

## US bomber flies over Mideast chokepoints

*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The U.S. Air Force said Sunday that it flew a B-1B strategic bomber over key maritime chokepoints in the Mideast with allies including Israel amid ongoing tensions with Iran as its nuclear deal with world powers remains in tatters.

The B-1B Lancer bomber flew Saturday over the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all oil traded passes. It also flew over the Red Sea, its narrow Bab el-Mandeb Strait and Egypt's Suez Canal.

The Strait of Hormuz has

been the scene of attacks on shipping blamed on Iran in recent years, while the Red Sea has seen similar assaults amid an ongoing shadow war between Tehran and Israel. The Islamic Republic has denied being involved in the attacks, though it has promised to take revenge on Israel for a series of attacks targeting its nuclear program.

Fighter jets from Bahrain, Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia flew alongside the bomber.

Iranian state media did not immediately acknowledge the flyover. Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to a

request for comment.

The flyover comes after a pattern of such flights by nuclear-capable B-52 bombers since the Trump administration as a show of force to Iran. Trump in 2018 unilaterally withdrew America from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal, which saw Tehran agree to drastically limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

In the time since, Iran has abandoned all the limits of the deal and drastically reduced the ability of international inspectors to keep watch over their program. While Iran insists its program is peaceful, the U.S. in-

telligence agencies, Western inspectors and others have said that Tehran had a structured military nuclear weapons program through the end of 2003.

President Joe Biden has said he's willing to re-enter the nuclear deal, but talks in Vienna have stalled as a hard-line protégé of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei took over as president.

Biden sending a B1-B bomber into the region allows him to send "a clear message of reassurance" to regional allies, as the U.S. Air Force's Central Command put it on Twitter. But it doesn't involve a nuclear-capable bomber.

## Russian troop buildup near Ukraine border prompts concern

*The Washington Post*

A renewed buildup of Russian troops near the Ukrainian border has raised concern among some officials in the United States and Europe who are tracking what they consider irregular movements of equipment and personnel on Russia's western flank.

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the matter publicly, said the troop movements have reignited concerns that arose in April, when the largest buildup of troops by Russia near the Ukrainian border in years sparked an international outcry.

The renewed movements of Russian forces in the area come as the Kremlin embraces a harder line on Ukraine. Russian officials from President Vladimir Putin down have escalated their rhetoric in recent months, attacking Kyiv's Western ties and even questioning its sovereignty. Putin has warned that any expansion of NATO military infrastructure on Ukrainian territory represents a "red line" for Moscow.

The situation also comes as the simmering 7½-year conflict between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists in the eastern Donbas region enters a new stage.

On Oct. 26, Ukraine's military confirmed it had used a Turkish-made drone against a position in Donbas, the first time Kyiv has employed the technology in combat, prompting an outcry from Moscow.

Relations between Moscow and NATO are especially tense. Russia suspended its mission to NATO in Brussels on Oct. 18 after the alliance expelled eight members of the Russian mission on accusations of espionage.

What the Russian forces gathering near the Ukrainian border are doing is unclear.

Videos have surfaced on social media in recent days showing Russian military trains and convoys moving large amounts of military hardware, including tanks and missiles, in southern and western Russia.

"The point is: It is not a drill. It doesn't appear to be a training exercise. Something is happening. What is it?" said Michael Kofman, director of the Russia studies program at the Virginia-based nonprofit analysis group CNA.

Officials in the U.S. and Europe began noticing the movements particularly in recent weeks — after Russia concluded a massive joint military exercise with Belarus known as Zapad 2021 on its western flank in

mid-September.

According to Kofman, satellite imagery shows that forces from Russia's 41st Combined Arms Army, normally based in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, didn't return to Siberia after the exercises, and instead linked up with other Russian forces near the Ukrainian border. Kofman also said imagery appears to show that Russia's 1st Guards Tank Army, an elite unit based outside Moscow, is moving personnel and materiel toward Ukraine.

Oleksiy Danilov, secretary of Ukraine's national security and defense council, said in a statement that after the conclusion of the Zapad 2021 exercises, Russia left military equipment, as well as control and communications centers, at training sites along the Ukrainian border.

Danilov estimated that the number of Russian troops deployed around the Ukrainian border at 80,000 to 90,000, not including the tens of thousands stationed in Crimea.

Moscow has prompted alarm by amassing large contingents of troops near the Ukrainian border in the past, only to subsequently withdraw those forces and quell fears of a renewed invasion of Ukraine.

# Revised USMC policy allows 'sleeve tattoos'

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

Marines are once again allowed to cover most of their arms and legs with so-called "sleeve tattoos" under a revised policy announced Friday by the Marine Corps.

At the same time, the updated policy expands the definition of tattoos forbidden as "extremist."

The Marines banned sleeve tattoos in 2007, just as they had reached peak popularity in the United States.

"The tattoo policy over the years has attempted to balance the individual desires of Marines with the need to maintain the disciplined appearance expected of our profession," said the bulletin issued by Commandant Gen. David Berger. "This Bulletin ensures that the Marine Corps maintains its ties to the society it represents and removes all barriers to entry for those members of society wishing to join its ranks."

Tattoos on the head and neck remain banned, according to the announcement, which warns Marines that body art choices

could still affect future career options in the Corps.

"Officer and Enlisted Marines may continue to be assigned or allowed to serve on Special Duty Assignment (SDA), although assignment to ceremonial and other high visibility units may be Restricted," the announcement said.

The Defense Department has been taking a harder look at extremism within the ranks in the wake of the Jan. 6 mob assault on the U.S. Capitol, which included active-duty service members and veterans. The ban on extremist tattoos includes any that symbolize philosophies or organizations that advocate racial, gender or ethnic hatred.

Also banned are tattoos that "advocate violence or other unlawful means of depriving individual rights under the U.S. Constitution and federal or state law" or that "advocate, engage in or support the forceful, violent, unconstitutional or otherwise unlawful overthrow of the government of the United States, any state, commonwealth, district or territory of the United States."

It also bans ink that encourages military personnel to disobey lawful orders "for the purpose of disrupting military activities."

The Marine Corps last updated its tattoo policy in 2016, which left some Marines disappointed that the sleeve restriction was left in place. The Navy had moved earlier that year to allow sailors to sport sleeve tattoos, following an Army decision the year before to allow them for soldiers.

Cpl. Jasper Pila launched an online petition last year calling on the Marines to allow tattoo sleeves, and as of Friday the petition had garnered more than 78,000 signatures.

"The current tattoo regulations are discriminating against Marines with a desire for 'sleeve' tattoos," Pila wrote on Change.org, adding that the rules have a negative impact on morale, retention and equal opportunity.

"Competent and decorated Marines in the past and present who have proven to be an asset for the Marine Corps have been denied reenlistment and advancement in their field due to increasingly restrictive tattoo regulations," he wrote.

## NAS Sigonella dodges 2nd round with storm, works to remedy flood damage

BY ALISON BATH  
*Stars and Stripes*

CATANIA, Italy — A cyclonic storm expected to wallop Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily again fizzled out, to the relief of base residents and officials who began to turn their attention to recovery efforts from earlier flooding.

The Catania area near the base saw 1-2 inches of rain Friday, said Capt. Kevin Pickard, NSA Sigonella's commanding officer. Some local forecasts said the latest cycle of the storm could dump up to 12 more inches, but the Navy's weather forecasters consistently anticipated much less, he said.

From Oct. 24-25, more than 20 inches of rain fell over 36 hours, setting off a chain of events that saw up to 2½ feet of water entering 68 units at the base's Marinai housing complex and displacing 92 residents. A Navy Exchange mini-mart also was damaged.

The storm knocked out power, resulting in a temporary boil water order as a safety precaution. It also made area roads impassable, briefly isolating the base's two sites and the housing

complex from each other, Pickard said.

Worried about additional flooding as the storm rolled back into the area Friday, NAS Sigonella prepared for another major rain event, he said. Those efforts included setting aside shelter space for residents and placing public works, housing and safety crews on alert.

"When we have the ability to do so, we are going to prepare for what we believe is the most realistic, worst-case scenario that we have, which is what we did in this case," Pickard said.

On Saturday morning, just a few scattered areas of standing water remained on base and Marinai residents had started clearing water and damaged furniture out of their homes.

The NEX store, commissary and food court were open.

Many of the displaced residents were temporarily placed in other homes at the 526-unit complex. Others were taken to hotels in the area, base officials said. Pickard said officials were working with the housing complex's landlord to begin repairs as soon as possible.

## Marines suspend live-fire training near Mount Fuji

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — Marines stopped live-fire practice near Mount Fuji on Thursday after learning that a stray machine gun round may have landed outside their training area.

A .50-caliber round may have struck outside the East Fuji Maneuver Area at approximately 1:50 p.m., according to a statement Friday from Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji. There have been no reports of damage or injury, the statement said.

"Officials reported the most likely impacted area is a heavily wooded, unpopulated mountainous area south of the [training area]," the statement said.

Training was immediately halted, the Marines said, and the incident is under investigation.

"The Marine Corps takes all potential training incidents very seriously and is committed to ensuring the safety of both our forces and the local communities we are here to protect."

# Last evacuees leave Ramstein base

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The last Afghan evacuees departed Ramstein Air Base on Saturday, the Air Force said, ending the base's role in one of the largest humanitarian airlift missions in U.S. history.

Air Force photos of the last flight showed Afghans bundled up in coats and carrying only one or two pieces of small luggage while boarding a plane in the rain.

Base officials did not say how many Afghans left on Saturday. Around 160 evacuees were still at Ramstein about two weeks ago, including eight evacuees who tested positive for the coronavirus and 58 of their relatives, base officials said then. Those that tested positive during manda-

tory pre-departure screenings were kept in isolation with family members until they were cleared for travel.

Since Aug. 20, more than 34,900 Afghan evacuees traveled through Ramstein, having fled their homes in the wake of the Taliban's swift takeover of the country following the U.S. military's departure. Most have traveled on to the United States to start a new life.

"I remain incredibly proud of the immense work the entire team has done throughout this operation," said Brig. Gen. Josh Olson, the 86th Airlift Wing commander, in a statement Saturday. "We ran to our nation's call and met multiple challenges that we neither expected nor trained for."

The 86th Airlift Wing shared some numbers to illustrate the magnitude of the

operation:

■ About 6,500 airmen, soldiers and NATO allies from Kaiserslautern-area bases and other military installations provided direct support and expertise in the areas of logistics, civil engineering, security, sanitation, and medical care.

■ More than 2,500 local and host nation volunteers assisted with food service, English language workshops, spiritual welfare, donations and other support.

■ More than 1.5 million meals were served to evacuees at Ramstein and the Army's Rhine Ordnance Barracks.

■ At the height of the evacuation, about 21,000 evacuees were awaiting onward travel at Ramstein and ROB.

■ Thirty-nine babies were born, including one on a U.S. Air Force C-17 moments after the plane landed at Ramstein.

## Iwakuni practices ability to bounce back after hit

By JONATHAN SNYDER  
*Stars and Stripes*

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — Alarms echoed across the Marine Corps Air Station base near Hiroshima, and the power went out at about 8 p.m. Wednesday, signaling to Marines and sailors of the U.S. Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force that a simulated missile strike was underway.

The base population sheltered in place as combat engineers geared up and moved out to assess damage to the airfield and repair it quickly to get aircraft flying again.

Practicing repairs to a damaged airfield is an essential bit of the weeklong Active Shield exercise, an annual sharpening of skills required to defend MCAS Iwakuni and return it quickly to fighting trim in the event of an attack. The exercise began Oct. 18 and concluded Friday, building up to the runway repair exercise.

About 20 members of the Forward Aviation Combat Engi-

neering team — radio operators, explosive ordnance technicians and combat engineers — formed up while 1st Lt. Camille Smith, the FACE platoon commander, led a tabletop exercise to chart the recovery plan. She divided the group into three teams.

Cpl. Kevin Cadiente, 24, of Honolulu, a combat engineer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 117, ensures the teams make accurate damage assessments as quickly as possible.

"Because the faster we get that airstrip back up," Cadiente told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday, "the faster we repel the enemy and the faster we can keep offenses going."

The Marines have two squadrons of F-35B Lightning II stealth fighters and a squadron of KC-130J Super Hercules aerial refuelers assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12. The air station is also home to seven F/A-18 Hornet squadrons of the Navy's Carrier Air Wing 5, which is attached to the USS Ronald Reagan.

## Senators urge studies of any burn pit link to breast cancer

By NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Two senators on Friday urged the Defense Department and Department of Veterans Affairs to put more focus on researching a possible link between breast cancer and exposure to toxic burn pits.

Female veterans and female military personnel are estimated to be 40% more likely to develop breast cancer than the general female population, according to a report from the National Institutes of Health.

Sens. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., and Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, sent a letter to the departments Friday, one of the last days of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. They asked the agencies to work together to discover the reasoning behind the increased risk.

"We must better understand and address the relationship between burn pit exposure and the health needs of our military," they wrote. "Currently, there is no published research that directly explains how ex-

posure to burn pits has affected the health of women."

Throughout the 1990s and the post-9/11 wars, the military used open-air pits to burn garbage, jet fuel, paint, medical waste, plastics and other materials. Veterans diagnosed with cancer, respiratory issues and lung disease at young ages have blamed exposure to the toxic fumes.

There is no research directly linking burn pit exposure to instances of breast cancer, but the National Institutes of Health has said there is growing evidence that supports the idea of breast cancer being caused by environmental factors.

Through prior research, the Defense Department reported that a majority of female service members diagnosed with breast cancer are under the age of 40.

In addition to urging the departments to conduct more research, Klobuchar and Ernst asked the agencies to make breast cancer screenings more accessible to women younger than 40.



# G-20 pledge commitments to reach carbon neutrality

Associated Press

ROME — Leaders of the world's biggest economies made a compromised commitment Sunday to reach carbon neutrality "by or around midcentury" as they wrapped up a two-day summit that was laying the groundwork for the U.N. climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

According to the final communique, the Group of 20 leaders also agreed to end public financing for coal-fired power generation abroad, but set no target for phasing out coal domestically — a clear nod to coal-dependent countries including China and India and a blow to Britain, which had hoped for more solid commitments ahead of the Glasgow meeting.

The Group of 20 countries represent more than three-quarters of the world's greenhouse gas emissions and summit host Italy had been looking for solid targets on how to reduce emissions while helping poor countries deal with the impact of rising temperatures.

Without them, momentum could be lost for the larger annual talks that officially opened Sunday in Glasgow and where countries from around the globe will be represented, including poor ones most vulnerable to rising seas, desertification and other effects.

Italian Premier Mario Draghi told the leaders going into the final working session Sun-

day that they needed both to set long-term goals and make short-term changes to reach them.

"We must accelerate the phasing-out of coal and invest more in renewable energy," he said. "We also need to make sure that we use available resources wisely, which means that we should become able to adapt our technologies and also our lifestyles to this new world."

According to the communique, the G-20 reaffirmed past commitments by rich countries to mobilize \$100 billion annually to help poorer countries cope with climate change, and committed to scaling up financing for helping them adapt.

The sticking point remained the deadline to reach carbon neutrality or "net zero" emissions, meaning a balance between greenhouse gases added to and removed from the atmosphere. Going into the summit Italy had all but conceded it would only be able to secure commitments to reach net-zero emissions "by midcentury," rather than a specific year.

The future of coal, a key source of greenhouse gas emissions, has been one of the hardest things for the G-20 to agree on.

At the Rome summit, leaders agreed to "put an end to the provision of international public finance for new unabated coal power generation abroad by the end of 2021."

# Army shelling blamed for fires in Myanmar

Associated Press

BANGKOK — More than 160 buildings in a town in northwestern Myanmar, including at least two churches, have been destroyed by fires caused by shelling by government troops, local media and activists reported Saturday.

The destruction of parts of the town of Thantlang in Chin state appeared to be another escalation in the ongoing struggle between Myanmar's military-installed government and forces opposed to it. The army seized power in February from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, but has failed to quell the widespread resistance.

A government spokesman denied "nonsense allegations being reported in the country-destroying media," and blamed insurgents for instigating the fighting and setting the fires.

Human rights groups and U.N. experts recently warned that the government is planning a major offensive in the country's northwest, including Chin state, along with the regions of Magway and Sagaing. Residents of the rugged area have a reputation for their fierce fighting spirit, and have put up stiff resistance to military rule despite being only lightly armed with single-shot hunting rifles and homemade weapons.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the fire, which started early Friday and burned through the night, according to reports.

The humanitarian aid agency Save the Children said its offices were in one of the buildings that was "deliberately set ablaze."

"The destruction caused by this violence is utterly senseless. Not only has it damaged one of our offices, it risks destroying the whole town and the homes of thousands of families and children," said a statement from the London-headquartered agency.

Thantlang had already been largely abandoned due to previous attacks by government soldiers.

Eighteen other houses and a hotel were destroyed by fire set off by another shelling on Sept. 18, and a Christian pastor was shot when he tried to help put out the blaze.

More than 10,000 residents then fled the town, some staying temporarily in nearby villages and others seeking shelter across the border in Mizoram, India. About 20 staff and children in care of an orphanage on the outskirts of the town are believed to be its only remaining residents.

# Putin orders shutdown as cases rise

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia has recorded a new daily high number of coronavirus cases as much of the country's businesses remain closed in an effort to counter a weekslong surge in infections.

The national coronavirus task force on Sunday reported 40,993 new infections over the previous day, up more than 700 from the previous record of a day earlier. Russia has tallied new record of infections or deaths almost daily during October.

The death toll reported Sunday was 1,158, just slightly down from Friday's record 1,163.

That brought Russia's official COVID-19 death count to 238,538, by far the largest in Europe. More than 8.51 million infections have been recorded in the country of 146

million during the pandemic.

To contain the spread of infection, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a nonworking period from Oct. 30 to Nov. 7, during which most state agencies and private businesses are to suspend operations.

Moscow introduced the measure beginning Thursday, shutting down kindergartens, schools, gyms, entertainment venues and most stores, and restricting restaurants to takeout or delivery. Food stores, pharmacies and companies operating key infrastructure remained open.

Access to museums, theaters, concert halls and other venues in Russia is limited to people holding digital codes on their phones to prove they have been vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19, a practice that will remain after Nov. 7.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man accused of dropping devices onto boats

**WV** CHARLESTON — An Ohio man is facing federal charges after suspected destructive devices were found on Ohio River tugboats, authorities said.

Nathaniel Blayn Becker, 42, of Marietta, Ohio, was charged in a federal criminal complaint with possession of one or more unregistered destructive devices.

Becker is accused of buying pipes and other components of the devices from a Lowe's store on four occasions. Law enforcement officers recovered suspected destructive devices from two tugboats. Authorities believe the devices were dropped from a bridge, the complaint said.

Authorities traced the devices' components to a Marietta Lowe's store and were able to identify the suspect's vehicle through surveillance video, the complaint said.

### Former jail guard guilty of buying guns for others

**FL** OCALA — A former Florida jail guard has pleaded guilty to buying firearms and immediately reselling them to someone who hadn't passed a federal background check.

Kenyari Devaughnte Brewton, 26, pleaded guilty in Ocala federal court to making a materially false statement during the purchase of a firearm and causing a federal firearms licensee to maintain false information in its official records, according to court records. He faces up to 15 years in prison.

According to the plea agreement, Brewton purchased mul-

multiple firearms from a Marion County gun dealer. Brewton certified on each firearm transaction form that he was the "actual transferee/buyer" of these guns.

Brewton purchased a .40 caliber Glock pistol that was used six days later by another person during a homicide, officials said. That firearm was later recovered by Ocala police during a traffic stop involving four armed men with masks, gloves and loaded firearms.

### Woman charged after violent rampage killed 1

**KS** KANSAS CITY — A woman who police said went on a violent rampage in Kansas City, Kan., was charged with second-degree murder and 11 other felonies.

Police said Alyssa Leanne Arreola stole a vehicle then allegedly was involved in two hit-and-run crashes before she fled on foot, according to a warrant.

Police said Arreola broke into a woman's apartment and stabbed her before fleeing again. The woman was hospitalized but is expected to recover, police said.

About a block away, Arreola fatally shot a man in his driveway and stole his car, police said.

### Janitor at university accused of peeping

**NC** BOONE — Authorities have accused a janitor at a North Carolina university of peeping on students in a residence hall bathroom after a cellphone was found in a vent.

A statement from Appalachian State University said campus police received a report about the cellphone being found

in a vent of a third-floor bathroom in Eggers Residence Hall, news outlets reported.

Officials at the school said they started investigating immediately, and by the next day had inspected the entire building. Additional measures were taken to ensure there was no other access to bathroom vents.

After retrieving the phone, police arrested Jerry Alan McGlamery, 49, of Wilkes County, and charged him with secret peeping. McGlamery is on leave pending an investigation.

### Mom's web content gets her banned from school

**FL** ORLANDO — School officials in central Florida told a woman she's no longer welcome to volunteer at her children's elementary school after another parent found her page on an adults-only website featuring explicit photos and video.

Victoria Triage, 30, said she makes her living posting images on the website, where people pay a subscription to view her content, the Orlando Sentinel reported.

Now she's planning to sue the Orange County public school district for \$1 million after being told she's no longer allowed to volunteer at Orlando's Sand Lake Elementary, where her children, 5 and 10, attend school.

She said she wants to be reinstated and compensated by the district for the embarrassment and impact on her life.

### State confirms human case of West Nile virus

**VT** BURLINGTON — The Vermont Department of Health has confirmed a human case of West Nile virus

for the first time since 2017, the department said.

The Chittenden County resident was diagnosed with a more serious form of the illness affecting the nervous system, called neuroinvasive disease, the Health Department said.

West Nile virus is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito and it's been found in all Vermont counties. Most people who get infected do not get sick from the virus and fewer than 1% develop more severe illness, the department said. About 20% of infected people get flu-like symptoms, officials said.

Fourteen human cases of West Nile virus have been confirmed in Vermont since 2003, the Health Department said.

### Ex-NatGeo photographer gets year for tax evasion

**DE** WILMINGTON — A former National Geographic photographer has been sentenced to one year in federal prison for tax evasion and ordered to pay more than \$200,000 to the IRS, the Office of the U.S. Attorney for Delaware announced.

When Bruce Kevin Fleming, 67, of Milton, pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion last year, he had not filed federal income tax returns or paid any such taxes since 1981, prosecutors said in a news release.

Fleming's sentence includes \$192,529 restitution to the IRS for income taxes due from 2002 to 2016, prosecutors said. Fleming was also ordered to make restitution to the IRS for \$22,584 in payroll taxes withheld from employees' wages in 2016 and 2017, but never turned over to the IRS.

— From wire services

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# Back-to-backs put Braves on the brink

*Associated Press*

ATLANTA — This Atlanta Braves team couldn't have picked a more fitting way to move to the brink of a World Series championship.

A pitcher who spent most of the year in the minors kept 'em in it.

A slugger who came in a flurry of trades won it for 'em.

If this gritty bunch can do it once more, the Braves will have their first Series title in 26 years.

Dansby Swanson and pinch-hitter Jorge Soler connected for back-to-back homers in the seventh inning Saturday night, propelling Atlanta to a 3-2 victory over the Houston Astros and a commanding 3-1 Series lead.

Game 5 is Sunday night. The Braves can wrap up the championship on their home field, just as they did two stadiums ago when they beat the Cleveland Indians in 1995.

They've sure been tough at home, improving to 7-0 this

postseason.

"It's just such a cool moment for this city," Swanson said. "But we've got one more. They've got a great ballclub over there and we can't take anything for granted."

That triumph more than a quarter-century ago at the old Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium remains the franchise's only World Series crown since moving to the Deep South in 1966.

This is the closest the team has been to a second title since.

What an improbable crown it would be.

Atlanta stumbled along at .500 or worse until Aug. 6. It had to rebuild its entire outfield before the July 30 trade deadline after Ronald Acuña Jr. went down with a knee injury and Marcell Ozuna was sidelined by a hand injury and legal troubles. It won the NL East with just 88 wins, the fewest of any playoff team — less even than two teams that didn't make the post-

season.

With former President Donald Trump watching from a private box down the right-field line, the Braves got a huge boost from a most unlikely player.

Former first-round draft pick Kyle Wright, who made only two appearances in the majors during a season spent mostly at Triple-A Gwinnett, got through 4½ critical innings out of the bullpen after surprise starter Dylan Lee retired only one hitter.

Wright was hardly overpowering, giving up five hits — including a solo homer by Jose Altuve in the fourth that staked the Astros to a 2-0 lead — and three walks. But he continually pitched out of trouble, giving Atlanta a semblance of hope until its offense woke up.

"He probably doesn't realize what he did, how big it was," manager Brian Snitker said. "I'm so proud how he handled the situation."

Wright has a career record of 2-8 with a 6.56 ERA. In two 2021 starts for the Braves, he was 0-1 with a 9.95 ERA.

"Honestly, I was a little lost," he conceded.

He found himself just in the nick of time for Atlanta.

In the sixth, Eddie Rosario became the first Braves hitter to get past first base with a one-out double off Brooks Raley.

Rosario wound up scoring on another clutch postseason hit by Austin Riley, who lined a two-out single to left against Phil Maton.

Atlanta left the bases loaded, but it wasn't done. Just like that, it stunningly engineered the first lead change of the entire Series, with Swanson and Soler becoming the third duo in World Series history to hit back-to-back homers that tied and put a team ahead.

The first two guys to do it were named Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

## Harbaugh back in the hot seat at Michigan after loss

*Associated Press*

It's time to talk about Jim Harbaugh.

There has not been much discussion about college football's most scrutinized coach as Michigan ran out to a 7-0 start.

With Harbaugh, the failures are all that seem to matter.

After No. 8 Michigan State came from 16 down in the second half to beat No. 6 Michigan in one of the best games of the season, the numbers that define Harbaugh's seven seasons at his alma mater are this: 3-9 against the Wolverines' two biggest rivals and 2-13 against top-10 opponents.

"We have to respond. Our backs are against the wall now," Michigan quarterback Cade McNamara said.

Michigan extended Harbaugh's contract after he went 2-4 last season, but with a pay cut and a reasonable buyout.

He has responded by putting an undeniably good team on the field. Saturday was a chance to prove just how good, and Michigan outgained its in-state rival by 157 yards and went up 30-14 in the third quarter. The Wolverines also had a defensive touchdown

taken off the board by a questionable replay review late in the first half.

Then Kenneth Walker and the Spartans roared back to make Mel Tucker the first Michigan State coach to win his first two games against Michigan.

The only downside for Michigan State to Tucker's quick turnaround of the program after a messy end to Mark Dantonio's tenure is that the new guy's stock is soaring — and USC and LSU have vacancies. Heck, maybe the NFL will come calling for Tucker, who spent 10 seasons in the league as a defensive assistant and coordinator.

Meanwhile at Michigan, Harbaugh's 56-23 record continues to leave Wolverines fans unsatisfied.

There will be questions about settling for so many field goals against Michigan State; about a defense that struggled to adjust to the Spartans' tempo; and about using backup quarterback J.J. McCarthy in a big spot in the fourth quarter when the freshman lost a fumble.

Harbaugh said McNamara, who had a career-high 383 yards passing, was "working

through something" on that series.

The bigger questions persist: Can Harbaugh make Michigan a team that beats Ohio State and contends for national championships? And is this good enough? Should Michigan not only expect better, but seek out better?

Michigan is victories against Maryland and Indiana away from securing at least a 9-3 season. Work in a win at Penn State and that's 10 wins with the fifth-ranked Buckeyes coming to Ann Arbor on Thanksgiving weekend.

All it would take is one victory against Ohio State to change everything for Harbaugh, but at 0-5 in that rivalry there is little reason to believe that's coming.

Beating Michigan State would have created some space for Harbaugh and Michigan to likely get through the rest of the season without the coach's status and existential questions about what the program should aspire to from becoming a trending topic in college football.

But here we are again, talking about Harbaugh.



# Walker runs Spartans past Wolverines

*Associated Press*

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Kenneth Walker earned the right to stump for Heisman Trophy votes and humbly refused, shaking off questions about the coveted award as if they were linebackers trying to tackle him.

Walker ran for 197 yards and five touchdowns, helping No. 8 Michigan State top No. 6 Michigan 37-33 for a thrilling comeback win on Saturday.

"I don't feel like it was a Heisman moment," said Walker, who started the day leading the nation in rushing and finished it with 1,194 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns. "But it was just a great team win."

The Wake Forest transfer had a lot to do with it.

The Spartans (8-0, 5-0 Big Ten) trailed by nine at halftime and 30-14 with 6:47 left in the third quarter before rallying as Walker

boosted his chances of being selected college football's most outstanding player.

His fifth touchdown — a 23-yard run — lifted the Spartans to a 37-33 lead with 5:08 remaining. He had 8.6 yards a carry, an average that spiked thanks to his 58-yard touchdown that helped Michigan State pull into a 30-all tie early in the fourth quarter.

"This was a huge stage, the whole world was watching, and you got a chance to see what type of player he is," Spartans coach Mel Tucker said. "Any recognition he's getting for Heisman consideration is well deserved."

The Wolverines (7-1, 4-1) forced a final punt and had the ball at their 33 with 1:15 and no timeouts left.

After a roughing-the-passer penalty gave them the ball at midfield, Michigan State cornerback Charles Brantley sealed the victory by picking off a floating pass from Cade

McNamara.

"This one stings," McNamara said. "We have to respond. Our backs are against the wall now."

McNamara threw for 383 yards and two touchdowns, but his interception was costly, as was freshman quarterback J.J. McCarthy's lost fumble on an attempted handoff in the fourth quarter.

"That exchange didn't go smoothly," said Harbaugh, who said McNamara was "working through something," when the freshman replaced him.

The rivals were on the same field with 7-0 or better records for the first time, matching up as top-10 teams for the first time since 1964.

Michigan State's win puts the program in contention for the Big Ten conference championship and potentially a spot in the College Football Playoff.

## No. 1 Georgia dominates Florida

*Associated Press*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Raise a glass to Georgia's defense. Or three, actually — one for each second-quarter turnover that turned the rivalry known as "The World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party" into another lopsided affair.

The top-ranked Bulldogs and the nation's No. 1 defense dominated Florida, scoring three touchdowns off miscues in a 12-play sequence that carried them to a 34-7 victory Saturday, their fourth in five years in the neutral-site game.

Georgia (8-0, 6-0 Southeastern Conference) later clinched the league's Eastern Division thanks to Kentucky's loss at Mississippi State.

Coach Kirby Smart's team won its 12th straight since getting steamrolled in Jacksonville a year ago. The Bulldogs' injury-riddled defense allowed 571 yards in that one, the most in Smart's six seasons.

Georgia vowed to not let it happen again and responded with another demoralizing effort that might be their most impressive all season.

"It was real personal," linebacker Nolan Smith said.

The Gators (4-4, 2-4) managed no points, 11 first downs and 214 yards through three quarters and looked like their decades-old, NCAA-record scoring streak might be in jeopardy down the stretch. But they finally got on the scoreboard with 2:49 remaining,

extending the streak to 418 games. They have scored in every outing since getting shut out by Auburn in 1988.

Emory Jones' late touchdown run, though, did little to negate the Bulldogs' mastery for three-plus hours on a cool, sun-drenched afternoon. All the empty seats on Florida's side of TIAA Bank Field told the real story.

This one was over by halftime.

And Georgia's defense deserved a toast for making it happen.

"It was a whole bunch of momentum," Smart said. "You get momentum like that, it can be an over-swell."

Smith started the onslaught by ripping the ball out of Anthony Richardson's arms at the end of an 8-yard run. James Cook sliced his way through Florida's defense for a 10-yard touchdown run on the ensuing play.

Richardson was making his first career start, getting the nod over turnover-prone Jones. But he wasn't the difference Gators fans expected.

"The talent's there," Florida coach Dan Mullen said. "We've just got to get him coached up on the intangibles."

Two plays later, Travon Walker tipped Richardson's pass over the middle and Smith intercepted it. Stetson Bennett, who started his fourth consecutive game in place of JT Daniels, found Kearnis Jackson for a 36-yard score on first down.

## No. 5 Ohio State stymies No. 20 Penn State

*Associated Press*

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Facing adversity for the first time in more than a month, Ohio State showed off the mettle the Buckeyes believe they'll need to get through the rest of a rugged Big Ten schedule.

TreVeyon Henderson ran for 152 yards on a season-high 28 carries and No. 5 Ohio State made just enough long plays and short field goals to hold off No. 20 Penn State 33-24 on Saturday night.

The Buckeyes (7-1, 5-0 Big Ten) finally finished off the Nittany Lions (5-3, 2-3) on Noah Ruggles' fourth field goal, a 26-yarder with 2:41 left to make it a nine-point lead.

Three days before the first College Football Playoff rankings, Ohio State likes where it stands.

"We weren't trying to get style points against Penn State," Buckeyes coach Ryan Day said. "That's not how it works."

Coming off an ugly nine-overtime loss at home to Illinois, Penn State looked more like the team that had climbed into the top five before losing to Iowa in a game where quarterback Sean Clifford was injured.

"I thought we were more physical, broke some tackles, made some people miss things like that," Nittany Lions coach James Franklin said. "We've got to continue to build on it."

# Harris, Embiid, lead 76ers' rout of Hawks

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Tobias Harris had 22 points and 11 rebounds, Joel Embiid added 19 points and the Philadelphia 76ers routed the Atlanta Hawks 122-94 on Saturday.

Philadelphia carried a 60-36 advantage over Atlanta in the paint while outscoring the Hawks by a 34-14 margin on fast-break points. Six 76ers finished in double figures with Tyrese Maxey (16), Seth Curry (15), Matisse Thybulle (11) and Shake Milton (11) all adding to the scoring party.

Cam Reddish led Atlanta with 16 points on 7-of-14 shooting from the floor. Trae Young and Bogdan Bogdanovic each had 13 points, but Young struggled at 5-for-15 from the floor and only got to the foul line four times.

**Wizards 115, Celtics 112 (2 OT):** Bradley Beal scored 36 points, Kyle Kuzma added 17 points and a career-high 17 rebounds, and host Washington Wizards outlasted Boston.

Montrezl Harrell added 20 points and 14 rebounds before fouling out in the second overtime for the Wizards, who improved to 5-1 with their second victory over the Celtics in three games.

**Bulls 107, Jazz 99:** DeMar DeRozan scored a season-high 32 points, Zach LaVine added 26 and host Chicago handed Utah its first loss.

The Bulls grabbed a 17-point lead in the fourth quarter and hung on after the Jazz pulled within five in the closing minutes.

**Knicks 123, Pelicans 117:** R.J. Barrett made six three-pointers and poured in a career-high 35 points to lead New York in scoring for a second straight game, and the team won at New Orleans for their fifth victory in six games to start the season.

**Suns 101, Cavaliers 92:** Devin Booker scored 27 points, Deandre Ayton added 17 points and 12 rebounds and host Phoenix beat Cleveland.

**Warriors 103, Thunder 82:** Stephen Curry scored 20 points in 27 minutes

while getting ample rest, Draymond Green did a little bit of everything as usual and host Golden State thumped Oklahoma City.

**Heat 129, Grizzlies 103:** Jimmy Butler scored 27 points, Tyler Herro added 22 and Miami used a strong shooting performance to win easily at Memphis.

**Spurs 102, Bucks 93:** Dejounte Murray had 23 points and nine assists, and San Antonio pulled away in the final minutes for a victory at Milwaukee that snapped a four-game losing streak.

**Pistons 110, Magic 103:** Jeremi Grant scored 22 points, No. 1 pick Cade Cunningham added seven rebounds in his NBA debut and host Detroit beat Orlando for its first win of the season.

**Nuggets 93, Timberwolves 91:** Nikola Jokic had 26 points and 19 rebounds as visiting Denver completed a late rally to win its 12th in a row against Minnesota.

**Raptors 97, Pacers 94:** Scottie Barnes scored 21 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to help Toronto win at Indiana.

# Bruins halt Panthers' win streak at eight in shutout

Associated Press

BOSTON — Charlie Coyle had the only score in the shootout and the Boston Bruins beat Florida 3-2 Saturday night, ending the Panthers' season-opening winning streak at eight games.

The Panthers fell two wins short of the NHL record for consecutive victories to start a season, set by Toronto in 1993-94 and matched by Buffalo in 2006-07.

Florida was playing the second of a back-to-back after beating Detroit in OT on Friday night.

It was Florida's second game since coach Joel Quenneville resigned amid a sex scandal when he was with the Chicago Blackhawks in 2010.

Quenneville, the second-winningest coach in NHL history, resigned Thursday, two days after being among those implicated for not responding swiftly to allegations by former Chicago player Kyle Beach of being sexually

assaulted by then-Blackhawks assistant Brad Aldrich during the 2010 Stanley Cup playoffs.

Andrew Brunette, an assistant under Quenneville, is the interim coach.

"We played hard," Brunette said. "Heck of an effort by the guys in a back-to-back game, in a tough place to play."

Coyle also scored in regulation, and Linus Ullmark stopped 33 shots, and three tries in the shootout.

**Sharks 2, Jets 1 (OT):** Timo Meier scored a power-play goal in overtime and host San Jose overcame the loss of seven players and their coach to NHL COVID-19 protocols in beating Winnipeg and snapping a three-game losing streak.

The Sharks announced before the game they would be without the seven players and coach Bob Boughner. The start of the game was delayed 30 minutes.

**Maple Leafs 5, Red Wings 4:** John Tavares had a goal and two

assists and Petr Mrazek made 26 saves for his first victory with Toronto in a win over visiting Detroit.

Jake Muzzin and Alexander Kerfoot each had a goal and an assist, and Mitch Marner and Michael Bunting also scored to help Toronto improve to 4-4-1.

**Devils 4, Penguins 2:** Jesper Bratt scored on a third-period penalty shot to spoil Sidney Crosby's season debut and help visiting New Jersey beat Pittsburgh.

Crosby pulled down Bratt in the slot with three minutes left, leading to the deciding penalty shot. Bratt skated to the right and beat goalie Tristan Jarry with a backhand.

**Kings 5, Canadiens 2:** Alex Iafallo had two goals and an assist, and host Los Angeles beat Montreal to end a six-game losing streak.

Arthur Kaliyev and Rasmus Kupari scored on the power play, Ben Chiarot added a goal and Anze Kopitar and Matt Roy

each had two assists as the Kings won for the first time since their opener. Cal Petersen made 26 saves.

**Predators 3, Islanders 2:** Filip Forsberg and Roman Josi scored in the shootout, leading host Nashville past New York.

**Blues 1, Blackhawks 0:** Torey Krug scored and Jordan Binnington made 25 saves in St. Louis' win over winless visiting Chicago.

**Avalanche 4, Wild 1:** Gabriel Landeskog had two goals and two assists and set up Colorado's go-ahead goal by defenseman Erik Johnson in a win over visiting Minnesota.

**Oilers 2, Canucks 1:** Warren Foegele and Leon Draisaitl scored power-play goals and visiting Edmonton beat Vancouver.

**Flames 4, Flyers 0:** Sean Monahan had a goal and an assist and Jacob Markstrom made 20 saves as host Calgary blanked Philadelphia for its sixth straight win.