

## US intel warns China may dominate tech

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials are issuing new warnings about China's ambitions in artificial intelligence and a range of advanced technologies that could eventually give Beijing a decisive military edge and possible dominance over health care and other essential sectors in America.

The warnings include a renewed effort to inform business executives, academics and local and state government officials about the risks of accepting Chinese investment or expertise in key industries, officials at the National Counterintelligence and Security Center said Thursday. While the center does not intend to tell officials to reject Chinese investment, it will encourage efforts to control intellectual property and implement security measures.

National security agencies under President Joe Biden's administration are making an aggressive public push against China, which some officials have called the greatest strategic threat to the United States. The Biden administration has simultaneously tried to ease some tensions with Beijing dating to the Trump adminis-

tration and seek common ground on trade and climate change.

Beijing has repeatedly accused Washington of fear-mongering about its intentions and attacked U.S. intelligence for its assessments of China, including allegations that Chinese leaders have withheld critical information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Under President Xi Jinping, the Chinese government has stated its goals to create profitable technologies in robotics and other fields in plans known as "Made in China 2025." The Justice Department in recent years has returned several indictments alleging theft of sensitive U.S. information on behalf of China, including vaccine research and autonomous vehicle technology.

The counterintelligence center's acting director, Michael Orlando, told reporters in a rare briefing Thursday that the U.S. "can't afford to lose" ground to China in several key areas: artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, quantum computing, semiconductors and biotechnology.

Orlando noted that Chinese businesses and academics are beholden to the Chinese

Communist Party and are required to serve the party's interests.

"Although we've been saying this for year after year, people are not digesting this," he said.

Orlando declined to say whether the U.S. should enact tougher restrictions or outright bans on Chinese investment in certain sectors, saying his role was not to suggest policy.

But the counterintelligence center holds regular briefings with private industry and academia while recognizing that industries and universities may still want to seek students, experts and investors from China, Orlando said. He would not name companies with which the center has met.

China already has the greatest access to medical data of any country, said Edward You, the center's officer for emerging and disruptive technologies. With its data collection and its advancements in technology, Beijing could one day be dominant in health care and leave the U.S. wholly dependent on China, he said.

"If you're President Xi," he said, "that's the gift that keeps on giving."

## US to N. Korea: Stop missile tests, return to talks

*Associated Press*

SEOUL, South Korea — A senior U.S. diplomat on Sunday urged North Korea to refrain from additional missile tests and resume nuclear diplomacy, days after the North fired off its first underwater-launched ballistic missile in two years.

Sung Kim, the U.S. envoy on North Korea, spoke after meeting with South Korean officials to discuss North Korea's recent missile tests while nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang remain stalled.

"We call on the DPRK to cease these provocations and other destabilizing activities, and instead, engage in dia-

logue," Kim told reporters, referring to North Korea by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"We remain ready to meet with the DPRK without preconditions and we have made clear that the United States harbors no hostile intent towards the DPRK," he said.

Last Tuesday, North Korea fired a newly developed ballistic missile from a submarine in its fifth round of weapons tests in recent weeks.

South Korean officials said the submarine-fired missile appeared to be in an early stage of development. That marked the North's first underwater-launched test since October

2019, and the most high-profile one since President Joe Biden took office in January.

Missiles fired from submarines are harder to detect in advance and would provide North Korea with a secondary, retaliatory attack capability.

Tuesday's launch violates multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions that ban any activity by North Korea in the area of ballistic missiles. Kim said the test poses a threat to the international community and is "concerning and counterproductive" to efforts to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Kim's South Korean counterpart, Noh Kyu-duk, said the

two had an "in-depth" discussion on Seoul's push for a symbolic declaration to end the 1950-53 Korean War as a way to bring peace. Noh said he and Kim also reaffirmed that North Korea's issues of concern can be discussed once talks are restarted.

The Biden administration has repeatedly said it's ready to meet North Korea "anywhere and at any time" without preconditions. But North Korea says a return to talks is conditional on the U.S. dropping what it calls hostile policy, an apparent reference to the sanctions and regular military drills between Washington and Seoul.

# US Army is testing Iron Dome on Guam

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The U.S. Army has deployed Israel's Iron Dome missile-defense system to Guam through November to gauge how well the battery can be integrated with the Pacific island's existing defenses.

The system arrived on Guam this past week via commercial sealoft, Capt. Nicholas Chopp, a spokesman for 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, told Stars and Stripes by phone Thursday.

"It's an entire battery — the radar system, the control center and launchers," said Chopp from the 94th's headquarters at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Soldiers from the 2-43 Air Defense Artillery Battalion from Fort Bliss, Texas, arrived on Guam several weeks ago and are manning the system, he said.

No live-fire operations are planned during the temporary deployment, Chopp said.

The Iron Dome battery on Guam is one of two the Army procured last year. The pair cost \$373 million, part of \$1.6 billion the U.S. has pumped into the program since 2011, ac-

cording to a May report by Bloomberg news service. Israel-based Rafael Advanced Defense Systems developed the system, which U.S. defense contractor Raytheon started co-producing in 2014, according to Bloomberg.

Congress in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act required the system be deployed to an operational theater before the end of 2021, Chopp said.

Congress mandated the purchase of two Iron Dome batteries as an interim measure until the Army develops a long-term solution to threats from missiles, rockets, drones and mortars.

The test battery has been set up in remote jungle in the northwest part of Andersen Air Force Base. It sits near the existing Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, anti-ballistic missile system, which the Army has operated on Guam since 2013.

Iron Dome is designed to protect ground troops by destroying short-range missiles and drones. It complements THAAD, which intercepts short- to intermediate-range ballistic missiles in their final descending stage.

The system has brought down more than

1,500 targets with a success rate exceeding 90%, according to the Raytheon Missiles & Defense website. Israel has used the Iron Dome successfully several times during conflicts in Gaza.

The Army live-fire tested the system for the first time in August at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., where it "successfully engaged eight cruise missile surrogate targets," the Army said in an Aug. 23 news release.

"The Department of the Army identified Guam as the location they wanted to send the system for testing, which is why 94th is responsible for this mission," Chopp said.

The Guam trial is three-pronged, he said.

First is the test of deployability, determining how easily and how best to get it where it is needed, he said. The missile-defense command is interested in whether the battery can be airlifted back to the U.S., Chopp said.

Second is gaining a better understanding of the logistics required to sustain the system when deployed.

Third, the Army wants to see how Iron Dome integrates with the THAAD unit.

## Navy played a part in Italy-led exercise

*Stars and Stripes*

NAPLES, Italy — U.S. forces wrapped up participation Friday in the Italian navy's largest multilateral maritime exercise, which Navy officials said focused on sharpening skills while building on decades of NATO partnership.

The destroyer USS Porter, P-8A Poseidon aircraft from Commander, Task Force 67, and the fleet replenishment oiler USNS Kankakee took part in Italy's Mare Aperto, U.S. 6th Fleet said in a statement Friday.

The biennial exercise, also joined by France, Germany and Turkey this year, included close proximity ship handling, air-borne patrols and at-sea replenishments, 6th Fleet said. The Italian aircraft carrier Cavour and landing helicopter aircraft Garibaldi, as well as landing platform dock San Giorgio and other Italian ships joined in the exercise, 6th Fleet said.

The exercise, delayed more than 1½ years due to the coronavirus pandemic, took place over 24 days, the Italian navy said in a statement.

## 'It' clown sightings at festival spook military families in Ramstein area

BY CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

An Air Force staff sergeant in Germany said she got chills while attending a local fall festival with her family — but they weren't brought on by the weather.

The source of Alexis Smith's shudder was the sight of horror-movie clown Pennywise sitting on a nearby carnival ride.

Smith snapped a photo of the spooky sight and texted it as a warning to her husband. He was inside the Kaiserslautern fairgrounds with their 4-year-old daughter, who hates clowns.

Both the Smiths and the clown from "It" are repeat visitors this year to the Barbarossaland fair on Kaiserslautern's Messeplatz. The fair's weekend popularity has been so great that organizers are extending it through Halloween, they told local newspaper Die Rheinpfalz last week.

Smith said her family was on its second visit to the fair when she encountered the harlequin dressed like the child-killing monster

from the film adaptation of Stephen King's 1986 novel about an evil entity that feeds off children's fear.

"The clown looks dead inside," Smith said Friday in a phone interview.

And just as is the case with any good horror movie monster, it seemed inescapable. Smith's husband didn't get her warning text, but as he was guiding their little girl through a mirror maze at the other end of the park, he saw the clown waiting at the end.

"He got creeped out," Smith said. "He was like, 'I didn't know if it was real or not.'"

When they exited, there was no sign of Pennywise. But he turned to find the clown, who was a woman under the makeup, standing beside him. Then the woman began laughing.

"Obviously you can't deck a girl, but he was super scared," Smith said. Still, he managed to keep their daughter from seeing the clown.

Smith posted her photo to a 14,500-member Facebook group for military families in Ramstein and Kaiserslautern with a caption saying she felt it "completely sums up 2021."

# French honor American Unknown Soldier

By ERIK SLAVIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

CHALONS-EN-CHAMPAGNE, France — One hundred years ago in Châlons-en-Champagne, an Army sergeant looked over four caskets draped in American flags inside the city hall and chose the U.S. soldier who would embody the sacrifice of everything, even his name, to a cause greater than himself.

French and American soldiers stood guard that night, never leaving the Unknown Soldier's side.

On Saturday and Sunday, hundreds gathered for a vigil, a military parade and other ceremonies dedicated to that soldier and the many others he represents.

The attendees included current and former guards of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Gold Star mothers, veterans, military spouses and onlookers who, simply by remembering, shared in keeping the legacy of the Unknown Soldier's selection alive.

"It's a part of our history," said Benoist Apparu, mayor of the city

of about 45,000 people. "We need to celebrate this for the younger generation, so that they do not forget what happened here."

France and Great Britain each dedicated tombs to their unknown World War I dead on Nov. 11, 1920. The U.S. Congress approved a memorial to be placed in Arlington National Cemetery the following year.

Unknown soldiers would later be chosen to rest at Arlington National Cemetery to symbolize those who died in World War II,

Korea and Vietnam.

The tomb at Arlington also represents "every mother whose son has not come back and is unknown," said Pam Stemple, second vice president of American Gold Star Mothers.

Scientific advances have meant that more unknown service members from past wars have been subsequently identified. Modern logistics have also contributed to preventing those killed in recent wars from being unknown.

## Film crew voiced concerns prior to fatal set shooting

*Associated Press*

SANTA FE, N.M. — Hours before actor Alec Baldwin fired a fatal gunshot from a prop gun that he had been told was safe, a camera crew for the movie he was filming walked off the job to protest conditions and production issues that included safety concerns.

Disputes in the production of the Western film "Rust" began almost from the start in early October and culminated with seven crew members walking off several hours before 42-year-old cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was killed.

The crew members had expressed their discontent with matters that ranged from safety procedures to their housing accommodations, according to one of those who left. He requested anonymity for fear that speaking up would hurt his prospects for future jobs. Rust Movie Productions did not answer emails Friday and Saturday seeking comment.

At a rehearsal on the film set Thursday at Bonanza Creek Ranch outside Santa Fe, the gun Baldwin used was one of three that a firearms specialist, or "armorer," had set on a cart outside the building where a scene was being rehearsed, according to

the court records.

Court records indicate that an assistant director, Dave Halls, grabbed a prop gun off a cart and handed it to Baldwin, indicating incorrectly that the weapon didn't carry live rounds by yelling "cold gun."

When Baldwin pulled the trigger, he unwittingly killed Hutchins and wounded director Joel Souza, who was standing behind her inside a wooden, chapel-like building.

New Mexico workplace safety investigators are examining if film industry standards for gun safety were followed during production of "Rust." The Los Angeles Times, citing two crew members it did not name, reported that five days before the shooting, Baldwin's stunt double accidentally fired two live rounds after being told the gun didn't have any ammunition.

A crew member who was alarmed by the misfires told a unit production manager in a text message, "We've now had 3 accidental discharges. This is super unsafe," according to a copy of the message reviewed by the newspaper. The New York Times also reported that there were at least two earlier accidental gun discharges; it cited three former crew members.

## Vaccine mandates creating conflict with defiant workers

*Associated Press*

BATH, Maine — Josh "Chevy" Chevalier is a third-generation shipbuilder who hasn't missed a day of work during the pandemic in his job as a welder constructing Navy warships on the Maine coast.

But he's ready to walk away from his job because of an impending mandate from President Joe Biden that federal contractors and all U.S. businesses with 100 or more workers be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

"People are fighting for their constitutional rights — the way they think their life should be," said Chevalier, one of hundreds of employees at Bath Iron Works threatening to leave.

Chevalier is among a small but significant number of American workers deciding whether to quit their jobs and careers in defiance of what they consider intrusive edicts that affect their freedoms.

The Biden administration, public health officials and many business leaders agree that vaccine requirements are legal and prudent actions necessary to help the world emerge from a pandemic that has killed more than 700,000 Americans and nearly 5 million people worldwide.

The defiant workers make up a small fraction of the overall workforce, with many cities,

states and businesses reporting that more than 9 out of 10 of their workers are complying with mandates.

But they have the potential to create disruptions in a tight labor market and have become the latest roadblock in overcoming the vaccine hesitancy that allowed the COVID-19 crisis to take a devastating turn over the summer. In many cases, the reasons for the objections are rooted in misinformation.

The refusers come from all types of occupations — defense industry workers, police officers, firefighters, educators and health care workers. Thousands of people have sought religious or medical exemptions that were rejected; others won't stand to be told what to do and have quit or been fired.

The conflict over mandates is likely to grow in the coming weeks. The Biden administration is expected to move forward any day with the mandate that employers with 100 or more workers require all employees be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing, though enforcement likely won't start for several weeks. The rule for federal contractors goes into effect in December, with no testing option, but many businesses, governments and schools are already implementing mandates.



# After Calif. fires, 1,000s of trees to be removed

Associated Press

THREE RIVERS, Calif. — In the wake of California wildfires, upwards of 10,000 trees weakened by fires, drought, disease or age must be removed, work that will keep a nearby highway closed to visitors who seek the world's two largest sequoia trees.

The hazard trees could potentially fall onto people and cars on the section of State Route 180 known as Generals Highway, or they could create barriers for emergency and fire response, the Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks said Friday.

The highway is closed due to the KNP Complex blaze, which was 60% contained after burning 138 square miles of forest, and will remain blocked off to visitors after the fire is out while saw crews cut down trees and trim branches. Cooler weather has helped slow the flames and the area was expected to see rain starting Sunday.

The highway connects Giant Forest, home to the General Sherman Tree, which is considered the world's largest by volume, and Grant Grove, home to the General Grant Tree, the second-largest tree in the world. The trees along the highway include sequoias, pine and conifer trees, said fire spokes-

woman Kimberly Caschalk.

Forest officials said earlier this month that the fires may have killed hundreds of giant sequoias, but the full extent of the damage has not been determined.

The fire's impact on giant sequoia groves was mixed. Most saw low- to medium-intensity fire behavior that the sequoias have evolved to survive, and the most notable trees survived.

Firefighters took extraordinary measures to protect the sequoias by wrapping fire-resistant material around the bases of some giants, raking and clearing vegetation around them, installing sprinklers and dousing some with water or fire retardant gel.

On Friday, forest staff unwrapped the base of the General Sherman tree after danger from the fire had passed.

Drought in the West tied to climate change is making wildfires harder to fight. Scientists have said climate change has made the West much warmer and drier in the past 30 years — meaning the rain and snow that does fall is likely to evaporate or absorb into the soil — and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive.

# Colombia's most wanted drug lord found after decade

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — Colombian security forces have captured the country's most wanted drug trafficker, a rural warlord who stayed on the run for more than a decade by corrupting state officials and aligning himself with combatants on the left and right.

President Iván Duque likened the arrest Saturday of Dairo Antonio Úsuga to the capture three decades ago of Pablo Escobar.

Colombia's military presented Úsuga to the media in handcuffs and wearing rubber boots preferred by rural farmers.

Úsuga, better known by his alias Otoniel, is the alleged head of the much-feared Gulf Clan, whose army of assassins has terrorized much of northern Colombia to gain control of major cocaine smuggling routes through thick jungles north to Central America and onto the United States.

He's long been a fixture on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's most-wanted fugitives list, for whose capture it had been offering a \$5 million reward. He was first indicted in 2009, in Manhattan federal court, on narcotics charges and for allegedly providing assistance to a far-right paramilitary group designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. government. Later indictments in Brooklyn and Miami federal courts accused him of importing into the U.S. at least 73 metric tons of cocaine between 2003 and 2014 through countries including Venezuela, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Honduras.

But like many of his gunmen, he's also cycled through the ranks of several guerrilla groups, most recently claiming to lead the Gaitanist Self Defense Forces of Colombia, after a mid-20th century Colombian leftist firebrand.

Authorities said intelligence provided by the U.S. and United Kingdom led more than 500 soldiers and members of Colombia's special forces to Úsuga's jungle hideout, which was protected by an eight rings of security.

Úsuga for years flew under the radar of authorities by eschewing the high profile of Colombia's better known narcos.

He and his brother, who was killed in a raid in 2012, got their start as gunmen for the now-defunct leftist guerrilla group known as the Popular Liberation Army and then later switched sides and joined the rebels' battlefield enemies, a right-wing paramilitary group.

# Iran provincial governor slapped in the face in rare security breach

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The new governor of a northwestern Iranian province was slapped in the face by an angry man during his inauguration Saturday, an unusual breach of security in the Islamic Republic during a ceremony attended by the country's interior minister.

A motive for the incident in Iran's Eastern Azerbaijan province remained unclear, though it targeted a new provincial governor who once served in the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and had reportedly been kidnapped at one point by rebel forces in Syria. One report referred to it as a personal dispute.

The new governor, Brig. Gen. Abedin Khorram, had taken the podium in the provincial capital of Tabriz when the man

strode out from offstage and immediately swung at the official. Video aired by state television recorded the gathered crowd gasping in shock, the sound of the slap echoing on the sound system. It took several seconds before plainclothes security forces reached him.

Another man on stage shouted: "Death to the hypocrites!" That's a common chant used against exiled opposition groups and others who oppose the Islamic Republic. Others cried out that Khorram was a "pro-supreme leader governor."

Though Khorram said he didn't know the man, the state-run IRNA news agency later described the attacker as a member of the Guard's Ashoura Corps, which Khorram had overseen. IRNA described the attack as coming due to "personal reasons," without elaborating.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Scan reveals shotgun shell inside prisoner

**AL** DECATUR — A man being booked into an Alabama jail wound up at a hospital rather than behind bars after a scan revealed a shotgun shell in his abdomen.

Prisoners entering the Morgan County Jail routinely undergo a body scan when being admitted, and a recent image showed what appeared to be a shell from a .410-gauge shotgun that had been swallowed inside a person, spokesperson Mike Swafford said.

The man, who had been arrested by another law enforcement agency in the county, was later released on his own recognition, Swafford said, and it was not clear what happened to the shell. Authorities did not release the person's name or the reason for the arrest.

### Officer to stand trial in corpse fondling case

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles police officer who acknowledged touching a dead woman's breast while on duty has been ordered to stand trial on a felony charge.

David Rojas, 29, is charged with felony sexual contact with human remains after authorities said he touched Elizabeth Baggett's right breast following her death on Oct. 20, 2019.

The Los Angeles Times reported that Judge Keith H. Borjon heard testimony from Rojas, who said he touched the woman's breast twice because he believed there was a mark that needed investigating.

The judge found the account "extremely unpersuasive" and

suggested Rojas touched the woman's breast for his own sexual gratification, the newspaper said.

### Man fatally shoots his neighbor over cat dispute

**FL** OCALA — A Florida man is accused of killing his neighbor in a dispute over a cat that wandered into his yard, sheriff's officials said.

Clifford Anthony Bliss Jr., 58, became angry when the cat went into his yard, the Marion County Sheriff's Office said.

He went to his neighbor's home in Umatilla and threatened to shoot the cat, officials said.

James Arland Taylor Jr., 41, asked him not to shoot the cat, according to deputies. That's when Bliss shot Taylor, they said.

Bliss was arrested without incident.

### USPS worker admits to stealing drug packages

**MA** BOSTON — A postal worker who tracked, stole and opened mail that he suspected contained drugs and then kept any narcotics that he found pleaded guilty.

Shawn Herron, 44, of Whitman, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute and theft of mail by a postal employee, the U.S. attorney's office in Boston said in a statement.

According to prosecutors, Herron, using the postal service's own databases to track the parcels, targeted priority mail from Puerto Rico and the West Coast as well as parcels flagged by law enforcement as potentially containing illegal narcotics, and removed them from the mail stream.

He then took the parcels to his office where he stole any drugs he found.

### Zebra owner charged with cruelty after 3 escape

**MD** UPPER MARLBORO — The owner of a herd of zebras was charged with animal cruelty after three zebras escaped his Maryland farm, including one found dead in an illegal snare trap.

Jerry Lee Holly, 76, of Upper Marlboro has been charged with three counts of animal cruelty, news outlets reported. Holly is accused of inflicting "unnecessary suffering or pain on a zebra" and failing to provide the zebras with "nutritious food in sufficient quantity" or give them "proper shelter."

The exotic animal trader is the owner of a 40-zebra herd that was moved to Maryland from Florida in late summer, Prince George's County Animal Services Chief Rodney Taylor.

Animal control has been trying to catch the two zebras that remain at large by setting up a feeding station and an 8-foot corral.

### Police: Man jumped to his death at Phish concert

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco police said a concert-goer who fell to his death from the upper level of a basketball arena is believed to have "leapt from an elevated area of the arena," causing his death.

"Immediately before the victim leapt, he did not appear to have any physical contact with any person or barrier/railing," Officer Grace Gatpandan said in a statement.

The American jam band Phish, which has devoted fans across the country, was performing at Chase Center when on-duty officers were alerted to a man who had apparently fallen and needed medical help, police said. The 47-year-old man died.

Nearly an hour later, on-duty officers were alerted to another man who had fallen. He was taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries, as was a man he fell on. Police have not provided any details about what caused that incident.

### Buzzards settle in town despite scare tactics

**NC** BUNN — A North Carolina town finds itself under siege by buzzards, and nothing the locals do to scare them off seems to work.

The buzzards have chosen the town of Bunn as a meeting place for the past year, and they're congregating at every available location, The News & Observer of Raleigh reported. There were 28 buzzards perched on a cellular tower and another 21 at the high school across the street.

Ally Leggett said she counted 58 buzzards in her yard, on the roof, along the fence and atop the garage at one point. She said the unwelcome visitors would perch on her chimney and peck at the bricks, pulling them down. Other locals said the buzzards ate the roof vents off a restaurant in the town about 30 miles northeast of Raleigh.

No one in Bunn seems to know why the scavengers have taken a shine to their town, but various attempts to evict them have failed.

— From wire reports

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# Braves' new world: A trip to the Series

*Associated Press*

Led by an unlikely hero, the Atlanta Braves are heading back to a place that used to be so familiar to them.

The World Series.

Eddie Rosario capped a remarkable NL Championship Series with a three-run homer, sending the Braves to the biggest stage of all with a 4-2 victory over the defending champion Los Angeles Dodgers on Saturday in Atlanta.

The Braves won the best-of-seven playoff four games to two, exorcising the demons of last year's NLCS — when Atlanta squandered 2-0 and 3-1 leads against the Dodgers — and advancing to face the AL champion Astros.

Game 1 is Tuesday night at Minute Maid Park in Houston.

"It's a great moment in my life," Rosario said through an interpreter. "But I want more. I want to win the World Series."

The Braves were Series regulars in the 1990s, winning it all in '95 with a team that included Hall of Famers Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, John Smoltz and Chipper Jones.

That remains their only title in Atlanta. The Braves lost the Series four other times during that decade, a run of postseason disappointment that marred a momentous streak that grew to 14 straight division titles.

After getting swept in the 1999 World Series by the Yankees, the Braves couldn't even get that far in the postseason.

Twenty-two years of frustration, 12 playoff appearances that fell short of a pennant.

Finally, it's over.

"We actually did it," said longtime first baseman Freddie Freeman.

Rosario was acquired in a flurry of deals just before the July 30 trade deadline that rebuilt the Braves' depleted outfield, which lost Ronald Acuña Jr. to a season-ending knee injury and slugger Marcell Ozuna to a hand injury and legal troubles.

They weren't missed at all in the NLCS.

"Anything that was thrown at us," Freeman said, "we were able to overcome it."

Rosario set an Atlanta record and became only the fifth player in baseball history to get 14 hits in a postseason series. He was an easy choice as MVP of the series.

Rosario finished 14-for-25 (.560) against the Dodgers, with three homers and nine RBIs.

Will Smith worked a perfect ninth for his fourth save of the postseason after a brilliant relief stint by winner Tyler Matzek, who escaped a huge jam in the seventh by striking out the side.

Rosario's final hit was certainly the biggest of the 30-year-old Puerto Rican's career.

With the score tied at 1 in the bottom of the fourth, Rosario came up after pinch-hitter Ehire Adrianza extended the inning with a two-out double into the right-field corner. Slow-running catcher Travis d'Arnaud was held at third by coach Ron Washington, surely aware of who was up next.

Rosario got into an extended duel with Walker Buehler, who stepped up to start on three days' rest after ace Max Scherzer wasn't able to go because of a tired arm.

Rosario swung and missed the first two pitches. Then he fouled one off. Then he took a ball. Then he fouled off two more pitches.

Finally, he got one he liked from the Dodgers' 16-game winner — a cutter that Rosario turned into a 105 mph rocket down the right-field line.

"We got him 0-2 and just couldn't put him away," Roberts said.

Rosario knew it was gone, dancing down the line after delivering a 361-foot finishing shot to a highly paid Dodgers team that came up short in its bid to become baseball's first repeat champion since the 2000 New York Yankees won their third straight title.

**Kill the narrative:** The Braves will be looking to bury their city's reputation for postseason misery across a wide range of sports.

From four World Series losses in the 1990s to the NFL Falcons blowing a 28-3 lead in the 2017 Super Bowl, Atlanta again finds itself on the cusp of an extremely rare feat.

The '95 Braves remain the city's lone team in the four major sports — baseball, football, basketball and hockey — to capture a title. Freeman said after a Game 5 loss that the city's history would remain an issue "until we kill that narrative."

## Illinois prevails in 9 OTs, shocks No. 7 Penn State

*Associated Press*

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Casey Washington caught a two-point conversion pass from Brandon Peters to end the first nine-overtime game in NCAA history and lift Illinois over No. 7 Penn State 20-18 Saturday.

The teams were tied at 10 after regulation, exchanged field goals in the first two overtimes, then began to alternate two-point attempts in the third OT as part of a format tweaked ahead of the 2021 season.

Neither team converted until the eighth overtime, when Isaiah Williams ran one in to put the Illini up 18-16. The Nittany Lions' Noah Cain kept the game alive with a two-point run of his own.

In the ninth OT, Sean Clifford's pass to Parker Washington was broken up by line-backer Khalan Tolson. Peters then found Washington near the back of the end zone for the winning completion.

The two-point conversion shootout started in 2019, the season after LSU and Texas A&M played a seven overtime game that left both teams badly beaten up. The rule was tweaked this year, with the two-point conversion possessions beginning with the third overtime instead of the fifth.

Chase Brown and Josh McCray combined for 365 rushing yards and a touchdown and James McCourt kicked three field goals, including 39- and 32-yarders in overtime, to snap Illinois' three-game skid to Penn State.

The two bullish backs blasted through wide-open holes and flanked the Nittany Lions' defense again and again at Beaver Stadium. The Illini (3-5, 2-3 Big Ten) outgained Penn State 370 yards to 207 in regulation and battled back from a 10-0 hole.

Peters, normally Illinois' starter, came off the bench when Artur Sitkowski hurt his left hand in the sixth overtime period.

KeAndre Lambert-Smith caught a touchdown pass and Jordan Stout added three field goals for the Nittany Lions (5-2, 2-2) who ran for just 62 yards and struggled to protect the ailing Clifford.

Led by Brown's 229 total yards, the Illini tied it 10-10 early in the fourth quarter with a 37-yard field goal from McCourt.

A sloppy fourth quarter gave way to overtime where McCourt and Stout matched each other on field goals before a string of goal line standoffs pushed the game into unprecedented territory.



# No. 2 Cincinnati survives second-half Navy rally

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Cincinnati coach Luke Fickell could tolerate his team's slow start, and he may have expected some issues defending Navy's triple-option offense.

What was more grating was the fact the No. 2 Bearcats took a double-digit lead in the second half and then had to hold on late for the win.

"We've got to find ways, especially on the road, when you're up, whatever it is, 13 points or something, to kind of close things out," Fickell said. "That's probably the only thing that I'm somewhat disappointed we couldn't and didn't do today, but we needed a challenge and we got one."

Unbeaten Cincinnati actually led by 17 at one point, but victory wasn't secure until Arqun Bush intercepted a pass with 25 seconds left to wrap up a 27-20 victory Saturday.

The Bearcats (7-0, 3-0 American Athletic Conference) weren't at their best, but they never looked as if they were in danger until the final minute, when Tai Lavatai's 1-yard run made it a one-score game and the Midshipmen recovered an onside kick with 48

seconds left.

Navy (1-6, 1-4) didn't do much with that final chance, though. Lavatai's third-down pass was picked off by Bush near the Cincinnati 45.

The Bearcats were fortunate to lead by three after a mistake-filled first half, but they eventually snapped out of their offensive funk. Desmond Ridder threw for 176 yards and two touchdowns.

The Midshipmen were hosting a top-five team for the first time since 1984, and they didn't trail until a wild swing at the end of the first half. With the game tied at 10, Navy was driving and looked poised to use up the remaining time in the second quarter. But after losing yards on back-to-back plays, the Midshipmen had to try a 51-yard field goal.

The kick was blocked, and Cincinnati's Deshawn Pace nearly ran it back for a touchdown, but he stepped out of bounds with 1 second left. That was enough time for Alex Bales to kick a 52-yard field goal and give the Bearcats a 13-10 lead.

Jerome Ford's 43-yard touchdown run made it 20-10, and Ridder added a 3-yard TD pass to Josh Whyte later in the third.

# No. 22 Aztecs escape upset bid by Air Force

Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — A change in San Diego State's defensive scheme helped the Aztecs slow down Air Force's run-heavy offense.

Matt Araiza kicked two field goals, Kaegun Williams and Chance Bell ran for touchdowns and No. 22 San Diego State withstood the Falcons' comeback bid to win 20-14 on Saturday night.

The Aztecs kept Air Force's top-ranked running attack in check by frequently using a fourth linebacker instead of a defensive back.

"Everybody knows what they do," San Diego State linebacker Michael Shawfroft said. "They run the ball really well. They're a really tough team to play. It was just something that we game-planned really well this week. Our coaches made it simple for us and just let us play our game. It was just see ball, get ball."

The Aztecs (7-0, 3-0 Mountain West) beat the Falcons for a ninth straight time. Air Force (6-2, 3-2) had its four-game winning streak snapped.

"Instead of having another DB in there, we really felt our linebackers — and that's a really good group, they're well-coached — it put some bigger bodies out there on the field that are really athletic also," San Diego State coach Brady Hoke said.

The Aztecs led 13-0 at half, with Williams' 1-yard TD run between Araiza's field goals of 22 and 51 yards following Falcons turnovers.

"We had too many mistakes on our part," Air Force defensive lineman Jordan Jackson said. "They're a great team and we couldn't afford to make mistakes like we did. I think that was the deciding factor."

San Diego State added to the lead on its first possession of the second half. Bell broke a 32-yard run before scoring from 3 yards out to make it 20-0 on the first possession of the second half.

"If you go out there and fight every play, eventually something's going to happen, some big play is going to come, something is going to work out and that's exactly what we trust in," Bell said.

The Falcons got on the board late in the third quarter on Warren Bryan's 13-yard pass to Dalton King on fourth down. Initially ruled incomplete, the call was overturned on review when it was determined King had possession when he crossed the goal line before the ball came out on the hit by Patrick McMorris.

# No. 16 Wake Forest outscores Army

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — When it was over, Wake Forest coach Dave Clawson used one word to describe it: "Wow!"

Sam Hartman threw for a career-high 458 yards and five touchdowns in a big-play display and ran for another score, and the No. 16 Demon Deacons defeated Army 70-56 on Saturday to remain unbeaten in front of a sellout crowd at Michie Stadium.

"It felt like whoever had the ball last was going to win," Clawson said. "That was about as clean a performance as I've ever seen. Every time we had to make a play we made a play. We found a way to win."

The Black Knights (4-3), who lost their third straight and had a 13-game winning streak at Michie Stadium snapped, had not defeated a ranked opponent since a 17-14 victory over Air Force in 1972. Still, they made Wake Forest (7-0) earn this one, matching them on the scoreboard until a costly turnover.

Hartman was unstoppable and rarely pres-

sured, completing 23 of 29 passes and hitting touchdown passes of 41, 54 and two of 75 yards as he matched the Michie Stadium record for scoring passes. Jaquarii Roberson had eight catches for 157 yards and three touchdowns and A.T. Perry had six catches for 146 yards and one score.

Army never led, and a costly interception return for a touchdown in the third quarter gave the Demon Deacons the breathing room they needed.

"Guys made plays and you make the throws and it works like that," Hartman said. "That's how this offense is supposed to do."

Two touchdown passes by the Black Knights' Jabari Laws, a 21-yarder to Isaiah Alston late in the third, and a 25-yarder to Tyrell Robinson midway through the fourth, made it a one-possession game again until Hartman scored on an 8-yard run with 6:57 left.

"The room for error is very small and that can cost a ballgame," Alston said. "Proud of my guys. We put everything on the line ... and just came up short."

# Doncic helps Mavs rally past Raptors

Associated Press

TORONTO — Luka Doncic had 27 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds, narrowly missing his 37th career triple-double, Kristaps Porzingis had 18 points and 10 rebounds, and the Dallas Mavericks rallied from an early 14-point deficit to beat the Toronto Raptors 103-95 Saturday night.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 13 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter and Dwight Powell and Dorian Finney-Smith each had 11 as Dallas bounced back from Thursday's season-opening loss at Atlanta.

OG Anunoby scored 23 points for the Raptors, who were playing the second game of a back-to-back. Toronto won 115-83 at Boston Friday.

Fred VanVleet scored 20 points and Scottie Barnes had 17.

**Pacers 102, Heat 91 (OT):** Oshae Brissett scored 18 points, including the go-ahead inside basket in overtime, as host Indianapolis outlasted Miami.

The teams traded baskets to start overtime, then Brissett scored off an offensive rebound to provide a 90-88 lead and start a 9-0 run.

**Cavaliers 101, Hawks 95:** Rookie Evan Mobley had 17 points and 11 rebounds to help Cleveland rally for its first win of the season, beating visiting Atlanta.

Ricky Rubio had 23 points and eight assists, and Jarrett Allen added 11 points and 14 rebounds for the Cavs, who trailed by 13 points in the second quarter. They had lost their first two games, both by 11.

**Bulls 97, Pistons 82:** DeMar DeRozan scored 21 points, Nikola Vucevic added 15 points and 18 rebounds and host Chicago beat Detroit.

DeRozan put an exclamation point on his night, finishing a thunderous third quarter dunk despite getting hit in the face by Pistons guard Hamidou Diallo. His efforts helped give the Bulls their first 3-0 start to a season since 2016.

**Timberwolves 96, Pelicans 89:** Karl-An-

thony Towns scored 15 of his 25 points in the first quarter, before fouling out in frustration and being forced to watch Minnesota hang on for a victory over visiting New Orleans.

**Bucks 121, Spurs 111:** Khris Middleton scored 28 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo added 21 and Milwaukee held on to win at San Antonio.

Doug McDermott scored 25 points and Keldon Johnson added 20 for San Antonio, which lost its second straight after a season-opening victory at home over Orlando.

**Trail Blazers 134, Suns 105:** CJ McCollum scored 28 points to lead host Portland to a victory over Phoenix.

McCollum's hot shooting set the pace for the Blazers to their first win of the season.

**Grizzlies 120, Clippers 114:** Ja Morant led five starters in double figures with 28 points and Memphis won at Los Angeles.

Morant burned the Clippers for 37 points — second-most in franchise history in a season opener — in the Grizzlies' 11-point win.

## Canucks spoil expansion Kraken's home opener

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Bo Horvat scored his second goal of the game on a power play with 7:08 remaining, and Conor Garland scored on a breakaway three minutes later as the Vancouver Canucks spoiled the home debut of the Seattle Kraken with a 4-2 win on Saturday night.

Garland assisted on Horvat's first goal in the second period, and then scored his third of the season to cap the Canucks' comeback and ruin a celebratory night with the Kraken playing their first home game in their new \$1 billion arena.

Justin Dowling added an empty-net goal for Vancouver in the final moments and capped a successful six-game road trip for the Canucks (3-2-1) to begin the season.

**Canadiens 6, Red Wings 1:** Mathieu Perreault had a hat trick and host Montreal beat Detroit to end its season-opening losing streak at five.

Perreault, Christian Dvorak

and Mike Hoffman scored their first goals in Canadiens uniforms. Defenseman Sami Niku also earned his first points in his first start, finishing with two assists.

**Flames 4, Capitals 3 (OT):** Elias Lindholm completed his second career hat trick with a one-timer 2:46 into overtime, and Calgary won at Washington.

Lindholm's fourth, fifth and sixth goals of the season helped the Flames to a second consecutive victory, this one coming after blowing an early 3-0 lead. The Capitals had won two in a row.

**Rangers 3, Senators 2:** Chris Kreider, Ryan Lindgren and Barclay Goodrow scored in the final six minutes, rallying New York to its fourth straight win, all on the road.

**Wild 4, Ducks 3 (OT):** Ryan Hartman scored with 12.1 seconds left in overtime and host Minnesota extended its season-opening win streak to four games in beating Anaheim.

Brandon Duhaime, Jared Spurgeon and Jon Merrill scored for Minnesota, which has won its first four games for the first time since 2008-09. The franchise best for season-opening wins is six in 2006-07. Cam Talbot had 21 saves for Minnesota.

**Hurricanes 5, Blue Jackets 1:** Vincent Trocheck had two goals and an assist to lead visiting Carolina to its fourth straight win to open the season.

**Panthers 4, Flyers 2:** Jonathan Huberdeau scored twice, including the go-ahead goal in the third period, and added an assist to lead Florida to a win at Philadelphia.

Owen Tippett also scored and Sam Reinhart had an empty-netter for the Panthers, which extended its club-record best start to 5-0.

**Devils 2, Sabres 1 (OT):** Pavel Zacha scored at 3:09 of overtime to give host New Jersey a victory over Buffalo.

Nico Daws stopped 24 shots to win in his NHL debut, and

Nico Hischier had a power-play goal for the Devils.

**Avalanche 4, Lightning 3 (OT):** Cale Makar scored in the sixth round of the shootout to give Colorado the win at Tampa Bay.

Makar beat Andrei Vasilevski with a wrist shot after Darcy Kuemper denied Anthony Cirelli to begin the sixth round as the Avalanche ended a three-game losing streak.

**Penguins 7, Maple Leafs 1:** Drew O'Connor scored twice and host Pittsburgh routed Toronto.

**Jets 6, Predators 4:** Paul Stastny scored twice and short-handed Winnipeg held off visiting Nashville.

**Blues 7, Kings 3:** David Perron had three goals and an assist, Jake Neighbours scored his first NHL goal, and host St. Louis beat Los Angeles.

**Islanders 3, Coyotes 0:** Brock Nelson had a goal and an assist, Ilya Sorokin stopped 26 shots and visiting New York kept Arizona winless.