UofM's PSI unveils domestic violence strategic plan; Gets three-year grant from TN Office of Criminal Justice

MEMPHIS, TN - The Public Safety Institute (PSI) at the University of Memphis received a three-year $376,000 grant from the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs to spearhead development of and then evaluate a coordinated community response to domestic violence.

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The PSI represents a unique opportunity to assist practitioners in this effort, as it serves as a neutral, central entity to connect faculty and practitioners in the Memphis and Shelby County community on funding and research opportunities to drive academic-practitioner partnerships. A sustained, coordinated approach to domestic violence is needed so that there is (1) increased collaboration between domestic violence social service and criminal justice agencies and (2) reduced recidivism of offenders in domestic violence incidents, especially aggravated assaults involving guns. Within the first year, a task force consisting of (1) a steering committee (i.e., the heads or main representatives of local law enforcement, the Domestic Violence Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Family Safety Center, and key Shelby County justice programs); (2) a service providers group (i.e., the main domestic violence advocacy and social service agencies); and (3) a criminal justice practitioners' group (i.e., representatives from law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, and city and county government) was formed to develop a strategic plan identifying gaps and barriers in service delivery and criminal justice responses. Over the next two years, a process evaluation (examining the task force formation, strategic plan development, and plan implementation) and an impact evaluation (examining the impact of these collaborations on client outcomes and offender recidivism) will evaluate the efficacy of implementation of the strategic plan and its impact on practitioners, service providers, and the community at large. Ultimately, this coordinated community response will be effective if (1) victims are aware of existing services, including services that support and empower victims to leave their abusers for good; (2) there is easy access to those services; (3) there are adequate services to meet the demand; and (4) effective steps are taken to reduce the number and percentage of offenders, especially repeat offenders.

A Report Card has been created to monitor the status of specific tasks in the strategic plan. The entire strategic plan and the report card are available on the PSI website at https://www.memphis.edu/psi/research/index.php.

Global American football family welcomes flag football in Olympic Games ... from sports page 1

the biggest-ever IFAF World Flag Football Championships to be held in Lahti, Finland in August 2024.

Pierre TROCHET, President of the International Federation of American Football, said:

"This is a huge moment for our sport and our global American football community. We are grateful to everyone who has played a part in what has been a truly collective journey - and a journey that will now continue in partnership with LA28, whom we thank for their vision and leadership.

"We are convinced that flag football will offer an exciting new dimension to the Games – uniting them, for the first time in history, with America's number one sport in its youngest, most accessible and inclusive format, which is already spearheading extraordinary growth, particularly among youth audiences, women and girls and in new countries worldwide. We have no doubt that inclusion in the Olympic Games will further accelerate this dynamic."

Diana FLORES, The World Games gold medalist and Chair of the IFAF Athletes' Committee, said:

"To compete in the Olympic Games is the ultimate dream of every athlete, and millions of flag football players around the world will go to sleep dreaming of Los Angeles 2028 tonight. I want to thank everyone who has made this possible - including all my fellow athletes and ambassadors who have played such a central role in driving the project forward.

"Together, we are determined to use this incredible stage to showcase the best of flag football - its speed, athleticism and creativity, and also its power to transform lives and include new communities in sports. As an athlete community, we are proud to be leading the way, but our goal must be to use this opportunity to inspire, lift up and empower a new generation around the world."

Roger GOODELL, National Football League Commissioner, said:

"Congratulations to the International Federation of American Football on this landmark achievement for flag football and the global community that loves and plays our game.

"It's a tremendous honor for any athlete to represent their country at the Olympics. We have no doubt that this decision will inspire millions of young people around the world to play this game in the years ahead.

"The NFL is committed to working together to strengthen flag football's place in the Olympic movement long term, and we look forward to continuing this exciting journey with IFAF, the LA28 Organizing Committee, the International Olympic Committee and USA Football."

Scott HALLENBECK, CEO of USA Football and IFAF Vice President, said:

"Today is a momentous day for American football. We are incredibly thankful to the IOC and LA28 Organizing Committee for recognizing flag football as a sport worthy of inclusion in the Olympic Games, and we share our excitement and celebrate this historic occasion with the millions of flag football players across our country.

"The decision to add flag football to the 2028 Summer Olympic program in Los Angeles is an acknowledgment of the sport's tremendous international growth and appeal as a fast, exciting and competitive sport.

"USA Football works tirelessly to support the sport's exponential growth at all levels by encouraging the creation of more pathways to play, and inclusion in the Olympic Games will have a transformative impact on our sport – from the grassroots level to our elite US National Teams.

"As the governing body of American Football in the United States, we are committed to continuing to work closely with IFAF, the USOPC and the NFL as we pursue our collective efforts to grow the game for current and future generations."

NFL extends Goodell's contract to 2027

N.Y., N.Y. - The Compensation Committee updated the full ownership on Oct. 18 that an agreement has been reached to extend Commissioner Roger Goodell's contract for three years, through March 2027

Showboats Select-a-Seat event set for October 22 for 2024 season tickets ... from sports page 1

perience is phenomenal.

"It will be a fun and entertaining afternoon for the whole family with locker room tours and a Kids Zone among other highlights."

The Showboats finished last season with a 5-5 record highlighted by a four-game winning streak. Showboats kick returner and wide receiver Derrick Dillon was named the 2023 USFL Special Teams Player of the Year. Dillon, who won a national championship at LSU with quarterback Joe Burrow, led the USFL with 1,109 all-purpose yards and in kick returns with a 32.8-yard average. The highlight of the season was Dillon's 109-yard "Kick-6" touchdown return of a missed 59-yard field goal by Pittsburgh Maulers kicker Chris Blewitt en route to a 22-0 Showboats win on May 20, earning him USFL Special Teams Player of the Week. The touchdown set a USFL record and tied the American professional football record for the longest return in history with the NFL's Antonio Cromartie, Cordarrelle Patterson and Jamal Agnew.

"I cannot wait for the upcoming Showboats season," said Dillon. "The Memphis fans were outstanding this past season, and I can't wait for them to be with us again in 2024. The Select-a-Seat event will give everyone a head start picking out new seats, adding seats as well as welcoming new season ticket holders. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on Oct. 22."

Dillon earned his second USFL Special Teams Player of the Week honor after he returned the opening kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown against the eventual USFL Champion Birmingham Stallions on June 17.

More accolades for the Showboats came when both Dillon and wide receiver teammate Ryan McDaniel finished in the top two of the 18 awe-inspiring plays chosen to start the FOX Sports USFL 2023 Play of the Year Fan Vote competition.

McDaniel's wild one-handed touchdown reception vs. the Houston Gamblers edged out Dillon's Kick-6 109-yard touchdown return with 52.1% of the final vote

Memphis Grizzlies sign Preston and Allen and waive Hurt and Mulder

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The Memphis Grizzlies announced the team signed guard Jason Preston and wing Timmy Allen. Per team policy, terms of the deals were not disclosed. In addition, the Grizzlies waived forward Matthew Hurt and guard Mychal Mulder.

Preston (6-3, 181) appeared in 37 games (33 starts) for the Ontario Clippers last season during the NBA G League Showcase and regular season and averaged 15.3 points, 5.5 rebounds and 7.1 assists in 32.8 minutes. The Orlando native also saw action in 14 games during his NBA rookie campaign with the Los Angeles Clippers and averaged 2.9 points, 1.6 rebounds and 1.9 assists in 8.8 minutes

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Allen (6-6, 210) started all 35 games and averaged 10.5 points, 5.6 rebounds and 3.5 assists in 28.4 minutes last season as a redshirt senior at Texas. The Arizona native was named to the 2021-22 All-Big 12 Second Team and Big 12 All-Newcomer Team the previous season with the Longhorns following three years at Utah, where he was selected to the 2020-21 All-Pac 12 First Team. Undrafted in the 2023 NBA Draft, the 23-year-old competed for the Grizzlies during the 2023 Salt Lake Summer League and NBA Summer League 2023 in Las Vegas.

Hurt (6-9, 235), who signed with Memphis on Sept. 30, appeared in two preseason games and totaled three points, three rebounds and one assist. The 23-year-old Minnesota native appeared in 45 games (13 starts) for the Memphis Hustle last season and averaged 13.9 points, 3.9 rebounds and 1.3 assists in 23.0 minutes during the NBA G League Showcase and regular season.

Mulder (6-3, 184), who also signed with Memphis on Sept. 30, competed in two preseason games and recorded three points and two rebounds. The 29-year-old native of Canada has played three NBA seasons with the Golden State Warriors, Orlando Magic and Miami Heat and five NBA G League seasons with the Windy City Bulls and Sioux Falls Skyforce.

Clara Bednarek named to American Athletic Conference Weekly Honor Roll for first time

Clara Bednarek

"Clara put together a great weekend both on the offensive and defensive side of the ball," head coach Sean Burdette shared. "She greatly impacted the opponents attacking and came away with numerous stuff blocks but also disrupted their attackers by touching and controlling a lot as well. She also had a good weekend serving."

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The Memphis Tiger volleyball team picked up a weekly honor on Monday with Clara Bednarek being named to the American Athletic Conference Honor Roll.

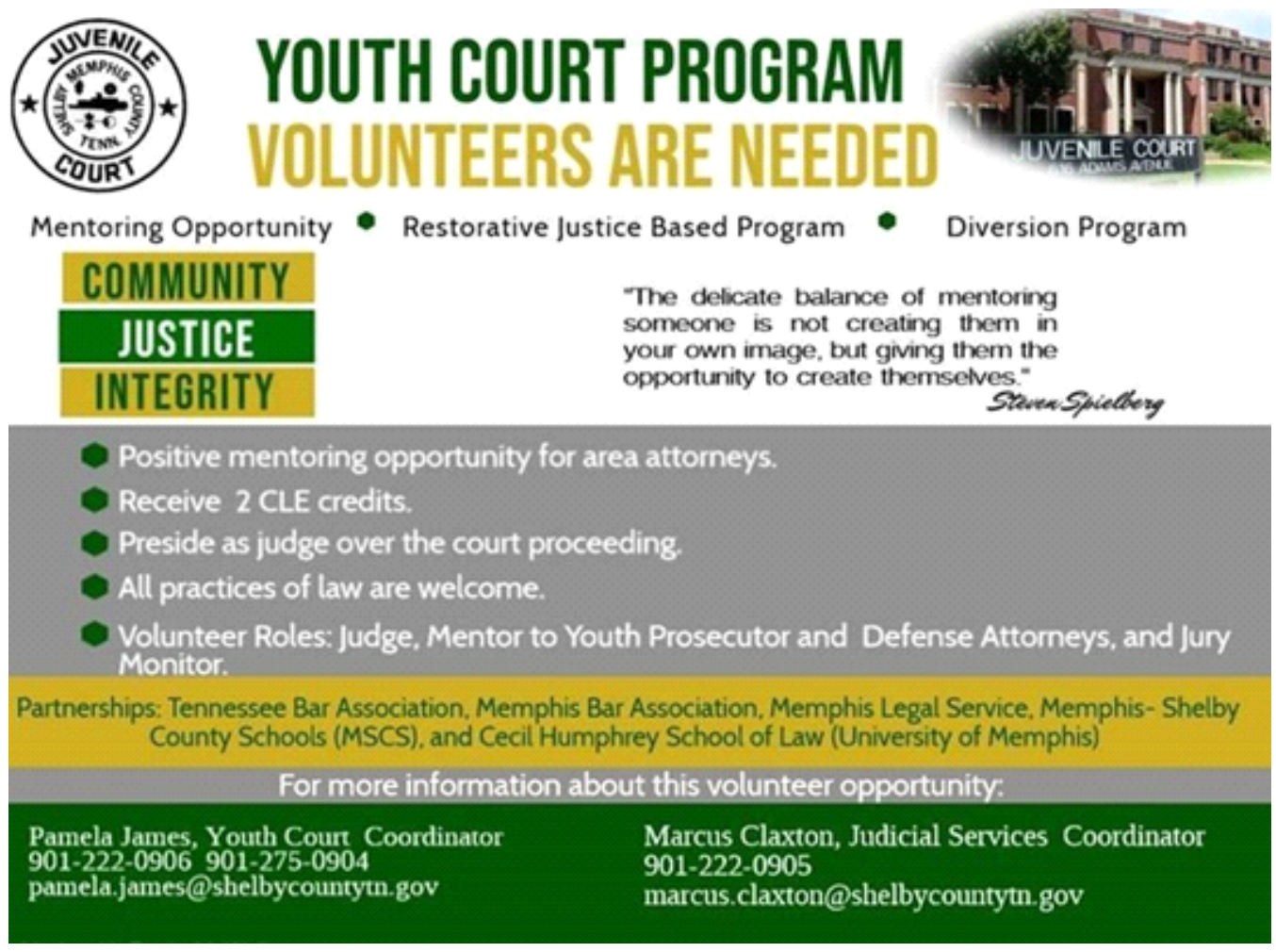
Bednarek, a senior from Coolidge, Ariz., has been a crucial part of the Tigers recent win streak, with a big performance last weekend in their series against UAB.

"Clara put together a great weekend both on the offensive and defensive side of the ball," head coach Sean Burdette shared. "She greatly impacted the opponents attacking and came away with numerous stuff blocks but also disrupted their attackers by touching and controlling a lot as well. She also had a good weekend serving."

Memphis put up a season high 12 blocks on Oct. 13 against the Blazers, led by Bednarek, who posted seven block assists in the win. She finished the weekend with 11 blocks to her name along with 16 kills, 3.21 points per set and one service ace.

This is the first AAC Weekly Award nod for Bednarek.

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Volleyball, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Watch for
The Mid-South Tribune's
"Education & Economics" Special Edition.

Education is colorless.