

STARS AND STRIPES®

Thursday, September 20, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Sailor who died aboard USS Bush was struck by propeller

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A sailor killed aboard the USS George H.W. Bush was struck by an aircraft's turning propeller after securing the plane to the ship's flight deck, a Navy spokesman said Tuesday.

Airman Apprentice Joseph Min Naglak was struck by the propeller of an E-2C Hawkeye on Monday during flight operations aboard the aircraft carrier, which was off the East Coast of the United States, said Navy Cmdr. Dave Hecht, a spokesman for Naval Air Force Atlantic. Naglak was the only sailor injured in the incident, which remains under investigation, Hecht said.

Naglak, 21, was an aviation boatswain's mate from West Windsor, N.J. He had served

aboard the Bush since August 2017, four months after he enlisted in the service, according to the Navy.

"The loss of a shipmate is a heartbreaking experience for a crew of a naval vessel and those aboard USS George H.W. Bush will mourn Naglak's passing and remember him always for his devoted service and sacrifice to our nation," the Navy said in a statement.

Hecht said Tuesday that sailors aboard the Bush had resumed flight operations after a brief pause following Naglak's death.

The Bush, which left Norfolk, Va., last week to avoid the impact of Hurricane Florence, is expected to remain at sea where it is continuing naval pilot aircraft carrier qualifications, Hecht said.

Navy: 'Minor' leak in nuke plant prompts sub's return

The (New London, Conn.) Day

The Connecticut-based attack submarine USS Pittsburgh recently had to return to Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton from being out to sea due to a "minor" leak within its nuclear propulsion plant, the Navy says.

"The USS Pittsburgh recently returned from sea to conduct logistics, maintenance, and repairs," a statement from Cmdr. Sarah Self-Kyler, spokeswoman for the Navy's Atlantic submarine fleet, said. "This action is not uncommon, and ensures the ship is maintained at a high state of readiness."

The Pittsburgh, a Los Angeles-class attack submarine, was commissioned in 1985.

The "minor moisture leak-

age" was discovered during a routine inspection while the boat was underway. The source of the moisture was near a valve in the propulsion plant. The issue did not impact the ability of the propulsion plant to function properly.

The moisture was fully contained within the reactor compartment, and did not affect the safety of the reactor. There was no risk posed to the crew or the ship, Self-Kyler said.

Sub base personnel and the ship's crew are working to fix the problem, which is best addressed in port, the Navy said.

Self-Kyler indicated there would be no impact on the submarine force's ability to carry out missions.

Cooler Corps: Marines roll out jungle uniform

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

While their official hymn touts Marines fighting in "ev'ry clime and place" they could tote their guns, the Corps is rolling out a lightweight uniform designed for one particular climate where grunts are expected to be hot and heavy in the coming years — humid tropical jungles.

Marine Corps Systems Command issued a contract to Vienna, Va.-based SourceAmerica to make its new tropical uniform, said Barbara Hamby, a command spokeswoman. The award is valued at nearly \$1 million.

Initial samples will be due by the end of March for 60 days of testing, with the first 2,600 uniforms expected by late June 2019, Hamby said in an emailed statement. The Corps is prepared to purchase more uniforms as 2019 funding becomes available, the statement said.

The tropical uniform, which has been described as "like pajamas," is based on the same design as the current Marine Corps combat utilities but made of a lighter material designed to dry faster and keep Marines cooler.

While the fabric is about 30 percent lighter than current utilities, it's just as durable as the material currently in use, officials said. The knees, elbows and groin areas will be reinforced to guard against abrasions in rocky, mountainous terrain, officials have said.

The Marine Corps began testing new materials less than a year after Marines at Okinawa's Jungle Warfare Training Center, or JWTC, complained in 2012 that their normal uni-

The lightweight uniform will be available first to Marines slated to deploy or already stationed in tropical climates, the Corps said. It will not be part of a Marine's general issue.

forms rarely dried out during training there, the systems command's Mark Richter said in a June 2013 statement.

Developed over about the past five years and tested by hundreds of Marines in Hawaii and Japan, including during training at JWTC, the new uniform comes as the service revamps its presence in the Pacific, already its largest command.

The service has been stepping up the size of its rotations to Australia's tropical Northern Territory while shifting thousands of troops away from Okinawa to other locations in the region. An \$8.7 billion overhaul on Guam is underway as about 4,000 Okinawa-based Marines are expected to relocate there in the mid-2020s. More than 1,000 others will be sent to Hawaii.

The lightweight uniforms will be available first to Marines slated to deploy or already stationed in tropical climates, the Corps said, and issued for contingency operations and training in tropical environments. It will not be part of a Marine's general issue.

Moon has message for Trump from Kim

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea—South Korean President Moon Jae-in, home Thursday from a whirlwind three-day summit with Kim Jong Un, said the North Korean leader wants the U.S. secretary of state to visit Pyongyang soon for nuclear talks and also hopes for a quick follow-up to his June summit with President Donald Trump.

Moon told reporters in Seoul that he will be carrying a private message from Kim to Trump about the nuclear stand-off when he meets the U.S. president in New York next week on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly session.

Both Trump, who has repeatedly spoken of his good relationship with Kim, and the North Korean leader have expressed a desire to follow up on the June meeting in Singapore that was meant to settle an impasse that seemed to be edging toward war last year. But there are worries among observers about whether

Kim is as committed to denuclearization as he claims.

Moon faces increasing pressure from Washington to find a path forward in efforts to get Kim to completely — and unilaterally — abandon his nuclear arsenal, which is thought to be closing in on the ability to accurately target any part of the continental United States.

“There are things that the United States wants us to convey to North Korea, and on the other side there are also things that North Korea wants us to convey to the United States,” Moon said at a press center in Seoul. “I will faithfully serve that role when I meet President Trump to facilitate dialogue between North Korea and the United States.”

Moon, who set up the Singapore summit and is eager for another to happen, also told reporters that he’ll convey to Trump his and Kim’s desire to get a declaration on ending the Korean War by the end of this year.

The war still technically continues because it ended in 1953 with a cease-fire, not a peace treaty. An end-of-war declaration would be the first step toward an eventual formal peace treaty, but the United States is wary about signing off on something that could result in Kim pushing for the removal of U.S. troops stationed in South Korea to deter the North.

The Korean leaders’ premier accord on the issue that most worries the world — the North’s pursuit of nuclear-tipped missiles — contained a big condition: Kim stated that he would permanently dismantle North Korea’s main nuclear facility only if the United States takes unspecified corresponding measures.

“Chairman Kim Jong Un has again and again affirmed his commitment to denuclearization,” Moon said after returning to Seoul. “He expressed his wish to finish a complete denuclearization as soon as pos-

sible and focus on economic development.”

Moon said North Korea’s agreement to allow international experts to observe a “permanent” dismantling of a missile engine test site and launch pad was the same thing as a commitment to “verifiably and irreversibly” demolish those facilities.

Moon says such steps, combined with North Korea’s unilateral but unverified dismantling of a nuclear testing ground earlier this year, would prevent the North from advancing its weaponry through further nuclear and missile tests. Experts say the destruction of the missile engine test site and launch pad wouldn’t represent a material step in the denuclearization of North Korea, which declared its nuclear force complete last year and has designed its most powerful missiles to be fired from vehicles.

Moon also said that Kim hoped to visit Seoul soon.

Aussie, US sailors celebrate 100-year bond

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Australia’s ambassador to the United States relishes the story of loyalty and insubordination underpinning the centurylong military camaraderie between the two nations.

Ambassador Joe Hockey related the tale to a gathering of Australian and American sailors Tuesday as he stood aboard the HMAS Hobart docked beside the USS Wayne E. Meyer at Pearl Harbor.

Guests nibbled on seared kangaroo skewers and Tasmanian salmon during the event, a celebration of 100 years of “mateship” between two armed forces that first fought side by side in 1918 during World War I.

After five years in the trenches of that war, Australia was in

dire straits, Hockey said.

“Australia had by that stage mobilized nearly 10 percent of its population,” he said. “We’d suffered a 60 percent casualty rate.”

In the spring of 1918, Australian Gen. John Monash, commander of the 4th Australian Division, had been directed to take the town of Hamel, France. So depleted were his ranks, Monash was granted his request for integration of 10 companies of American soldiers — still relatively green because the U.S. had joined the war only a year earlier.

“The Australians and Americans trained together, and they became very close buddies and friends — mates, as we say,” Hockey said.

But the commander of American forces, Gen. John Pershing, balked at the idea of Americans fighting under a foreign general

and ordered the soldiers out of the planned Hamel campaign.

“True to the American spirit, the American doughboys started to take off their uniforms and put on Australian uniforms,” Hockey said. “They said, ‘We are not going to walk away from our buddies.’”

Ultimately, Pershing gave in and three American companies fought in the Battle of Hamel, considered by some historians to be a key turning point in World War I.

“That’s what mateship is: standing beside each other in the darkest of hours, being honest with each other, loyal to each other,” Hockey said. “When either one is under threat, we fight to the death.”

“We’re the only country on Earth to have fought side by side with the United States in every single major conflict. In World War I, you stepped in and

really turned the war and ended what was meant to be the war to end all wars.”

Adm. Philip Davidson, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, told the gathering that America and its allies and partners in the region today face “profound security threats,” among them terrorists in the Philippines, the North Korea regime and China’s attempts to dominate.

“I will be totally transparent with you,” he said. “China is moving around the region with an open pocketbook, greasing the region with money like no other adversary we’ve ever faced.”

This was the HMAS Hobart’s first foreign port visit since it was commissioned a year ago, Capt. John Stavridis, its commander, said.

Carolinas feeling fatigued from Florence

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Hurricane Florence is still wearing out the Carolinas, where residents have endured an agonizing week of violent winds, torrential rain, widespread flooding, power outages and death.

Frustration and sheer exhaustion are building as thousands of people wait to go home seven days after the storm began battering the coast. Florence is blamed for at least 37 deaths, including those of two women who drowned when a sheriff's van taking them to a mental health facility was swept off a road.

"I'm just ready for this to be over, to be honest," said Evan Jones, a college student who evacuated from Wilmington and

doesn't know when he will get back. "I'm trying to get it all out of my head."

With the remnants of Florence finally out to sea and skies bright over rivers still swelling with muddy water, President Donald Trump visited the disaster zone, riding through soggy neighborhoods and helping pass out warm meals at a church.

"America grieves with you and our hearts break for you. God bless you," Trump said during a briefing in Havelock, N.C.

There wasn't any presidential fanfare 120 miles away in Fayetteville. There, Roberta and Joseph Keithley had been sleeping on cots set up in a school classroom since last Friday. They still didn't know if their home was ruined.

"It's getting a little frustrating, but you have to deal with it and roll with the punches," said Roberta Keithley, 73. "It's just another hurdle to get over in life."

To the south, daybreak brought a return of floodwaters to Nichols, S.C., which also was inundated by Hurricane Matthew two years ago. The flooding from Florence had subsided, only to get worse again.

Mayor Lawson Battle said that as far as he knew, everyone in the town of about 360 people evacuated as the water first started to invade town Monday. But Battle just couldn't think about that anymore.

"I'm focusing on this disaster at hand," he said. "I don't have time to think. I'm just so tired."

GOP: Time running out for Kavanaugh accuser

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans say they're forging ahead in their drive to push Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination through the Senate, even as the woman accusing him of a decades-old sexual attack is threatening to boycott a committee hearing and suggesting she's not being treated with "fairness and respect."

With Kavanaugh's confirmation dangling in the balance, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee said his panel still planned a Monday morning hearing that Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford were invited to attend. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, has told Ford's attorneys that the panel was giving the California psychology professor until 10 a.m. Friday to submit a biography and a prepared state-

ment "if she intends to testify."

Kavanaugh, currently a judge on the powerful District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals, has denied the charges.

Democrats have leapt to Ford's defense, with Washington state Sen. Patty Murray saying Thursday that Republicans should be "ashamed" for pushing forward without a fair investigation. That echoed Democrats' effort to broaden the nomination fight into a referendum on whether women who allege abuse are taken seriously by men — a theme that could echo in this November's elections for control of Congress.

"If you have been assaulted or harassed by a powerful Republican man, you better not talk about it or you're going to pay a price," Murray said.

Through her attorneys, Ford left her attendance in doubt. And despite Grassley's

schedule, it remained unclear if that hearing would occur without her, as a drama that has riveted Washington since emerging a week ago was injected with a fresh burst of election-season suspense.

Ford lawyer Lisa Banks said in a statement late Wednesday that Ford would cooperate with a thorough, nonpartisan probe. After indicating earlier this week that she would appear before lawmakers, Ford wants other witnesses — not just Ford and Kavanaugh — to participate and wants the FBI to reopen its background check of Kavanaugh. Those demands have been backed by Democrats but dismissed by top Republicans.

Ford has contended that at a house party in the 1980s, a drunken Kavanaugh tried undressing her and stifling her cries on a bed before she fled.

Trump roundups of immigrants net noncriminals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A daughter who never returned home, a son gunned down point-blank, a mom who was brutally attacked — all deaths at the hands of immigrants in the country illegally, all gripping stories the White House has been eager to share.

But for all the talk of murderers, rapists and other "bad hombres," those netted in President Donald Trump's crackdown on immigration are typically accused of lesser offenses, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are increasingly apprehending those with no criminal records at all.

"Unshackling ICE has really allowed it to go after more individuals," said Sarah Pierce, a policy analyst with the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute who calls the apprehension of noncriminal immigrants, in particular, "a defining characteristic of this administration's approach to immigration."

The case of Mollie Tibbetts — a 20-year-old Iowa college student authorities say was killed by a man living in the U.S. illegally — is among the latest used by Trump to advance his argument for stricter immigration controls.

Yet the government's own statistics show

such cases are far more likely to be the exception than the rule.

ICE arrests of noncriminals increased 66 percent in the first nine months of the 2018 fiscal year over the same period a year earlier. Arrests of convicts, meantime, rose nearly 2 percent. More noncriminals also have been deported. Among those expelled from the U.S. interior in fiscal 2017, there was a 174 percent increase from the previous year of those with no criminal convictions.

Deportations of those with convictions rose nearly 13 percent over the same period.

Japan's Abe re-elected as party head

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was re-elected as head of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party in a landslide Thursday, paving the way for up to three more years as the nation's leader.

The decisive victory may embolden Abe to pursue his long-sought revision to Japan's U.S.-drafted pacifist constitution, although the hurdles remain high and doing so would carry political risks.

"It's time to tackle a constitutional revision," Abe said in a victory speech. "Now the fight is over."

Abe said he's determined to use his last

term to pursue his policy goals to "sum up" Japan's postwar diplomacy to ensure peace in the country. "Let's work together to make a new Japan," he said.

Abe, who has been prime minister since December 2012, has cemented control of his party and received support from conservatives for bringing stability and continuity to economic and diplomatic policies. With a third term as party leader, Abe is poised to become Japan's longest-serving leader in August 2021.

Still, he faces several challenges, including dealing with Japan's aging and declining population, a royal succession in the

spring, and a consumption tax increase to 10 percent he has already delayed twice. He faces security concerns stemming from North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, and China's increasingly assertive activity in the region, as well as intensifying trade friction with the U.S. which could shake his friendly relations with President Donald Trump.

Abe has said he is determined to push for a revision to the U.S.-drafted 1947 constitution, a decades-old pledge of the Liberal Democratic Party since its foundation in 1955 and a goal that none of Abe's predecessors has been able to achieve.

Deadly landslides bury homes in Philippines

Associated Press

NAGA, Philippines — A massive landslide buried dozens of homes near a central Philippine mountain Thursday, killing at least 15 people and sending rescuers scrambling to find survivors after some sent text messages pleading for help.

The slide surged down on about 30 houses in two rural villages after daybreak in Naga city in Cebu province, Roderick Gonzales, the city police chief, told The Associated Press by telephone as he helped supervise the search and rescue.

Seven injured villagers were rescued from the huge mound of earth and debris.

Some victims still managed to send text messages after the landslide hit, Gonzales said, adding that elderly women and a child were among the dead.

Naga city Mayor Kristine Vanessa Chiong said by telephone that at least 64 people remained missing.

"We're really hoping we can still recover them alive," she said.

The landslide hit while several northern Philippine provinces were still dealing with deaths and widespread damage wrought

by Typhoon Mangkhut, which pummeled the agricultural region Saturday and left at least 88 people dead and more than 60 missing.

A massive search was still underway for dozens of people feared dead after landslides in the gold-mining town of Itogon in the north.

Cebu province was not directly hit by Mangkhut, but the massive typhoon helped intensify monsoon rains across a large part of the archipelago, including the central region, where Naga city lies about 353 miles southeast of Manila.

Marijuana museum is Las Vegas' hip new joint

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A glass bong taller than a giraffe. Huggable faux marijuana buds. A pool full of foam weed nuggets.

Las Vegas' newest attraction — and Instagram backdrop — is a museum celebrating all things cannabis.

Nobody will be allowed to light up at Cannabition when it opens Thursday because of a Nevada ban on public consumption of marijuana, but visitors can learn about the drug as they snap photos.

It's a made-for-social-media museum where every exhibit has lights meant to ensure people take selfies worthy of the no-filter hashtag.

The facility — whose founder says has a goal of destigmatizing marijuana use — will likely land among the talking points officials and others use to try to draw gambling-resistant millennials to Sin City.

It will welcome its first visitors almost 15 months after adults in Nevada began buy-

ing recreational marijuana legally, with sales far exceeding state projections.

"Our goal when people come out of this is that they don't fear the cannabis industry if they are not believers in the industry," founder J.J. Walker told The Associated Press. "Cannabition is not about just serving people that like marijuana, it's about serving the masses that want to learn about cannabis and or just have fun and go do a cool art experience."

Guests will wander through 12 installations with rooms like "seed," where people can lie down in a bed shaped like a marijuana seed, and "grow," which features artificial plants in sizes ranging from inches to feet tall placed under bright lights to represent an indoor cannabis grow facility.

Photo ops are also available under a glow-in-the-dark tree, next to a giant marijuana leaf meant to represent an edible gummy and by a 24-foot-tall glass bong that's dubbed "Bongzilla" and billed as the

world's largest.

There is a space with taller-than-you faux buds representing different strains and another room with gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson's famous "Red Shark" Chevrolet Caprice.

This museum in Las Vegas' downtown entertainment district is not the Smithsonian of marijuana, but it has some educational components. Guests get an introduction from museum guides, and some graphics on walls explain how concentrates are made and the differences between indica and sativa cannabis strains.

Museums always evolve with the times to remain relevant, and audience engagement is an important goal for the facilities today, said Gwen Chanzit, director of museum studies in art history at the University of Denver. For those who remember very traditional, no-photography-allowed museums, she said, "that ship has sailed."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Man rubbed fruit on butt in store

VA MANASSAS — A man was accused of rubbing his bare behind with produce at a grocery store in northern Virginia before putting the items back on display.

News outlets reported Michael Dwayne Johnson, 27, of Manassas was charged with indecent exposure and destruction of property.

A Manassas police release said an employee noticed Johnson grabbing produce, pulling down his pants and rubbing the produce on his behind before putting it back.

It said the store had to destroy several pallets of produce. The police report lists fruit as the ruined produce.

Lobsters get pot, then the cooking pot

ME SOUTHWEST HARBOR — A Maine lobster pound is banking on using marijuana to try to make cooking the crustaceans a little more humane.

The business, Charlotte's Legendary Lobster Pound in Southwest Harbor, is owned by a registered medical marijuana caregiver.

The owner, Charlotte Gill, told WMTW-TV she put a lobster in a box with a few inches of water before marijuana smoke was blown into the box. She said the animal was calmer for the next three weeks, and she released it into the ocean.

Gill plans to use the new method at customers' requests and then build a larger tank to sedate multiple lobsters at once.

Degree offered in beer, wine making

OH SYLVANIA — An Ohio university will

soon offer an undergraduate degree in beer and wine making.

Lourdes University recently announced it will start the program in August 2019.

The degree program will feature courses in fermentation, chemistry, nutrition and accounting. Students will be required to complete three internships, including one through an Irish study abroad program.

Lourdes University has partnered with multiple local breweries to support the program. The school will also work with vineyards in California and distilleries in Galway, Ireland.

Mountain lion visits motel, doesn't stay

CO BOULDER — A mountain lion was caught on surveillance camera dashing to the doorstep of a Colorado motel office, venturing toward the open doorway and then wandering away.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife spokesman Jason Clay said nobody was hurt in the Sept. 9 encounter.

The Boulder Daily Camera reported the lion approached the Foot of the Mountain Motel on Boulder's west side. Just after entering the camera's view, the lion pauses, as if startled. Clay said that was when the lion spotted motel guests with a dog on a leash.

Clay said the guests and their dog returned to their room and there was no trouble.

Bear escapes van, grabs muffin mix

NC ASHEVILLE — Winnie the Pooh has honey, Goldilocks' three ursine victims had porridge and a casually destructive North Carolina black bear has muffin mix.

Nicole Minkin Lissenden told The Asheville Citizen-Times she saw her minivan door had come

ajar, with trash spilling out, Sunday so she closed it. Tipped off by fogged-up windows and paw prints, she would learn 30 minutes later that she had unwittingly trapped a decent-sized black bear inside.

Having clawed up the interiors, the bear eventually slid out a window. Shortly thereafter, Karen Brown found paw prints and open drawers in her nearby kitchen. She said the bear bypassed fresh pumpkin bread and chili to grab the muffin mix. He left the premises after some human hollering.

Teen accused of driving drunk with baby

WI MOUNT PLEASANT — Police in southeastern Wisconsin said a 15-year-old boy was accused of driving drunk with a baby in the back seat.

Mount Pleasant police said the baby's mother and another teen in the car were also intoxicated. Sgt. Eric Relich said someone saw the driver swerving and driving into oncoming traffic.

The car stopped near a gas station, and responding officers said they found the 15-year-old behind the wheel. WITI-TV reported Relich said the 19-year-old mother of the 5-month-old baby was so intoxicated she couldn't stand straight.

Woman drives car across 2 runways

NJ TETERBORO — Authorities said a woman breached security at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey and drove her car across two runways.

Port Authority police said the 32-year-old woman followed an authorized vehicle through an open gate Tuesday morning, drove across the runways and then stopped and fled on foot.

Police tracked her down to

a home in Moonachie and took her into custody. The woman's name has not been released.

Authorities said there were no planes on the runway at the time.

Cops: Man used leash to keep wife safe

PA YORK — A Maryland man who said he used a dog leash to lead his wife around a Pennsylvania fair because she has late-stage dementia and has previously wandered away is facing a simple assault charge.

West Manchester police said Walter Wolford, 66, yanked the 8-inch long red nylon leash, causing his wife's head to jerk back and leave red marks around her throat. The Hagerstown man said he only gently tugged on the leash, which he uses to keep his wife from getting lost.

Wolford said he attached the leash to his wife's waist, but it moved up around her neck.

Video shows man too close to geyser

MT BILLINGS — A man accused of walking dangerously close to Old Faithful Geyser may also have broken the rules by sitting next to a different thermal feature in Yellowstone National Park.

Video taken by Kelly Kosciuk, of Savannah, Ga., and shared by ABC FOX Montana, appears to show the same man taking a shoe off next to Beryl Spring, one of Yellowstone's hottest springs. The incident happened Sept. 14, the same day that Gabriel Villalva, of Greeley, Colo., allegedly wandered close to Old Faithful.

Villalva faces charges including leaving boardwalks in a thermal area and disorderly conduct.

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New NFL coaches off to poor starts

Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Jon Gruden was welcomed back to Oakland as a returning hero when he got hired for his second stint as coach of the Raiders.

There was a party he hosted for fans at a local sports bar, loud ovations in the preseason and a heightened level of excitement that Gruden could get the Raiders back to being the consistent winner they were during his first stint that started two decades ago.

The reality has been far different after two weeks. Fans are frustrated by the trade of the team's best player, Khalil Mack, the crowd booed at the end of a lopsided, season-opening loss, and an 0-2 start have raised questions about how long it will take to turn the Raiders into a winner.

"We're going to keep building our football team. Whether that translates into one win or four wins or any wins, I'm not

going to make any predictions," Gruden said.

"I want to continue to play good, hardnose football. Keep improving. Keep improving and good things will happen. I'm not going to sit here and make any predictions about anything other than we're going to play hard and provide the best effort we can."

Gruden's not alone when it comes to getting off to slow starts in a new tenure as coach. All seven new coaches lost on the opening weekend for the worst debut performance in NFL history for a new class of coaches.

There was some improvement in Week 2 as Indianapolis' Frank Reich, Chicago's Matt Nagy and Tennessee's Mike Vrabel all got into the win column for the first time in their head coaching careers.

"It always helps to win," Vrabel said. "When you're trying to explain things to a team, or trying to get a message across,

there has to be some tangible evidence to say, 'Hey, when we do these things we give ourselves a chance to win.'"

The other three new coaches are in the same boat as Gruden, searching for that elusive first win and facing questions about whether they were the right choice for the job.

The New York Giants have looked listless on offense in their first two games under former Minnesota offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur, scoring only one TD in the opener and not making it into the end zone until 1:27 remained in a 20-13 loss to Dallas this past week.

It's the defense that's been the problem in Detroit under former New England defensive coordinator Matt Patricia. The Lions have allowed 78 points in losses to the Jets and San Francisco, the third most in franchise history after two games.

"I certainly understand their frustration and we're doing everything we can possible to

make sure we get this turned around," Patricia said of Detroit fans who have celebrated just one playoff win in the past 60 years.

"I expect to win every single week and go out and we work extremely hard to make sure we get that done, and we have to keep pushing forward."

The Cardinals have been perhaps the worst team of all under Steve Wilks, getting outscored 58-6 the first two weeks against Washington and the Rams and failing even to cross midfield until the next-to-last play of the game in Sunday's 34-0 drubbing against Los Angeles.

There are already questions about coordinator Mike McCoy's status in Arizona and about when rookie quarterback Josh Rosen should take over from Sam Bradford.

"We all need to look in the mirror and check ourselves and figure out, 'What can I do to help this team win games?'" Wilks said.

Bears coach Nagy points out differences between QBs

Associated Press

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Chicago Bears coach Matt Nagy understands the temptation to compare, given the way his present and past quarterbacks are performing.

Mitchell Trubisky and Patrick Mahomes were top 10 selections in the same class and the first two QBs drafted in 2017.

But while Trubisky — the No. 2 overall pick that year — has turned in two shaky performances for Chicago this season, Mahomes has been lighting it up for Kansas City.

"Well, what's fair to compare is you have one, in Patrick, who has had a full year in this offense to understand it," Nagy said.

"Now, regardless of playing in it, he's had a full year, more than a year to sit behind it and learn and understand and watch tape with those quar-

terbacks last year and get to see all the talk, all the discussions of where you go on this play and that play, whereas Mitchell hasn't had that. He's being forced into this thing right away, and so that's where these growing pains are going to occur."

Nagy spoke Tuesday, a day after the Bears beat the Seattle Seahawks to give their coach his first career victory.

Trubisky threw touchdown passes on Chicago's first possession and early in the fourth quarter, but got intercepted two times by Shaquill Griffin.

The offense stalled for large portions of the game, and a defense led by Khalil Mack carried Chicago, sacking Russell Wilson six times.

That allowed the Bears to leave Soldier Field with a good feeling after they blew a 20-point lead in a season-opening loss to Aaron Rodgers and the Packers.

"I'm trying to get over just dwelling on plays too much," Trubisky said. "I think it's hurt me more than it's helped me.

"So getting over plays and just building on what I did good and forgetting about what I did bad and continuing to improve and get better and learn this offense and Coach keeps saying, it is going to be a process. We want immediate results, but finding ways to win is very important and we did that."

But it sure would help if Trubisky started emerging as the franchise quarterback the Bears envisioned him becoming when they traded up a spot with San Francisco to draft him.

The organization figured it would take time and was planning to have him mostly watch from the sideline last season with Mike Glennon starting.

Of course, it didn't work out that way. Glennon struggled through four games before

Trubisky replaced him as the starter.

The Bears then spent much of the offseason building around him by hiring an offensive-minded head coach and giving him some new options — most notably signing former Pro Bowl receiver Allen Robinson away from Jacksonville. But through two games, Trubisky has plenty of room to improve.

Trubisky has an 80.0 rating, with a pair of touchdown passes and as many interceptions. Compare that to Mahomes with a 143.3 rating and a league-leading 10 touchdowns with no interceptions.

Or maybe don't compare.

The fact that Mahomes has a year in the Chiefs' system and isn't learning a new offense again isn't the only difference. He also got what basically amounted to his redshirt year, sitting behind Alex Smith last season.

Holyfield's dad offers advice after game

Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Elijah Holyfield's famous father offered some advice after the Georgia junior was stopped short of the goal line on a 66-yard run last week.

"He said I should have scored," Holyfield said of tips from his father, former boxing champion Evander Holyfield, after Georgia's 49-7 win over Middle Tennessee last week. "He said I probably should have just kept running. He said trust your speed."

Holyfield ran for 100 yards as No. 2 Georgia (3-0, 1-0 Southeastern Conference) gained momentum for Saturday night's game at Missouri.

Holyfield (5-11, 215) resembles his father in his looks and athletic strengths. He's a physical runner and is tough to bring down, much like his father in the ring.

"He likes contact, and he's a bowling ball," said Georgia coach Kirby Smart on Monday. "He's hard to bring down. He's really tough."

Last week's surprise was Holyfield's explosive speed, including on the long run.

The skills made Holyfield Georgia's first 100-yard rusher this season. He is the surprise leading rusher in a tailback committee still topped by D'Andre Swift, who did not play after the Bulldogs' first two possessions last week.

Swift is still listed as the starter on Georgia's depth chart. Holyfield, who leads Georgia with 200 yards rushing, is bracketed with Brian Herrien as Swift's top backups.

Smart protected Swift last week so he could give other backs more snaps and said Swift is healthy.

"We expect to be 100 percent at the running back position like we were Saturday," Smart said.

Holyfield was rewarded for his patience after playing behind Nick Chubb and Sony Michel the last two years.

"Coming in, everybody says 'I want to come in and start' but the likelihood of coming in and

starting over Nick and Sony is kind of slim," Holyfield said. "So I kind of knew I'd have to wait my time and I'm glad it's here now."

Holyfield took notes from Chubb and Michel while waiting for his chance.

"I just learned from the way they worked and how they always move on to the next game," Holyfield said. "Even after they have a great game, they're always back in the film room the next day trying to get better. They taught me a lot of skills like that and then certain things to look for when I'm running against a certain defense."

Smart said after Saturday's game Holyfield has "a heart of gold" which he shows with his consistent work ethic in practice.

"Every day for him is physical," Smart said Monday. "There is not a day he goes out there and says 'I'm taking this day off or I'm not going full speed today.' He's not a guy you have to motivate. He loves

the game. He practices hard. I think he really likes competition because when he gets thudded by a guy, he always likes to come back and get that guy back."

Georgia safety J.R. Reed said Holyfield is "probably one of the most physical backs we've seen."

"He's learned from Nick and Sony on how to practice and he works very hard in practice," Reed said. "... I definitely think he's one of the hardest backs in the SEC to bring down."

Holyfield's voice rose when he spoke Monday about being tackled at the Middle Tennessee 7 at the end of his 66-yard run.

"I was mad," he said. "I was very mad I didn't get it in. It's OK. I'll get more opportunities."

He said his dad, who attended last week's game, gave him more than just advice on the run.

"He did say he was proud of me," he said. "He was proud of my performance."

No. 17 TCU focuses on conference play after loss

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Within minutes after TCU's loss to Ohio State, coach Gary Patterson was asked what he would want people to say about that game should the 17th-ranked Horned Frogs go on to win the Big 12 title and be in consideration for a spot in the College Football Playoff.

"They said that they shouldn't hold it against Washington because they played a really good football team," Patterson said, referring to the No. 10 Huskies' season-opening loss to Auburn in another off-campus game and adding that TCU should get similar credit.

"We've got a lot of good people we've got to play before we get to that point," Patterson said. "So right now, I won't worry about that. If we can get to the first of December, we

can have that conversation. But right now, it's Texas."

The Frogs (2-1) play Saturday at Texas, a team they have outscored 153-33 in their past four meetings, their only four-game winning streak in the series since 1935-38 — that was during the era of Sammy Baugh and Heisman Trophy winner Davey O'Brien, and when TCU won its only AP national title.

Patterson says if he could only win one of those games — Ohio State or Texas — he would want it to be the Longhorns. Sure, there is that in-state rivalry, and the rare streak on the line. More importantly, it is the Big 12 opener.

"If you don't win conference, don't win games in the conference schedule, it doesn't make any difference," Patterson said Tuesday.

TCU lost 40-28 on Satur-

day against Ohio State, which trailed 21-13 before scoring three touchdowns in a four-minute span early in the second half to go ahead to stay.

The Buckeyes' first touchdown came on a strip sack of Shawn Robinson in the first quarter. While that play wasn't challenged or questioned then, replays shows that an Ohio State defender appeared to touch the ball while his feet were out of the end zone before the fumble was recovered for a touchdown. That could have made it a safety instead. Even after that, the Frogs recovered to go ahead before the quick scoring spurt by Ohio State after halftime.

Washington (2-1) is still a Top 10 team, having rebounded from that 21-16 loss to Auburn with wins over North Dakota and its Pac-12 opener against Utah. And the Tigers (2-1) also

remain in the Top 10 after a home loss to LSU on a game-ending field goal last weekend.

TCU is playing away from leaving the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex to play for the first time this season. The Frogs won their season opener 55-7 at home over FCS team Southern University, before a rainy 30-point win at SMU and the loss against the Buckeyes in the home stadium of the Dallas Cowboys about 20 miles from the TCU campus — and where the Big 12 championship game is played.

"There's a big jump between the first two and the other one (Ohio State), so I think reality's somewhere in between," Patterson said. "We've got to go on the road to a very good Texas team's place, Austin's always tough to play in."

Puig's HR helps Dodgers sweep Rockies

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Late September, a crucial series, and a postseason berth on the line. Yasiel Puig thrives in big-game situations, and once again he delivered.

Puig didn't start despite being on a tear at the plate. But he came off the bench to slug a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the seventh inning that sent the Los Angeles Dodgers past the Colorado Rockies 5-2 on Wednesday night to increase their NL West lead to 2½ games.

"We're going to win the West again," Puig said.

Walker Buehler struck out a career-high 12 and the Dodgers completed a three-game sweep of the second-place Rockies, giving the five-time defending

NL West champions their largest division lead this season. They outscored Colorado 16-6 in the series, with homers proving to be the difference in each game.

"It's impressive," manager Dave Roberts said of the sweep. "I believe our guys can sustain it."

The Rockies remained 1½ games behind St. Louis for the second NL wild card.

"Like I've said all along, I think this is going to come down to the end," manager Bud Black said. "I really do."

After falling into a 2-0 hole in a 36-pitch first inning, Buehler settled down and showed why he has become a dependable complement to Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw. The rookie right-hander allowed three hits

and one walk over six innings, and neither run he gave up was earned.

"I just slowed down a little bit," Buehler said. "The later you get in the year the bigger it all feels."

Puig's second career pinch-hit homer came off Scott Oberg (7-1) and ignited the crowd and his teammates, some of whom came out in front of the dugout to cheer. The always-excitabile Puig raised both arms as he circled the bases.

"I saw his first swing and I saw him hit the top half of the ball," Oberg said. "I'm like, 'OK, it's probably a decent pitch to throw again.' Sitting on it. Put a good swing on it. Over the fence. That's it."

Puig is hitting .400 this month, with seven homers, nine

runs and 14 RBIs. He hit five homers in two days recently.

The Dodgers showed off their depth in the seventh. After pinch-hitter Joc Pederson fouled out, Max Muncy drew a pinch-hit walk. Yasmani Grandal doubled to deep right field, moving Muncy to third and setting up Puig.

"This series was emblematic of our ballclub," Roberts said. "How many people had their hands in to help us win three ballgames."

Caleb Ferguson (7-2) got two outs and Kenley Jansen closed for his 36th save.

Buehler gave up a two-run single to Ian Desmond in the first after the pitcher made a run-saving throw to the plate when Gerardo Parra grounded into a fielder's choice.

MLB roundup

Voit hits two home runs in Yankees' rout of Red Sox

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Luke Voit hit two homers off David Price (15-7), Miguel Andujar popped another one barely into the right-field seats and the New York Yankees stalled Boston's division-clinching celebration by beating the Red Sox 10-1 on Wednesday night.

Luis Severino (18-8) pitched seven innings of one-run ball, and the Yankees had no need for All-Star closer Aroldis Chapman on the day they activated him from the disabled list. Chapman had been out since Aug. 21 with left knee tendinitis.

Price surrendered three homers this time, each aided by Yankee Stadium's short right-field porch. Andujar hit his 25th just over the wall for a 1-0 lead in the second, and Voit added solo shots in the fourth and sixth to nearly the same spot.

Athletics 10, Angels 0: Stephen Piscotty hit a three-run homer and matched his career

high with five RBIs, and host Oakland beat Los Angeles to snap a three-game skid.

Oakland moved within four games of first-place Houston in the AL West and stayed 5½ ahead of streaking Tampa Bay for the second wild card.

Indians 4, White Sox 1: Jason Kipnis hit a grand slam with one out in the ninth inning and host Cleveland beat Chicago.

The AL Central champions were held to two hits through eight innings before their comeback.

Phillies 4, Mets 0: Rhys Hoskins became the seventh-fastest player to hit 50 career home runs and host Philadelphia beat New York to keep pace in the NL East race.

The Phillies won consecutive series for the first time since July 25 and stayed 5½ games behind division-leading Atlanta.

Braves 7, Cardinals 3: Freddie Freeman hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs, Touki Toussaint (2-1) pitched

into the sixth inning and NL East-leading Atlanta beat visiting St. Louis to snap a four-game skid.

The Braves have a magic number of six over Philadelphia to clinch their first division title since 2013. St. Louis, which had won three straight, leads Colorado by 1½ games for the second wild card.

Diamondbacks 9, Cubs 0: Christian Walker and Chris Owings homered off Cole Hamels (9-10), and Robbie Ray held visiting Chicago to one hit over six innings in Arizona's victory.

The Cubs' NL Central lead dropped to 2½ games over Milwaukee.

Brewers 7, Reds 0: Gio Gonzalez (9-11) pitched six smooth innings on his 33rd birthday and Jesus Aguilar hit a three-run homer in host Milwaukee's victory over Cincinnati.

They helped the Brewers boost their lead for the top NL wild card to three games over St. Louis.

Mariners 9, Astros 0: Rob-

inson Cano drove in three runs, Kyle Seager, Mitch Haniger and Guillermo Heredia homered and seven pitchers combined for a five-hitter in visiting Seattle's victory over Houston.

Rays 9, Rangers 3: Tommy Pham homered twice and extended his on-base streak to 21 games and late-surgling Tampa Bay completed a three-game sweep of host Texas.

Twins 8, Tigers 2: Stephen Gonsalves (1-2) threw six scoreless innings, and visiting Minnesota pounded Detroit's pitching.

Pirates 2, Royals 1: Chris Archer (5-8) pitched seven strong innings, and host Pittsburgh beat Kansas City to complete a three-game sweep.

Orioles 2, Blue Jays 1: Rookie DJ Stewart hit his first major league home run and host Baltimore used five pitchers to beat Toronto.

Padres 8, Giants 4: Wil Myers and Freddy Galvis homered, Robbie Erlin (4-7) pitched five solid innings and host San Diego beat San Francisco.