

## 1st sub with integrated coed crew to join fleet

By CAITLYN BURCHETT  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The first submarine fully integrated for mixed gender crews will join the Navy fleet next week during a commissioning ceremony in its namesake state of New Jersey.

The future USS New Jersey, a fast-attack submarine, will become a deployable part of the Navy's force during the ceremony at Naval Weapons Station Earle in New Jersey on Sept. 14, culminating five years of construction that represents a historic shift in how Navy submarines are designed.

The New Jersey is the 23rd Virginia-class submarine, but it is the first of its kind — designed from the keel up with specific

modifications for gender integration.

"The submarine community is a fully gender-integrated war-fighting force," said Vice Adm. Robert Gaucher, commander of Submarine Forces Atlantic.

Modifications included obvious ones — more doors and washrooms to create separate sleeping and bathing areas — and some that are more subtle — lowering some overhead valves and making them easier to turn and installing steps in front of the triple-high bunk beds and stacked laundry machines.

The design changes were made to accommodate the growing female force of submariners. In the past five years, the Navy has seen the number of officers

and enlisted sailors in the submarine force who are women double and triple, respectively, Gaucher said.

As of August 2024, 730 women were assigned to operational submarines — serving as officers and sailors on 19 nuclear-powered, ballistic-missile and guided-missile submarines, and 19 nuclear-powered attack boats, according to Submarine Forces Atlantic.

The increase follows the 2010 lift of the ban that barred women from serving aboard submarines. A decade later, in 2021, the Navy announced a long-term plan to integrate female officers on 33 submarine crews and female enlisted sailors on 14 submarine crews by 2030.

"To support women serving onboard submarines, the submarine force, starting with [the Pre-Commissioning Unit] New Jersey, is building all future [nuclear-powered attack submarines] and the new Columbia-class, [ballistic-missile submarines] gender-neutral from the keel up," Gaucher said.

Construction on the New Jersey began in 2019 at HII's Newport News Shipbuilding division in Virginia. The warship was christened in 2021 and delivered in April to the Navy at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia.

Before construction of the New Jersey, the Navy retrofitted existing Ohio-class submarines with extra doors and designated washrooms.

## IG: Navy secretary broke law by voicing views on Trump, Biden

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro broke the law by publicly endorsing the reelection of President Joe Biden and criticizing former President Donald Trump in several statements he made while on official duty overseas, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel said Thursday.

In a report to the White House, the watchdog agency said Del Toro's comments about the presidential election came in a BBC interview and when he was responding to questions after a speech in London. While he later reported the remarks, his unwillingness to take responsibility for them is troubling, the special counsel said.

The agency said Del Toro's comments, which were made before Biden dropped out of the presidential race, violate the Hatch Act, which prohibits U.S. officials from engaging in political activity while they are on duty and from "using their official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the result of an election."

"The United States and the world need the mature leadership of President Biden," Del Toro said in response to a question after giv-

ing a speech at the Royal United Services Institute in late January. He added, "We cannot afford to have a president who aligns himself with autocratic dictators and rulers whose interpretation of democratic principles is suspicious (at) best."

Later, during an interview on "BBC News Sunday," Del Toro was asked about his comments on Trump's democratic principles. Del Toro responded that in the past, Republican and Democratic presidents abided by core American values and protected democracy.

"When you have someone who doesn't align to those core principles, it makes you wonder, you know, should you be supporting that individual?" he said.

Del Toro was asked, "You said he had a suspicious attitude to democracy?" And the Navy secretary responded, "Absolutely so."

Several days later, Del Toro self-reported the blunder to the special counsel, saying his intention was to focus on the importance of strong international alliances. But, he added, "In retrospect, I believe my response should have been delivered more broadly without reference to specific candidates."

In a separate written response to the watchdog's findings, the secretary's lawyer, Michael Bromwich, said Del Toro's remarks were "spontaneous and unpremeditated" and did not constitute a violation of the Hatch Act. Bromwich said Del Toro was responding to questions and did not directly speak Trump's name.

Special counsel Hampton Dellinger said in his report that Del Toro "crossed a legal line." And he said the secretary's "unwillingness to acknowledge a mistake is striking" and troubling.

Asked about the violation, Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said at a briefing that the department is reviewing the report.

She added that "it's important that we maintain the trust and confidence of the American people, which requires us to avoid any action that could imply the support of any political party, candidate or campaign."

Navy Capt. Clay Doss said in a statement that the service got a copy of the report Thursday and that "this matter will be addressed through the appropriate process."

# Ex-Coast Guard cadets file \$10M claims

By ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

Thirteen former cadets of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy are seeking \$10 million each from the service, accusing the Coast Guard of failing to implement adequate policies and practices that allowed sexual violence to go unchecked, according to legal documents filed Thursday.

The 12 women and one man who filed the claims wrote in separate documents about rape, hazing and physical violence at the academy in New London, Conn. While some said the abuse led them to leave the academy and end their military careers before they fully began, others said they went on to join the Coast Guard where they were again sexually assaulted.

"Today's filings are just the tip of the iceberg. We know that

there are numerous women and men who were sexually assaulted at the Coast Guard Academy and have never gotten justice," said Christine Dunn, an attorney for the 13 former cadets.

Service officials confirmed they received the claims but said federal law prevents them from discussing the details.

"The Coast Guard will resolve the claims in accordance with the Federal Tort Claims Act and any other applicable law," the service said in a statement.

The legal filings follow a year of scrutiny for the Coast Guard Academy that began with the revelation that the service concealed a report that found academy officials had routinely mishandled reports of sexual assault among cadets. The report, known as Operation Fouled Anchor, was the result of a six-year

internal review of 102 reports of sexual assault and harassment cases at the academy between 1990 and 2006.

Fouled Anchor's existence only became public after CNN learned of the report and the decision in 2020 to not release it. Only then did Coast Guard officials go to Congress with it. Congressional committees and the Department of Homeland Security inspector general have since opened investigations into the cover-up, and the Coast Guard Investigative Service has begun criminal investigations into the cases included in Fouled Anchor.

One woman who filed a claim Thursday described being asleep in her bed at the academy when a fellow cadet climbed onto her while he was naked. She fought him and pleaded with him to stop as he began to rape her. Fi-

nally, she told him that she feared pregnancy and was not on birth control. He stopped the physical assault but remained at her bedside and performed a sexual act.

An academy policy required cadets to keep their doors unlocked, and it was known among cadets that she did not have a roommate, according to the complaint.

"I had seen other women be discharged while their assailant was allowed to continue their service. I wanted to be an officer and graduate, so I did not report [the attack]," the woman wrote in the complaint.

The man who filed a claim said he was hazed by fellow cadets until it escalated into sexual violence. When he confided in a counselor at the academy, he was told "things like that don't happen to real men."

## As drills end, Indonesia 'rowing between 2 reefs'

By SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

Two weeks of military drills in Indonesia involving 5,500 troops from 10 nations wrapped up Friday as the Southeast Asian democracy balances security against a strong trading relationship with China.

Super Garuda Shield began Aug. 26 with participants from the United States, Indonesia, Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. A dozen other countries sent observers.

The U.S. and Indonesia began Garuda Shield in 2007 as a bilateral exercise. China and more than 20 other nations were invited for the 2009 iteration, which focused on peacekeeping, according to the U.S. Army Pacific website that year.

China — Indonesia's second largest investor after Singapore — is "conspicuous by its absence" from Super Garuda Shield, said Carlyle Thayer, an emeritus professor at the University of New South Wales and a lecturer at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Trade between Indonesia and China was worth \$139.26 billion in 2023, he said Wednesday.

This year's exercise was planned under the watch of Indonesian Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto, who was elected president in February and will take office next month, Thayer said. "Prabowo is pursuing the well-trodden path of pursuing an 'independent and active' Indonesian foreign policy or 'rowing between two reefs' to avoid alignment with China or the United States," he said.

## Typhoon hits Vietnam after damaging Philippines, China

*Associated Press*

HANOI, Vietnam — At least 14 people have died and 176 others injured in Vietnam after Typhoon Yagi slammed the country's north, state media said Sunday, as officials warned of heavy downpours despite its waning power.

Described by Vietnamese officials as one of the most powerful typhoons to hit the region over the last decade, Yagi left more than 3 million people without electricity in northern Vietnam. It also damaged vital agricultural land, nearly 116,192 hectares where rice and fruits are mostly grown. Hundreds of flights were canceled after four airports were closed.

The typhoon made landfall in Vietnam's northern coastal provinces of Quang Ninh and Haiphong with wind speeds of up to 92 mph on Saturday afternoon. It raged for roughly 15 hours before gradually weakening into a tropi-

cal depression early Sunday morning. Vietnam's meteorological department predicted heavy rain in northern and central provinces and warned of floods in low-lying areas, flash floods in streams and landslides on steep slopes.

Municipal workers along with army and police forces were busy in the capital, Hanoi, clearing uprooted trees, fallen billboards, toppled electricity poles and rooftops that were swept away, while assessing damaged buildings.

Yagi was still a storm when it blew out of the northwestern Philippines into the South China Sea on Wednesday, leaving at least 20 people dead and 26 others missing mostly in landslides and widespread flooding in the archipelago nation. It then made its way to China, killing three people and injuring nearly a hundred others, before reaching Vietnam.

# US says Iran provided Russia with missiles

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States has informed allies that it believes Iran has transferred short-range ballistic missiles to Russia for its war in Ukraine, according to two people familiar with the matter.

They did not offer any details about how many weapons have been delivered or when the transfers may have occurred, but they confirmed the U.S. intelligence finding. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a matter that has not been publicly disclosed.

The White House declined to confirm the weapons transfer, but reiterated its concern that Iran is deepening its support of Russia.

The White House has been warning Iran for months not to transfer ballistic missiles to Russia.

“Any transfer of Iranian ballistic missiles to Russia would represent a dramatic escalation in Iran’s support for Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and lead to the killing of more Ukrainian civilians,” National Security Council spokesman Sean Savett said in a statement. “This partnership threatens European security and illustrates how Iran’s destabilizing influence reaches beyond the Middle East and around the world.”

The U.S. finding comes as the Kremlin has tried to repel Ukraine’s surprise offensive that has led to the seizure of about 500 square miles of Russia’s Kursk region. Meanwhile, Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is pressing allies to allow his country to use Western-supplied missiles to strike deep inside Russia and hit sites

from which Moscow launches aerial attacks.

Iran, as it has with previous U.S. intelligence findings, denied providing Russia with weapons for its war in Ukraine.

“Iran considers the provision of military assistance to the parties engaged in the conflict — which leads to increased human casualties, destruction of infrastructure and a distancing from ceasefire negotiations — to be inhumane,” according to a statement from Iran’s mission to the United Nations. “Thus, not only does Iran abstain from engaging in such actions itself, but it also calls upon other countries to cease the supply of weapons to the sides involved in the conflict.”

CIA Director William Burns, who was in London on Saturday for a joint appearance with his British intelligence counter-

part, warned of the growing and “troubling” defense relationship involving Russia, China, Iran and North Korea that he said threatens both Ukraine and Western allies in the Middle East.

The White House has repeatedly declassified and publicized intelligence findings that show North Korea has sent ammunition and missiles to Russia to use against Ukraine, while Iran has supplied Moscow with attack drones and has assisted the Kremlin with building a drone-manufacturing factory.

China has held back from providing Russians with weaponry but has surged sales to Russia of machine tools, microelectronics and other technology that Moscow in turn is using to produce missiles, tanks, aircraft and other weaponry, according to U.S. officials.

## NCIS probes death of Marine’s family member

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Agents with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service are investigating the death of a Marine’s family member Sunday at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Investigators have not released the names of the two individuals.

“Out of respect for the investigative process, NCIS will not comment further while the investigation remains ongoing,” Darwin Lam, a spokesman for NCIS, said in an email Friday.

“No charges have been filed at this time,” Lam said.

The base is located on the windward side of Oahu on Kaneohe Bay.

Hawaii News Now reported earlier last week that the deceased was the wife of a Marine and that he is being held on Ford Island, which is adjacent to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Honolulu Medical Examiner Office said Friday that no information was available about the death.

The Honolulu Police Department is not involved in the investigation, HPD spokes-

woman Michelle Yu said in an email Friday.

A Marine Corps sergeant who had also been stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii remains in a Honolulu jail two years after being charged with killing his wife July 20, 2022.

Authorities said Sgt. Bryant Tejeda-Castillo repeatedly stabbed Dana Alotaibi while on the side of a road near the base.

Tejeda-Castillo has pleaded not guilty to charges of second-degree murder. He is being held on a \$1 million bond, and a trial date is set for June.

## Deceased boat master left behind remains adrift

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — French authorities have not been able to recover the body of a dead man left aboard a sailboat drifting near Hawaii that was the scene of a perilous rescue of a mother and her child by a U.S. Navy destroyer late last month.

The master of the French-flagged sailboat Albroc died while the vessel was

about 900 miles east of Honolulu, leaving a woman and small child stranded aboard.

Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point in Hawaii received a distress call in the early hours of Aug. 24 from the sailboat, the Navy said in an Aug. 29 news release.

The Coast Guard launched an HC-130 Hercules plane, and upon reaching the scene crew members spotted the Albroc, a 47-foot sailboat.

It was then that the crew heard a may-

day call on VHF-FM channel 16 from a 47-year-old woman aboard the vessel reporting that she and her 7-year-old daughter were in dire need of rescue, reporting that the master of the boat was dead.

Lea Goigoux, a spokeswoman for the French Consulate in San Francisco, said in an email Friday that French authorities have not yet been able to recover the boat or the boat master, who was not related to the passengers.



# Hunt underway for man tied to Ky. shootings

Associated Press

LONDON, Ky. — Authorities searched a rugged and hilly area of southeastern Kentucky on Sunday for a man who they believe may be linked to the shooting of nine vehicles and wounding of five people on a busy highway.

Although they said they could not yet name him a suspect in Saturday's shootings along Interstate 75, authorities said they consider 32-year-old Joseph A. Couch a "person of interest" and were searching for him in a remote area north of London, a community of about 8,000 people roughly 75 miles south of Lexington.

"We're going to go in and we're going to find this guy," Deputy Gilbert Acciardo, a spokesperson for the Laurel County Sheriff's Office, told reporters Sunday.

Authorities consider Couch,

who is white, to be armed and dangerous, and they cautioned members of the public who might spot him not to approach him. Acciardo said law enforcement got a "lucky break" that led them to zero in on Couch as a person of interest, but that he couldn't elaborate.

Acciardo said authorities were notified at about 5:30 p.m. Saturday about gunshots along the highway near exit 49. An individual who was "off that exit" fired multiple rounds into the northbound and southbound lanes, striking nine vehicles and wounding five people, he said.

The shooter was not in a vehicle at the time.

"When our first two units got to the scene there, they said it was a madhouse: people on the sides of the road, emergency flashers going, bullet holes, windows shot out, nine vehicles shot. Can you imagine that? Just

chaotic," Acciardo said during a news conference.

The wounded were hospitalized in stable condition early Sunday. Some had "very serious" injuries, including one person who was shot in the face, Acciardo said.

Residents of Laurel County were on edge as authorities searched on foot Sunday in a remote wooded area near the highway that has only one business and a few houses nearby. London Laurel Rescue squad sent a drone to assist. State lawmakers from Laurel County urged residents in the area to stay home during the search.

"We had numerous calls throughout the county and we're still getting them this morning," Acciardo said, of calls from concerned community members. "This is a remote area. If he was going to target some place that he wanted to do

something like this, it was the perfect spot."

Rodney Goodlett, pastor of Faith Assembly of God in London, was helping direct traffic as parishioners gathered for a service Sunday morning. He said he expected the search to hold down attendance.

"There's definitely people ... that probably won't be here today — just nervous with the suspect still at large," he said.

Goodlett said the congregation was going to pray for the community, the wounded and the first responders, some of whom attend Faith Assembly, where around 275 parishioners pray each week.

"This is tragic, obviously, that somebody would randomly do violent acts," he said. "You hear media things taking place all around our country, but then when it hits home, it's a little bit of a wake-up call."

## Romania says Russian drone violated airspace

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — A Russian drone violated Romania's airspace during nighttime attacks on neighboring Ukraine, the NATO member reported Sunday, urging Moscow to stop what it described as an escalation.

The incident occurred as Russia carried out attacks on "civilian targets and port infrastructure" across the Danube River in Ukraine, Romania's Ministry of National Defense said.

Romania deployed F-16 warplanes to monitor its airspace, and NATO allies were kept informed, the ministry said. Romanian emergency authorities also issued text alerts to residents of two eastern regions.

Preliminary data indicates there may be an "impact zone" in an uninhabited area near the Romanian village of Periprava,

the ministry said. It added that an investigation is underway.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Romania has confirmed drone fragments on its territory on several occasions and as recently as July this year.

The Romanian Defense Ministry strongly condemned the Russian attacks on Ukraine, calling them "unjustified and in serious contradiction with the norms of international law."

Mircea Geoana, NATO's outgoing deputy secretary-general and Romania's former top diplomat, said the military alliance also condemned Russia's violation of Romanian airspace. "While we have no information indicating an intentional attack by Russia against Allies, these acts are irresponsible and potentially dangerous," he wrote on X.

## Ex-presidential candidate flees Venezuela for Spain

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Former Venezuelan presidential candidate Edmundo González fled into exile in Spain on Sunday after being granted asylum there, delivering a major blow to millions who placed their hopes in his opposition campaign to end two decades of single-party rule.

The surprise departure of the man considered by Venezuela's opposition and several foreign governments to be the legitimate winner of July's presidential race was announced late Saturday by Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez.

She said the government decided to grant González safe passage out of the country, just days after ordering his arrest, to help restore "the country's political peace and tranquility."

González arrived Sunday at a military airport near Madrid, accompanied by his wife and Spanish officials, Spain's foreign ministry said.

Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado said González feared for his life if he stayed in Venezuela.

"His life was in danger, and the growing threats, legal citations, arrest orders, and even blackmail attempts that he was subjected to demonstrate that the regime has no scruples or limits in its obsession to silence him and try to break him," Machado wrote on X.

Spain's center-left government said the decision to leave Venezuela was González's alone, and he departed on a plane sent by the country's air force. González stayed at the Spanish Embassy in Caracas before leaving.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man dies after liver taken out instead of spleen

**FL** MIRAMAR — An Alabama man died last month when a surgeon in Florida mistakenly removed his liver instead of his spleen during an emergency procedure, his family said.

William Bryan, 70, and his wife Beverly, of Muscle Shoals, Ala., were visiting their property in Okaloosa County, Fla., when he started feeling pain on the left side of his abdomen, personal injury firm Zarzaur Law said in a statement.

He was admitted to Ascension Sacred Heart Emerald Coast hospital in Miramar for spleen abnormalities. Dr. Thomas Shakhovskiy, a general surgeon, and Dr. Christopher Bacani, the hospital's chief medical officer, persuaded Bryan to undergo surgery on Aug. 21.

Beverly Bryan claims that Shakhovskiy said her husband's spleen was diseased, oversized and moved to the opposite side of his body. But according to the law firm, the surgeon removed his liver instead, which caused "immediate and catastrophic blood loss resulting in death."

### Newlyweds charged after groomsman killed by SUV

**MI** FLINT — A newlywed couple has been charged in the death of a groomsman who was struck by a vehicle on the wedding day, authorities in Michigan said Thursday.

The groom, James Shirah, was at the wheel when the SUV hit Terry Taylor Jr. in Flint on Aug. 30, police said.

"After the wedding (Taylor) was involved in an argument,

which led to him being intentionally struck by a large SUV that was traveling at a high rate of speed," police said.

Shirah, 22, was charged with second-degree murder.

Police described Taylor, 29, as a groomsman.

County prosecutor David Leyton, citing the police report, said the wedding was at a pizzeria. The argument occurred at a house where the celebration continued. Taylor was in the street in front of the house when he was hit, Leyton said.

The bride and groom left the scene and didn't go to police until the next day, he added.

### Phones taken from police boss, top mayoral aides

**NY** NEW YORK — Federal investigators recently seized phones from New York City's police commissioner and at least four top deputies to New York Mayor Eric Adams, according to people familiar with the matter.

FBI agents seized the devices Wednesday from the homes of several high-ranking city officials, said two people who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation. The officials include First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright; Philip Banks, the deputy mayor for public safety; his brother David Banks, the city's schools chancellor; and Timothy Pearson, a mayoral adviser and former high-ranking New York Police Department official.

Federal investigators also seized devices from the home of Police Commissioner Edward Caban, one of the people said.

The searches add to a flurry of investigative activity around

Adams' administration, his campaign and the first-term Democrat himself. He previously received subpoenas and had his electronics seized in federal inquiries.

Federal authorities haven't accused him or any of his officials of any crimes, and Adams, a retired police captain, has denied any wrongdoing.

### Rediscovered Rembrandt painting sells for \$1.4M

**ME** THOMASTON — A Rembrandt discovered in an attic sold for \$1.4 million.

The 17th century painting, "Portrait of a Girl," by Dutch artist Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn was discovered by art appraiser and auctioneer Kaja Veilleux in an attic in an estate in Camden. A label on the back of the frame noted that it was loaned to the Philadelphia Museum of Art for an exhibition in 1970.

An auction by Thomaston Place Auction Galleries yielded a fierce competition on Aug. 24, he said. In the end, a European collector paid \$1.41 million for the painting.

### Legislators grill DA for releasing violent criminals

**LA** BATON ROUGE — Louisiana legislators interrogated New Orleans District Attorney Jason Williams over reform policies that have allowed several hundred people to have their convictions voided or sentences reduced in the past few years, during a fiery Senate hearing at the state capitol.

Conservative lawmakers, Republican Attorney General Liz Murrill and several former prosecutors said Thursday that

Williams failed to fulfill his duty to defend convictions for violent crimes. They highlighted cases of convicted murderers and rapists released from prison through post-conviction relief, which allows new information to be considered after all appeals have been exhausted.

Williams, a Democrat who took office in 2020 on a progressive platform, defended his record and said his office is seeking to restore trust in the legal system. He has pushed for expanding the use of post-conviction relief to review cases where his office believes unconstitutional or unjust procedures were employed to reach convictions.

### Judge rejects RFK Jr.'s request to change ballots

**NC** RALEIGH — A North Carolina judge refused to take Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s name off presidential ballots in the battleground state on Thursday, a day before the first batches of November absentee ballots are slated to be sent to registered voters who requested them.

Wake County Superior Court Judge Rebecca Holt denied the temporary restraining order sought by Kennedy to prevent county elections boards from distributing ballots affixed with his name and requiring it to be removed. State law directs the first absentee ballots for the Nov. 5 elections be mailed to requesters starting Friday.

Kennedy got on the ballot in July as the nominee of the new We The People party created by his supporters. But Kennedy suspended his campaign two weeks ago and endorsed Republican nominee Donald Trump.

— From wire reports

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# No. 3 Texas rolls over No. 10 Michigan

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Quinn Ewers has led Texas to road wins in two of the toughest places to play in college football in consecutive seasons.

Ewers threw for 246 yards and three touchdowns, helping No. 3 Texas rout No. 10 Michigan 31-12 on Saturday a year after the QB and the Longhorns won at Alabama.

"I just enjoy big moments," he said.

Texas became the first school to beat Michigan and Alabama on the road in consecutive seasons since Notre Dame pulled off the feat in 1979 and 1980 with different quarterbacks, according to Sportradar.

The Longhorns (2-0) moved the ball at will through the air and on the ground against the defending national champions, whose turnover-prone offense failed to throw or run the ball effectively.

The Wolverines (1-1) had three streaks snapped in the first regular-season matchup of the traditional college football powerhouses.

Michigan had won a Big Ten-record 29 consecutive regular-season games, 23 straight home games and a national-best 16 games in a row since losing to TCU in the 2022 College Football Playoff.

While the stretches of success are over, defensive end Josaiah Stewart said the Wolverines have not lost their opportunity to repeat as national champions thanks to the expanded 12-team playoff.

"Our season's not over, so one loss doesn't kick us out of the playoff like it probably would last year," he said.

Davis Warren was 22-for-33 for 204 yards, to go along with a touchdown when the game was out of reach and two interceptions. Preseason All-America

tight end Colston Loveland had eight receptions for 70 yards and an unforced fumble for the overmatched Wolverines.

"It was on us," Warren said. "They're a good football team, they played well today, but we shot ourselves in the foot and let them win that football game."

After the victory, linebacker David Gbenda took Texas' white flag with an orange longhorn and tried to plant it into the maize block M at midfield, but it didn't stick in the turf.

That was the only play the Longhorns didn't make all day.

Texas led 24-3 at halftime and didn't give up a touchdown until Warren threw a 31-yard pass to Semaj Morgan with 1:54 left.

Ewers threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to Gunnar Helm in the first quarter. Helm, a senior tight end, set career highs with seven catches for 98 yards, showing off for 15 NFL teams in attendance.

Ewers found Matthew Golden

for a 5-yard touchdown late in the second quarter and passed to Jaydon Blue for a 7-yard TD in the third as the Longhorns coasted to a lopsided victory with little resistance.

The former Ohio State quarterback completed 24 of 36 passes without an interception, a week after he had 260 yards passing and three touchdowns in a 52-0 win over Colorado State.

Texas, in its first season as an SEC school, looks as if it could contend for conference and national championships.

"This one game isn't going to define our season, but I think it would serve as a pretty good barometer of the type of team that we could be," coach Steve Sarkisian said.

Michigan coach Sherrone Moore's first mistake as Jim Harbaugh's successor may prove to be choosing not to add an experienced quarterback from the transfer portal.

## Daily throws for TD, Army's ground game stymies FAU

Associated Press

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Bryson Daily threw for a surprise touchdown as Army's running game dominated and the Black Knights iced the game with another trick play to debut in the American Athletic Conference with a 24-7 win over Florida Atlantic on Saturday.

A play after what would have been Daily's second touchdown pass was dropped in the end zone on third-and-12, holder Matthew Rhodes scored on a 23-yard run around the left end on a fake field goal with 13:57 left in the fourth.

If that 15-play, 96-yard, 10½-minute drive following an interception by Max DiDomenico didn't salt the game away, DiDomenico's stop of FAU quarterback Cam Fancher on fourth-and-goal from the 1 with 8:44 to go on the ensuing possession sure did.

Army (2-0, 1-0) used 14 plays to run out the clock and finished with 38-minutes, 39-seconds time of possession.

The Black Knights, who began playing football in 1890, are in a conference for just the second time ever. They played in Conference USA from 1998-2004. They joined the AAC as a football-only member, joining rival Navy, which joined in 2015.

Kanye Udoh capped an 82-yard drive on Army's first possession with an 8-yard run.

The next possession Daily found Casey Reynolds wide open behind the defense for a 44-yard score.

The Owls (0-2, 0-1) capitalized on a fumble with Fancher hitting Omari Hayes just before halftime.

Army opened the second half with a field goal before DiDomenico's pick set up the key drive.

Noah Short, who came in with less than 100 career yards, beat that by halftime before finishing with 160 for the Black Knights. Army had 405 on the ground, 117 by Daily on 18 keeps.

The Owls rushed for just 42.

**Navy 38, Temple 11:** Quarterback Blake Horvath tallied 234 total yards and four touchdowns and the host Midshipmen beat the Owls in the American Athletic Conference opener.

Horvath ran for 122 yards on 15 carries and three touchdowns and threw for 112 yards and a touchdown. Navy (2-0, 1-0) outgained Temple (0-2, 0-1) 409-312 and committed just four penalties.

The Midshipmen's defense scored the game's first points on a safety when it sacked Temple quarterback Forest Brock in the end zone.

Navy made it 9-0 when Horvath ran it in from the 2 to end an 11-play, 58-yard drive to close the first quarter.

Jaxson Campbell intercepted Brock and Horvath ran for a 62-yard score on the ensuing play to make it 16-0.

Running back Alex Tecza tacked on a 65-yard touchdown run to make it 23-0 with 8:04 before halftime.

**San Jose State 17, Air Force 7:** Emmett Brown completed 17 of 32 passes for 262 yards and two touchdowns, including a 58-yard TD connection with Jackson Canaan that lifted the visiting Spartans over the Falcons.

All of the touchdowns were scored in the first quarter.

Cade Davis scored the only Air Force touchdown on a 6-yard run to tie the game.

Brown hit Nick Nash for an 18-yard score and then hit Canaan after the Falcons tied it.



# Sabalenka beats Pegula for third slam

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aryna Sabalenka left the U.S. Open in tears 12 months ago as the runner-up. She exited in the semifinals each of the two years before that, other losses that were difficult to digest. On Saturday, Sabalenka was in a joking mood after winning her first championship at Flushing Meadows and the third Grand Slam title of her career.

Sabalenka, the No. 2 seed, got past No. 6 Jessica Pegula 7-5, 7-5 in a rollicking final under a closed retractable roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium, displaying her typical power while sprinkling in some variation to add this triumph to those at the Australian Open each of the past two seasons.

"I had a lot of tough lessons here ... especially last year," Sabalenka, a 26-year-old from Belarus, said after grabbing the last two games of the first set and the last four of the match. "In those tough moments (Saturday), I was just trying to stay strong and trying to remind myself that I have been through a lot and I'm strong enough to hold under this pressure."

Sitting near the U.S. Open trophy at her news conference, Sa-

balenka alluded to "a lot of challenges" away from the court. There was the death of her father in 2019. The death of an ex-boyfriend this March. A right shoulder problem that forced her to withdraw from Wimbledon right before it began this July.

"After I lost my father, it's always been my goal to put our family name in the history of tennis," she said. "Every time I see my name on that trophy, I'm so proud of myself, I'm proud of my family that they never gave up on my dream and that they were doing everything they could to keep me going."

Also driving her: what she called "all those tough losses in the past here."

That includes semifinal defeats in 2021 against Leylah Fernandez and in 2022 against No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

Most poignant, of course, was last year, when Sabalenka was rattled by the Ashe crowd, blew a set advantage and was defeated by Coco Gauff. Like Gauff, Pegula is an American, but the spectators were far more generous toward Sabalenka this time, applauding her best efforts and even obliging when she waved

her arms to ask for extra noise.

After extending her winning streak to 12 matches, Sabalenka thanked the fans for cheering for her — which probably (wink, wink) was unrelated to her kidding offer of "Drinks on me" after an earlier victory.

There were light moments Saturday evening, too. After her coach, Anton Dubrov, was awarded a smaller version of the champion's trophy for his role in her success, Sabalenka teased that its size "actually looks sad" compared to the real thing. She also laughed after pointing out that if both guzzle booze out of their respective trophies, "I'll have a hangover tomorrow, more than you're going to have."

Pegula, a native New Yorker whose parents own the NFL's Buffalo Bills and NHL's Buffalo Sabres, was participating in a major final for the first time at age 30. She's won 15 of her past 17 matches over the past month; both losses came against Sabalenka.

"Everyone is like, 'Congrats! Amazing tournament!'" Pegula said. "I'm like, 'Eh, whatever.'"

To Pegula's credit, she did not fold after Sabalenka reeled off five consecutive games to grab

the opening set and move ahead 3-0 in the second. In the next game, Pegula dropped a point and showed her frustration by whacking a ball off the video wall behind the baseline, dislodging a little square panel.

Maybe that released some tension, because suddenly Pegula asserted herself, using her own five-game run to go up 5-3. But when she served at 5-4 with a chance to force a third set, Pegula let Sabalenka break.

"She played some big tennis in big moments," Pegula said.

Sabalenka is as demonstrative as anyone, her body language usually a spot-on barometer of whether things are going well. But as she sputtered at the start Saturday, it was tough to read what she was thinking against Pegula, who eliminated Swiatek in the quarterfinals.

Even while down an early break, Sabalenka reacted to mistakes by calmly turning her back and breathing deeply.

Once Sabalenka calibrated her booming strokes — her forehands were the fastest of the past two weeks, speedier than any woman's or man's — it was apparent the outcome would be determined by her.

## Packers' Love has MCL injury, should return this year

Associated Press

Green Bay Packers quarterback Jordan Love injured his medial collateral ligament in the team's season-opening game, but didn't suffer damage to his ACL and should return at some point this season, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the team hasn't announced the severity of Love's injury. A timetable for Love's return wasn't specified.

ESPN and NFL Network first reported the update on Love, who hurt his knee on the third-to-last play of the Packers' 34-29 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles in Brazil on Friday night. ESPN reported Love could miss three to four weeks, while NFL Network estimated it at three to six weeks.

The injury occurred as Love was attempting to drive the Packers to a game-winning touchdown in the closing seconds. He had just thrown a 33-yard completion to Jayden Reed that got them near midfield. On the next play, Love faced major pressure from Jalen Carter and Josh Sweat as he threw a backward pass to Josh Jacobs.

Carter was lying down and had a hold of Love's left leg when Sweat pushed the quarterback to the ground. Love remained on the ground for several seconds, then slowly got up and limped to the sideline with assistance.

Malik Willis, who was acquired from the Tennessee Titans, replaced Love for the final two plays of the game. Willis got sacked as time expired before he could attempt a Hail Mary pass.

The 25-year-old Love was playing his first regular-season game since signing a four-year, \$220 million contract extension this summer. The Packers entered the season with Super Bowl aspirations largely because of the emergence of Love, who led the NFL's youngest team to a surprising playoff berth last season as a first-year starter.

Willis, a 2022 third-round pick from Liberty, is the only other quarterback on the Packers' 53-man roster. He made three starts his rookie year and didn't throw for as many as 100 yards in any of them.

The Packers acquired Willis from the Tennessee Titans for a 2025 seventh-round draft pick in a trade that was completed less than two weeks ago. Green Bay also has 2023 fifth-round draft pick Sean Clifford on its practice squad.

# Yankees blank Cubs for 2nd straight day

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Clarke Schmidt and Nestor Cortes combined on a four-hitter, and the New York Yankees clinched their 32nd straight winning season by blanking the Chicago Cubs 2-0 on Saturday.

Schmidt pitched 4⅓ innings of four-hit ball in his first big league game since May 26. Cortes (9-10) closed it out in his first relief appearance since 2021.

Coupled with Baltimore's 7-1 loss to Tampa Bay, New York moved back into first in the AL East. The Yankees (82-60) lead the Orioles by a half-game.

Cortes admitted he was upset when he learned he was going to pitch in relief.

"I'm never going to back down from a challenge," Cortes said. "I'm never going to leave my teammates out to dry. You're always going to get my best effort no matter if I'm happy or not. That's what I did today. I came out there and proved I can be put in any situation. From here on out, if that's my role, I'll accept it."

Schmidt had been sidelined by a right lat strain. He threw 75 pitches, 44 for strikes.

"I felt like I still had a lot of strength and I wasn't fatiguing at all," Schmidt said.

Chicago (72-70) has lost four of five on a crucial homestand as it tries to rally in the race for the third NL wild card. It beat Pittsburgh 12-0 on Wednesday, but it has managed a total of three other runs in its last five games, getting shut out three times.

**Nationals 5-8, Pirates 3-6:** Ildemaro Vargas hit a two-run double off Aroldis Chapman in visiting Washington's four-run ninth inning, and the Nationals beat Pittsburgh for a double-header sweep.

The Nationals won 5-3 in the first game. DJ Herz pitched five hitless innings and fellow rookie Dylan Crews homered.

Washington put together a

two-out rally against Chapman (5-5) in the second game. James Wood singled in Drew Millas to get the Nationals within one.

With runners on second and third, Vargas was sent up to hit for Luis García Jr. With the Nationals down to their last strike, Vargas hit a sinking liner into right field that bounced off the glove of a diving Connor Joe.

**Dodgers 7, Guardians 2:** Andy Pages hit a two-run homer to cap a six-run first inning, and host Los Angeles defeated Cleveland in an interleague match-up of division leaders.

Lane Thomas launched a two-run homer for the Guardians in the second. The AL Central leaders fell to 3-2 on their nine-game trip and have a 3½-game lead over second-place Kansas City.

**Rays 7, Orioles 1:** Yandy Diaz homered among his three hits and drove in two runs, Jose Siri denied Gunnar Henderson a potential go-ahead home run with a leaping grab and visiting Tampa Bay beat Baltimore, knocking the Orioles from the AL East lead.

Taylor Walls also homered and had two RBIs as the Rays evened the series and dropped the Orioles a half-game behind the Yankees.

**Tigers 2, Athletics 1:** Brant Hurter (4-1) pitched 5⅓ innings of one-run ball, and visiting Detroit beat Oakland.

Detroit moved back over .500 after losing three of its previous four games. The Tigers (72-71) haven't had a winning season since they went 86-75 in 2016.

**Astros 11, Diamondbacks 5:** Jose Altuve and Jeremy Peña homered as host Houston improved to 7-0 in games started by Yusei Kikuchi by beating scuffling Arizona.

Altuve had three hits and scored three times as the Astros opened up a 5½-game lead in the AL West over Seattle.

**Mets 4, Reds 0:** Jose Quintana earned his 100th career win

with 6⅓ sharp innings as surging New York extended its longest winning streak in more than six years with a victory over visiting Cincinnati.

A slumping Harrison Bader homered to spark a four-run sixth for the Mets, who have won nine straight games for the first time since April 2018. New York, which began the day tied with rival Atlanta for the final NL wild card, hasn't trailed in its last 72 innings since Aug. 30 — the longest streak in the majors this season.

**Marlins 9, Phillies 5:** Otto López was a triple shy of the cycle, Connor Norby homered and drove in three runs, and host Miami snapped NL East-leading Philadelphia's six-game winning streak with a victory over the Phillies.

Jonah Bride also homered, while Xavier Edwards and Nick Fortes had two hits each for the Marlins, who had 14 hits a day after losing 16-2 to the Phillies.

**Rangers 6, Angels 4:** Josh Smith put host Texas ahead for the first time with a two-run single in the seventh inning and the Rangers overcame a pair of two-run deficits to beat Los Angeles.

Smith's sharp liner to right field capped a three-run outburst that made it 5-4, immediately following Marcus Semien's RBI single that came after a 5-for-39 stretch for the Texas leadoff hitter.

**Brewers 5, Rockies 2:** Willy Adames and Gary Sánchez hit back-to-back homers in the first inning, William Contreras later added a two-run shot and host Milwaukee defeated Colorado.

Rookie right-hander Tobias Myers (7-5) recorded a career-high 11 strikeouts over six innings to help Milwaukee avoid a fourth consecutive loss. The NL Central-leading Brewers are the only major league team without a losing streak of at least four games this season.

**Cardinals 2, Mariners 0:** Pe-

dro Pagés hit a two-run homer off Logan Gilbert (7-11) in the eighth inning, helping host St. Louis top Seattle.

Jordan Walker was hit by a pitch before Pagés connected for his sixth homer, a drive to left-center on a 1-1 slider.

**Royals 4, Twins 2:** Bobby Witt Jr. hit a tiebreaking single in a four-run eighth inning, and host Kansas City open a 1½-game lead over Minnesota for the second AL wild-card spot.

Held to one hit over seven innings by Bailey Ober, the Royals rallied against Jhoan Durán (6-9) and Griffin Jax, winning their third straight following a season-high seven-game losing streak.

**Red Sox 7, White Sox 5:** Tyler O'Neill homered twice for host Boston in a win Saturday night that sent Chicago to its 111th loss.

The White Sox (32-111) are nine defeats shy of tying the 1962 New York Mets for the most losses since 1900 and are on pace to finish 36-126. The 1899 Cleveland Spiders hold the loss record at 20-134. Chicago has lost 14 of its last 15 games and 44 of 49.

**Blue Jays 9, Braves 5:** Spencer Horwitz homered twice among his four hits, José Berríos (15-9) pitched six effective innings and visiting Toronto beat Atlanta to knock the Braves out of the final NL wild-card spot.

With just 20 games left to play, the Braves fell one game behind the Mets with New York's 4-0 win over Cincinnati.

**Giants 6, Padres 3:** San Francisco rookie Grant McCray homered twice and drove in five runs as the visiting Giants beat San Diego.

McCray, who made his major league debut Aug. 14, put the Giants ahead 3-2 on his drive deep into the seats in right field off Dylan Cease (12-11) with two outs in the second inning. Patrick Bailey and Brett Wisely were aboard on singles.