

Sports & Entertainment

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Happy 2026 and Happy 250th to America!

A Happy Ending to 2025...

Memphis Grizzlies spread cheer across the Mid-South with a season of giving back

— *Players, Coaches and Staff Unite to Give Back During the Holiday Season* —

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Memphis Grizzlies celebrated the holiday season during the months of November and December with their annual Season of Giving initiative, striving to make a difference in the lives of underserved families and youth throughout Memphis and the Mid-South area.

The Grizzlies' Season of Giving tipped-off with **IMPACT Day** on Saturday, Nov. 15, supporting 75 families in the Downtown Memphis community through the distribution of food, essential care packages and daily kitchen necessities, courtesy of **Kroger GrizzFam**—people who play a significant role in the lives of Grizzlies players, coaches and basketball operations staff—teamed up with **Salvation Army** to serve Thanksgiving dinner to families at the **Purdue Center of Hope** on Thursday, Nov. 21, with more than 80 women and children in attendance.

Prior to the Grizzlies home game against the Denver Nuggets on Monday, Nov. 24, the team hosted a canned food drive, encouraging all fans to bring non-perishable food items to the game, benefiting the **Mid-South Food Bank**. The team also hosted **Grizz Shop Local** on **Small Business Saturday** for the sixth year, fifth in-person, bringing 40 small, minority and women-owned businesses to Fe-

Rookie Cedric Coward supported **STREETS Ministries** for their **Christmas Basket Distribution**, greeting families and placing baskets in the trunks of cars on **Saturday, Dec. 13**. Coward also attended the nonprofit's **Christmas Basketball Classic** on **Thursday, Dec. 18**, issuing Grizzlies swag and words of wisdom to the young basketball players ahead of their matchup.

dExForum to support shopping locally.

Returning this holiday season, the team coordinated a **Salvation Army Angel Tree** distribution and pickup within the organization. Adopting 48 angels this year, individual Grizzlies employees and departments participated in the program, providing the magic of Christmas to thousands of children and seniors. The Grizzlies also supported **Operation Warm Hearts with Memphis-Shelby County Schools**, providing students with the financial resources to receive hats, coats and scarves during the cold winter months.

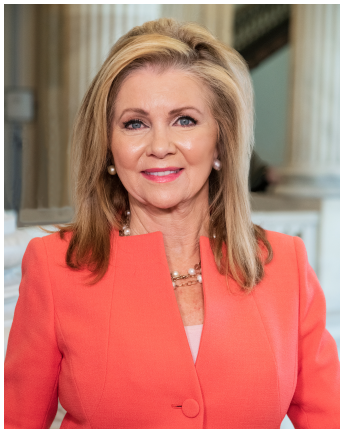
Grizzlies players helped to spread the holiday cheer through their own contributions to the community. In support of pet adoption and foster care, **Zach Edey** visited the **Humane Society of Memphis & Shelby County** on Thursday, Dec. 11, delivering a donation to the or-

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U.S. Sen. Blackburn introduces HUSTLE (Helping Undergraduate Students Thrive with Long-Term Earnings) Act to save Act will help student athletes to invest for the future.

WASHINGTON, D.C. , December 8, 2025— U.S. Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) introduced the Helping Undergraduate Students Thrive with Long-Term Earnings (HUSTLE) Act, which would create first-of-its kind name, image, and likeness (NIL) tax-advantaged investment accounts for student athletes, require trustees to provide financial education, and establish regulations to prevent abuse.

In 2021, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) allowed student-athletes to profit from their name, image, and likeness, which has now become a multibillion-dollar marketplace. With these NIL agreements open-



Sen. Marsha Blackburn

ing the door to new economic freedoms, the HUSTLE Act would ensure college athletes have strong protections, clear guidance, and financial literacy to help them better navigate the

world of college athletics.

“College athletes are now earning billions of dollars from their name, image, and likeness—and rightly so. We must empower these students to safeguard their financial future and protect themselves against rogue agents,” said Senator Blackburn. “The HUSTLE Act would allow college athletes to invest their earnings in a tax-advantaged account that grows over time, strengthen financial education, and create safeguards to prevent exploitation by dishonest agents.”

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Meet some of BIHMST Sports Correspondents



William M. Larsha, Jr.



Ashley Braun Gendek

BIHMST Travelers, join correspondents William M. Larsha, Jr. and Ashley Braun Gendek in their sports coverage of The University of Memphis Tigers, Memphis Grizzlies, TN Titans, Southern Heritage Classic, and more!

NRA Announces 2026 Golden Bullseye Awards

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Memphis Hustle acquires Colby Jones from Motor City Cruise

MEMPHIS, Tenn., December 24, 2025 – The Memphis Hustle announced the team acquired wing Colby Jones from the Motor City Cruise for a 2026 first round pick. In a corresponding move, the Hustle have waived wing Paul Zilinskas.

Jones (6-6, 207) has appeared in 45 games (43 starts) across three seasons with the Motor City

Cruise, Capital City Go-Go and Stockton Kings averaging 17.2 points, 5.8 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 2.0 steals in 33.7 minutes while shooting 36.6 percent from beyond the arc.

The 23-year-old Birmingham native has appeared as a reserve in 70 games across three NBA

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World War II 1st Lt. Army Air Forces Morton Sher's Family and Army Find His Remains after Decades to Return Home see sports-Military 3

Newsmax Expands Internationally see sports, Entertainment & Media News page 6

Tops Bar-B-Q Opens 19th Restaurant in Arkansas see sports-Ent. 5

Memphis Guard Dug McDaniel Receives Conf. Honorable Mention see sports-Ent. page 5

Tennessee Titans Visit Jacksonville Jaguars in Season Finale see sports page 2

Neal McCoy to Appear on Fox & Friends on January 4 see sports-Military 3

ALUMNI DAY



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Sanders and Cox named to American's Preseason All-Conference Team

IRVING, Texas, December 30, 2025 – Infielder Shane Cox and pitcher Brayden Sanders were selected to the American Conference's Preseason All-Conference Team Tuesday morning, per a league release.

The 16-player list is composed of players from six American teams, with each school represented (Memphis, Charlotte, East Carolina, UTSA, Florida Atlantic, Tulane) have multiple players named to the preseason all-conference team. The full list of preseason honors can be found at the end of this release.

Sanders, a graduate student from Olive Branch, Mississippi, is coming off consecutive seasons as Memphis saves leader, including a 2024 campaign where he led the American and was ranked within the top 20 nationally with nine saves. The right-hander logged a save in Memphis' series-clinching win against Florida Atlantic (April 13) and notched back-to-back saves to complete a sweep of UAB during the 2025 season.

Cox, a graduate student from nearby Munford High School, is set for his fifth season with the Tigers and is Memphis' returning leader in every major offensive category, hitting .286 in 2025 with 20 extra-base hits, 31 RBI and eight stolen bases.

His 2025 campaign included a three-game home run streak, with home runs against Rice (April 18, April 19) and Arkansas State (April 22).

Sanders, a graduate student from Olive Branch, Mississippi, is

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