

Suspect arrested in Charlie Kirk's slaying

Associated Press

OREM, Utah — The man accused of killing Charlie Kirk had earlier expressed to family his opposition to the viewpoints of the conservative activist, the authorities said Friday in announcing his arrest.

Tyler Robinson, 22, had become “more political” in the run-up to the shooting and had indicated to a family friend afterward that he was responsible, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox said.

Cox also cited as key pieces of evidence engravings on bullets found in a rifle believed used in the attack as well as chat messages attributed to the shooting suspect that a roommate shared with law enforcement.

“Ladies and gentlemen, we got him,” Cox told a news conference soon after the arrest was first heralded by President Donald Trump on the Fox News show “Fox & Friends.”

Robinson is believed to have acted alone, and the investigation is ongoing, Cox said.

Robinson's arrest late Thurs-

day capped a frenetic day-and-a-half search that just hours earlier seemed stuck when authorities pleaded for tips and leads from the public. The assassination captivated the public not only because of Kirk's outsize influence in conservative political circles and his close connections with Trump but also because of the pressing questions it raised about the escalating toll of political violence that has spanned the ideological spectrum.

A breakthrough came when a Robinson family member communicated to a family friend that Robinson had confessed or implied that he was responsible, information that was then shared with law enforcement.

Robinson's father recognized him from the photos released by the FBI and told him to turn himself in. Robinson refused at first, but then changed his mind, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

His father reached out for

help to their youth pastor, who also occasionally works with the U.S. Marshals and called the agency so he could turn himself in.

No criminal charges were immediately announced.

Authorities did not reveal a motive, but they did describe evidence that they said shed potential light on the slaying.

Among the evidence were engravings on bullet casings recovered from the high-powered rifle believed used in the attack, including one that said, “Hey, fascist! Catch!” Cox said.

In addition, a roommate shared with authorities messages from the chatting app Discord that involved a contact named Tyler and discussed a rifle wrapped in a towel, engraved bullets and a scope, the governor said.

The clothes the suspect wore when confronted by law enforcement late Thursday were consistent with what he had on when he arrived on campus a day earlier, Cox said.

Kirk was killed by a single

shot in what police said was a targeted attack and the governor called a political assassination. Kirk co-founded the non-profit political organization Turning Point USA, based in Arizona. He had been speaking at a debate hosted by Turning Point at Utah Valley University at the time of Wednesday's shooting.

“He wanted to help young people, and he didn't deserve this,” Trump said Friday. “He was really a good person.”

The attack, carried out in broad daylight as Kirk spoke about social issues, was captured on grisly videos that spread on social media.

The videos show Kirk, who was influential in rallying young Republican voters, speaking into a handheld microphone when suddenly a shot rings out. Kirk reaches up with his right hand as blood gushes from the left side of his neck.

Stunned spectators gasp and scream before people start running away.

France sends jets to Poland, UK ramps up sanctions

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — France said it's deploying fighter jets to Poland and Britain announced fresh sanctions on Russia's oil revenues and war machine Friday as European countries took steps to deter Moscow's aggression after an incursion by Russian drones into Polish territory.

French President Emmanuel Macron said he would deploy three advanced Rafale fighter jets to help protect Poland's airspace and NATO's eastern flank

to fulfill a commitment to Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk. The Rafales will patrol alongside other NATO aircraft in a deployment that also will include munitions and personnel on the ground, the French Defense Ministry said.

Multiple Russian drones crossed into Poland on Wednesday, prompting NATO to send fighter jets to shoot them down and underlining long-held concerns about Russia's three-year war in neighboring Ukraine expanding.

Russia said it did not target Poland and Moscow ally Belarus said were drones went astray because they were jammed, but European leaders have expressed certainty that the incursions were a deliberate provocation by Russia.

The new sanctions announced by Britain on Friday included bans on 70 vessels that the U.K. says are part of Russia's “shadow fleet” that transports Russian oil in defiance of sanctions already in place. Some 30 individuals and com-

panies — including Chinese and Turkey-based firms — also were sanctioned for their part in supplying Russia with electronics, chemicals, explosives and other weapons components.

Wednesday's multiple Russian drone flights over Polish soil have compelled NATO allies to take a closer look at the means at their disposal to counter any further threats.

A U.N. Security Council meeting called by Poland will begin later Friday to discuss the Russian drone incursions.

Newest Chinese aircraft carrier cruises through Taiwan Strait

Associated Press

BEIJING — China's newest aircraft carrier has sailed through the Taiwan Strait, the navy said Friday.

The body of water separates China from Taiwan, the self-governing island that Beijing says must come under its control.

The sailing could serve as a warning to the U.S. and others against support for Taiwan, though China played down any such motive.

The Fujian, which is doing sea trials ahead of its commissioning, was heading to the South China Sea to conduct training and scientific experiments, the navy said in a short post on social media.

The navy said the carrier's activities were not targeting anyone else.

A social media account affiliated with state media quoted an expert saying the Taiwan Strait was the normal and most reasonable and efficient route for the carrier to reach the South China Sea.

It was the first time the Fu-

jian had passed through the strait, the post by the Yuyuantan account said.

The U.S. Navy sends warships through the strait periodically, as do some of its allies, in a warning to Beijing against any attempt to use force to establish its claim to the island.

Taiwan and China split in a civil war that brought the communists to power in 1949. The defeated Nationalist government fled to Taiwan and set up its own government on the island.

The U.S. does not officially recognize the government in Taiwan, but it provides weaponry for its defense and says that any resolution of the differences between China and Taiwan should be peaceful and not by military force.

China's military said last week that it was on high alert after the Canadian frigate Quebec and the Australian destroyer Brisbane sailed through the strait.

It accused the two warships of provocative actions that it said heightened security risks.

Japan's military said it had spotted China's latest carrier for the first time on Thursday afternoon.

The Fujian, together with two guided-missile destroyers, was sailing southwest about 120 miles from the disputed Senkaku islands, or the Diaoyu islands in Chinese.

Both countries claim the remote and uninhabited string of islands.

Its latest sea trial, the ninth since May 2024, sparked renewed speculation that the ship will be officially put into service soon.

The state-owned Global Times newspaper quoted an expert saying the commissioning is expected by the end of this year.

It noted that China's previous carrier, the Shandong, was commissioned in late 2019, one month after it made its first trip though the Taiwan Strait en route to the South China Sea.

The Fujian is China's third aircraft carrier, joining the Shandong and the Liaoning.

Russia, ally launch drill in Belarus

Associated Press

Russia and Belarus on Friday launched a long-planned joint military exercise involving thousands of troops that has raised concern in the West.

The exercises, dubbed "Zapad 2025," or "West 2025," are held in Belarus and Russia and will last through Tuesday. They are intended to showcase close defense ties between Moscow and Minsk, as well as Russia's military might as it fights its 3½-year-old war in neighboring Ukraine.

The maneuvers follow an incursion of Russian drones into Polish airspace earlier this week, which fueled longstanding fears that the hostilities in Ukraine could trigger a wider conflict.

The Russia-Belarus exercises also have drawn worries in Kyiv and its Western allies of Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, which border Belarus. When Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops rolling into Ukraine in 2022, many of them crossed from Belarus following joint drills days before the attack.

Belarusian defense officials initially said about 13,000 troops would participate in the exercise that was to take place near its western border. In May, however, its Defense Ministry said the number would be cut nearly in half, and that the main maneuvers would take place deeper inside the country.

Last month, Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin said most of the drills will happen around the city of Barysaw, about 50 miles northeast of Minsk, although some "small units will carry out practical tasks to repel a hypothetical enemy" in areas close to the border with Poland and Lithuania.

Building at US Naval Academy cleared following reports of threats; 1 injured

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The United States Naval Academy was put on lockdown Thursday and a building was cleared in response to reports of threats made to the military school, and one person was injured, officials said.

The person injured was airlifted to a hospital and was in stable condition, Lt. Naweed Lemar, the spokesperson for the

base that hosts the academy, said in a statement.

By early Friday, he said the lockdown was lifted and the academy in Annapolis had "been given the all clear."

Naval Support Activity Annapolis security and local law enforcement had responded to the reports of suspicious activity, Lemar said.

Additional details about the threat and how the person was

injured were not immediately available.

Lemar had said earlier that the academy was on lockdown "out of an abundance of caution."

Police were seen near Bancroft Hall, which houses midshipmen in its more than 1,600 dorm rooms. It is considered the biggest single college dormitory in the world, according to the school's website.

Boat hit by US had turned back to shore

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military strike on what the Trump administration says was a drug-carrying speedboat from Venezuela came after the vessel had turned around and was heading back to shore, raising fresh questions as members of Congress are demanding more information about the provocative attack.

National security officials acknowledged during a closed briefing this week on Capitol Hill that the boat carrying 11 people, described by the Trump administration as Tren de Aragua gang members, was fired on multiple times by the U.S. military after it had changed course, according to two people familiar with the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

The emerging details come as the Trump administration has justified the military strike, but several senators, Democrats and some Republicans, have indicated dissatisfaction with the

administration's rationale and questioned the legality of the action. They view it as a potential overreach of executive authority in part by using the military for law enforcement purposes.

In a letter to the White House, Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia and two dozen other Democratic senators said the Trump administration has provided "no legitimate legal justification" for the strike.

Senators are demanding more information from the administration on the situation and use of U.S. military power.

"Our armed forces are not law enforcement agencies," said Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island, the top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, in a floor speech this week.

"They are not empowered to hunt down suspected criminals and kill them without trial," Reed said.

The Trump administration has claimed self-defense as a legal justification for the strike, with Secretary of State Marco

Rubio arguing the drug cartels "pose an immediate threat" to the nation. The U.S., which has designated Tren de Aragua as a terrorist organization, has indicated more military strikes on drug targets could be coming as it seeks to "wage war" on cartels.

"The President acted in line with the laws of armed conflict to protect our country from those trying to bring poison to our shores," White House spokesperson Anna Kelly said in a statement. "He is delivering on his promise to take on the cartels and eliminate these national security threats from murdering more Americans."

She said that "it's bizarre that anyone is running cover for evil Tren de Aragua narcoterrorists trying to poison our homeland as over 100,000 Americans die from overdoses every year."

The Pentagon added that drug cartels will find "no safe harbor."

"This strike sent a clear message: If you traffic drugs toward our shores, the United States

military will use every tool at our disposal to stop you cold," chief Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said.

Reed said in his speech that the administration has offered "no proof that this vessel was engaged in an attack, or even that it was engaged in drug trafficking at the time." He also said the administration has provided "no positive identification that the boat was Venezuelan, nor that its crew were members of Tren de Aragua or any other cartel."

It was unclear what the national security officials disclosed in their Hill briefing about the identities of those who were on the boat and the administration's evidence that they were gang members. One of the people familiar with the situation said some of those on the boat were affiliated, but not members, of Tren de Aragua.

It also was not clear if the national security officials provided information on the boat's destination and if it was, in fact, carrying drugs.

Court OKs blocking Medicaid funds for Planned Parenthood

Associated Press

BOSTON — A U.S. appeals court panel on Thursday allowed President Donald Trump's administration to block Medicaid funds to Planned Parenthood while legal challenges continue.

A federal judge in July ruled Planned Parenthood clinics nationwide must continue to be reimbursed for Medicaid funding as the nation's largest abortion provider fights Trump's administration over efforts to defund the organization in his signature tax legislation.

Medicaid is a government health care program that serves millions of low-income and disabled Americans. Nearly half of Planned Parenthood's patients

rely on Medicaid.

A provision in Trump's tax bill instructed the federal government to end Medicaid payments for one year to abortion providers that received more than \$800,000 from Medicaid in 2023.

That included organizations like Planned Parenthood that also offer medical services like contraception, pregnancy tests and STD testing.

Planned Parenthood said Thursday's ruling means that more than 1.1 million patients can't use their Medicaid insurance at its health centers.

That also puts as many as 200 of those health centers at risk of closure, Planned Parenthood said in a statement.

Cops: Teenage shooter in Colo. had been radicalized

Associated Press

DENVER — A 16-year-old boy who had been radicalized by an unspecified "extremist network" fired a revolver multiple times during an attack at a suburban Denver high school that wounded two students, authorities said Thursday.

Some students ran and others locked down during Wednesday's shooting at Evergreen High School in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. One of the victims was shot inside the school and another outside.

The suspect in Evergreen, student Desmond Holly, shot himself at the school and later died, said Jefferson County sheriff's office spokesperson

Jacki Kelley.

The school resource officer was on medical leave and two part-time officers who share the job were not present at the time, she said at a news conference. The officer working at the school that day had been sent earlier to a nearby accident.

Kelley said Holly had been "radicalized by some extremist network," and suggested authorities came to that conclusion after examining the suspect's home and phone.

But details on how he allegedly had been radicalized and by what group were not immediately released, with Kelley promising more information at a later date.

Trump says he'll send Guard to Memphis to address crime

Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Donald Trump said Friday he'll send the National Guard to Memphis to address crime concerns there with the support of the mayor and the governor.

Trump said on Fox News Channel "the mayor is happy" and "the governor is happy" about the pending deployment. The mayor is a Democrat, and the governor is a Republican.

He said the city is "deeply troubled" and "we're going to fix that just like we did Washington," where he's sent National Guard and surged federal law enforcement.

Since sending the National Guard to Los Angeles and

Washington, Trump has openly mused about sending troops to some of the nation's most Democratic cities — including Chicago and Baltimore — claiming they are needed to crack down on crime.

Trump said he "would have preferred going to Chicago," where local politicians have fiercely resisted his plans, but he suggested it was a "hostile" place with "professional agitators."

Trump first deployed troops to Los Angeles in early June over Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom's objections by putting the California National Guard under federal jurisdiction, known as Title 10, to protect fed-

eral property from protests over immigration raids.

Besides 4,000 guard members, Trump later sent 700 active duty Marines, and California sued over the intervention. The guard went on to help protect officers during immigration arrests.

Meanwhile, the unique status of the District of Columbia National Guard — Trump is its commander in chief — means he has been able to use it for everything from armed patrols to trash cleanup without any legal issues.

Because it is on state and not federal orders, legal restrictions on law enforcement don't come into effect.

Schumer threatens shutdown

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer weathered backlash from Democrats earlier this year when he voted with Republicans to keep the government open. But he's now willing to risk a shutdown at the end of the month if Republicans don't accede to Democratic demands.

Schumer says he and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries are united in opposing any legislation that doesn't include key health care provisions and a commitment not to roll them back. He argues that the country is in a different place than it was in March, when he vigorously argued against a shutdown, and he says he believes Republicans and President Donald Trump will be held responsible if they don't negotiate a bipartisan deal.

"Things have changed" since the March vote, Schumer said Thursday. He said Republicans have since passed Trump's massive tax breaks and spending cuts legislation, which trimmed Medicaid and other government programs, and Democrats are now unified — unlike in March, when he voted with Republicans and Jeffries voted against legislation to fund the government.

A shutdown, Schumer said, wouldn't necessarily worsen an environment in which Trump is already challenging the authority of Congress.

"It will get worse with or without it, because Trump is lawless," Schumer said.

Schumer's threat comes as Republicans consider a short-term spending measure to avoid a Sept. 30 shutdown and as Democrats face what most see as tough choices if the parties can't reach a deal — vote with Republicans to keep the government open or let it close indefinitely with no clear exit plan.

GOP invokes 'nuclear option' in push to change Senate rules, OK nominees

The Washington Post

Republicans moved Thursday to speed up Senate confirmation of President Donald Trump's nominees by changing the chamber's rules over the objections of Democrats.

Senators voted 53-45 to allow themselves to change the rules with a simple majority instead of 60 votes — a move known as the "nuclear option."

The rules change will allow the Senate to confirm multiple people at once, helping to clear a backlog of nearly 150 nominees awaiting floor votes. Republicans argue it is necessary because Democrats have held up the confirmation process by forcing time-consuming votes on each nominee rather than allowing some of them to be confirmed by voice votes, which is faster.

The change excludes Cabinet officials, Supreme Court justices and federal judges, who must

be confirmed one by one.

"Democrats and their political base cannot deal with the fact that the American people elected President Trump," Senate Majority Leader John Thune said Thursday on the Senate floor. "And so they're dragging out every confirmation in retaliation."

The rules change is the latest instance of the majority party using the "nuclear option" to make it easier to confirm nominees without the consent of the minority.

Senate Democrats changed the rules in 2013 to allow most nominees to be confirmed with a simple majority rather than 60 votes. Senate Republicans did the same for Supreme Court nominees in 2017 when they held the majority. They also reduced debate time for most nominees in 2019.

Some Democrats said they agreed that the nominations

process was broken. But they said they had stalled Trump's nominees because they believe they are "historically bad."

Democrats argued that they tried to negotiate with Republicans last month to confirm more nominees in exchange for the Trump administration releasing some funding that it had held up. But Trump torpedoed the deal, encouraging Republicans to go home for their summer break and telling Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer on social media to "GO TO HELL!"

Thune has teed up 48 nominees whom the rules change will allow to be confirmed by a single Senate vote as early as next week. They include officials at the Environmental Protection Agency, the Energy Department, the Interior Department and the Defense Department as well as several ambassadors.

Love, Kraft lead the way over Commanders

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Jordan Love and the Green Bay Packers have delivered a strong opening statement to the rest of the NFL.

It helps that he's not facing the kind of pass rush that his teammates are bringing to opposing quarterbacks.

Love threw for 292 yards and two touchdowns and the Packers beat the Washington Commanders 27-18 on Thursday night. Couple that with their 27-13 victory over the Detroit Lions on Sunday, and the Packers already have two wins over playoff teams from last season.

"It feels good," Love said. "We couldn't have started the season off on a better note. It's a thing we've just got to keep building on, but it feels great right now."

Tight end Tucker Kraft caught six passes for a career-high 124 yards to help the Packers go 2-0 for the first time since 2020. Love and Kraft connected for an 8-yard touchdown strike with 8:57 left to

thwart the Commanders' comeback attempt.

"Hopefully, I can keep stacking games like that," Kraft said. "It's the first time I've ever gotten over 100 yards, including college."

Love went 19 of 31 to lead an offense that was playing without injured linemen Zach Tom and Aaron Banks. Love's other touchdown pass was a 5-yarder to Romeo Doubs in the first quarter.

That was more than enough offense for Green Bay, considering how much its defense bothered Commanders quarterback Jayden Daniels.

Washington (1-1) gained just 11 yards in the first quarter and didn't reach the end zone until scoring a pair of touchdowns in the final period.

"We played consistent," said Packers defensive end Micah Parsons, who had half a sack and three hurries. "We gave up some things that we didn't want to, more points than what we wanted to, but we made them earn everything, and that's just

important. No big plays, we made them earn everything, and that's the good part."

This could be a costly defeat for the Commanders, as running back Austin Ekeler injured his right Achilles tendon in the fourth quarter and defensive end Deatrich Wise Jr. was carted off the field with a quadriceps injury in the second period.

Commanders coach Dan Quinn had no immediate update on their conditions after the game.

Daniels was 24 of 42 for 200 yards with touchdown passes of 20 yards to Zach Ertz and 10 yards to Deebo Samuel. Daniels was sacked four times and pressured all night.

"They played better than us," Daniels said. "Not really much (else) to say."

The Packers have won their last seven home matchups with Washington, which hasn't beaten the Packers on the road since a 20-17 victory at Milwaukee County Stadium in 1988.

Washington's last win at

Lambeau Field was a 16-7 decision in 1986.

Green Bay built a 14-3 halftime lead by putting together two touchdown drives of 90-plus yards.

Doubs' touchdown capped a seven-play, 96-yard drive that included a 57-yard completion to Kraft, plus a 14-yard scramble by Love on third-and-9 from Washington's 19.

Josh Jacobs made it 14-0 with a 2-yard touchdown run to finish a 10-play, 92-yard march that featured a 37-yard completion to Malik Heath, who did an outstanding job of keeping both feet inbounds while making a catch at Washington's sideline. Jacobs finished with 84 yards on 23 carries.

Washington gained 23 yards on its first three series before getting on the board with a 51-yard field goal from Matt Gay, who later missed from 58 and 52 yards.

"I just felt like we didn't find the rhythm that we needed to, really from jump street," Quinn said.

No preseason, no problem for Allen, Jackson, Rodgers

Associated Press

Josh Allen and Lamar Jackson didn't play a snap in the preseason. They didn't need it.

Allen and Jackson were spectacular in their first game action of the season. Jackson led the Baltimore Ravens to a 15-point, fourth-quarter lead only to watch Allen rally the Buffalo Bills to a 41-40 victory.

So much for rust.

Allen was 33 of 46 for 394 yards with two touchdown passes and two more rushing. Jack-

son was 14 of 19 for 209 yards and two TDs plus 70 yards rushing and another score.

"It's trusting, trusting our process, trusting our other 10 guys on the football field, trusting what Joe's (offensive coordinator Joe Brady) calling, and really sticking to our fundamentals and how we worked during training camp, and really just trying to pick up where we left off from last year," Allen said on the AP's "On Football" podcast.

The reigning NFL MVP sat

out the entire preseason for the first time in his career. But Allen was sharp against a tough defense. He had 251 of his passing yards in the fourth quarter.

Jackson, a two-time MVP and three-time All-Pro, hasn't played in the preseason since 2021. He just steps on the field and dazzles whenever he gets an opportunity.

NFL coaches have to make difficult decisions each preseason, choosing whether to rest starters or put them in harm's

way in meaningless games.

Green Bay's Jordan Love injured his hand in an exhibition game but was ready to play in Week 1.

Sitting out doesn't mean guys will be ineffective. Allen and Jackson demonstrated that. So did Aaron Rodgers.

Rodgers was among the 10 starting quarterbacks who didn't get any reps in exhibition games. He was outstanding in the opener, tossing four TD passes to lead Pittsburgh to a win.

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NC State rallies past Wake Forest 34-24

Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — CJ Bailey connected with Keenan Jackson for the 12-yard go-ahead touchdown early in the fourth quarter to help N.C. State beat Wake Forest 34-24 on Thursday night.

Bailey threw three TD passes for the Wolfpack (3-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), two going to Justin Joly. That helped N.C. State rally from a quick 14-0 deficit — the first score coming on a 98-yard kickoff return to open the game — and overcome a second double-digit deficit in as many games.

“What a terrible start, with the kickoff return for a touchdown,” Wolfpack coach Dave Doeren said. “The thing you love is just, we’re tested. We’ve been down a couple of times.

These guys know how to fight back.”

The Wolfpack also got a big-man touchdown with 6-foot-3, 280-pound defensive tackle Isaiah Shirley snatching an errant pass and rumbling 41 yards for a TD return late in the first quarter.

N.C. State added a key interception from Ronnie Royal III with 5:02 left.

Chris Barnes had the big return to open the game and added a 70-yard catch-and-run on a deep ball for Wake Forest, the latter leading to Demond Claiborne’s short TD run for the 14-0 lead.

“We believe in each other,” said Wolfpack running back Hollywood Smothers, who ran for 163 yards. “We’re going to fight. We might bend, we’ll nev-

er break. We believe in each other, we believe in the man next to each other. ... We knew the game wasn’t over.”

Robby Ashford also ran for a touchdown on a short keeper for the Demon Deacons (2-1, 0-1), who lost for the first time under new coach Jake Dickert.

“I’m not too energized by losses so much,” Dickert said. “I’m not a moral victory guy. But we’re a better football team today than we were three weeks ago, and that’s a big deal. We’re going to continue to fight.”

The takeaway for N.C. State: It’s the program’s first 3-0 start since 2022, along with its first back-to-back road wins in the long-running in-state series since 1993 and 1995.

The takeaway for Wake Forest: The Demon Deacons’ early

lead fizzled along with the offense, which stalled late in the first half and didn’t post another first down until a targeting call on the Wolfpack a play before Royal’s pick. Wake Forest finished with 44 second-half yards.

“That’s a bad half of football,” Dickert said.

Smoky look: Smoke filled the air for several minutes during the first quarter due to a malfunctioning meat smoker in a food truck for fans at Allegacy Stadium. The ESPN broadcast showed footage of a worker in the truck using a fire extinguisher, though school athletics spokesman Will Pantages said there were no injuries.

Stadium officials briefly cleared the area and the area fire department was on hand to ensure everything was OK.

5 players acquitted of sex charges eligible for NHL

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL is reinstating five players who were acquitted of sexual assault charges stemming from an incident in 2018 when they were members of Canada’s world junior team, announcing Thursday they will be eligible to sign a contract Oct. 15 and take part in games Dec. 1.

The move comes roughly seven weeks since Carter Hart, Michael McLeod, Dillon Dube, Cal Foote and Alex Formenton were found not guilty by a judge in London, Ontario. The Canadian government told lawyers for the players last month it would not appeal the ruling.

They were not in the NHL at the time of the incident.

None of the players had current contracts and all are free agents. Hart was with Philadelphia, McLeod and Foote with New Jersey, and Dube with Calgary, while Formenton was playing in Europe, and their re-

spective teams let their previous deals expire last year after charges were laid.

The NHL conducted its own investigation beginning in the spring of 2022 when the allegations came to light. It called the events that transpired “deeply troubling and unacceptable” and that while they were not found to be criminal, said the players’ conduct did not meet the standard of moral integrity.

The players met with league officials after the verdict and expressed regret and remorse, the NHL said. Keeping them from playing until Dec. 1 brings their total time away to nearly two years.

The NHL Players’ Association in a statement said it was pleased Dube, Foote, Formenton, Hart and McLeod are getting the opportunity to resume their careers.

Training camps open next week, and the season begins Oct. 7.

Olympic sprinter Knighton gets 4-year ban over steroids

Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Two-time Olympic finalist Erryon Knighton was banned for four years on Friday in a doping case of an anabolic steroid that rules the U.S. sprinter out of the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said its judges upheld separate appeals by the World Anti-Doping Agency and track and field investigators filed after Knighton, 21, was cleared by a tribunal in the U.S. that accepted he was contaminated by eating meat.

WADA and the Athletics Integrity Unit argued the evidence that had been presented was statistically impossible and asked for a maximum four-year ban, the court said.

Knighton is the sixth-fastest man in track history over 200 meters, with a best time of 19.49 seconds. Only Noah Lyles and Michael Johnson are ahead of him among American sprinters.

The first tribunal ruling last year let Knighton run at the Paris Olympics where he placed fourth in the 200.

“After considering the scientific evidence, the CAS panel determined that there is no proof that would support the conclusion that oxtail imported into the USA would be likely to contain trenbolone residues at the level required to have caused the (positive test),” the court said.

The ban that starts Friday is cut for the more than two months of a provisional suspension Knighton served last year, CAS said. The ban should expire in early July 2029.

The steroid Knighton tested positive for can be used in livestock farming.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency prosecuted Knighton’s original case and accepted the “no-fault” ruling based on the explanation he was contaminated by oxtail from a bakery in Florida.

Judge ties DiMaggio in Yankees' 9-3 win

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge hit two home runs to tie Hall of Fame outfielder Joe DiMaggio for fourth place in Yankees history as New York beat the Detroit Tigers 9-3 on Thursday night to avert a three-game sweep.

On the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, President Donald Trump attended the game and watched from a suite on the third base side.

Judge homered off Tyler Holton (5-5) in the first inning and matched DiMaggio by launching his 361st career homer with a 434-foot drive to the back of the Detroit bullpen off Sawyer Gipson-Long in the third.

Judge had his sixth multi-homer game this season and pulled even with DiMaggio two nights after passing Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Berra for fifth on the franchise list.

The two-time AL MVP had three hits and ended the night with a major league-best .322 batting average, three points ahead of Athletics rookie shortstop Jacob Wilson.

Giancarlo Stanton followed Judge's second solo shot with his 449th homer, tying Hall of Famers Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Jeff Bagwell for 41st on the career list.

Including the postseason, it was the 56th time Judge and Stanton homered in the same game and fifth time this season.

Ben Rice hit an RBI double and José Caballero, Austin Slater, Cody Bellinger and Jazz Chisholm Jr. had run-scoring singles as the Yankees moved a half-game ahead of Boston for the top American League wild card heading into a three-game series at Fenway Park this weekend.

New York rookie Cam Schlitler (3-3) bounced back from his worst start and allowed one run on three hits in six innings.

Blue Jays 6, Astros 0: Kevin Gausman pitched a two-hitter for his fourth career complete

game, Davis Schneider homered and drove in two and Toronto beat struggling Houston.

The AL East-leading Blue Jays improved to 47-25 at home and 63-4 when they score five or more.

Gausman (10-10) struck out nine and walked one. The crowd of 41,224 rose for a standing ovation when he came out for the ninth. He threw 100 pitches, 79 strikes.

Gausman retired the final 17 batters he faced, six of them by strikeout. Both hits he allowed were singles. Jeremy Peña had a leadoff hit in the fourth and advanced to third on a one-out single by Carlos Correa. Gausman escaped by getting Jose Altuve to pop up and striking out Jesús Sánchez.

The AL West-leading Astros have lost four straight series, going 4-8 against the Angels, Yankees, Rangers and Blue Jays.

George Springer led off the first with an infield single and scored when Nathan Lukes doubled off the left-field wall.

Lukes advanced on a grounder and scored when Barger's double got lost in the sun and fell in front of right fielder Sánchez.

Schneider made it 3-0 with a leadoff homer in the second, his 11th.

Daulton Varsho tripled to begin the fourth and scored on Schneider's sacrifice fly.

Houston's Cristian Javier (1-3) allowed four runs and six hits in six innings, his second straight losing start.

Orioles 3, Pirates 2: Rookie Dylan Beavers drove in the winning run for a second straight day, and Baltimore won to finish a three-game sweep and hand Pittsburgh its sixth straight loss.

Jackson Holliday singled and stole his 16th base to lead off the seventh against Colin Holderman (0-2). Gunnar Henderson was walked intentionally with one out and Holderman left after striking out Emmanuel Rivera. Evan Sisk entered and Bea-

vers singled on a 3-2 pitch for a 3-2 lead. Beavers singled in the winning run in the 10th inning for a 2-1 victory on Wednesday.

Jared Triolo singled to lead off the first against Cade Povich before scoring on a two-out base hit by Nick Gonzales to put the Pirates up 1-0.

Jeremiah Jackson had a one-out single off Johan Oviedo in the Orioles' first and Henderson followed with his career-high 31st double. Rivera tied it 1-1 with a groundout.

Colton Cowser drew a leadoff walk in the second, stole his 10th base and scored on a two-out single by Coby Mayo to put the Orioles up 2-1.

White Sox 5, Rays 1: Colson Montgomery and Kyle Teel drove in two runs each to back 5½ scoreless innings from fellow rookie Shane Smith, and Chicago beat Tampa Bay in the rubber game of the series.

Chase Meidroth led off the first with a single off Ian Seymour and Curtis Mead's double moved him to third. Montgomery drove in both with a one-out single. Teel had a two-run pinch hit single in the sixth for a 5-0 lead, extending his on-base streak to 20 games.

Smith (6-7) allowed four hits and a walk in his 26th start. Tyler Alexander surrendered Junior Caminero's RBI groundout in the eighth for the Rays' only run. Jordan Leasure pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his eighth save.

Michael A. Taylor had an RBI single before Teel's base hit in the three-run sixth.

Seymour (3-2) gave up three runs on five hits and two walks in 5½ innings. Joey Gerber struck out two in two perfect innings in his first appearance in 1,811 days. Gerber last pitched on Sept. 27, 2020, when he made 17 appearances for the Mariners in his only season.

The Rays (72-74) have lost five of six following a seven-game win streak.

Marlins 5, Nationals 0: Eric Waganman had three hits and

drove three runs, Ryan Weathers allowed five hits and struck out four over five innings in his first appearance in three months, and Miami beat Washington.

Weathers (2-1), who had been sidelined since June 7 with a left lat strain, was activated from the injured list on Thursday.

Jakob Marssee doubled and singled for the Marlins, who split the four-game set and won the season series against their NL East opponent, 7-6.

Miami scored quickly against Washington starter MacKenzie Gore (5-14) on Heriberto Hernández's sacrifice fly and Waganman's RBI single in the first.

Waganman hit a two-run double and scored on Joey Wiemer's sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Tyler Phillips followed Weathers with two innings of relief before Ronny Henriquez and Michael Petersen pitched an inning each to complete the shutout.

Phillies 6, Mets 4: Jesús Luzardo retired 22 straight batters after giving up four runs in the first inning, and Philadelphia stormed back to beat reeling New York to complete a four-game sweep.

Otto Kemp homered and had three RBIs for the Phillies, who have won eight of 10 overall and are poised to secure their second straight division title. The victory pushed their NL East lead over the Mets to 11 games with 15 to play, and they could clinch this weekend against Kansas City.

New York dropped the last six games of a 3-7 road trip, trimming its lead over Cincinnati and San Francisco to 1½ games for the final National League wild card.

Luzardo (14-6) fell behind 4-0 in the first but did not allow a baserunner over the next seven innings. Jhoan Duran struck out all three batters in the ninth for his 29th save, as the final 25 Mets batters were retired.

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Track faces troubles heading toward LA

Associated Press

TOKYO — It was small news that dropped during a busy sports week in June. A much-hyped track meet in Los Angeles fronted by one of the sport's greats, Michael Johnson, was being canceled.

It marked the second major event pulled off the 2025 calendar in a city once known for its glamorous melding of track and fame — and the news came a mere three years before Los Angeles hosts its first Summer Olympics since 1984.

The lead-up to the LA Games was supposed to be a time to return the sport to the glory days that peaked in '84, when Carl Lewis, Edwin Moses and the rest of track's stars ran and jumped in the Coliseum by day.

But in some ways, the sport feels more divided and less organized than it's ever been — bogged down by the seeming collapse of Johnson's much-hyped track circuit, a U.S.

media deal that makes the sport harder to find and top stars like Noah Lyles, Sha'Carri Richardson, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and an ever-churning cycle of Jamaican sprinters who don't line up against each other enough.

It came to a tipping point when the cancellations of two meets set for UCLA's Drake Stadium — a U.S. Grand Prix event and Johnson's Grand Slam Track league — were announced within a few weeks.

"It's one of the odd situations for a sport that has such an incredible history and legacy, an incredible athlete base," said Casey Wasserman, the president of the LA organizing committee. "It's an odd thing that there isn't a great track meet here."

The buzz was palpable as track and field closed down the Paris Olympics.

There was drama over each of the 10 days of action bookend-

ed by Lyles' .005-second victory in the men's 100 and distance star Sifan Hassan elbowing her way to victory in the women's marathon to capture her third medal of the Games.

"This is our moment," World Athletics President Sebastian Coe declared at the time. "We can't sort of allow this to glide-path gently into anything other than a really successful 2028."

What happened over the ensuing 12 months has been anything but gentle.

Most of the attention revolved around Grand Slam Track, the multimillion-dollar start-up brought to life by Johnson who, like so many in the sport's hierarchy, tired of seeing the athletes fade into the background once the Olympic torch went out.

He offered big money and promised head-on-head racing. McLaughlin-Levrone and Olympic gold medalist Gabby Thomas signed on. Lyles and

Richardson did not.

That league promised four meets, but problems began after the opener in Jamaica that failed to wow potential investors. A few weeks before the season-ending LA meet was scheduled came news that virtually none of the runners who signed up were getting paid.

"Understandably, this has led to frustration, disappointment and inconvenience to our athletes," Johnson wrote on the league's Instagram page last month, responding to reports that the \$30 million in seed money he touted turned out to be more like \$13 million. "I know this damages trust."

Moses, the legendary hurdler who spent his career advocating for track stars to get paid, said he heard complaints from every corner.

"It just shakes the pillars of track and field, when an athlete can't get paid and they've already competed," he said.

Rookie's 2-run homer lifts Guardians over Royals

FROM PAGE 7

Guardians 3, Royals 2: Rookie C.J. Kayfus hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning as Cleveland rallied for a victory over Kansas City.

Cleveland (75-71) has won six of seven and took three of four in the series against its AL Central rival as it tries to stay in contention for the final AL wild card spot.

The Guardians trail Seattle by three games with 15 games remaining.

Kansas City's Vinnie Pasquantino became the fourth left-handed batter in Royals history to record 30 home runs in a season with a two-run drive in the first inning.

The last Royals lefty batter to reach the mark was Mike Moustakas with 38 in 2017.

The others were John May-

berry (34 in 1975) and Hall of Famer George Brett (30 in 1985).

The Royals (74-73) have gone 4-6 in their last 10 games and are 4½ games back for the final wild card.

Guardians' catcher Bo Naylor led off the eighth with a base hit to right field. Kayfus followed with a towering 425-foot drive to right-center on a low fastball on a 1-0 count from John Schreiber (3-3) for his third homer of the season.

Matt Festa (4-3) got the win with a scoreless eighth inning. Cade Smith hit Jonathan India with a fastball to lead off the ninth and then retired the next three batters for his 13th save.

Padres 2, Rockies 0: Jackson Merrill homered and Randy Vásquez struck out a career-high nine in six strong innings for San Diego, who beat last-

place Colorado to open a four-game series.

The Padres pulled 2½ games behind the first-place Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West and opened a four-game lead over the New York Mets for the second of three National League wild cards.

The Padres were coming off a home series loss to Cincinnati and won for just the fourth time in 11 games. They have the easiest remaining schedule among playoff contenders but dropped consecutive series to Minnesota and Baltimore before taking two of three at Colorado last weekend.

Merrill hit an opposite-field shot to left off McCade Brown (0-4) with two outs in the fourth. His 11th homer of the season gave San Diego a 2-0 lead.

Luis Arraez singled home Freddy Fermin in the third.

Mariners 7, Angels 6, 12 innings: Rookie pinch-hitter Harry Ford drove in the winning run with a sacrifice fly in the 12th inning and Seattle beat Los Angeles to move into a tie with Houston atop the AL West.

It was the second straight walk-off victory in extra innings for the Mariners, who extended their win streak to six games. Leo Rivas hit a two-run homer in the 13th inning Wednesday night to complete a series sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Seattle became the first team to play consecutive games that lasted at least 12 innings since Major League Baseball introduced the automatic runner for extra innings in 2020.

Mike Trout launched his 399th career home run for the Angels, tying it 4-all in the fifth inning after they fell behind 4-0 in the second.