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Trump doing well despite concerning signs

Associated Press

BETHESDA, Md. — President Donald Trump's doctor insisted Saturday that he is doing "very well" as he is treated for COVID-19 at a military hospital. But Navy Commander Dr. Sean Conley and other doctors raised more questions than they answered at a briefing, leaving unclear whether the president has ever required supplemental oxygen.

Conley's assessment was contradicted by an account provided by a person familiar with Trump's condition, who said some of his vital signs over the past 24 hours were "very concerning" and that the next 48 hours will be critical in terms of his care. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Conley said Trump has been fever-free for 24 hours as he updated the nation on the president's condition from Walter Reed Medical Center Saturday afternoon. Trump was admit-

ted Friday after testing positive for the coronavirus and has been undergoing treatment.

While Conley said the president is not currently on oxygen, he refused to say whether the president had ever been on oxygen, despite repeated questioning.

"Thursday no oxygen. None at this moment. And yesterday with the team, while we were all here, he was not on oxygen," he said. He said that Trump's symptoms, including a cough and nasal congestion "are now resolving and improving."

"He's in exceptionally good spirits," said another doctor, Sean Dooley.

The decision to have Conley brief reporters marks a change in strategy by the White House, which has so far been less than transparent about the virus' spread.

It was a reporter for Bloomberg News — not the White House — that broke news that a close aide to Trump had been infected. And aides so far have declined to share basic health information about the presi-

dent, including a full accounting of his symptoms, what tests he's undertaken and the results.

In a memo released shortly before midnight, Conley did report that Trump had been treated at the hospital with remdesivir, an antiviral medication, after taking another experimental drug at the White House. He added that Trump is "doing very well" and is "not requiring any supplemental oxygen."

The White House said Trump was expected to stay at the hospital for "a few days" out of an abundance of caution and that he would continue to work from the hospital's presidential suite, which is equipped to allow him to keep up his official duties. In addition to accessibility to tests and equipment, the decision was made, at least in part, with the understanding that moving him later, if he took a turn for the worse, could send a worrying signal.

As the White House works to piece together the flurry of new

infections, attention is focused in particular on last Saturday's White House event introducing Trump's Supreme Court nominee. That day, Trump gathered more than 150 people in the Rose Garden. People mingled, hugged and shook hands — overwhelmingly without masks. There were also several indoor receptions, where Trump's Supreme Court pick, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, her family, senators and others mingling in the close quarters of the White House, photographs show.

Among those who attended who have now tested positive: former White House counselor Kellyanne Conway, the president of the University of Notre Dame, and at least two Republican lawmakers — Utah Sen. Mike Lee and North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis.

The first lady, who is 50, has a "mild cough and headache," Conley reported, and the remainder of the first family, including the Trumps' son Barron, who lives at the White House, tested negative.

Marine Corps general accused of using racial slur

BY JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The two-star general in charge of U.S. Marines in Europe and Africa is under investigation for allegations that he used a racial slur during a recent training event with his troops, the Corps said Friday.

"We are aware of the allegations," said Capt. Joseph Butterfield, a Marine Corps spokesman. "The Marine Corps takes all allegations of misconduct seriously, regardless of rank, and appropriate actions will be taken if the allegations are substantiated."

The Marine Corps confirmation came

in response to questions from Stars and Stripes about whether Maj. Gen. Stephen Neary, who commands Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa, used a derogatory term for Blacks in the presence of other Marines.

"When allegations are made against a Marine, each Marine is afforded due process," Butterfield said. "There is no additional information available at this time pending the conclusion of the investigation."

Multiple Marines in the Stuttgart area, where MAFORAF is based, brought the matter to the attention of Stars and Stripes after talk of the incident swirled throughout the headquarters during the past week.

The Marine Corps did not go into detail about the nature of the incident but did not deny the accusation against Neary is he used a racial slur. Neary remains in command, Butterfield said.

Neary, who assumed command of Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa in July, previously served as deputy commander of the II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, N.C. As a battalion commander, he led Marines during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Fallujah and Ramadi.

The Boston native was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1988 after graduating from Virginia Military Institute. A request to the Marines for comment from Neary went unanswered.

House Dems to probe DOD use of Care Act

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — House Democrats are opening an investigation into the Department of Defense's decision to divert hundreds of millions of dollars in funds meant to build up the country's medical supplies to defense contractors instead.

The investigation comes after *The Washington Post* reported last week that the Pentagon began funneling the funds to private companies building military supplies shortly after Congress set aside the money in the \$2 trillion Cares Act in March.

Reps. James Clyburn, D-S.C., Maxine Waters, D-Calif., Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y.,

and Stephen Lynch, D-Mass., wrote Friday to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and said they were investigating whether his agency "inappropriately used hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars appropriated by Congress." The investigation will be carried out by the House Oversight and Reform Committee, the Select Committee on the Coronavirus Crisis, and the Financial Services Committee.

Congress provided the Pentagon with \$1 billion in March to "prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus" under the Defense Production Act, which allows the government to compel U.S. companies to manufacture products in the nation's inter-

est. Although the Pentagon did spend some of the money on masks and swabs, \$688 million was ultimately allocated toward the defense industrial base, mostly for projects that have little to do with the coronavirus response.

The administration has defended its spending decisions, saying the Cares Act did not limit how it could spend DPA-related funds, that it had been fully transparent with Congress, and that it had spent the money "to support vital national security industries that were devastated by COVID."

New Gitmo 9/11 trial judge recuses himself

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The military judge assigned to preside over the trial for accused 9/11 attack mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed recused himself Friday just two weeks after his appointment to the case, the Office of Military Commissions said.

Marine Col. Stephen F. Keane removed himself from the case at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, citing potential conflicts of interest, according to Ronald Flesvig, a spokesman for the Office of Military Commissions. That office is the U.S.

military court responsible for trying war crimes.

In a five-page recusal decision, Keane wrote since taking on the case Sept. 17, he had "become aware of a significant personal connection to persons who were directly affected by the events of 9/11," according to *The New York Times*, which first reported the development Friday.

Keane wrote he had spent time investigating al-Qaida during his Marine Corps career, had family members in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, and had a "close relative" who served with the New York Fire Department but retired before the 9/11 at-

tacks, *The Times* reported. He also wrote he grew up in the New York area.

Keane was expected to remain in his other current role as a circuit court judge based at the Marine Corps' Camp Pendleton, Calif. Keane had planned to travel on temporary duty to Guantanamo Bay to oversee proceedings and the trial.

Keane, the fifth judge assigned to the long-running case, was the second judge to suddenly remove himself from the proceedings in recent months. Air Force Col. W. Shane Cohen announced in March that he was removing himself from the case and retiring from the military.

Army shuttering units created to wage war on terrorism

BY J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

The Army intends to close two units developed to fix problems faced by troops fighting America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the service said in a statement Friday.

The Asymmetric Warfare Group and the Rapid Equipping Force will be deactivated by Sept. 30, 2021, the statement said. Personnel and resources from both organizations will be absorbed into the larger force, the Army said.

The closures are due to a shift in focus away from counterinsurgency operations, the Army said, toward large-scale combat and "great power competition," a term that often refers to countries such as Russia

and China.

The decision comes as the U.S. looks to end its war in Afghanistan as part of a deal with the Taliban, with troop levels expected to drop to between 4,000 and 5,000 by the end of November, according to congressional testimony last month.

The Asymmetric Warfare Group, or AWG, sends military and civilian consultants to units in training and on the battlefield. The group, which began its missions in 2004, originally focused on countering the improvised explosive device threat in Iraq and grew to more than 300 members.

Over the years, the group's projects included a fast-acting smoke grenade to obscure snipers, a system to remotely shoot dirt off suspicious mounds to check for buried bombs, and a portable tunnel train-

ing facility to train soldiers in subterranean warfare.

The Rapid Equipping Force, headquartered in Fort Belvoir, Va., invented new equipment in response to what soldiers deployed to Afghanistan said they needed. The organization debuted in 2002 and has a team based in Bagram Air Field. There, engineers talk to soldiers about challenges faced and try to create solutions.

In a visit by *Stars and Stripes* to the team in 2019, engineers showed off battery holsters, hands-free radio attachments and other inventions for soldiers manufactured via a 3D printer.

Research by both organizations will be saved and maintained by the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, the service said in its statement.

State Department IG: 63% rise in harassment cases

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The State Department's internal watchdog says there was a 63% surge in sexual harassment complaints at the agency between 2014 and 2017 but that the frequency of incidents is likely higher.

In a report released Friday, the department's inspector general said there had been 636 reports of sexual harassment over that period, encompassing the end of the Obama administration and the beginning of the Trump administration, but that the number is almost certainly low due to alleged victims' unwillingness to report all cases.

The finding comes amid more general concerns and complaints of poor morale at the department that have increased during the Trump administration as U.S. diplomats

and their support staff have come under increasing political pressure and criticism from top administration officials. Those concerns have been documented in previous reports by the inspector general and others.

"Although the number of reports has increased, (the inspector general) concludes that sexual harassment is likely still underreported at the department," it said. A random survey of employees found that 47% of those who said they had experienced or observed workplace sexual harassment within the past two years had not reported it, according to the report.

The report said that a lack of confidence among employees that their complaints would be taken seriously or acted upon was most likely to blame for such underreporting despite efforts to improve the situation.

"Reasons for this include a

lack of confidence in the department's ability to resolve sexual harassment complaints, fear of retaliation, reluctance to discuss the harassment, lack of understanding of the reporting process, and, in some cases, specific advice not to make reports," it said.

The department said that it takes all allegations of discrimination and sexual harassment "extremely seriously" and is working to improve its response.

The report said State Department officials had taken some steps to address the problem, including mandating that employees take a course on sexual harassment awareness, they had yet to require supervisors to report incidents to higher-ups, something the inspector general had recommended in a previous report in 2014.

Recording details raid that killed Taylor

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The police officer who fatally shot Breonna Taylor described seeing only a "shadowy mass" and said he didn't recall firing the 16 bullets later matched to his gun. As she lay bleeding, Taylor's boyfriend called his mother before dialing 911.

Details of the chaos and confusion during the raid that resulted in the 26-year-old Black woman's death were revealed in 15 hours of audio recordings released Friday. They contained testimony and recorded interviews presented last month to the Kentucky grand jury that decided not to charge any Louisville police officers for killing Taylor.

"If you told me I didn't fire a gun, I would be like, OK," detective Myles Cosgrove told investigators soon after the shooting.

Investigators determined Cosgrove shot 16 of the 32 bullets police fired into Taylor's apartment, responding to a single gunshot from her boyfriend when they rammed down her door. Evidence showed one of Cosgrove's bullets killed Taylor.

Her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, said he thought intruders had burst into Taylor's home, not police. As she lay bleeding, Walker said he called his mother — then dialed 911.

The recordings mark a rare public look into grand jury proceedings that are typically kept secret.

Though they shed light on what happened as police fired 32 shots in the last moments of Taylor's life, nothing in them appeared to change the fundamental narrative that was previously made public.

A court ruled the recordings should be released after the jury's decision last week angered many in Louisville and around the country and set off renewed protests. One of the jurors also sued to make the proceedings public.

Better weather won't keep Calif. from reaching grim fire landmark

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Firefighters got a reprieve from the weather Saturday as red flag warnings of extreme fire danger were to expire. But the state is still poised to reach a grim milestone: 4 million acres burned this year by wildfires.

The state is only about 20,000 acres from reaching the unprecedented figure, fire officials said. Meanwhile, two major fires that have killed four people and incinerated hundreds of homes in the wine country and the far north continued to burn.

Powerful winds that had been expected to drive flames since Wednesday hadn't materialized, and red flag warnings

of extreme fire danger for hot, dry and gusty weather were due to expire at 6 a.m.

The weekend was expected to usher in some cooling — or less intense heat — and long-range forecast models hinted at the possibility of rain early next week.

But with California a tinderbox of dead trees and dried brush after weeks of scorching weather and years of drought, fires could explode in rural areas, grasslands and dense forest even without the push of winds.

"It just leaves us kind of nervous that we're not out of the woods yet when it comes to what might happen in California," said Jonathan Cox, a deputy chief with the Califor-

nia Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire.

The easing winds proved a mixed blessing at the Glass Fire in Sonoma and Napa counties. Although the fire raged on, crews got a break as they struggled to keep flames from jumping containment lines and renewing their march toward scenic communities.

"The good news is that with the lack of wind, we didn't have continued control issues," said Ben Nicholls, a Cal Fire division chief.

"However," he added, "due to that lack of wind, the smoke has stayed in place" and hindered aircraft from attacking the blaze.

Calif. wavering on park rules amid pressure

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday delayed new operating rules for theme parks such as Disneyland that have been closed since the beginning of the pandemic as tourism industry officials warned the state was set to lose more than \$78 billion in travel-related spending this year.

The Newsom administration had planned to release the new rules on Friday, spokesman Nathan Click told the Sacramento Bee. But following industry criticism of the proposed rules, state health officials said no announcement was coming Friday as negotiations continue.

“Given the size and operational complexities of these unique sectors, we are seeking additional input from health, workforce and business stakeholders to finalize this important framework,” Dr. Mark Ghaly, California’s top public health official, said in a statement.

The proposed guidance would have let theme parks reopen at 25% capacity once the counties where they are located reached the lowest level for virus transmission in the state’s four-tier reopening system, the Orange County Register reported. It also would have limited visitors to those living within 120 miles of a theme park, the paper reported without attributing to a particular source.

Amusement park leaders saw a draft of the new rules Thursday and urged state officials to change them, said Erin Guerrero, executive director of the California Attractions and Parks Association.

Arizona

PHOENIX — Arizona health officials on Friday reported 551 additional known COVID-19 cases and 19 more deaths, increasing the state’s totals to 219,763 cases and 5,693 cases.

COVID-19-related hospitalization metrics reported by the Department of Health Services remained fairly level as of Thursday.

Seven-day rolling averages for daily new cases in Arizona and daily deaths dropped in the past two weeks, according to Johns Hopkins University data analyzed by The Associated Press.

The average for new cases went from 665 on Sept. 17 to 480 on Thursday while the average for daily deaths went from 19 to 16.

The Navajo Nation, which sprawls across Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, reported 32 new coronavirus cases and two new virus-related deaths Friday. The huge reservation has had 558 virus-related deaths and 10,404 cases.

Kentucky

FRANKFORT — Kentucky’s escalating outbreak of COVID-19 worsened Friday with the second-highest number of cases in one day, and the governor warned the situation is “getting very dangerous.”

Gov. Andy Beshear reported 1,039 more coronavirus cases statewide, marking the third time this week that daily virus cases surpassed 1,000. The Bluegrass State remains on pace to shatter last week’s record number of cases for a single week, he said.

The governor wore a mask while giving the daily update on social media, and he urged everyone to wear facial coverings in public to combat the virus’s spread.

“The escalation here in Kentucky continues to get worse and we have to wear these,” he said.

Beshear reported six more virus-related deaths, raising the state’s death count to 1,197. Total statewide virus cases surged past 70,720.

Michigan

LANSING — A 1945 law repeatedly used by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to respond to the coronavirus pandemic was declared unconstitutional Friday by the Michigan Supreme Court, a striking decision that puts months of restrictions in

jeopardy while COVID-19 continues to flare up around the state.

The opinion is an extraordinary development in a monthslong conflict between Whitmer, a Democrat, and Republicans who control the Legislature and have complained that they have been shut out of sweeping orders that have impacted education, the economy and health care.

Coincidentally, the court’s action emerged on the same day that Whitmer’s foes submitted more than 539,000 signatures in a bid to repeal the ‘45 law.

The governor said the 4-3 decision, with Republican-nominated justices in the majority, was “deeply disappointing.” But Whitmer did not signal that she was giving up. She said her emergency declaration and related orders still can remain in place for 21 days, and then many of them will continue “under alternative sources” of law.

Nevada

CARSON CITY — Organized sporting events will resume in Nevada for grade school-aged students after almost seven months of hiatus, Gov. Steve Sisolak announced Friday at a news conference in Las Vegas.

The return of baseball games and soccer matches is part of a broader loosening of restrictions that Sisolak has approved this week amid mixed signals about the state’s progress in combatting the coronavirus pandemic. The state had one of the nation’s highest positivity rates and significant testing backlogs during the summer, made progress in expanding testing and containing the virus in August and early September and over the past week has seen another slight uptick in additional cases reported daily.

The directive released Friday allows players to return to the field for no-contact and “minimal contact” sports, including softball, tennis and volleyball on Oct. 3, with tournaments slated to resume Oct. 24.

New York

NEW YORK — New York state’s daily count of new coronavirus cases topped 1,500 for the first time since late May as Gov. Andrew Cuomo warned local governments Friday that they’ll face fines if they don’t enforce social distancing and mask rules.

Officials are increasingly concerned about virus flare-ups in some places, mainly parts of New York City and suburban Rockland and Orange counties. Although an often-cited measure of the virus’ spread — the percentage of tests that come back positive — was about 1.3% statewide on Thursday, it was 6.4% in a group of 20 ZIP codes under scrutiny, Cuomo said. And the raw number of new cases reported statewide on Thursday hit 1,598, the most since May 27, when about 65,000 New Yorkers were tested, compared to 119,000 on Thursday.

Texas

AUSTIN — Hundreds of teachers in the Austin Independent School District have pledged not to return to classrooms Monday when schools reopen for in-person learning for up to 25% of its students.

About 850 teachers said they will remain away out of concern for the threat of coronavirus infection to their students and themselves, said Education Austin, the district’s largest teachers union.

The teachers will remain on the job to teach remotely, as they have since mid-September, said union President Ken Zarifis. Education Austin continues to negotiate with the district on school reopening plans, he said.

Teachers’ fears of returning to their classrooms in the face of the coronavirus threat have spawned a number of social media groups. One is Texas Teachers United Against Reopening Schools, founded by Austin-area high school art teacher Lauren Senibaldi. She initially invited 20 colleagues to join the group. The group now has almost 12,500 members, she said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Loaded gun found in student's backpack

SC SIMPSONVILLE — A South Carolina high school and middle school were placed on lockdown after a loaded gun was found in a student's backpack.

The city of Simpsonville, in a news release, said the school resource officer at Hillcrest High was told that a student had alcohol. When the student was confronted about the alcohol, he dropped his bookbag and ran, the city said. Greenville County Schools officials said officers searched the bag and found a loaded handgun.

Widow of man struck by chair files suit

MO CLAYTON — A wrongful death lawsuit claims that a Missouri man died at a 2019 Dave Matthews Band concert after being hit by a chair thrown by an employee of the venue in St. Louis County.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the lawsuit was filed by Darcy Smith of Jefferson City, the wife of Jansen Smith, 44, who died.

The suit said employees were taking down rental chairs on the lawn and throwing them toward a pedestrian walkway when one struck Smith in the head, causing him to fall back and hit his head on the concrete walkway. He died the next morning at a hospital.

Suspect in alleged hatchet attack sought

VA TROUTDALE, — Virginia State Police were looking for a man who allegedly showed up at a church and attacked an off-duty trooper with a hatchet before disappearing into nearby woods.

About 20 people were gathered inside a church when the worshippers heard someone banging on the doors, news outlets reported.

An off-duty Virginia State Police trooper was present and opened the door to find a man armed with a hatchet alongside a dog, officials said.

When the trooper attempted to close the door, the man swung the hatchet and struck the back of the trooper's hand, the agency said. The trooper was treated for minor scratches and nobody else was injured.

1,800 gallons of oil spill into local brook

CT DANBURY — About 1,800 gallons of waste oil spilled into a brook that flows into Connecticut's Still River, authorities said.

The area of the Sympaug Brook where the spill occurred is not believed to be used for recreational purposes, but health officials are recommending people refrain from fishing, bathing and other activities until remediation is complete.

Waste oil containing metals spilled into the brook after a hose failed at a manufacturing facility owned by Stanley Engineered Fastening, according to the state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Man pleads guilty to bank fraud in 6 states

NH CONCORD — A man pleaded guilty in New Hampshire to using other people's identification to make bank withdrawals in six states totaling about \$111,000.

Court documents said Derrick McKenzie, 61, of Mount Vernon, N.Y., entered bank branches in New Hampshire, New York, New

Jersey, Maine, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania and made the withdrawals from other people's bank accounts.

Documents said McKenzie used customers' names, bank account numbers and fake driver's licenses that contained customers' personal identifying information and his photo.

Deputies shot at man armed with machete

NC CHAPEL HILL — Law enforcement officers in North Carolina shot at a man who attacked sheriff's deputies with a machete and drove his car at a police officer in separate encounters, authorities said.

The Times-News reported that the suspect, Benjamin Michael Morley, was treated for a wound on his left leg after police apprehended him.

Police started chasing Morley, 39, of Mooresville, after he allegedly struck a student with his car on the University of North Carolina's Chapel Hill campus and then drove away, UNC Police Chief David Perry said in a statement. The student didn't report any injuries.

\$10K offered for info about gun store robbery

SD RAPID CITY — Authorities said a \$10,000 reward is being offered to help catch suspects in a Rapid City gun store robbery and recover some of the stolen weapons.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms industry, are each putting up \$5,000 for information relating to the Sept. 23 robbery at First Stop Gun & Coin.

Investigators believe up to 40 guns were stolen, and surveil-

lance footage captured three people breaking into the store. Police have recovered 21 of the firearms and have a juvenile in custody.

\$1M worth of jewelry stolen from store safe

GA HINESVILLE — Police said \$1 million worth of jewelry was stolen from a store in coastal Georgia.

WTOC-TV reported the heist took place at Kay Jewelers in Hinesville.

Officers responded to an alarm at the store, walked around the building and saw nothing wrong. Police said they called the store manager to come and reset the alarm and inspect the store, but the manager declined.

When employees arrived, they found a hole in the roof and the store's safe emptied.

Police arrest shoplifter who hit them with car

AZ PEORIA — A shoplifting suspect was arrested after hitting two Peoria police officers with his vehicle while trying to make a getaway, authorities said.

Police said Gabriel Brandin, 40, of Avondale was booked into jail on suspicion of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, unlawful flight, endangerment, shoplifting, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving under the influence.

Officers responded to a Walmart in Peoria after a store employee called to report a shoplifter.

Arriving officers tried to detain the suspect in the store's parking lot, but he got into his car and put it in reverse.

Police said the car's doors were open, striking two officers.

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Cardinals Hall of Famer Gibson dies at 84

Associated Press

Hall of Famer Bob Gibson, the dominating St. Louis Cardinals pitcher who won a record seven consecutive World Series starts and set a modern standard for excellence when he finished the 1968 season with a 1.12 ERA, died Friday. He was 84.

The Cardinals confirmed Gibson's death shortly after a 4-0 playoff loss to San Diego ended their season. He had long been ill with pancreatic cancer in his hometown of Omaha, Neb.

Gibson's death came on the 52nd anniversary of perhaps his most overpowering performance, when he struck out a World Series record 17 batters in Game 1 of the 1968 World Series against Detroit.

One of baseball's most uncompromising competitors, the two-time Cy Young Award winner spent his entire 17-year career with St. Louis and was named the World Series MVP in its 1964 and '67 championship seasons. The Cards came

up just short in 1968, but Gibson was voted the National League's MVP and shut down opponents so well that baseball changed the rules for fear it would happen again.

Gibson died less than a month after the death of a longtime teammate, Hall of Fame outfielder Lou Brock. Another pitching great from his era, Tom Seaver, died in late August.

"I just heard the news about losing Bob Gibson and it's kind of hard losing a legend. You can lose a game, but when you lose a guy like Bob Gibson, just hard," Cardinals star catcher Yadier Molina said. "Bob was funny, smart, he brought a lot of energy. When he talked, you listened. It was good to have him around every year. We lose a game, we lose a series, but the tough thing is we lost one great man."

At his peak, Gibson may have been the most talented all-around starter in history, a nine-time Gold Glove winner who roamed wide to snatch

up grounders despite a fierce, sweeping delivery that drove him to the first-base side of the mound; and a strong hitter who twice hit five home runs in a single season and batted .303 in 1970, when he also won his second Cy Young.

Averaging 19 wins a year from 1963-72, he finished 251-174 with a 2.91 ERA, and was only the second pitcher to reach 3,000 strikeouts. He didn't throw as hard as Sandy Koufax, or from as many angles as Juan Marichal, but batters never forgot how he glared at them (or squinted, because he was near-sighted) as if settling an ancient score.

Gibson snubbed opposing players and sometimes teammates who dared speak to him on a day he was pitching, and he didn't even spare his own family.

"I've played a couple of hundred games of tic-tac-toe with my little daughter and she hasn't beaten me yet," he once told *The New Yorker's* Roger Angell. "I've always had to win.

I've got to win."

Equally disciplined and impatient, Gibson worked so quickly that broadcaster Vin Scully joked that he pitched as if his car was double-parked. He had no use for advice, scowling whenever catcher Tim McCarver or anyone else thought of visiting the mound.

His concentration was such that he seemed unaware he was on his way to a World Series single-game strikeout record (surpassing Sandy Koufax's 15) in 1968 until McCarver convinced him to look at the scoreboard.

During the regular season, Gibson struck out more than 200 batters nine times and led the National League in shutouts four times, finishing with 56 in his career. In 1968, 13 of his 22 wins were shutouts, leading McCarver to call Gibson "the luckiest pitcher I ever saw. He always pitches when the other team doesn't score any runs."

He was, somehow, even greater in the postseason, finishing 7-2 with a 1.89 ERA.

Lakers halfway to title after winning Game 2 of Finals

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Anthony Davis got most of his points with a feathery shooting touch. LeBron James flexed his muscle to bulldoze his way to damage. And whenever the lead looked even the tiniest bit threatened, the Los Angeles Lakers had an answer.

The NBA Finals are halfway to a coronation.

James finished with 33 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, Davis made 14 of his first 15 shots on the way to 32 points, and the Lakers took a 2-0 lead in the title series by beating the short-handed Miami Heat 124-114 on Friday night. The Lakers shot 51%, making 16 consecutive shots from two-point range in a stretch that started late in the first quarter and ended late in the third.

James and Davis were the first Lakers duo to score at least

32 points in a finals game since Game 3 against New Jersey in 2002, when Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant did it.

"It's very humbling that we can be even mentioned with those greats," James said.

Shaq and Kobe got rings that year.

James and Davis are two wins away.

This is the 24th time that James has had a 2-0 series lead; his teams in Cleveland, Miami and L.A. are 23-0 in the previous instances. And the last time the Lakers franchise has wasted a 2-0 lead was in the 1969 finals against Boston.

"Until we win four games, we haven't accomplished our goal," Lakers guard Alex Caruso said. "It's been over a year together and we've talked about the same goal from Day One. We're still here chasing that same goal. Until we get four

wins, we're staying hungry."

Kelly Olynyk scored 24 points for the Heat, who trailed by as many as 32 in Game 1 and — even without injured starters Bam Adebayo (neck and left shoulder) and Goran Dragic (torn left plantar fascia)— were far more competitive in Game 2. Miami got within nine points in the fourth, but never got close enough to truly put a scare into the Lakers.

"Maybe we've just got to play a lot harder, to know that's how we're going to squeak out a win in the end," Miami All-Star Jimmy Butler said. "There really isn't too much to say to our guys. We understand what we have to do."

Tyler Herro had 17, Kendrick Nunn scored 13 and Jae Crowder had 12 for the Heat. Herro and Meyers Leonard took Dragic's and Adebayo's spots in the starting lineup.

"We had it right there on the edge, but we just couldn't push it over," Olynyk said. "We can build on that."

Rajon Rondo had 16 points, while Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Kyle Kuzma each had 11 for the Lakers — who improved to 4-0 in these playoffs when wearing the Kobe Bryant-inspired "Black Mamba" uniforms, one of many tributes to the Lakers legend who died Jan. 26 in a helicopter crash.

Tip-ins: Miami led for 53 seconds in the first quarter and has led for 10:44 out of 96 minutes played in the series. ... The Heat have rallied from a 2-0 series hole only once in eight previous tries, that one being the 2006 NBA Finals. ... Jeanie Buss, Lakers owner and president, was in the bubble for the game. ... James, in his 10th NBA Finals, has a 2-0 lead in the title series for the first time.

Titans' outbreak goes to 18

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The positive test results keep coming for the Tennessee Titans in the NFL's first outbreak of COVID-19. One game already has been postponed and another rescheduled.

If the positive results don't stop, the Titans' next game, against Buffalo (3-0) on Oct. 11, could be at risk, forcing the NFL into even more rearranging of the schedule.

The New England Patriots also said they learned late Friday night that an unidentified player tested positive and immediately self-quarantined. The players, coaches and staff who had close contact with that player all tested negative Saturday morning.

On Saturday, another Titans player and two staff members tested positive for COVID-19, raising the team's total to 18 since Sept. 24, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because nei-

ther the NFL nor the Titans had announced the latest results.

This is the fifth straight day that at least one member of the Titans' organization has had a positive test result return. The outbreak seemingly started Sept. 24 when the Titans placed cornerback Greg Mabin from their practice squad on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

Since outside linebackers coach Shane Bowen's test result came back positive on Sept. 26, the Titans have had now eight players and seven other team personnel test positive. Bowen didn't travel with Tennessee (3-0) to Minnesota for their 31-30 win last week.

The Titans now on the reserve/COVID-19 list include: defensive captain DaQuan Jones, long snapper Beau Brinkley, wide receiver Adam Humphries, outside linebacker Kamalei Correa, and rookie cornerback Kristian Fulton, their second-round pick out of LSU, with receiver Cameron Batson and tight end Tommy Hudson from the practice squad.

Offensive tackle Isaiah Wilson, Tennessee's first-round pick out of Georgia, has been on the reserve/COVID-19 list since Sept. 6.

The NFL first postponed, then rescheduled the Titans' game set for Sunday against Pittsburgh to Oct. 25 during Tennessee's bye. The league also moved Baltimore's bye to Week 7, so the Ravens now can play Pittsburgh on Nov. 1.

Officials from the NFL and its players' union met with the Titans on Friday reviewing the situation.

Pats-Chiefs pushed back 1 or 2 days

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Patriots-Chiefs game has been postponed until Monday or Tuesday due to positive coronavirus tests.

Patriots quarterback Cam Newton reportedly is one of the players who tested positive, and the NFL said a player with Kansas City also did so.

Qualifiers make mark in France

Associated Press

PARIS — As the stars of tennis converged on the French Open, Daniel Altmaier was already grafting on the clay courts, getting dirty in the dust and picking up clues here, tips there about the surface's quirks as he fought like a man in a hurry through qualifying to reach the main draw.

With his largely unknown name now in the main-draw mix with the rich and famous, the 22-year-old German is proving as stubbornly hard to remove as the courts' ochre brick-dust on fresh linen.

Sets lost on his way to the fourth round of his debut Grand Slam: Zero. Nerve-testing tie-breakers won: All three.

"I keep going," the 186th-ranked player said Saturday after a 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-4 humbling of seventh-seeded Italian Matteo Berrettini.

Wilson helps No. 22 BYU roll over Louisiana Tech

Associated Press

PROVO, Utah — Zach Wilson's efficient passing has BYU's offense rolling.

Wilson completed 24 of 26 passes for 325 yards and two touchdowns, ran for three scores and helped the No. 22 Cougars beat Louisiana Tech 45-14 on Friday night.

BYU (3-0) rolled up 513 total yards and averaged 8.0 yards per play on the way to its best start since 2014. It is the third straight game the Cougars have gained more than 500 yards.

"I feel like the whole team was in the zone," Wilson said. "I feel like anything we were trying to do tonight, we could do it."

Tyler Allgeier added 93 yards and a touchdown on 10 carries, and Gunner Romney led the receivers with 101 yards and a

touchdown on seven receptions in his third straight 100-yard game.

Luke Anthony threw for 191 yards, two touchdowns and an interception for the Bulldogs. Louisiana Tech (2-1) had only 313 total yards.

Wilson once again keyed another dominant effort from the Cougars. He has completed 84.5% of his passes through his first three games. The junior combined with stingy defense to help BYU take control before halftime.

Wilson opened the game by completing his first 12 passes, highlighted by a 22-yard touchdown grab between two defenders by freshman tight end Carter Wheat.

"It's pretty much just backyard football out there because you know he's going to put the

ball where only you can go get it," Romney said.

On the other side, the Cougars forced four first-half punts and a turnover. Troy Warner snagged his first career interception and Tyler Batty came up with two of his career-high three sacks to stop Louisiana Tech's final drive of the half.

"We saw a lot of guys grow up in this game and make some big-time plays," BYU coach Kalani Sitake said.

BYU struck first on its opening drive when Wilson threw a 39-yard dart to Dax Milne to set up his own 9-yard scoring run on the next play. Smoke Harris eluded several tacklers and took a screen pass 66 yards to tie it at 7.

The Cougars pulled away in the second quarter, scoring on three consecutive drives.

Wheat's touchdown catch in double coverage and a 1-yard dive from Allgeier accounted for the first two. Then Wilson completed four straight passes, culminating in a 22-yard strike to Romney, to march the Cougars 80 yards in 37 seconds and make it 28-7 going into halftime.

"We made things a lot easier than they needed to be from a defensive standpoint," Louisiana Tech coach Skip Holtz said. "I don't think we made the routine play."

Wilson's final touchdown, a 14-yard keeper, put BYU ahead 45-7 early in the fourth quarter.

Wilson completed 18 of 19 passes in the first half for 236 yards. He had more than 200 passing yards in the first half for a second straight week.

Cooper helps Marlins finish off Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Miami Marlins didn't need a hand from a fan at Wrigley Field to knock the Chicago Cubs out of the playoffs this time. They did just fine on their own, and they showed they're hardly bottom feeders.

Garrett Cooper homered against Yu Darvish in a two-run seventh, hard-throwing rookie Sixto Sanchez dominated for five innings and the Miami Marlins won their first playoff series in 17 years, beating the Cubs 2-0 Friday to complete a two-game wild-card series sweep.

Miami will face Atlanta in the NL Division Series in Houston starting Tuesday.

Led by manager Don Mattingly and CEO Derek Jeter, the Marlins remained unbeaten in all seven postseason series they

have played following triumphs in the 1997 and 2003 World Series. And this time, in empty Wrigley Field, they didn't need an assist from the crowd. In Game 6 of the 2003 NLCS, fan Steve Bartman deflected Luis Castillo's foul ball as Cubs left fielder Moises Alou tried to make a leaping catch, which led to an eight-run, eighth-inning rally.

"The one thing that we talked about us all year was why not us?" Mattingly said. "With this kind of pitching, you can do anything. ... You feel like you've got a good shot at kind of stopping almost anybody if you make pitches."

Miami lost 105 games in 2019 and became the first team to reach the playoffs after a 100-loss season. The Marlins finished second in the NL East at 31-29 after being beset by a

virus outbreak early this season that forced 18 players from the field following the opening series and prevented them from playing for more than a week.

The Marlins had T-shirts with "Bottom Feeders" in their dugout Friday, a reference to a remark by Ricky Bottalico, a former Phillies pitcher and current NBC Sports Philadelphia analyst, after the Marlins' opening-day win in Philadelphia.

"I want to thank Ricky Bottalico for that motivation," closer Brandon Kintzler said.

Chicago, the NL Central champion, went 3-for-27 (.111) with runners on base in the series. Javier Baez, Kris Bryant and Anthony Rizzo combined to go 0-for-12 Friday and finished the series 1-for-24. The trio is 19-for-142 (.134) with

52 strikeouts and six walks in the postseason since the 2016 World Series title as Chicago has lost nine of 13.

Chicago missed the playoffs last year for the first time since 2014, then scored one run in its return. The Cubs haven't advanced since the 2017 team lost in the NLCS.

"Just numb," Rizzo said,

Cooper gave the Marlins a 1-0 lead with two out in the seventh with a drive into the seats beyond the left-field wall. Matt Joyce doubled off the glove of diving center fielder Ian Happ, and Miguel Rojas chased Darvish with an RBI single.

"That's probably the best feeling I've had in my baseball career, the biggest home run that I've had in my baseball career," Cooper said. "It's just something that you can't explain."

Padres eliminate Cardinals, move on to division series

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — From 21-year-old budding superstar Fernando Tatis Jr. to 36-year-old reliever Craig Stammen, the San Diego Padres tossed aside more than two decades of futility and brought joy to a city that's had its sports psyche beaten down for far too long.

Stammen and eight fellow relievers combined on a four-hitter in a brilliant, record-setting effort that sent the Padres over the St. Louis Cardinals 4-0 Friday night in the deciding Game 3 of their NL wild-card series.

The Padres won a postseason series for the first time in 22 years and advanced to face the NL West rival Los Angeles Dodgers in the Division Series at Arlington, Texas, starting Tuesday.

Stammen, making his first start in 10 years, said the Padres weren't wrapped up in past playoff failures, including being eliminated from the playoffs by the Cardinals three times since 1996.

"We're trying to write our

own piece of history right now," said Stammen, who mentioned the Padres' return to a brown and gold color scheme. "It's icing on the cake to maybe turn the page on some of the San Diego struggles in the playoffs against the Cardinals, turn the page on maybe some struggles within the organization, the blue Padres, and now we're the brown Padres. Excited to build some memories with the new colors."

The nine pitchers marked the most used in a nine-inning shutout in any big league game since at least 1901.

With starters Mike Clevinger and Dinelson Lamet unavailable due to injuries suffered in their final regular-season starts, rookie manager Jayce Tingler was forced to tap the Padres' already-stressed bullpen and it came through magnificently. San Diego became the first team in baseball history to use eight or more pitchers in three straight postseason games.

"What those guys did this series and tonight, wow,"

Tingler said. "They've been overworked, they've been overtaxed. Man to man, everybody came up and said, 'I'm good, give me the ball. I'm good, give me the ball.' Tonight, for me, was as team-oriented as so many guys contributed again. That's who we are. That's why we're going to continue to keep playing."

Trevor Rosenthal, who started his career with the Cardinals, struck out the side in the ninth and the team began celebrating in empty Petco Park. Players gestured toward fans who watched from balconies overlooking the ballpark. Fans crowded downtown and honked car horns and chanted.

This was the first postseason series victory for the Padres since the 1998 NLCS.

While the Padres celebrated, the Cardinals found out Hall of Famer Bob Gibson had died.

All four Division Series feature matchups between division rivals. All seven Central teams lost in the first round, with the Cardinals joining Cincinnati, the Chicago Cubs, Milwaukee,

Cleveland, the Chicago White Sox and Minnesota.

Tatis, who homered twice and drove in five runs in Thursday night's wild 11-9 victory, doubled into the left-field corner off losing pitcher Jack Flaherty with one out in the fifth and scored on Eric Hosmer's two-out double to right-center.

The Padres added on against reliever Alex Reyes in the seventh, on a bases-loaded walk to Hosmer, Manny Machado's fielder's choice and an error on third baseman Tommy Edman.

Rookie Jake Cronenworth homered in the eighth.

The Padres rewarded their long-suffering fans by winning one of the most meaningful games of any kind in San Diego in a long time. The city's only major professional championship remains the San Diego Chargers' 1963 AFL title. The Chargers headed to Los Angeles after the 2016 season, leaving the Padres as the only pro team in San Diego, which lost NBA franchises to Houston and Los Angeles.