

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

Saturday, October 19, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Kurds, Turkey trade blame for fighting

*Associated Press*

AKCAKALE, Turkey — Syrian Kurdish-led forces and Turkey exchanged blame on Saturday for fighting that has rattled a U.S.-brokered cease-fire in northeastern Syria, as the Kurds appealed to Vice President Mike Pence to enforce the deal.

The Syrian Democratic Forces said in a statement that Turkey has failed to abide by the deal, refusing to lift the siege of Ras al-Ayn, a key border town. It said 30 hours after the five-day pause went into effect on Thursday, there were still reported clashes inside the town and medical personnel could not enter to help wounded.

Turkish-backed Syrian fighters encircled Ras al-Ayn just before the cease-fire came into place, trying to crush Kurdish resistance inside.

Throughout much of the day Friday, fighting was reported there and in neighboring villages that came under attack by the Turkish-backed forces.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Saturday that Turkey-backed Syrian fighters have prevented

a medical convoy from reaching Ras al-Ayn since Friday. It said a medical convoy arrived outside the town but Turkey-backed factions closed the road ahead and behind, leaving it stuck outside Ras al-Ayn.

Turkey's Defense Ministry said Saturday it was "completely abiding" by the accord. It accused Kurdish-led fighters carried out 14 "attacks and harassments" the past 36 hours, most in Ras al-Ayn. It said the Syrian Kurdish fighters used mortars, rockets, anti-aircraft and anti-tank heavy machine guns.

The ministry also said it was in "instant coordination" with the United States to ensure the continuity of calm, excluding instances of "self-defense."

The agreement — reached in negotiations between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence — virtually hands Turkey its aims in the invasion, requiring Kurdish fighters to vacate a swath of territory in Syria along the Turkish border during the cease-fire.

The Kurdish-led force, which had only a nominal, indirect role in the deal, said

it will abide by the halt in fighting but has not committed to any pull-out. Erdogan warned Friday that Turkey will relaunch its assault on Tuesday when the deal runs out if the Kurdish fighters don't pull out of a zone 20-miles deep running the entire length of the border.

Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said 41 suspected Islamic State members were re-captured after fleeing a detention camp amid fighting earlier this week in Syria.

He said 195 other suspected ISIS members had already been re-taken.

His comments were carried by Turkish television on Saturday.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has accused Syrian Kurdish forces of releasing some 750 ISIS members and families, amid Turkey's offensive. The Kurds say they broke out of their camp a week ago, attacking guards, amid heavy clashes and Turkish airstrikes nearby.

Turkey's state-run English language broadcaster TRT World said the ISIS members and families were captured by Turkey-backed Syrian opposition forces.

## UK lawmakers vote to postpone Brexit decision

*Associated Press*

LONDON — In a major blow to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, U.K. lawmakers voted Saturday to postpone a decision on whether to back his Brexit deal with the European Union, throwing a wrench into government plans to leave the bloc at the end of this month.

At a special session of Parliament intended to ratify the Brexit deal, lawmakers voted 322-306 to withhold their approval on the Brexit deal until legislation to implement it has been passed.

The vote aims to ensure that the U.K. can't crash out of the EU without a divorce deal on the scheduled Oct. 31 departure date. But it means Johnson has to ask the EU to delay Britain's departure, since Parliament previously passed a law compelling him to do that if a Brexit divorce deal had not been passed by Saturday.

The government still hopes it can pass

the needed legislation by the end of the month so the U.K. can leave on time.

A defiant Johnson said after the vote that he was not "daunted or dismayed" by the result and would push ahead with plans to leave the EU.

As lawmakers debated, tens of thousands of anti-Brexit demonstrators descended on London to march to Parliament Square, demanding a new referendum on whether Britain should leave the EU or remain. Protesters, many wearing blue berets emblazoned with yellow stars symbolizing the EU flag, poured out of subway trains and buses for the last-ditch protest effort.

Bruce Nicole, a vicar from Camberley, southwest of London, said the Brexit deal would harm Britain. "I fervently believe that we should remain in the EU," he said. "I am British, but I am also European."

In Parliament before the vote, Johnson implored legislators to ratify the deal he struck last week with the bloc's 27 other

leaders. He said members of the House of Commons should "come together as democrats to end this debilitating feud" over Brexit, which has bitterly divided the country since British voters narrowly chose in a 2016 vote to leave the EU.

"Now is the time for this great House of Commons to come together ... as I believe people at home are hoping and expecting," Johnson told lawmakers.

But he did not get the result he sought.

Trouble began when House of Commons Speaker John Bercow said he would first allow a vote on an amendment that puts the vote on the deal off until another day.

The amendment makes support for the deal conditional on the legislation to implement it being passed by Parliament, something that could take several days or weeks. It also gives lawmakers another chance to scrutinize — and possibly change — the Brexit departure terms while the legislation is passing through Parliament.

# Modern Warfare

## Developers behind latest Call of Duty call in pros to create realistic conflict

The Washington Post

**T**he bones of the game were laid with drones and cameras, phone calls and questions, requirements and innovations. Rather than a fanciful brainstorm followed by code and keystrokes, as many would assume of a video game's creation process, the latest title in the ever-expanding Call of Duty pantheon formed around research and revelations, groundwork for a multimillion-dollar development process representative of the modern, multibillion-dollar gaming industry.

It's a process that required a marriage of technological innovation and well-sourced storytelling with the goal to produce the most realistic portrayal possible of modern armed conflict by a video game. It will culminate Oct. 25 with the release of Call of Duty: Modern Warfare, a title developed by Infinity Ward studio that figures to be one of the top-selling games — if not the top-selling game — of 2019. And its content has already been authenticated by two men who know well the game's subject matter.

The green-tinted footage plays on the Infinity Ward theater screen as lethal silhouettes sporting night vision creep through a house. Threats are assessed and eliminated, the silence broken by the crackle of comms and the rattle of gunfire.

Mitch Hall and Steve Sanders, both retired U.S. Navy SEALs, watch a scene that looks as if it were captured by a body camera during one of their past deployments. In the back of the theater, Infinity Ward Studio Narrative Director Taylor Kurosaki and Jacob Minkoff, Modern Warfare's campaign gameplay director, listen along with several others while Hall narrates the action. He explains the mechanics of the soldiers' movements and the rationale of their lethal decision-making as the on-screen sequence reaches its climax.

Special operatives from the British SAS storm the attic of a terrorist-occupied town house and spot a woman standing in the center of the room.

"No weapon, that's the first thing," Hall says of what his training has taught him to see. "That's the first math problem you have. She seems, at least for the moment, compliant. And so that compliance gives us some time to do some more math and figure out if she's going to remain compliant."

She does not and falls to a burst of suppressed gunfire after diving for a detonator.

"I keep saying 'the math,'" Hall continues, reminding the audience in the theater of what the soldiers in the game had encountered in the house before this scene, with nearly every person in the house proving hostile. "All those floors, you keep doing the math. She had a chance to do the right thing. Then she made the bad choice."

### Script tension

If the bones of Modern Warfare were first set three years earlier, the action on the screen is the game's body brought to life. It illustrates the tension of the game's script with the tactics demonstrated by real-world soldiers, a blend the game's creators hope brings a level of believability no Call of Duty game has reached before now.

Infinity Ward began to infuse more reality into its creation by quite literally putting more reality into the game. Behind a nondescript door and inside a white-walled room of approximately 100 square feet in the bowels of Infinity Ward's Burbank, Calif., studio sits a kind of teleportation device.

A cage of steel surrounds a small white platform, its exterior draped with cables to cameras and flashbulbs. Any item placed on that platform — anything from a used cigar to a full-grown man — can be transported into the game with the push of a button.

"It's just a big ball of light," Barry Sloane says of his recol-

lection of the rig. Sloane, the actor who plays the hero role of SAS soldier Captain Price, was just one of the thousands of objects teleported into the pixels of Modern Warfare.

The process is known as photogrammetry, a craft through which the Infinity Ward team captured high-resolution photos of an object from every angle, stitching them together to generate a three-dimensional digital replica they can then alter and manipulate using their software. The end result is a photo-realistic digital item far more lifelike than any computer-generated object.

Not only is the result more realistic, but the process is more efficient than the common practice of building a digital asset via computer generation. With photogrammetry, what used to take six weeks to create can now be scanned and refined in one, according to Infinity Ward Studio Art Director Joel Emslie. Over the past three years, everything from old tires to demolished cars to a tank have been scanned into Modern Warfare.

First, the object is photographed from all possible angles. Infinity Ward's rig consists of 200 cameras all connected to shoot simultaneously, allowing them to capture all the data they need in under a second.

Those photographs are then stitched together to create a three-dimensional digital version of the object.

### Scaling down detail

That digital object contains millions of tiny polygons to give the object its shape, and while it results in a superdetailed asset, it also requires a lot of processing power for a computer or console to display it for the user. So, a little more work is required to scale down the detail.

"If you were to just build a character from scratch in software, it could take six weeks to do all that work, and a lot of that time is to work on the little nuances, the subtleties, the paint chips and things. That's what

really takes time," Emslie says. But with photogrammetry, the photography captures the details for you.

Work began on Modern Warfare's new game engine five years ago and will continue even after its release. During that process, Activision opened an engine technology-focused studio in Krakow, Poland, to handle the task. Rendering high-def graphics at high speeds (the goal is 60 frames per second) requires a big technological lift. To that end, Infinity Ward's developers needed new tools for the job.

"Once the studio decided to make Modern Warfare, our engineering teams sat down with the art and design departments to discuss the vision for the game. Immediately, it became clear that it would have been impossible with the previous technology to build a game with this ambition," says Michael Drobot, Infinity Ward's principal rendering engineer.

Drobot's team tinkered and tweaked and ultimately innovated. Now the engine can handle both a massive battle on a wide-open field and a claustrophobic, close-quarters encounter. In the latter, the engine permits players to angle their weapons independently of the direction the character's body is facing so they can make better use of available cover while firing, a real-life tactic used by special forces when breaching a room.

The end result mimics far more closely the real-world combat missions performed by special operatives such as Hall and Sanders.

"We're in a world right now where we have, you know, 18-year-olds who have never existed in a world that didn't have the global war on terror," Minkoff says. "They know that there's not going to be a clean, simple end to any conflict. And so what they told us is, 'We want characters and scenarios that are realistic and relevant to the world that we live in.' And that is a world that is morally gray."

# GOP alarmed by the changing explanations on aid to Ukraine

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The shifting White House explanation for President Donald Trump's decision to withhold military aid from Ukraine drew alarm Friday from Republicans as the impeachment inquiry brought a new test of their alliance.

Trump, in remarks at the White House, stood by his acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, whose earlier comments undermined the administration's defense in the impeachment probe. Speaking Thursday at a news conference, Mulvaney essentially acknowledged a quid pro quo with Ukraine that Trump has long denied, saying U.S. aid was withheld from Kyiv to push for an investigation into the Democratic National Committee and the 2016 election. He later clarified his remarks.

Trump appeared satisfied with Mulvaney's clarification and the president dismissed the entire House inquiry as "a terrible witch hunt. This is so bad for our country."

But former Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who ran against Trump in the 2016 Republican primary, said he now supports impeaching the president. Mulvaney's admission, he said, was the "final straw."

"The last 24 hours has really forced me to review all of this," Kasich said on CNN.

In Congress, at least one Republican, Rep. Francis Rooney, of Florida, spoke out publicly, telling reporters that he and others were concerned by Mulvaney's remarks. Rooney said he's

open to considering all sides in the impeachment inquiry. He also said Mulvaney's comments cannot simply be undone by a follow-up statement.

"It's not an Etch-A-Sketch," said Rooney, a former ambassador to the Holy See under President George W. Bush.

"The only thing I can assume is, he meant what he had to say — that there was a quid pro quo on this stuff," he said.

The tumult over Mulvaney's remarks capped a momentous week in the impeachment investigation as the admission, from the highest levels of the administration, undercut the White House defense and pushed more evidence into the inquiry.

GOP leaders tried to contain the fallout. But four weeks into the inquiry, the events around Trump's interaction with the Ukraine president, which are at the heart of impeachment, have upended Washington.

The Energy Secretary, Rick Perry, who has been caught up in the probe, announced his resignation. On Friday, the Energy Department sent a letter to House committee chairs saying it would not comply with a subpoena for documents and communications.

The march toward an impeachment vote now seems all but inevitable, so much so that the highest-ranking Republican, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, privately told his GOP colleagues last week to expect action in the House by Thanksgiving, with a Senate trial by Christmas.

# 38 cited for violations in Clinton email probe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The State Department has completed its internal investigation into former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's use of private email and found violations by 38 people, some of whom may face disciplinary action.

The investigation, launched more than three years ago, determined that those 38 people were "culpable" in 91 cases of sending classified information that ended up in Clinton's personal email, according to a letter sent to Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley last week and released on Friday. The 38 are current and former State Department officials but were not identified.

Although the report identified violations, it said investigators had found "no persuasive evidence of systemic, deliberate mishandling of classified information." However, it also made clear that Clinton's use of the private email had increased the vulnerability of classified information.

The investigation covered 33,000 emails that Clinton turned over for review after her use of a private email account became public. The department said it found a total of 588 violations involving information then or now deemed to be classified, but it could not assign fault in 497 cases.

For current and former officials, culpability means the violations will be noted in their files and will be considered when they apply for or go to renew security clearances. For current officials, there could also be some kind of disciplinary action.

The report concluded "that the use of a private email system to conduct official business added an increased degree of risk of compromise as a private system lacks the network monitoring and intrusion detection capabilities of State Department networks."

# Diplomat questioned Hunter Biden's job

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent told impeachment investigators last week that he had raised concerns in 2015 about Hunter Biden, the son of then-Vice President Joe Biden, working with a Ukrainian gas company.

Kent told lawmakers investigating President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine that he'd questioned the optics of Hunter Biden serving on the gas company's board, according to a person familiar with the testimony who requested anonymity to discuss the closed-door session. At the time, American officials were

trying to persuade Ukrainian officials to avoid conflicts of interest.

Kent said he was told Biden wasn't able to deal with the issue at the time because his other son, Beau, had cancer, according to the person.

The Washington Post first reported that Kent told the lawmakers about his concerns.

Kent responded to the reports in a statement Friday from his lawyers, Andrew Wright and Barry Hartman. They cautioned that individual comments may not reflect the whole of the diplomat's 10-hour testimony and that "those engaged in the broader political debate on either side will likely

find both utility and inconvenience in his testimony."

They added, "He was not there to testify on behalf of any side."

Hunter Biden last week acknowledged that his family name created business opportunities, but he rejected assertions from Trump and other Republicans that he did anything wrong by engaging in foreign work in Ukraine and China.

"Did I make a mistake? Maybe in the grand scheme of things," Hunter Biden said in an ABC News interview. "But did I make a mistake based on some ethical lapse? Absolutely not."

# Gabbard fires back after Russia barb

Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — It's Hillary Clinton vs. Tulsi Gabbard on the sidelines of the 2020 presidential race.

The Hawaii congresswoman fought back unsparingly after Clinton appeared to call her “the favorite of the Russians” in a recent interview and said she believes the Russians have “got their eye on somebody who's currently in the Democratic primary and are grooming her to be the third-party candidate.” Clinton, the former senator, U.S. secretary of state and 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, did not name Gabbard directly.

In a series of tweets Friday, Gabbard called Clinton the “personification of the rot that

has sickened the Democratic Party for so long.” Gabbard also alleged there has been a “concerted campaign” to destroy her reputation since she announced her presidential run in January.

“It's now clear that this primary is between you and me,” Gabbard tweeted about Clinton. “Don't cowardly hide behind your proxies. Join the race directly.”

There is lingering trepidation in the Democratic Party of a repeat of the 2016 presidential race, when Russia interfered in the U.S. election in an effort to help Donald Trump defeat Clinton. U.S. intelligence agencies have warned that Russia intends to meddle in the 2020 presidential election, as well. Russian President Vladimir

Putin has mocked that possibility, joking earlier this month that Moscow would “definitely intervene” again.

During a Democratic presidential debate on Tuesday, Gabbard criticized a TV commentator who she said had called her “an asset of Russia.” She called the comments “completely despicable.”

Without naming Gabbard, Clinton seemed to echo the commentator's remark during a podcast appearance last week on “Campaign HQ with David Plouffe.” Plouffe was campaign manager for President Barack Obama in 2008 and served as a senior adviser to the president.

“She's the favorite of the Russians,” Clinton said, referring to the person she had earlier identified as a woman “who's

currently in the Democratic primary.” “They have a bunch of sites and bots and other ways of supporting her so far.”

Clinton also called Trump “Vladimir Putin's dream” in the interview. She went on to say that Trump's inauguration speech was “like a declaration of war on half of America.” Clinton also describes 2016 Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein as “a Russian asset.”

The Russians know they can't win without a third-party candidate, Clinton added.

Gabbard said later Friday on CBSN that she “will not be leaving the Democratic Party. I will not be running as an independent or a third-party candidate.”

## Afghan village buries its dead after bomb kills 66

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Hundreds of villagers attended the funerals held Saturday in eastern Afghanistan for the victims of a deadly bomb that killed 66 people during prayers at a local mosque.

Attahullah Khogyani, spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar province, said that the explosion also wounded 36 people when it went off as dozens of people gathered for Friday prayers in the village of Jodari.

He said it was not immediately clear if the mosque was attacked by a suicide bomber or by some other type of bombing.

He said the “latest” figure for the death toll was 66. He added that ten wounded were so far discharged from the hospital after treatment.

Villagers from the surrounding Haskamena district said that there were more than one hundred worshippers at the time of the bombing in the mosque.

Gulab Shinwari, a villager, said that when he reached the site of the blast with other locals, they found “a heartbreaking scene.”

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but both the Taliban and the Islamic State group are active in eastern Afghanistan, especially Nangarhar province.

However, Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's spokesman in a statement condemned the attack in Nangarhar and called it a serious crime.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres “strongly” condemned the attack and said those responsible must be held accountable, his office's spokesman said.

Amnesty International's deputy South Asia director, Omar Waraich, said the attack “demands the world's attention.”

“Flagrant violations of international humanitarian law such as deliberate targeting of civilians are not something anyone should get used to or learn to ignore,” he said.

## Juul ends the sale of fruit, dessert e-cigarette flavors

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Juul Labs stopped selling fruit and dessert flavors Thursday, acknowledging the public's “lack of trust” in the vaping industry.

The voluntary step is the company's latest attempt to weather a growing political backlash that blames its flavored-nicotine products for hooking a generation of teenagers on electronic cigarettes.

Juul, the best-selling e-cigarette brand in the U.S., has been besieged by scrutiny, including multiple investigations by Congress, federal agencies and several state attorneys general. The company is also being sued by adults and underage Juul users who claim they became addicted to nicotine through the company's products. And the Trump administration has proposed banning nearly all vaping flavors.

Still, the company's latest step is unlikely to satisfy its critics.

The flavors affected by Thursday's announcement — mango, creme, fruit and cu-

cumber — account for less than 10% of Juul's sales. The flavors had been sold only through Juul's website after the company pulled them from stores last November.

Juul will continue selling its most popular flavors, mint and menthol, for now. A spokesman said the company is reviewing its products and has not made “any final decisions.”

Mint and menthol account for most of Juul's retail sales, according to analysts, and are the most popular flavors among teens.

The San Francisco-based company will also continue to sell its tobacco-flavored vaping pods.

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids' Matthew Myers said Juul's decision to keep selling mint and menthol shows “it isn't serious about preventing youth use.”

“Juul knows that 64% of high school e-cigarette users now use mint or menthol flavors, and this number is growing all the time,” Myers said in a statement.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man finds animal blood flooding his basement

**IA** BAGLEY — Blood may be thicker than water, but it'll still flood your basement.

Nick Lestina found this out the hard way two weeks ago when he discovered 5 inches of blood, fat and other animal tissue flooding his family's basement in Bagley, which is about 45 miles northwest of Des Moines. He told the Des Moines Register that he hasn't been able to clean it up because it's still seeping in.

The waste is coming from a neighboring meat locker, where blood and tissue from slaughtered animals were washed down a drain. Officials said a clog or break in the pipe sent the waste into Lestina's basement through a floor drain.

### Woman stole from store with 2 kids in tow

**CO** DENVER — Denver police were looking for a woman they say stole money from a liquor store with two young children in tow.

Investigators said the woman, who has not been identified, entered the store near the CommonGround Golf Course in southeast Denver and took "a large sum of money" after rummaging through shelves and the area under the register.

She was accompanied by a boy and a girl, who are about six years old. Police said the boy helped her search for cash behind the counter.

### Rare white alligators move into new home

**FL** ORLANDO — Gatorland built new homes for some of its most distinctive-looking residents, thus creat-

ing an exhibit for a rare albino gator and two even-more-rare leucistic gators.

Officials hope the White Gator Swamp will be the site of a baby gator boom.

"It's the largest breeding facility for white alligators anywhere in the world," said Mark McHugh, Gatorland's CEO.

The white gators were introduced to their new digs Oct. 4. Leucistic gator Trezoz hesitated to enter the waters, while his brother, Feros Zombi, dove off the side of a ramp after rawchicken. Albino alligator Pearl did a reptilian sort of strut before making a splash.

### Police find 2 stolen personal watercraft

**CT** WATERBURY — Connecticut police think they have found two stolen personal watercraft and are asking residents to help identify the suspects.

Authorities said the 2017 Sea-Doo RXT 300, valued at around \$25,000, were stolen from a dock in Newtown where they had been locked and were later found in a garage in Waterbury.

Newtown police said they searched the undisclosed location during their investigation and found two watercraft like the models reported stolen.

The Republican American reported it is unclear how the vehicles made their way to Waterbury or how authorities were led to the location where they were found.

### Man looks for Big Foot after finding footprint

**NC** CASAR — A North Carolina man said he planned to spend a night hunting for a fabled North American creature because he found

a footprint that seemed to be larger than a human could make.

Electrician Joe Scarborough told WCNC-TV that he was working near Casar when he spotted what appeared to be a fresh footprint of about 13 to 14 inches long. He said, "I was looking at that real close and ... I said 'Somebody's got a big foot.'"

He said he planned to spend a night in the area with some game cameras to see what happens, because "why not?"

### Police investigate string of mailbox explosions

**MA** SHIRLEY — Massachusetts police are investigating a series of explosions on private property that destroyed three mailboxes.

Andy Burns caught the suspects in a car pulling up and placing the explosive in the mailbox of his Shirley home on his security cameras. Once the car pulls away, the mailbox explodes.

Authorities said Burns' home was one of three houses targeted and they are investigating.

Another victim said she had an explosive placed under the hood of her vehicle that shattered her windshield.

### Man charged after bayonet attack

**ND** WAHPETON — Police in Wahpeton are investigating after a man was attacked with a bayonet.

Police Chief Scott Thorsteinson said Byron Vann, 31, of Henry-etta, Okla., was charged with attempted murder.

KFGO-AM reported that Vann was arrested after he returned to the scene while officers were still there.

Thorsteinson said the victim,

a 30-year-old Fargo man, underwent surgery at St. Francis Medical Center to repair "two significant neck wounds."

### Closed wedding venue to pay back \$27,000

**KY** FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Attorney General's Office said the owner of a now-closed wedding venue must pay over \$27,000 in restitution to nine couples who had their weddings canceled or didn't receive promised services.

The attorney general's office sued last year to hold Gabriella Farm owner Nicolle Thompson liable for the losses.

A statement from the attorney general's office said Thompson took payments from couples and then ceased communications with them.

### Columbus statue was covered in red paint

**RI** PROVIDENCE — A statue of Christopher Columbus in Rhode Island was vandalized on the day named in his honor.

The statue in Providence was splashed from head to toe with red paint and a sign reading "Stop celebrating genocide" was leaned up against the pedestal. The word "genocide" was written in orange paint on the rear of the pedestal.

The statue has been the target of vandals on Columbus Day in the past.

Since 1992, Native American advocates have pressed states to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day over concerns that Columbus spurred centuries of genocide against indigenous populations in the Americas.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# No. 4 Ohio State routs Northwestern

Associated Press

EVANSTON, Ill. — Eyeing a playoff spot and a shot at the national championship, No. 4 Ohio State sure is locked in at the moment.

Justin Fields threw for four touchdowns, J.K. Dobbins rushed for 121 yards and the Buckeyes pounded Northwestern 52-3 on Friday night.

Ohio State (7-0, 4-0 Big Ten) did exactly as expected and blew the game open early, jumping to a 31-3 halftime lead.

“I just feel like it’s business,” defensive end Chase Young said. “That’s the mentality I have, just because I know we can’t have any fluke losses. It’s gonna mess with what we want to do.”

Fields completed 18 of 23 passes for 194 yards. The sophomore transfer from Georgia matched his career high for TDs through the air. He now has 22 passing and 30 overall on the season.

The nation’s second-leading rusher, Dobbins scored from the 5 in the second quarter after breaking off a 67-yard run. He also caught a 19-yard touchdown pass in the first half.

The junior now has 947 yards rushing after finishing with more than 1,000 in each of his first two seasons.

Chris Olave caught two TDs. Blake Haubeil kicked a 55-yard field goal that tied the second-longest in the history of the storied program. The Buckeyes racked up 480 yards while holding Northwestern to 199 and remained unbeaten heading into their showdown at home with No. 6 Wisconsin next week.

“I think we feel good about the way we came out coming off the bye week — with energy, starting fresh and just refocused on all the things that matter within the program,” coach Ryan Day said. “Now we know we have a huge challenge next week. ... We know what we have in store there, so it’s gonna be a really tough week, tough preparation, tough game,

but I know the kids are gonna be excited to play it.”

The loss was the fourth in a row for Northwestern (1-5, 0-4). The Wildcats haven’t beaten a top-five opponent since the 1959 team opened with victories over No. 2 Oklahoma and No. 5 Iowa.

Aidan Smith, making his second straight start, was 6-for-20 for 42 yards and an interception. Smith and Hunter Johnson, who started the first four games before sitting out the loss at Nebraska two weeks ago because of a lower-body injury, were listed with the first team on the depth chart this week.

“We’re continually beating ourselves (on offense),” coach Pat Fitzgerald said. “We have guys that are pressing, trying to do too much. They care so much. They’re a great group of guys and that’s why my heart breaks for them.”

## Breaking it open

Through the first six games, Ohio State outscored opponents 296-53 — an average margin of 40.5 points that was the biggest differential among FBS schools. The Buckeyes came in leading the Big Ten in scoring and were tops in the conference in total yards and yards per game by wide margins.

With a defense that ranked second in the nation and conference to Wisconsin going against one of the country’s worst offenses, the Buckeyes made it look easy.

Ohio State went 70 yards on the game’s opening possession, with Fields hitting a wide-open Olave down the middle for a 20-yard touchdown.

Northwestern’s Charlie Kuhbander kicked a 33-yard field goal with just over three minutes left in the first quarter. Fields made it 14-3 early in the second when he hit Dobbins on a slant. And after the Wildcats punted, the Buckeyes needed just two plays to bump the lead to 18, with Dobbins carrying the load.

## Briefly

# Braves plan to talk chop with Native Americans

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Atlanta Braves officials say they plan to have talks with Native Americans about the Tomahawk Chop chant that has drawn complaints and stoked controversy during the Major League Baseball post-season.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that team representatives will hold the talks during the offseason about deciding whether to keep the tomahawk chop tradition.

The Braves did not distribute their traditional red foam tomahawks to fans before Game 5 of their National League Division Series vs. the St. Louis Cardinals on Oct. 9. Fans at SunTrust Park raise the tomahawks and thrust them forward in a chopping motion, led by music and graphics on the video boards.

The Braves said they removed the tomahawks for the final game of their series with St. Louis after Cardinals pitcher Ryan Helsley said he finds the chant insulting. Helsley is a member of the Cherokee Nation. He’s one of only a few Native Americans in the majors.

“I think it’s a misrepresentation of the Cherokee people or Native Americans in general,” Helsley told The St. Louis Post-Dispatch during the Braves-Cardinals series. “Just depicts them in this kind of caveman-type people way who aren’t intellectual. They are a lot more than that. It’s not me being offended by the whole mascot thing. It’s not. It’s about the misconception of us, the Native Americans, and it devalues us and how we’re perceived in that way, or used as mascots. The Redskins and stuff like that.”

The National Football League’s Washington Redskins have also faced continuing criticism for their nickname, which critics say denigrates Native Americans. Fans of the NFL’s Kansas City Chiefs have also done the tomahawk chant in their stadium, drawing more criticism.

## Williams’ Heisman sells for \$504,000

The Heisman Trophy won by Ricky Williams in 1998 at Texas was sold at auction for \$504,000, setting a record for college football’s most recognizable award.

The previous auction record for a Heisman was \$435,763 for Tim Brown’s 1987 trophy.

Williams earned the Heisman for the season he set the then-NCAA career record with 6,592 yards rushing. The mark was topped one year later by Ron Dayne.

Williams’ Heisman is the last one awarded before trophy winners were required to sign an agreement forfeiting the right to sell it.

## Inhaler turns Hardy’s win into a no-contest

BOSTON — Former NFL All-Pro defensive end Greg Hardy’s unanimous-decision win Friday over Ben Sosoli at heavyweight was changed to a no-contest by the Massachusetts State Athletic Commission because Hardy used an asthma inhaler between rounds.

Hardy was competing in the UFC’s Fight Night at the TD Garden.

“I asked permission and was told I could use it,” Hardy said. “It’s an inhaler I’ve used my entire life. I never used it during a fight. That’s why I asked permission.”

Said White: “He asked the (Massachusetts commission) inspector if he could use it. The inspector asked if it was medically approved. He said it was USADA-approved (U.S. Anti-Doping Agency). But all you can have during the fight is water.”

All three judges scored the bout 39-37. Hardy, who played for the Carolina Panthers and Dallas Cowboys, is now 3-1 with one no-contest. Sosoli dropped to 7-2 with two no-contests.

# Yankees rough up Verlander early

Associated Press

NEW YORK — James Paxton was filled with nerves, and so were New York Yankees fans, worried the season was slipping away.

Tension only surged when the top of the first featured a little grounder that got away, a passed ball and a run-scoring wild pitch.

No worries.

Boom! DJ LeMahieu drove Justin Verlander's second pitch over the wall to tie the score.

Clang! Aaron Hicks hit a three-run homer off the foul pole later in the inning.

Just like that, the Bronx Bombers were back — in the game, and in this matchup of powerhouses.

A day after a brutal loss, and with little margin for more errors, the Yankees played like a 103-win team. Paxton chilled Houston's bats and the bullpen followed with shutdown relief to beat the Astros 4-1 Friday night, cutting New York's AL Championship Series deficit to

3-2.

"I wasn't ready to go home yet," Paxton said, "so I wanted to go out and give my team everything I had and just battle away."

Now the teams rush to Texas, where the series resumes Saturday night without a day off. With pitching plans disrupted by a rainout earlier this week, both teams plan all-bullpen efforts in Game 6. But Gerrit Cole, 19-0 since May, looms as the Astros' starter on Sunday if New York manages to extend the matchup to the seven-game limit.

"We've just got to go back home and finish the job," Houston's Carlos Correa said.

Paxton, a fishing aficionado born outside Vancouver in Ladner, British Columbia, wore three-quarter-length sleeves on a night with a game-time temperature of 52 degrees. That was the coldest for a Verlander start since last year's ALCS opener at Boston, according to STATS — he had on long sleeves and half of Hous-

ton's fielders had hoodies or balaclavas.

After lasting just into the third inning in Game 2, Paxton struck out nine in six innings, allowing four hits and four walks. Punching his pitching hand into his glove after big strikeouts, he saved his biggest emotion for his 112th and final pitch. Manager Aaron Boone had just made a trip to the mound, unsure whether he would make a change.

"He just said, 'Are you ready? Do you have anything more left in the tank?'" Paxton said.

"And I said, 'Yeah, let's go. I want this.'"

Robinson Chirinos hit a first-pitch fastball that Brett Gardner caught in front of the left-field scoreboard with a runner on.

"When it first left the bat: 'Oh, no!'" Boone remembered thinking to himself.

After Tommy Kahnle allowed George Springer's one-out single in seventh and walked Jose Altuve, Zack Britton retired Michael Brantley and

Alex Bregman. Britton struck out two in a perfect eighth, and Aroldis Chapman finished with a 1-2-3 ninth for the save.

Paxton outpitched Verlander, an eight-time All-Star and former AL MVP and Cy Young Award winner, on a night when each team had five hits.

Verlander opened with a JV first inning — not Justin vintage, but junior varsity. He allowed a pair of first-inning homers for the first time in 28 postseason starts and gave up four runs in an inning for the first time since Houston acquired him from Detroit in August 2017.

"Fastball command wasn't very good, and the slider was just hanging," Verlander said.

Verlander retired 10 in a row after Hicks' homer and allowed five hits in seven innings with nine strikeouts and no walks.

"We took advantage of his missed locations when he was a little vulnerable," LeMahieu said. "And that's the difference in the game."

## Sabathia not having second thoughts about retirement

Associated Press

NEW YORK — CC Sabathia walked into Yankee Stadium's interview room with his left arm in a sling Friday, 16 hours after shuffling off the mound in pain following the 58,692nd and final pitch of his major league career.

That powerful left shoulder — which earned six All-Star appearances, the 2007 AL Cy Young Award and possibly a spot in the Hall of Fame — finally had given out.

"I think it's just kind of fitting," he said. "I threw until I couldn't anymore."

His burly body — 6-foot-6, 300 pounds and perhaps a tad more — had echoed the decision he announced last winter.

No second thoughts about retirement following 19 major league seasons. No temptation for more, the 39-year-old explained to his wife.

"I told Amber last night that this was the best way for it to end for me because of the way I've been feeling, loving the bullpen, jogging out, feeling pretty good, I feel like about July of next year I'll be like, 'I think I can pitch,'" he said.

He dislocated a joint in his pitching shoulder during the eighth inning of New York's Game 4 loss to Houston on his 17th pitch, then pushed his arm through three more before the torment became too great. He was dropped from the Yankees' AL Championship Series roster Friday before Game 5 and replaced by right-hander Ben Heller.

New York trails 3-2 in the best-of-seven series, and even if the Yankees advance, Sabathia would not be eligible to return for the World Series. He said he will have an MRI to determine whether he needs surgery.

"I was in a pretty good amount of pain last night and today. Waking up, I didn't sleep that good," Sabathia said. "It's pretty sore and the pain has been pretty intense since that pitch."

"CC is such a big man and big personality of a big man," said Houston manager AJ Hinch, who caught Sabathia during spring training with Cleveland in 2003. "If he wanted to stay as a left-handed reliever, teams would line up to let him keep

pitching."

Sabathia finished with a 251-161 regular season record with 3,093 strikeouts. He announced this was going to be his last year, and he made four trips to the injured list caused by his balky right knee, repaired by surgeries after the 2010 season, in July 2014 and after the 2016 and '18 seasons. He needed a brace on the knee to pitch along with periodic injections of painkillers and lubricant.

Modern medicine and a grueling, 2½-hour warmup routine enabled him to throw 56,405 pitches in the regular season and 2,287 more in the postseason, according to STATS. He knows his career may have been shortened by his warhorse performance for Milwaukee in 2008, when he was acquired from Cleveland after 7½ seasons with the Indians.

Trying to earn the Brewers' first playoff berth in 26 years, he pitched three straight times on three days' rest in September, the last a four-hit complete game to clinch a wild-card berth on the regular season's final day.

## NHL roundup

## MacKinnon lifts Avs past Panthers in OT

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Nathan MacKinnon didn't let an injury keep him off the ice.

MacKinnon scored 3:03 into overtime to give the Colorado Avalanche their sixth victory in seven games this season, 5-4 over the Florida Panthers on Friday night.

MacKinnon played after sustaining a leg injury Wednesday night in an overtime loss to Pittsburgh and missing the morning skate on Friday.

"I knew I was going to play the whole day," MacKinnon said. "It's great. It just shows the resilience our team has. We're a very calm group and confident group. Luckily, I finished it in OT."

MacKinnon's shot from the high slot and beat Sergei Bobrovsky to the glove side.

Andre Burakovsky scored twice, Joonas Donskoi had a goal and two assists, Matt Nieto also scored and Philipp Grubauer stopped 40 shots for Colorado.

Jonathan Huberdeau scored twice for Florida, Brett Connolly and Frank Vatrano added goals and Sergei Bobrovsky made 36 saves.

Connolly gave the Panthers a 4-3 lead with 5:55 left in the second, and Burakovsky tied it 16 seconds later when he banged in a rebound.

**Oilers 2, Red Wings 1:** James Neal and Ethan Bear scored, Mikko Koskinen made 25 saves and host Edmonton beat Detroit to regain sole possession of the overall NHL lead.

Darnell Nurse had two assists to help the Oilers improve to 7-1-0. Mike Green scored for the Red Wings. Coming off a 5-1 loss at Calgary on Thursday night, Detroit has lost four in a row to drop to 3-5-0.

Neal opened the scoring eight minutes into the second period when a long rebound came out to him for his NHL-leading ninth goal of the season. He has already surpassed the seven goals he had last season with the Calgary Flames.

**Blackhawks 3, Jackets 2 (OT):** Jonathan Toews scored 46 seconds into overtime, Robin Lehner made 37 saves and host Chicago beat Columbus.

Toews drove to the net and knocked a rebound of Patrick Kane's shot from the right circle past Elvis Merzlikins to give the Blackhawks their second straight win. It was Toews' first goal of the season.

Alex DeBrincat tied it at 2 with a power-play goal midway through the third period. Drake Caggiula also scored for Chicago, and Kane had with two assists. Pierre-Luc Dubois scored his third goal in four games and Markus Nutivaara connected early in the third for the Blue Jackets.

**Ducks 4, Hurricanes 2:** Adam Henrique and Troy Terry scored in the first period, Ryan Miller made 22 saves and Anaheim remained unbeaten at home.

Carter Rowney scored a short-handed goal to put the Ducks up 4-0 early in the second period, chasing Carolina goalie Petr Mrazek. Jakob Silfverberg also scored in the second period for Anaheim, which is

off to a 6-2-0 start under new coach Dallas Eakins after missing the playoffs last spring for the first time since 2012.

Haydn Fleury scored his first NHL goal for the Hurricanes, who lost in two of their three stops on a California road swing after a 5-1-0 start to the season. Erik Haula scored Carolina's opening goal before leaving with an injury from a check by the Ducks' Josh Manson.

**Capitals 5, Rangers 2:** John Carlson added three assists to his historic start, T.J. Oshie scored two power-play goals and host Washington beat New York.

Carlson assisted on one of Oshie's goals and scores by Nic Dowd and Michal Kempny in the Czech defenseman's return from a hamstring injury. With 17 points, Carlson tied Edmonton captain Connor McDavid for most in the NHL, and he leads the league with 14 assists.

Garnet Hathaway also scored for the Capitals, and Braden Holtby stopped 26 shots.

**Penguins 4, Stars 2:** Kris Letang scored the go-ahead goal in the third period and added an empty-netter to help host Pittsburgh beat Dallas for its fifth straight victory.

Jared McCann and Patric Hornqvist also scored for the Penguins and Matt Murray made 22 saves.

Roope Hintz and John Klingberg scored for the Stars.

## NASCAR teams scramble with hauler problems

BY DAVE SKRETTA

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — One hauler caught fire while traveling to Kansas Speedway, another went off the road when its driver had a medical emergency and wound up totaled at the bottom of a 60-foot embankment.

So much for wrecks only happening on the track.

The No. 47 team from JTG Daugherty Racing was busy Friday morning putting an engine into a backup car for Ryan Preece after its team transporter caught fire the previous day. The drivers in the hauler

were not injured, though the team was unsure what could be salvaged of the cars.

Hendrick Motorsports loaned one of its test haulers to the NASCAR Cup Series team, and it was parked near the back side of the garage area to prepare for Sunday's race at Kansas Speedway.

"Rookie stripes are on and it's official. I'm very grateful for the safety of our truck drivers, and the hard work everyone has put in this week to get on track today," Preece said in a tweet.

Less than 12 hours before the JTG fire, the transporter bringing Kaulig Racing's cars

to Kansas for Saturday's Xfinity race went off a road in North Carolina. The hauler crashed through the guardrail, down an embankment and the trailer overturned before coming to a stop in a wooded area.

The North Carolina highway patrol said the crash, which occurred near Asheville, happened when driver Barry Shepard had "some kind of medical issue." Co-driver Barry Collins attempted to right the truck before it ran off the side of the road and down the embankment.

"We haven't assessed everything so I don't know what we can salvage or can't salvage," Kaulig Racing president Chris

Rice said. "Our main concern is our driver is OK."

The team, which is fielding the No. 10 entry for Ross Chastain, said it would be using a backup car. All they managed to get out of the totaled truck were his fire suit and helmet because the rest of the wreckage was taken to an impound lot. "If you work for Matt Kaulig, it's never a consideration of not bringing a car to the race track," Rice said. "Our backup car is a car that Richard Childress Racing helped us with. But nothing in that trailer was able to come here besides the suit and his helmet."