

Sports & Entertainment

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Coward, Wells, and Spencer rise to 2026 Castrol Rising Stars

Grizzlies Trio to Represent Memphis in Annual Showcase at NBA All-Star 2026

MEMPHIS, Tenn., January 26, 2026 – The NBA announced that Memphis Grizzlies wings Cedric Coward and Jaylen Wells and guard Cam Spencer have been named to the 2026 Castrol Rising Stars.

The annual showcase of premier young talent, featuring a mini-tournament and three games spotlighting the league’s top rookies and second-year stand-outs, will tip-off on Friday, Feb. 13, at Intuit Dome in Inglewood, Calif., as part of NBA All-Star 2026. The event will air live at 8 p.m. CT on Peacock.

Coward (6-5 ¼, 213) has competed in 40 games (27 starts) and has averaged 14.0 points, 6.4 rebounds and 2.9 assists in 26.6 minutes while shooting 47.3 percent from the field, 34.8 percent from 3-point range and 85.0 per-

cent from the free throw line since he was selected with the 11th overall pick in the 2025 NBA Draft out of Washington State. The 22-year-old Fresno, Calif., native is one of two players (Cooper Flag) to rank in the top 5 among rookies in scoring average, rebounding average, field goal percentage and free throw percentage.

Wells (6-6 ½, 206) has started all 43 appearances and has averaged 11.9 points, 3.5 rebounds and 1.7 assists in 27.0 minutes while shooting 40.5 percent from the field, 32.6 percent from 3-point range and 77.7 percent from the free throw line in his second NBA season. The 22-year-old Sacramento, Calif., native, who was selected 39th overall in the 2024 NBA Draft out of Washington State and was named to the Rising Stars last year as a rookie, is one of only

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Profile: Tennessee Titans hire Robert Saleh as new head coach

NASHVILLE, TENN., January 22, 2026 – The Tennessee Titans have hired Robert Saleh as the 22nd head coach in franchise history.

STATEMENT FROM GENERAL MANAGER MIKE BORGONZI:

“On behalf of the entire Titans organization and Nashville community, I am thrilled to welcome Robert Saleh as our head coach. Robert embodies the fundamental values of what we believe a Titan should look like and represent. He’s smart, tough, dependable, and values working with people. His innate ability to lead and respond to adversity is what makes him the right person to lead our football program back to one whose identity embodies sustainable success. We understand the urgency to win, and be-

lieve this is a step in that direction with a coach best equipped to accomplish our goals. The work has just begun, but I’m grateful for this partnership and excited to build this together.”

STATEMENT FROM CONTROLLING OWNER AMY ADAMS STRUNK:

“We’re delighted to welcome Robert and his family to the Titans, and firmly believe he is the right person for our team and community. We immediately connected with his competitive spirit and detailed approach to developing our players and team. Also, Robert’s recommendations from across the league were overwhelmingly positive and

were only reinforced during our time together. I want to thank Mike Borgonzi for his leadership during this process and acknowledge the work done by the search committee. They dedicated so much time and effort and I am thrilled with the results – and most importantly – I believe Titans fans will be, too. Congratulations to Robert and his family, and welcome to Nashville.”

STATEMENT FROM HEAD COACH ROBERT SALEH:

"It is a tremendous honor to serve as the head coach of the Tennessee Titans. I want to thank Amy Adams Strunk, Mike Borgonzi and Chad Brinker for trusting me to lead this football team. Our connection and shared vision during the interview process was immediately evident and reinforced my desire to be a Titan.

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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 Statement on Minnesota Shooting

FAIRFAX, VA, January 24, 2026 - The National Rifle Association released the following statement regarding the recent officer-involved shooting in Minnesota:

"For months, radical progressive politicians like Tim Walz have incited violence against law enforcement officers who are simply trying to do their jobs. Unsurprisingly, these calls to dangerously interject oneself into legitimate law-enforcement activities have ended in violence, tragically resulting in injuries and fatalities.

As there is with any officer-involved shooting, there will be a robust and comprehensive investigation that takes place to determine if the use of force was justified. As we await these facts and gain a clearer understanding, we urge the political voices to lower the temperature to ensure their constituents and law enforcement officers stay safe."

Incorporated in 1871, the National Rifle Association is America's longest-standing civil rights organization. Together with our millions of members, we're proud defenders of history's patriots and diligent protectors of the Second Amendment.

Follow the NRA on Facebook, Instagram, and X (Formerly Twitter).

Watch for

The Mid-South Tribune’s 31st Black History Month Edition Celebrating America’s 250 Birthday— Celebrating a Culture of Freedom!

Coming in February!

In partnership with NFHS, NFL celebrates High School Officiating Crew of the Year

NEW YORK — Jan. 21, 2026 – The NFL has announced New York-based high school officiating crew members Larry Carpenter, Chris Ellis, Jessy Jolicoeur, Steve Matthews, Jeff Reynolds and John Simons as the High School Officiating Crew of the Year. Nominated by the New York Giants, the NFL recognized the crew for their performance and contributions to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association during the 2025 season.

"The NFL’s partnership with NFHS remains an essential com-

ponent of how we support the football ecosystem at every level," said Roman Oben, NFL vice president of football development. "By recognizing outstanding high school officials, we’re reinforcing the importance of education, development, and game integrity, while celebrating the individuals who help make the game better each week."

The Giants recognized the winning crew during their Week 16 home game with custom made jerseys. The crew was nominated as Crew of the Month in November.

"The New York Giants are proud to partner with the NFL and NFHS to honor these exceptional officials," said Tara Belinsky, New York Giants community and youth football manager. "Officials are as essential to our great game as the players and coaches. Their responsibility to ensure that games are fair and athletes are safe has never been more of a priority. Their attention to detail and commitment to bettering the game of football is not only making an immediate impact on student-athletes but overall

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NRA partners with ‘We the Free’ streaming network to present Second Amendment-based and American lifestyle content

FAIRFAX, Va., January 20, 2026 — The National Rifle Association announced a groundbreaking partnership with We the Free, an online streaming service dedicated to Second-Amendment-based American lifestyle content. This collaboration unites the nation’s oldest civil rights organization with one of the fastest-growing digital platforms for freedom-loving Americans, delivering high-octane entertainment and expert firearm content directly to millions of viewers—at a discounted rate exclusive to NRA Members. When you subscribe through the NRA’s unique We The Free link, a portion of the

proceeds is shared with the NRA to support its work defending the Second Amendment.

Through this alliance, the NRA further expands its reach into the newest digital media space—streaming services—by offering an adrenaline-fueled lineup that goes far beyond simple firearm instruction. Subscribers can expect cinematic storytelling, exclusive docuseries, and binge-worthy reality programming that celebrates the Second Amendment lifestyle with the intensity and production value today’s audiences demand.

“This partnership is about more than just firearm education,

something the NRA has done well for a very long time; Rather, it’s about reclaiming a stake in American pop culture through world-class entertainment within a platform that NRA has not yet captured," said Doug Hamlin, Executive Vice President & CEO of the NRA. "We the Free has built a platform that refuses to apologize for American values—values that include the use, ownership and enjoyment of firearms. Is some of it edgy? Yes, and we think it will appeal to the younger generations that consume online and streaming serv-

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UP NEXT

THURSDAY, JAN. 29
7:00 PM CT

SUNDAY, FEB. 1
2:00 PM CT

FEDEXFORUM

Grizzlies-Nuggets

MEMPHIS, Tenn., January 25, 2026 – The NBA game scheduled for Jan. 25 between the Memphis Grizzlies and Denver Nuggets at FedExForum has been postponed due to extreme weather conditions in the Memphis area.

The date for the rescheduled game will be announced by the NBA at a later time.

All tickets for the game originally scheduled for today will be valid for the rescheduled date, and further information will be available on Grizzlies.com after the rescheduled date is announced.

Memphis Hustle-Stockton Kings Game

MEMPHIS, Tenn., January 25, 2026 – The NBA G League game scheduled for Jan. 26 between the Memphis Hustle and Stockton Kings at Landers Center has been postponed due to extreme weather conditions in the area. The date for the rescheduled game is Thursday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. CT.

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Postponements due to weather