories, at home vs. Miami and Indianapolis.

## Milestone watch

Brady has an NFL-record 199 career regular-season victories and can become the first quarterback in league history to reach 200 for his career. He enters this week tied with Colts kicker and former teammate Adam Vinatieri for the most career wins in the regular season and playoffs combined with 226.

## Bring the nasty

The Chiefs’ maligned defense forced Jacksonville into five turnovers last week, not to mention showing a mean streak for the first time all season. Defensive tackle Chris Jones took it a bit too far, getting ejected for throwing an elbow at a Jaguars lineman after a play.

“I don’t even remember what happened,” Jones said with a wry smile. “But we’re not going to let anyone push us around.”

# Steelers prepare for another battle with Bengals

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster wants to move on from last season’s physical primetime meeting with the Cincinnati Bengals.

The second-year wideout thrust himself into one of the fiercest rivalries in the NFL last season with a memorable block against Bengals linebacker Vontaze Burfict. Smith-Schuster was reminded of the hit prior to Sunday’s game at Cincinnati.

“I didn’t want to talk about it,” Smith-Schuster said. “I knew you guys were going to want to talk about this and make something out of it, but I am just trying to get a ‘W’ this weekend, that’s it.”

Last December, Smith-

Schuster delivered a punishing blindside block on Burfict, the Steeler agitator who ended running back Le’Veon Bell’s season in 2015, and injured quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and receiver Antonio Brown in the same playoff game at Cincinnati later that year.

Smith-Schuster got a 15-yard penalty for the block and a penalty for taunting when he stood over Burfict after the hit. He also was given a one-game suspension.

Burfict served a four-game suspension to open this season. He returned to the lineup last week without incident and helped the first-place Bengals beat Miami.

Smith-Schuster said he’s not concerned about Burfict or the Bengals seeking revenge.

“I’m just worried about the

game, playing focused and playing with my teammates,” he said. “It’s the AFC North and the rivalry is very strong. It’s physical and it’s going to be a tough game.”

Last December’s game featured a combined 20 penalties for 239 yards, including a team-record 173 yards by the Bengals. It was also the game where Steelers LB Ryan Shazier sustained a life-altering spinal injury following a tackle.

“There were a lot of emotions on both sides of the ball, obviously with Shazier and what I did,” Smith-Schuster said. “But it’s just a physical game. That’s what you’re going to get out of it.”

Brown sustained a concussion and was knocked from the game by safety George Iloka — no longer with the Ben-

gals — following a touchdown reception. The score helped Pittsburgh overcome a 17-point deficit and win its sixth consecutive meeting in the series on a last-second field goal.

“They’re always trying to get the best of us, either physically, after the play or during plays,” Brown said. “That’s why they call it the jungle because you have to go in there and be ready to win.”

Brown said he’s focused on the Bengals this week.

“I’m a professional and I know what I’m here for,” Brown said. “I’m trying to win football games. It’s Cincinnati week ... it’s a big week for us. Being in this position comes with a lot of distractions and you have to be able to narrow your focus and that’s what I’m able to do.”

# Woodruff, Brewers take Game 1 of NLCS

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The high-five at the plate from Brandon Woodruff nearly took out Lorenzo Cain.

It's not often that a reliever hits a home run.

Batting left-handed. Off lefty Clayton Kershaw. In the playoffs.

Woodruff stunned the ace with an early home run and Milwaukee's normally shut-down bullpen held on — barely — as the Brewers beat the sloppy Los Angeles Dodgers 6-5 Friday night in Game 1 of the NL Championship Series.

Hard-throwing Josh Hader and the Brewers earned their 12th consecutive win, one shy of the franchise record set to open the 1987 season.

Woodruff, of all people, had the momentum-swinging hit.

"It's something obviously coming into the day, you don't know in your wildest dreams that's going to happen," he said.

It was the first time in post-season history that a pitcher homered in a lefty vs. lefty matchup. Woodruff was understandably pumped as he rounded the bases.

"He was fired up when he came home. He nearly broke my arm," Cain said.

The Dodgers scored three times in the eighth to make it 6-4, then nearly tied it in the ninth. Chris Taylor hit an RBI triple off Cain's glove in deep center field with two outs before Corey Knebel struck out Justin Turner to end it.

The Dodgers did some damage against the Brewers' bullpen. Milwaukee used seven pitchers, including three scoreless innings from Hader. Woodruff threw two perfect innings and got the win.

"But for us to get a look at these guys out of the 'pen in a seven-game series, I think that's a good thing," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

Manny Machado homered and drove in three runs for Los

Angeles. The Dodgers committed four errors, including two by catcher Yasmani Grandal, who also had two passed balls.

**Nervous moments:** Milwaukee manager Craig Counsell's pitching-by-committee strategy continued to be a hit, at least until the late innings.

The hard-throwing Knebel restored order by striking out Turner. Knebel walked Joc Pederson with two outs before Taylor's long drive.

"It's the postseason and anything can happen, you saw right there. It was a good feeling for it to go our way right there at the end," Knebel said.

**Stunning homer:** After starter Gio Gonzalez went two innings, nicked by Machado's home run, Woodruff entered in the top of the third. In the bottom half, Woodruff made a sudden impact — with his bat.

Woodruff became only the third relief pitcher to homer in the postseason, tagging a three-time NL Cy Young Award winner for a tying solo

drive. Woodruff pumped both arms as he rounded first base, while Kershaw turned away and looked down at the ground.

"I knew he could swing the bat a little bit, for sure," Kershaw said. "I didn't know he could do that, but I knew he could hit a little bit."

Woodruff was a career 4-for-22 (.222) hitter before connecting. He had one previous homer, in July against Pittsburgh's Nick Kingham.

**Burger time:** Eat up, Milwaukee.

This late-season run earned Brewers fans a free burger at an area restaurant chain.

George Webb Restaurants has a long-standing promotion to give away a free burger whenever the Brewers win 12 straight.

It's time to dine after a dozen.

Save the date: October 18, George Webb announced after the game.

## NASCAR must learn to market rising young drivers

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A race car driver can have all the personality in the world but skills not much better than an old moonshine runner. Or a driver might be the second coming of Richard Petty himself, then fail to transfer any of that on-track energy into a sponsor appearance.

Sometimes a driver is the perfect mix of talent and marketability, yet gets stuck in mediocre equipment or a team on a slide. It's hard to build a fan base with a car that can't compete.

NASCAR got a true gift when Chase Elliott and Ryan Blaney — YOUNG GUNS! — put together back-to-back playoff victories. The two are part of the next generation of NASCAR superstars, but marketing that becomes difficult when the drivers don't win.

The hard part temporarily

over, NASCAR must now go to work on making America care about these fresh faces.

The task isn't too hard with Elliott, the 22-year-old son of Hall of Famer Bill Elliott. Ol' "Awesome Bill" won NASCAR's most popular driver award 16 times before he removed his name from balloting. All those fans flocked to Dale Earnhardt Jr., but he's retired now so Chase Elliott automatically got his Daddy's fans.

Still, Chase Elliott is never going to be the next Jeff Gordon, a pop culture icon and crossover in sports, media and entertainment. Elliott doesn't have the personality for it — remember, he's Bill Elliott's kid and Bill Elliott was hardly the most verbose driver of his time. The appeal of the younger Elliott is largely for fans who already enjoy NASCAR.

Blaney is a third-generation racer and North Carolina native who does have the person-

ality to draw new fans. When Hollywood sends a young starlet to the race track to promote a project, NASCAR does its best to get a meet-and-greet with Blaney because he's current and capable of engaging in a topical conversation.

NASCAR has a slew of Blaneys and Elliotts — there is Daytona 500 winner Austin Dillon, his younger brother, Ty, Kyle Larson, and Bubba Wallace, the only black driver at NASCAR's top level. Consecutive wins the last two weeks from two of them has simply underscored the pressure the series has to make these drivers relevant.

The first step is to get the drivers in front of the public. NASCAR hasn't done a great job the last few years of forcing its drivers in front of the media on a weekly basis, which is the only way to build familiarity. The drivers also need to relate, somehow, to both existing fans

and potential fans.

Some of the drivers, including Blaney, have made a point recently to pick a child from the stands as the recipient of the checkered flag. When Blaney won two races ago at Charlotte, he gave the flag to a little boy in Kyle Busch gear. The next day, the father brought his son to the Team Penske shop, where the boy not only got a T-shirt of his new favorite driver but they got to meet Blaney.

The day before Blaney's victory, 17-year-old Hailie Deegan became the first woman to win a NASCAR K&N West Series race with a bump-and-run move on her own teammate. She earned a bright yellow trophy in the shape of a water tower that weighed about 50 pounds and it immediately became her most prized possession.

NASCAR needs to reshape the image of a successful race car driver and make the fans care about them once again.

## College football roundup

# No. 23 South Florida rallies past Tulsa

Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — Coby Weiss made a 22-yard field goal with 2 seconds left and No. 23 South Florida scored 17 points in the final 7:10 to beat Tulsa 25-24 on Friday night.

Blake Barnett set up the winning field goal with a 32-yard strike to Tyre McCants to the 5.

Barnett scored on 1- and 12-yard runs to pull the Bulls (6-0, 2-0 American Athletic Conference) within two with 2:10 to go, but was stopped on a two-point conversion run.

USF forced Tulsa (1-5, 0-3) into a three-and-out, giving the Bulls the ball back with 1:03 remaining on their own 43 with no timeouts left.

Jordan Cronkrite, who set a USF and AAC record with 302 yards last week at UMass, rushed for 151 yards on 25 carries. But outside of a 66-yard touchdown run early in the third quarter that evened it at 10, Cronkrite didn't do a lot of damage.

Sharmari Brooks ran for 100 yards on 28 carries for Tulsa. He had two 10-yard scoring runs in the third quarter to put the Golden Hurricane up 24-10.

Barnett completed 17 of 39 passes for 237 yards. Tulsa's Seth Boomer was 6-for-21 for 71 yards.

**San Diego State 21, Air Force 17:** Ryan Agnew threw a 29-yard touchdown pass to tight end Parker Houston with 6:10 to go and the host Aztecs beat the Falcons in a game delayed 1 hour, 7 minutes by lightning.

A year ago, there was an 88-minute lightning delay at Air Force, and the Aztecs held on for a 28-24 victory.

Agnew moved the Aztecs (5-1, 2-0 Mountain West) 94 yards in eight plays after the Falcons had gone ahead 17-14 on Ronald Cleveland's 4-yard run, his second score of the night.

The Aztecs, coming off a big 19-13 victory at Boise State, won their fifth straight game

since losing their opener at Stanford. They also beat Air Force (2-4, 0-3) for the eighth straight time.

The Aztecs were about to start a drive with 5:50 left in the third quarter when lighting was detected within eight miles of SDCCU Stadium, leading to a 30-minute delay. There were more lightning strikes during those 30 minutes. Air Force players returned to the field briefly before heading back to the locker room, and another 30-minute delay began. It rained off and on from early in the game.

The Falcons took advantage of great field position to go ahead in the fourth quarter, pinning SDSU deep and forcing a punt that gave them the ball at the SDSU 40. Seven plays into the drive, Cleveland took a toss and scored.

**Utah 42, Arizona 10:** Tyler Huntley threw for two touchdowns, ran for another and caught a 58-yard TD pass, leading the host Utes past the

Wildcats.

On a play that typified the game, Huntley handed the ball to Zack Moss, who tossed it to Britain Covey coming the other direction. Covey, a title-winning high school quarterback who is now Utah's leading receiver, threw a perfect spiral to Huntley.

Utah (4-2, 2-2 Pac-12) led 35-0 less than two minutes into the second half.

Chase Hansen sacked Khalil Tate by the ankle late in the first quarter and the Wildcats' QB was visibly limping after that point. Jamarie Joiner replaced Tate for two series before giving way to Rhett Rodriguez, who threw for 226 yards and a 42-yard fourth-quarter touchdown to Cedric Peterson for Arizona (3-4, 2-2).

Huntley, who went 14-for-19 for 201 yards, lobbed a pass to Samson Nacua for an 8-yard touchdown that capped a 15-play, 75-yard opening drive, marking the longest possession of the season for Utah.

## Sports briefs

# Butler misses T-wolves' shootaround amid trade drama

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Jimmy Butler was absent as the Minnesota Timberwolves wrapped up preparations for their pre-season finale Friday night.

Butler has demanded a trade but returned to practice with the team Wednesday, a session that included him verbally challenging teammates and coaches. He was not with the team at Friday's shootaround in Milwaukee.

Coach Tom Thibodeau, speaking publicly for the first time since Wednesday's practice, said Butler was doing conditioning work in Minneapolis and had not been suspended.

Asked if Butler would play

in Minnesota's regular-season opener at San Antonio next Wednesday, Thibodeau said: "The situation remains fluid."

Butler told ESPN following Wednesday's practice that his issues with the Timberwolves have not been fixed.

"Let's just be honest. It could be," Butler said in the interview. "But do I think so? No."

In other NBA news:

■ Justise Winslow has agreed to a \$39 million, three-year extension with the Miami Heat.

A person with direct knowledge of the agreement confirmed the terms to The Associated Press on Friday night. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Winslow

hadn't yet signed the contract.

## 49ers apologize to Kaepernick

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers are apologizing for initially leaving Colin Kaepernick out of a photo gallery celebrating the team's history against the Green Bay Packers.

The team posted dozens of photos on its website of past games against the Packers before the teams meet again Monday night without at first including any of Kaepernick.

The team later added photos of Kaepernick. This is the first photo gallery the team has run this year but pictures of Kaeper-

nick were included in all seven photo galleries posted on the team's website last year.

## NHL criticizes arbitrator's decision

NEW YORK — The NHL is criticizing an arbitrator's decision to reduce the suspension of Nashville Predators forward Austin Watson, who pleaded no contest in July to a domestic assault charge.

Watson received a 27-game suspension from NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman last month. The NHL and NHL Players' Association announced Thursday that arbitrator Shyam Das had reduced it to 18 games.