

Sports & Entertainment

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Black History Month Spotlight

Black Promoters Collective adds the Isley Brothers and Stephanie Mills to Jazz in the Gardens Music Festival

Tickets now on sale

Icons The Isley Brothers, Stephanie Mills, and El DeBarge join Jhené Aiko, Ludacris' 25th Anniversary Set, and Nelly & Ashanti to electrify the 2026 Jazz in the Gardens Music Festival, March 7–8

Hosted by the City of Miami Gardens and produced by the Black Promoters Collective, Jazz in the Gardens Music Festival, recognized as one of the best festivals in the country by Newsweek and named Best Music Festival for 2025 by Miami New Times, delivers its most dynamic lineup yet, featuring GloRilla, Ella Mai, Mýa, Joe, D-Nice & Friends featuring SWV, Robin Thicke, Case, Sunshine Anderson & Kenny Burns, plus Pastor

Mike Jr., Tonio Armani, King George, Boney James, and Damien Escobar

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla., Jan. 13, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- Jazz in the Gardens (JITG) Music Festival, named one of the nation's top festivals by Newsweek and Miami New Times' Best Music Festival for 2025, returns to Hard Rock Stadium March 7-8, 2026. In its 19th year, JITG Music Fest celebrates Black music and culture, uniting icons for a dynamic weekend. Hosted by the City of Miami Gardens and produced by the Black Promoters Collective (BPC).

Jhené Aiko, renowned for her soulful and transcendent sound, will headline on Saturday, March

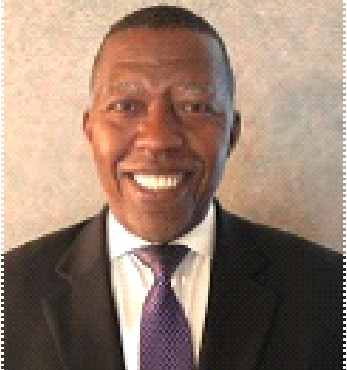
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Darrell Turner is named SEATA College/University Athletic Trainer of Year at Expo in Atlanta, GA



ATLANTA, Feb. 10, 2026 – University of Memphis Senior Associate Athletic Director for Sports Medicine and Head Athletic Trainer Darrell Turner has been named the 2026 Kenny Howard College/University Athletic Trainer of the Year by the Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association (SEATA), recognizing his outstanding dedication and service to the athletic training profession.

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!

Memphis Athletics honors trailblazers Bertha Looney and Herb Hilliard with Legacy Awards

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Memphis Athletics honored two trailblazers whose courage, leadership and lifelong service have left an enduring mark on both the institution and the city: **Bertha Rodgers Looney** and **Herb Hilliard**. Each received a University of Memphis Legacy Award at men's basketball game against UTSA (Jan. 18) in recognition of their historic impact and continued commitment to advancing opportunity and excellence.

The Legacy Award recognizes individuals whose actions reflect

In September 1959, she was one of eight African-American students who integrated Memphis State University, becoming forever known as the "Memphis State Eight." Their decision to walk onto campus came at a time of intense resistance and racial hostility, yet their presence marked a defining moment in the institution's history.

the enduring ideals championed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.— education as a pathway to oppor-

tunity, leadership rooted in service, and progress driven by courage in the face of resistance.

Memphis Athletics and National Civil Rights Museum Partnership Memphis Athletics' recognition of Looney and Hilliard aligns with its ongoing partnership with the National Civil Rights Museum - a collaboration rooted in honoring the past while educating and inspiring future generations.

Bertha Looney: Courage at the Front Lines of Integration

Bertha Rodgers Looney's impact

on the University of Memphis began before she ever stepped into a classroom.

In September 1959, she was one of eight African-American students who integrated Memphis State University, becoming forever known as the "Memphis State Eight." Their decision to walk onto campus came at a time of intense resistance and racial hostility, yet their presence marked a defining moment in the institution's history.

At just 18 years old, Looney

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Memphis Safe Task Force Report

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VA to Hire 300 Employment Counselors and Specialists

see sports-Military 2

NRA Announces America's Rifle Challenge

see sports-Military 2

Don McLean Marks 55th Anniversary of "American Pie"-Surf Ballroom Builds Statue

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Overground RR Selects EPI Media to Grow Visibility of Black-Owned Businesses

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Grizzlies Acquire Clayton Jr....

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Florida Fishing Takes Steps Backwards

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World Bass Enterprises unveils the Champions Tournament with \$3 mil purse and top 50 anglers

Five-Day Event in Nashville to Crown First-Ever World Bass Fishing Champion and Award Record \$1.25 Million to Winner Ancillary Events to Include Headline Musical Performance, Pro-Am Competition, Opening Ceremonies, Media Day, and Outdoor Sports Expo

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 3, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- World Bass Enterprises (WBE) announced on Feb. 3 that it will bring the top 50 anglers in the world to Nashville in October for "The Champions" tournament, which will serve as the first-ever world bass fishing championship and will feature the largest purse in the sport's history.

The five-day event, with three days of competition, will be held on Old Hickory Lake at Sanders Ferry Park in Hendersonville, Tenn., from Oct. 28 – Nov. 1 and

will include a record-setting purse of more than \$3 million, including a \$1.25 million payout to the winning angler - the biggest monetary prize ever awarded to a winner of a bass fishing tournament. Additionally, the second and third place finishers will receive \$500,000 and \$300,000 payouts, respectively.

Five-Day Event in Nashville to Crown First-Ever World Bass Fishing Champion and Award Record \$1.25 Million to Winner "The Champions" tournament field will be comprised of the top 25 anglers from both The Progressive Bassmaster Elite Series and Major League Fishing's Bass Pro Tour. The tournament will crown a true world champion and award The Champion's Cup following the first-ever head-to-head competition between the two biggest bass fishing organi-

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Tickets now on sale for American Conference Basketball Men and Women Championships

IRVING, Texas – Tickets for the 2026 American Conference Men's and Women's Basketball Championships are on sale now, the conference announced Thursday.

Both the men's and women's tournaments will be held at the Legacy Arena at the BJCC in Birmingham, Alabama. The Women's Championship will run March 10-14, and the Men's Championship will be held March 11-15. **Tickets can be purchased by visiting <https://www.gotigersgo.com> or thru Ticketmaster.**

Beginning this season, the American Men's and Women's Basketball Championships will

feature the top 10 teams in a new five-day bracket format. The No. 1 and No. 2 seeds will receive byes into the semifinals, while the No. 3 and No. 4 seeds will begin play in the quarterfinals. The No. 5 and No. 6 seeds will face the winners of the 7-10 and 8-9 games in the second round.

The Memphis men's team will be looking to defend their crown after becoming the first American Conference squad since 2021-22 to win the regular season and tournament championship last season. In the tournament's final year at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth, Texas, the Tigers captured their second conference tourna-

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MEMPHIS

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A close-up image of a blue and white baseball glove and a white baseball with red stitching.