

## Trump marks Navy's 250th anniversary

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump decided not to let the government shutdown interfere with a stop in Norfolk, Va., on Sunday to salute the Navy as it celebrates its 250th anniversary.

"I believe, 'THE SHOW MUST GO ON!'" Trump posted Friday night on his social media site, Truth Social. "This will be the largest Celebration in the History of the Navy. Thousands of our brave Active Duty Servicemembers and Military Families will be in attendance, and I look forward to this special day with all of them."

The government shutdown that began Wednesday has sparked a series of partisan blame games as military personnel are working without pay, several thousand federal em-

ployees are furloughed and key infrastructure and energy projects in Democratic-run areas such as New York and Chicago have been put on hold.

There was the possibility that an event designed to honor the Navy could be dragged into the bitter politics.

Trump accused Democrats in his post of enabling the shutdown and trying "to destroy this wonderful celebration of the U.S. Navy's Birthday."

Senate Democrats rejected efforts to preserve a continuation of government operations when the new budget year started on Wednesday. They cited the lapse in subsidies that could cause health insurance costs to climb rapidly for people who get coverage through the 2010 Affordable Care Act. Democratic lawmakers also have

sought to reverse cuts to Medicaid that Trump signed into law.

On top of that, both sides cite a mutual sense of distrust.

Democrats oppose Trump's move to have his administration decline to spend congressionally approved funds, saying it undermines the budgeting process, among other concerns. Meanwhile, Trump has explored laying off federal workers at what he called "Democrat Agencies."

Scheduled to join Trump at the Naval Station Norfolk are first lady Melania Trump, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Navy Secretary John Phelan.

Trump on Tuesday addressed a gathering of military leaders abruptly summoned from across the globe to Virgi-

nia by Hegseth. The Republican president proposed using U.S. cities as training grounds for the armed forces and he spoke of needing military might to combat what he called the "invasion from within."

Hegseth declared an end to "woke" culture and announced new directives for troops that include "gender-neutral" or "male-level" standards for physical fitness.

The administration is seeking to reshape Pentagon culture and use military resources for the president's priorities, including quelling domestic unrest and violent crime.

Trump has also engaged the military in an armed conflict with drug cartels, leading to four strikes on boats in the Caribbean that Washington says were involved in trafficking.

## Marine Corps retires Assault Amphibious Vehicle

**BY COREY DICKSTEIN**

*Stars and Stripes*

The burly, tracked vehicles that shuttled Marine grunts from ships to shore for more than five decades were retired from the service last week, making way for the Corps' next-generation amphibious vehicle.

The Marines' Assault Amphibious Vehicle was decommissioned from service during an official ceremony at the Corps' Assault Amphibian School at Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Sept. 26, service officials said. Officially named the Assault Amphibious Vehicle Personnel-7, or AAV-P7, the armored vehicle was used by Marines in conflicts from 1983's Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada through Operations En-

during Freedom and Iraqi Freedom during the Global War on Terror.

Marine Col. Lynn Berendsen, who commands the Assault Amphibian School, noted the AAV had adopted several uses since the Corps first acquired it in 1972. AAVs had been used for their primary ship-to-shore mission, as armored personnel carriers in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq, as supply-movers in support of humanitarian operations and even simply as boats.

"Its legacy is not only in its capabilities but also in the countless Marines who operated it and relied on it to accomplish their missions," Berendsen said. "The AAV gave Marines both mobility and armored pro-

tection, allowing them to close with the enemy and seize objectives at speed. In the desert, just as in the Pacific beaches decades earlier, [the AAV] showed it was more than a connector — it was a fighting vehicle at the heart of the Marine Air Ground Task Force."

The AAV replaced the Marines' World War II-era Landing Vehicle-Tracked, which was the first Marine vehicle that could move troops from a ship to shore and into an inland fight.

Over the decades, the AAV underwent several upgrades to improve its maneuverability, firepower and protection for Marines. But in 2018, service officials decided it needed to be replaced by a more modern vehicle.

Since then, the Marine Corps has been working to replace the AAV with the Amphibious Combat Vehicle, or ACV, which officials have billed as a faster, better armored amphibious vehicle that is also more suited to expeditionary and large-scale combat operations.

The ACV is an eight-wheeled, amphibious assault vehicle with a blast-resistant hull built by BAE Systems.

The ACV can hold 16 Marines — including three crew members — and travel about 65 mph on a paved road and more than 6 knots on open water, according to BAE Systems.

The Corps has said it intends to buy more than 600 ACVs for its assault amphibian battalions.

# Key USAF post in Europe to lose 1 star

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

For the first time in decades, the next commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa will wear fewer stars on his shoulders than his U.S. military counterparts in the theater.

President Donald Trump has nominated Lt. Gen. Jason T. Hinds to lead the command nearly three months after Gen. James Hecker, the previous commander, retired following 36 years of service.

If Congress approves his nomination, Hinds is not up for a fourth star, according to the Air Force, as the billet has been re-designated a three-star command position.

"In alignment with the Department of War directive to reduce general and flag officer positions, the nominee for (USAFE-AFAFRICA) commander is at the lieu-

tenant general grade," an Air Force official said in a statement Thursday.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth in May ordered the military's active components to reduce the number of four-star generals and admirals by at least 20% and the National Guard to slash general officers by a minimum of 20%.

An F-22 pilot and former F-22 fighter squadron commander, Hinds already is in place. He served as the deputy commander under Hecker beginning in September 2024 and took over as the interim commander when Hecker retired, according to the Air Force.

Air & Space Forces Magazine first reported the downgrading in rank of the USAFE-AFAFRICA commander billet last week.

Hinds' nomination was sent to the Senate on Sept. 29. He's also in

line to serve as the head of NATO's Allied Air Command and director of the Joint Air Power Competence Centre at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, according to the Air Force.

As USAFE-AFAFRICA commander, Hinds will oversee some 35,000 active-duty, Reserve, Air National Guard and civilian employees, spanning 104 nations and eight wings.

He'll succeed a long line of four-star generals, some of whom later served as Air Force chief of staff, such as Gen. Mark Welsh III from 2012 to 2016; Gen. John Jumper, 2001 to 2005; and Gen. Michael Ryan, 1997 to 2001.

It's not the first time the rank structure has been targeted in Europe. In 2012, the Pentagon initially called for making the command a three-star position but later reversed that.

The other top U.S. military command positions in Europe remain four-star billets for now.

That includes the U.S. European Command led by Air Force Gen. Alexis G. Grynke, who has a dual-hatted role as NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe. For the Army, Gen. Chris Donahue leads U.S. Army Europe and Africa and NATO Allied Land Command.

Vice Adm. George Wikoff, meanwhile, has been nominated for a fourth star and is the choice to be commander of Naval Forces Europe-Africa and Allied Joint Force Command Naples.

The Air Force has made similar moves at lower levels. Col. Beau Diers took command of the 31st Fighter Wing at Aviano Air Base, Italy, in July. That command had been held by a brigadier general for more than two decades.

## Command merges recruiting, training, future technology

By ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

AUSTIN, Texas — The Army on Thursday formally combined two four-star commands under one leader who will oversee everything from soldier recruitment and training doctrine to the modernization of equipment and preparation for future combat.

The Army Transformation and Training Command, led by newly promoted Gen. David Hodne, brings together Training and Doctrine Command and Army Futures Command. The two outgoing Army commands' flags were cased in a ceremony Thursday at the University of Texas at Austin, and the new flag of what is referred to as the T2C was revealed. The new unit patch prominently features a sword.

"For the first time in modern history, the Army unified the

functions of force design, force development and force generation," Hodne said during his remarks. "Technology alone never transformed war. The tank, the airplane, the drone, none changed battlefields by themselves. It required new tactics, new concepts and new organizations to integrate them into coherent warfighting systems."

Within the new command that will establish its headquarters in the Futures Command's space in Austin, three three-star-led subordinate units will spearhead the main initiatives from different locations, said Maj. Gen. John Cushing, chief of staff of T2C.

The Army announced the consolidation as one of several in May intended to meet Pentagon requirements to reduce the number of general officers in the military and remove redundancies.

## New leadership takes over Special Ops Command

By ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

Gen. Bryan Fenton expressed thanks and gratitude to his fellow special operators Friday as he retired from a three-plus-decade career as an Army Special Forces officer.

He last served as commander of U.S. Special Operations at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

"The strength of our organization lies in the extraordinary service members, civilians, contractors and family members who serve within it — those who are willing to go above and beyond the call of duty to protect our nation and its interests," he wrote in a farewell letter shared by the command.

He previously served as commander of Joint Special Operations Command and was the senior military assistant for two de-

fense secretaries.

The Senate in August approved the nomination of Navy Adm. Frank Bradley as his successor. Bradley has been the commander of Joint Special Operations Command since 2022 and is a Navy SEAL officer who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy.

"SOCOM is a unique organization. Forged from the OSS in World War II, your job is to connect people and to bring dilemmas to those who would do us harm," said Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who presided over the change of command. "[Fenton] strengthened those connections. ... Bradley's charge is to expand them ... ensuring SOCOM remains ready to go out into the darkness on land, in the air, on the sea, or in cyberspace to do our nation's business."

# Trump vows to deploy guardsmen to Chicago

Associated Press

President Donald Trump moved to deploy the National Guard in another city Saturday by authorizing 300 troops to protect federal officers and assets in Chicago, where the government said Border Patrol agents shot and injured a woman while firing at someone who tried to run them over.

White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson confirmed that the president authorized using the Illinois National Guard members, citing what she called “ongoing violent riots and lawlessness” that local leaders have not quelled.

“President Trump will not turn a blind eye to the lawlessness plaguing American cities,” Jackson said.

Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker said the guard received notice from the Pentagon early in the day. He called the move unnecessary and “a manufactured performance — not a serious effort to protect public safety.”

“This morning, the Trump Administration’s Department of War gave me an ultimatum: call up your troops, or we will,” Pritzker said in a statement. “It is absolutely outrageous and un-American to demand a Governor send military troops within our own borders and against our will.”

Trump has long threatened to send troops to Chicago, but it was not immediately clear when or exactly where they would be deployed.

Meanwhile the Department of Homeland Security acknowledged the shooting of the woman on the southwest side of Chicago. It said in a statement that Border Patrol agents “were rammed by vehicles and boxed in by 10 cars,” and when they got out of their trapped vehicle, “a suspect tried to run them over, forcing the officers to fire de-

fensively.”

The woman who was shot was a U.S. citizen and was armed with a semiautomatic weapon, DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said, noting that the woman was accused in a U.S. Customs and Border Protection intelligence bulletin last week of doxing agents.

DHS later identified her as Marimar Martinez and said she’s in FBI custody after being treated and released from the hospital. DHS said the driver of another vehicle involved in the ramming, Anthony Ian Santos Ruiz, was apprehended.

No officers were seriously injured, McLaughlin said.

In an interview with Fox & Friends on Sunday, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem again called Chicago “a war zone” and said protesters are being paid to disrupt operations and stir violence against officers.

“Our intelligence indicates these people are organized and making plans to ambush and kill them,” she said. “Somebody is funding them.”

The Chicago Police Department confirmed a shooting in the area but offered few details, saying it responded only to “document the incident” and control traffic.

“CPD is not involved in the incident or its investigation. Federal authorities are investigating this shooting,” it said in a statement.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom sued to stop the deployment in Los Angeles and won a temporary block in federal court. The Trump administration has appealed that ruling that the use of the guard was illegal, and a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has indicated that it believes the government is likely to prevail.

# Judge temporarily blocks sending Guard to Portland

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — A federal judge in Oregon temporarily blocked President Donald Trump’s administration from deploying the National Guard in Portland, ruling Saturday in a lawsuit brought by the state and city.

U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut issued the order pending further arguments in the suit. She said the relatively small protests the city has seen did not justify the use of federalized forces and allowing the deployment could harm Oregon’s state sovereignty.

“This country has a longstanding and foundational tradition of resistance to government overreach, especially in the form of military intrusion into civil affairs,” Immergut wrote. She later continued, “This historical tradition boils down to a simple proposition: this is a nation of Constitutional law, not martial law.”

The Trump administration late Saturday filed a notice of appeal to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

State and city officials sued to stop the deployment last week, one day after the Trump administration announced that 200 Oregon National Guard troops would be federalized to protect federal buildings. The president called the city “war-ravaged.” Oregon officials said that characterization was ludicrous. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in the city has been the site of nightly protests that typically drew a couple dozen people in recent weeks before the deployment was announced.

Plaintiffs were able to show that the demonstrations at the immigration building were not significantly violent or disruptive ahead of the president’s order, the judge wrote, and “overall, the protests were small and uneventful.”

# ‘Diddy’ sentenced to 4 years in case over sex workers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sean “Diddy” Combs was sentenced Friday to four years and two months in prison for transporting people across state lines for sexual encounters, capping a sordid federal case that featured harrowing testimony and ended in a forceful reckoning for one of the most influential figures in hip-hop.

Since Combs has already served a year in jail, the sentence means that the 55-year-old could get out in about three years. While prosecutors sought a sentence of over 11 years, his lawyers wanted him freed immediately and said the time behind bars has already forced his remorse and sobriety.

Combs was convicted in July

of flying his girlfriends and male sex workers around the country to engage in drug-fueled sexual encounters in multiple places and over many years. However, he was acquitted of sex trafficking and racketeering charges that could have put him behind bars for life.

“Why did it happen so long?” U.S. District Judge Arun Subramanian asked as he handed down the sentence. “Because you had the power and the resources to keep it going, and because you weren’t caught.”

Subramanian, who also fined Combs \$500,000, the maximum allowed, praised the accusers who testified at trial. They effectively spoke for countless others who experienced abuse, the judge said.



# Japan's ruling party elects first female leader

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's governing party on Saturday elected former Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, a hard-line ultra-conservative and China hawk, as its new leader, making her likely to become the country's first female prime minister.

In a country that ranks poorly internationally for gender equality, the 64-year-old Takaichi makes history as the first female leader of Japan's long-governing conservative Liberal Democratic Party. Takaichi is one of the most conservative members of the male-dominated party.

An admirer of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Takaichi is a protégé of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ultra-conservative vision and a regular at the

Yasukuni Shrine, seen as a symbol of Japan's wartime militarism, which could complicate Tokyo's relations with its Asian neighbors.

Takaichi beat Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, the son of popular former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, in a runoff in a vote by the LDP on Saturday.

Takaichi replaces Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba as the party hopes to regain public support and stay in power after major election losses.

She is likely to be Japan's next prime minister because the party remains by far the largest in the lower house, which determines the national leader, and because opposition groups are highly splintered.

"Now that the LDP has its first female president, its scenery will change a little," Taka-

ichi said as she tried out the president's chair.

Takaichi later said she will immediately work on stemming rising prices, while also focusing on diplomatic and security challenges.

A parliamentary vote is expected in mid-October.

The LDP, which has been criticized by opposition leaders for creating a prolonged political vacuum, said that Takaichi needs to hurry because the winner will soon face a diplomatic test: a possible summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, who could demand that Japan increase its defense spending.

A meeting with the president is reportedly being planned for late October. Trump will travel to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in South Korea starting Oct. 31.

Takaichi said ensuring the

Japan-U.S. alliance is her top diplomatic priority.

"It is essential to ... confirm the reinforcement of the Japan-U.S. alliance," she said. Takaichi stressed the importance of their cooperation through three-way frameworks that also include regional partners such as South Korea, Australia and the Philippines, pledging Japan's greater role in achieving a free and open Indo-Pacific.

She said she respects all tariffs and investment agreements struck between Tokyo and Washington under the Ishiba government.

The LDP, whose consecutive losses in parliamentary elections in the past year have left it in the minority in both houses, needs its new leader to quickly bring back voter confidence and stability and to address challenges in and outside Japan.

## Big nighttime strike from Russia kills 5 in Ukraine

Associated Press

At least five civilians died after Russia launched drones, missiles and guided aerial bombs at Ukraine overnight into Sunday, in a major nighttime attack that officials there said targeted civilian infrastructure.

Moscow sent over 50 ballistic missiles and around 500 drones into nine regions across Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday morning.

Four people, including a 15-year-old, died in a combined drone and missile strike on Lviv, according to regional officials and Ukraine's emergency service. The historic western city is often seen as a haven from the fighting and destruction further east. At least six more people sustained injuries, according to a statement by Ukraine's police force.

The strike left two districts without power and public transportation suspended for a few hours Sunday, mayor Andriy Sadovyi said. He added that a business complex on the outskirts of Lviv was on fire following the strike, describing it as a civilian facility not linked to the war effort.

One person was also injured in the Ivano-Frankivsk region south of Lviv, according to local Gov. Svitlana Onyshchuk.

In Zaporizhzhia, a nighttime aerial assault killed a civilian woman and wounded nine other people including a 16-year-old girl, regional Gov. Ivan Fedorov reported. He said Russia attacked with drones and guided aerial bombs.

Fedorov said the strike destroyed residential buildings and left some 73,000 households in Zaporizhzhia and surrounding areas without power.

## Israel, Hamas prep for talks ahead of possible ceasefire

Associated Press

CAIRO — Israel and Hamas prepared for indirect negotiations in Egypt on Monday, as hopes for a possible ceasefire in Gaza grew after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said a hostage release could be announced this week.

President Donald Trump has welcomed the Hamas statement accepting some elements of the U.S. peace plan.

Israel has said that it supported the new U.S. effort.

Under the plan, Hamas would release the remaining 48 hostages — about 20 believed to be alive — within three days. It would also be required to give up power and completely disarm.

Top Israeli negotiator Ron Dermer and the delegation will leave Monday for the talks in Sharm el-Sheikh, Netanyahu's office said. An Egyptian official

said the Hamas delegation had arrived.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, also said that U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff is joining the talks.

Discussions will focus on the proposed exchange of hostages for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, Egypt's foreign ministry said.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the situation "the closest we've come to getting all of the hostages released."

Speaking on ABC's "This Week," he described two phases after Hamas accepts Trump's framework: The hostages are released and Israel pulls back in Gaza to the "yellow line," where it was in August.

Rubio told CBS that Hamas should release hostages as they are ready, and that bombardment needs to end so they can be released.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Bear visits grocery store, surprises shoppers

**AZ** ORO VALLEY — A bear surprised shoppers at a southern Arizona grocery store when it walked through the front door and ran around inside for a few minutes before exiting the building.

Over the weekend, The bear was seen a few times in the neighborhood near the Fry's location and was spotted again last Monday behind the store before entering it.

Right before entering the store, the animal bumped up against the automatic doors and managed to eventually walk in, said Darren Wright, a spokesperson for the Oro Valley Police Department.

"It just ran around," Wright said. "I don't think it did any damage."

A video taken by a shopper showed a man looking for the bear inside the store. After peering down at his phone, the man looked up to find the bear within several feet of him. The bear ran away from the man.

### Fundraiser for gunman's family raises over \$275K

**MI** LANSING — An online fundraiser for family members of the man who opened fire in a Michigan church and set it ablaze had raised over \$275,000 by late last week in what the organizer described as a "whirlwind of love and forgiveness."

On Sept. 28, Thomas "Jake" Sanford, 40, drove his pickup truck into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel in Grand Blanc Township,

near Flint, shot at the congregation and set the building on fire.

The attack killed four people, injured eight others and left the church destroyed. Police killed Sanford at the scene.

Dave Butler, a Utah resident and lifelong member of the Mormon church, watched news coverage of the attack for hours. The following day, he considered that Sanford's family were also victims of the attack.

"We understand that there is a family that needs to be taken care of," he said.

Butler set up the fundraiser on the platform GiveSendGo on Tuesday morning. He leveraged media connections from his participation in podcasts about the Mormon faith to help promote the fundraiser.

### Judge bars release of stabbing victim photos

**ID** BOISE — An Idaho judge is blocking the release of some graphic photos taken by investigators after Bryan Kohberger killed four University of Idaho students in 2022.

Second District Judge Megan Marshall said the dissemination of "incredibly disturbing" photos across the internet — where the victims' families might inadvertently see them — is an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

She ordered the city of Moscow to black out portions of the images that show any portion of the victims' bodies or the blood immediately surrounding them. But the judge said the public also has an interest in seeing investigation records, and so other photos, videos and docu-

ments connected to the case can be released, including videos showing distraught friends of the victims on the morning their bodies were found.

Kohberger was sentenced to life without parole in July for the stabbing murders of Kaylee Goncalves, Xana Kernodle, Madison Mogen and Ethan Chapin at an off-campus rental home in Moscow, Idaho.

### Power company to spend \$340M to improve water

**MD** ANNAPOLIS — Constellation Energy has agreed to spend more than \$340 million to improve water quality at Maryland's Conowingo Dam, which flows into the Susquehanna River and eventually ends up in the Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary, officials announced.

The agreement clears the way for the re-licensing and continued operation of the dam's hydroelectric facility on the Susquehanna, which is the largest source of renewable energy in Maryland.

"This agreement will lead to real improvements in water quality in the biggest tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, while securing the future of one of our state's largest clean energy producers," Gov. Wes Moore said.

The agreement marks an end to wrangling over who is responsible for addressing pollution in sediment that gets stuck in the dam and ends up being released downstream and into the bay.

The Maryland Department of the Environment issued an initial certification for the Conow-

ingo Dam in 2018, but legal challenges led to a 2019 waiver of that certification and a settlement that required Constellation Energy to invest in improvements valued at \$230 million.

The terms were dependent on the facility's receipt of a 50-year federal license, which it got but that was challenged by environmental groups.

### \$1M in gold coins from Spanish shipwreck found

**FL** MIAMI — Hidden beneath the turquoise waters off a stretch of Florida known as the "Treasure Coast," a team of divers from a shipwreck salvage company has uncovered exactly that — a load of long-lost Spanish treasure they estimate is worth \$1 million.

More than 1,000 silver and gold coins thought to be minted in the Spanish colonies of Bolivia, Mexico and Peru were uncovered this summer off Florida's Atlantic coast, 1715 Fleet — Queens Jewels LLC announced last week.

It's not the first time the site has yielded a trove of treasure. Centuries ago, a fleet of Spanish ships laden with gold, silver and jewels taken from the New World was sailing back to Spain when a hurricane wrecked the flotilla on July 31, 1715, spilling the treasures into the sea, according to the 1715 Fleet Society.

Over the years, millions of dollars in gold coins from the 1715 Fleet have been found by salvagers and treasure hunters in a coastal area stretching from Melbourne to Fort Pierce.

— From wire reports

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# Ohtani wins in his playoff pitching debut

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Shohei Ohtani struck out not once, twice, three times but four — four! — straight times and almost snuffed a late Dodgers rally.

The Oh-4 nearly cost Los Angeles.

Good news for the Dodgers, Ohtani the ace was about as good as he needed to be on the mound — with a little pop from teammate Teoscar Hernández to help along the way — for the two-way star to win his playoff pitching debut.

With more than 45,000 Phillies fans against him, Ohtani settled down after a three-run second to strike out nine in six innings and lead the Dodgers to a 5-3 win over Philadelphia on Saturday night in Game 1 of their NL Division Series.

Ohtani retired 15 of the final 17 batters he faced, and the right-hander held Trea Turner, NL home run and RBI cham-

pion Kyle Schwarber, and Bryce Harper to 0-for-9 with five strikeouts against him.

Even when Ohtani's bat went cold, he warmed up over 89 pitches in a deep outing for him.

"The reason why I'm a two-way player is because that's who I am, and it's what I can do," Ohtani said through a translator.

Hernández rallied the Dodgers with a three-run homer after Ohtani struck out with two runners on base in the seventh inning, and three Los Angeles relievers combined for three scoreless innings.

Alex Vesia retired pinch-hitter Edmundo Sosa with the bases loaded in the eighth to preserve the lead. Roki Sasaki worked the ninth for his first career save.

Ohtani and Sasaki are the first Japanese-born starter and reliever to earn a win and a save in the same postseason game.

"This epitomizes compart-

mentalizing. He's essentially two people in one night, in one game," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "To kind of look at the at-bats that he took tonight and how he struggled offensively, but to separate that and just be a pitcher, and weather that inning. And to go out there and give us six innings, keep us in the ballgame, I just don't know any human that can manage that, those emotions, and how do you not take that to the mound? So, yeah, we continue to just witness history."

Ohtani stepped on the field shortly before the first playoff start of his career and was booed so voraciously by Phillies fans, they drowned out the hype video playing on the big screen.

A three-time MVP, Ohtani had admitted to nerves about playing in front of a crowd — much less facing the NL East champions' loaded lineup — known for tormenting fans through four hours of hell.

Phillies fans taunted Ohtani with elongated chants of "Shoooo-hei!" as he gamely tried to match the moment for the Dodgers.

"I was a little nervous imagining myself out there on the mound," Ohtani said. "But once I was on the mound and on the field, that went away and it was really me focusing."

Ohtani led off the game at the plate and struck out on three pitches against Cristopher Sánchez. Ohtani was called out on strikes in the third and fifth.

Ohtani whiffed again in the seventh with no outs and two runners on against Matt Strahm. Following a Mookie Betts popout, Hernández silenced a roaring Phillies crowd with an opposite-field homer to right off Strahm for a 5-3 lead.

Ohtani struck out three times against Sánchez for the second time this season. Only two other pitchers this season fanned Ohtani three times in a game.

## Fast start propels Brewers to Game 1 rout of Cubs

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Jackson Chourio sparked Milwaukee's fast start at the plate, and Freddy Peralta delivered a steady performance on the mound.

The Brewers looked more than ready for October.

Chourio capped Milwaukee's six-run first inning with a two-run single, and the Brewers trounced the Chicago Cubs 9-3 on Saturday in Game 1 of their NL Division Series.

Hoping for a breakthrough after years of playoff frustration, Milwaukee showed off the same approach that helped the team roll to baseball's best record during the regular season. The Brewers ranked third in the majors in scoring this year despite finishing just 22nd in homers.

It was more of the same in the team's postseason opener. The NL Central champions had 13

hits and no home runs, while three solo drives accounted for Chicago's offense.

"The home runs are so important these days, (but) this is scrapping hits together, keeping the line moving, all the clichés that you can think of," said Blake Perkins, who had two hits for the Brewers.

"It's fun to be a part of, and I think we all build off of each other. I'm kind of sitting there, too, (thinking), like, 'Dang, how are we doing this?' sometimes. It's a cool feeling, and it's really fun to be a part of."

The only issue for the Brewers on Saturday was Chourio's right hamstring tightness. He departed in the second after becoming the first player with three hits in the first two innings of a playoff game.

Game 2 of the best-of-five series is on Monday night.

Chourio, who missed a month of the regular season with a strained right hamstring, underwent an MRI after the victory. Manager Pat Murphy said the injury "could be devastating," while Chourio sounded much more optimistic.

"Physically I feel good, and I feel in a position where I'm ready to keep going and keep competing," he said through an interpreter.

Staked to an early lead, Peralta permitted two runs in 5½ innings. His nine strikeouts tied Don Sutton, Yovani Gallardo and Brandon Woodruff for the Brewers' single-game playoff record.

Michael Busch, Ian Happ and Nico Hoerner homered for Chicago.

Brewers-Cubs games in Milwaukee generally have divided crowds because of all the people

who make the 90-mile trip from Chicago, but that wasn't the case Saturday. The vast majority of spectators were Brewers fans waving yellow towels and booing Cubs manager Craig Counsell.

"It didn't seem 50/50, for sure," Murphy said. "It felt like a home game. It definitely felt like a home game. They were difference makers."

Counsell, who grew up in the Milwaukee area, is the winningest manager in Brewers history, but he left for Chicago after the 2023 season. He has been jeered whenever his name has been mentioned over the American Family Field loudspeaker since he departed.

Counsell's decision to start Matthew Boyd on short rest didn't work out. The All-Star left-hander was lifted with two out in the first.



# Jays earn first playoff win in nine years

Associated Press

TORONTO — Alejandro Kirk and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. powered the Toronto Blue Jays to yet another home win over the New York Yankees, snapping a postseason losing streak that stretched back almost a decade.

Kirk hit two solo home runs, Guerrero also connected and the Blue Jays won a playoff game for the first time since 2016 by thumping the New York Yankees 10-1 in Game 1 of their AL Division Series on Saturday.

Nathan Lukes had two hits, three RBIs and a diving catch, and Andrés Giménez added two hits and drove in a pair as the AL East champion Blue Jays used 14 hits to snap a seven-game postseason skid.

Toronto's previous playoff win came in Game 4 of the 2016 American League Championship Series against Cleveland. The Blue Jays lost that series in five games.

Toronto was swept out of the wild-card round at Tampa Bay in 2020, at home against Seattle in 2022 and at Minnesota in

2023.

"To win one was nice," Blue Jays starter Kevin Gausman said. "To win one at home in front of our fans that have been awesome all season was really special."

Gausman allowed one run and four hits in 5½ innings for the win.

Guerrero went 3 for 4 with two RBIs. He opened the scoring with a two-out drive in the first inning, the first postseason homer of his career, and added a sacrifice fly in Toronto's four-run seventh.

"He always kind of raises his game when he plays the Yankees," Gausman said. "What a night for him."

Guerrero entered with three hits and one RBI in six previous playoff games.

Kirk hit a first-pitch homer in the second, his first in the postseason, then added a second shot off Paul Blackburn to begin a four-run eighth. He's the first Mexican-born player to homer twice in a postseason game.

"It feels amazing to me, but it's

work paying off," Kirk said through a translator.

Kirk has homered five times in his past three games dating to the final weekend of the regular season.

Toronto won for the seventh time in eight home games against New York this year. The Blue Jays went an AL-best 54-27 at home in the regular season.

The Blue Jays won eight of 13 regular-season meetings with the Yankees overall, giving them the tiebreaker for the AL East title after both teams finished 94-68. That gave Toronto a first-round playoff bye while it awaited the winner of the Wild Card Series between New York and Boston.

Making his third career postseason start, Yankees right-hander Luis Gil allowed two runs on four hits in 2½ innings. The 2024 AL Rookie of the Year took the loss.

The Yankees didn't put a runner in scoring position until Anthony Volpe doubled to begin the sixth. Austin Wells singled Volpe to third and Trent Grish-

am walked to load the bases. Gausman struck out Aaron Judge but walked Cody Bellinger to bring home a run.

After Ben Rice popped out, Louis Varland came on and struck out Giancarlo Stanton, ending the at-bat with a 101 mph fastball.

Luke Weaver didn't retire any of the three batters he faced in the seventh and has not retired any of the six batters he's faced this postseason.

Guerrero turned an unassisted double play at first base to end the second, diving to snare Ryan McMahon's liner and beating Jazz Chisholm Jr. back to the bag.

"I'm trying to play the best defense I can for our pitcher to throw the least pitches," Guerrero said through a translator.

Chisholm was retired by another great play in the fifth when Lukes made a diving catch on a line drive to right field.

Judge went 2-for-4 with a single and a double, making him the only Yankees player to reach base more than once.

## Tigers outlast Mariners for 11th inning victory in ALDS

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Zach McKinstry was banking on Carlos Vargas throwing him a sinker, and that's precisely what the All-Star third baseman got.

McKinstry singled home the tiebreaking run with two outs in the 11th inning and the Detroit Tigers outlasted the Seattle Mariners for a 3-2 victory in Game 1 of their AL Division Series on Saturday.

Kerry Carpenter hit a two-run homer in the fifth for the resurgent Tigers, who squandered a huge lead in the AL Central and nearly collapsed entirely down the stretch before squeezing into the playoffs.

After winning their Wild Card Series at Cleveland, they can take a commanding 2-0 lead in this

best-of-five matchup against AL West champion Seattle with dominant ace Tarik Skubal on the mound Sunday.

In the first extra-inning game of this postseason, McKinstry pounced on the first pitch he saw from Vargas, a 99.6 mph sinker, and grounded it up the middle to score Spencer Torkelson from second base.

Torkelson, who walked leading off the 11th, advanced to second on a wild pitch by Vargas earlier in the inning. Unlike during the regular season, there is no automatic runner placed at second base to begin extra innings in the postseason.

Will Vest worked two perfect innings for the win, and Keider Montero got three outs for his first major league save. Montero

extended the scoreless start to his postseason career and put the finishing touches on seven innings of one-run ball by Detroit's bullpen.

The Mariners struck first, thanks to a solo homer by Julio Rodríguez in the fourth inning. Rodríguez launched an elevated four-seam fastball from rookie Troy Melton, who was making just his fifth career start.

Seattle's lead didn't last long, though. Carpenter capitalized on an elevated fastball from right-hander George Kirby in a two-strike count, depositing it into the right-field seats to give the Tigers a 2-1 advantage.

Left-handed reliever Gabe Speier was warming up in the Seattle bullpen, but manager Dan Wilson elected to have Kir-

by face the left-handed-hitting Carpenter.

It was the fifth career homer for Carpenter off Kirby, making him the fourth player in major league history with five or more hits off a particular pitcher — and all of them home runs.

Kirby was otherwise sharp in his second postseason start, striking out five across five innings.

Rodríguez ensured the Mariners did not go down easily, poking an RBI single to right in the sixth that tied it at 2.

Seattle closer Andrés Muñoz worked two scoreless innings.

The Mariners didn't get hits from any players besides Rodríguez and AL MVP contender Cal Raleigh, who chipped in three singles for his third career three-hit game in the postseason.

# Iamaleava's 5 TDs help UCLA stun Penn St.

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Winless in four games in which they never led, their head coach fired, two coordinators gone and No. 7 Penn State in town. UCLA couldn't get much lower.

"Nobody in the world expected us to win," Bruins safety Key Lawrence said.

Indeed, the Bruins were 25½-point underdogs. They went out and stunned the Nittany Lions 42-37 on Saturday, becoming the first 0-4 or worse team to beat a top-10 team in 40 years.

"You'd think it was Mardi Gras," interim coach Tim Skipper said, describing the locker room atmosphere. "There was water flying everywhere, there's music, there's guys that can't dance that are dancing, there's coaches trying to be dancers. It was exciting."

Nico Iamaleava ran for three touchdowns and threw for two more, helping UCLA earn its first win of the season after DeShaun Foster was fired. The Bruins' offense exploded early and they led all the way after not

scoring in the first quarter of their earlier losses.

"We were going to be super aggressive, but not do dumb things," Skipper said. "The plan was if we scored a touchdown first, we were going to go to it."

The Bruins (1-4, 1-1 Big Ten) had tight ends coach Jerry Neuheisel calling UCLA's offensive plays for the first time against Penn State's vaunted defensive coordinator Jim Knowles. Offensive coordinator Tino Sunseri left the program earlier in the week.

Leading 42-35, UCLA's Scooter Jackson came up with a huge stop of Drew Allar on 4th and 2 and the Nittany Lions turned the ball over on downs with 37 seconds left. Bruins punter Will Karroll took a safety that made it 42-37.

Penn State was coming off a double-overtime 30-24 loss to Oregon last week.

"Obviously, we didn't handle last week's loss well," Lions coach James Franklin said. "We lost some players during that game, and then everything else

Travel, everything else. Did not come out with the right energy to start the game. Before you know it they got a touchdown drive and onside kick."

UCLA racked up 446 total yards to 357 for Penn State, while outrushing the Lions, 280 to 127, and going 10-for-16 on 3rd downs.

Iamaleava had his best game since his high-profile transfer from Tennessee over the summer. He capped his day by scrambling right and running 7 yards into the end zone and then throwing a 2-point conversion pass to Kwazi Gilmer for a 42-28 lead with 6:41 left in the fourth. He was 17 of 24 for 166 yards passing and was the Bruins' top rusher with 16 carries for 128 yards.

"It feels great, man," Iamaleava said. "We finally put it together on the offensive side of the ball. I'm just proud of these guys."

The Bruins scored on their first five possessions and led by 20 points before missing on a 56-yard field goal by Mateen Bhaghani early in the third.

The Nittany Lions (3-2, 0-2) turned the ball over on a fumble to open the third and then roared back with 14 quick points to trail 27-21. Khalil Dinkins caught a 40-yard pass by Allar. The Lions sacked Iamaleava twice before Dani Dennis-Sutton blocked Karroll's punt — UCLA's first of the game. Liam Clifford made a 6-yard blocked punt recovery for the other score.

But the Bruins extended the lead to 34-21 on Iamaleava's legs. He scrambled up the middle for a 52-yard gain — longest of his career — and a first down. He completed the seven-play, 75-yard drive with a 1-yard plunge up the middle on a day when the Bruins' relied on their running game.

Kaytron Allen got the Lions to 34-28 with a 2-yard run. Allar's 15-yard TD pass to Kyron Hudson left the Lions trailing 42-35 with 4:11 remaining in the game.

UCLA is one of five teams to be 0-4 or worse and beat a top-10 team, according to Sportradar. The last to do it was UTEP, which was 0-6 when it beat No. 7 BYU 23-13 on Oct. 26, 1985.

## Beck tosses 4 TDs as No. 3 Hurricanes hold off Seminoles

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Carson Beck threw four touchdown passes — two apiece to Malachi Toney and CJ Daniels — and No. 3 Miami held off No. 18 Florida State 28-22 on Saturday night.

Miami's offensive line mostly kept Beck's jersey clean, and the senior completed 20 of 27 passes for 241 yards.

"He was on fire," Miami coach Mario Cristobal said. "He made a lot of really, really good plays. His leadership, the way he pours into preparation, into his teammates. Everything about him, it screams winner. We're glad he's on our side."

A true freshman, Toney caught seven passes for 107

yards for the Hurricanes (5-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference). They won their first road game of the season and captured a third win over an Associated Press Top 25 team (Notre Dame, South Florida and Florida State).

Florida State's Tommy Castellanos threw two interceptions, both leading to drives where Miami scored touchdowns. The Seminoles (3-2, 0-2) also fumbled, although the turnover didn't lead to any points.

A week after focus and turnovers were a problem for Florida State with three turnovers in the double overtime loss at Virginia, the sloppy plays again popped up. Miami capitalized on both of the opportu-

nities off Castellanos' interceptions.

"This whole year we've played really good, complementary football," Beck said. "Whenever we've needed the defense, the defense has stepped up. Whenever they've capitalized on a turnover, we've been able to turn around and go punch it in the end zone or go get three (points). Continuing to do that is really, really good. It shows signs of a really good team."

Miami led 28-3 going into the fourth quarter. Castellanos then connected with Lawayne McCoy and Randy Pittman on a pair of touchdown passes. The Seminoles added a 35-yard field goal to cut it to 28-22 with 20 seconds to go.

Florida State attempted an onside kick after each score but was unable to recover.

"To come up short in this one is utterly disappointing in every way," Florida State coach Mike Norvell said. "Our guys battled. We just had too many mistakes."

Miami stopped Florida State on seven straight drives — four punts and three turnovers.

Miami has beaten USF, Florida State and Florida, and Cristobal has claimed a state championship.

"That's our fourth straight game against an opponent from the state of Florida," Cristobal said. "That's important to us, being state champions."