

# B.A.S.S. unveils powerhouse 2024 Bassmaster Elite Series lineup in field of 103 top anglers

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - November 21, 2023 — After an incredible 2023 season that set records for both attendance and fan engagement, saw six first-time Elite Series champions and a Dakota Lithium Bassmaster Rookie of the Year race that came down to the season's final day of competition, B.A.S.S. has announced the 2024 Elite Series field. An accomplished field of young rookies courtesy of the St. Croix Bassmaster Opens, a surprise qualifier from the B.A.S.S. Nation — the first Elite from the state of New Hampshire — and two legends of the sport highlight the roster.

"I can't wait for the 2024 season to start and think the schedule sets up really well for big catches, big drama and big excitement," said the Elite Series Tournament Director Lisa Talmadge. "The Elite Series field is absolutely stacked, and fans are going to love following their favorite anglers, including the legendary Rick Clunn, who is celebrating 50 years in our sport, as well as meeting this talented crop of rookies."

Enthusiasm reached an all-time high for the St. Croix Bassmaster Opens in 2023 as B.A.S.S. unveiled a new "Elite Qualifiers" division that required anglers to fish all nine events across three divisions to qualify for one of nine spots on the Bassmaster Elite Series. The result was a hotly contested series culminating in a stacked rookie class of new Elites.

Highlighting the rookies is Opens Angler of the Year JT Thompkins, who amassed an incredible seven Top 25 finishes en route to claiming the AOY title. Along with Thompkins, John Garrett finished second followed by Trey McKinney in third. Robert Gee, Tyler Williams, Wesley Gore, Logan Parks, Ben Milliken and Kyle Patrick all earned Elite Series berths as well.

Eight of the nine anglers moving on to the Elite Series are under the age of 30, with Thompkins (21), Williams (21) and McKinney (18) being the three youngest of the group. The rookie class is packed with talent from the Bassmaster youth series ranks Garrett, Gee and Parks fished in college — Parks was a member of the Bassmaster High School All-American team and College Team of the Year — while McKinney and Thompkins both competed in the Junior and High School ranks.

Also joining the ranks of the most prominent circuit in sportfishing is Tim Dube, who finished second to Will Davis Jr. at the TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Championship. Davis, who took a win at the 2023 Bassmaster



**Progressive Insurance Bassmaster Angler of the Year Kyle Welcher headlines a field of 103 talented anglers competing on the 2024 Bassmaster Elite Series. (Photo by Andy Crawford/B.A.S.S.)**

Elite at Lay Lake, is the first angler to win the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship in back-to-back seasons, which guaranteed him a spot in the 2024 Bassmaster Elite Series. Since Davis had already qualified, his double qualification opened the door for Dube, the first New Hampshire native to qualify for the Elites. Each year, B.A.S.S. also adds up to two Legends to the Elite field and the two anglers claiming those spots in 2024 have both already had historic careers. Four-time Bassmaster Classic champion, 1988 Angler of the Year and 16-time B.A.S.S. winner Rick Clunn celebrates his 50th year of professional fishing next year. Over that time, Clunn has earned 247 Top 30 finishes in B.A.S.S. events as well as won the U.S. Open twice and the Redman All-American. In just five seasons competing in major B.A.S.S. events, Jordan Lee has amassed more than \$1.1 million in earnings through wins in the 2017 and 2018 Bassmaster Classic and dominant performances in both the Elites and the St. Croix Bassmaster Opens, notching 21 Top 10s and 36 Top 30 finishes.

The 2024 Elite Series season kicks off at the Gamakatsu Bassmaster Elite on Toledo Bend Feb. 22. From there the tournament trail will wind through seven states as anglers battle each other — and big bass — for cash and prizes and attempt to qualify for the 2025 Bassmaster Classic. Each tournament will begin with the full field of 103 anglers on Days 1 and 2 before the field is cut to 50 for the semifinal round on Day 3. Only the Top 10 remaining anglers will fish the final day of each event with a \$100,000 first-place prize and valuable Progressive Insurance

Bassmaster Angler of the Year points on the line.

### 2024 Bassmaster Elite Series Field

- Matt Arey, Shelby, N.C.**
- Justin Atkins, Florence, Ala.**
- Todd Auten, Lake Wylie, S.C.**
- Drew Benton, Blakely, Ga.**
- Stetson Blaylock, Benton, Ark.**
- Scott Canterbury, Odenville, Ala.**
- Brandon Card, Salisbury, N.C.**
- Hank Cherry, Lincolnton, N.C.**
- Jason Christie, Park Hill, Okla.**
- Joey Cifuentes III, Clinton, Ark.**
- Rick Clunn, Ava, Mo.**
- Brandon Cobb, Greenwood, S.C.**
- Keith Combs, Huntington, Texas**
- Drew Cook, Cairo, Ga.**
- John Cox, DeBary, Fla.**
- John Crews, Salem, Va.**
- Clent Davis, Montevallo, Ala.**
- Will Davis Jr., Sylacauga, Ala.**
- Greg DiPalma, Millville, N.J.**
- Bob Downey, Detroit Lakes, Minn.**
- Tim Dube, Nashua, N.H.**
- Seth Feider, New Market, Minn.**
- Austin Felix, Eden Prairie, Minn.**
- Jacob Foutz, Charleston, Tenn.**
- Marc Frazier, Newnan, Ga.**
- Kyoya Fujita, Minamitsuru, Yamanashi, Japan**
- Cooper Gallant, Bowmanville, Ontario, Canada**
- John Garrett, Union City, Tenn.**
- David Gaston, Sylacauga, Ala.**
- Robert Gee, Knoxville, Tenn.**
- Wesley Gore, Clanton, Ala.**
- Buddy Gross, Chattanooga, Tenn.**
- Jeff Gustafson, Keewatin, Ontario, Canada**
- Greg Hackney, Gonzales, La.**
- Justin Hamner, Northport, Ala.**
- Ray Hanselman, Del Rio, Texas**

- Jamie Hartman, Newport, N.Y.**
- Matt Herren, Ashville, Ala.**
- Derek Hudnall, Zachary, La.**
- Cody Huff, Ava, Mo.**
- Mike Huff, Corbin, Ky.**
- Mike Iaconelli, Pittsgrove, N.J.**
- Taku Ito, Chiba, Japan**
- Carl Jocusmen, Toowoomba, Australia**
- Chris Johnston, Otonabee, Ontario, Canada**
- Cory Johnston, Cavan, Ontario, Canada**
- Jonathan Kelley, Old Forge, Pa.**
- Steve Kennedy, Auburn, Ala.**
- Kenta Kimura, Hirakata, Osaka, Japan**
- Koby Kreiger, Alva, Fla.**
- Caleb Kuphall, Mukwonago, Wis.**
- Logan Latuso, Gonzales, La.**
- Jordan Lee, Cullman, Ala.**
- Shane LeHew, Catawba, N.C.**
- Brandon Lester, Fayetteville, Tenn.**
- Lee Livesay, Longview, Texas**
- Wes Logan, Springville, Ala.**
- Ed Loughran III, Richmond, Va.**
- Bill Lowen, Brookville, Ind.**
- Scott Martin, Clewiston, Fla.**
- Trey McKinney, Carbondale, Ill.**
- Mark Menendez, Paducah, Ky.**
- Ben Milliken, New Caney, Texas**
- Brock Mosley, Collinsville, Miss.**
- Paul Mueller, Naugatuck, Conn.**
- David Mullins, Mt. Carmel, Tenn.**
- Bryan New, Saluda, S.C.**
- Kyle Norsetter, Cottage Grove, Wis.**
- Brandon Palaniuk, Rathdrum, Idaho**
- Luke Palmer, Coalgate, Okla.**
- Logan Parks, Auburn, Ala.**
- Kyle Patrick, Cooperstown,**

## David Jones named to AAC Weekly Honor Roll



**David Jones**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. -Nov. 20, 2023- Junior forward David Jones has been named to the American Athletic Conference Honor Roll team for his performance on the court last week.

It marks the first weekly honor of the season for Jones and the Tigers.

The Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic product powered Memphis with 22 points, 10 rebounds and three steals in a 92-74 win over Alabama State on Friday. It marked his second-straight double-double.

In 26 minutes, Jones shot 7-of-12 overall and connected on 4-of-7 from three-point range.

On the season, he's averaging 15.7 points and 7.3 rebounds while shooting 42.1 percent overall and 52.6 percent from long distance.

The Tigers (3-0) are back in action Wednesday when they open up play in Nassau, Bahamas against Michigan in the Battle 4 Atlantis during Feast Week. The game with the Wolverines is set for a 4 p.m. CT tip on ESPN2.

For complete information on Memphis Tiger Men's Basketball, visit [www.GoTigersGo.com](http://www.GoTigersGo.com)

## Kareem Jackson suspended for four games

NEW YORK — Nov. 20, 2023 — Kareem Jackson of the Denver Broncos has been suspended without pay for four games for repeated violations of playing rules intended to protect the health and safety of players, including during this Sunday's game against the Minnesota Vikings.

NFL Vice President of Football Operations Jon Runyan issued the suspension for a violation of Rule 12, Section 2, Article 10 (a) which states that "it is a foul if a player lowers his head and makes forcible contact with his helmet against an opponent."

In a letter to Jackson, Runyan wrote:

"With 13:38 remaining in the first quarter, you were involved in a play that the League considers a serious violation of the playing rules. The video of the play shows that you lowered your head and made forcible contact to Vikings quarterback Josh Dobbs. You had an unobstructed path to your opponent and the illegal contact could have been avoided. "Illegal acts that are flagrant and jeopardize the safety of players

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## TN Titans return home to host Carolina Panthers ... from sports page 1

games on phones and tablets. Out of market, fans can watch every Sunday afternoon game with Sunday Ticket. For more information on ways to watch NFL games visit [www.nfl.com/ways-to-watch/](http://www.nfl.com/ways-to-watch/)

The Titans Radio Network and Nashville flagship 104.5 The Zone carry all Titans games across the Mid-South with the "Voice of the Titans" Mike Keith, analyst Dave McGinnis, sideline reporter Ramon Foster and gameday host Rhett Bryan. Streaming is available at the Titans Mobile App for listeners in the Nashville market and available everywhere for desktop users.

**TITANS RETURN HOME**  
Since the beginning of October, the Titans have played only two games in Tennessee: Oct. 1 against Cincinnati and Oct. 29 against Atlanta. During that stretch, they have had a bye, a game in London and four additional road contests. In three games at Nissan Stadium in 2023, they are 3-0, and five of their final seven games are at home.

The Titans appeared in Jacksonville last week to face the AFC South-leading Jaguars. The Jaguars scored the game's first 27 points and eventually won by a final score of 34-14. Rookie quarterback Will Levis logged his fourth consecutive start and completed 13 of 17 passes (76.5 percent) for 158 yards and two touchdowns without throwing an interception. His passer rating was 143.8, marking his second performance in four starts with a passer rating above 130.

Levis' afternoon included a 43-yard touchdown pass to DeAndre Hopkins. The duo logged their fourth touchdown connection in as many weeks. Entering this week, Hopkins is on the verge of becoming the fifth NFL player to record 900 receptions, 12,000 receiving yards and 75 receiving touchdowns within his first 11 seasons. The only previous players to do so were Marvin Harrison, Jerry Rice, Brandon Marshall and Larry Fitzgerald. Hopkins' current numbers include 900 receptions, 11,948 yards and 75 touchdowns.

Running back Derrick Henry enters this week's game with 663 rushing yards in 2023, which ranks fifth in the NFL. He is only two yards shy (8,998) of joining Adrian Peterson, Barry Sanders, Emmitt Smith, Jim Brown, LaDainian Tomlinson, Eric Dickerson and Marshall Faulk as the only players in NFL history to reach 9,000 career rushing yards and 80 rushing touchdowns before celebrating their 30th birthday.

**THE PANTHERS**  
The Panthers launched a new era during the 2023 offseason, hiring Frank Reich as head coach in January. Reich previously spent five seasons (2018 to 2022) as the head coach of the Indianapolis Colts. Prior to the 2023 NFL Draft, the Panthers traded with the Chicago Bears for the first-overall pick, and they used the selection on Alabama Crimson Tide quarterback Bryce Young. The former Heisman Trophy winner has started all but one game this season, passing for 1,683 yards with nine touchdowns and eight interceptions.

Last week, the Panthers hosted the Dallas Cowboys and were in a one-possession game through the third quarter. However, after Carolina scored to make it 17-10, the Cowboys tallied 16 unanswered points in the final quarter to win 33-10.

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