

# Taiwan: China uses 125 aircraft in exercises

*Associated Press*

TAIPEI, Taiwan — China employed 125 military aircraft in exercises aimed at Taiwan on Monday, a record for a single day, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said.

It said 90 of the aircraft, including warplanes, helicopters and drones, were spotted within Taiwan's air defense identification zone.

China launched large-scale military exercises on Monday aimed at warning against Taiwanese independence, it said.

China deployed an aircraft carrier, other ships and warplanes in the exercises surrounding Taiwan and its outlying islands, simulating the sealing off of key ports in a move that underscores the tense situation in the Taiwan Strait.

China's Defense Ministry said the drills were a response to the Taiwanese president's refusal to accept Beijing's demand that self-governed Taiwan acknowledge itself as a part of the People's Republic of China under the rule of the Communist Party.

The drills came four days after Taiwan celebrated the founding of its government on its National Day, when Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said in a speech that Chi-

na has no right to represent Taiwan and declared his commitment to "resist annexation or encroachment."

"Our military will definitely deal with the threat from China appropriately," Joseph Wu, secretary-general of Taiwan's security council, said at a forum in Taipei, Taiwan's capital. "Threatening other countries with force violates the basic spirit of the United Nations Charter to resolve disputes through peaceful means."

Taiwan's Presidential Office called on China to "cease military provocations that undermine regional peace and stability and stop threatening Taiwan's democracy and freedom."

A map aired on China's state broadcaster CCTV showed six large blocks encircling Taiwan indicating where the military drills were being held, along with circles drawn around Taiwan's outlying islands. China's Defense Ministry has not said how long the drills will last.

China deployed its Liaoning aircraft carrier for the drills, and CCTV showed a J-15 fighter jet taking off from the deck of the carrier, though the exact location of the ship is unclear.

China's People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theater Command spokesperson Se-

nior Capt. Li Xi said the navy, army air force and missile corps were all mobilized for the drills, which were an integrated operation. "This is a major warning to those who back Taiwan independence and a signifier of our determination to safeguard our national sovereignty," Li said in a statement on the service's public media channel.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing that China did not consider relations with Taiwan a diplomatic issue, in keeping with its refusal to recognize Taiwan as a sovereign state.

"I can tell you that Taiwan independence is as incompatible with peace in the Taiwan Strait as fire with water. Provocation by the Taiwan independence forces will surely be met with countermeasures," Mao said.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it deployed warships to designated spots in the ocean to carry out surveillance and stand at ready. It also deployed mobile missile and radar groups on land to track the vessels at sea.

It said as of Monday morning, they had tracked 25 Chinese warplanes and seven warships and four Chinese government ships, though it did not specify what types of ships they were.

# Florida neighbors band together after a 1-2 punch

*Associated Press*

TAMPA, Fla. — When ankle-deep floodwaters from Hurricane Helene bubbled up through the floors of their home, Kat Robinson-Malone and her husband sent a late-night text message to their neighbors two doors down: "Hey, we're coming."

The couple waded through the flooded street to the elevated front porch of Chris and Kara Sundar, whose home was built on higher ground, and handed over their 8-year-old daughter and a gas-powered generator.

The Sundars' lime-green house in southern Tampa also became a refuge for Brooke and Adam Carstensen, whose house next door to Robinson-Malone also flooded.

The three families met years earlier when their children became playmates, and

the adults' friendships deepened during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. So when Helene and Hurricane Milton struck Florida within two weeks of each other, the neighbors closed ranks as one big extended family, cooking meals together, taking turns watching children and cleaning out their damaged homes.

And as Milton threatened a direct strike on Tampa last week, the Malones, the Sundars and the Carstensens decided to evacuate together. They drove more than 450 miles in a caravan to metro Atlanta — seven adults, six children, four dogs and teenage Max Carstensen's three pet rats.

"Everyone has, like, the chain saw or a tarp," Robinson-Malone said Sunday. "But really the most important thing for us was the community we built. And that made all

the difference for the hurricane rescue and the recovery. And now, hopefully, the restoration."

Recovery efforts continued Sunday in storm-battered communities in central Florida, where President Joe Biden surveyed the devastation. Biden said he was thankful the damage from Milton was not as severe as officials had anticipated. But he said it was still a "cataclysmic" event for people caught in the path of the hurricane, which has been blamed for at least 11 deaths.

The number of homes and businesses in Florida still without electricity dropped to about 500,000 on Sunday, according to Poweroutage.us. That was down from more than 3 million after Milton made landfall Wednesday as a Category 3 storm.

# Harris lays out plan to empower Black men

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Vice President Kamala Harris is announcing a plan to give Black men more economic opportunities and other chances to thrive as she works to energize a key voting bloc that has Democrats concerned about a lack of enthusiasm.

Harris' plan includes providing forgivable business loans for Black entrepreneurs, creating more apprenticeships and studying sickle cell and other diseases that disproportionately affect African American men.

Harris already has said she

supports legalizing marijuana and her plan calls for working to ensure that Black men have opportunities to participate as a "national cannabis industry takes shape." She is calling for better regulating cryptocurrency to protect Black men and others who invest in digital assets.

The vice president's so-called "opportunity agenda for Black men" is meant to invigorate African American males at a moment when there are fears some may sit out the election rather than vote for Harris or her opponent, Republican former President Donald Trump.

The vice president unveiled the plan Monday, ahead of an evening campaign rally in Erie, Pa., where she was to appear with Democratic Sen. John Fetterman. Her push comes after former President Barack Obama suggested last week that some Black men "aren't feeling the idea of having a woman as president."

The Harris campaign also has been working to increase support among other male voting blocs, including Hispanics, by founding the group "Hombres con Harris," Spanish for "Men with Harris." The latest policy

rollout is notable because it comes with the stated purpose of motivating Black men to vote weeks before Election Day.

As her campaign has done with the "Hombres" group, Harris' team plans to organize gender-specific gatherings. Those include "Black Men Huddle Up" events in battleground states featuring African American male celebrities for things like watch parties for NFL and NCAA football games. The campaign says it also plans new testimonial ads in battleground states that feature local Black male voices.

## Trump urges more agents after derailing border bill

*Associated Press*

PRESCOTT VALLEY, Ariz. — Former President Donald Trump on Sunday proposed hiring 10,000 additional Border Patrol agents and giving them a \$10,000 retention and signing bonus, after he derailed a bipartisan bill earlier this year that included funding for more border personnel.

Trump made his pledge during a rally in Prescott Valley, Ariz., roughly 260 miles north of the state's border with Mexico. He accepted an endorsement from the agents' union, the National Border Patrol Council, which is a longtime Trump backer that endorsed him during his prior two campaigns.

Trump has made illegal immigration the focus of his campaign and blamed Vice President Kamala Harris, his Democratic opponent, for a record spike in unauthorized crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border. He frequently denounces people entering the U.S. illegally as invaders and criminals, and he has vowed to stage the largest

deportation operation in American history if he is elected president again.

He did defy the union earlier this year when he convinced Republicans to kill a bipartisan immigration bill that contained additional border resources. According to the White House, the bill would have funded 1,500 personnel at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which includes the Border Patrol.

Trump at the time said he did not want to give Democrats a victory on his key issue. At the rally, Trump contended the legislation was "a horrible bill."

Trump and his allies routinely call Harris the "border czar," even though she's never had that title. President Joe Biden did ask Harris early in his administration to study the "root causes" of migration from Central America.

"If we allow Border Czar Harris to win this election, every city, every community in this great country is going to go to hell," union president Paul Perez said.

## Man with gun arrested near Trump rally in Calif.

*Associated Press*

LOS ANGELES — A Nevada man with a shotgun, loaded handgun, ammunition and several fake passports in his vehicle was arrested at a security checkpoint outside Donald Trump's rally Saturday night in the Southern California desert, authorities said. He was released the same day on \$5,000 bail.

The suspect, a 49-year-old resident of Las Vegas, was driving an unregistered black SUV with a "homemade" license plate that was stopped by deputies assigned to the rally in Coachella, east of Los Angeles, Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco said at a news conference Sunday afternoon.

The driver claimed to be a journalist but it was unclear if he had the proper credentials. Deputies noticed the interior of the vehicle was "in disarray" and a search uncovered the weapons and ammo, along with multiple passports and driver licenses with different names, Bianco said.

The man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a loaded firearm and possession of a high-capacity magazine, the department said in a statement.

"This incident did not impact the safety of former President Trump or attendees of the event," the Saturday statement said.

Trump had not yet arrived at the rally at the time of the arrest, the sheriff said Sunday.

The suspect is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 2, 2025, according to online records.

Bianco declined to speculate about the suspect's motives or frame of mind. "We know we prevented something bad from happening, and it was irrelevant what that bad was going to be," Bianco said.

The man made it past an outer security boundary and was stopped at an inner perimeter patrolled by the sheriff's department, Bianco said. Another security checkpoint closer to the rally site was operated by the Secret Service.

# Study of links in society, economy earn Nobel prize

*Associated Press*

STOCKHOLM — The Nobel prize in economics was awarded Monday to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson for research that explains why societies with poor rule of law and exploitative institutions do not generate sustainable growth.

The three economists “have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for a country’s prosperity,” the Nobel committee of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said at the announcement in Stockholm.

Acemoglu and Johnson work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology while Robinson conducts his research at the University of Chicago.

“Reducing the vast differences in income between countries is one of our time’s greatest challenges. The laureates have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for achieving this,” Jakob Svens-

son, Chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences, said.

He said their research has provided “a much deeper understanding of the root causes of why countries fail or succeed.”

Reached by the academy in Athens, Greece, where he is due to speak at a conference, the Turkish-born Acemoglu, 57, said he was surprised and shocked by the award. Acemoglu said the research honored by the prize underscores the value of democratic institutions.

“I think broadly speaking the work that we have done favors democracy,” he said in a telephone call with the Nobel committee and reporters in Stockholm.

But he added that “democracy is not a panacea. Introducing democracy is very hard. When you introduce elections, that sometimes creates conflict.”

In an interview, Robinson

said he doubts that China can sustain its economic prosperity as long as it keeps a repressive political system.

“There’s many examples in world history of societies like that that do well for 40, 50 years,” Robinson said by phone. “What you see is that’s never sustainable. ... The Soviet Union did well for 50 or 60 years. Argentina was one of the richest countries in the world at the time of the First World War. What our theory predicts is that’s a transitory situation.”

Robinson said many societies have successfully made the transition to what he, Acemoglu and Johnson call an “inclusive society.”

“Look at the United States,” Robinson said. “This was a country of slavery, of privilege, where women were not allowed to take part in the economy or vote. ... Every country that is currently relatively inclusive and open made that transition.”

# Mechanical SpaceX arms catch booster

*Associated Press*

SpaceX pulled off the boldest test flight yet of its enormous Starship rocket on Sunday, catching the returning booster back at the launch pad with mechanical arms.

A jubilant Elon Musk called it “science fiction without the fiction part.”

Towering almost 400 feet, the empty Starship blasted off at sunrise from the southern tip of Texas near the Mexican border. It arced over the Gulf of Mexico like the four Starships before it that ended up being destroyed, either soon after liftoff or while ditching into the sea. The previous one in June had been the most successful until Sunday’s demo, completing its flight without exploding.

This time, Musk, SpaceX’s CEO and founder, upped the challenge for the rocket that he plans to use to send people back to the moon and on to Mars.

At the flight director’s command, the first-stage booster flew back to the launch pad where it had blasted off seven minutes earlier. The launch tower’s monstrous metal arms, dubbed chopsticks, caught the descending 232-foot stainless steel booster and gripped it tightly, dangling it well above the ground.

“The tower has caught the rocket!” Musk announced via X. “Big step towards making life multiplanetary was made today.”

Company employees screamed in joy, jumping and pumping their fists into the air. NASA joined in the celebration, with Administrator Bill Nelson sending congratulations.

Continued testing of Starship will prepare the nation for landing astronauts at the moon’s south pole, Nelson noted.

# News outlets press commission to unseal plea deal for 9/11 mastermind

*Associated Press*

FORT MEADE, Md. — A lawyer for news organizations urged the U.S. military commission at Guantanamo Bay to unseal the plea deal struck with accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two others, saying the public has a constitutional right and compelling need to follow one of the “most-disputed, debated, argued-about prosecutions that have happened in this country.”

The plea agreement was reached in August by the three accused, their U.S. government prosecutors and the Guantanamo commission’s top official,

but it was abruptly revoked by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin days after it became public. It has become one of the most fiercely debated chapters in more than a decade of military hearings related to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, which killed nearly 3,000 people and triggered long-running U.S. military invasions abroad.

The plea agreement would have spared Mohammed and two co-defendants the risk of the death penalty, in exchange for their guilty pleas in the al-Qaida attacks.

After news of the deal broke, however, top Republican law-

makers denounced it and the White House expressed concerns. Families of the victims variously expressed shock and approval of the plea deal, which was aimed at resolving more than a decade of pre-trial hearings in a legally troubled case for the government.

Austin said in revoking the military commission’s approval of the plea bargain that he had decided responsibility for any such grave decision should rest with him as secretary of defense. Mohammed and the two co-defendants have filed challenges, saying Austin’s action was illegal.



# Netanyahu mulls plan to starve out Hamas

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is examining a plan to seal off humanitarian aid to northern Gaza in an attempt to starve out Hamas militants, a plan that, if implemented, could trap without food or water hundreds of thousands of Palestinians unwilling or unable to leave their homes.

Israel has issued many evacuation orders for the north throughout the yearlong war, the most recent of which was Sunday. The plan proposed to Netanyahu and the Israeli parliament by a group of retired generals would escalate the pressure, giving Palestinians a week to leave the northern third of the Gaza Strip, including Gaza City, before declaring it a closed military zone.

Those who remain would be considered combatants — meaning military regulations would allow troops to kill them — and denied food, water, medicine and fuel, according to a copy of the plan given to The Associated Press by its chief architect, who says the plan is the only way to break Hamas in the north and pressure it to release the remaining hostages.

The plan calls for Israel to maintain control over the north for an indefinite period to attempt to create a new administration without Hamas, splitting the Gaza Strip in two.

There has been no decision by the government to fully carry out the so-called “Generals’ Plan,” and it is unclear how strongly it’s being considered.

When asked if the evacuation orders in northern Gaza marked

the first stages of the “Generals’ Plan,” Israeli military spokesperson Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani said no.

“We have not received a plan like that,” he said.

But one official with knowledge of the matter said parts of the plan are already being implemented, without specifying which parts. A second official, who is Israeli, said Netanyahu “had read and studied” the plan, “like many plans that have reached him throughout the war,” but didn’t say whether any of it had been adopted. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, because the plan isn’t supposed to be discussed publicly.

On Sunday, Israel launched an offensive against Hamas fighters in the Jabaliya refugee camp north of the city. The amount of

aid reaching the north has declined significantly since Oct. 1, according to the U.N.

The U.S. State Department spokesperson has said Washington is against any plan that would bring direct Israeli occupation in Gaza.

Human rights groups say the plan would likely starve civilians and that it flies in the face of international law, which prohibits using food as a weapon and forcible transfers. Accusations that Israel is intentionally limiting food to Gaza are central to the genocide case brought against it at the International Court of Justice, charges Israel denies.

A coalition of Israeli NGOs on Monday urged the international community to act, noting that “there are alarming signs that the Israeli military is beginning to quietly implement” the plan.

## Russia says it captured southern Ukraine village

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia said Monday that it has captured the village of Levadne in southern Ukraine as it probes for weaknesses along the war’s roughly 600-mile front line, including in eastern areas that are the main focus of Moscow’s military effort before winter arrives.

Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, reported no nighttime Shahed drone attacks on the country for the first time in about six weeks, after saying five days ago they struck a Shahed storage facility in Russia’s Krasnodar region where around 400 drones reportedly were being kept.

Levadne, in the Zaporizhzhia region, was seized by the Russians early on during the full-scale invasion, which began on Feb. 24, 2022, but was recaptured by Ukrainian forces during a counteroffensive in the summer of 2023.

Ukrainian officials made no

comment about Levadne’s possible capture, though they had previously noted that the Russian army was assembling troops there and was conducting local assaults at the end of last week.

Ukraine’s troops are straining to hold back Russia’s military might, especially in the eastern Donetsk region, and don’t have the manpower or weaponry to launch an offensive. Though Russia’s gains have been incremental, its steady forward movement is slowly adding up as the Ukrainians are pushed backward.

Ukraine says it needs more Western help to have a chance of holding back Russia’s invasion.

Russia illegally annexed four regions of Ukraine, including Zaporizhzhia, in September 2022. President Vladimir Putin has demanded the withdrawal of Ukrainian forces from the regions as the main condition for a prospective peace deal — a demand Ukraine and the West have rejected.

## Kenya relocates 50 elephants, a sign poaching under control

Associated Press

MWEA, Kenya — As a helicopter hovers close to an elephant, trying to be as steady as possible, an experienced veterinarian cautiously takes aim.

A tranquilizer dart whooshes in the air, and within minutes the giant mammal surrenders to a deep slumber as teams of wildlife experts rush to measure its vitals and ensure it’s OK.

Kenya is suffering from a problem, albeit a good one: the elephant population in the 16-square-mile Mwea National Reserve, east of the capital Nairobi, has flourished from its maximum capacity of 50 to a whopping 156, overwhelming the ecosystem and requiring the relocation of about 100 of the largest land animals. It hosted 49 elephants in 1979.

According to the Kenya Wildlife Service Director General Erustus Kanga, the overpopulation in Mwea highlighted the success of conservation efforts

over the last three decades.

“This shows that poaching has been low and the elephants have been able to thrive,” Kanga said.

Experts started relocating 50 elephants last week to the expansive 301-square-mile Aberdare National Park, located in central Kenya.

As of Monday, 44 elephants had been moved from Mwea to Aberdare, with six others scheduled for Tuesday.

Tourism Minister Rebecca Miano oversaw the translocation of five of the elephants on Monday, saying: “This will go down in history as a record, as it is the biggest exercise of its kind. It is the first time we are witnessing the translocation of 50 elephants at a go.”

A second phase to relocate 50 other elephants is planned, but the date has not been disclosed.

The project has cost at least 12 million Kenyan shillings (\$93,000), the wildlife agency said.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Wife-carrying contest brings competitive duos

**ME** NEWRY — An annual event involving dirt, beer and cash once again drew dozens of eager competitors to a ski resort in Maine.

More than 30 couples competed in the North American Wife Carrying Championship, a 278-yard race during which contestants splash through water, leap over logs and trudge through mud — all while carrying their partner like a sack of potatoes.

The sport's origin story isn't exactly politically correct. It's based on a 19th-century Finnish legend involving a man known as "Ronkainen the Robber," whose gang was known to pillage villages and carry away the women, according to one of the explanations included on the website wife-carrying.org.

Traditionally, the Finnish event featured male competitors carrying a woman. Competing couples didn't have to be married, nor did they have to be a man and woman.

The champion leaves with the weight of the "wife" in beer and five times the "wife's" weight in cash. To estimate the amount they win, the winning "wife" is put on one side of a see-saw-like scale that organizers balance out on the other side with cases of beer.

## Hot-air balloon strikes and collapses radio tower

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — A hot-air balloon struck and collapsed a radio tower in Albuquerque during the city's famous festival — the second time in 20 years that a

balloon has come into contact with that tower.

There were no reports of injuries, said Kevin Carhart, a spokesperson for the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office. The balloon, which had three people on board, landed safely in a field after it struck the tower.

The tower transmits radio signal for KKOB-AM.

The Aerostar International Inc. S-57A balloon took off from a park as part of the 52nd annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, said the Federal Aviation Administration, which is investigating.

## AI helps scientists track 'twangy' whales' vocals

**DC** WASHINGTON — Since 2014, scientists have listened to a unique whale vocalization they call a "biotwang." The call, which sounds a bit like squeaking metal, was first detected by an autonomous sea glider near the Mariana Archipelago. In 2018, researchers realized that the sound came from groups of Bryde's whales, baleen whales that thrive in warm oceans.

But where and when do Bryde's whales make biotwangs? Long-term passive recording at the sea bottom had the potential to answer that question — if researchers could locate biotwang sounds among almost 200,000 hours of recordings.

So the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration used Google-developed tools in the hopes that artificial intelligence and machine learning might be able to sift through 500 terabytes of data.

The majority of biotwangs were detected off the Mariana

Archipelago and nearby Wake Island, suggesting the calls are specific to a population of Bryde's whales that pass through the area during twice-annual migrations between breeding and feeding grounds.

## Woman tried to smuggle turtles by kayak from US

**VT** BURLINGTON — A woman from China pleaded guilty to attempting to smuggle 29 eastern box turtles, a protected species, across a Vermont lake into Canada by kayak.

Wan Yee Ng, 41, was arrested at an Airbnb in Canaan as she was about to get into an inflatable kayak with a duffel bag on Lake Wallace, according to a Border Patrol agent's affidavit filed in federal court.

Agents had been notified by Royal Canadian Mounted Police that two other people, including a man who was believed to be her husband, had started to paddle an inflatable watercraft from the Canadian side of the lake toward the United States, according to court documents.

The agents searched her heavy duffel bag and found 29 live eastern box turtles individually wrapped in socks, the affidavit states. Eastern box turtles are known to be sold on the Chinese black market for \$1,000 each, the affidavit stated.

## Pilot's wife safely lands plane during emergency

**CA** BAKERSFIELD — The wife of a pilot who suffered a medical emergency took over flying and managed to safely land the plane in

California, authorities said.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that real estate broker Eliot Alper was flying a twin-engine Beechcraft King Air 90 with his wife, Yvonne Kinane-Wells, from Henderson, Nev., on their way to Monterey, Calif., on Oct. 4 when he was incapacitated because of a medical emergency.

Kinane-Wells took control and landed the plane with help from air traffic controllers at Meadows Field Airport in Bakersfield, the newspaper reported.

The newspaper reported that Alper later died.

## Car dropping off shooting victim struck 3 nurses

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — A vehicle fleeing a Philadelphia hospital after dropping off a gunshot victim struck three nurses who were trying to treat the patient, injuring one critically, authorities said.

The silver Jeep Cherokee had just dropped off the man in the ambulance bay at Penn Presbyterian Hospital about 4:30 a.m. Saturday when it hit the three male nurses as it fled, police said.

One 36-year-old nurse was listed in critical condition with facial injuries and internal bleeding.

A 37-year-old nurse with head injuries and a 51-year-old nurse with head and back injuries were listed in stable condition, police said.

The 28-year-old shooting victim arrived with multiple gunshot wounds and may have sustained a head injury in the hit-and-run, police said.

— From wire reports

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# Army, Navy each 5-0 for 1st time since 1945

Associated Press

Until this year, Army and Navy had not each started the college football season 5-0 in nearly eight decades.

That was the fall of 1945, weeks after World War II ended, back in the heyday when service academies were powerhouses in the sport. Army, led by Heisman Trophy winner Felix "Doc" Blanchard, was declared the national champion that year by The Associated Press, the second of back-to-back titles.

Now, the two programs are both ranked in the AP Top 25 poll for the first time since 1960.

The Black Knights (6-0, No. 23) at West Point and Midshipmen (5-0, No. 25) in Annapolis have put their teams back on the map with these unbeaten starts thanks to old-school approaches built around fundamental play and eschewing some of the game's modern elements on and off the field.

"You want to be relevant," Navy coach Brian Newberry said. "This is a humble group. It's a hungry group. It's still a group that has a chip on its shoulder, which I love, but we want to be significant in the

landscape of college football here."

Newberry and Jeff Monken at Army have coached their programs back to prominence as most others around the NCAA rely on the transfer portal to upgrade their rosters and can use name, image and likeness money to attract talent. Army, Navy and Air Force (1-5) are not permitted to give out NIL funds, which in addition to the military obligations of attending makes recruiting even more challenging.

"It's different because these are guys you've worked with, gone to class with, have done all these military trainings with," said Navy linebacker Colin Ramos, a senior captain. "There aren't 50 new guys on the team each year."

Monken, in his 11th season, said it is no different now than when he took the job, even though the business of college sports has changed drastically around him.

"We weren't given NIL money then, and there wasn't any transfer portal," Monken recalled. "This is how we build our team here, and it's how college football teams over the course of

the history of college football have built their teams: recruit high school players, you retain them in your program, you develop them and hope you can put a team together that can win. That's just how we've got to do it here."

It's working.

Army is tied for the fewest turnovers in the 133-team Football Bowl Subdivision with one, while Navy has just two. They're each in the top 30 in total offense and top 10 on fourth-down conversions, Army has the 10th-best defense and Navy is tied for No. 1 in red zone efficiency.

"We still have yet to play our best game," Army defensive lineman and senior captain Cody Winokur said. "Not patting ourselves on the back too much and saying, 'Oh look at us, look what we've done' and more looking how we can get better, how we can continue to strive and be a better team as the season goes on and play our best football the second half of the year."

Army is already bowl eligible and Navy is just one win away from being eligible, which is a major turnaround from last season, when they were 6-6 and 5-7

and had the 113th- and 125th-ranked offenses, respectively.

While still using the triple-option offense that is largely a football relic outside the academies, Navy has thrown the ball 68 times this season and embraced a style Newberry said has opened the eyes of many players who ordinarily would not have considered going there. That's still the second-fewest passing attempts in the FBS, and Army has the fewest with 46 to go along with the third-highest time of possession.

"I guess some people may find that unappealing or boring, but what's boring about winning?" Monken said. "That's what you're trying to do is win."

Navy was picked to finish 11th in the 14-team American Athletic Conference and Army fifth.

"Our whole entire careers we've been doubted," senior fullback and Navy captain Daba Fofana said. "Coming to an academy, we always have a chip on our shoulder."

Navy and Army broke into the AP Top 25 this week, with Army checking in at No. 23 after beating UAB 44-10. Navy is No. 25 after a week off.

## Larson dominates at Charlotte, Bowman disqualified

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — When rain disrupted Kyle Larson's bid to complete both the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 on the same day — leaving him unable to turn a single lap at Charlotte Motor Speedway — he returned to the track determined to put on a show.

"I don't want to say it's a chip, but I think the fact that he didn't get to race here and Indy didn't turn out too good, that was the extra motivation," team owner Rick Hendrick said.

Larson raced to his Cup Series-high sixth victory of the season Sunday to easily advance to the third round of NASCAR's playoffs, winning on The Roval — the hybrid road course/oval at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

"I think after some of the comments he made after the Indy-Charlotte experience, he did put a lot of weight on his shoulders, almost feeling like he let his team and fanbase down," crew chief Cliff Daniels said. "I don't necessarily think that was fair for him to put on his shoulders, but I know that he did. He's putting in the work, the intensity and the determination to be as strong as everybody."

Larson led a race-high 62 laps in the No. 5 Chevrolet to win in a runaway. He beat longtime rival and title contender Christopher Bell by 1.511 seconds.

"It was good to have a little bit of a stress-free weekend," said Larson, who was taking his family to Cabo for a quick getaway before the third round of the playoffs begin next weekend in Las Vegas.

It was Larson's second victory of the playoffs, but he's the first championship-eligible driver to win in the round of 12. The elimination race cut the field from 12 drivers to eight, and among those knocked out of title contention was Hendrick driver Alex Bowman, who was disqualified for failing the post-race inspection.

Bowman's disqualification was for not meeting minimum weight, NASCAR said. It knocked him out of the playoffs and moved Joey Logano back into title contention.

Logano finished eighth and had been eliminated until Bowman's disqualification.

"We are working to understand the decision Monday about whether to submit an appeal," Hendrick Motorsports said.



# Hurts helps Eagles squeeze by Browns

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Perhaps indignant that Eagles fans had chanted for his firing, Nick Sirianni could not button up his mouth in the final seconds. Philadelphia's coach — already a habitual trash-talking offender — put a finger to his right ear and chirped at fans in the first rows at the Linc.

Yes, after the Eagles eked out a four-point win against the dysfunctional Browns, Sirianni felt the need to talk smack, providing social media and tabloid fodder about a coach whose job security is up for daily debate and who — even in victory — won't win any popularity contests in Philadelphia.

"Just excited to get the win," Sirianni said. "Appreciate the Linc support."

He had to appreciate the Eagles' offense a bit more.

Jalen Hurts threw for 264 yards and two touchdowns, including a go-ahead 45-yard toss to DeVonta Smith in the fourth quarter, and Philadelphia beat Cleveland 20-16 on Sunday.

Hurts also threw a 22-yard TD to A.J. Brown, who returned along with Smith after both wide receivers missed time with injuries. The Eagles can't afford to lose either for any more lengthy stretches if they want to make a deep postseason run.

Coming off a bye, the already maddening Eagles (3-2) had to tough one out against the Browns (1-5) in front of a mostly listless crowd. Before Smith's TD, Eagles fans only showed some fire when they chanted for Sirianni to get fired.

**Ravens 30, Commanders 23:** Lamar Jackson threw for 323 yards and a touchdown to outshine rookie Jayden Daniels in a showdown between two of the NFL's best quarterbacks this season, Derrick Henry ran for two TDs and host Baltimore beat Washington for its fourth consecutive victory.

Jackson found Mark Andrews for the tight end's first touchdown of the season and completed nine passes to Zay Flowers for 132 yards — all in the first half. Henry had 132 yards and his NFL-leading eighth and ninth TDs as the Ravens (4-2) mixed and matched the pass and run to near perfection.

Daniels connected with Terry McLaurin on two TD passes, but did not get nearly enough help from the backfield in a matchup of the two top rushing offenses in the league. With Brian Robinson Jr. out because of a knee injury, Washington (4-2) got just 52 yards on the ground.

**Lions 47, Cowboys 9:** Jared Goff threw for 315 yards and three touchdowns after his completion streak ended on his first throw, and Detroit blew out Dallas, handing the Cowboys a fourth consecutive lopsided loss at home.

David Montgomery had two rushing TDs for the Lions (4-1), who lost pass rusher Aidan Hutchinson to a serious injury to his lower left leg in the third quarter.

Dak Prescott threw two interceptions in the worst home loss since 1988 for the Cowboys (3-3), who became the first team since at least 2000 to trail by 14 or more more points at halftime in four consecutive games on their home field. Dallas is 0-3 at home and 3-0 on the road.

**Colts 20, Titans 17:** Joe Flacco threw for 189 yards and two touchdowns, leading visiting Indianapolis to a win over Tennessee.

The veteran now is 1-1 in his second straight start for the Colts (3-3) who got a much-needed split of back-to-back road games inside the AFC South with second-year quarterback Anthony Richardson scratched again with an injured right hip.

**Packers 34, Cardinals 13:**

Romeo Doubs returned from a one-game suspension and caught two of Jordan Love's four touchdown passes in host Green Bay's victory over mistake-prone Arizona.

Doubs scored his first two touchdowns of the season — a 10-yard score to open the second quarter and a 20-yard reception in the third quarter. Doubs, who caught three passes for 49 yards, missed the Packers' 24-19 win over the Los Angeles Rams for conduct detrimental to the team after missing two practices.

Love also threw touchdown passes of 5 yards to Jayden Reed and 44 yards to Christian Watson while going 22-for-32 — completing throws to nine players — for 258 yards with one interception. His four touchdown passes matched a career high.

**Texans 41, Patriots 21:** C.J. Stroud threw three touchdown passes and visiting Houston spoiled the first start of rookie quarterback Drake Maye, breezing past New England.

Joe Mixon rushed for 102 yards and caught a TD pass from Stroud. Stefon Diggs had six catches for 77 yards and a score for the AFC South-leading Texans (5-1), and Tank Dell had seven receptions for 57 yards and a TD.

**Buccaneers 51, Saints 27:** Baker Mayfield overcame three turnovers with 325 yards and four touchdowns passing, and visiting Tampa Bay defeated New Orleans in what they hoped would be a morale boost to their many fans who endured Hurricane Milton earlier in the week.

The result blemished rookie quarterback Spencer Rattler's first NFL start for New Orleans, which has lost four straight after opening the season with a pair of lopsided victories.

**Chargers 23, Broncos 16:** Justin Herbert directed a clock-chewing, methodical Los An-

geles offense that capitalized on the departure of star cornerback Patrick Surtain II to beat host Denver.

Chargers coach Jim Harbaugh missed the start of the game while being evaluated by medical personnel, but returned to the sideline in the first quarter and coached the remainder of the game. He told a CBS sideline reporter he was dealing with a heart arrhythmia.

**Steelers 32, Raiders 13:** Najee Harris finally found his form after a slow start to the season, rushing for 106 yards and a touchdown to lift visiting Pittsburgh to a victory over Las Vegas.

Harris exceeded 100 yards for the first time since ending last season with back-to-back such performances. He rushed for 1,000 yards in each of his first three seasons but entered this game averaging 3.3 yards per carry this year.

Quarterback Justin Fields added 59 yards on the ground and two TDs, though he passed for just 145 yards.

**Falcons 38, Panthers 20:** Bijan Robinson ran for 95 yards and two touchdowns, Tyler Allgeier added 105 yards rushing and a score and visiting Atlanta defeated Carolina for its third win over an NFC South foe in three weeks.

Kirk Cousins completed 19 of 30 passes for 225 yards and threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Drake London.

**Bengals 17, Giants 7:** Joe Burrow scored on a career-long 47-yard run on the opening possession, and visiting Cincinnati's defense carried it to a much-needed victory over New York.

Chase Brown scored on a 30-yard run with 1:52 to play to give the Bengals (2-4) some hope after a dismal start.

Rookie Tyrone Tracy ran for a 1-yard touchdown for the Giants (2-4), who are winless at home in three games and have scored one touchdown.

# Dodgers hammer Mets in NLCS opener

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — After spending the first seven years of his big league career back East, Jack Flaherty came home. He joined a winning team in the Los Angeles Dodgers and helped make a bit of playoff history.

Flaherty combined on a three-hitter and Dodgers pitchers tied the postseason record of 33 consecutive scoreless innings by routing the New York Mets 9-0 Sunday night in the NL Championship Series opener.

“I saw some family out there when I was warming up and I had gone to games here with them before, so it just kind of lets you relax a little bit,” he said. “Felt I tried to do too much the last couple times out in some big games. Just allowed me to be myself and just go out and pitch and trust my stuff and trust the guys behind me.”

Los Angeles knocked out a wild Kodai Senga in the second inning, built a six-run lead by the fourth and matched the scoreless record set by Balti-

more Orioles pitchers over the first four games of the 1966 World Series against the Dodgers.

Backed by chants of “MVP! MVP!”, Shohei Ohtani was 2-for-4 with a walk while scoring two runs and driving in another.

Mookie Betts added a three-run double in the eighth in the largest shutout victory margin in Dodgers postseason history, also the Mets’ most one-sided postseason shutout defeat.

“Our energy all started with Jack,” Betts said. “Jack really gave it to us today.”

Flaherty allowed two hits over seven innings in the Dodgers’ first scoreless postseason start of seven-plus innings since Clayton Kershaw’s eight innings in the 2020 NL Wild Card Series.

“It was just a pitching clinic,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. “I thought he did a great job of filling up the strike zone with his complete mix. Once we caught a lead, he did a great job of just going after

those guys and attacking. For us to get seven innings in a long series was huge.”

Flaherty left to a standing ovation from the sellout crowd of 53,503. The 28-year-old right-hander from nearby Burbank returned home from Detroit at the July 30 trade deadline and has been a steadying presence in a rotation hard-hit by injuries.

“He’s got an aura about him,” Dodgers catcher Will Smith said. “He’s super competitive, super focused.”

Flaherty got a hug from Roberts and then the pitcher hugged his mother, who sat behind home plate. Some of his buddies from their Little League days in the San Fernando Valley were on hand, too.

“This game is a lot of fun and I’ve been lucky to do it since I was a little kid,” Flaherty said. “As high pressure as they get, I just tell the guys it’s going to be fun. We’ve got to remember that sometimes.”

Flaherty retired his first nine batters, extending the Dodgers’

streak of consecutive hitters retired to 28, before walking Francisco Lindor leading off the fourth. New York’s only hits off him were a pair of singles by Jesse Winker and Jose Iglesias in the fifth. Flaherty struck out six.

“He was getting ahead with his fastball and then the slider, the breaking ball, the slow curve kept us off-balance, but he was getting ahead and making pitches,” rookie Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said. “He tried to make us chase, which we did the first time through the order. Then he was just on.”

Lindor was 0-for-3 with a walk and a strikeout and Pete Alonso went hitless in three at-bats with a walk and a strikeout.

Los Angeles opened its pursuit of a record 25th NL pennant by chasing Senga after 1½ innings of his just third overall start in a year decimated by injuries. The Japanese right-hander walked four of his first eight batters, including three in a row in a 14-pitch span in the first inning.

## Connor lifts Jets over Wild with OT power-play goal

Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Kyle Connor scored a power-play goal 51 seconds into overtime and the Winnipeg Jets beat the Minnesota Wild 2-1 on Sunday for their third straight win.

Mark Scheifele had a goal and an assist in his 800th NHL game and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 26 shots as the Jets won their second straight in overtime.

Jake Middleton scored for Minnesota, and Filip Gustavsson finished with 33 saves.

Wild defenseman Zach Bogosian was called for holding Scheifele’s stick with 6 seconds remaining in regulation, sending Winnipeg into overtime

with the man advantage.

Scheifele scored his 301st career goal and extended his point streak to three games with four goals and two assists.

**Stars 2, Kraken 0:** Sam Steel and Wyatt Johnston scored 14 seconds apart late in the first period, Casey DeSmith made 25 saves for his 11th career shutout in his debut with his new team and Dallas beat visiting Seattle.

It was the second shutout in two nights for the Stars as No. 1 goalie Jake Oettinger blanked the New York Islanders on Saturday night.

Steel was alone at the back post to poke a cross-ice pass from Colin Blackwell behind Philipp Grubauer with 3:43 re-

maining in the first. Johnston snapped a wrister home stick side 13 seconds later following a drop pass from Jamie Benn.

Grubauer finished with 21 saves.

**Flames 4, Oilers 1:** Rasmus Andersson had a goal and two assists, and visiting Calgary beat winless Edmonton to remain undefeated.

Anthony Mantha, Justin Kirkland and Connor Zary also scored for the Flames, who improved to 3-0-0. Dan Vladar stopped 24 shots.

Jeff Skinner scored for the Oilers, who are 0-3-0 after beginning last season at 2-9-1 before rebounding to make it all the way to Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final.

Edmonton has been outscored 15-3 in its first three games, all at home.

Stuart Skinner had 25 saves for Edmonton.

**Golden Knights 3, Ducks 1:** Brett Howden, Tomas Hertl and Pavel Dorofeyev each scored a goal and host Vegas beat Anaheim.

Ilya Samsonov had 22 saves for Vegas.

Troy Terry scored the lone goal for the Ducks and James Reimer made 29 saves.

Vegas improved to 3-0-0 in its first three games for the fifth time since it joined the NHL in 2017. The Knights also improved to 24-7-1 all-time against the Ducks, including a 14-3-0 mark in Vegas.