

-Sports-

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Independent Council on Women's Sports funds lawsuit against NCAA to uphold integrity of women's sports; Riley Gaines included in suit

LAS VEGAS (March 14, 2024) — The Independent Council on Women's Sports (ICONS) has announced exclusive funding support for a critical lawsuit against the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The lawsuit on behalf of 16 former and current female collegiate athletes includes **Riley Gaines** (Swimmer, Gallatin, TN), **Reka Gyorgy** (Swimmer, Blacksburg, VA), **Kylee Alons** (Swimmer, Raleigh, NC), **Kaitlyn Wheeler** (Swimmer, Springfield, IL), **Ainsley Erzen** (Track and Soccer, Des Moines, IA), **Ellie Eades** (Tennis, Floyds Knobs, IN), **Lily Mullens** (Swimmer, North Canton, OH), **Susanna Price** (Track & Field, Swimmer, Los Alamos, NM), **Carter Satterfield** (Swimmer, Cary, NC), **Kate Pearson** (Swimmer, Virginia Beach, VA), **Katie Blankinship** (Swimmer, Woodstock, GA), **Julianna Morrow** (Swimmer, Mooresville, NC), and four other athletes proceeding under pseudonyms to protect them from retaliation and reprisal.

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"This lawsuit against the NCAA isn't just about competition; it's a fight for the very essence of women's sports," said ICONS Co-Founder Marshi Smith, a collegiate All-American and NCAA national champion swimmer. "We're standing up for justice and the rights of female athletes to compete on a level playing field. It's about preserving the legacy of Title IX and ensuring that the future of women's sports is as bright as its past."

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field. It's about preserving the legacy of Title IX and ensuring that the future of women's sports is as bright as its past." The athletes are challenging NCAA regulations allowing male athletes to compete in women's sports. This suit follows in the wake of a legal demand letter, sent by ICONS in 2023. The lawsuit seeks to change the NCAA's policies that allow male athletes who identify as transgender to participate in women's sports. The plaintiffs, representing a broad coalition of female athletes across multiple sports, argue the NCAA's regulations compromise the fairness and integrity of women's competitive sports and discriminate against women, violating Title IX's core principles. "We're not just fighting for ourselves, we're fighting for every young girl who dreams of competing in sports," said Riley

Gaines. "I'm thankful for ICONS' commitment to our cause, especially their financial commitment allowing us to take this to court. I urge anyone who cares about protecting women's sport to help get behind us." The lawsuit's lead attorney, former United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) General Counsel Bill Bock, resigned from the NCAA Committee on Infractions in February 2024 over their regulations permitting men to compete in women's athletics. With the support of motivated donors across the country, ICONS is fully committed to funding the lawsuit, leveraging resources and networks to champion the rights of these athletes and all women in sports. ICONS leaders said this action is not merely about challenging policies, but affirming the value of women's sports as a vital component of athletic competition and women's equality. "By challenging the NCAA's draconian and discriminatory policies, we're sending a clear message: the integrity of women's sports is non-negotiable," said ICONS Co-Founder

Kim Jones, who is a collegiate tennis All-American and former U.S. National Team member. "We are committed to defending the hard-won rights of women athletes everywhere. This isn't just a legal battle; it's a moral stand for equality and justice in sports."

"This lawsuit sends a message loud and clear that women will fight for the pillars of fairness and equal opportunity. We need to preserve those principles," said swimmer Reka Gyorgy. "We must take this opportunity to pro-

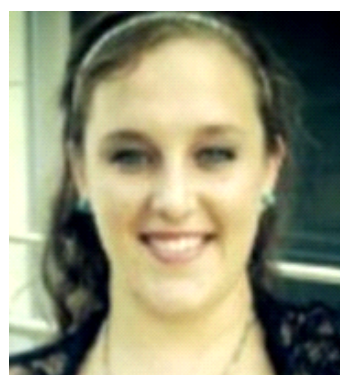
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- STOP**
- Houston and Baylor Play in NCAA Tournament at FedExForum This Weekend *see sports page 4* ***
- NFL Network to Televisе Arena Football Games This Spring *see sports page 3* ***
- Crystal Gayle Commemorates 80th Anniversary of Army Air Force Band and Glenn Miller *see sports-Military 2* ***
- Tennessee Opens Parks for Wheelchairs *see sports-Ent. 5* ***
- Showboats Games on News Talk 98.9 *see sports-Ent. 5*

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!

St. Louis selected to host 2024 UFL Championship game on June 16

ST. LOUIS, Mo. – March 14, 2024 – The UFL announced that The Dome at America's Center, home of the St. Louis Battlehawks, will be the host site of the 2024 UFL Championship Game on June 16, 2024. The announcement was made on Thursday, March 14.

"Selecting the championship game location is more than just the stadium, but the community and the fanbase that surrounds it. This is why we are proud to bring our Championship to St. Louis – a city that has loved and embraced spring football from the start," said UFL President and CEO Russ Brandon. "Mayor Jones, The Dome at America's Center staff, and the great team at Explore St. Louis have all been incredible partners, working tirelessly to support the Battlehawks



and encourage the League to bring the Championship here. We couldn't be more excited and look forward to the city's welcome on June 16." "St. Louisans are excited to welcome the UFL championship game and tens of thousands of enthusiastic fans to our city," said Mayor Tishaura O. Jones. "Soon, UFL fans from across the country will learn: Kaw is the law." "After setting league attendance records for all five St. Louis Battlehawks home games during the 2023 season, we're thrilled to

welcome the UFL Championship game to the Gateway City in 2024," said Kitty Ratcliffe, President of Explore St. Louis. "St. Louis is the ideal home for this title game, and The Dome at America's Center stands ready to welcome UFL fans from around the nation for what promises to be a signature event for the region." The UFL's season consists of 10 regular season games between its eight teams and two conference playoff games before the championship game. In 2023, the Ar-

lington Renegades won the UFL Championship with a 35-26 victory over the D.C. Defenders while the Birmingham Stallions won 28-12 over the Pittsburgh Maulers for their second consecutive USFL Championship.

"Both the XFL and USFL had incredible Championship games last year with some of the most exciting play of the season – and I expect it to be even better this year," said UFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations, Daryl Johnston. "I'm so excited for our players and coaches that will have the opportunity to compete for a Championship in a setting like The Dome. Our Teams will feed off the energy and excitement that the St. Louis fans

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Marc Gasol's jersey retirement ceremony set for April 6 game

- Tickets Still Available for Gasol's Jersey Retirement Game against 76ers -
- First 5,000 Fans in Attendance to Receive a Commemorative Vinyl Record Honoring Gasol -
- Retirement Ceremony Airs Live on Bally Sports Southeast Immediately Following the Game -

honoring Gasol. Tickets for the game vs. the Philadelphia 76ers at 7 p.m. CT are still available for purchase by going online to grizzlies.com/tickets.

MARC GASOL DOCUMENTARY

Festivities tip-off on Friday, March 29, at 7 p.m. CT, with the digital release of the new Marc Gasol documentary film, Marc Gasol: Memphis Made, produced by Grind City Media. The full-length documentary, which will be available on the Grizzlies

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EGG HUNT
MARCH 30
 Open to kids 12 & under
 Billy J. Murphy Track & Soccer Complex

11:30 AM Check-in
 12:15 PM Egg Hunt
 1 PM Baseball vs Florida Atlantic