

Sports & Entertainment

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Tigers clinch American Athletic Conf. Regular Season Championship



By William M. Larsha, Jr. Senior Sports Correspondent The Mid-South Tribune and the Black Information Highway

MEMPHIS- After a slow start in Memphis on March 7, the Memphis Tigers pulled away from South Florida to win 84-68. The victory sealed the regular season American Athletic Conference title in the team's final regular season game. It is the first Conference championship for the Tigers since 2013. It is also the first for coach Penny Hardaway.

After fighting to tie the game at 35 at halftime, due in part to

Tiger turnovers, the team clawed back in the 2nd half. They played a much cleaner game. The Tigers only had 4 turnovers in the 2nd half. They outscored USF 49-33. 34 of those 49 points were scored by Seniors on Senior Day. Dain Dainja and P. J. Haggerty had game highs of 20 points each.

The 16th ranked Tigers finished the regular season 26-5 overall and 16-2 in the AAC. They now head to Dallas for the AAC Tournament. They will begin in the quarterfinals on Friday March 14, 2025.

When asked what the Championship meant to him, Coach Hardaway said, "It's been rewarding especially after last year." Coach Hardaway will likely be a top candidate for AAC Coach of the Year. His Tigers will look forward to the AAC Tournament. If there is success there, they will head to the NCAA Tournament with a pretty decent seeding.

Soccer star Logan Longo is named recipient of NCAA postgraduate scholarship

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – The NCAA announced its list of postgraduate scholarship recipients for the fall 2024 sports season, with Memphis men's soccer athlete Logan Longo being named as a recipient.

"It means so much to be selected for such a prestigious honor," said Longo. "God has truly blessed me in more ways than I can count. I'm beyond grateful to the University of Memphis and the opportunities the university has provided me. It has truly been an honor to represent my hometown on and off the field. I pray that I continue to maximize future opportunities and represent Memphis as a school and a city to the best of my ability."

"Logan has an amazing balance of qualities that make him stand out – not just in sports, but in his character too," Associate Athletic Director, Academic Services Fernandez West said. "His humility makes him approachable and easy to connect with, while his confidence, intelligence and ambition drive him to keep pushing for success. It's inspiring when someone has such a well-rounded personality."

Longo graduated in May 2024 with bachelor's degrees in chemistry and psychology while minor in both Spanish and healthcare and society. He is currently working towards a Master of Public Health degree with a concentration in urban health. In

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Congratulations! Go, Tigers, Go!

Coach Penny Hardaway, Haggerty, Dainja, and Hunter lead Men's Hoops' AAC Award honorees



PJ Haggerty



Dain Dainja



Tyrese Hunter



Coach Penny Hardaway

IRVING, Texas, March 11, 2025 – After finishing the regular season ranked 16th in the country with a 26-5 overall record and the American Athletic Conference outright regular-season title in hand for the first time in program history, the University of Memphis men's basketball program received a multitude of postseason awards from the league office Tuesday. The official AAC awards are selected by the league's head coaches, and

Head Coach Penny Hardaway was named the league's Coach of the Year for the first time. Sophomore guard PJ Haggerty was named The American Player of the Year and was a unanimous selection to the First Team.

the coaches are not allowed to vote for their own players. Head Coach Penny Hardaway was named the league's Coach of the Year for the first time. Sophomore guard PJ Haggerty was named The American Player of the Year and was a unanimous selection to the First Team. Senior forward Dain Dainja was named the Newcomer of the Year and earned a place on the All-AAC First Team and All-Newcomer Team as unanimous selections. Senior guard Tyrese Hunter also landed a spot on the First Team

and was selected to the All-Newcomer Team alongside Dainja. It marks the second time in 13 years as AAC members that Memphis has had multiple players on the first team.

PENNY HARDAWAY - AAC COACH OF THE YEAR

Now in his seventh season as a collegiate head coach, Hardaway has led Memphis to its first AAC regular season crown, the program's most regular season wins in 13 years and its highest AP ranking in March since the 2008-09 season.

Hardaway earned the 150th win of his career on Feb. 13 at South Florida and guided the Tigers to a runner-up finish at the Maui Invitational in November with wins over then No. 2 UConn and Michigan State.

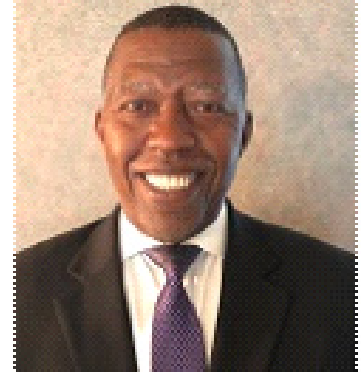
Despite owning a consensus top-3 toughest nonconference schedule in the country, Hardaway's Tigers own three wins over AP ranked teams, six against power conference opponents and 11 victories over Quad 1 and 2 teams.

In February, Hardaway was one of 15 head coaches across Division I to be named to the 2025 Naismith Men's College Coach of the Year Watch List.

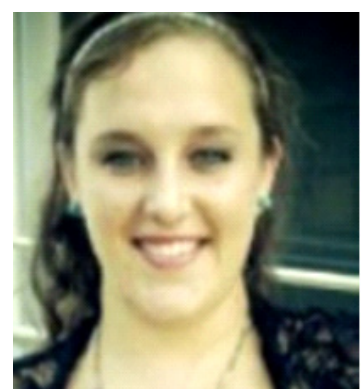
PJ HAGGERTY | PLAYER OF THE YEAR, FIRST TEAM ALL-AAC

After an electrifying season at Please see sports page 4

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 University of Memphis Tigers, Memphis Grizzlies, TN Titans, Southern Heritage Classic, FedEx St. Jude Championship, Memphis Showboats, UFL, NFL, Soccer and more on The Mid-South Tribune and the Black Information Highway at blackinformationhighway.com Welcome, Travelers!

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The American Athletic Conference announces 2025 Men's Basketball Championship seedings for fans

IRVING, Texas, March 9, 2025– The American Athletic Conference announced the seedings for the 2025 AAC Men's Basketball Championships on Sunday evening.

The 16th-ranked University of Memphis men's basketball team (26-5, 16-2 AAC) won the AAC regular season title outright and earned the No. 1 overall seed.

The Tigers earned a double-bye and will play the winner of No. 8 Wichita State and No. 9 South Florida on Friday, March 14 at noon central in the quarterfinal round at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth, Texas. The contest will broadcast on ESPN2 and ESPN+.

The winner advances to the semifinals at 2 p.m. CT on Saturday, March 15.

The latest tournament information can be found at Championship Central at TheAmerican.org/mbb.

Tickets to the 2025 AAC Men's Basketball Championships can be purchased on Ticketmaster. 2025 American Men's Basket-

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ball Championship Schedule All Games at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth, Texas unless otherwise noted

First Round | Wednesday, March 12 | Super Pit in Denton, Texas Game 1: No. 13 Charlotte vs No. 12 Rice | 1 p.m. ET/Noon CT | ESPN+

Second Round | Thursday, March 13 Game 2: No. 9 South Florida vs No. 8 Wichita State | 12:30 p.m. ET/11:30 a.m. CT | ESPN and ESPN+

Game 3: Game 1 Winner vs No. 5 Florida Atlantic | 2:30 p.m. ET/1:30 p.m. CT | ESPN and ESPN+ Game 4: No. 10 Tulsa vs No. 7

Temple | 7 p.m. ET/6 p.m. CT | ESPN and ESPN+ Game 5: No. 11 UTSA vs No. 6 East Carolina | 9 p.m. ET/8 p.m. CT | ESPN and ESPN+

Quarterfinals | Friday, March 14 Game 6: Game 2 Winner vs No. 1 Memphis | 1 p.m. ET/Noon CT | ESPN2 and ESPN+ Game 7: Game 3 Winner vs No. 4 Tulane | 3 p.m. ET/2 p.m. CT | ESPN2 and ESPN+

Game 8: Game 4 Winner vs No. 2 North Texas | 7 p.m. ET/6 p.m. CT | ESPN and ESPN+ Game 9: Game 5 Winner vs No. 3 UAB | 9 p.m. ET/8 p.m. CT | ESPN and ESPN+

Semifinals | Saturday, March 15 Game 10: Game 6 Winner vs Game 7 Winner | 3 p.m. ET/2 p.m. CT | ESPN2 and ESPN+ Game 11: Game 8 Winner vs Game 9 Winner | 5 p.m. ET/4 p.m. CT | ESPN2 and ESPN+

Final | Sunday, March 16 Game 12: Game 10 Winner vs Game 11 Winner | 3:15 p.m. ET/2:15 p.m. CT | ESPN and ESPN+

