

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Over 20 Marines disciplined for misconduct

*The Washington Post*

More than 20 Marines have been disciplined for misconduct at the service's recruit training center in San Diego since 2017, incidents that included some physical attacks and racist and homophobic slurs, according to Marine Corps officials and documents obtained by *The Washington Post*.

The disclosure follows promises by senior Marine Corps leaders to combat aggressive recruit training practices that fall outside service guidelines in the wake of a scandal in which a 20-year-old Muslim man died after enduring physical and verbal abuse at the Marine Corps' recruit training center on Parris Island, S.C.

The March 2016 death of Pvt. Raheel Siddiqui, who fell 40 feet to his death while running away from a drill instructor who had targeted him and other Muslim recruits, brought a public reckoning for the Marine Corps, which perhaps more than any other military service has celebrated the intimidating boot camp curriculum it imposes upon prospective Marines.

Since that incident, which resulted in a 10-year prison sentence for one Marine and a variety of disciplinary action for others, the Marine Corps has attempted to reset recruit training by placing more emphasis on training for drill

instructors on acting professionally and preventing hazing and abuse.

In a statement, Marine officials in San Diego said Marine Corps recruit training is "challenging for recruits and staff alike," and that each drill instructor undergoes thousands of hours of training and assessment.

"There is a very small percentage that fall short and must be held accountable for their individual actions," the statement said. "The overwhelming majority of drill instructors serve with distinction and without any allegation of inappropriate conduct."

But a number of cases have continued to emerge at both of its enlisted recruit training facilities.

The incidents in San Diego, which have not been reported previously, include verified allegations of Marines assaulting recruits by kicking, punching and shoving, activity that is explicitly prohibited under the service's regulations, and other more minor incidents. They are detailed in approximately 700 pages of case files released to *The Post* in response to a Freedom of Information Act request.

In one case, an unidentified drill instructor injured a recruit and set back his own military career by taking a staple gun and snapping two staples

into the recruit's torso. An armored plate in the recruit's body armor stopped one of the staples near his stomach, but the other one punctured his vest.

"It left a wound right around where my heart is," the unidentified recruit told an investigator, according to the documents. "I did not say anything because I did not want to anger him more."

The recruit, who had been carrying the staple gun to fasten paper targets on a rifle range, did not require medical treatment and reported the incident to a senior drill instructor that night in August 2017. That Marine asked other recruits whether they also faced abuse.

Several said they had, according to the documents, including one recruit who said he had been ordered by the same drill instructor to eat part of a pine cone during a hike a day earlier. The recruit said he did not report that incident right away because he thought that sort of thing happened at boot camp.

Other recruits reported that the drill instructor had acted erratically for a couple of days, saying things like, "I hope you hang yourself" and vomiting the morning of the staple-gun incident, the documents say.

They questioned whether the drill instructor had been drink-

ing, and another drill instructor said that, in retrospect, he thought it was possible. The Marine officer who investigated the incident wrote in his report that it "makes sense" that the drill instructor's sobriety was questioned but that there was not enough evidence to prove he was intoxicated.

The Marine was going through personal issues that included a divorce and an injury requiring pain medication at the time, the investigating officer wrote in his report. He recommended that the drill instructor be court-martialed for charges that include cruelty and maltreatment, according to the documents.

"Given his actions with these recruits ... there would likely be additional allegations of recruit maltreatment" if further investigated, the investigator determined.

However, as with other cases detailed in the documents, the Marine Corps elected not to pursue a court-martial. Instead, the service punished the Marine administratively, keeping the case out of court and away from public scrutiny. He received a formal reprimand, a demotion in rank, forfeiture of two months of pay and permanently lost his job as a drill instructor, the service said in its statement to *The Post*. He left the service in September 2018.

## North Korea says nuclear negotiations with US 'sickening'

*The Washington Post*

SEOUL — North Korea said that nuclear talks with the United States have broken down and denied the Trump administration's characterization of them as a "good discussion."

A statement by the Foreign

Ministry called the negotiations "sickening" and said that Washington has until the end of the year to reverse its hostile policies toward North Korea if it wants talks to resume.

The two sides met in Stockholm on Saturday to restart

nuclear negotiations after eight months of stalemate over denuclearization and sanctions.

The top North Korean nuclear envoy, Kim Myong Gil, said Saturday night that the working-level talks had broken off "entirely due to the

United States' failure to abandon its outdated viewpoint and attitude."

State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortogus disputed those comments, saying they did not reflect "the content or spirit of today's 8½-hour discussion."

# Navy welcomes new littoral combat ship

BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy commissioned its newest littoral combat ship, the USS Cincinnati, during a ceremony Saturday in Gulfport, Miss.

More than 1,400 guests attended the ceremony for the fifth ship in naval service named for Cincinnati, the Navy reported Saturday.

A departure in design from its sister vessels, the LCS was plagued with problems during its development but is showing potential. For example, an LCS recently successfully launched an advanced type of over-the-horizon ship-killing missile during an exercise near Guam.

Former Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, the USS Cincinnati's sponsor, gave the order to "man our ship and bring her to life!"

Rep. Brad Wenstrup, R-Ohio,

gave the principal address.

"USS Cincinnati and her crew will play an important role in the defense of our nation and maritime freedom," Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer said in a statement.

The Cincinnati was built by General Dynamics and Austal USA. It holds up to 40 sailors and carries two MH-60R/S Seahawk helicopters and a MQ-8B Fire Scout unmanned autonomous helicopter.

The ship is the ninth of the Independence class and the 20th LCS of a planned 32 ships in two designs, Independence and Freedom, according to [naval-technology.com](http://naval-technology.com).

The 418-foot-long vessel is capable of more than 47 knots, or 54 mph, according to the ship's website.

The Cincinnati will be homeported at Naval Base San Diego, according to the Navy.

# New attack submarine USS Oregon christened

*Associated Press*

GROTON, Conn. — The U.S. Navy's newest attack submarine, the future USS Oregon, was christened in Connecticut on Saturday.

Politicians, shipyard leaders and Navy officials gathered for a ceremony at the General Dynamics Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, where they spoke about the importance of Virginia-class submarines and praised the skills of the thousands of shipyard workers in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Virginia who built the Oregon.

Vice Adm. James Kilby said the Oregon, outfitted with the most modern weapons and sensors, will disappear beneath the waves and never be detected until a time and place of its choosing. It "truly represents naval combat power," said Kilby, a deputy chief of naval operations.

The submarine is expected to cost about \$2.7 billion and join the fleet next year. It will officially become the USS Oregon

when it's commissioned.

Electric Boat, which has facilities in Connecticut and Rhode Island, builds attack submarines with Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia. Jennifer Boykin, president of Newport News Shipbuilding, said the submarine represents the "very best of American innovation, quality and pride."

About 100 Electric Boat workers, upset over a proposed new contract, protested outside the ceremony, according to The Day newspaper in New London. A vote on the contract is scheduled for this week.

Inside the shipyard, the ship's sponsor, Dana Richardson, christened the nuclear submarine with sparkling wine from Oregon and water from Crater Lake National Park in Oregon.

The Oregon is part of a group of submarines with design changes so the submarines will need one less period in the shipyard for maintenance over their lifespan, according to the Navy.

# Man who disarmed Colo. school shooter now a Marine

BY CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Colorado man who helped tackle and disarm a gunman during a school shooting earlier this year has graduated Marine Corps boot camp, where he distinguished himself as platoon honor man.

Brendan Bialy, 18, was one of the students who subdued one of two shooters who entered STEM School Highlands Ranch in a southern suburb of Denver in May.

Last month, he crossed the parade deck at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., as his training platoon's guide. During training, he earned a meritorious promotion to private first class, a program for the ceremony says.

"My thoughts on becoming

a Marine were nothing but reinforced after the shooting," he said in a video statement. "What I saw that day was complete and total malevolence, bad overcome by good."

While many other students ran through the halls shouting or hid during the attack, Bialy and two friends tried to tackle one of the gunmen. Bialy's friend Kendrick Castillo, 18, was killed in the shooting.

Eight other students were injured, including Joshua Jones, who suffered two gunshot wounds as he helped tackle the gunman, the Denver Post reported in May.

Bialy, who was uninjured aside from a few scrapes on his knees, made a split-second decision to take action after seeing Castillo unhesitatingly throw himself on the shooter,

he told reporters this spring.

"I don't like the idea of running and hiding," the Denver Post reported Bialy saying.

After seeing Castillo on the ground, not moving, Bialy tried to resuscitate his friend, who he'd known since freshman year. "Kendrick Castillo died a legend," he said. "I know he will be with me for the rest of my life."

During training, Bialy showed qualities the Corps seeks to instill — "quick reaction, willingness to fight" — which he'd also displayed during the shooting, said Staff Sgt. Marcus Chestnut, one of his drill instructors in Golf Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.

"I don't think recruit training changed Bialy," Chestnut said. "He is who he was when

he first got here. I think we just gave him some additional attributes that made him a stronger man and a basically trained Marine."

After combat training at the Marine Corps School of Infantry, Bialy is expected to train to repair laser and night vision optics for ground ordnance, small missile systems and other fire control equipment.

For the new Marine's father, "it's a battle" letting him go.

"You love your child more than anything else in this world, but the same time, you understand what he has, you have to share," said Brad Bialy. "All these Marines, they have to share what they have, because to keep it to themselves would be selfish. They understand that's their duty."

# Iraqi soldiers fire on about 300 protesters

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's Interior Ministry spokesman says at least 104 people have been killed during six days of anti-government protests in Baghdad and the country's south as government troops fired at about 300 protesters Sunday.

Spokesman Saad Maan said Sunday that 6,107 have been wounded in the unrest, including more than 1,200 security members.

Soldiers fired in the direction of about 300 anti-government protesters who gathered Sunday in a suburb of the Iraqi

capital.

The protests came after a bloody night in Baghdad; 19 people were killed when security forces used live ammunition to break up the demonstrators. Baghdad has been at the center of protests that quickly spread to the country's south.

The protests began with demands for jobs and an end to corruption and now include calls for justice for those killed in the protests.

Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi called on protesters to end their street rallies, saying late Saturday he was ready to meet with them

to hear their demands. He said there were orders for the security forces not to use live ammunition, only allowed in strict cases of self-defense.

By Sunday afternoon, the protesters, mostly young men, were scattered in side streets near Sadr City. Security forces have beefed up their presence in central Baghdad, deploying as far as Sadr city, about 2½ miles away from Tahrir Square. The square, now sealed off, has been the center of the protests since they first erupted Tuesday.

Army troops blocked a main road preventing the protesters

from advancing. Soldiers then fired toward the protesters to apparently push them back. After about an hour, there was more intense gunfire as protesters persisted in trying to advance.

Ducking in reaction to the fire, some protesters piled over one another trying to hide behind the short wall of a nearby water fountain.

One protester carrying a drum chanted "peaceful, peaceful," and others chanted along. As the gunfire continued, protesters set tires on fire to push the soldiers back.

## State Department offers reward for Niger ambush info

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. is offering up to \$10 million for information on those who carried out a 2017 ambush in Niger, killing four American soldiers and four of their Nigerian counterparts.

The State Department announced the incentive, offered through its Rewards for Justice program, Friday, on the two-year anniversary of the attack.

Officials are seeking information leading to the identification or location of Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahrawi, the leader of Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, which claimed responsibility for the October 2017 ambush near the village of Tongo Tongo, Niger.

In addition to a \$5 million reward for information on al-Sahrawi, another \$5 million is offered for anyone who "committed, conspired to commit, aided or abetted" the ambush.

The attack on Oct. 4, 2017, occurred as a joint patrol of some 40 Green Berets, support soldiers and Nigerian troops were headed back to base following a mission to find a local ISIS leader. They were ambushed by more than 100 fighters.

During a six-hour firefight that ensued, Green Beret Staff Sgt. Dustin Wright and Staff Sgt. Bryan C. Black were killed outside the rural village of Tongo Tongo, near the border with Mali, along with Staff Sgt. Jeremiah W. Johnson and Sgt. La David

Johnson. All four were with 3rd Special Forces Group.

The U.S. reward money is being offered for information that leads to the arrest or conviction of any individual who is responsible for the ambush, which the rewards program's website calls an act of terrorism.

Based primarily in Mali, ISIS-GS leader al-Sahrawi has claimed responsibility for the ambush and several other attacks, the State Department said.

In return for useful information, which can be reported to a U.S. Embassy or to [info@rewardsforjustice.net](mailto:info@rewardsforjustice.net), the U.S. is also offering absolute confidentiality and possible relocation, the site states.

## Lawyer says 2nd Trump whistleblower has talked to IG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A second whistleblower has spoken to the intelligence community's internal watchdog and has information that backs the original whistleblower's complaint about President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine, according to the lawyer for the two.

Attorney Mark Zaid told The Associated Press in a text message Sunday that the second whistleblower, who also works in intelligence, hasn't filed a

complaint with the inspector general but does have "first-hand knowledge that supported" the original whistleblower.

The original whistleblower, a CIA officer, filed a formal complaint with the inspector general on Aug. 12 that triggered the impeachment inquiry being led by House Democrats. The complaint alleged Trump was "using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country" in the 2020 election.

The disclosure of a second whistleblower threatens to un-

dermine arguments made by Trump and his allies against the first whistleblower: that the complaint was improperly filed because it was based on secondhand or thirdhand information.

Trump and his supporters have rejected the accusations he did anything improper. But the White House has struggled to come up with a unified response.

No administration officials appeared on the Sunday news shows, but several congressional Republicans came to the

president's defense during television interviews.

Rep. Jim Jordan, of Ohio, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina, two of Trump's most vocal backers, sharply criticized the way House Democrats are handling the impeachment inquiry.

Graham said there was nothing wrong with Trump's July phone call during which the president pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter.

# Witness in Dallas officer's trial is killed

Associated Press

DALLAS — A witness in the murder trial of a white Dallas police officer who fatally shot her black neighbor has been killed in a shooting, the Dallas Morning News reported, citing authorities.

The newspaper reported that authorities said Joshua Brown, who lived in the same apartment complex as Amber Guyger and Botham Jean, was shot and killed Friday in Dallas.

Guyger was still in her police uniform after a long shift when, according to her trial testimony, she mistook Jean's apartment for her own one floor below and shot him after pushing open his unlocked door and thinking he was a burglar.

Brown, 28, testified in Guyger's trial about the Sep-

tember 2018 night that Jean was killed, saying he was in a hallway on the fourth floor, where he and Jean lived. He said he heard what sounded like "two people meeting by surprise" and then two gunshots.

Brown, who became emotional at times and used his T-shirt and tissue to wipe his tears, said he had met Jean, 26, an accountant from the Caribbean island nation of St. Lucia, for the first time earlier that day.

Guyger, 31, was fired from the department soon after the shooting. She was convicted Tuesday and sentenced the next day to 10 years in prison.

The newspaper did not cite authorities by name for confirmation of Brown's death. A Dallas police spokesman on Saturday would not confirm to The Associated Press that it

was Brown who was shot Friday. He said the Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office would determine the identification Sunday.

Police said in a news release that they responded to the shooting shortly after 10:30 p.m. Friday at an apartment complex different from the one where Jean was killed. They said several witnesses flagged officers down when they arrived and directed them to an apartment parking lot where the man who was shot was lying on the ground with multiple gunshot wounds.

The man was taken to a hospital, where he died.

Witnesses told police they heard several gunshots and saw a silver four-door sedan speeding out of the parking lot, according to the police news release.

Lee Merritt, a lawyer for

the Jean family, said in a tweet Saturday that he spoke with Brown's mother and that she is "devastated."

"We all are," Merritt said. "Joshua Brown was a key witness in the murder of Botham Jean that helped put Amber Guyger away. We need answers."

In a statement he included with the tweet, he said authorities have not identified a suspect or determined a motive. "Brown deserves the same justice he sought to ensure the Jean family," Merritt said in the statement.

Dallas County prosecutor Jason Hermus said Brown "bravely came forward to testify when others wouldn't," according to the newspaper.

"If we had more people like him, we would have a better world," said Hermus, who was lead prosecutor in the case.

## Wis. governor to issue first pardons in 9 years

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Democratic Gov. Tony Evers will issue Wisconsin's first pardons in nine years, invoking his constitutional power to grant clemency to four people.

Evers plans to issue the pardons Monday, the first he's making as governor after he restarted the pardons board in June. Evers' predecessor, Republican Scott Walker, never issued a single pardon over his eight years as governor.

Evers was to pardon Eric Pizer, Kevin Sorenson, Mwangi Vasser and Steven Nichols. All four "have paid their debt to society, made amends, and contributed to their communities," Evers said in a statement. "I believe they deserve a second chance."

Pizer got into a bar fight when he was 22 while celebrating his return home from his second tour of duty in Iraq as

a Marine. Pizer, now 38, said his felony battery conviction prevented him from pursuing a career in law enforcement and being able to hunt.

Sorenson was convicted of selling the drug Ecstasy at a party when he was 17. After completing probation, he got a job as an Air Force civilian employee. Sorenson, now 36, said a pardon would open up more military service opportunities, including volunteering for deployment.

Vasser was 19 when he was arrested for selling cocaine. He went on to receive his doctorate in theology. Now 40, he sought the pardon to pursue becoming a military chaplain.

Nichols was convicted of felony burglary when he was 21. Now 62, he sought a pardon to be able to hunt and travel to Canada for the Calgary Stampede, an annual rodeo, exhibition and festival.

## Clashes follow failed Hong Kong mask ban

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Furiously yelling, "Wearing a mask is not a crime!" tens of thousands of masked protesters hit Hong Kong's rain-drenched streets Sunday in defiance of a new ban on facial coverings.

Riot police later swept in with volleys of tear gas and muscular arrests as peaceful rallies again degenerated into widespread violence and chaos in the semiautonomous Chinese territory.

Instead of deterring rioting and calming anti-government demonstrations that have gripped the international trading hub for four months, the ban that criminalized the wearing of face masks at rallies only redoubled the determination of both peaceful marchers and more radical black-clad youths.

Police said masked rioters

attacked bystanders, including two men left unconscious after bloody beatings and a woman who took photos of rioting.

A massive peaceful march to the central business district — on streets spray-painted with the word "resist" and hemmed in by high-rises that echoed with protesters' chants — came as Hong Kong's High Court rejected a second effort to invalidate the mask ban.

Lawmaker Dennis Kwok said the court refused to grant an injunction but agreed to hear later this month an application by 24 legislators against Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam's use of sweeping emergency powers to impose the ban without legislative approval.

Lam's government says the mask ban will make the identification of rioters easier for police and that other measures are possible if violence continues.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Bear cubs honk horn to escape locked van

**TN** GATLINBURG — Two bear cubs were rescued after they locked themselves in a van and then honked the horn for help.

News reports said security technician Jeff Stokely had parked his van outside a customer's home in Gatlinburg and went to work. Soon he heard a horn honking and realized it was his van. He went back to the van and was surprised when he saw two small bear cubs locked inside and repeatedly hitting the horn.

Stokely said the cubs must have climbed in through the driver side door and then locked themselves by hitting the lock button.

## Fired breast-pumping worker sues Walmart

**OR** PORTLAND — A former Walmart employee has sued the company after suspecting she was fired for complaining about not getting adequate break time to pump breast milk for her 5-month-old baby.

The (Portland) Oregonian/OregonLive reported Friday that Mary Thomas filed the \$125,000 lawsuit last week against the retail giant after her initial Sept. 13 complaint against the Oregon store.

Thomas' attorney said the Arkansas-based company retaliated when management fired her six days after she asked for a break at the beginning of her shift.

## School administrators lose hair in fundraiser

**MI** RUDYARD — The superintendent, ath-

letic director and a principal sat down to have their heads shaved Friday in an Upper Peninsula school district after the Rudyard football team met a \$5,000 fundraising goal.

The Sault News said Mark Pavloski, Chad Folkersma and John Krentz had agreed to the ultimate haircut if the goal was reached.

Football coach Jim Suggitt said money came from as far as Hamtramck in the Detroit area. He said the \$5,000 goal was met in just 19 days.

## Dog missing after gas explosions is home

**MA** NORTH ANDOVER — A dog that went missing amid the chaos of natural gas explosions and fires a year ago is back in the arms of its owner.

Altagracia Baldera told The (Andover) Eagle-Tribune that when the explosions shook the Merrimack Valley in September 2018 she evacuated her North Andover apartment and went to her sister's house in Lawrence.

On her second day there, her 14-year-old Pekingese-Shih Tzu mix named Virgo bolted out the door.

A few days ago, some boys found a shaggy dog on the street and reported it to police. Baldera and Virgo, who was microchipped, were reunited Tuesday.

## Drive-in bans costumes at 'Joker'

**TN** BRISTOL — A drive-in theater in eastern Tennessee is warning moviegoers not to wear costumes while it shows the film "Joker."

Twin City Drive-In Theater owner Danny Warden told WJHL-TV that the decision is

"common sense" after the film sparked concerns about some of its violent content.

Warden posted on Facebook last week that anyone wearing a costume or mask would not be admitted and anyone who smuggled a costume in their car would be asked to leave the Bristol theater.

The FBI has told local law enforcement agencies to monitor potentially threatening online posts related to the movie.

## Governor wants to reduce wolf killings

**WA** SPOKANE — Washington Gov. Jay Inslee is seeking ways to reduce the number of wolves killed by the state.

Inslee sent a letter Tuesday to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, saying the statewide wolf management plan does not appear to be working in the Kettle River Range area of Ferry County, where the state has killed about two dozen wolves that were preying on cattle.

His efforts come as wildlife experts said the vast majority of the predators are causing no trouble.

The Ferry County situation is unique, experts said.

"About 90% of wolf packs are co-existing in our state without livestock conflicts," the agency said in a statement.

## Bobcat released after going into building

**NE** LINCOLN — A bobcat that wandered into a building was captured and released back into the wild.

Staff at the Department of Veterans Affairs campus in south Lincoln called the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission on Tuesday to report the animal had been spotted

inside one of its buildings.

Commission staffers set a cage trap and baited it with raw fish. The estimated 20-pound bobcat bit on the bait and was caught and freed outside of town Wednesday.

## Zoo still struggling to handle sinkhole

**KY** LOUISVILLE — A Kentucky zoo has spent thousands on a sinkhole about as wide as a football field but still hasn't settled on a long-term plan for the problem.

Louisville Zoo Director John Walczak told the Courier Journal the zoo is weighing how to best handle the sinkhole, which opened in March in an undeveloped zoo section.

Walczak said the zoo has spent about \$125,000 on the sinkhole, which is about 60 yards wide, 90 yards long and 50 feet deep.

Costs have included fencing, engineering, surveys and other responses.

## Man facing charges over illicit recordings

**NH** MANCHESTER — Police said a New Hampshire man accused of recording women in restrooms and dressing rooms this past summer is facing new charges.

WMUR-TV reported Travis Demers, 21, of Manchester, was charged after being caught hiding in a women's restroom in a grocery store Thursday.

Police say Demers was arrested on a warrant in a robbery case.

He was also charged with violating bail conditions, violation of privacy and falsifying physical evidence after police say he initially hid his phone from them.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Cole fans 15, Bregman homers for Astros

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston's pair of aces dealt the Astros a pair of wins.

Gerrit Cole carried his stellar September into an outstanding October with a 15-strikeout performance and Alex Bregman handed fans chanting MVP the mighty swing they craved. The Astros survived a wild ninth inning to beat the Tampa Bay Rays 3-1 on Saturday night for a 2-0 lead in their AL Division Series.

Houston is one win from reaching the AL Championship Series for the third straight year.

"We've got a lot more work to take care of," Cole said. "There's a few months this winter that maybe we can sit back and have a drink about it. Right now, it's on to the next one."

Cole, 5-0 with a 1.07 ERA in six starts last month, set an Astros postseason strikeouts record over 7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> scoreless innings to win his franchise-record 17th straight decision.

The strikeouts tied for third-most in a postseason game, behind only Bob Gibson's 17 in the 1968 World Series and Kevin Brown's 16 in a 1998 NL Division Series.

"He was incredible," manager AJ Hinch said. "He had complete command of the entire game."

Cole's performance came after fellow ace and Cy Young Award contender Justin Verlander pitched seven scoreless innings to lead the Astros to a 6-2 win in Friday's opener.

Throwback performances from another era.

"Whether it's about the new-age opener or pulling guys third time through, most of the people that support that haven't had Verlander or Cole on their team," Hinch said. "It's hard for me to relate to having to pull guys early or wanting to pull guys early when these guys are putting up these kinds of performances. ... I'm going to roll with these boys while we have them."

Cole (1-0), who led the majors with 326 strikeouts in the regular season, extended his big league record with his 10th straight game with at least 10 Ks. The Rays were unable to string anything together off of him on a night he induced 33 swings and misses — the most in a postseason game since MLB started tracking the stat in 2008 — and threw a career-high 118 pitches.

"I don't think anything he did was surprising," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "He's just that good."

"He was majestic," the Rays' Willy Adames said.

Kevin Kiermaier doubled with two outs in the eighth and Cole was lifted after putting on Adames with Tampa Bay's first walk. The right-hander received a standing ovation as he walked off the mound and waved to the crowd just before he reached the dugout. Roberto Osuna took over and struck out Yandy Diaz to end the inning before loading the bases with

no outs in the ninth.

Austin Meadows and Tommy Pham hit consecutive singles, Ji-Man Choi walked and Avisail Garcia grounded into a forceout that scored Meadows. Osuna walked Brandon Lowe, reloading the bases, and Hinch brought in Will Harris.

Travis d'Arnaud worked the count full, then struck out on a high cutter. Kiermaier grounded to first baseman Yuli Gurriel, who flipped to Harris, who stepped on first for the save.

Tampa Bay is hitting .177 with two extra-base hits. Game 3 of the best-of-five series is Monday in Florida.

"I don't think there's a real message," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "They know what's at stake."

Bregman, who hit a career-best 41 home runs in the regular season, homered off Blake Snell (0-1) leading off the fourth.

"It's just lack of a pitch," Snell said. "I'm still finding it, still trying to get there. I know I can, so that's why it's frustrating."

## Yankees stagger Twins again in Game 2

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The 103-win New York Yankees ran out identical, relentless lineups in consecutive games for the first time all year, and manager Aaron Boone believes he knows what's next for the A-team Bombers.

"Throttle down," he said.

Didi Gregorius hooked a slump-busting grand slam during a seven-run third inning and the Yankees pummeled the Minnesota Twins again, cruising to an 8-2 victory Saturday for a 2-0 lead in their AL Division Series.

Uber driver-turned-rookie big leaguer Randy Dobnak struggled in an unexpected start, and the Twins lost their record 15th consecutive postseason game, including 12 straight against the Yankees. The latter is the longest post-

season skid for one club against another in major league history, topping Boston's dominance over the Angels from 1986-2008. Minnesota hasn't won a playoff game since Johan Santana bested the Yankees in their 2004 Division Series opener — exactly 15 years earlier.

"Our guys know that we can turn it around," Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said.

Coaches and players on both sides have downplayed that history, most of which predates current rosters. It's all too familiar for fans in Minnesota, where the teams will play Monday's Game 3 in the best-of-five series.

"We'll have all kinds of fire power ready to go Monday," Boone said.

Gregorius' shot blew Game 2 wide open while New York

batted around. The switch-hitter staggered after connecting for the first time since Sept. 10, looping his bat from one hand to another and mashing on bubble gum while he watched the ball fly. Gregorius, set to become a free agent after the season, batted .194 during September and was 0-for-3 in Game 1.

"I expect this from Didi," Boone said. "Just when you think you've got him down, he's got a big swing in him."

Boone had predicted that if Gregorius could just find a hole, big hits might follow. Sure enough, Gregorius squibbed an infield single in his first at-bat before lifting his homer into the second deck in right field.

Gregorius said he was processing the at-bat during his unusual reaction to the slam. Relief pitcher Tyler Duffey struck out Gregorius on a high

fastball Friday, a similar pitch to the one Gregorius crushed.

"I was ready for it this time," he said.

Yankees right-hander Masahiro Tanaka pitched one-run ball for five innings for the win, striking out seven and handing off to New York's fearsome bullpen after 83 pitches. Tanaka's career postseason ERA climbed to 1.54, still second lowest by a New York starter with a minimum of four starts behind Monte Pearson's 1.01.

"I actually don't get too caught up on being good in the postseason and all that," Tanaka said through a translator. "My thing is just go out there and be the best that you can be, compete."

Dobnak faltered in just his 10th big league appearance, taking the loss a week after his wedding in Maryland.

## Top 25 college football roundup

# Florida's D does in Auburn

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Lamical Perine ran 88 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter, Florida's defense delivered another gem and the No. 10 Gators beat seventh-ranked Auburn 24-13 in the Swamp on Saturday.

Perine broke linebacker K.J. Britt's tackle at the line of scrimmage and scampered down the sideline for the program's longest TD run in more than 30 years. It gave the Gators (6-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) extra breathing room in a game they never trailed.

The biggest reason they led throughout: defense.

Jon Greenard and David Reese were the stars of the show for Florida, which has given up a measly 16 points in four home games this season.

Nix completed 11 of 27 passes for 145 yards for Auburn (5-1, 2-1), with a touchdown and three interceptions. He was sacked three times, once for a 22-yard loss in which he looked completely lost.

**No. 19 Michigan 10, No. 14 Iowa 3:** Zach Charbonnet had a 2-yard touchdown run to give the host Wolverines an early double-digit lead and their defense did the rest against Hawkeyes, forcing four turnovers and making eight sacks.

Michigan (4-1, 2-1 Big Ten) was held scoreless over the final three quarters because they could not run or pass effectively, scoring just three points off the Iowa turnovers.

**No. 3 Georgia 43, Tennessee 14:** Jake Fromm threw two touchdown passes, the Bulldogs' defense delivered a dominant second-half performance and visiting Georgia recovered from a slow start to beat the Volunteers.

The Bulldogs (5-0, 2-0 Southeastern Conference) scored the final 33 points to earn their 15th straight victory over an Eastern Division opponent. Georgia capped the onslaught when Tae Crowder scored on a 60-yard

fumble return with 4:39 left after Eric Stokes sacked Brian Maurer to knock the ball loose.

**No. 4 Ohio State 34, No. 25 Michigan State 10:** Justin Fields threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score, J.K. Dobbins rushed for 172 yards and a touchdown and the host Buckeyes overcame a sluggish start.

Ohio State (6-0, 3-0 Big Ten) had to work to figure out the Spartans' defense to start, after blowing out every opponent through the first five games. They gained just 16 yards on 16 plays in the first quarter, but got unstuck and put away Michigan State (4-2, 2-1) with big plays.

**No. 5 LSU 42, Utah State 6:** Joe Burrow became the first Tigers quarterback to eclipse 300 yards passing in four straight games and threw for five touchdowns against the visiting Aggies.

**No. 6 Oklahoma 45, Kansas 20:** Jalen Hurts threw for 228 yards and two touchdowns, ran for 56 yards and two more TDs and added another line to his Heisman Trophy resume in leading the visiting Sooners past the Jayhawks.

**No. 8 Wisconsin 48, Kent State 0:** Jonathan Taylor had four rushing touchdowns and caught a TD pass, Zack Baun had a career-high three sacks, and the host Badgers coasted to past the Golden Flashes.

**No. 9 Notre Dame 52, Bowling Green 0:** Ian Book threw five touchdown passes and had only four incomplete passes in a little more than two quarters of work for the host Fighting Irish.

**No. 11 Texas 42, West Virginia 31:** Sam Ehlinger threw two touchdown passes and ran for two more scores and the visiting Longhorns converted three turnovers into TDs.

**No. 12 Penn State 35, Purdue 7:** Sean Clifford threw for 264 yards with three touchdowns and ran for another score for the host Nittany Lions.

**No. 13 Oregon 17, Califor-**

**nia 7:** Justin Herbert threw for 214 yards and a late touchdown to extend his streak of consecutive games with a scoring pass to 33, and the host Ducks overcame an uncharacteristically slow start.

**Stanford 23, No. 15 Washington 13:** Cameron Scarlett rushed for a career-high 157 yards and a touchdown, quarterback Davis Mills had another impressive game in place of injured starter K.J. Costello before apparently getting hurt himself, and the host Cardinal pulled off its biggest win of the season.

Stanford (3-3, 2-2 Pac-12) extended its home winning streak to six games, dating to 2007, against the Huskies with a plodding, methodical offense that kept Washington quarterback Jacob Eason on the sidelines for long chunks of the game.

**No. 16 Boise State 38, UNLV 13:** Hank Bachmeier threw for 299 yards and two touchdowns and the visiting Broncos State used a strong defensive effort to beat the Rebels.

**Texas Tech 45, No. 21 Oklahoma State 35:** Jett Duffey threw four touchdown passes and ran for another score in his first start of the season, leading the host Red Raiders past the Cowboys.

Texas Tech (3-2, 1-1 Big 12), coming off a 55-16 loss at Oklahoma two weeks ago, built a 20-0 lead 30 seconds into the second quarter and won its second straight in the series after going 0-10-2 in the previous 12 meetings.

**No. 24 SMU 43, Tulsa 37, 3 OT:** Shane Buechele threw a 25-yard touchdown to James Proche in the third overtime and the host Mustangs beat the Golden Hurricane, coming back from a three-touchdown deficit in the fourth quarter to win their its first game as a ranked team in 33 years.

## Service academies

# Perry lifts Navy past Air Force

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Malcolm Perry's confidence never wavered.

The Navy quarterback had taken a pounding and watched Air Force storm back from a double-digit deficit to take the lead.

In the end, the Midshipmen had some late-game heroics of their own.

Perry had a 4-yard touchdown run with 23 seconds remaining to give the Midshipmen a stunning 34-25 victory over Air Force on Saturday.

"The offense played well," Perry said. "We had a couple of mistakes here and there. But just keeping the mindset that we were going to win the game. Never let it leave our minds."

The Falcons scored 16 consecutive points in the final quarter and took the lead on a 1-yard run by Taven Birdow with 3:15 left.

However, Perry led an 11-play, 75-yard scoring drive to claim the victory in the first leg of the Commander In Chief's Trophy. Navy linebacker Tony Brown returned a fumble 8 yards in the closing seconds to round out the scoring.

Perry finished with 111 yards on 23 carries with a pair of touchdowns. He also completed 5 of 7 passes for 144 yards.

**Tulane 42, Army 33:** Amare Jones caught six passes for 104 yards and a touchdown and ran for another score, and the visiting Green Wave snapped the Black Knights' 15-game home winning streak at Michie Stadium.

Tulane (4-1) hasn't started this well since going 4-1 in 1998 and has been an afterthought for too long. The Green Wave received some votes in the latest AP Top 25 and can only rise after this signature moment.

## NHL roundup

## Zibanejad hat trick, assist lift Rangers

Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Mika Zibanejad had his third career hat trick and added an assist to help the New York Rangers beat the Ottawa Senators 4-1 on Saturday night.

Zibanejad, who was drafted sixth overall by the Senators in 2011, is only the second player in Rangers history to record eight points in the first two games of the season (Rod Gilbert, 1976-77). On Thursday night, he had a goal and three assists in New York's 6-4 home victory over Winnipeg.

Artemi Panarin also scored for the Rangers, and Alexandar Georgiev stopped 31 shots.

Brady Tkachuk scored for the Senators, and Craig Anderson made 26 saves.

Zibanejad opened the scoring on a power-play at 6:04 of the first period, and Tkachuk tied it midway through the period.

Zibanejad broke the tie at 9:53 of the second and made it 3-1 with a short-handed goal at 12:07. Zibanejad then set up Panarin's power-play goal early in the third.

**Canadiens 6, Maple Leafs 5 (SO):** Paul Byron scored in the shootout and Montreal overcame a three-goal deficit to beat host Toronto. The Leafs' Auston Matthews, Mitch Marner and John Tavares all failed to beat Carey Price in the shootout.

Brendan Gallagher had a goal and two assists for Montreal, and Phillip Danault and Max Domi each had a goal and an assist each. Jeff Petry scored on a penalty

shot, Jonathan Drouin also scored, and Price made 32 saves.

**Penguins 7, Blue Jackets 2:** Jared McCann and Patric Hornqvist each scored twice and host Pittsburgh had a five-goal second period to overwhelm Columbus.

Penguins star Evgeni Malkin left in the second period and did not return with an undisclosed injury. He ran into teammate Kris Letang near center ice and fell awkwardly into the boards.

**Hurricanes 3, Capitals 2 (OT):** Jake Gardiner scored in the last minute of overtime to lift Carolina over host Washington after the Hurricanes' overcame a two-goal deficit in the third period.

Erik Haula and Jaccob Slavin also scored to help Carolina spoil Washington's home opener.

**Blues 3, Stars 2:** Sammy Blais had a goal and an assist in host St. Louis' victory over Dallas. Jordan Binnington stopped 28 shots to help the defending Stanley Cup champion Blues rebound from a 2-1 overtime loss to Washington in the opener.

David Perron and Brayden Schenn also scored for St. Louis.

**Sabres 7, Devils 2:** Rookie Victor Olofsson and Sam Reinhart each scored twice as Buffalo kicked off the home-opening portion of its 50th anniversary season with the romp over New Jersey.

The Sabres, under new coach Ralph Krueger, built off the momentum of a 3-1 season-opening win at Pittsburgh by getting off to their first 2-0 start since the

2012-13 lockout-shortened season.

**Panthers 4, Lightning 3:** Mike Hoffman had his second career hat trick to help Florida beat visiting Tampa Bay to split an opening home-and-home series.

Noel Acciari also scored goal and Sergei Bobrovsky made 29 saves for his first victory with the Panthers. Joel Quenneville also won for first time as coach of the Panthers. Steven Stamkos, Mathieu Joseph and Gemel Smith scored for the Lightning.

**Ducks 3, Sharks 1:** Ryan Getzlaf scored, Ondrej Kase had two assists and host Anaheim remained unbeaten.

**Red Wings 5, Predators 3:** Tyler Bertuzzi scored twice and had two assists and Jimmy Howard made 39 saves to lead visiting Detroit past Nashville.

**Bruins 1, Coyotes 0:** Jaroslav Halak stopped 35 shots, Brad Marchand scored and visiting Boston extended its winning streak over Arizona to 15 games.

**Avalanche 4, Wild 2:** Mikko Rantanen had a goal and an assist to lead Colorado past visiting Minnesota. Rantanen, who missed training camp and the preseason before agreeing to a contract last weekend, has three goals in two games.

**Oilers 6, Kings 5:** James Neal scored twice, Connor McDavid had a goal and three assists and host Edmonton won its second in a row to start the season.

**Flames 3, Canucks 0:** David Rittich made 34 saves and Johnny Gaudreau had a goal and two assists in host Calgary's victory over Vancouver.

## Adesanya KOs Whittaker for middleweight crown

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Israel Adesanya defeated UFC middleweight champion Robert Whittaker with a stunning knockout in the second round of their highly anticipated 185-pound unification bout which headlined UFC 243 on Sunday.

New Zealand-based, Nigerian-born Adesanya landed a booming right hook which floored Whittaker in the final seconds of the first round and then ended the fight in the second of the five-round contest with a left hook.

Adesanya was interim champion before claiming the title

against Whittaker and improved his UFC record to 7-0.

After doing a cartwheel during his entry to Docklands Stadium, Adesanya said he was determined to put on a show.

"I'm a dancer. I'm an entertainer. I have to give them a show and set the tone," Adesanya said. "There's no one like me. No one."

The 30-year-old said he had soaked up everything Whittaker could throw at him in the short bout.

"He caught me with a nice one, but I returned," Adesanya said. "I eat it, but give it back two times. I'm tough and

smart."

The attendance of 57,127 set a world record for UFC, surpassing the 56,214 at the same venue in 2015.

"I was in the nose bleeds, and now I've made his nose bleed," Adesanya said immediately after the fight in reference to that 2015 event where he was a spectator in the upper reaches in the stadium while Whittaker was a rising UFC star on the card at that event. The New Zealand-born Australian Whittaker won his fight that night.

It was 28-year-old Whittaker's first fight since June 2018 in Chicago. He was scheduled

to fight in February but withdrew due to emergency bowel surgery.

Whittaker's UFC world-title defense was the first by an Australian.

"He's a great striker and congratulations," Whittaker said. "I took the fight to him. It was tit for tat and I got caught. It happens."

"I'm 28. This is my first loss in the division. Trust me when I say I'm not going anywhere."

New Zealand's Dan Hooker scored a unanimous points win over higher-ranked American lightweight Al Iaquinta in the co-main event.