

Attacks on US troops in Iraq, Syria rise

By **DOUG G. WARE**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria have been attacked by militant groups almost two dozen times in the past two weeks amid growing unrest in the Middle East, a Pentagon official said Monday.

U.S. and coalition bases in Iraq and Syria have seen a dramatic increase in rocket and drone attacks since the militant group Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, which sparked a campaign by Israel that has included the bombing of Gaza and a ground invasion of the Palestinian territory. The Pentagon has said there had been several attacks on American and coalition forces in Syria and Iraq since the fighting started between Israel and Hamas. On Monday, a senior defense official said the number of attacks has increased to 23.

“From Oct. 17 to [today], U.S. and coalition forces have been attacked at least 14 separate times in Iraq and nine separate times in Syria,” said the official, who gave updated details about the attacks on condi-

tion of anonymity. “Many of these attacks were successfully disrupted by our military. Most failed to reach their targets thanks to our robust defenses.”

Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh told reporters later Monday that three of the new attacks in Syria occurred in recent days at bases in Green Village and al-Shadadi. The number of attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria on Thursday had reached 16. Some of the previous attacks on the bases resulted in minor injuries to American personnel, but it wasn’t clear Monday whether the new attacks caused new injuries.

“Most of those attacks have been unsuccessful,” the defense official said. “U.S. forces remain on our bases in a campaign to support local forces for the ‘defeat ISIS’ mission.”

The new attacks came after President Joe Biden ordered two F-16s on Thursday to carry out a pair of airstrikes against targets in eastern Syria, which the Pentagon called “focused precision proportionate attacks.”

They occurred near al-Boukamal and officials said the F-16s struck two weapons and ammunition storage areas. The senior defense official said Monday that those locations in Syria were chosen because they presented targets of opportunity.

“It’s not about the location. It’s about Iran and the [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps], who use infrastructure, militants and proxies on the ground across the Middle East to include both Iraq and Syria,” the official said.

The Pentagon said the attacks against American bases are being carried out by proxy groups supported by Iran and the IRGC, the country’s main military apparatus.

“Iran’s objective for a long time has been to force the withdrawal of the U.S. military from the region. We are still there,” the senior defense official said. “[We want] Iran’s senior leaders to direct its proxies and militias to stand down and stop these attacks and we have backed it up with the use of force.”

Israelis push deeper into Gaza as 80,000 flee south

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israeli troops battled Hamas militants and attacked underground compounds on Tuesday with a focus on northern Gaza. An estimated 800,000 Palestinians have fled south, even though Israeli airstrikes have pounded the entirety of the besieged enclave.

Buoyed by the first successful rescue of a captive held by Hamas, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected calls for a cease-fire and again vowed to crush Hamas’ ability to govern Gaza or threaten Israel following its bloody Oct. 7 rampage, which ignited the war.

In the Jabaliya refugee camp on Gaza City’s outskirts, at least six airstrikes destroyed a num-

ber of apartment blocks in a residential area, the Hamas-run Interior Ministry said. It reported a large number of casualties but did not immediately provide details.

Footage of the scene from Al-Jazeera TV showed at least four large craters where buildings once stood, amid a large swath of rubble surrounded by partially collapsed structures. Dozens of rescue workers and bystanders dug through the wreckage, searching for survivors beneath the pancaked buildings. A group of young men pulled two children from the upper floors of a damaged apartment block, cradling them as they climbed down.

More than half the territory’s 2.3 million Palestinians have

fled their homes, with hundreds of thousands sheltering in packed U.N.-run school-turned-shelters or in hospitals alongside thousands of wounded patients. Israeli strikes have hit closer to several northern hospitals in recent days, alarming medics.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, says nearly 672,000 Palestinians are sheltering in its schools and other facilities — four times their capacity. Thousands of people broke into its aid warehouses over the weekend to take food, as supplies of basic goods have dwindled because of the Israeli siege.

There has been no central electricity in Gaza for weeks, and Israel has barred the entry

of fuel needed to power emergency generators for hospitals and homes.

UNRWA, which hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza rely on for basic services even in normal times, says 64 of its staff have been killed since the start of the war, including a man killed alongside his wife and eight children in a strike late Monday.

The war has also threatened to ignite even heavier fighting on other fronts. Israel and Lebanon’s Hezbollah militant group have traded fire on a daily basis along the border, and Israel and the U.S. have struck targets in Syria linked to Iran, which supports Hamas, Hezbollah and other armed groups in the region.

Recently confirmed Marine Corps leader hospitalized

BY DOUG G. WARE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Gen. Eric Smith, who was recently confirmed as the new commandant of the Marine Corps, has been hospitalized due to an emergency, the service said Monday.

Smith experienced a “medical emergency” Sunday night and was immediately taken to a hospital, the Marine Corps said.

The service did not specify whether Smith was at home during the emergency or address the nature or severity of his medical condition.

Lt. Gen. Karsten Heckl, the most senior officer at Marine Corps headquarters, is performing the duties of the commandant, the service said. Heckl is the commander of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

President Joe Biden nominat-

ed Smith in May to succeed Gen. David Berger as the Marine Corps commandant, which is the top-ranking position in the service. But Smith’s appointment was delayed — along with those of hundreds of other top military officers — by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., over a Pentagon policy that reimburses expenses to troops who want to travel to other states to get reproductive care, including abortions. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., in September placed several of the top nominations — including those of Smith and Air Force Gen. Charles “CQ” Brown, the nominee to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — up for individual votes on the Senate floor.

Smith was confirmed as the commandant in a 96-0 vote. Usually, large numbers of nomi-

inations are confirmed through voice votes.

Before Smith became commandant, he served in the Marine Corps for 36 years and deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. He attempted to crack down on hazing and sexual assault when overseeing Marines in California and said in an August message to service members that he will continue to work to eliminate issues that cause division.

“I owe you a command climate where honest mistakes can be made, where Marines are treated like professionals and where discipline is central to who we are,” Smith wrote.

As a general officer, he commanded U.S. Marine Corps Forces Southern Command, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

Philippine ship shadowed by Chinese near disputed shoal

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A Philippine navy patrol ship was shadowed by Chinese forces near a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, sparking a fresh exchange of accusations and warnings between the neighbors Tuesday.

Chinese and Philippine security officials gave conflicting accounts of Monday’s encounter near Scarborough Shoal. China has surrounded the shoal with its navy and coast guard ships since a tense standoff with Philippine vessels more than a decade ago.

A rich fishing atoll and a safe mooring area during storms, Scarborough off the northwestern Philippines coast is one of most fiercely contested territories in the South China Sea, where Chinese and Philippine forces have faced off in recent months.

The frequent confrontations, which led to an Oct. 22 collision of Chinese and Philippine vessels near another disputed shoal, have prompted the United States to repeatedly renew a warning that it’s obligated to defend the Philippines if Filipino forces, ships or aircraft come under an armed attack in the Pacific.

Chinese air force Col. Tian Junli, a spokesperson for the Southern Theater Command of the People’s Liberation Army, said a Philippine warship trespassed into what he said were Chinese waters around Scarborough Shoal on Monday and was “tracked, monitored, warned and restricted” by the Chinese navy and air force.

US buys seafood spurned by China

BY JOSEPH DITZLER
AND JEREMY STILLWAGNER
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The U.S. ambassador to Japan delivered a shipment of Hokkaido scallops, along with assurances that the country’s seafood is safe to eat, on Tuesday to a commissary where military families shop for groceries at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo.

The staged delivery represents one part of a U.S. agreement to help Japan offset the loss of fresh fish sales to China by selling and consuming its seafood at U.S. military bases in Japan, U.S. Ambassador to Ja-

pan Rahm Emanuel said at the commissary.

The scallops delivery is the first of many to commissaries, naval vessels and other outlets serving U.S. service members, Defense Department personnel and their families, he said.

He was joined at the commissary by representatives of Japan’s government, the Hokkaido Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations, the Defense Commissary Agency, base commander Air Force Col. Andrew Roddan and Marine Corps Brig. Gen. George B. Rowell, the deputy commander of U.S. Forces Japan.

China imposed a ban on im-

ported Japanese seafood after Japan released water containing radioactive tritium from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant on Aug. 24 and again on Oct. 5, according to news reports.

Emanuel said he serves Japanese seafood at his table.

“I’ve served the products to my own children; I continue to eat the products from the Fukushima area,” he said. “I’ve served the fish products to some of the highest elected officials in the United States government and armed forces, and we will continue to stand with our friends in Japan.”

Blinken, Austin push for aid to Israel, Ukraine

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's top military and diplomatic leaders urged an increasingly divided Congress on Tuesday to send immediate aid to Israel and Ukraine, arguing at a Senate hearing that broad support for the assistance would signal U.S. strength to adversaries worldwide.

The testimony from Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken came as the administration's massive \$105 billion emergency aid request for conflicts in the two countries encountered roadblocks.

While there is bipartisan support in the Democratic-led Senate for aid to both Ukraine and Israel, the request faces deep problems in the Republican-led

House.

New Speaker Mike Johnson has proposed focusing on Israel alone, and slashing money for the Internal Revenue Service to pay for it.

As the congressional divisions deepen, Blinken and Austin warned that the consequences of failing to help Ukraine in its war with Russia and Israel as it strikes back against Hamas would be dire. Inaction, they said, would threaten the security of the United States and the rest of the world.

"We now stand at a moment where many are again making the bet that the United States is too divided or distracted at home to stay the course," Blinken said. "That is what is at stake."

Austin said that if the U.S.

fails to lead, "the cost and the threats to the United States will only grow. We must not give our friends, our rivals, or our foes any reason to doubt America's resolve."

Biden has requested \$14.3 billion for Israel, \$61.4 billion to support Ukraine, \$9.1 billion for humanitarian efforts in Gaza and elsewhere and \$7.4 billion for the Indo-Pacific, where the U.S. is focused on countering China's influence.

Some of the Ukraine funding would go toward replenishing domestic stockpiles of weapons that have already been provided.

The White House has also requested roughly \$14 billion to protect the U.S. border. That money would be used to boost the number of border agents, in-

stall new inspection machines to detect fentanyl and to increase staffing for processing asylum cases.

But the House is trying to set aside much of Biden's request for now to focus on a roughly \$14.5 billion package for Israel. That plan faced immediate resistance among Senate Democrats — and put pressure on the Senate Republicans who support the Ukraine aid but are conscious of growing concerns about it within their party.

Speaking on the Senate floor, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the House proposal "is clearly designed to divide Congress on a partisan basis, not unite us." He said he hopes Johnson realizes he made a "grave mistake" and reverses course.

Border agents ordered to stop cutting wire barrier

BY ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Federal agents were ordered by a judge Monday to stop cutting wire barriers put near the U.S.-Mexico border by the Texas National Guard to deter migrants from crossing into the United States between legal ports of entry.

Texas filed a lawsuit that claims Border Patrol agents are damaging state property, yet a spokesperson with the Department of Homeland Security said the agency is obligated to reach the migrants once they are on American soil and take them into custody.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Republican, requested the emergency restraining order Friday to stop the practice of cutting the state's wire barriers just two days after filing a federal lawsuit about it.

Abbott sent troops to the border two years ago to work alongside the state police to deter human and drug smuggling along the

state's border with Mexico. The mission, known as Operation Lone Star, is separate from a federal National Guard mission to support Customs and Border Protection with non-law enforcement activities.

The Texas Military Department said troops working on Operation Lone Star have installed nearly 106 miles of coiled barbed wire to curb the flow of migrants crossing between legal ports of entry all along the border with Mexico.

The wire is typically placed within the boundary of the U.S., and on property owned by the state, local governments or private citizens who have granted permission for the Guard to access private property.

Border Patrol agents have cut those barriers over 20 times since Sept. 20, according to the lawsuit filed in the Del Rio Division of the Western District of Texas. Cutting the barrier damages the state's property, according to the lawsuit.

Ivanka Trump's testimony delayed, will follow father's

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ivanka Trump's testimony at her father's New York civil fraud trial is being delayed until next week so there is sufficient time for her to be questioned, a judge said Monday.

Former President Donald Trump's eldest daughter had been set to take the witness stand on Friday, when the Manhattan trial typically meets for a half-day session, but lawyers in the case said her testimony is likely to take a full day, if not longer.

Judge Arthur Engoron, who last week rejected Ivanka Trump's bid to avoid testifying, said she will now appear Nov. 8. The judge had floated the idea of making Friday a full-day court session, but Donald Trump's lawyers said they couldn't do that because of other commitments.

The scheduling change now puts Ivanka Trump on the witness stand at the end of a blockbuster stretch in a case that

threatens to disrupt her family's real estate empire.

She'll be testifying hours before her father, the 2024 Republican presidential nomination front-runner, holds a campaign rally in Miami.

New York Attorney General Letitia James sued Donald Trump, his company and top executives — including sons Eric and Donald Trump Jr. — last year, alleging they conspired to exaggerate his wealth on financial statements that were used to secure loans and make deals.

Donald Trump and the other defendants have denied wrongdoing, calling the trial a politically motivated sham. The case could strip Trump of some of his corporate holdings and marquee properties such as Trump Tower.

Originally scheduled to precede her father on the witness stand, Ivanka Trump will now follow him as the final witness called by James' lawyers.

Maine gunman's kin had shared concerns

Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine — Five months before the mass shooting in Maine last week, the gunman's family alerted the local sheriff that they were becoming concerned about his deteriorating mental health while he had access to firearms, authorities said Monday.

After the alert, the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office reached out to officials of Robert Card's Army Reserve unit, which assured deputies that they would speak to Card and make sure he got medical attention, Sheriff Joel Merry said.

The family's concern about Card's mental health dated back to early this year before the sheriff's office was contacted in May, marking the earliest in a string of interactions that police had with the 40-year-old firearms instructor before he marched into a Lewiston bowling alley and a bar last Wednesday, killing 18 people and wounding 13 others.

After an intensive two-day search that put residents on edge, he was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot.

Card underwent a mental health evaluation last summer after accusing soldiers of calling him a pedophile, shoving one and locking himself in his room during training in New York, officials said. A bulletin sent to police shortly after last week's attack said Card had been committed to a mental health facility for two weeks after "hearing voices and threats to shoot up" a military base.

Documents released from the sheriff on Monday gave the most detailed timeline yet of other warning signs and failed efforts to stop the gunman months before he killed.

On Sept. 15, a sheriff's deputy was sent to visit Card's home for a wellness check at the request of the reserve unit after a soldier said he was afraid Card was "going to snap and commit a mass

shooting" because he was hearing voices again. The deputy went to Card's trailer but could not find him — nor the next day on a return visit. The sheriff's department then sent out a statewide alert for help locating Card with a warning that he was known to be "armed and dangerous" and that officers should use extreme caution.

By this time, Card's reserve unit had grown sufficiently concerned that it had decided to take away his military-issued firearms, the sheriff's office was told. Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ruth Castro confirmed that account, adding that Card was also declared "non-deployable" and that multiple attempts were made to contact him.

According to the deputy's report after visiting Card's home, he reached out to the reserve's unit commander who assured him the Army was trying to get treatment for Card. The commander also said he thought "it best to let Card

have time to himself for a bit."

The deputy then reached out to Card's brother. The brother said he had put Card's firearms in a gun safe on the family farm and would work with their father to move the guns somewhere else and make sure Card couldn't get other firearms.

Authorities recovered a multitude of weapons while searching for Card after the shooting and believe he had legally purchased them, including a Ruger SFAR rifle found in his car, officials said Monday. A Smith & Wesson M&P15 rifle and Smith & Wesson M&P .40-caliber handgun were with his body.

Authorities have not said whether they believe Card planned the Oct. 25 rampage in advance. Nearly three months ago, he tried and failed to acquire a device used to quiet gunshots, a gun shop owner in Auburn said.

Silencers are more heavily regulated under federal law than most firearms.

Southern California fire prompts evacuation order

Associated Press

AGUANGA, Calif. — A wildfire fueled by gusty Santa Ana winds ripped through rural land southeast of Los Angeles, forcing about 4,000 people from their homes, fire authorities said.

The so-called Highland Fire erupted at about 12:45 p.m. Monday in dry, brushy hills near the unincorporated Riverside County hamlet of Aguanga. As of early Tuesday, the fire had grown to 3.5 square miles and was not contained, officials said in a social media post.

About 1,300 homes and 4,000 residents were under evacuation orders, fire spokesman Jeff LaRusso said Monday. Evacuation orders and warnings remained in place Tuesday morning, officials said.

The fire had destroyed three buildings and damaged six others but it wasn't clear whether any were homes. The region is sparsely populated but there are horse ranches and a large mobile home site, LaRusso said. No injuries were reported.

The National Weather Service issued a wind advisory for the region through Tuesday night, forecasting winds of 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 50 mph.

The strongest winds are expected in foothills and adjacent valleys.

On Monday, winds of 20 to 25 mph with some higher gusts drove the flames and embers through grass and brush that were dried out by recent winds and low humidity so that it was "almost like kindling" for the blaze, LaRusso said.

US regulators sue SolarWinds, exec for alleged cyber neglect

Associated Press

U.S. regulators on Monday sued SolarWinds, a Texas-based technology company whose software was breached in a massive 2020 Russian cyberespionage campaign, for fraud for failing to disclose security deficiencies ahead of the stunning hack.

The company's top security executive was also named in the complaint filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission seeking unspecified civil penalties, reimbursement of "ill-gotten gains" and the executive's removal.

Detected in December 2020, the SolarWinds hack penetrated U.S. government agencies including the Justice and Homeland Security departments, and over 100 private companies and think tanks. It was a rude wake-

up call that raised awareness about the urgency of stepping up efforts to better guard against intrusions.

In the 68-page complaint filed in New York federal court, the SEC says SolarWinds and its then vice president of security, Tim Brown, defrauded investors and customers "through misstatements, omissions and schemes" that concealed both the company's "poor cybersecurity practices and its heightened — and increasing — cybersecurity risks."

In a statement, SolarWinds called the SEC charges unfounded and said it is "deeply concerned this action will put our national security at risk."

Brown performed his responsibilities "with diligence, integrity, and distinction," his lawyer, Alec Koch, said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Bomblet, ammo found in a donation at thrift store

WI JANESVILLE — A live cluster bomblet and ammunition have been found in a donation dropped off at a thrift shop in southeastern Wisconsin.

An employee at the Janesville Goodwill made the discovery while conducting inventory, according to the Janesville Police Department.

The store and surrounding area were evacuated as a bomb squad was called in to remove the small bomb and ammunition.

“Employees quickly followed safety protocols by informing store and donation center management and safety teams who then evacuated the building out of precaution for shoppers, donors and employees,” Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin said in a statement to WKOW-TV.

Janesville police are trying to determine who left the bomblet and ammunition at the Goodwill store.

Man sentenced in fishing scandal has new charges

PA HERMITAGE — One of two men who admitted stuffing fish with lead weights and fish fillets last year in an attempt to win thousands of dollars in a walleye fishing tournament on Lake Erie in Ohio is facing new charges in Pennsylvania.

Chase Cominsky, 36, of Hermitage, was charged by the Pennsylvania Game Commission with eight wildlife crimes involving whitetail deer in Mercer County.

The Sharon Herald reported that game commission wardens received allegations that Cominsky had taken several antlered whitetail deer either after legal shooting hours or during closed season and without a valid license between 2013 and 2021.

The officials found five antlered whitetail deer heads in Cominsky’s living room that had been mounted between 2013 and 2021, the newspaper reported. Three were illegally tagged with another person’s name, officials alleged.

Cominsky and Jacob Runyan of Ashtabula, Ohio, were sentenced in Ohio in the fishing case in May to 10-day jail terms for cheating and unlawful ownership of wild animals. Cominsky also gave up his bass boat worth \$100,000. Both men were fined and also agreed to three-year suspensions of their fishing licenses.

Winnings may be kept from trespass gamblers

NV LAS VEGAS — The Nevada Gaming Control Board is trying to decide whether customers kicked out of a casino should be allowed to collect winnings if they sneak back in and win money.

According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, gaming board members voted to uphold paying a serial trespasser a \$2,000-plus slot machine jackpot he had won at the Casablanca hotel-casino in Mesquite, Nev.

The newspaper said the casino disputed the payment, saying the gambler had been ordered off the property for various alleged offenses including petty theft, drunk or disorderly conduct plus violations of prior tres-

passes six times between 2011 and last year.

But the Review-Journal said the man reentered the casino and won jackpots three times over a span of several months.

Some gaming officials said the problem has grown worse on the Las Vegas Strip as banned gamblers recognize that paying a small fine for being cited for trespassing is no deterrent to sneaking back into a casino and resume playing the slots.

Poultry firms: Dismiss polluted watershed rule

OK TULSA — A group of poultry producers, including the world’s largest, have asked a federal judge to dismiss his ruling that they polluted an Oklahoma watershed.

Arkansas-based Tyson Foods, Minnesota-based Cargill Inc. and the others said in a motion that evidence in the case is now more than 13 years old.

The filing said Oklahoma conservation officials have noted a steady decline in pollution.

The trial in the lawsuit that was filed in 2005 by the state of Oklahoma had ended in 2013 with no ruling for 10 years. In January, U.S. District Judge Gregory Frizzell in Tulsa issued his decision without addressing the reason for the decadelong delay.

White House eyes turning empty offices to housing

DC WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is launching a multi-agency effort to encourage states and cities to convert more empty office buildings into housing units, with billions of federal dol-

lars available to help spur such transitions.

The new initiative involves the departments of Housing and Urban Development and Transportation, along with the General Services Administration and the Office of Management and Budget in a multi-pronged effort to address both the national shortage of affordable housing and the post-pandemic surplus of vacant office buildings.

“This presents an area of opportunity to both increase housing supply while revitalizing main streets. It’s a win-win,” said Lael Brainard, director of the National Economic Council. “We’re utilizing resources from across the government.”

State’s Dungeness crab season delayed again

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The start of the commercial Dungeness crab season in California has been delayed for the sixth year in a row to protect humpback whales from becoming entangled in trap and buoy lines.

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife said commercial crabbing will be delayed until at least Dec. 1. The situation will be reassessed on or before Nov. 17.

It’s the latest delay for the start of the commercial season, which traditionally begins in mid-November.

“Large aggregations of humpback whales continue to forage between Bodega Bay and Monterey, and allowing the use of crab traps would increase the risk of an entanglement in those fishing zones,” said Fish and Wildlife Director Charlton H. Bonham said in a statement.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting World, National and Military News

Source: Sixers trade Harden to Clippers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — James Harden got his trade to the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Philadelphia 76ers sent Harden, P.J. Tucker and Filip Petrušev to Los Angeles for Marcus Morris, Robert Covington, Nic Batum, K.J. Martin, a 2028 unprotected first-round draft pick, two second-round picks, a 2029 draft-pick swap and an additional first-rounder from a third team, a person familiar with the trade told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity Tuesday because the final details of the trade are not yet official.

Harden, who told the 76ers that the Clippers were his preferred team from the moment he issued his offseason trade demand, now joins a loaded ros-

ter intent on making a title push. He joins Kawhi Leonard, Paul George and Russell Westbrook — Harden's former teammate in Oklahoma City and Houston — in a veteran lineup that now make the Clippers a heavy betting favorite to win the NBA championship.

The 34-year-old Harden vowed he would never play for a franchise run by 76ers team president Daryl Morey, and the disgruntled guard had yet to play for the team this season. Harden had picked up his \$35.6 million contract option in June with the belief the team would trade him. When a deal failed to immediately materialize, Harden's relationship with the 76ers ultimately soured.

The 10-time All-Star led the NBA in assists last season with 10.7 per game, but it was Harden's wildly fluctuating offense

that frustrated the Sixers and helped doom them in the playoffs, where they lost in the second round to Boston.

Harden, acquired at the 2022 trade deadline from Brooklyn, is now off to his fifth team.

He was a late arrival to training camp and continued to practice with the 76ers until he was told to stay home for the team's first two road games in the wake of the trade demand. The lone time he spoke at practice, Harden said that his fractured relationship with Morey could not be repaired — comparing it to a broken marriage. Coach Nick Nurse had said Harden would not play until he met certain conditioning requirements. Harden was scheduled to practice with the 76ers on Tuesday.

Instead, Harden is now on his way to California.

The 76ers are off until Thursday's home game against Toronto. The Clippers were set to play Tuesday night against Orlando.

There was no immediate word when all the traded players would be available to their new teams.

Harden joined Westbrook and Bob McAdoo as the only league MVPs traded four times in their careers.

This may be the Clippers' last chance to win a title with this group of All-Stars. Both Leonard and George are eligible for extensions and the Clippers will have to decide whether it's worth keeping the injury-prone duo together. Part of Harden's complaint with the Sixers stemmed from the belief he should have earned a long-term contract with the team after last season.

Curry scores 42 points as Warriors rout Pelicans

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — After Stephen Curry let it fly from 31 feet for his seventh made 3-pointer of the night, he crouched at mid-court and punctuated his latest memorable performance by punching his chest once with both fists.

Curry scored 42 points in 30 minutes and the Golden State Warriors improved to 3-0 on the road with a 130-102 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Monday night.

And it sounded like many of the fans in New Orleans who'd been waiting more than two years for Curry to play again in their city got their money's worth, even if it came at their own team's expense. They let out collective, awestruck "oooohs," after some of Curry's deep 3s and some even cheered.

"When the game kind of turns up like that and the home crowd enjoys the entertainment

value and good basketball and the show, I feed off of it because I love playing basketball and being in that environment," Curry said. "But it's not like any type of message. Just hooping."

Chris Paul scored 13 points off the bench, leading Golden State on a 13-1 run at the end of the third quarter that gave the Warriors a 98-78 lead.

"It's incredible to bring Chris Paul off the bench as your backup point guard," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "He's still playing at an incredibly high level. It changes everything when you can start a game off with Steph Curry and then bring Chris with a great second unit into the game."

Zion Williamson helped New Orleans keep it close in the first half, but got into foul trouble in the third quarter. He finished with 19 points as the Pelicans lost for the first time this season after opening with a pair of victories.

Nuggets 110, Jazz 102: Nikola Jokic had 27 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his second triple-double of the season, Jamal Murray added 18 points and 14 assists, and host Denver beat Utah.

Bucks 122, Heat 114: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 33 points, Damian Lillard added 25 and host Milwaukee built a 25-point lead before holding off Miami.

Hawks 127, Timberwolves 113: Dejounte Murray matched his career high with 41 points and host Atlanta bounced back from a 19-point halftime deficit to beat Minnesota.

Thunder 124, Pistons 112: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 32 points and host Oklahoma City beat Detroit.

Nets 133, Hornets 121: Cam Thomas scored 33 points, and visiting Brooklyn built a 21-point first-quarter lead and held on to beat Charlotte.

Bulls 112, Pacers 105: Nikola Vucevic scored nine of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, and visiting Chicago rallied past Indiana.

Mavericks 125, Grizzlies 110: Luka Doncic had his 58th career triple-double with 35 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists, and undefeated Dallas beat winless host Memphis.

Trail Blazers 99, Raptors 91: Deandre Ayton had a career-high 23 rebounds, Jerami Grant scored 22 points, and visiting Portland beat Toronto for its first win of the season.

Celtics 126, Wizards 107: Jaylen Brown scored 36 points and Jayson Tatum had 33 as visiting Boston beat Washington to begin the season 3-0.

Lakers 106, Magic 103: D'Angelo Russell scored 12 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, LeBron James added nine of his 19 in the final period and host Los Angeles rallied late for a victory over Orlando.

Seager leads Texas to 2-1 World Series lead

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Corey Seager smashed a homer that rocketed off his bat at a speed few other mortals can match. Then he made a sliding stop and started a double play in the eighth inning that might have saved the game.

The star shortstop is once again playing at a different level in October.

That's good for the Texas Rangers, who may need more of those individual heroics after a costly victory put them ahead in this World Series.

Seager clubbed a two-run homer and turned in a terrific defensive play, Max Scherzer

combined with four relievers for a gem on the mound and Texas beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-1 on Monday night to take a 2-1 lead in the Fall Classic.

"This is what you play for. This is where you want to be at this moment," said Seager, the NLCS and World Series MVP for the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2020. "Fortunately for me, having experience with this, it's always driven me. I've been fortunate enough to be part of some good teams and experience these things."

Texas overcame injuries to Scherzer and slugger Adolis Garcia in improving to 9-0 on

the road this postseason, this time in front of more than 48,000 fans at Chase Field.

The 29-year-old Seager — in the second year of a \$325 million contract — once again showed he was worth every penny on the game's biggest stage.

He smoked a two-run homer into the right-field seats as part of a three-run third after Diamondbacks rookie starter Brandon Pfaadt left a first-pitch changeup high in the zone. The ball left Seager's bat at 114.5 mph, which made it the hardest-hit World Series homer in the Statcast era, dating back to 2015.

García cut down Christian Walker at the plate with a stellar

throw from right field in the second, stifling some early Arizona momentum. García exited in the eighth with tightness on his left side after appearing to get hurt on a swing. He went to a hospital for an MRI to determine the severity of the injury.

Scherzer threw three scoreless innings before leaving with back tightness. Jon Gray, Josh Sborz, Aroldis Chapman and José Leclerc combined to keep Arizona's offense quiet most of the evening.

Scherzer said he was having back spasms and would know more about his availability for a potential Game 7 over the next 48 hours.

Zibanejad scores in OT as Rangers beat Jets

Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Mika Zibanejad scored 4:34 into overtime, and the New York Rangers beat the Winnipeg Jets 3-2 on Monday night for their fifth straight win.

Rangers forward Artemi Panarin celebrated his 32nd birthday with a goal and two assists, stretching his season-opening point streak to nine games. Chris Kreider scored his sixth goal for New York, and Igor Shesterkin stopped 27 shots.

The Rangers closed out a 5-0 road trip. It was the first time in franchise history that the team had a perfect trip of at least five games.

"Everyone wants to go home, but we were determined to finish it off the right way and I thought we did and just battled through it and try to get these two points, and this one feels really good," Zibanejad said.

Zibanejad's winning one-timer was set up by Panarin. Rangers coach Peter Laviolette said Panarin is doing some "pretty special" things.

"The last one, just the game-winner, to be able to just part the way down the middle of the ice like that, push people off and then draw them in, and then have the vision to make the play to Mika, that's a unique player and he's playing really well for us right now," Laviolette said.

Ducks 4, Penguins 3: Mason McTavish scored the tying goal early in the third period and then got a short-handed tally with

11.9 seconds to play to lift visiting Anaheim over Pittsburgh.

Frank Vatrano scored his ninth goal and Jakob Silfverberg scored in his 700th game with Anaheim.

John Gibson stopped six shots but left after the first period with an upper-body injury. Lukas Dostal made 33 saves in relief for the Ducks, who swept a four-game road trip. It was the fifth time, and first since the 2013-14 season, that Anaheim swept a road trip of at least four games.

Sidney Crosby recorded an assist for the Penguins and moved into sole possession of 15th place on the NHL's all-time assists list, surpassing Hall of Famer and former teammate Mark Recchi.

Coyotes 8, Blackhawks 1: Michael Carcone had three goals and an assist for his first career hat trick, and host Arizona pounded Connor Bedard and Chicago on Monday night.

Bedard scored 28 seconds into the game, and then it was all Coyotes.

Jack McBain had two goals and two assists for Arizona, which was coming off consecutive losses to the Los Angeles Kings. Liam O'Brien and Sean Durzi each had a goal and an assist, and Alex Kerfoot had three assists.

Golden Knights 3, Canadiens 2 (SO): Jonathan Marchessault and Shea Theodore scored in the shootout and host Vegas improved to a league-best 9-0-1.

Paul Cotter and William Carrier scored

in regulation, and Adin Hill made 37 saves for the Golden Knights.

Sean Monahan and Nick Suzuki scored for Montreal. Sam Montembeault made 24 saves.

Red Wings 4, Islanders 3 (OT): Lucas Raymond scored 1:25 into overtime to lift visiting Detroit past New York.

Daniel Sprong, Jake Walman and J.T. Compher also scored for the Red Wings, who trailed 2-0 in the third period and snapped a three-game skid (0-2-1). Ville Husso stopped 37 shots.

Kraken 4, Lightning 3 (OT): Jared McCann scored a power-play goal 2:53 into overtime, and visiting Seattle beat Tampa Bay.

With Tampa Bay's Nick Paul in the penalty box for hooking, McCann converted a blast from the left circle for his fifth goal of the season. The Kraken earned their first victory in five tries against the Lightning since entering the NHL in 2021.

Bruins 3, Panthers 2 (OT): Pavel Zacha scored with 84 seconds left on the clock in overtime and host Boston rallied from two goals to beat Florida.

Hurricanes 3, Flyers 2: Teuvo Teravainen scored the tiebreaking goal with 3:47 left to play and visiting Carolina beat Philadelphia.

Stars 5, Blue Jackets 3: Matt Duchene, Wyatt Johnston and Evgenii Dadonov all scored in the third period and host Dallas beat Columbus.

Lions' rookies shine in win over Raiders

Associated Press

DETROIT — The Detroit Lions can trace their turnaround to hitting more than missing in the draft.

Jahmyr Gibbs and Sam LaPorta are the latest examples.

Gibbs ran for a season-high 152 yards and a touchdown, LaPorta had eight receptions for 57 yards with a score, and the rookies helped the Lions beat the Las Vegas Raiders 26-14 on Monday night.

"We wanted to get Gibbs going," coach Dan Campbell said. "You could tell he was feeling it."

The NFC North-leading Lions (6-2) stalled on three early drives, turned the ball over three times, missed a field goal and still won by double digits.

"When your defense plays that good, you can overcome that," Campbell said.

Jared Goff threw an interception that Marcus Peters returned 75 yards for a touchdown

early in the third quarter, allowing Las Vegas (3-5) to pull within two points. Detroit's next drive ended when Craig Reynolds fumbled at the Raiders 3.

The Lions kept the ball on their third drive of the second half, taking a two-score lead on Gibbs' 27-yard touchdown run.

Riley Patterson made a 52-yard field goal to give Detroit a 12-point lead early in the fourth.

That was a comfortable cushion against the offensively challenged Raiders.

Las Vegas welcomed the return of Jimmy Garoppolo, but lamented that he threw a league-leading ninth interception one play after the Raiders recovered a fumble in the first quarter. Kerby Joseph picked off Garoppolo's lofted pass into double coverage toward Davante Adams in the end zone.

"This was definitely a bad day," Garoppolo said. "I just have to be smart with the ball."

Sometimes, he didn't have

much of a chance.

Midway through the fourth, trying to rally, the Raiders gave up sacks on three of four snaps and turned it over on downs at their 28.

In all, Las Vegas allowed its beat-up quarterback to get sacked six times.

Garoppolo, who missed six quarters because of a back injury, was 10-for-21 for 126 yards.

Even when Garoppolo had time to throw and an open receiver, he misfired — as he did when Adams was all alone deep downfield late in the game. When that series ended, the standout receiver slammed his helmet on the sideline and sat disgustedly on the Raiders' bench.

Josh Jacobs' lackluster season continued. The 2022 All-Pro running back finished with 15 carries for 61 yards and a 3-yard touchdown late in the first half that cut the Raiders' deficit to 9-7. That was their only score on

offense.

"I thought we did have some opportunities to make more plays on offense than we did, but we didn't make them," embattled coach Josh McDaniels said. "We just couldn't string together enough plays in the passing game."

Detroit did.

Goff completed 26 of 37 passes for 272 yards with an 18-yard strike to LaPorta for a touchdown that put Detroit up 16-7 late in the first half. Amon-Ra St. Brown had six catches for 108 yards.

Detroit also had a dynamic running game to keep the Raiders on their heels.

Entering the game, Las Vegas had held an NFL-high five teams to fewer than 200 yards passing.

Gibbs, the No. 12 pick overall, had a season-high 26 carries and five receptions for 37 yards.

"He's a very talented player with a very dynamic skill set," McDaniels said.

Giants, Commanders trade pass rushers for picks

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — From afar, Pete Carroll always wanted a chance to have Leonard Williams on his team.

The affinity started when Williams was in college at Southern California, the place Carroll used to coach. It continued when Williams became a standout on the defensive line playing in the NFL in New York, first for the Jets and then the Giants.

"We watched him for a long time. I've known him for a good while — Trojan and all that — and he's a fantastic football player," Carroll said. "He's the kind of guy can make a difference in games."

Carroll got his wish Monday when the NFC West-leading Seahawks acquired Williams from the struggling Giants for a pair of draft picks.

With Seattle sitting on top of

its division and depth always a concern, Carroll's squad landed one of the better players available ahead of Tuesday's NFL trade deadline.

"He's a terrific kid as a leader and competitor. Just the kind of guy you are fortunate to have on your team," Carroll said.

The cost for Seattle is not cheap. The Seahawks (5-2) will send a second-round choice in 2024 and a fifth-rounder in 2025 to the Giants (2-6). The tradeoff for the draft capital is New York picking up most of the base salary owed to Williams for this season, leaving Seattle to pay just the prorated veteran minimum the rest of the way.

Williams had a \$32 million cap hit this season, the highest on the Giants roster. Seattle does have two third-round picks in 2024, softening the blow of giving up the second-rounder.

Williams still has to pass his physical, which is expected Tuesday.

The Washington Commanders also got a second-round pick in the next draft in exchange for a top pass rusher, trading Montez Sweat to the Chicago Bears on Tuesday.

Sweat, 27, is in the final year of his rookie contract and looks primed for a big payday in free agency, whether it's with the Bears or elsewhere. He has 6½ sacks this season and 35½ to go along with 197 tackles since Washington drafted him in the first round in 2019.

Adding Williams is the second move Seattle has made in the past week to add to its defensive line. The Seahawks reunited with veteran defensive end Frank Clark last week after Uchenna Nwosu was lost for the regular season with a pectoral

injury in Week 7 against Arizona.

Williams will likely step into a rotation with Dre'Mont Jones, Mario Edwards Jr. and Jarran Reed on Seattle's defensive front. Reed in particular has played a lot of snaps as a shaded nose tackle through the first seven games, and the Seahawks have wanted to get more pressure with the interior of their defensive line.

"Trying to get better and help our team, and this is one of the late opportunities to do something like that," Carroll said.

A nine-year veteran, Williams started 53 of 61 regular-season games and two playoff games with the Giants after being acquired from the Jets in October 2019. He was the No. 6 overall draft pick by the Jets in 2015 and played 71 games for them.