

Sports & Entertainment

Wrap-Up: Honda Battle of the Bands rocks SoFi Stadium with epic West Coast debut with HBCUs, hosted by Nick Cannon

•Six Historically Black College and University (HBCU) marching bands delivered unforgettable performances
 •Nick Cannon hosted the inaugural West Coast showcase, with guest performance by GRAMMY-nominated recording artist Glo-Rilla
 •Participating HBCUs awarded \$50,000 grants from Honda for music education and career development



Building on its over 35 years of support for HBCUs, Honda awarded each participating school a \$50,000 grant. (Photo/Courtesy: Honda)

TORRANCE, Calif., Feb. 3, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- Honda Battle of the Bands (HBOB), the nation's premier showcase for Historically Black College and University (HBCU) marching bands, marked a milestone this weekend with its first-ever West Coast appearance at SoFi Stadium on February 1, drawing tens of thousands of fans, students, and alumni to celebrate the rich culture and traditions of HBCUs. Attendees were thrilled by dynamic performances from six HBCU marching bands and dance teams during the HBOB Invitational Showcase – now celebrating its 19th year.

Building on its over 35 years of support for HBCUs, Honda awarded each participating school a \$50,000 grant. "For the first time ever, this year's Honda Battle of the Bands brought the incredible talent, passion, and culture of HBCUs to the West Coast," said Jasmine Cockfield, Honda Battle of the Bands project lead at American Honda Motor Co., Inc. "Honda is proud to celebrate these exceptional students and institutions, and we look forward to further driving the legacy of HBCUs through our ongoing support of the HBCU community."

The event's theme, "Driving the Legacy of HBCUs," honored the heritage of HBCUs and their critical role in fostering higher education and opportunities for advancement within the Black community.

- Hosted by multi-hyphenate entertainer and entrepreneur Nick Cannon, the 2025 HBOB showcase featured performances by:
- Alabama A&M University, Marching Maroon & White Band
 - Alabama State University, Mighty Marching Hornets
 - Hampton University, The Marching Force
 - North Carolina A&T State University, The Blue and Gold Marching Machine
 - Southern University, Human Jukebox
 - University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Marching Musical Machine of the Mid-South

Capping off the showcase, GRAMMY-nominated hip-hop star GloRilla brought the house down with a high-energy performance that had the audience

on its feet. Building on its over 35 years of support for HBCUs, Honda awarded each participating school a \$50,000 grant to enhance its music education and career development programs. Honda also reaffirmed its longstanding commitment to HBCU music education through a \$500,000 grant to Thurgood Marshall College Fund ahead of HBOB 2025. The grant is dedicated to awarding scholarships that will power the academic ambitions of HBCU student-musicians across the country. Honda also collaborated with the Black College Expo™ powered by the National College Resources Foundation to host a college and career fair at SoFi Stadium before the HBOB Invitational Showcase. Over 200 colleges and universities, including

HBCUs, offered attendees on-the-spot interviews, acceptances, and scholarships totaling more than \$10 million. In the spring, Honda will continue its commitment to powering the success and dreams of HBCU students through the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC), America's premier academic competition for HBCU students. The 2025 HCASC National Championship Tournament will be held in April. Visit www.hcasc.com for more details.

"For over three decades, Honda has supported the success and dreams of HBCU students through initiatives including Honda Campus All-Star Challenge, Honda Battle of the Bands, and scholarship programs with National Urban League and

Thurgood Marshall College Fund," said Cockfield. "Through our 'Drive the Legacy' initiative, Honda is building on our special relationship with HBCUs to support students in pursuing their educational and career goals." Fans can relive HBOB 2025 by visiting www.hondabattleofthebands.com or following the official HBOB social media channels:

- Facebook: [Facebook.com/HondaBattleoftheBands](https://www.facebook.com/HondaBattleoftheBands)
- Instagram: @the_honda
- X: @The_Honda

Honda and Historically Black Colleges and Universities
 Honda has supported the success and dreams of Historically Black College and University (HBCU) students for 35 years, through programs such as the Honda

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Campus All-Star Challenge and Honda Battle of the Bands. These initiatives have impacted the lives of more than 300,000 students and provided over \$14 million in grants toward HBCU education programs and facilities improvements.

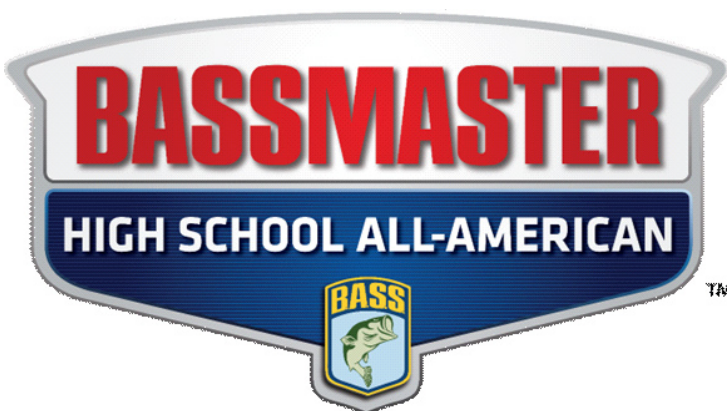
Through its "Drive the Legacy" initiative, Honda also partners with HBCUs and organizations such as the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, National Urban League, and local UNCF chapters, to provide annual scholarship funding and offer development opportunities to HBCU students. Through these efforts, Honda aims to recruit top talent for its future workforce.

To advance its leading investment in HBCUs, Honda also is a member of the HBCU Partnership Challenge, a Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus initiative that brings together government, industry and HBCUs to create strategic, more sustainable HBCU partnerships.

Learn more at <https://www.honda.com/community/diversity-reports>.

Nominations now open for 2025 class of anglers to select Bassmaster High School All-American Fishing Team

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. February 3, 2025— B.A.S.S. is now accepting nominations for the most exceptional high school bass anglers in the country for the annual Bassmaster High School All-American Fishing Team.



B.A.S.S. is celebrating the 11th year of the selection of the team, which recognizes the 12 most outstanding high school anglers in the nation. The program is designed to reward young athletes for their performance in tournaments, leadership in their communities and involvement in conservation efforts.

Applications for the team will be accepted now through June 9.

To be considered, a student must be nominated by a parent, coach, teacher or other school official. Students currently enrolled in grades 10 through 12 with a current grade point average of 2.5 or higher are eligible.

Judges will select up to two student anglers in each state. These All-State Fishing Team members will become semifinalists in the selection of the 12-member Bassmaster High School All-American Fishing Team. Criteria include success in high school fishing tournaments and involvement in conservation efforts and other community service activities.

"This is such a great program for anglers to showcase all their talents from the classroom, tournament success and giving back to

the community," said Glenn Cale, B.A.S.S. tournament manager of the College, High School and Junior series. "I'm honored to be able to share this great experience with each of these anglers and their families."

All nominees for the All-American team must be B.A.S.S. members. The online membership form provides multiple membership options.

Notices have been sent to youth fishing directors of the B.A.S.S. Nation and other organizations, as well as leaders of state high school fishing programs. Adults can nominate students by filling out an online form here. Nominations must be submitted before midnight on June 9. Please send all questions to allamerican@bassmaster.com.

2025 Bassmaster High School Series Title Sponsor: Strike King
 2025 Bassmaster High School Series Platinum Sponsor: Toyota
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Humminbird, Mercury, Minn Kota, Nitro Boats, Power-Pole, Progressive Insurance, Ranger Boats, Rapala, Skeeter Boats, Yamaha
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About B.A.S.S.
 B.A.S.S., which encompasses the Bassmaster tournament leagues, events and media platforms, is the worldwide authority on bass fishing and keeper of the culture of the sport, providing cutting-edge content on bass fishing whenever, wherever and however bass fishing fans want to use it. Headquartered in Birmingham, Ala., the 500,000-member organization's fully integrated media platforms include the industry's leading magazines (Bassmaster and B.A.S.S. Times), website (Bassmaster.com), TV show, radio show, social media programs and events. For more than

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50 years, B.A.S.S. has been dedicated to access, conservation and youth fishing. The Bassmaster Tournament

Trail includes the most prestigious events at each level of competition, including the Bassmaster Elite Series, St. Croix Bassmaster Opens Series presented by SEVIN, Mercury B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier Series presented by Lowrance, Strike King Bassmaster College Series presented by Bass Pro Shops, Strike King Bassmaster High School Series, Bassmaster Junior Series, Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Team Championship, Newport Bassmaster Kayak Series presented by Native Watercraft, Bassmaster College Kayak Series, Yamaha Bassmaster Redfish Cup Championship presented by Skeeter and the ultimate celebration of com-

petitive fishing, the Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Classic presented by Under Armour.

Connect with #Bassmaster on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok.

Watch for
 The Mid-South Tribune's
 30th
 Annual Black History
 Month Special Edition
 in February 2025.

Email sports news and to MSTsports@prodigy.net

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