

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, October 13, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## US troops ordered out of Syrian north

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of Islamic State supporters escaped from a holding camp in northern Syria on Sunday amid heavy clashes between invading Turkish-led forces and Kurdish fighters, and President Donald Trump ordered all U.S. troops to withdraw from the north to avoid getting caught in the fighting.

The twin developments reflected the rapidly growing chaos in Syria in the week since Trump ordered American forces in the region to step aside, leaving the U.S.-allied Kurds wide open to attack from Turkey.

“We have American forces likely caught between two opposing advancing armies, and it’s a very untenable situation,” U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said on CBS’ “Face the Nation” in announcing U.S. troops would leave the north. He did not say how many would withdraw but that they repre-

sent most of the 1,000 troops in Syria.

A U.S. military official said that the situation was “deteriorating rapidly.” The official, who was not authorized to disclose operational details and spoke on condition of anonymity, said American troops were unable to move around on the ground without a “high risk” of confrontation with Turkish-backed forces.

The danger to American forces was illustrated Friday when a small number of U.S. troops came under Turkish artillery fire at an observation post in the north. No Americans were hurt. Esper said it was unclear whether that was an accident.

Trump, in a tweet, said, “Very smart not to be involved in the intense fighting along the Turkish Border, for a change. Those that mistakenly got us into the Middle East Wars are still pushing to fight. They have no idea what a bad decision they have made.”

Meanwhile, the U.S. also

has come to believe that the Kurds are attempting to “cut a deal” with the Syrian army and Russia to counter the invading Turks, Esper said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday ruled out any mediation in the dispute with the Kurds, saying Turkey won’t negotiate with “terrorists.” NATO member Turkey views the Syrian Kurdish fighters as terrorists because of their links to the Kurdish insurgency inside Turkey, and it has vowed to carve out a “safe zone” along the border.

Trump’s decision to clear the way for the Turkish offensive has been condemned at home and abroad by critics who say he abandoned the Kurdish allies who long fought alongside the U.S. to help defeat ISIS.

The fighting that has broken out over the past week has raised fears that some of the thousands of ISIS members and sympathizers held by the Kurds will escape or be re-

leased in the chaos, allowing the battered extremist group to make a comeback and sow terrorism at will.

On Sunday, heavy fighting reached a displaced-persons camp in Ein Eissa, some 20 miles south of the border, that is home to some 12,000 people, including around 1,000 wives and widows of ISIS fighters and their children, held in a special detention area.

The Kurdish-led administration in northern Syria said in a statement that 950 ISIS supporters escaped after attacking guards and storming the gates. It was not immediately possible to confirm that figure.

Jelal Ayaf, a senior official at the camp, told local media that 859 people broke out from the section housing foreign ISIS supporters. He said a few were recaptured but that supporters inside another section of the camp also escaped and were carrying out attacks. He described the situation as “very volatile.”

## USS Porter in the Black Sea again as patrols boosted

By SCOTT WYLAND

Stars and Stripes

The destroyer USS Porter entered the Black Sea on Saturday, the seventh time the Navy has sent a warship into the region this year as a response to a more assertive Russia.

It is the second time in as many months that the Porter has operated in the Black Sea.

Before that, warships had conducted six Black Sea operations between January and July, including the USS Carney during the multinational naval exercise Sea Breeze.

“This routine deployment ...

demonstrates our dedication to freedom of navigation and our commitment to NATO allies and partners in the Black Sea,” Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti, 6th Fleet commander, said in a statement.

Last year, a total of five U.S. warships operated in the region.

The Navy and NATO increased their naval presence in the Black Sea after Russia invaded Crimea and annexed it from Ukraine in 2014.

They boosted security patrols even more after the Russian navy seized three Ukrainian

vessels in the Kerch Strait last year and imprisoned 24 sailors. Those sailors were released in September — after being jailed for almost nine months — as part of a prisoner swap between Russia and Ukraine.

Nearly all countries bordering the Black Sea are U.S. allies or partner nations, but Russia maintains a territorial attitude toward the sea partly because the former Soviet Union controlled most of those countries during the Cold War.

The Russian navy typically monitors American warships in the Black Sea, while Moscow

condemns the ships’ activities as a provocation.

Russia always chafes at the presence of U.S. destroyers in the Black Sea because they are armed with long-range cruise missiles and strong missile defense, said Michael Kofman, director of Russian studies at CNA, a defense think tank in Virginia.

“Russians perceive such capabilities to be strategic and will never casually accept this type of arsenal being brought so close to its population centers or critical infrastructure,” Kofman said.

# Little damage to US bases in Tokyo storm

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS,  
HANA KUSUMOTO  
AND SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — Typhoon Hagibis pummeled the Japanese capital overnight Saturday with wind gusts as high as 104 mph, hours of record-breaking, torrential rain and flooding in some places.

Then, suddenly, the storm left the Tokyo metro area, leaving many to wonder on social media if the ordeal was really over. Sunday dawned beneath calm, blue skies as the curious emerged to take stock of fallen trees and swollen rivers.

U.S. military bases in the area reported minimal damage and returned to their routines after a full day hunkered down against the rain and forceful wind.

At Yokota Air Base — home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo — Senior Airman Mitchell Krause, 24, of Chaska, Minn., was shopping at a base mini-mart early Sunday. The security forces airman said he worked the night shift during the storm but experienced no emergencies.

“I didn’t really think it was that bad,” he said, adding that he hadn’t heard much wind.

But in harder hit regions like Nagano and Miyagi prefectures, helicopters plucked people from their flooded homes on Sunday as rescue efforts went into full force from a powerful storm, according to Fuji TV.

Hundreds of thousands of households were without power around Tokyo and

in the Tohoku region north of the metro area Sunday, according to The Associated Press.

“We intend to exert all-out efforts for the earliest recovery of blackouts, water outage and suspension of transportation,” Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said during a ministerial meeting Sunday.

He added that 2,700 Japan Self-Defense Forces personnel, along with police, firefighters and the Japan Coast Guard were conducting rescue and relief efforts Sunday.

In Hachioji — not far from Yokota and Camp Zama — about 16 inches of rain fell over 24 hours Friday, topping a 1999 record rainfall of 14 inches, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. In Hakone, southwest of Yokohama, a record 37 inches fell, the agency reported.

What local fire authorities believed was a tornado struck a neighborhood in Ichihara, in Chiba prefecture, east of Tokyo, on Saturday, killing one person and damaging several homes, according to The Mainichi newspaper.

Just as Hagibis approached landfall Saturday evening, a magnitude 5.3 earthquake, centered in the Pacific southeast of Tokyo, rumbled through the area around 6:20 p.m. There was no tsunami threat and no damage reported at U.S. military bases.

At Yokota, the storm brought down branches and leaves and felled a large tree in front of the 374th Airlift Wing headquar-

ters. Airmen were busy removing it with heavy equipment before 8 a.m.

Storm conditions there suddenly ceased about 10:20 p.m. Saturday; two hours later, the base sounded the “all clear.”

In a Facebook post early Sunday, authorities announced that most facilities — including the commissary, exchange, fitness center, dining facility, theater, clubs and restaurants — would open on their normal schedules. Base shuttles resumed at 9:20 a.m., and airport shuttles ran on schedule.

As part of recovery efforts, members of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron planned an aerial survey of base rooftops using a small drone.

At Yokota’s Kanto Lodge, staff said 11 people who evacuated from their off-base homes due to a risk of flooding from the Tama River had stayed there overnight.

At Yokosuka Naval Base, south of Tokyo and close to where Hagibis made landfall, the memory of Typhoon Faxai in September is still fresh. This time, the damage was not as severe. Sunday morning cleanup crews tied caution tape around downed fences, fallen trees and leaning power poles. They filled truck beds with tree branches strewn about base by the powerful winds.

No injuries were reported there, according to Yokosuka spokesman Randall Baucom. “The base did not receive any significant damage, although assessments are ongoing,” he said in an email Sunday morning. “Our focus now is on getting base services back to normal operations.”

## New Orleans hotel collapses; 2 dead, more than 20 hurt

*Associated Press*

NEW ORLEANS — A large section of a Hard Rock Hotel under construction beside New Orleans’ historic French Quarter collapsed Saturday amid blinding dust and flying debris, killing two people and injuring more than 20. Rescue workers searched the largely unstable building for one person still unaccounted for.

Nearby buildings were evacuated. A 270-foot construction crane — one of two still looming over the multistory building — also was dangerously unstable, fire officials said.

The hunt for the missing was

suspended at nightfall over safety concerns. A statement from the project contractor said its representatives would work “throughout the night” with emergency officials on a plan to stabilize the building.

“I heard a huge noise and thought it was a plane crashing,” said Sue Hurley, 68, a guest at a hostel across the street that shuddered with the force of the collapse.

WWL-TV aired and tweeted a viewer’s dramatic video of upper floors falling on top of each other before one side of the building crashed to the street.

Another video on social media showed what looked like a metal structure — part of the building or a piece of construction equipment — tumbling to the ground and people running from the scene as clouds of dust billowed up, obscuring the view like a thick fog.

Officials said 18 people were taken to the hospital and several others went to the hospital on their own. They said none of their injuries was believed to be life-threatening.

Urban search and rescue teams entered a section of the building Saturday in hopes of finding two missing people

alive, said fire Chief Tim McConnell. Authorities later said one of the missing was dead.

Meanwhile, authorities were keeping a wary eye on the unstable crane looming over the building.

“There is a very strong possibility of further collapse of this crane right now,” McConnell said.

Citadel Builders LLC, the contractor on the project, said more than 100 workers were on site at the time of the collapse. An email from spokesman Brian Trascher said company officials were working with emergency workers on a plan to stabilize the building.

# Louisiana governor's race goes to runoff

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — John Bel Edwards' bid for a second term as the Deep South's only Democratic governor will be decided in November after Louisiana voters Saturday sent him to a runoff in a race that became heavy with national politics in the final days.

Edwards will face Republican businessman Eddie Rispone in the Nov. 16 runoff.

In addition to keeping the governor's race going for five more weeks, Louisiana voters reelected five of the six Republican statewide elected offi-

cial running for another term, sending the sixth to a runoff. They also decided whether to rewrite four provisions in the state constitution.

All candidates, regardless of party, ran against each other on the same ballot. Runoff elections are held among the top two vote-getters in each competition if no candidate reaches more than 50% of the vote.

Edwards faced five opponents on the ballot, though the competition focused on two major Republican challengers: Rispone, of Baton Rouge, who has spent millions of his own wealth on the race, and

Ralph Abraham, a third-term congressman and doctor from northeast Louisiana.

Both GOP contenders suggested Edwards is out of step with Louisiana, saying taxes he supported to balance the budget are too high and are chasing people and businesses from the state.

Edwards says Louisiana is rebounding from an economic recession and a decade of budget crises after a bipartisan tax deal ended the state's financial instability. He's touting fewer people uninsured after he expanded Medicaid and a decline in the state's prison population

after a legislative overhaul of criminal sentencing laws.

The candidates have spent more than \$24 million on the race, and outside PACs have added millions more in TV advertising, digital media spots and mailers.

Five Republican incumbents won reelection to their statewide positions: Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, Attorney General Jeff Landry, Treasurer John Schroder, Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon and Agriculture Commissioner Mike Strain. GOP Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin was forced into a runoff.

## Hunter Biden leaving Chinese-back firm's board

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hunter Biden announced on Sunday that he will step down from the board of directors of a Chinese-backed private equity firm at the end of the month as part of a pledge not to work on behalf of any foreign-owned companies should his father win the presidency.

Biden, 49, the son of Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, revealed his plan in an internet post written by his attorney, George Mesires, who outlined a defense of the young-

er Biden's work in Ukraine and China, which have come under intense scrutiny at the prodding of President Donald Trump and his Republican allies.

"Hunter makes the following commitment: Under a Biden Administration, Hunter will readily comply with any and all guidelines or standards a President Biden may issue to address purported conflicts of interest, or the appearance of such conflicts, including any restrictions related to overseas business interests. In any event, Hunter will agree not to serve

on boards of, or work on behalf of, foreign owned companies," Mesires wrote.

He continued: "He will continue to keep his father personally uninvolved in his business affairs, while availing himself as necessary and appropriate to the Office of the White House Counsel to help inform his application of the Biden Administration's guidelines or standards to his business decision-making."

Trump has repeatedly raised allegations of wrongdoing against Hunter Biden's work

abroad, without proof, to tear down former Vice President Joe Biden. Trump has also encouraged the Ukrainian president and China to probe Hunter Biden's work abroad, a move by the Republican president that prompted House Democrats to launch an impeachment inquiry.

"Despite extensive scrutiny, at no time has any law enforcement agency, either domestic or foreign, alleged that Hunter engaged in wrongdoing at any point during his five-year term," Mesires wrote of Biden's experience in Ukraine.

## 2 new California laws designed to protect animals

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California will be the first state to ban the sale and manufacture of new fur products and the third to bar most animals from circus performances under a pair of bills signed Saturday by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The fur law bars residents from selling or making clothing, shoes or handbags with fur starting in 2023.

Animal rights groups

cheered the measure as a stand against inhumane practices.

The proposal was vigorously opposed by the \$1 billion U.S. fur industry, and the Fur Information Council of America has threatened to sue.

It follows Newsom's signing of legislation that makes California the first state to outlaw fur trapping and follows bans on sales of fur in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"California is a leader when it comes to animal welfare, and

today that leadership includes banning the sale of fur," Newsom said in a statement. "But we are doing more than that. We are making a statement to the world that beautiful wild animals like bears and tigers have no place on trapeze wires or jumping through flames."

The fur ban doesn't apply to used products or those used for religious or tribal purposes.

Also, it excludes the sale of leather, dog and cat fur, cowhides, deer, sheep and goat

skin and anything preserved through taxidermy.

It could mark a significant blow to the fur industry that makes products from animals including mink, chinchillas, rabbits and other animals. The U.S. retail fur industry brought in \$1.5 billion in sales in 2014, the most recent data available from the Fur Information Council.

Fashion designers including Versace, Gucci and Giorgio Armani have stopped or say they plan to stop using fur.

# France and Cyprus conduct exercises

Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — France and Cyprus are conducting naval maneuvers off Cyprus as the east Mediterranean island nation is embroiled in a tense dispute with Turkey over offshore gas drilling.

Two French frigates heading to Syria planned to take part in “routine” exercises in Cypriot waters this past weekend, a French military spokesman, Col. Frederic Barbry, said Saturday.

One ship arrived Thursday and the other was due to arrive Sunday. France, part of the U.S.-led military coalition, maintains a naval presence off the coast of Syria for monitoring and coordination purposes, Barbry said.

The maneuvers come as a Turkish drill ship, which is escorted by warships, is poised to start drilling inside waters where Cyprus has licensed French energy company Total

and Italian partner Eni to explore for gas.

Another warship-escorted Turkish drill ship began drilling in Cyprus’ exclusive economic zone in June. The European Union and other countries have condemned Turkey’s gas search inside Cypriot waters as illegal.

French Defense Minister Florence Parly tweeted Saturday that the joint exercises would enable Cyprus to “assume its responsibilities in its sovereign waters.”

Turkey, which doesn’t recognize the statehood of Cyprus, has insisted it’s acting to protect its economic interests.

Cyprus Defense Minister Savvas Angelides said the maneuvers send a message about his country “exercising its rights within its exclusive economic zone” as the government strives to counter Turkey’s actions through legal, political and diplomatic means.

# Black woman in her home shot and killed by officer

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — A black woman was fatally shot by a white Fort Worth officer inside her home early Saturday after police were called to the residence for a welfare check, authorities said.

The shooting occurred after a neighbor told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that he called the police nonemergency line to report that the front door to the home was open.

In body camera video released by police, two officers search the home from the outside with flashlights before one shouts, “Put your hands up, show me your hands!” One shot is then fired through a window.

Police said in a statement that the woman was pronounced dead at the scene. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s Office identified her as Atatiana Jefferson, 28.

The officer does not identify himself as police in the video. Police said the officer, who’s been on the force since April 2018, was placed on adminis-

trative leave pending the outcome of an investigation.

In the statement, police said the responding officers saw a person near the window inside the home. The officer fired the single shot after “perceiving a threat,” the statement said. The body camera video also included images of a gun inside the residence, but it’s unclear if the firearm was found near the woman.

Authorities said the body camera footage was released soon after the shooting to provide transparency, but any video taken inside the house could not be distributed due to state law.

The shooting comes less than two weeks after a white former Dallas police officer was sentenced to 10 years in prison for killing her black neighbor inside his own apartment. Amber Guyger said during her trial that she mistook Botham Jean’s apartment for her own, which was one floor below Jean’s.

Guyger, 31, was convicted of murder for Jean’s September 2018 death.

# Ecuador’s president orders army onto streets amid protests

Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador — President Lenin Moreno ordered the army onto the streets of Ecuador’s capital Saturday after a week and a half of protests over fuel prices devolved into violent incidents, with masked protesters attacking a television station, newspaper and the national auditor’s office.

Moreno said the military-enforced curfew would begin at 3 p.m. local time in response to violence in areas previously untouched by the protests. Around 1 p.m., masked protesters broke into the national auditor’s office and set it ablaze, sending black smoke billowing across the central Quito park and cultural complex that have been the epicenter of the protests.

About two hours later, a group of several dozen masked

men swarmed the offices of the private Telemazonas television station in northern Quito, set fires on the grounds and tried to break into the building where about 20 employees were trapped.

“They’re trying to enter the station, trying to break down the doors, we’re asking for help but the police aren’t coming,” one employee told The Associated Press by telephone on condition of anonymity because he was afraid of retaliation.

A journalist with the newspaper El Comercio told the AP that the paper’s offices in southern Quito were also under attack. The building’s security guards were seized and tied up, and attackers were trying to break into offices where journalists were hiding, the journalist said, also under con-

dition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

Moreno appeared on national television alongside his vice president and defense minister to announce that he was ordering people indoors and the army onto the streets.

He blamed the violence on drug traffickers, organized crime and followers of former President Rafael Correa, who has denied allegations he is trying to topple Moreno’s government.

Moreno served Correa as vice president before he became president, and the two men went through a bitter split as Moreno pushed to curb public debt amassed on Correa’s watch.

Moreno said the masked protesters had nothing to do with the thousands of indigenous Ec-

uadorians who have protested for nearly a week over a sudden rise in fuel prices as part of an International Monetary Fund-backed austerity package.

“I have ordered the Armed Forces Joint Command to immediately undertake all the necessary measures and operations,” Moreno said. “We are going to restore order in all of Ecuador.”

The violence, curfew and military deployment came shortly after the announcement of a possible softening of Ecuador’s 10-day standoff. Indigenous leaders of the fuel price protests that have paralyzed Ecuador’s economy for days said early Saturday afternoon that they were willing to negotiate with Moreno over the austerity package.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Plane hits car during emergency landing

**OH** DAYTON — A plane crash turned into a traffic crash when a small aircraft having engine trouble made an emergency landing on an Ohio roadway and rear-ended a car near an intersection.

The two pilots aboard the plane and the driver in the BMW they hit weren't seriously hurt in the Thursday afternoon crash. It happened a couple of miles from an airport just south of Dayton.

State Highway Patrol Sgt. Jeff Kramer said the 1979 Piper fixed-wing, single-engine plane had trouble as it was returning to the Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport.

The pilot then aimed to land in a cornfield but worried about avoiding some power lines, so she switched plans to try for the roadway.

## Steer charms town, is saved from slaughter

**ID** POST FALLS — A 1,000-pound steer named Carlos who charmed area residents in northern Idaho has avoided a trip to the slaughterhouse after neighbors raised money to buy him.

The Coeur d'Alene Press reported on Wednesday that neighbors of Bill Guy's farm in west Post Falls raised \$1,100 to purchase the well-known steer following a "Save Carlos" campaign.

Campaign organizer Alisha Kreissig said Carlos, 4, comes when called, enjoys being petted and loves apples, lettuce and most of all the grass clippings from lawns.

Carlos will remain living at Guy's farm as part of the deal.

## Tests: Couple hurt by raccoon, not bobcat

**FL** FORT LAUDERDALE — Officials said a Florida couple who believed they were attacked by a bobcat earlier this month were actually attacked by a raccoon.

The Sun Sentinel reported Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spokeswoman Carol Lyn Parrish said DNA tests of hair confirmed the species of the animal that mauled a Lauderhill woman on Oct. 4. State investigators received the results Thursday.

The couple, Rupert Fray, 71, and Esllyn Fray, 85, were released from the hospital Thursday. The husband said he fractured a hip, while the wife lost the tip of her right ring finger and is recovering at a rehabilitation facility.

## Man sentenced for smuggling box turtles

**PA** HARRISBURG — A Chinese man who authorities said helped smuggle nearly 80 endangered box turtles out of the U.S. while attending a Pennsylvania college has been sentenced to a year in prison.

Haixi Sheng was sentenced Thursday. He pleaded guilty last year to smuggling goods from the United States.

Authorities said Sheng, 21, was living in State College and studying at Penn State University in November 2017 when he participated in a China-based smuggling ring.

## Man arrested as pot found in packages

**NE** WOOD RIVER — The Nebraska State Patrol said a trooper found nearly 70 pounds of marijuana inside gift-

wrapped boxes in a vehicle.

The discovery happened Thursday afternoon on Interstate 80 near Wood River in south-central Nebraska. The trooper had pulled over a sport utility vehicle on suspicion of following another vehicle too closely.

A search of the SUV turned up 68 pounds of marijuana in large gift-wrapped boxes. The trooper said the driver told him the packages were gifts for a new baby.

The 56-year-old California man was arrested on several drug-related charges.

## College ends 187-year sheepskin tradition

**IN** CRAWFORDSVILLE — A private liberal arts college in western Indiana is ending its 187-year-old tradition of printing diplomas on sheepskin, citing increasing prices for the material and deteriorating quality.

The announcement by Wabash College in Crawfordsville leaves only Virginia Military Institute in offering the specialty diplomas.

Administrators said the decision was made in April because the quality of sheepskin diplomas was worsening while the prices were increasing.

## Man, blind Chihuahua rescued from ravine

**OR** ST. HELENS — Firefighters rescued a man and his 18-year-old blind Chihuahua, Rocky, after the pair became trapped in a ravine near a St. Helens park.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported the man called authorities from his cellphone around 5:45 p.m. Thursday and told the operator he had fallen into a canyon while looking for his Chihuahua, which had wan-

dered into a ravine.

Firefighters were able to make voice contact with the man and found a trail which they rappelled down to reach the man and dog.

The man and his dog were mostly unharmed and were guided back up the ravine.

## Man charged in sex sting after long walk

**IN** INDIANAPOLIS — A 32-year-old man faces federal charges alleging he walked hundreds of miles from central Indiana to Wisconsin to have sex with someone he thought was a 14-year-old girl.

The Indianapolis Star cited a Department of Justice statement Friday as saying the person posing as a girl named "Kylee" was a sheriff's deputy working with the FBI in a sting.

It said Tommy Lee Jenkins, of Whitestown, Ind., began communicating online on Oct. 1, thinking Kylee lived 350 miles away with her mom in Neenah, Wis.

After deciding to walk, he allegedly sent selfies and photos of exit signs to show he was getting closer.

## Gas balloon team wins distance contest

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — Polish balloon pilot Krzysztof Zapart and American teammate Andy Cayton are the apparent winners of the 2019 America's Challenge gas balloon race.

The team crossed the Canadian border and landed Thursday just south of Hudson Bay, having traveled more than 1,600 miles after launching from Albuquerque earlier in the week.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES

On a mission to provide credible reporting and daily news to America's military, wherever they serve.

Mobile apps available: [www.stripes.com/apps](http://www.stripes.com/apps).

# Torres, Tanaka help Yanks blast Astros

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Gleyber Torres kept up his October surge with a homer and five RBIs, Masahiro Tanaka polished his playoff resume and the New York Yankees blanked the Houston Astros 7-0 Saturday night in the AL Championship Series opener.

With so much attention focused on the Astros aces, Tanaka showed he more than belonged on this stage too. He threw one-hit ball for six innings to outpitch Zack Greinke, improving to 5-2 with a 1.32 ERA in the postseason.

Torres did his part in this matchup of 100-win behemoths with a go-ahead double, a solo homer, a two-run single and an RBI grounder. Moved up to third in the batting order after mashing in a sweep of Minnesota, the 22-year-old star became the youngest AL player to drive in five runs during a postseason game.

Asked whether he was surprised at all he's been able to do at his age, Torres was direct.

"I mean, not really," he said. "Prepare really well to be here and help my team. So now I got opportunity."

Giancarlo Stanton and Gio Urshela also homered and right fielder Aaron Judge turned in the key play, catching a line drive and doubling Alex Bregman off first base when it was still 1-0.

"Loved our look today," manager Aaron Boone said.

The Yankees will try to build on their early momentum when James Paxton starts against 21-game winner Justin Verlander in Game 2 on Sunday night.

Houston hardly looked like a club that led the majors with a franchise-record 107 victories. Jose Altuve, Bregman and their teammates were held to three singles.

The Astros had homered in 30 straight games — every game since Aug. 31 — and their streak was the second-longest in major league history behind a 31-game string by the Yankees this year.

Greinke, acquired at the trade deadline for these kind

of moments, produced another lackluster playoff start.

"The Yankees, they can come at you in a lot of different ways," Astros manager AJ Hinch said.

Tanaka, who won Game 1 of the ALDS, struck out four and walked one. He faced the minimum through six innings thanks to a pair of double plays. Three relievers finished up the shutout.

"Obviously the number's there and I guess I'm flattered. But the happiest thing for me is us being able to get the W," Tanaka said through a translator.

Torres picked up right where he left off in the division series where he hit .417 to lead the team — he batted sixth in those games, but was moved higher as Boone tinkered with his lineup to break up the team's lefty hitters.

Torres put the Yankees out front with an RBI double in the fourth.

There was one out in the sixth when he hit a fastball from Greinke into the seats in left field. Greinke knew it was gone off the bat, and pounded his fist

into his glove as soon as Torres left the batter's box.

Torres singled in the seventh to make it 5-0. He has an RBI in all four of New York's playoff games this year.

"He likes playing these situations and he's confident in his ability to produce. And that leads to a dangerous player," Boone said.

Stanton homered with two outs in the sixth.

The Astros and Yankees were meeting in the playoffs for the third time in five years and facing off in the ALCS for the second time in three seasons. New York's road win on Saturday night comes after the home team won every game of the 2017 ALCS that Houston took 4-3.

The Astros got Greinke, the 2009 AL Cy Young Award winner, from Arizona in July, hoping to bolster a rotation starring Verlander and Gerrit Cole. Greinke went 8-1 with a 3.02 ERA in 10 regular-season starts after the trade, but has struggled in the postseason and lost both starts.

## Nats up 2-0 on Cards after Scherzer's sizzling start

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Max Scherzer was strength and fire. Anibal Sanchez was artistry and deception.

Two different styles, two absolute gems for the Washington Nationals.

Scherzer followed Sanchez's near no-hitter with a try of his own, and the stingy Nationals beat the St. Louis Cardinals 3-1 on Saturday for a 2-0 lead in the NL Championship Series.

"We really want to win here," the hard-charging Scherzer said. "So that's what's going to happen, we're going to compete and win."

Scherzer didn't allow a hit until Paul Goldschmidt led off the seventh inning with a single that left fielder Juan Soto played conservatively with a 1-0 lead. A day earlier, Sanchez held the

Cardinals hitless until Jose Martinez had a pinch single with two down in the eighth.

Sanchez and Scherzer also began the 2013 ALCS with consecutive no-hit bids of at least five innings for Detroit against Boston. They are the only pitchers to accomplish the feat in postseason history.

"The way he can change speeds and execute pitches, it's a treat to really watch and get to pitch with him," Scherzer said. "For me, I'm just in the moment. I'm not trying to do anything great, I'm just trying to stick within my game."

Scherzer, a St. Louis native who played college ball for the University of Missouri, struck out 11 and walked two in seven innings.

It doesn't get any easier for St. Louis, either. Ace Stephen Strasburg gets the ball for the

wild-card Nationals when the best-of-seven series moves to Washington for Game 3 on Monday night. Jack Flaherty pitched for the Cards.

"They have a pretty strong advantage right now," Cardinals right-hander Adam Wainwright said.

"I've got a lot of confidence in our hitters. I think our hitters are going to do something special in Washington."

St. Louis got another solid performance from Wainwright, who struck out 11 in 7 1/3 innings.

But after getting only one hit in the opener, the Cardinals' inconsistent lineup managed just three hits against Scherzer and the Washington bullpen.

"We trust in each other. We've been in this position before," Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina said. "We just have to

figure out how to get better."

The NL Central champions got their first run of the series when center fielder Michael A. Taylor misplayed Martinez's pinch-hit liner into an RBI double with two outs in the eighth. But Dexter Fowler flied out on Sean Doolittle's next pitch on a tough day to see the ball with the shadows from the mid-afternoon start.

Patrick Corbin got the first out of the ninth before Daniel Hudson earned his third save of the playoffs. The right-hander was reinstated from the post-season paternity list before the game after he missed the series opener to be with his wife, Sara, for the birth of their third child, a girl named Millie.

Corbin is expected to start Game 4 for the Nationals on Tuesday night.

# McCaffrey, Panthers top Buccaneers

Associated Press

LONDON — Christian McCaffrey scored two touchdowns and Carolina turned five interceptions by Jameis Winston into 17 points to give the Panthers their fourth straight victory, 37-26 over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday.

After starting the season with two straight losses with hobbled Cam Newton at quarterback, the Panthers (4-2) have been on a roll with Kyle Allen at quarterback thanks to McCaffrey's big plays and an opportunistic defense that had a franchise record-tying seven takeaways.

Both of those factors came up big on Carolina's first trip to London in front of a large contingent of Panthers fans for what was designated as a home game for the Bucs (2-4).

James Bradberry intercepted Winston on the first play from scrimmage to set up a field goal to set the tone for the game.

Bruce Irvin then forced a bad throw by Winston in the second quarter that Javien Elliott intercepted. That led to McCaffrey's dazzling 25-yard touchdown catch that featured him juking Vernon Hargreaves III and stiff-arming Devin White on his way into the end zone.

In between those two scores, McCaffrey capped a 99-yard drive with a 1-yard run on fourth down, giving him five TDs the past two weeks.

The Panthers took advantage of Tampa Bay's banged-up line, sacking Winston seven times, hitting him to help force two of the interceptions and forced fumbles on successive plays late in the second quarter.

It was part of a disturbing pattern for Winston throughout his career. He has five games with at least four turnovers, while no other player has more than two of those games since Winston entered the league in 2015. Winston had five turnovers in all, giving him an NFL-worst 86 in the past five seasons.

Curtis Samuel added two second-half TDs, scoring on an 8-yard end-around and a 13-yard pass from Kyle Allen.

Allen was 20-for-32 for 227 yards, two TDs and no interceptions to improve to 5-0 as starter.

Panthers defensive tackle Gerald McCoy had a big game against his former team. McCoy had 2½ sacks, deflected a pass at the line of scrimmage and had one tackle for loss.

# World Class Athlete Program runners victorious in Ten-Miler

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Soldiers from the U.S. Army's World Class Athlete Program won both the men's and women's races Sunday at the Army Ten-Miler through the streets of the nation's capital.

Spc. Lawi Lalang, a native of Kenya who ran for the University of Arizona, crossed the finish line near the Pentagon in an unofficial winning time of 48 minutes, 37.22 seconds for the men's race. Lalang, who runs the mile in under 3:53, pulled away from WCAP teammate Spc. Benard Keter with about 4 miles to go; Keter finished second, 26 seconds behind. MacDonald Ondara, of Lakewood, Wash., who stayed with Lalang and Keter until midway through the race, was third.

In the women's race, Spc. Elvin Kibet — also from Kenya and a former Arizona

runner — coasted to the title with a minute-and-a-half edge over Hannah Cocchiaro, of Columbia, Md. Kibet's unofficial winning time was 54:04.38.

Other unofficial class champions on the event's 35th anniversary were Brant Ireland, of Willow Spring, N.C., in the handcycle division; David Snyder, of Carrollton, Va., in the amputee division; Jeremy Haynes, of Fort Belvoir, Va., in the pushrim division; Wilfred Nave, of Alexandria, Va., in the visually-impaired division; Chris Davidson, of Stonewall, Ok., in the disabled division; and Kevin Bittenbender, of Montgomery, Pa., in the recumbent division.

More than 35,000 people competed in the event, which was started with a series of waves that had many runners leaving the starting line after the winners had already finished.

## NHL Roundup

### Blue Jackets hand 'Canes first loss

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Markus Nutivaara, Oliver Bjorkstrand and Pierre-Luc Dubois scored and the Columbus Blue Jackets beat Carolina 3-2 Saturday night, ending the best start to a season in Hurricanes' franchise history.

Dubois overpowered Brock McGinn on a rush from the opposite blue line and lifted a backhander past James Reimer, snapping a 2-all tie 75 seconds into the third period and Columbus made the lead stand up.

**Capitals 4, Stars 1:** Tom Wilson and Evgeny Kuznetsov scored power-play goals, rookie goalie Ilya Samsonov won again in his second career start and Washington earned its first regulation victory in Dallas in 24 years.

**Kings 7, Predators 4:** Alex Iafallo scored the tiebreaking goal with 59 seconds to play, and Los Angeles blew a three-goal lead in the third period before winning its home opener under new coach Todd McLellan.

**Oilers 4, Rangers 1:** Connor McDavid scored the tiebreaking goal and Leon Draisaitl had two goals and an assist, all in the third period, as Edmonton beat host New York and extended its season-opening win streak to five games.

**Senators 4, Lightning 2:** Vladislav Namestnikov scored his first two goals for his new team late in the third period and Ottawa beat Tampa Bay for its first win of the season.

**Bruins 3, Devils 0:** Tuukka Rask stopped

31 shots in his 46th career shutout, leading Boston to a win over New Jersey in its home opener.

**Canadiens 6, Blues 3:** Brendan Gallagher had a goal and two assists and host Montreal beat the Stanley Cup champs.

**Maple Leafs 5, Red Wings 2:** Ilya Mikheyev scored in the final minute of the second period when goalie Jimmy Howard's gamble backfired, and visiting Toronto defeated Detroit to end a three-game losing streak.

**Islanders 3, Panthers 2:** At Uniondale, N.Y., Brock Nelson scored in the shootout and New York beat Florida to snap a two-game skid.

**Jets 3, Blackhawks 2 (OT):** Mark Scheifele scored 47 seconds into overtime and visiting Winnipeg rallied from an early two-goal deficit to beat winless Chicago.

**Penguins 7, Wild 4:** Sidney Crosby had a goal and assist, Adam Johnson and Sam Lafferty each scored his first career goal, and short-handed Pittsburgh held on to beat winless host Minnesota.

**Avalanche 3, Coyotes 2:** Andre Burakovsky scored at 3:29 of overtime and Colorado edged visiting Arizona.

**Golden Knights 6, Flames 2:** Mark Stone had a goal and an assist, Marc-Andre Fleury made 33 saves and host Vegas beat Calgary.

**Canucks 3, Flyers 2 (SO):** Tanner Pearson scored in the shootout, leading Vancouver to a win over visiting Philadelphia.

## Top 25 roundup

# Burrow rallies No. 5 LSU past No. 7 Fla.

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Joe Burrow passed for 293 yards and three touchdowns, and fifth-ranked LSU scored three straight touchdowns after falling behind early in the second half to beat No. 7 Florida 42-28 Saturday night.

Facing a Florida defense that came in leading the nation in interceptions and leading the Southeastern Conference in sacks, the Tigers (6-0, 2-0 SEC) totaled 511 yards without giving up a sack or committing a turnover.

Ja'Marr Chase had 127 yards receiving and the last of his two touchdowns was a 54-yarder to give LSU a two-score lead with 5:43 left. Justin Jefferson caught 10 passes for 123 yards and a touchdown.

Burrow went 21-for-24 passing, meaning he had the same number of touchdown tosses and incomplete passes. Clyde Edwards-Helaire rushed for 134 yards and two scores on 13 carries.

The Tigers haven't scored fewer than 42 points in a game this season.

Kyle Trask was 23-of-39 passing for 310 yards and three touchdowns for Florida (6-1, 3-1), but was done in by freshman Derek Stingley Jr.'s interception in the LSU end zone in the fourth quarter.

**No. 6 Oklahoma 34, No. 11 Texas 27:** At Dallas, Jalen Hurts threw three touchdown passes to CeeDee Lamb, Oklahoma's defense sacked Sam Ehlinger nine times and the Sooners never trailed.

The Sooners (6-0, 3-0 Big 12) stayed on track for a third straight trip to the College Football Playoff and avenged last year's loss in Cotton Bowl Stadium in the middle of the Texas state fair, a victory that came in a rematch of the Big 12 championship game.

The Longhorns (4-2, 2-1) are likely relegated to a spoiler role if there's a second consecutive Big 12 title game between the

rivals. Both teams played under the threat of an ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct after referee Mike Defee flagged everyone 30 minutes before the game when clusters of players got too close at midfield while wrapping up warmups and started jawing at each other.

**No. 1 Alabama 47, Texas A&M 28:** Tua Tagovailoa threw four touchdowns and visiting Alabama's offense kept rolling in the Tide's first game at No. 1 this season.

Tagovailoa threw his first interception of the season but became Alabama's career passing touchdowns leader with his first one of the game, breaking his tie with A.J. McCarron. The junior now has 81 for his career and leads the nation with 27 this season.

**No. 2 Clemson 45, Florida State 14:** Trevor Lawrence threw three touchdown passes, two to Justyn Ross, and host Clemson won its 21st straight game and started 6-0 for a fifth straight year and beat the Seminoles (3-3, 2-2) for the fifth straight year.

Travis Etienne ran for 127 yards and caught one of Lawrence's scoring throws.

**South Carolina 20, No. 3 Georgia 17 (2OT):** Parker White's 23-yard field goal in the second overtime proved to be enough when Georgia's Rodrigo Blankenship was wide left on his attempt from 42 yards, giving visiting South Carolina its first win over an AP Top 25 opponent since beating Georgia in 2014.

Blankenship's second miss of the game sent South Carolina players charging onto the field to celebrate the upset.

White missed a 33-yard attempt in the first overtime.

**No. 8 Wisconsin 38, Michigan State 0:** Jonathan Taylor rushed for two touchdowns and host Wisconsin's defense posted its fourth shutout of the season.

The Spartans' defense held Taylor to 80 yards on 26 carries, marking the first time this

season the Heisman Trophy hopeful was held under 100.

But Michigan State was held to 149 yards, 30 rushing, and couldn't find any rhythm as the Badgers dominated time of possession 39:10 to 20:50.

**No. 9 Notre Dame 30, USC 27:** Tony Jones Jr. rushed for a career-high 176 yards and Jonathan Doerer kicked three long field goals as host Notre Dame held off its longtime rival.

The Fighting Irish (5-1), who rushed for a season-high 308 yards, clinched their third straight victory over the Trojans (3-3) on Ian Book's 8-yard run with 3:33 left.

**No. 10 Penn State 17, No. 17 Iowa 12:** Noah Cain ran for a 5-yard touchdown with 5:17 left and visiting Penn State posted its first win over a ranked opponent this season.

Cain finished with 102 yards for the Nittany Lions (6-0, 3-0 Big Ten).

**No. 14 Boise State 59, Hawaii 37:** Chase Cord threw for 175 yards and three touchdowns in relief of injured starter Hank Bachmeier.

The Broncos (6-0, 3-0 Mountain West) remained perfect at home against the Rainbow Warriors in seven meetings, despite losing Bachmeier early in the second quarter when he was scrambling for a first down and spun to elude oncoming linebacker Kana'i Picanco.

**No. 15 Utah 52, Oregon State 7:** Zack Moss rushed for 121 yards and two touchdowns, including a 91-yard scoring run in the opening quarter, and visiting Utah routed Oregon State.

Moss, who was returning from a shoulder injury, sat out the second half.

Tyler Huntley threw for 247 yards and two touchdowns for the Utes (5-1, 2-1 Pac-12).

**No. 16 Michigan 45, Illinois 25:** Hassan Haskins ran for 125 yards and a touchdown, Zach Charbonnet added 116 yards rushing, and visiting Michigan needed a late surge to put away Illinois.

The Wolverines (5-1, 3-1 Big Ten) built a 28-0 lead by half-time, but turnovers and ineffective offense helped the Illini (2-4, 0-3) cut the lead to 28-25 with 12:50 left.

**No. 18 Arizona State 38, Washington State 34:** Jayden Daniels scored on a 17-yard scramble with 34 seconds left and threw three touchdown passes to ailing Brandon Aiyuk to lead host Arizona State in a comeback win.

**Louisville 62, No. 19 Wake Forest 59:** Evan Conley ran 41 yards for a critical touchdown with 2:15 left, and visiting Louisville held off Wake Forest's late rally in the second-highest-scoring game in Atlantic Coast Conference history.

Conley also threw two touchdown passes to Dez Fitzpatrick and Hassan Hall returned a kickoff 100 yards to help the Cardinals (4-2, 2-1) spoil Wake Forest's first national ranking in 11 years.

**No. 22 Baylor 33, Texas Tech 30 (2 OT):** Ja'Mycal Hasty scored on a 5-yard run in the second overtime and host Baylor won in its first game as a ranked team under coach Matt Rhule.

Baylor (6-0, 3-0 Big 12), which went the length of the field at the end of regulation just to get to overtime, won on Hasty's run after Trey Wolff's 35-yard field goal for Texas Tech opened the second extra period.

**Temple 30, No. 23 Memphis 28:** Anthony Russo threw two touchdown passes and host Temple took advantage of four turnovers by Memphis to pull the upset.

**No. 25 Cincinnati 38, Houston 23:** Desmond Ridder passed for 263 yards and three touchdowns and visiting Cincinnati held off Houston's late surge for its fourth straight win.

The Bearcats (5-1, 2-0 American Athletic Conference) used a 21-point first half to pull away early and Perry Young's late 2-yard interception return for a touchdown sealed the win.