

Sports & Entertainment

Grizzlies celebrate Black History Month with the principles to “Educate, Inspire and Empower” from sports page 1

dova High School. The students will sing a medley of songs from Motown Records for fans pre-game in the International Paper Zone on Plaza Level before the Grizzlies tip-off at 6:30 p.m. against the Golden State Warriors.

The Grizzlies will partner with the Memphis 13 Foundation to host fifth-grade students from Springdale Elementary School as a part of Grizz Tales, a vibrant initiative from the Grizzlies’ Read to Achieve program which encourages students to increase their reading minutes while promoting literacy awareness in the Memphis community. This year’s Grizz Tales event will spotlight the Memphis 13, the group of elementary school children who integrated the Memphis City Schools in 1961. Students will participate in an immersive activation over two to three days, culminating at the Hollywood Library, where they will create an interactive mural, engage with an original member of the Memphis 13, listen to a public reading of “Remember: The Journey to School Integration” and receive a signed copy of the book following a Q&A session.

Various exhibits celebrating Black history will be displayed across FedExForum throughout the month. The Intersection of Sports and History: The Legacy of the Civil Rights Museum, presented by the Hyde Family Foundation, will be on display outside sections 107 and 108 on Plaza Level at FedExForum all month long. The special exhibition from the National Civil Rights Museum will feature artifacts, photos and information, telling stories of the connection between the city of Memphis, the Memphis Grizzlies and the National Civil Rights Museum. In addition, Contemporary Arts Memphis will showcase its Legacy Lives Here art exhibit on Terrace Level at FedExForum near sections 228 and 229 during the last two weeks of February. Visitors will be able to admire the pieces, which express the legacy of the city and people of Memphis.

Grizzlies fans can also check out the painted sneakers on display throughout FedExForum, designed by students at Visualizing the Dream 2026, presented by Ford and your Mid-South Ford Dealers. The event brought Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream to life through dynamic elements, including a panel discussion led by the Youth Advisory Council, showcasing how Dr. King’s legacy has positively impacted access to opportunities

Riser completes staff addition with Julius McDougal from sports-ent. page 5

IV and A.J. Lewis, with Lewis signing a contract with the Colorado Rockies. McDougal had shown success quickly prior to jumping to the Division I level, serving as the head coach at Stillman College from 2016-17 and leading the Tigers to a Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular-season title and reaching the SIAC championship game. Five players signed professional contracts under McDougal’s tutelage at Stillman. McDougal’s first coaching experience came as an assistant coach at Kentucky State before joining Stillman. During his collegiate career, McDougal played at Claflin Uni-

versity in South Carolina, earning all-conference honors in 2010 with the 53rd-highest batting average (.416) in the nation, also earning Claflin’s Defensive Player of the Year honors in 2011. McDougal holds a bachelor’s degree from Claflin and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Alabama. Season and single-game tickets are available for purchase visiting www.GoTigersGo.com .

For complete information on Memphis Tiger Baseball, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

New England Patriots take on Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl LX at Levi’s Stadium... from sports page 1

season after finishing in last place in their division, joining the 2017 Philadelphia Eagles and 2009 New Orleans Saints. After finishing with a 4-13 record in 2024, the Patriots are the fifth team to appear in the Super Bowl the season after winning fewer than five games, joining the 2021 Cincinnati Bengals, 2019 San Francisco 49ers, 1999 St. Louis Rams and 1988 Cincinnati Bengals.

With New England and Seattle both advancing to Super Bowl LX, at least one team has advanced to the Super Bowl the season after missing the playoffs in six of the past 10 seasons (2016-25). New England joins the 2021 Cincinnati Bengals as the second team in the past five seasons (2021-25) to advance to the Super Bowl the season after a last place finish. With Mike Vrabel, in his first season as the Patriots head coach, and Mike Macdonald, hired by the Seahawks in 2024, Super Bowl LX will mark the fourth Super Bowl ever between head coaches each within their first two seasons with a team. The others: Super Bowl XLIII (Mike Tomlin and Ken Whisenhunt), Super Bowl XXXVII (Jon Gruden and Bill Callahan) and Super Bowl XXXVI (Bill Belichick and Mike Martz). Vrabel can become the first head coach to win 18 games, including the playoffs, in his first season with a team in NFL history. He



can also become the fifth person in NFL history to win the Super Bowl as both a player and a head coach, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers Mike Ditka, Tony Dungy and Tom Flores as well as Doug Pederson. As a player, Vrabel won three Super Bowls (XXXVI, XXXVIII and XXXIX) with New England. Macdonald, who will be 38 years and 227 days old on Super Bowl Sunday, can become the third-youngest head coach to win the Super Bowl, trailing only Sean McVay (36 years, 20 days in Super Bowl LVI) and Mike Tomlin (36 years, 323 days in Super Bowl XLIII). He can also become the first head coach under the age of 40 to win 17 games in a season, including the playoffs, in NFL history. New England quarterback Drake Maye, at 23 years and 162 days old, can become the youngest starting quarterback ever to win a Super Bowl, surpassing Ben Roethlisberger (23 years and 340 days old in Super Bowl XL). Maye can become the fifth quarterback ever to win the Super Bowl in his first or second season, joining Tom Brady, Ben Roethlisberger, Pro Football Hall of Famer Kurt Warner and Rus-

sell Wilson. Seattle quarterback Sam Darnold can become the fourth quarterback ever to win the Super Bowl in his first season with a team, joining Tom Brady (Super Bowl LV with Tampa Bay), Trent Dilfer (Super Bowl XXXV with Baltimore) and Matthew Stafford (Super Bowl LVI with the Los Angeles Rams). Seattle wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba can become the fourth player (fifth occurrence) to lead the NFL in receiving yards during the regular season and win the Super Bowl in the same year, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers Drew Pearson (1977) and Jerry Rice (1989 and 1994) as well as Cooper Kupp (2021). Including the postseason, Smith-Njigba has 1,965 receiving yards – the most receiving yards by a player under the age of 24 in NFL history – and can become the third player ever with at least 2,000 receiving yards in a season, including the playoffs, joining Cooper Kupp (2,425 receiving yards in 2021 with the Los Angeles Rams) and Puka Nacua (2,047 in 2025 with the Los Angeles Rams). He can also become the second player ever with 90-or-more receiving yards in 15 games in a season, including the playoffs, joining Kupp (19 games in 2021). Seattle wide receiver Cooper Kupp, who was named Super Bowl LVI Most Valuable Player

with the Los Angeles Rams, can become the eighth wide receiver to be on the active roster and win the Super Bowl with two different teams, joining Billy Davis (Baltimore and Dallas), Ed McCaffrey (San Francisco and Denver), Marcus Nash (Denver and Baltimore), Ricky Proehl (St. Louis Rams and Indianapolis), Gloster Richardson (Kansas City and Dallas), Torrey Smith (Baltimore and Philadelphia) and Justin Watson (Tampa Bay and Kansas City). Seattle linebacker DeMarcus Lawrence, who has a sack and forced fumble in both Seahawks wins this postseason, can become the first player since 2000 with a sack and forced fumble in three consecutive playoff games within the same postseason.

New England defensive tackle Milton Williams, who won Super Bowl LIX last season with Philadelphia, can become the sixth player to be on the active roster and win the Super Bowl in consecutive seasons with different teams, joining LeGarrette Blount (2016 with New England, 2017 with Philadelphia), Chris Long (2016 with New England, 2017 with Philadelphia), LeSean McCoy (2019 with Kansas City, 2020 with Tampa Bay), Ken Norton (1993 with Dallas, 1994 with San Francisco) and Pro Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders (1994 with San Francisco, 1995 with Dallas).

Turning Point USA presents ‘All American Halftime Show’ on Feb. 8; Kid Rock headlines ... from sports page 1



Real America’s Voice, TBN, CHARGE!, The National News Desk, NTD.com, and OAN News.

“The All-American Halftime Show is an opportunity for all Americans to enjoy a halftime show with no agenda other than to celebrate faith, family, and freedom,” Turning Point USA spokesman Andrew Kolvet said of the halftime show. “We set out

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to provide an entertainment option that will be fun, excellent, and exciting for the entire family while millions are gathered together for the big game. These performers will deliver exactly that, and we can’t wait to watch the incredible show they’re about to put on. We know millions around the country will be watching too.”

For updates and more infor-

mation on The All American Halftime Show, please visit the event’s website. At https://www.americanhalftime-show.com

Turning Point USA was founded by the late Charlie Kirk

For more information , visit https://TPUSA.com

Email sports news to MSTsports@prodigy.net



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We celebrate America’s 250th Anniversary and our culture of Freedom, Freedom, Freedom!

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Coming in February!