

Sports & Entertainment

Turner is named SEATA Athletic Trainer of Year from sports page 1

Turner was honored this past weekend (Feb. 6) at the SEATA Clinical Symposium & Education Expo in Atlanta, Georgia. Nominees for the award must demonstrate significant service, leadership or educational contributions to the association. “I’m incredibly honored to receive the Kenny Howard College/University Athletic Trainer of the Year Award,” Turner said.

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Turner leads Memphis’ integrated performance and wellness model, overseeing Sports Nutrition, Athletic Performance, Sports Medicine, Sports Science and Athletic Mental Performance. He also serves as the primary sports medicine contact for men’s basketball and men’s golf and is the secondary sport administrator for the women’s golf program. Since joining Memphis in 2012, Turner has played a key role in the department’s success. Programs under his medical leadership have captured multiple conference championships, including football titles in 2014 and 2019 and men’s basketball championships in 2023 and 2025, along with numerous post-season appearances. He has served as the department’s Athletics Healthcare Administrator since 2017, overseeing healthcare operations, policy development and medical

coordination. Turner has also been a national leader in the profession, serving as President of the American Conference Sports Medicine Committee from 2023-25 and as a member of the conference’s Medical Advisory Committee from 2020-25. Prior to Memphis, Turner spent three seasons in the United Football League as Head Athletic Trainer for the Virginia Destroyers and the California Redwoods/Sacramento Mountain Lions. He also served as Director of Sports Medicine at Winston-Salem State, and held positions with the Atlanta Falcons, Carolina Panthers, Winthrop and South Sumter High School. Turner earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sport Science with a specialization in Athletic Training from the University of Florida and a master’s degree in Recreation with a concentration in Sport Management from the University of Arkansas. He is a certified and licensed athletic trainer with multiple advanced certifications in sports rehabilitation, manual therapy and performance enhancement. His professional excellence has been recognized through numerous honors, including the University of Memphis Harriet R. Montgomery Service Excellence Award, TIAA Division Excellence Awards and the American Conference’s Dr. Jeffrey Anderson Humanitarian Award for Excellence in Sports Medicine.

ABOUT SEATA The Southeast Athletic Trainers’ Association (SEATA) is District 9 of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association. It is a not-for-profit organization dealing with the concerns of its members and the profession of athletic training as a whole. This association was first started back in 1950. Initially comprised of the members of the Southeastern Conference schools, this district is represented by Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Tickets on sale for American Conference Championships from sports page 1

ment crown in three seasons, defeating UAB, 84-72, in the final. Legacy Arena at the BJCC is a 17,000-capacity arena that hosts national and international touring concerts, productions and sporting events each year and underwent a \$125 million modernization in 2021. Most recently, the venue hosted the 2025 NCAA Women’s Basketball Regionals and the 2025 SEC Women’s Gymnastics Championships. The arena previously hosted the 2023 NCAA Men’s Basketball First and Second Rounds and will host that event again in 2028.

2026 American Basketball Championships
Legacy Arena at the BJCC
Birmingham, Alabama

Tuesday, March 10
Women’s Session 1 | First Round
Women’s Game 1: No. 8 Seed vs No. 9 Seed - 12 p.m.
Women’s Game 2: No. 7 Seed vs No. 10 Seed - 2 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11
Women’s Session 2 | Second Round
Women’s Game 3: Game 1 Winner vs No. 5 Seed - 12 p.m.
Women’s Game 4: Game 2 Winner vs No. 6 Seed - 2 p.m.

Men’s Session 1 | First Round
Men’s Game 1: No. 8 Seed vs No. 9 Seed - 6 p.m.
Men’s Game 2: No. 7 Seed vs No. 10 Seed - 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 12
Women’s Session 3 | Quarterfinals
Women’s Game 5: Game 3 Winner vs No. 4 Seed - 12 p.m.
Women’s Game 6: Game 4 Winner vs No. 3 Seed - 2 p.m.

Men’s Session 2 | Second Round
Men’s Game 3: Game 1 Winner vs No. 5 Seed – 6 p.m.
Men’s Game 4: Game 2 Winner vs No. 6 Seed – 8 p.m.

Friday, March 13
Men’s Session 3 | Quarterfinals
Men’s Game 5: Game 3 Winner vs No. 4 Seed - 12 p.m.
Men’s Game 6: Game 4 Winner vs No. 3 Seed - 2 p.m.

Women’s Session 4 | Semifinals
Women’s Game 7: Game 5 Winner vs No. 1 Seed - 6 p.m.
Women’s Game 8: Game 6 Winner vs No. 2 Seed - 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 14
Men’s Session 4 | Semifinals
Men’s Game 7: Game 5 Winner vs No. 1 Seed - 2 p.m.
Men’s Game 8: Game 6 Winner vs No. 2 Seed – 4 p.m.

Women’s Session 5 | Final
Women’s Game 9: Game 7 Winner vs Game 8 Winner - 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 15
Men’s Session 5 | Final
Men’s Game 9: Game 7 Winner vs Game 8 Winner - 2:15 p.m.

Memphis Athletics honors trailblazers Bertha Looney and Herb Hilliard with Legacy Awards from sports page 1

Herb Hilliard carved out a permanent place in Memphis basketball history when he became the first African-American student-athlete to compete for the Tigers on the hardwood. A Millington, Tennessee native, Hilliard played for Memphis State from 1967-69 during a pivotal era for both the program and the campus and helped lay the foundation for generations of student-athletes who would follow.

Herb Hilliard: Trailblazer, Tiger and Community Leader Herb Hilliard carved out a permanent place in Memphis basketball history when he became the first African-American student-athlete to compete for the Tigers on the hardwood. A Millington, Tennessee native, Hilliard played for Memphis State from 1967-69 during a pivotal era for both the program and the campus and helped lay the foundation for generations of student-athletes who would follow. During his two seasons, the 6-foot-4 guard/forward appeared in 37 games and was a reliable presence on both ends of the floor. As

a sophomore in 1967-68, he ranked second on the team in rebounds (130) and second in field goal percentage (51.2 percent). He finished his career shooting 50.8 percent from the field while averaging 2.9 points and 4.3 rebounds per game. Hilliard’s legacy, however, extends far beyond basketball. A graduate of Memphis State with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in personnel administration and industrial relations, Hilliard built an accomplished professional career while remaining deeply committed to civic service. His leadership roles have included service with the American Bankers Association Government Relations Council, Tennessee Bankers Association Government Relations Council, Financial Services Roundtable Government Relations Committee and the RMA Enterprise Risk Council. He has also served as chairman of the National Civil Rights Museum, as a board member of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, and as a commissioner for the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority. In 2009, he was recognized with the M Club’s Billy J. Murphy Award, honoring former Mem-

phis student-athletes who have made significant professional and community contributions. **A Shared Legacy of Impact** Together, Looney and Hilliard represent different chapters of the University of Memphis story, yet their legacies are deeply connected by courage, perseverance and service. One broke barriers in athletics during a time of change; the other helped dismantle segregation at the institution’s gates. Both went on to embody the values of leadership and community engagement that continue to define the university. The University of Memphis Legacy Award celebrates individuals whose contributions have shaped the institution’s past and continue to influence its future. In honoring Bertha Looney and Herb Hilliard, the university recognizes not only their historic achievements but also the enduring example they set for students, alumni and the Memphis community.

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

Grizzlies acquire Walter Clayton Jr., Taylor Hendricks, Kyle Anderson, Georges Niang, and three future first round draft picks from Jazz

Memphis Trades Jaren Jackson Jr., John Konchar, Jock Landale and Vince Williams Jr. to Utah -



MEMPHIS, Tenn., February 3, 2026 – The Memphis Grizzlies announced that the team acquired guard **Walter Clayton Jr.**, forwards **Taylor Hendricks**, **Kyle Anderson** and **Georges Niang** and three future first round draft picks from the Utah Jazz for forward/center **Jaren Jackson Jr.**, center **Jock Landale** and wings **John Konchar** and **Vince Williams Jr.**

Clayton Jr. (6-4, 195) has appeared in 45 games off the bench during his rookie season with the Jazz and has averaged 6.8 points, 2.0 rebounds and 3.2 assists in 18.0 minutes since he was selected by Utah with the 18th overall pick in the first round of the 2025 NBA Draft. The 22-year-old led Florida to the 2025 NCAA Championship as the NCAA Final Four’s Most Outstanding Player while earning 2024-25 Consensus All-America First Team, All-SEC First Team and 2025 SEC Tournament MVP honors as a senior for the Gators. **Hendricks** (6-9, 215) has played 76 career regular season games (32 starts) in three seasons with Utah and has averaged 6.2 points and 3.9 rebounds in 18.7 minutes since he was drafted by the Jazz with the ninth overall pick in the first round of the 2023 NBA Draft. The 22-year-old, who earned 2022-23 All-AAC Second Team honors at Central Florida, aver-

aged 4.9 points and 3.0 rebounds in 14.9 minutes in 33 games (six starts) for Utah this season. **Anderson** (6-9, 230) has competed in 734 career regular season games (308 starts) over a 12-year NBA career with the San Antonio Spurs, Grizzlies, Minnesota Timberwolves, Golden State Warriors, Miami Heat and Jazz and has averaged 6.8 points, 4.3 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.0 steals in 21.4 minutes since he was selected by San Antonio with the 30th overall pick in the 2014 NBA Draft out of UCLA. The 32-year-old averaged 7.1 points, 3.3 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 1.2 steals in 20.1 minutes in 20 appearances as a reserve for the Jazz this season.

Niang (6-6, 230) has appeared in 544 career regular season games (32 starts) during his nine-year NBA career with the Indiana Pacers, Jazz, Philadelphia 76ers, Cleveland Cavaliers and Atlanta Hawks and has averaged 7.4 points, 2.5 rebounds and 1.0 assists in 17.5 minutes since he was drafted by Indiana with the 50th overall pick in the 2016 NBA Draft out of Iowa State.

Jackson Jr. (6-11, 242) has com-

peted in 452 career regular season games (443 starts) over eight seasons with Memphis and has averaged 18.5 points, 5.6 rebounds, 1.5 assists, 1.0 steals and 1.9 blocks in 28.8 minutes since he was selected by the Grizzlies with the fourth overall pick in the 2018 NBA Draft out of Michigan State. He started all 45 appearances and averaged 19.2 points, 5.8 rebounds, 1.9 assists, 1.0 steals and 1.5 blocks in 30.7 minutes this season. The 26-year-old won the 2022-23 NBA Defensive Player of the Year award, made two All-Star appearances (2023, 2025) and earned three All-Defensive honors (2021-22, 2022-23, 2024-25), including two First Team nods (2021-22, 2022-23), and was named to the 2018-19 NBA All-Rookie First Team with the Grizzlies. He led the league in blocks per game in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons, setting single-season franchise records with 189 total blocks and 3.0 blocks per game in 2022-23.

Jackson Jr. leaves Memphis ranked third in franchise history in blocks (845), fourth in 3-pointers made (783), sixth in field goals made (2,976), sixth in steals (461) and eighth in regular season games played (452). He also started all 27 playoff appearances and averaged 15.7 points, 6.5 rebounds, 1.1 assists and 1.9 blocks in 30.6 minutes.

Konchar (6-4 ¾, 210) has appeared in 337 career regular season games (58 starts) in seven seasons with the Grizzlies and has averaged 4.1 points, 3.9 re-

bounds and 1.4 assists in 16.9 minutes since going unselected in the 2019 NBA Draft out of Fort Wayne. The 29-year-old averaged 3.2 points, 3.1 rebounds, 1.3 assists and 1.0 steals in 14.5 minutes in 30 games (one start) with the Grizzlies this season. He also appeared in 18 post-season games as a reserve for Memphis. **Landale** (6-11, 255) has played 266 career regular season games (36 starts) over a five-season NBA career with the Spurs, Phoenix Suns, Houston Rockets and Grizzlies and has averaged 6.4 points, 3.8 rebounds and 1.1 assists in 14.6 minutes since going unselected in the 2018 NBA Draft out of St. Mary’s. The 30-year-old Australian native averaged 11.3 points, 6.5 rebounds and 1.7 assists in 23.6 minutes in 45 games (25 starts) for the Grizzlies this season.

Williams Jr. (6-6, 205) has appeared in 128 career regular season games (51 starts) in four seasons with Memphis and has averaged 7.8 points, 4.2 rebounds and 3.0 assists in 21.7 minutes since he was selected by the Grizzlies with the 47th overall pick in the 2022 NBA Draft out of VCU. The 25-year-old averaged 8.0 points, 4.0 rebounds and 4.4 assists in 21.6 minutes in 34 games (12 starts) for Memphis this season. He also appeared in three postseason games off the bench for the Grizzlies.

Email sports news to MSTsports@prodigy.net

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune’s 31st Annual Black History Month Special Edition



in Celebration of America’s Culture of Freedom!