

-Sports-

www.blackinformationhighway.com

Memphis Showboats add 14 more players in UFL 2nd dispersal process

ARLINGTON, TX – January 15, 2024 – The United Football League, the premier spring football league, has announced the results of second round of the player dispersal process. The Memphis Showboats added 14 more players Monday. The Showboats stocked up on defensive backs, adding five in the secondary, including **Will Likely**, a 2022 All-USFL selection for the **Houston Gamblers**. Likely played for the Houston Roughnecks in the XFL in 2023. In all, Memphis added seven of the 14 from the defensive side of the ball, with four on offense and three specialists.

Each team selected from a pool of players, regardless of previous league, who were not protected or selected in the January 5 dispersal process. Players selected will have the opportunity to be amongst the 75 roster spots allotted to each team for training

camp, which begins on Feb. 24 in Arlington, Texas, the hub of the UFL.

Free agency for players who were not selected in the dispersal process, or who did not play in the USFL or XFL in 2023, began on Tuesday, Jan. 16. The deadline for teams to lock in 75 players for training camp roster spots is Feb. 14.

Below is a look at the full list of players selected by the Showboats on Monday under the following categories:

Name Pos School Previous Team

- **Turner Bernard**, LS San Diego State New Orleans Breakers

- **Antoine Brooks**, CB Maryland, Seattle Sea Dragons

Please see sports page 2

Coach Ryan Silverfield promotes J. Hankins to defensive coordinator

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – University of Memphis head football coach Ryan Silverfield announced the promotion of Jordan Hankins to defensive coordinator. The announcement was made on January 3.

“We are very excited to promote Jordan to the defensive coordinator role,” Silverfield remarked. “He has done a tremendous job in the development of our linebackers and implementing and creating our defensive scheme.”

Hankins will enter the 2024 season in his fourth year at Memphis, when he served as the linebackers coach and assistant special teams coordinator from 2021-23. Hankins was named the interim defensive coordinator for the 2023 AutoZone Liberty Bowl.

“We are very excited to promote Jordan to the defensive coordinator role,” Silverfield remarked. “He has done a tremendous job in the development of our linebackers and implementing and creating our defensive scheme.” Acting as the interim defensive

coordinator in the 2023 AutoZone Liberty Bowl, Hankins guided the defense to an outstanding performance, helping the Tigers defeat Iowa State, 36-26. Memphis held the Cyclones to zero rushing yards, which set a Tiger bowl record and ranked second all-time in AutoZone Liberty Bowl history.

“I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to serve the Memphis Football program as the defensive coordinator,” Hankins said. “The continued success and growth of the players and program is my top priority.”

Hankins also saw linebacker Chandler Martin earn First-Team All-AAC honors in 2023, after he led the team in tackles (87) and tackles for loss (12) while pulling down a pair of interceptions, including one pick-six, two sacks and two forced fumbles during the regular season. Fellow linebacker Geoffrey Cantin-Arku was named Honorable Mention All-AAC as well.

During his stint as linebackers coach and assistant special teams coordinator from 2021-23, five

Please see sports page 4

Candidates announced for the NFL and FedEx Air & Ground Players of the Year; Fans vote

FedEx to make donation in name of winner to HBCUs

NEW YORK — Jan. 11, 2024 – The National Football League and FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX) announced quarterbacks **Dak Prescott (Dallas Cowboys)**, **Brock Purdy (San Francisco 49ers)** and **Tua Tagovailoa (Miami Dolphins)** are the finalists for the 2023 FedEx Air NFL Player of the Year honors, while running backs **Christian McCaffrey (San Francisco 49ers)**, **Raheem Mostert (Miami Dolphins)** and **Kyren Williams (Los Angeles Rams)** are the finalists for the 2023 FedEx Ground NFL Player of the Year.

FedEx Corp. is headquartered in Memphis, TN.

In the weeks leading up to Super Bowl LVIII, fans have the chance to cast their vote for the one quarterback and one running back they feel had the season's best Air & Ground performances. Now through Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. ET, fans can cast their vote for each category at nfl.com/fedex, via an X poll on the @NFL official handle, Instagram stories on Jan. 11, Jan. 16 and Jan. 23 on the @NFL official handle, or the NFL Mobile App.



For 21 years, FedEx has recognized the NFL quarterbacks and running backs voted by fans each week to be delivering the best performances for their fans and teammates each season. You can help celebrate these standout performances by voting for the FedEx Air & Ground NFL Players of the Year.

During the 2023-24 NFL regular season, FedEx worked with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf), the largest organization exclusively representing the Black College community, to identify Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the country to receive donations to support needs-based scholarships through the 2024-25 school year. Each week of the regular season, a \$2,000 donation was made in the name of the winning quarterback and running

During the 2023-24 NFL regular season, FedEx worked with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf), the largest organization exclusively representing the Black College community, to identify Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the country to receive donations to support needs-based scholarships through the 2024-25 school year.

back (for a total of \$4,000). This season, the six (6) nominees for the FedEx Air & Ground NFL Players of the Year Awards have already raised a combined \$26,000.

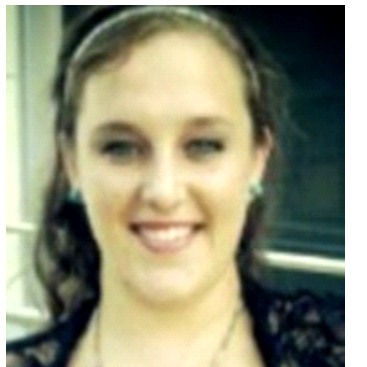
To celebrate the FedEx Air & Ground NFL Players of the Year, FedEx will donate \$20,000 each to the HBCU colleges selected by the winning quarterback and running back. Similar to the regular season donations, the \$40,000

Please see sports-Military 2

Meet some of BIHMST sports correspondents



William M. Larsha, Jr.



Ashley Braun Gendek

BIH MST Travelers, join correspondents William M. Larsha, Jr. And Ashley Braun Gendek in their sports coverage of University of Memphis Tigers, Memphis Grizzlies, TN Titans, Southern Heritage Classic, FedEx St. Jude Championship, Soccer and more on The Mid-South Tribune and the Black Information Highway at blackinformationhighway.com

Welcome, Travelers!

Memphis baseball announces 2024 season tickets on sale

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – University of Memphis Baseball season tickets are now on sale, the University announced on Wednesday. Season-ticket packages are \$75 and include a reserved seat in the grandstand at FedExPark Avron Fogelman Field for all 30 home games in 2024. Kids ages 12 and under will receive free admission all season long.

“We’re very excited about the 2024 season and we’re ready to continue building our Tiger fan base,” University of Memphis Baseball head coach Matt Riser said. “We want a home field advantage and environment to be proud of at FedExPark, and our schedule has provided some of the best teams in the country to watch here in the 901. Free admission for kids 12 and under is a huge step in getting the next generation engaged in Memphis Baseball. I’ve been saying to get season tickets now before the train takes off, because we’re

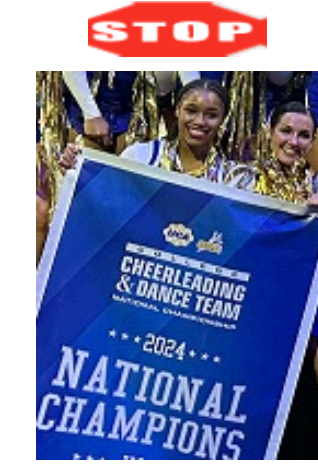
building something special and the time to get on board is now. We’ve seen it create a competitive advantage in some of our other sports already this year. We can’t wait to see you at FedExPark.”

The Tigers are entering year one under new head coach Matt Riser and will aim to build on last year’s 29-28 record – the best for Memphis since 2017.

Memphis’ home opener is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 21 vs. Central Arkansas at FedExPark before the Tigers welcome Bowling Green to the Bluff City for the first three-game home series of the year (Feb. 23-25). Additional non-conference home series on the Tigers’ schedule include UT Martin (Feb. 27-28) and Wright State (March 1-3).

The \$75 season-ticket package is the best way to guarantee tickets to the Ole Miss (April 2)

Please see sports page 4



UofM Cheerleading and Dance Teams Win Championships *see sports page 3*

Grizzlies Sign Vince Williams, Jr. and Scotty Pippen, Jr. *see sports pages 2 and 3*

Brandon Torquato Named Super Bowl Play 60 Super Kid *see sports-Ent. page 5*

Sophia Halm is One of 100 Disney Dreamers *see sports-Ent. 5*

Silverfield Adds Esposito to Football Staff *see sports page 4*

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune’s 29th Annual Black History Month Edition.

Coming in February 2024!

Email your special events, news and photos to MSTnews@prodigy.net or BlackInfoHwy@prodigy.net or to MSTentertainment@prodigy.net

