

Biden: Afghan War over but terror persists

Los Angeles Times

Even as President Joe Biden assured Americans that he was ending the war in Afghanistan, he directed a very different message to Islamic State terrorists who had killed U.S. service members in a suicide bombing there.

"We are not done with you yet," he said.

The statement was a reminder that the "forever war" isn't really over, despite the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan after two decades. Instead of closing the door on American operations, Afghanistan will probably join the roster of countries where Washington has awarded itself sweeping powers to target a range of terrorist groups.

This new phase in Afghanistan could resemble operations in Somalia and Yemen, where U.S. forces have used commandos and drones to hunt offshoots of the al-Qaida terrorist network. These missions are often shrouded in secrecy from start to finish, existing in a gray area between war and peace.

"It's complicated from a legal perspective, a policy perspective, an operational perspective," said Luke Hartig, a former senior director for counterterrorism in President Barack Obama's National Security Council.

Former officials said the task in Afghanistan will become more difficult now that the Taliban have retaken control and the U.S. has shut down its embassy and military bases. The CIA, which plays a leading role in targeting terrorist groups, won't be able to cultivate sources of information as easily as before. And if American spies locate a target, they'll need to order an "over the horizon" air-

strike from a drone or warplane that could take hours to reach landlocked Afghanistan.

"The counterterrorism situation in Afghanistan has gotten much worse," said Marc Polymeropoulos, a former CIA base chief in the eastern part of the country. "It just has. Period."

How exactly the mission will be conducted is being evaluated by the White House. Officials have been immersed in a monthslong review of policies governing drone strikes outside traditional battlefields.

Obama put rules in place during his second term in office, and President Donald Trump loosened restrictions on strikes that might harm civilians. The American Civil Liberties Union has described the policy as an "open-ended authorization for the United States to kill virtually anyone it designates as a terrorist

threat."

Biden could decide to tighten the rules again, although there's no sign he's interested in ending the program of targeted killings. He'll also face political pressure to ensure Afghanistan doesn't become a breeding ground for terrorism like it was two decades ago.

"These threats are like mushrooms in the dark. They just keep popping up," said Frank Montoya Jr., a former FBI agent who specialized in national security cases.

Biden said last month that the U.S. could keep tabs on the problem even though it was pulling out its troops.

"We conduct effective counterterrorism missions against terrorist groups in multiple countries where we don't have permanent military presence," Biden said. "If necessary, we'll do the same in Afghanistan."

Military education opportunities down as benefits cut

Special to The Washington Post

Prepping for a deployment in the Sea of Japan that would leave them with some downtime, Sam Brenner encouraged the Marines under his command to take advantage of an online college education program made available to active-duty service members.

The Pentagon promises soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen tuition money to take college courses while they're serving, giving them a head start on credits they can use to rise up the ranks in the military or, later, in civilian life. And Brenner, then a platoon commander in his mid-20s, thought it was a good idea to get "19-year-olds to read books and use their brains when they would otherwise have been wasting away."

It didn't work out. One education provider the military used didn't serve the Okinawa base where Brenner and his Marines

were stationed. Another couldn't deliver classes on the USS Green Bay, the amphibious warfare ship to which they were assigned.

"We were in a unique situation, but at no point did anyone ask what our situation was and point us in the right direction," said Brenner, who left the Marines in 2018 and is now studying for a master's degree in public policy at Northeastern University in Boston. "Getting Marines educated while on deployment isn't a priority."

While much of the attention to education benefits for service members focuses on veterans, most of the U.S. military's 1.3 million active-duty personnel are also eligible for tuition assistance.

"A lot of people, particularly in the Army, they're joining for that education benefit," said Mark Haskins, a retired Air Force colonel and executive director at the Joint Base

Lewis-McChord campus of Pierce College, a community college system south of Seattle. "It doesn't mean that they don't also have a heart for service, but that education benefit represents a better life and greater opportunity."

The Air Force attempted to slash its tuition benefit in 2020 as airmen idled by the pandemic signed up for more classes than expected, only to reverse course after complaints. The Navy restricted eligibility for education programs in 2019 after sailors — whom the admiral in charge of personnel complained should have been more focused on their work — enrolled in college at such high rates that they drained the tuition assistance fund.

The Defense Department is "not aware of" any further formal actions that would change tuition assistance benefits, the spokesperson said.

HMS Queen Elizabeth docks at Yokosuka base

By **ALEX WILSON**
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL Base, Japan — The HMS Queen Elizabeth steamed into the home of the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet on Saturday, marking the first time in decades a Royal Navy aircraft carrier has visited Japan.

Scores of British sailors manned the rails and a Navy band performed festive music as military and government officials from the United States, United Kingdom and Japan watched the carrier move into a berth usually used by the USS Ronald Reagan. The Ronald Reagan is in the Arabian Sea supporting the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The Queen Elizabeth's arrival is a "historical event," in part because a U.K. carrier hasn't made a port call on Japan in decades, Capt. Simon Staley, the U.K. defense attache to Japan, told Stars and Stripes at the berth on Saturday.

"And this is the first time that I know of that another country's aircraft carrier has [docked] in Yokosuka," he said. "This once again reinforces the relationship between the U.S. and the U.K. globally as the strongest of allies."

The commander of U.S. Naval Forces Japan, Rear Adm. Carl Lahti, echoed those sentiments to Stars and Stripes on Saturday,

saying the "historical" moment demonstrated the nations' close partnership.

The Queen Elizabeth's Yokosuka visit is taking place during the second leg of the ship's maiden deployment, which is expected to last nearly eight months, span 26,000 nautical miles and include stops in 40 countries.

No other ships in the U.K. Carrier Strike Group are expected to visit Yokosuka at this time, Cmdr. Katie Cerezo, spokeswoman for Naval Forces Japan, said by phone on Saturday.

The group plans to hold air and naval training with the Japanese Self-Defense Force, drills that could utilize the U.S. Marine F-35B Lightning IIs aboard the Queen Elizabeth.

The Queen Elizabeth arrived in Yokosuka four days after the departure of another carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, which spent four days at the naval base just south of Tokyo.

While Carl Vinson sailors were limited to activities on base, Staley said the Queen Elizabeth's crew will be staying aboard the carrier, which is expected to leave on Wednesday. The U.K. strike group suffered a coronavirus outbreak in July.

"Because it's a short visit, the government of Japan and the U.K. have agreed that no U.K. service personnel will depart the ship," he said.

Navy identifies 5 sailors killed in helicopter crash

Staff and wire reports

SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Navy on Sunday released the names of the five Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 8 crewmembers who died Tuesday when their helicopter crashed into the sea.

According to a news release, the names of the deceased are: Lt. Bradley A. Foster, 29, a pilot from Oakhurst, Calif.; Lt. Paul R. Fridley, 28, a pilot from Annandale, Va.; Naval Air Crewman (Helicopter) 2nd Class James P. Buriak, 31, from Salem, Va.; Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Sarah F. Burns, 31, from Severna Park, Md.; Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Bailey J. Tucker, 21, from St. Louis, Mo.

An investigation into the incident is underway, the release said.

The U.S. Navy declared the five missing sailors dead nearly a week after the crash, shifting the search for them to a recovery operation on Saturday.

The move followed more than 72 hours of coordinated rescue efforts and nearly three dozen search and rescue flights to look for the wreckage, the Navy's Pacific fleet said in a Saturday statement.

Also injured on Tuesday were five other sailors who were on board the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier where the MH-60S helicopter was operating on the deck before the crash.

They were in stable condition as of Saturday, said Lt. Samuel R. Boyle, a spokesman for the Pacific fleet.

US extends ban on N. Korea travel; citing 'serious risk'

By **DAVID CHOI**
Stars and Stripes

American passport holders hoping to travel to North Korea as tourists will have to wait at least one more year.

The State Department extended its travel ban to the dictatorship on Thursday, saying in a memo that U.S. citizens face a "serious risk" of "arrest and long-term detention constituting imminent danger to their physical safety."

The ban, which has been renewed annually since 2017, expires Aug. 31, 2022, "unless extended or revoked by the Secretary of State," the memo said.

Tourists who have traveled to North Korea in the past have had their visits closely regulated and monitored by authorities. North Korean handlers normally accompany the foreigners, prohibiting them from freely socializing with citizens and preventing them from tak-

ing unauthorized photographs.

The State Department's notice provides an exception to the policy for those "specially validated for such travel," ostensibly for diplomatic purposes approved by the U.S. government.

If a request for travel to North Korea is approved, the State Department recommends that the traveler draft a will and "discuss a plan with loved ones regarding care/custody of children, pets, property, belong-

ings, non-liquid assets (collections, artwork, etc.), funeral wishes, etc."

The United States does not have diplomatic or consular services in North Korea and is unable to provide emergency services, the State Department says on its website.

The travel ban took effect in September 2017, months after the death of Otto Warmbier, a 22-year-old college student from Ohio.

US vets earned 9 medals at Paralympics in Japan

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Three gold, three silver and three bronze: These are the medals that active-duty and U.S. military veterans are bringing home from the pandemic delayed Paralympics, which closed Sunday evening in Japan's capital city.

The ceremonies featured scaled-back pageantry like those for the XXXII Olympiad early last month in the same space, Japan's National Stadium.

Drummers serenaded athletes before electronic dance music began pumping and performers in fluorescent pink and yellow costumes, some on bicycles and roller skates, put on a show near the Olympic flame. Fireworks rocketed above the stadium before flag-bearers entered for the parade of nations.

The American flag was carried by five-time Paralympian Matt Scott, a wheelchair basketball player whose team defeated Japan 64-60 to take gold on Sunday.

Team USA included three active-duty soldiers competing in shooting and swimming events, along with 16 Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps veterans. They took part in archery, cycling, paratriathlon, rowing, track and field, wheelchair fencing and wheelchair rugby.

Their nine medals contributed to the 104, including 37 gold, won by Team USA. The United States had the third-highest total, behind China's 207 and Great Britain's 124.

Team USA's first medal of the games was a silver in track cycling won by Shawn Morrelli, a former Army officer who served in

Iraq and Afghanistan. She topped that with a gold medal in road cycling on Tuesday.

A triathlon gold medal was won Aug. 28 by Bradley Snyder, a former Navy lieutenant who lost his eyesight after stepping on an improvised bomb in Afghanistan. The race at Odaiba Marine Park was Snyder's first Paralympic triathlon.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Marks, who had a leg amputated after injuring her hips in Iraq in 2010, smashed a world swimming record by two seconds to win gold in the women's 100-meter backstroke on Friday. She also took silver in 50-meter freestyle and bronze in 50-meter butterfly.

Former Marine Raymond Hennagir, who lost both legs and part of his left hand after stepping on an improvised explosive device in 2007 near Fallujah, Iraq, won a silver medal with the U.S. wheelchair rugby team. They lost to Great Britain 54-49 in the Aug. 29 final.

Air Force veteran Ryan Pinney and former Army Staff Sgt. Alfredo "Freddie" De los Santos won bronze in road cycling's mixed H1-5 team relay event for competitors with a range of limb restrictions on Thursday.

Pinney, who spent 14 years as an inflight refueler on KC-135 Stratotankers for the Air Force and Arizona National Guard, broke his back after crashing during a BMX race in Las Vegas in 2012, the Arizona Republic reported on July 23.

De los Santos was wounded in Afghanistan when a rocket-propelled grenade attack on his vehicle in October 2009. His right leg was amputated above the knee, and he sustained a traumatic brain injury.

Two anchors of COVID safety net ending in US

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mary Taboniar went 15 months without a paycheck, thanks to the COVID pandemic. A housekeeper at the Hilton Hawaiian Village resort in Honolulu, the single mother of two saw her income completely vanish as the virus devastated the hospitality industry.

For more than a year, Taboniar depended entirely on boosted unemployment benefits and a network of local food banks to feed her family. Even this summer as the vaccine rollout took hold and tourists began to travel again, her work was slow to return, peaking at 11 days in August — about half her pre-pandemic workload.

Taboniar is one of millions of Americans for whom Labor Day 2021 represents a perilous crossroads. Two primary anchors of the government's COVID protection package are ending or have recently ended. Starting Monday, an estimated 8.9 million people will lose all unemployment benefits. A federal eviction moratorium already has expired.

While other aspects of pandemic assistance including rental aid and the expanded Child Tax Credit are still widely available, untold millions of Americans will face Labor Day with a suddenly shrunken social safety net.

"This will be a double whammy of hardship," said Jamie Contreras, secretary-treasurer of the SEIU, a union that represents custodians in office buildings and food service workers in airports. "We're not anywhere near done. People still need help. ... For millions of people nothing has changed from a year and a half ago."

Florida grappling with coronavirus' deadliest phase yet

Associated Press

MIAMI — Funeral director Wayne Bright has seen grief piled upon grief during the latest COVID-19 surge.

A woman died of the virus, and as her family was planning the funeral, her mother was also struck down. An aunt took over arrangements for the double funeral, only to die of COVID-19 herself two weeks afterward.

Florida is in the grip of its deadliest wave of COVID-19 since the pandemic began, a disaster driven by the highly contagious delta variant.

While Florida's vaccination rate is slightly higher than the national average, the Sunshine State has an outsize population of elderly people, who are especially vulnerable to the virus; a vibrant party scene; and a Republican governor who has tak-

en a hard line against mask requirements, vaccine passports and business shutdowns.

As of mid-August, the state was averaging 244 deaths per day, up from just 23 a day in late June and eclipsing the previous peak of 227 during the summer of 2020.

Hospitals have had to rent refrigerated trucks to store more bodies. Funeral homes have been overwhelmed.

Cristina Miles, a mother of five from Orange Park, is among those facing more than one loss at a time. Her husband died after contracting COVID-19, and less than two weeks later, her mother-in-law succumbed to the virus.

Hospitals have been swamped with patients who, like Miles' husband and mother-in-law, hadn't gotten vaccinated.

US: Afghans who fail 1st screening go to Kosovo

Associated Press

An ardent U.S. ally, Kosovo, has agreed to take in Afghanistan evacuees who fail to clear initial rounds of screening and host them for up to a year, a U.S. official said Saturday, in an intended fix to one of the security problems of the frantic U.S. evacuation from the Kabul airport.

The U.S. plan is likely to face objections from refugee advocates, who already complain of a lack of public disclosure and uncertain legal jurisdiction in the Biden administration's use of overseas screening sites. Those quickly set-up overseas transit sites are still operating near or at full speed to verify eligibility and look for security issues among thousands of Afghans and smaller numbers of Americans flown out of Taliban-held Afghanistan between Aug. 15 and Aug. 31.

The U.S. official spoke to the

Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the plan. It was the first disclosure of what the U.S. intends to do with Afghans or other evacuees who have failed to clear initial rounds of screening or whose cases otherwise require more processing.

The U.S. Embassy in Kosovo in a statement later Saturday stressed that the arrangement did not mean Kosovo was taking evacuees who had been deemed ineligible for admission to the United States. "Some applicants are still in the process of obtaining needed documents and providing all the information required to qualify under U.S. law for immediate entry," the embassy statement said.

The Biden administration had resisted months of urging from some refugee organizations and veterans groups to bring former Afghan allies or others most vulnerable to targeting by the Tali-

ban to U.S. territory for security screening and other processing.

Several other countries for a time balked at temporarily hosting the United States' Afghan evacuees, for fear of getting stuck with the Americans' security problems. That all presented major obstacles in U.S. preparations for evacuation of vulnerable Afghans, even before Kabul fell to the Taliban on Aug. 15.

The Taliban's lightning conquest of Afghanistan set off the chaotic U.S. military airlift out of the Kabul airport.

The administration within days of the Taliban takeover mobilized thousands of U.S. troops, diplomats, law enforcement agents, border and transportation workers, volunteers and others for screening, processing and caring for evacuees at more than a half-dozen U.S. naval stations, airfields and army bases in Europe

and Asia. Officials and volunteers handed stuffed animals and toys to arriving children at many of the transit sites, and set up play areas.

The aim of the mobilization was to get deserving evacuees through to the United States as quickly as possible, and stop possible security risks among evacuees, and other evacuees who failed to qualify for relocation to the United States, before they touched foot on U.S. soil.

Kosovo considers itself a close ally of the United States since the U.S. spearheaded a 1999 NATO air campaign against Serbian forces brutalizing Kosovo civilians.

Kosovo leaders have agreed to one-year stays for the evacuees, with a possibility of extensions.

The majority of Kosovo's people are Muslim, like Afghans, although Kosovo's constitution establishes it as a secular state.

Ida recovery will be long process for New Orleans

Associated Press

HOUMA, La. — The coronavirus pandemic claimed Kendall Duthu's job as a cook at a jambalaya restaurant. Then Hurricane Ida claimed his house.

The 26-year-old resident of Dulac, La., is now living out of his car with his girlfriend after Ida roared ashore a week ago Sunday, splintering homes in its path. Now he doesn't know what's next.

On Saturday, Duthu collected a container of red beans and rice from volunteers in nearby Houma who handed out ice, water and meals to shell-shocked storm survivors. He stopped to eat inside his Infiniti, its windshield shattered.

"Next stop, I don't really ..." he said, trailing off. "We've just been living day by day."

Both Dulac and Houma are in Terrebonne Parish, among the hardest-hit areas of Louisiana battered to an unprecedented de-

gree by Hurricane Ida. Though Louisiana's largest electric utility, Entergy, estimates most residents in New Orleans will have power by Wednesday, recovery efforts outside of the city could be a much longer slog.

Meanwhile, residents continue to face food, water and gas shortages while battling heat and humidity.

Fully restoring electricity to some of these southeastern parishes could take until the end of the month, according to Entergy President and CEO Phillip May. By Saturday morning, power was restored to about 282,000 customers from the peak of 902,000 who lost power after Ida.

At least 16 deaths were blamed on the storm in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. In the Northeast, Ida's remnants dumped record-breaking rain and killed at least 50 people from Virginia to Connecticut.

As decades pass, memories of, reflections on 9/11 evolve

Associated Press

SHANKSVILLE, Pa. — The hills in Shanksville seem to swallow sound. The plateau that Americans by the millions ascend to visit the Flight 93 National Memorial, to think of those who died in this southwestern Pennsylvania expanse, sits just above much of the landscape, creating a pocket of quiet precisely where quiet needs to be.

It is a place that encourages the act of remembering.

Twenty years have passed since United Flight 93 made its final descent, chaos unfolding aboard as buildings burned 300 miles to the east. Nearly one-fifth of the country is too young to remember firsthand the day that changed everything. Yet at the memorial's overlook, near the patch where the plane hit, remembering is the whole point.

Remembering is not merely a state of mind. As those who be-

sech us to never forget the Holocaust have long insisted, it is an act. And when loss and trauma are visited upon human beings, the act of remembering takes many forms.

Remembering is political. Those who disagree about the fate of Confederate statues demonstrate that, as do those who dispute how much the war on terror and its toll should be part of discussions about 9/11 memories.

How 9/11 is remembered depends on when 9/11 is remembered. What, then, does remembering come to mean on a 20th anniversary of an event like 9/11, even as its echoes are still shaking the foundations of everything?

"Our present influences how we remember the past — sometimes in ways that are known and sometimes in ways that we don't realize," says Jennifer Talarico, a psychology professor at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man robbed young kids of go-kart at gunpoint

MO ST. LOUIS — A man suspected of pulling a gun on three children — ages 4, 6 and 9 — and stealing the go-kart they were riding has been arrested, police in St. Louis said.

Police said the incident was reported in north St. Louis, when a 68-year-old woman told officers she was watching her grandchildren as they rode the new go-kart in a vacant lot.

The woman said a man approached the children, pointed a gun at the 9-year-old and demanded the go-kart, which he then sped away on.

Officers arrested a 24-year-old man and took him to a hospital for injuries sustained after the go-kart crashed into a tree.

Firefly Aerospace rocket explodes after liftoff

CA VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE — A rocket launched by Firefly Aerospace, the latest entrant in the New Space sector, exploded minutes after lifting off from the central California coast, officials said.

The Alpha rocket was “terminated” over the Pacific Ocean shortly after its liftoff from Vandenberg Space Force Base, according to a base statement.

Firefly said an “anomaly” occurred during the first-stage ascent that “resulted in the loss of the vehicle” about 2.5 minutes into the flight.

The rocket exploded in a fireball, leaving a smoke trail, according to video from the San Luis Obispo Tribune.

Vandenberg said a team of in-

vestigators will try to determine what caused the failure of Alpha’s first attempted orbital launch.

14 arrested at big illegal pot grow operations

OR LEBANON — Fourteen people were arrested and 1,400 pounds of pot were seized east of Corvallis in Lebanon in connection to two large illegal marijuana grow operations, authorities said.

The Linn Interagency Narcotics Enforcement team searched two neighboring properties and seized the marijuana, more than 9,000 marijuana plants, a dozen firearms and over \$6,000, The Albany Democrat-Herald reported.

Sixty-one large greenhouse structures were destroyed on site.

The fourteen people were arrested on marijuana-related charges, as well as criminal conspiracy and illegal firearm possession in one case.

Officer sues police chief for racial discrimination

HI HONOLULU — A police captain on the Hawaiian island of Kauai has filed a lawsuit alleging his police chief discriminated against him for being Japanese American, including an episode when the chief squinted his eyes, bowed repeatedly and said he couldn’t trust Japanese people.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Honolulu names Police Chief Todd Raybuck, Kauai County, the Kauai Police Department, the Kauai Police Commission and multiple unnamed individuals to be determined.

The police commission suspended Raybuck without pay for five days for making discriminatory comments after an investigation found he mocked people of Asian descent.

The plaintiff in the lawsuit, Paul Applegate, 55, is part Japanese and has worked for the police department since 2000.

Genetic genealogy IDs woman who died in 2017

AZ PHOENIX — More than four years after a woman was found dead in downtown Phoenix, police have confirmed her identity.

They said the middle-aged woman suffered a heat-related death in June 2017.

Detectives were unable to identify her despite distinctive tattoos on the left upper part of her chest and lower right leg and she was buried as a “Jane Doe.”

After exhausting all other leads, police contacted the DNA Doe Project six months ago hoping to identify the woman using investigative genetic genealogy.

The method led to detectives asking the FBI for a partial fingerprint comparison. It resulted in a hit for Laura Jean Jordan, whose photo on file with authorities was similar to a facial sketch made after her body was discovered.

High Court rules Gen. Lee statue can be removed

VA RICHMOND — Virginia’s Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the state can remove an iconic statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from a prominent

spot in the state’s capital city, saying “values change and public policy changes too” in a democracy.

The 7-0 decision cited testimony from historians who said the enormous statue was erected in 1890 to honor the southern white citizenry’s defense of a pre-Civil War life that depended on slavery and the subjugation of Black people.

The decision came in two lawsuits filed by Virginia residents who sought to block Gov. Ralph Northam’s order to remove the bronze equestrian sculpture, which shows Lee in military attire atop a massive stone pedestal.

Trans person charged for indecent exposure at spa

CA LOS ANGELES — A person who identifies as a transgender woman was charged with indecent exposure for an incident at a Los Angeles spa that sparked protests in the transgender community.

Darren Merager, 52, was charged with five felony counts of indecent exposure and an arrest warrant was issued, according to a Los Angeles Police Department announcement.

Merager has been a registered sex offender since 2006 because of indecent exposure incidents that took place in 2002 and 2003, the police said.

The charges stem from complaints by five people that Merager exposed male genitalia in the women’s section of the Wi Spa in the Koreatown section of Los Angeles.

— From wire reports



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Georgia 'D' looks dominant

Associated Press

Georgia is trying to bring defense back.

In the age of offense, when Nick Saban's Alabama dynasty has turned into QB U., Kirby Smart has built a devastating defensive machine built of blue-chippers.

Nakobe Dean, five-star. Adam Anderson, five-star. Nolan Smith, five-star. Travon Walker, five-star.

You say defense is dead? Georgia says not if you have a roster full of future early round NFL draft picks.

In the centerpiece game of the opening week-end of college football, the fifth-ranked Bulldogs put on a relentless, ferocious, smothering display of defense against No. 3 Clemson on Saturday night in Charlotte.

"We frustrated them and confused them," Smart told reporters. "We didn't do very good offensively either, but we did have some moments we could run the ball. They weren't able to do that."

The Bulldogs sacked Clemson quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei seven times, forced the Tigers to totally abandon the run (nine running back carries for 24 yards) and held Clemson to its lowest point total under coach Dabo Swinney.

It was the lowest scoring game between top-

five teams since Oklahoma beat Texas 12-0 in 2004.

Two and half weeks from the official start of fall and it is already tempting to start counting down the days to the Southeastern Conference championship game and a possible Georgia-Alabama matchup.

Ninety-one, by the way.

Alabama's new star: Welcome to the Bryce Young era of Alabama football. It looks as if it will be a lot of fun — unless you're playing the Crimson Tide.

Young set a school record for touchdown passes by a quarterback making his first start with four as the Tide took care of No. 14 Miami with no trouble.

Young has a chance to be even more dynamic than the guys who have come before him at Alabama. Those guys, Tua Tagovailoa, Jalen Hurts and Mac Jones, are all scheduled to start for NFL teams next week.

Young is undersized, listed at 6-feet and 194 pounds but that might be a stretch. Doesn't matter. Those Kyler Murray comps looked pretty good in Atlanta. Young was 27 for 38 for 344 yards.

"He plays like a veteran out there," coach Nick Saban said.

No. 2 Sooners' struggle to slow Tulane

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma hoped days like this were in the past.

The No. 2 Sooners entered the season among the favorites to contend for the national title in part because the defense had improved significantly the past two years under coordinator Alex Grinch. What once had been one of the nation's worst units had become an asset.

It was more of a liability at times on Saturday. The Sooners struggled in the second half and did just enough to hold off Tulane for a 40-35 victory.

Oklahoma led 37-14 at half-time, then the offense stalled and the defense was forced to get a stop in the final minutes to preserve a season-opening win. Tulane outgained the Sooners 230 yards to 118 after the break and outscored them 21-3.

"The second half, I think clearly our team felt like the game was over," Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley said. "That's obviously my job to make sure our mentality is right. I don't think it was. I think we were playing well at that point and had separated a little bit. And then you could just see we weren't quite the same team coming out."

Grinch said his players didn't heed his warning, and the result was an all-too-familiar collapse in the second half — just like the one that led to a loss to Kansas State last year.

"You explain to the guys at halftime there's more adversity coming, and the eyes staring back at you, and then heads are shaking, heads bobbing 'I got you, Coach,'" he said. "There's been other instances in our past where similar things have happened.

"It's a 60-minute football game. That team across the way is going to fight tooth and nail to find a way to get points and get themselves back in the football game. You've got to have respect for that."

Army opens with rout of Georgia St.

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Christian Anderson ran for one touchdown, passed for another and Army opened the season with a 43-10 victory over Georgia State on Saturday.

The Black Knights turned two Georgia State turnovers into touchdowns and a 27-7 halftime lead. On their first drive, the Panthers lost a fumble at their 40 which led to Tyson Riley's 4-yard score. Anderson scored on a quarterback draw on the final play of the first half after Georgia State fumbled on its 9. Army scored on four of its five first-half drives.

The Black Knights broke the game open to start the second half after the Panthers turned the ball over on downs and Anderson connected on a pass play of 40 yards to Tyrell Robinson.

As usual, Army stuck to the ground on offense, dominating the time of possession by over 20 minutes but it did surprise Georgia State with two wide-open touchdown receptions.

Andre Carter II led a stingy Black Knights defense with three sacks against a Panthers offense that had all 11 starters returning from a team that averaged a school-record 33.3 points per game last season.

Air Force 35, Lafayette 14: Haazig Daniels ran for three touchdowns and the host Falcons beat the

Leopards.

Daniels' third TD run, a 19-yarder with just over six minutes left, gave Air Force its first score of the second half and ensured its 15th straight season-opening victory and its 25th win without a loss against FCS opponents.

Daniels and Micah Davis ran for two touchdowns apiece in the first half when the Falcons outrushed Lafayette 199-27. But the Leopards' defense toughened in the second half and they got within 28-14 midway through the third quarter on Selwyn Simpson's 3-yard run.

Marshall 49, Navy 7: Freshman Rasheen Ali scored the first four touchdowns of his collegiate career as the Thundering Herd dominated the host Midshipmen in Charles Huff's debut coach on Saturday.

Huff was introduced as Marshall's coach nearly a year ago. While the team won a ninth-straight season opener, Huff broke a specific type of losing streak: the previous five first-year coaches had all lost season-opening road games.

Ali scored his first TD from the 2, capping the game-opening drive. He added two more scoring runs — from the 3 and the 4 — staking the Thundering Herd to a 21-0 halftime lead. Ali scored a final touchdown with a plunge from the 1 midway through the fourth quarter.

Djokovic lets loose; No. 1 Barty loses

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Novak Djokovic did not seek to keep his thoughts to himself on court Saturday, the way he mostly did through his first two U.S. Open matches. Instead, he let it all out, slapping his chest or sneering with a fist raised to celebrate success, pointing to his ear to ask the crowd for noise.

This was the Djokovic everyone is so accustomed to seeing — yes, winning on the Grand Slam stage, of course, as he always does in this magical season, but also animated and into it, encouraging the spectators to join him for the ride on his path toward tennis history.

Taking another step in his bid to complete the first calendar-year Slam by a man in more than a half-century, Djokovic moved into the fourth round at Flushing Meadows

for the 14th consecutive appearance, coming back to beat Kei Nishikori 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.

“I don’t plan to have those kind of emotional moments on the court, whether good or bad. It just happens,” Djokovic said. “In the heat of the battle, when you feel like the moment is very important ... you just want to get those things out of yourself, out of your system — try to, I guess, ride on that energy wave that you create, whether it’s with yourself, whether it’s with the crowd.”

So the No. 1-seeded Djokovic managed to avoid the rash of upsets that have hit the tournament, but the top-seeded woman, Ash Barty, did not. A day after defending champion Naomi Osaka and two of the top five men, Stefanos Tsitsipas and Andrey Rublev were beaten, Barty blew a big lead in the final set and lost to 43rd-ranked Shelby Rogers of the U.S.,

6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (5) on Saturday night.

Rogers was a quarterfinalist in New York a year ago, while Barty owns titles from the French Open in 2019 and Wimbledon this July but never has been past the fourth round at Flushing Meadows.

Coming into this match, Barty was 5-0 against Rogers and then went up two breaks at 5-2 in the third set.

Rogers’ mindset at that point?

“Can’t get any worse. You’ve lost to her every time,” said Rogers, who plays 18-year-old Emma Raducanu of Britain on Monday. “Try something different.”

Urged on by a raucous crowd, Rogers smacked moon balls, stayed patient — and waited as a rattled Barty hit a slew of unforced errors that led to another early exit at Flushing Meadows.

Some NFL big names remain on the sideline

Associated Press

NEW YORK — They were once at the top of the NFL — league MVPs, All-Pro, Pro Bowlers and faces of franchises.

With the regular season about to kick off, they’re now at the front of the unemployment line.

Cam Newton, Adrian Peterson, Le’Veon Bell, Todd Gurley and Richard Sherman are just some of the big-name players without jobs as teams prepare for Week 1.

Some players might be waiting for the right opportunity. Meanwhile, teams might be holding off on adding a veteran before the season begins while assessing their rosters — and financial situations.

But for other players, their time in the NFL as productive playmakers might have unceremoniously come and gone.

Here’s a look at some of the more recognizable players still waiting for a call:

Cam Newton: A surprise cut by New England on Tuesday, the 2015 NFL MVP lost out on the starting job to rookie Mac Jones. He started 15 games for the Patriots last season and showed glimpses of the dynam-

ic playmaker he was in Carolina. But he finished with eight touchdown passes and 10 interceptions in what was easily the worst full season of his career.

Adrian Peterson: The fifth-leading rusher in NFL history is 36, but told SportsTalk 790 in Houston in July that he’s still aiming to play at least another season. “My body feels strong,” Peterson said. “I still feel young. I still feel good.” The 2012 NFL MVP ran for 604 yards and seven touchdowns with Detroit last year.

Le’Veon Bell: Just a few years ago, Bell was arguably the best all-around running back in the league, a do-it-all playmaking force for Pittsburgh. Then he sat out the entire 2018 season while in a contract dispute. Looking to rejuvenate his career — and reclaim his place among the NFL’s elite — Bell signed with the Jets in 2019, but fizzled before being cut after two games last year. Kansas City signed him, but he wasn’t much of a factor.

Todd Gurley: Gurley, who’s only 27, put up video game-like stats in three of his first four seasons with the Rams, includ-

ing running for 30 touchdowns and catching 10 TD passes in 2017 and 2018. Concerns about his left knee cropped up when he struggled in the 2018 playoffs and again the following season, when he had just 857 yards rushing. Gurley signed with Atlanta last year and ran for a career-low 678 yards.

Richard Sherman: Once a key piece of Seattle’s “Legion of Boom” defense, Sherman was arguably the best cornerback in the league in his prime. He spent the last three years in San Francisco as a still-solid player when healthy — he missed 11 games last season with a calf injury. While still conceivably able to help a team’s secondary even at 33, Sherman’s playing future is uncertain because of legal issues.

Larry Fitzgerald: It appeared 2020 would be the last season for Fitzgerald, who has played all 17 years of his NFL career with the Arizona Cardinals. That sentiment seemed to be cemented two weeks ago when the 38-year-old Fitzgerald told SiriusXM he was focused on being a radio broadcaster. “I just don’t have the urge to play right now,”

he said. Second only to Jerry Rice in career receptions and yards receiving, Fitzgerald could certainly help a team that thinks it’s one receiver away — or give Cardinals fans one final hurrah.

Frank Gore: The No. 3 rusher in NFL history might have finally reached the end of his likely journey to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. But the 38-year-old running back has defied odds his entire career, recovering from multiple knee injuries to become one of the league’s most productive performers out of the backfield. He finished with 653 yards last season to lead the Jets in his one year in New York. If he stills wants to carry the ball, it’s tough to count him out.

David DeCastro: The 31-year-old guard was a consistently reliable blocker in nine years for the Steelers while being selected an All-Pro twice and making six straight Pro Bowl trips. DeCastro dealt with a few injuries last season that limited him to 13 games and he needed offseason ankle surgery. He was released by Pittsburgh with a non-football injury designation.

Blue Jays go deep 4 times, edge A's

Associated Press

TORONTO — Teoscar Hernández hit his 100th career home run, José Berríos took a no-hitter into the fifth inning and the Blue Jays survived a late scare to beat the Oakland Athletics 10-8 Saturday, Toronto's sixth win in seven games.

"The key was Berríos," Blue Jays manager Charlie Montoyo said. "Everything starts on the mound. He was outstanding. He commanded his fastball. When he does that, he's the guy that we thought we were going to get."

Berríos (10-7) allowed three runs and four hits in 6 2/3 innings to win back-to-back starts, beating Oakland for the first time in seven career meetings. He walked none and struck out seven.

"The last two outings I've been able to lo-

cate my fastball to both sides of the plate," Berríos said. "That's why my secondary pitches work well off the fastball."

Berríos has not walked a batter in three straight outings, matching the longest such streak of his career.

"He's a competitor," Toronto catcher Danny Jansen said after working with Berríos for the first time. "I had a blast."

With the defeat, the Athletics lost more ground in the AL wild card race, dropping four games behind Boston after the Red Sox beat Cleveland 4-3 Saturday. Toronto is five games back.

Breyvic Valera hit a two-run homer while Jansen and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. each had solo shots as the Blue Jays boosted their home run total to 204. San Francisco had 201 home runs entering play Saturday.

Oakland pitchers allowed at least three home runs for the fifth straight game, extending a dubious franchise record.

Mark Canha hit a three-run homer for the Athletics and finished with four RBIs. Sean Murphy added a two-run blast and Matt Chapman hit a solo shot. The Athletics scored five runs in the ninth but still lost for the third time in four games. Oakland has scored at least six runs in all three of those losses.

Hernández's milestone homer was a three-run shot off Jake Diekmann in the seventh. It was his 24th of the season and second in two games.

Gurriel's homer, his 16th, was also his second in two games. He hit a game-tying grand slam in the eighth inning of Toronto's 11-10 victory Friday.

Dodgers top Giants, earn share of first in NL West

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Trea Turner and Corey Seager homered, Julio Urías won his seventh straight decision, and the Los Angeles Dodgers moved into a tie for first place with the San Francisco Giants atop the NL West Division with a 6-1 win Saturday.

Turner homered leading off the game to set the tone for Los Angeles' fourth win in five contests. Turner extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

Buster Posey went 3-for-4 with an RBI double for San Francisco, which lost for the fifth time in seven games.

The Dodgers have won 21 of their last 26 games.

Orioles 4, Yankees 3: Aroldis Chapman gave up Pedro Severino's tiebreaking sacrifice fly with the bases loaded in the ninth inning and host New York lost to last-place Baltimore and were no hit through the first seven innings.

Joey Gallo's two-run homer in the eighth tied it at 3, and manager Aaron Boone went to his All-Star closer with the save taken out of play.

Angels 4, Rangers 1: Shohei

Ohtani hit his major league-leading 43rd home run and Jose Suarez pitched a five-hitter, leading host Los Angeles over Texas.

Ohtani connected for a three-run homer in the sixth inning.

Padres 10, Astros 2: Manny Machado, Wil Myers and Fernando Tatis Jr. each hit an impressive two-run home run and Joe Musgrove had a solid outing against one of his former teams as host San Diego beat AL West-leading Houston.

Tatis slugged his NL-leading 37th homer and hit a go-ahead, two-run single during the four-run second inning for the Padres, who remain a half-game behind the Cincinnati Reds in the race for the NL's second wild-card spot.

Rockies 7, Braves 6: Charlie Blackmon homered for the third straight game, Raimel Tapia had a go-ahead sacrifice fly and host Colorado edged Atlanta.

C.J. Cron also homered for the Rockies.

Rays 11, Twins 4: Yandy Díaz hit one of the Rays' franchise record-tying six homers and drove in four runs, Wander Franco extended his on-base streak to 34

games and AL East-leading Tampa Bay beat visiting Minnesota.

Díaz had an RBI single in the first inning and a three-run homer off Andrew Albers during a five-run second.

Cubs 7, Pirates 6: Rookie Frank Schwindel's RBI single capped a three-run rally with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting host Chicago over Pittsburgh for its fifth straight win.

Schwindel had three hits, including a solo home run. Alfonso Rivas singled home a run in the ninth that drew the Cubs within 6-5 and Rafael Ortega's third hit of the game tied it.

Mets 11-3, Nationals 9-4: Lane Thomas and Alcides Escobar homered as host Washington ended a seven-game skid with a victory in the second game of a doubleheader for a split.

New York won the opener after blowing a nine-run lead before bouncing back on Francisco Lindor's two-run homer in the ninth inning.

Marlins 3, Phillies 2: Lewis Brinson hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning and host Miami

rallied to beat Philadelphia.

Red Sox 4, Indians 3: Alex Verdugo hit an RBI single with bases loaded and two out in the bottom of the ninth inning to give host Boston a win over Cleveland.

Brewers 4, Cardinals 0: Adrian Houser pitched Milwaukee's first complete-game shutout since 2014 and his first pro shutout, throwing a three-hitter in a win over visiting St. Louis.

Houser (8-6) didn't allow a runner until Nolan Arenado led off the fifth inning with a single. He struck out seven and walked none.

Reds 7, Tigers 4: Aristides Aquino hit a three-run homer, Tyler Naquin drove in two with a pinch-hit triple and host Cincinnati beat Detroit.

White Sox 10, Royals 7: Yasmani Grandal went 3-for-3 with a home run and four RBIs as visiting Chicago built a big lead and held off Salvador Perez and Kansas City.

Mariners 8, Diamondbacks 5: Kyle Seager hit a pair of three-run homers, J.P. Crawford added four hits and two RBIs and Seattle won at Arizona.