

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Sunday, September 30, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Trump: FBI has 'free rein' in nominee probe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The woman who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct when they were students at Yale has agreed to cooperate with an FBI investigation, her lawyer said, and President Donald Trump says the bureau has “free rein” to conduct the inquiry.

Deborah Ramirez’s lawyer, John Clune, said Saturday that agents want to interview Ramirez, who has alleged that Kavanaugh exposed himself to her at a party in the early 1980s. Two other women have accused the appeals court judge of sexual misconduct.

Kavanaugh’s confirmation to the Supreme Court, once seen as assured, became uncertain after the allegations and then dramatic Senate testimony Thursday by Christine Blasey Ford, who alleges that Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her at a party when they were teenagers. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted in favor of Kavanaugh along party lines Friday.

While the precise scope of the reopened background investigation of Kavanaugh remained unclear, Trump told reporters Saturday that “the FBI, as you know, is all over talking to everybody” and “this could be a blessing in disguise.”

“They have free rein. They’re going to do whatever they have to do, whatever it is they do. They’ll be doing things that we have

never even thought of,” Trump said at the White House. “And, hopefully, at the conclusion, everything will be fine.”

The president revisited the question of the scope of the FBI’s probe in a late-night tweet Saturday, writing in part, “I want them to interview whoever they deem appropriate, at their discretion.”

In a separate action involving the FBI, Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, asked the Justice Department and the FBI to open a criminal investigation into “apparent false statements” that were made to committee investigators alleging sexual misconduct by Kavanaugh in 1985. A constituent contacted the office of Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., alleging that Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted an acquaintance on a boat in Newport, R.I., in 1985, but Grassley said the person later “recanted” and apologized for the allegation via social media.

Trump ordered the FBI on Friday to reopen Kavanaugh’s background investigation after several women accused Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct. The judge has denied the allegations.

Senate leaders agreed to delay a final vote on Kavanaugh’s nomination to allow for a one-week FBI investigation. The Senate Judiciary Committee has said the probe should be limited to “current credible allegations” against Kavanaugh and be finished by next Friday.

Leaving the hearing Friday, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said it was his understanding there would be an FBI investigation of “the outstanding allegations, the three of them,” but Republicans have not said whether that was their understanding as well.

The FBI conducts background checks for federal nominees, but the agency does not make judgments on the credibility or significance of allegations.

Kavanaugh and Ford, who says Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when both were teenagers, testified publicly before the committee on Thursday.

Kavanaugh’s high school friend Mark Judge, who Ford says was in the room when a drunken Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her, said he will cooperate with any law enforcement agency that will “confidentially investigate” sexual misconduct allegations against him and Kavanaugh. Judge has also denied misconduct allegations.

Lawyers for P.J. Smyth and Leland Ingham Keyser, two others who Ford said were in the house when she was attacked, have said their clients are willing to cooperate “fully” with the FBI’s investigation. An attorney for Keyser reaffirmed her previous statement that she doesn’t know Kavanaugh and has no recollection of ever being at a gathering or party where he was present, the committee said in a statement Saturday.

Trump on Kim: Tough talk, then ‘we fell in love’

Associated Press

WHEELING, W. Va. — President Donald Trump told a cheering crowd at a campaign rally that there was once tough talk “back and forth” between him and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and then “we fell in love.”

Trump said at the Saturday night rally in West Virginia: “He wrote me beautiful letters and they’re great letters. We fell in love.”

He joked about criticism he would get from the news media for making a comment some

would consider “unpresidential” and for being so positive about the North Korean leader.

“Why has President Trump given up so much?” Trump said in his mock “news anchor” voice. “I didn’t give up anything.”

He noted that Kim is interested in a second meeting after their initial meeting in Singapore in June was hailed by Trump as a big step toward denuclearization of North Korea.

But denuclearization negotiations have stalled.

More than three months after the June summit in Singapore,

North Korea’s top diplomat, Ri Yong Ho, told world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly Saturday that the North doesn’t see a “corresponding response” from the U.S. to North Korea’s early disarmament moves. Instead, he noted, the U.S. is continuing sanctions aimed at keeping up pressure.

Trump took a much more optimistic view in his rally speech.

“We’re doing great with North Korea,” he said. “We were going to war with North Korea. Millions of people would have been killed. Now we have this great

relationship.”

He said his efforts to improve relations with Kim have brought positive results — ending rocket tests, helping free hostages and getting the remains of American servicemen returned home.

And he defended his unusual approach in talking about relations with Kim.

“It’s so easy to be presidential, but instead of having 10,000 people outside trying to get into this packed arena, we’d have about 200 people standing right there,” Trump said, pointing at the crowd directly in front of him.

Typhoon batters Okinawa

BY DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The worst typhoon to hit Okinawa in six years left thousands without power, canceled hundreds of flights and stranded tens of thousands of passengers over the weekend and now turns its attention to the Kanto Plain, where it's forecast to hit Sunday night.

Typhoon Trami, the 28th numbered storm and fifth super typhoon of the season, battered Okinawa with 103 mph sustained winds and 132 mph gusts overnight Saturday into Sunday morning.

Images received by Stars and Stripes from around the island revealed devastation of all sorts: flooding caused by storm surge along the coastline; damaged vessels; overturned vehicles; trees, power lines and branches blown down; and buildings damaged and collapsed.

The Okinawa Times reported Saturday that at least 261 flights serving Naha International Airport were canceled,

affecting more than 31,500 passengers. ChannelNewsAsia.com upped that figure Sunday morning to 386 flights, including airports in western Japan.

No deaths were reported, but at least 52 people were injured as the storm passed.

Okinawa's electric authority said power had been lost to more than 250,000 homes, and more than 200,000 were still without electricity and water as of 10:46 a.m. Sunday.

At midmorning Sunday, Trami was accelerating northeast, skimming the south coasts of Kyushu and Shikoku Islands.

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center reported Trami was 263 miles south-southwest of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, headed northeast at 22 mph, still packing 104 mph sustained winds and 127 mph gusts at center.

Accelerated levels of tropical cyclone readiness were issued at Iwakuni and Sasebo Naval Base, where Trami was due to pass. U.S. bases in the

Kanto Plain were also on high alert, with the storm forecast to roar by overnight Sunday into Monday.

Scores of flights serving major airports on Japan's main islands had already been canceled.

ChannelNewsAsia.com reported that Kansai Airport, serving the Osaka-Kyoto-Kobe metroplex, would shut down its two runways at mid-morning as a precaution.

West Japan Railway said it would suspend all service in the Osaka region and shut down service on the Tokaido and Sanyo branches of the high-speed Shinkansen at noon Sunday.

All this comes on the heels of a country still reeling from one of the hottest summers on record, deadly rains that inundated central and western Japan, the strongest typhoon to hit the region in 25 years in Typhoon Jebi and a magnitude 6.6 earthquake on Hokkaido that killed 40.

US base critic wins Okinawa election

Associated Press

TOKYO — Denny Tamaki, who campaigned criticizing the American military presence on the southwestern Japanese islands of Okinawa, won the election for governor Sunday, defeating a ruling party-backed candidate pushing the status quo.

The race was to choose a successor to Takeshi Onaga, who died in August of pancreatic cancer. He wanted the bases off Okinawa.

Tamaki, a legislator who had pledged to continue with Onaga's "spirit," thanked his supporters as his campaign office staff broke into a cheer and later began dancing Okinawa-style after several major Japanese media polls, including Kyodo news service, declared him the winner.

He defeated Atsushi Sakima, a mayor who had argued that Okinawa should work with the national government to sort out the problem. The final vote count was not yet available. But media reports said Tamaki led in almost all areas of Okinawa, making his win certain with the vote partially counted.

Tamaki's victory throws into further question Japan's plans for a new air base still under construction in coastal Okinawa.

Okinawa houses about half of the 54,000 American troops stationed in Japan and makes for 64 percent of the land space used by the U.S. bases under a bilateral security treaty, according to John S. Hutcheson, spokesman for U.S. Forces in Japan.

The arrangement has long been protested by some as an unfair burden on Okinawa, which makes up less than 1 percent of Japan's land space.

Thermal-imaging cameras may give soldiers ability to see objects in darkness

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

Soldiers may eventually be able to see better in complete darkness as Army scientists develop a new thermal-imaging camera designed to help identify battlefield threats.

The new cameras detect polarization, an aspect of light not traditionally captured by cameras, to see objects hidden underground, behind camouflage or that would be undetectable using regular thermal images.

"The technology is still very new," Kristan Gurton, an experimental physicist at the Army Research Laboratory's computational and information sciences directorate, told Stars

and Stripes on Thursday. "I envision that one day, soldiers will be able to look at a traditional thermal image, then press a button and immediately see if there are any objects hidden."

The new polarimetric cameras can also detect and identify specific human subjects in much greater detail than traditional thermal imaging.

Researchers at the laboratory are working on several platforms for the new technology, including thermal goggles that would help identify bombs and drones capable of identifying individual targets from afar.

Polarization states exist in nature, but man-made objects tend to have significantly more

of them. The cameras would lock on to the polarization states and deliver the images.

"Our primary goal was to develop a new type of camera system that could detect objects that were difficult, or impossible, to see using current state-of-the-art thermal cameras," Gurton said in a statement.

Soldiers using those cameras in the future would be better able to identify tripwires, vehicles, drones and many other threats, he said.

Due to Army testing, development and ruggedization, it might be up to seven years until these cameras are available to most soldiers on the ground, researchers said.

Canada allows beards in military

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

To the envy of some U.S. troops, members of Canada's military can now all wear beards, provided they can do better than peach fuzz — but don't go full "mountain man."

The move to allow facial fur, which took effect Tuesday, was made to give Canadian servicemembers more freedom in their appearances, the military said in a statement.

The new rules, which came after "extensive consultations" with the troops, are expected to boost morale and attract more recruits. They came as neighboring servicemembers to the south are pushing for more relaxed standards on facial hair.

Last year, then-U.S. Army Secretary Eric Fanning signed a directive allowing Sikh soldiers to grow beards for religious reasons. The directive has since been interpreted to allow other soldiers to do the same, including a soldier of the Norse pagan faith.

For now, however, the Army's rules allow beards only for special operations soldiers and those with waivers. Officials have reportedly been studying the possibility of a more lenient policy, looking at such issues as whether scruffy faces could interfere with gas masks.

U.S. sailors have also pleaded for permission to grow full facial hair, but so far the Navy has resisted, citing concerns about the proper fit and performance of respirators and other gear.

The same safety concerns apply in Canada, where under the new rules, commanders may restrict beard-growing — but then only temporarily — in circumstances where safety or operations require it; for example, in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear environments.

US intelligence agencies warn of new threats, 'Cold War 2.0'

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — As the intelligence community shifts its primary focus from counterterrorism to threats from Russia and China, some leaders voice a sense of déjà vu and even eagerness at the challenge.

"It has been a sort of reawakening of times of old, I will say," said Deputy Director Justin Poole, of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, one of the 17 agencies and offices that make up the U.S. intelligence community. "It's a little more cold warrior-y."

President Donald Trump singled out China last week for what he said was intent to interfere in upcoming midterm elections. In separate speeches, the national intelligence director and the CIA director also emphasized the shift in strategy toward China and Russia.

For veteran intelligence officials, the refocusing evokes the more than four decades of the Cold War when intelligence analysts and spies peeled back the capabilities of the Soviet bloc and sought to decipher how it intended to use its weaponry.

"Cognitive psychologists are going to have a very important role going forward in terms of being able to understand intent. We're almost going back to the good old days, in some regards,"

said Ellen McCarthy, an intelligence veteran who is the Trump administration nominee to lead the State Department's intelligence branch.

Poole, speaking Thursday at a security conference at Georgetown University, said rival nations bring a broader set of capabilities to the table, providing deeper challenges to spy agencies that have largely focused on Islamic terrorist groups in the Middle East and in and around Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001.

"It's a little different, a little more sporty," Poole said. "You're thinking about a near-peer state actor or two. The type of capabilities, tactics, techniques and procedures that they bring to bear are a lot more subtle."

Asked by a moderator what he meant by "sporty," Poole said he was thinking of "cyber, and also the race to automation, augmentation and artificial intelligence," capabilities that rival nations would have in greater strength than terrorist groups.

Trump laid into China on Wednesday. Speaking at the United Nations headquarters, he accused China of seeking to influence the upcoming midterm elections in November, without providing details.

"Regrettably, we found that China has been attempting to

interfere in our upcoming 2018 election coming up in November against my administration. They do not want me, or us, to win because I am the first president ever to challenge China on trade," Trump said.

The remarks touched on themes hit a day earlier by Trump's director of national intelligence, Dan Coats, in a speech at The Citadel in South Carolina, in which he flayed China for meddling in the U.S. heartland.

"China is also targeting U.S. state and local governments and officials. It is trying to exploit any divisions between federal and local levels on policy, and uses investments and other incentives to expand its influence," Coats said, without offering further details.

On the cyber front, Coats unleashed a sharp warning on what he called China's hostile hacking efforts, saying they were "unprecedented in scale."

The first public sign that the intelligence establishment was putting new emphasis on rivalries with Russia and China came last February, when Coats presented his annual worldwide threat assessment to Congress.

"The risk of interstate conflict, including among great powers, is higher than at any time since the end of the Cold War," Coats said in the assessment.

Rivals land contracts for 10 destroyers

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

The Navy has awarded a pair of shipbuilding competitors contracts worth \$9 billion for 10 new destroyers, according to a statement issued Thursday by the service.

Virginia-based Huntington Ingalls Industries will be given \$5.1 billion to construct six of the Flight III Arleigh Burke-class ships, the statement said. Maine-based Bath Iron Works

was awarded \$3.9 billion for the remaining four vessels. All 10 destroyers are expected to be finished by 2022.

Each shipbuilder's contract also gives the Navy "and/or Congress" the option of building additional ships through fiscal year 2022, the statement added.

The destroyers will be built in a Flight III configuration, the Navy said. That "revolves around the addition of the [AN/

SPY-6 air- and missile-defense radar] with upgrades to the power and other systems to support the much more powerful radar," said Capt. Casey Moton, manager for the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer program, according to a U.S. Naval Institute report published last year.

Manufacturer Raytheon said AN/SPY-6 can see a target half the size and at twice the distance of its predecessor.

Indonesian quake, tsunami toll tops 800

Associated Press

PALU, Indonesia — Rescue officials feared the full scale of Indonesia's earthquake and tsunami could climb far past the more than 800 already confirmed dead as several large coastal towns remained cut off Sunday by damaged roads and downed communication lines.

The country's disaster agency said the death toll more than doubled to 832, and nearly all of those were from the hard-hit city of Palu on the island of Sulawesi. The regencies of Donggala, Sigi and Parigi Moutong — with a combined population of 1.2 million — had yet to be fully assessed.

"The death toll is believed to be still increasing since many

bodies were still under the wreckage, while many have not been reached," said disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho. He said a mass burial would be held Sunday for health reasons.

Bodies covered in blue and yellow tarps lined the streets of Palu while rescuers dug through rubble in the hopes of finding survivors from the twin disasters that struck Friday evening.

There was particular focus on the eight-story Roa-Roa Hotel, where voices from underneath the rubble could be heard calling out for help Saturday.

The cries from beneath the hotel, which appeared to have toppled over with its walls splintered like pickup sticks, had

gone silent by Sunday afternoon. Officials had estimated some 50 people could be inside.

"We are trying our best. Time is so important here to save people," said Muhammad Syaugi, head of the national search and rescue team. "Heavy equipment is on the way."

Other rescuers were working to free a 15-year-old girl trapped under concrete in her house in Palu after it collapsed on her family during the magnitude 7.5 earthquake that spawned a tsunami.

Unable to move her legs under the heavy concrete rubble, Nurul Istikharah was trapped beside her dead mother and niece. Rescuers struggled to control water from a leaking pipe, fearing the

girl may drown.

Istikharah was unconscious during part of the effort to free her, but rescuers continued to talk to her to try to keep her awake. Others offered her food and water.

Aid and supplies were being sent to the area via military and commercial aircraft, including helicopters, to reach badly affected areas. Officials said the area was lacking medical supplies, fuel, fresh water and experts.

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo toured Palu on Sunday. "There are many challenges," Jokowi said. "We have to do many things soon, but conditions do not allow us to do so."

Barrier collapse at NYC political event causes panic

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The collapse of a police barrier at a politically charged New York celebrity music show Saturday sent thousands of spectators fleeing in panic fearing possible gunshots.

About 60,000 people had filled the park's Great Lawn for the eight-hour Global Citizen Festival. They listened to big-name personalities from Democratic New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Republican Sen. Jeff Flake to Janet Jackson and John Legend who all urged spectators to get involved in the

nation's troubled politics.

Suddenly, just before 8 p.m., the police barrier that was meant to keep the crowd in check toppled over, releasing a clanging sound that terrified many spectators.

Authorities quickly took the stage, assuring the crowd they were safe.

Burning social justice issues dominated the eight-hour event that had started on a sunny afternoon. Also scheduled were Cardi B, The Weeknd and other pop stars.

Some speakers asked the audience to call their Congress members to react to last

week's Senate hearings for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

"We want equal justice and a full investigation for the Supreme Court nominee, not investigations of limited time, not investigations of limited scope," Cuomo said. "And it means before you put a person on the Supreme Court to administer justice, we want to make sure justice is done."

In a video clip, former first lady Michelle Obama urged people to register to vote in the Nov. 6 midterm elections.

Speaking outside the show, Sen. Christopher Coons, a Del-

aware Democrat, called Flake "the real hero" after Friday's testimony that led the Arizona Republican to demand an FBI investigation into alleged sexual abuse accusations against Kavanaugh.

During a break in the Senate session on Friday, Coons said Saturday in New York, Flake's "first comment to me when we went sort of backstage in the anteroom was, this is tearing this country apart, and I deeply respect Jeff for standing up to a ton of pressure to demand a one-week pause and an expanded FBI background check."

Teenager diving for lobsters attacked by shark in Calif.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A 13-year-old boy skin diving for lobsters was attacked by a shark Saturday along the Southern California coast but was quickly pulled from the water by other divers and flown to a trauma center, authorities said.

The boy was in critical but stable condition more than nine hours later at Rady Children's

Hospital-San Diego, spokesman Carlos Delgado said.

The boy underwent surgery. No other information about him, including his name, was released.

The boy suffered traumatic upper torso injuries, city Lifeguard Capt. Larry Giles told reporters earlier at Beacon's Beach in Encinitas, about 27 miles north of downtown San Diego.

The attack occurred just before 7 a.m., during the opening hour of California's popular spiny lobster season.

The boy was attacked in about 9 feet of water approximately 150 yards offshore. He was brought to shore by three bystanders, Giles said.

Emergency responders arrived, and the boy was flown by helicopter to the trauma center.

"He was conscious, he was above water, and the bystanders were able to get him up on the beach ... and he was talking all the way to when he was being transported," the captain said.

The three rescuers were identified only as an off-duty police officer from nearby Oceanside, an off-duty state lifeguard and a friend who was also diving for lobsters.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police make wily request about coyotes

OH NORTH ROYALTON — An Ohio police department outside Cleveland where fans of the “Road Runner” cartoon are apparently employed has a request for residents after a string of recent coyote sightings.

The North Royalton Police Department said residents shouldn’t call 911 about coyotes unless they see any of the following:

- Coyotes carrying any product marked “ACME.”
- Coyotes dropping anvils from hot-air balloons.
- Coyote posting signs such as “Detour” or “Free Bird Seed.”
- Coyote in possession of a giant magnet.
- Coyote in possession of a catapult.
- Coyote detonating “TNT.”
- Coyote on roller skates with rockets attached.

In the cartoon, Wile E. Coyote is the Road Runner’s hapless nemesis.

Governor’s missing wedding ring found

MS JACKSON — Mississippi’s governor has his original wedding ring back on his finger nearly three decades after he lost it.

Clay Chandler, a spokesman for Gov. Phil Bryant, said Jeff Maher called the governor’s office to report he had found a gold wedding band inside a couch that he claimed from a roadside outside the house of a cousin of first lady Deborah Bryant.

The ring had the initials of Phil and Deborah Bryant and their wedding date — Dec. 31, 1976.

The Bryants gave the cousin the couch in 1989.

Woman creates art from moose droppings

ME SOMERVILLE — A Maine woman is making art and other knickknacks with moose droppings she collects near her home.

Mary Winchenbach and her company, Tirdy Works, gained national attention last week when a video of her selling her keychains and clocks with clumps of moose poop at Maine’s Common Ground Country Fair went viral.

The video has more than 1.5 million views and Winchenbach, 57, said she has gotten requests from people all over the country to get the unusual items shipped to their homes.

Winchenbach said she collects the poop in her backyard. Then it is dried and painted with a coating to make it safe.

Police: 2 teens set off firework inside school

IL DANVILLE — Authorities said two students at an eastern Illinois high school face criminal charges after a firework was set off inside the school, prompting a lockdown of all classrooms.

Police said the loud explosion happened Wednesday inside Danville High School.

Danville Public Safety Director Larry Thomason told The News-Gazette that two male students were each charged with possession of an explosive and reckless conduct and were being detained at the county’s juvenile detention center.

Kangaroos moved after 1 escapes

FL JUPITER — Seven kangaroos were removed temporarily by Florida wildlife officials from a home-

based sanctuary where a 5-year-old kangaroo escaped last week.

State wildlife officials said they had found “deficiencies” in the kangaroos’ enclosures at the sanctuary.

A spokesman for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said owner Eric Westergard is working to fix fencing and caging issues.

The missing kangaroo named Storm was found Thursday, three days after he hopped away from the home.

Police: Son drowns as father plays game

AL BIRMINGHAM — Authorities said an Alabama man arrested in the suspected drowning death of his infant son told investigators he placed the child in a tub of running water and forgot about the baby while playing a video game.

Sheriff’s officials in Birmingham said Cordarius Cotton, 23, was charged with reckless manslaughter in the death of the 5-month-old boy.

Missing sub museum plaques recovered

NJ HACKENSACK — Authorities said four bronze plaques taken from a World War II-era submarine in New Jersey were recovered.

The Record reported the plaques — valued at approximately \$10,000 — were recently returned by a member of the Submarine Memorial Association, which maintains the USS Ling. The member said he was “safeguarding” the plaques ahead of the mid-August eviction of the New Jersey Naval Museum, and the association won’t pursue charges against him.

Meanwhile, three more

people have been cited in connection with vandalism that occurred last month when someone opened hatches and deliberately flooded the sub.

Drugs in coffee maker net store suspension

GA ATLANTA — The owner of the Atlanta gas station where police found drugs in the store’s cappuccino maker received a 180-day suspension.

WXIA-TV reported that the city of Atlanta levied the suspension and a \$1,000 fine against Shailesh Desai for selling marijuana and failing to supervise his business adequately.

In addition to drugs, authorities discovered illegal cash payouts, illegal alcohol sales and outdated food stocked on shelves.

Woman credited with second water rescue

MI ALLENDALETOWNSHIP — A Michigan woman who said helping those in need is in her nature is being credited with helping save a motorist from a vehicle in water for a second time in recent years.

Tamy Geerts recounted the rescue to WOOD-TV, saying she was “terrified” somebody might be inside when she saw a car sinking in a lake in Ottawa County’s Allendale Township.

She said she helped get the man out through a window and pulled him to shore as emergency crews arrived. He was taken to a hospital in stable condition.

Geerts recalled that a few years ago she pulled another man from a car that rolled into a pond.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

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

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Top 25 roundup

No. 4 Ohio St. rallies past No. 9 Penn St.

Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Dwayne Haskins threw two touchdown passes in the final seven minutes and No. 4 Ohio State wiped out a 12-point deficit to beat No. 9 Penn State 27-26 on Saturday night in another wild game between the Big Ten powerhouses.

Trace McSorley had 461 total yards, including a career-high 175 rushing and threw two touchdown passes, and the Nittany Lions (4-1, 1-1) went up 26-14 with eight minutes left in the fourth quarter on Miles Sanders's 1-yard plunge.

For the second straight season, Ohio State (5-0, 2-0) made a fourth-quarter rally from a double-digit deficit. Haskins connected with Binjimen Victor, who weaved and slipped through tacklers for a 47-yard touchdown catch and run that cut it to 26-21 with 6:42 left.

Penn State could not put the Buckeyes away with a closing drive, but the Nittany Lions buried Haskins and Ohio State at their own 4 with 4:35 left on the clock.

A screen to J.K. Dobbins got 35 and took Ohio State out of the hole. Mixing runs and passes, the Buckeyes worked their way into Penn State territory. Haskins hit K.J. Hill with a quick pass to the outside and the receiver picked up a couple of blocks, broke a tackle and went in for a 24-yard score that made it 27-26 with 2:03 left.

McSorley and Penn State could not come up with a response. On fourth-and-5 from the Ohio State 43, McSorley handed off to Sanders on a read option and his was smothered by Chase Young, who had a huge game at defensive end for Ohio State.

No. 3 Clemson 27, Syracuse 23: With new starting quarterback Trevor Lawrence knocked out of the game, Travis Etienne scored on a 2-yard run with 41 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter for the host Tigers.

Etienne had three TDs and a

career-high 203 yards rushing to bail out quarterback-depleted Clemson (5-0, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), which went from having one too many starting-caliber QBs earlier in the week to not enough by the second half against the Orange (4-1, 1-1).

Lawrence left his first career start late in the second quarter with a possible concussion. Lawrence was promoted to starter earlier in the week by coach Dabo Swinney and that prompted senior Kelly Bryant, who had started the first four games and led the Tigers to the College Football Playoff last year, to leave the team. That left one-time third-stringer Chase Brice to lead the comeback.

No. 1 Alabama 56, Louisiana-Lafayette 14: Jaylen Waddle returned a punt for a touchdown and caught two scoring passes, including a 94-yarder, the host Crimson Tide.

Quarterbacks Tua Tagovailoa and Jalen Hurts staked the Crimson Tide (5-0) to a 49-0 halftime lead over the Ragin' Cajuns (1-3) en route to the defending national champions' latest blowout.

No. 2 Georgia 38, Tennessee 12: D'Andre Swift ran for two touchdowns, including a late 14-yarder, and the host Bulldogs used dominant defense to overcome a sluggish offensive start.

Freshman quarterback Justin Fields scored on runs of 12 and 15 yards, and Isaac Nauta had a 31-yard fumble return for a score. The Bulldogs (5-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) led by 12 points early in the final quarter before pulling away.

No. 5 LSU 45, Mississippi 16: Joe Burrow passed for 292 yards and three touchdowns, rushed for 96 yards and another score in a rout by the host Tigers.

Burrow had his best game by far for LSU (5-0, 2-0 SEC) since arriving this year as a graduate transfer from Ohio State, completing 18 of 25 passes to nine different receivers. His 388 yards of total offense were fourth-most in a single game in

LSU history.

No. 6 Oklahoma 66, Baylor 33: Kyler Murray sat out the Sooners first offensive series then came on to pass for 432 yards and six touchdowns in a win over the visiting Bears.

Austin Kendall opened the game, but Murray entered on the second possession and played nearly flawless football. His passing touchdown total tied for second-best in school history behind Baker Mayfield's seven against Texas Tech in 2016. The school would not say why Murray didn't start.

No. 8 Notre Dame 38, No. 7 Stanford 17: Ian Book threw four touchdowns passes the Fighting Irish defense stifled the visiting Cardinal to end a three-game losing streak to Stanford.

Starting his second straight game, Book completed 24 of 33 passes for 278 yards, including an 8-yard TD pass to Miles Boykin. Boykin had career highs of 11 receptions and 144 yards.

No. 10 Auburn 24, Southern Miss 13: Jarrett Stidham threw for 245 yards and two touchdowns and the host Tigers beat the Golden Eagles in a game disrupted for nearly three hours by lightning.

No. 11 Washington 35, No. 20 BYU 7: Jake Browning completed 23 of 25 passes for 277 yards and one touchdown, and the host Huskies was thoroughly dominant on both sides.

No. 12 West Virginia 42, No. 25 Texas Tech 34: Will Grier threw for 370 yards and three touchdowns, Keith Washington thwarted a rally with 51-yard interception return for a score for the visiting Mountaineers.

Marcus Simms had nine catches for a career-high 138 yards — all in the first half — for his third straight 100-yard game. The Mountaineers (4-0, 2-0 Big 12) scored 28 first-quarter points.

No. 13 UCF 45, Pittsburgh 14: McKenzie Milton threw for 328 yards and four touchdowns and the host Knights extended the nation's longest winning

streak to 17 games.

UCF (4-0) now moves into the heart of its American Athletic Conference schedule, hoping to go undefeated for the second straight year to play its way into consideration for a spot in the College Football Playoff.

No. 14 Michigan 20, Northwestern 17: At Evanston, Ill., Karan Higdon ran for 115 yards and two touchdowns, Shea Patterson threw 196 yards and No. 14 Michigan overcame a 17-point deficit.

No. 17 Kentucky 24, South Carolina 10: Benny Snell Jr. ran for 99 yards and one of Kentucky's three consecutive first-half touchdowns and the Wildcats held off the visiting Gamecocks.

No. 18 Texas 19, Kansas State 14: Sam Ehlinger threw for 207 yards and a touchdown, D'Shawn Jamison returned a punt 90 yards for another score and the visiting Longhorns snapped a five-game road losing streak to the Wildcats.

No. 19 Oregon 42, No. 24 California 24: Justin Herbert threw two touchdown passes and La'Mar Winston Jr. returned a fumble for a touchdown to help the visiting Ducks bounce back from a crushing loss a week ago.

No. 21 Michigan State 31, Central Michigan 20: At East Lansing, Mich., Brian Lewerke ran for two touchdowns in the first half, and Michigan State overcame a slow start and an underwhelming finish.

The Spartans (3-1) entered with the nation's top-ranked run defense and held CMU (1-4) to 5 yards on the ground in the first half. Michigan State led 31-3 before letting the Chipewas rally.

Virginia Tech 31, No. 22 Duke 14: Ryan Willis threw for 332 yards and a career-best three touchdowns in his first start at Virginia Tech.

Florida 13, No. 23 Mississippi State 6: Feleipe Franks threw for 219 yards and the visiting Gators' defense dominated.

Europe cruises to Ryder Cup

Associated Press

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France — Payback belongs to Europe, and so does the Ryder Cup.

Two years after the Americans thought they had their Ryder Cup problems figured out, Europe reminded them Sunday why it practically has owned this shiny gold trophy for the last quarter-century, winning 17½-10½.

British Open champion Francesco Molinari was just as good on his own as he was with Tommy Fleetwood. The best year of the Italian's golfing life got even better at Le Golf National when he became the first European — and only the second player since the current format began in 1979 — to win all five of his matches.

The last one set off a wild, champagne-soaked celebration.

Europe already was assured the 14½ points it needed because they were guaranteed halves in two matches. Molinari made it official. He was 2 up and safely on the green at the par-3 16th green when Phil Mickelson hit into the water, removed his cap and conceded the match.

The finish was most appropriate.

The celebration and singing had already begun. The Europeans were treated like rock stars before more than 50,000 fans. All that remained was Alex Noren in the anchor match. He was 1 up on the 18th hole when Bryson DeChambeau stuffed his approach to 2 feet for a conceded birdie. Noren hit the final shot in this Ryder Cup, a 40-foot birdie putt to win the match, and the stoic Swede hurled his cap.

Europe won the most lopsided victory since consecutive 18½-9½ victories by Europe more than a decade ago when the Americans looked utterly lost. They formed a Ryder Cup Task Force, spearheaded by Mickelson, after the 2014 loss. The idea was to build continuity and momentum, and it

seemed to work when they won at Hazeltine in 2016.

Now, maybe it's back to the drawing board.

Mickelson was desperate to make this team because the 48-year-old saw it as his last chance to win a Ryder Cup on European soil. He wound up losing both his matches. He started the week by setting a record with his 12th Ryder Cup appearance. He ended it by setting a more dubious Ryder Cup record with 22 losses.

He wasn't alone. Tiger Woods went 0-4, the first time in his eight Ryder Cups that he failed to contribute a single point.

But this was more about the Europeans as a team, and they were tougher than ever on a course they know well.

"This team has been incredible from the start," Molinari said. "We were determined to do the job. Nothing was going to stop us. And you saw it on the course."

Trailing 10-6 going into the final day of singles, the Americans needed to put red points on the board early to build momentum. It never happened. Justin Thomas won the leadoff match over Rory McIlroy, but not until the 18th hole.

Europe captain Thomas Bjorn sent McIlroy out first on Sunday to get the team rolling. That was also the case in 2016, when captain Darren Clarke also used McIlroy as his pathfinder, that time against Patrick Reed.

Both times the result was the same: A McIlroy loss by one hole.

Webb Simpson and Tony Finau, the lone bright spot among the wild-card picks for U.S. captain Jim Furyk, won easily. Behind them, Woods was hanging tough against Jon Rahm and Dustin Johnson started to pull ahead of Ian Poulter.

"There's always a moment where it looks like a spark of light," Furyk said. "When it was there for us, Europe played really well."

It wasn't there long.

Rahm won two straight holes with pars to seize control. Johnson went from 1 up to 2 down in a four-hole stretch that ended his chances.

Rahm dropped his putter after making a 5-foot birdie on the 17th hole as Woods stood to the side of the green, arms crossed. One week ago, he overcame four back surgeries to win for the 80th time on the Tour Championship, a signal that he was all the way back.

And then at the Ryder Cup, it was another result with which he is far too familiar. Woods has played on only one winning team in 1999.

"It's disappointing because I went 0-4, and that's four points to the European team," he said. "And I'm one of the contributing factors to why we lost the cup, and it's not a lot of fun. It's frustrating because I thought we were all playing pretty well, and I just didn't perform at the level that I had been playing, and just got behind early in the matches and never got back."

Thorbjorn Olesen, who had played only one match the previous two days, went 5 up at the turn over Jordan Spieth and won in 14 holes. Spieth is now 0-6 in singles matches in the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup.

Sergio Garcia was in tears.

He played so poorly this year that he failed to qualify for the PGA Tour's postseason. Thomas Bjorn picked him anyway, saying he was like the captain of a football team. Garcia showed why by going 3-1. That final victory over Rickie Fowler made Garcia the biggest contributor in Ryder Cup history with 25½ points.

But this was more about team, and about redemption, even for a team that now has won nine of the last 12 times.

"We took a really tough loss at Hazeltine a couple of years ago and that stung," McIlroy said. "That was my first experience of what it feels like to be on the other side, so coming in here, obviously none of us want to feel like Sunday afternoon."

Cardinals top Cubs, but miss wild card

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago Cubs are going to the final day of the season with a shot at the NL Central championship.

Whether they take it outright, blow their big opportunity or have to play a tiebreaker remains unclear.

So much uncertainty for a team hoping for another long postseason.

The Cubs wasted a solid performance by Cole Hamels in a 2-1 loss to Miles Mikolas and the St. Louis Cardinals on Saturday, making for a muddled NL playoff picture.

Hamels and company dropped into a tie with Milwaukee for the division lead when the Brewers rallied for a 6-5 victory over Detroit.

The Cardinals kept alive their chance for a wild card, but were eliminated by the Los Angeles Dodgers' 10-6 victory at San Francisco.

The Cubs have locked up a playoff spot, but that's all they know at this point.

"It's a special moment to be able to see that type of intensity that comes with meaningful games and that sort of playoff atmosphere," Hamels said before Milwaukee's victory. "It's a little bit better when you win."

The Cubs would have wrapped up their third straight division championship with a victory and a loss by the Brewers to Detroit on Saturday night. Chicago and Milwaukee would meet in a tiebreaker at Wrigley Field on Monday if they wind up with identical records, with the loser then playing in a wild-card game at home on Tuesday.

"There's nothing to lament with our guys," said Cubs manager Joe Maddon, whose team led the division by five games on Sept. 2. "They've been playing very well for a long period of time. ... We'll come back ready to play (Sunday) and see how it all falls."

Brewers move into NL Central tie

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — It's going down to the last day of the regular season to decide the NL Central.

The Milwaukee Brewers moved into a tie for first place with the Chicago Cubs with one game remaining, getting two homers from Triple Crown candidate Christian Yelich to beat the Detroit Tigers 6-5 on Saturday night.

Yelich turned on an 0-1 pitch from left-hander Daniel Stumpf (1-5) and lined it into the second deck in right to break a 5-all tie in the seventh inning. The left-handed slugger also hit a two-run homer in the third inning of the Brewers' sixth straight win.

Seemed like a good time for the typically even-keeled Yelich to show some emotion in a curtain call.

"First one ever, so. I don't really know what to do," Yelich said.

The raucous fans at Miller Park chanted "MVP! MVP!" after Yelich's go-ahead shot in the seventh. He obliged with a brief appearance, lifting his helmet in the air about halfway up the dugout steps.

"Everyone was yelling at me to get up there, so I went up there really quick and went right back

down," he said.

The Brewers (94-67) were already assured of making their first playoff appearance since 2011, the last time they won the NL Central. They sure would like to get into the postseason again as a division winner, and Chicago opened the door by losing 2-1 to St. Louis earlier Saturday.

"Yeah I'm sure it will be pretty crazy," Yeich said about what to expect on Sunday at Miller Park. "You play all those games and it still comes down to 162."

If the Brewers and Cubs are still tied after Sunday, the teams will face each other on Monday in Chicago for the title.

The NL MVP race, on the other hand, may be over after Yelich's September to remember.

He extended his hitting streak to 10 games, going 2-for-3 and driving in three.

The NL batting leader is also challenging for a Triple Crown, tied with St. Louis' Matt Carpenter for the home run lead at 36. With 109 RBIs, Yelich is two behind the Cubs' Javier Baez.

"We're sitting here every night and I say it's reached a new level and then it reaches a new level. It's just special, man," manager Craig Counsell said.

Dodgers wrap up playoff spot

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The deep, slugging Los Angeles Dodgers took a far more challenging road on their sixth straight trip to the playoffs. Despite it all, they still believe they're the team to beat for a World Series title.

A surprising 16-26 start and injuries to some of their biggest stars, including a pair of disabled list stints for ace pitcher Clayton Kershaw, left the Dodgers in a hole and needing to win in the final weekend to claim baseball's final postseason berth.

Kershaw and the Dodgers earned that spot and moved into a tie with Colorado for the NL West lead, getting a go-ahead triple from Manny Machado in the eighth inning Saturday and beating the San Francisco Giants 10-6.

And they celebrated, even with more to accomplish Sunday.

Colorado lost at home to Washington, dropping into a tie for the division lead. The regular season is scheduled to end Sunday — if Los Angeles and Colorado finish even, there will be a one-game tiebreaker for the West title Monday at Dodger Stadium.

"It hasn't been easy, I guess, this year, we've kind of been in a dogfight the whole year as far as with the Diamondbacks and the Rockies," Kershaw said between dousings. "This game in particular just kind of showed the team that we have. It's never good when I'm a better hitter than I am a pitcher. That's what it was today. For these guys to pick me up like they did today — I don't know, I think we had 18 hits or something — it's just really special to be a part of. The celebration today is a little bit more subdued, and we want it that way."

The Dodgers, who haven't won the World Series since 1988 and lost in Game 7 to Houston last year, assured themselves at least a spot in the wild-card game. They joined Colorado, Atlanta, the Chicago Cubs and Milwaukee in the NL playoff field.

MLB roundup

Strasburg delays Rockies' division title

The Associated Press

DENVER — Stephen Strasburg stopped the Colorado Rockies' charge Saturday night, halting their run of eight straight wins with six innings of two-run ball.

Thanks to his efforts — and a sudden surge from the offense — the Washington Nationals won, 12-2, which meant the Rockies entered Sunday's season finale tied with the Los Angeles Dodgers atop the National League West.

With game No. 162 on deck, the Rockies (90-71) are attempting to accomplish something they've never done since entering the league in 1993: capture a division title.

If Los Angeles and Colorado finish tied, there will be a one-game tiebreaker for the West title Monday at Dodger Stadium. The loser will become a wild card.

Yankees 8, Red Sox 5: Gleyber Torres and Giancarlo Stanton connected as the Yankees broke the major league record

for home runs in a season and reached 100 wins.

Astros 4-5, Orioles 3-2: Justin Verlander struck out 10 in six scoreless innings, helping the Astros take the opener of a doubleheader.

Myles Straw hit his first big league homer in the nightcap.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 3: C.J. Cron and Austin Meadows homered, powering Tampa Bay to the win.

Reds 3, Pirates 0: Michael Lorenzen singled home a run and got his first victory as a starter since 2015, helping Cincinnati snap its seven-game losing streak against Pittsburgh.

Phillies 3, Braves 0: Aaron Nola pitched seven shutout innings and Cesar Hernandez had a two-run single in the seventh inning to help Philadelphia snap a nine-game losing streak.

Twins 8, White Sox 3: Joe Mauer reached base three times as Minnesota matched a season high with its fifth consecutive win.

Royals 9, Indians 4: Adal-

berto Mondesi hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer to lift Kansas City.

Diamondbacks 5, Padres 4: Rookie Ildemaro Vargas hit his first home run, got his first stolen base and drove in three runs to lead Arizona.

Mets 1, Marlins 1, 13 Innings: David Wright left to a long standing ovation before a sellout crowd at Citi Field in his farewell game for the Mets.

Mariners 4, Rangers 1: Dee Gordon drove in the go-ahead run with a triple in the seventh inning, and James Paxton struck out nine to go over 200 for the season to lead the Mariners. Paxton came into the day with 199 strikeouts and wasted no time becoming the sixth pitcher in team history to reach 200, striking out leadoff batter Jurickson Profar.

Athletics 5, Angels 2: Khris Davis hit his major league-leading 48th homer and the Athletics locked up their winningest season in 16 years.