

The Mid-South Tribune Sports & Entertainment

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B.A.S.S. continues 50/50 technology format for the 2027 Elite series

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., September 24, 2026 — Following a successful debut that delivered compelling competition and strong fan engagement, B.A.S.S. announced that the Progressive Bassmaster Elite Series will continue using the same forward-facing live sonar structure introduced in 2026. The 2027 season will again feature a split between tournaments in which live sonar is permitted and tournaments where live sonar is not allowed. A coin flip will determine the technology designation for each tournament on the 2027 schedule. The results will be revealed live during the Bassmaster Coin Flip Show on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 10 a.m. CT. In additional news, for the first time ever, the Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Classic will also be included in the Coin Flip Show. The 2027 Classic field will be the first composed entirely of anglers who qualified under the 50/50 technology rule, making it a natural extension to apply the same format to the World Championship of Bass Fishing. One coin flip will determine the live-sonar rules for the next two Classics: If the 2027 Classic is designated a non-live-sonar event, the 2028 Classic will allow live sonar, and vice-versa. This ensures consecutive Classics will showcase both styles of competition.

“The first season of the 50/50 format showed us that great competition is not defined by a particular style of fishing,” said B.A.S.S. CEO Chase Anderson. “Our anglers were challenged to demonstrate their versatility, and our fans embraced the opportunity to watch and learn from both forms of competition. Continuing the format in 2027 allows us to celebrate innovation while preserving the broad range of skills that has always defined the Bassmaster Elite Series. With the success of this structure in the Elites and because it is how our 2027 Classic contenders qualified, it was a natural fit to continue the framework and allow a coin flip to determine the format for the 2027 Classic.” The 2026 season produced record-setting audience engagement and demonstrated the appeal of both sides of the format. Lake Guntersville, where live sonar was not permitted, was the most-viewed Elite event of the regular season, generating more than 21 million minutes viewed across B.A.S.S. digital platforms. The season finale at the St. Lawrence River, where live sonar was permitted, ranked second with more than 20 million minutes viewed. The two events could hardly have been more different in setting, species and strategy, but

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Education Chairman Tim Walberg issues statement in support to restore Title IX to its original intent

WASHINGTON, September 28, 2026 – Education and Workforce Committee Chairman Tim Walberg (R-MI) issued on September 28 a statement in support of the Department of Education’s (ED) rule change restoring Title IX to its original intent.

ED’s action follows a January 2025 federal court decision vacating the Biden-Harris administration’s 2024 Title IX regulations.

“Title IX was enacted to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex and to ensure equal access to educational opportunities,” said Chairman Walberg. “Schools need rules that are understandable, workable, and consistent with the law. Returning to the 2020 regulations restores long-standing protections for women and girls that the Biden-Harris administration attempted to dismantle and realigns Title IX policy with court precedents.”

Memphis Athletic Foundation selects Evolv Express screening solutions at Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium

Evolv Express uses advanced sensor technology and artificial intelligence to help detect potential threats while allowing guests to move through security checkpoints at their natural walking pace.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., September 23, 3036 – Evolv Technologies Holdings, Inc., a leading security technology company pioneering AI-powered solutions designed to create safer experiences, announced that the Memphis Athletic Foundation has selected Evolv Express®, the company's people-screening system, for deployment at Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium, home of Memphis Tigers football. Installation of the Evolv Express Gen2 systems was completed late last month ahead of the upcoming football season.

As one of the premier collegiate athletic programs in the American Conference, Memphis welcomes almost two hundred thousand fans to Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium throughout the football season. As fan expectations continue to evolve and venues seek to balance security with convenience, the foundation se-

lected Evolv Express as their Official Patron Screening Provider to support its efforts to streamline the arrival experience.

Evolv Express uses advanced sensor technology and artificial intelligence to help detect potential threats while allowing guests to move through security checkpoints at their natural walking pace. The deployment will replace the venue's existing screening solution and support the foundation's efforts to provide a more welcoming and efficient game day environment for Tigers fans.

"Today's sports and entertainment venues are increasingly focused on creating arrival experiences that are both secure and convenient for guests," said John Baier, Vice President of Sports & Entertainment at Evolv Technology. "Memphis evaluated its options and made the decision to transition to Evolv

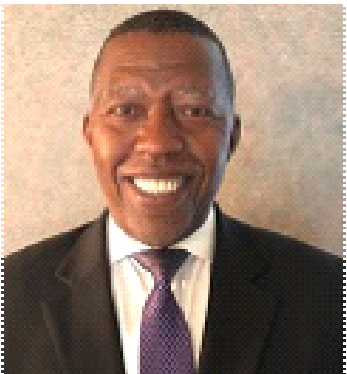
Express because of our shared commitment to delivering an exceptional fan experience as well as the technical performance of the Evolv system. We're proud to support Memphis Athletics and help welcome fans to Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium as the program continues investing in the future of game day."

"Safety and guest experience go hand in hand," said Tabrian Arnold, Associate Athletic Director, Capital Projects & Operations. "Evolv allows us to enhance our security screening while providing fans with a faster, more efficient entry into the stadium. It's an important investment in creating a modern game day experience."

Memphis Athletics joins a growing roster of collegiate athletic programs and venues, as well as entertainment venues such as

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Meet some of BIHMST Sports Correspondents

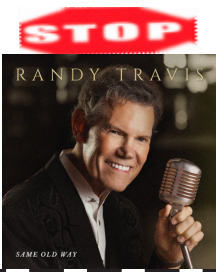


William M. Larsha, Jr.



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!



- Randy Travis Releases “Set Blues Back”... *sports-Ent. 5* ***
- Memphis Safe Task Force Commemorates First Year *see sports-Military 2* ***
- Grizzlies Announce Promotional Schedule... *see sports page 4* ***
- Christian McBride and Ursa Major Release “Points of Light”... *see sports-Ent. 6* ***
- Paula Patton and Derek Luke Reunite in “Love on the Vineyard”... *see sports-Ent. 6* ***
- SAF Announces Don Kilmer as Golden Bowtie Award Winner... *see sports-Military 3* ***
- Keanan Bader Gets Honorable Mention... *see sports page 4*

“Who’s Bad” brings the Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience to Gold Strike

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Members of the Who’s Bad: The Michael Jackson Ultimate Experience. (Photo/Courtesy: Gold Strike)



UP NEXT

SATURDAY, OCT. 10

TIME TBA

SIMMONS BANK LIBERTY STADIUM
BATTLE FOR THE BONES

MEMPHIS FOOTBALL

