

Ninth Circuit denies en banc hearing in Junior Sports case

From The Shooting Wire

BELLEVUE, WA – The Second Amendment Foundation is cheering the decision by a 9th Circuit Court panel to deny the State of California an en banc hearing in a case known as Junior Sports Magazines, Inc. v. Bonta, in which the state tried to prohibit firearm advertising which it claims, “reasonably appears to be attractive to minors.”

SAF is joined in the case by Junior Sports Magazines, the California Youth Shooting Sports Association, Redlands California Youth Clay Shooting Sports, California Rifle & Pistol Association, CRPA Foundation, Gun Owners of California and Raymond Brown, a private citizen.

“It seems like forever since the 9th Circuit has refused to hear a gun case en banc,” said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. “Hopefully, this is a new trend.”

SAF attorney Donald Kilmer noted, “This means that our win before the three-judge panel will become the case law on this issue in the Ninth Circuit. It means the trial court’s denial of a preliminary injunction remains reversed and that court will be required to enter a preliminary injunction, preventing enforcement of this law while the case proceeds to final judgment.”

SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut said the court’s decision is a victory for the First Amend-

ment as well as the Second.

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This is a ground-breaking First Amendment case, which defends the right of Junior Sports Magazine and other periodicals to publish Second Amendment-related material in California.

The Second Amendment Foundation (www.saf.org) is the nation’s oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing and legal action group focusing on the Constitutional right and heritage to privately own and possess firearms. Founded in 1974, The Foundation has grown to more than 720,000 members and supporters and conducts many programs designed to better inform the public about the consequences of gun control.

Alex Simmons gets her 100th career win

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The University of Memphis women’s basketball team continued its hot streak on Tuesday night, defeating Rice 79-74 in overtime to give head coach Alex Simmons her 100th career win.

With the victory, Memphis improves to 10-15 overall and 6-8 in American Athletic Conference play.

Following a back-and-forth scoring affair in the first quarter that saw the Tigers take a 15-13 lead, Memphis put together a 9-2 run that gave them a 24-17 lead with just over six minutes left in the half. That lead would grow to as much as 12 before halftime after Shelbee Brown, Madison Griggs, Hannah Riddick and Ki’Ari Cain all scored on consecutive possessions.

Rice cut into the Tiger lead just before the half to make it a 39-31 Memphis advantage.

Turnovers plagued the Tigers in the third quarter as the Owls forced Memphis into seven over the ten-minute frame to cut the deficit to as little as five.

The Tigers got their lead back out to double-digits early in the quarter after Alasia Smith drained a three-pointer from the top of the key and laid in a put-back to put Memphis up 44-34 with just under six minutes left in the quarter.

Rice made it a five-point game with lay-ups from Malia Fisher and Emily Klaczek in the final minute of the frame.

A 12-2 run in the fourth quarter by Rice gave them the lead and Memphis faced a deficit for the first time since the 5:18 mark in the opening quarter.

The Tigers and Owls traded baskets throughout the remainder of

the quarter with Riddick giving Memphis a two-point lead off a short shot in the paint with 1:17 on the clock. After Dominique Ennis tied the game at 66-66 for Rice, Memphis came down and found Griggs open on the wing for the win, but the shot fell short and sent the game to overtime.

Memphis found itself down three with just over three minutes left in overtime when the duo of Riddick and Smith came storming back on the offensive end. Following a Riddick free throw, Smith nailed a three-pointer from the corner to give the Tigers a two-point advantage. On the next trip down the floor, Riddick completed an and-one for the two-possession lead. Rice ended up going 3-for-4 from the charity stripe late in the game while Memphis got two makes from Smith to ice the game and give the Tigers the 79-74 win.

Alasia Smith led the team with her eighth double-double of the season of 18 points and 14 rebounds while Hannah Riddick came off the bench for an 18-point performance, shooting 7-for-8 from the field. Madison Griggs and Shelbee Brown also chipped in double-digit scoring with 12 and 11 points, respectively, while Griggs dished out a career-high seven assists.

Memphis is back on the road this weekend when it heads to New Orleans to face-off with Tulane. Tip-off on Saturday is scheduled for 2 p.m. with coverage available on ESPN+.

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

NFL announces finalists for the Sixth Annual Big Data Bowl Powered by AWS; Breaks the record for the sports analytics competition

NEW YORK — Feb. 20, 2024

The National Football League announced the finalists for the sixth annual Big Data Bowl powered by Amazon Web Services (AWS). The yearly sports analytics competition hosted by the NFL Football Operations Data and Analytics team allows members of the data analytics community to contribute to the NFL’s expanding world of advanced statistics and new metrics. This year’s Big Data Bowl participants are eligible for \$100,000 in prize money, with each finalist receiving \$12,500 and runners-up receiving \$5,000. The 2024 Big Data Bowl theme is focused on analyzing tackling performance across the NFL. Finalists in the competition were given access to the NFL’s Next Gen Stats (NGS) from Week 1 through Week 9 of the 2022 NFL season, analyzing metrics such as location, speed and acceleration of all 22 players on the field for any given play. This year’s competitors submitted over 300 submissions, a record for the Big Data Bowl.

This year’s competition will conclude with an in-person event at the 2024 NFL Scouting Combine presented by NOBULL in Indianapolis on Wednesday, Feb. 28, with the five finalists competing for an additional \$12,500 in prize money. The keynote speaker of the event will be Mike Fitzgerald, vice president of research and development and assistant general manager with the Arizona Diamondbacks, who will discuss how to implement modern data science and analytical tools in professional sports organizations.

“The Big Data Bowl continues to spearhead innovation in football analytics and has caught on as the preeminent worldwide sports data science competition,” said Michael Lopez, senior director of football data & analytics, strategy & business intelligence at the NFL. “We are lucky each year to have such en-



thusiastic and talented participants who can help us grow and learn about the game.”

Since 2017, the NFL has been proud to utilize AWS’s machine learning and data analytics services to develop new insights via the NGS platform that continually reshape the league and change how fans experience the game. In past years, the Big Data Bowl has generated innovative metrics in the play of offensive and defensive linemen, special teams strategy and pass coverage.

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The Big Data Bowl has continued to be a strong pipeline for data scientists looking to begin a career in the sports analytics industry. More than 50 Big Data Bowl contestants have been hired in the sports data and analytics field, with over 30 of those participants being hired by NFL clubs and player-tracking vendors.

For the sixth straight year, the Big Data Bowl featured a mentorship program. This partnership led to outstanding results, with two previous mentees being named 2024 honorable mentions.

Madrid to host NFL first-ever regular season game in Spain set for 2025 in iconic stadium

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London, Munich, Frankfurt, Mexico City and Toronto all hosting games to date. São Paulo, Brazil, will stage a game in 2024 at the Corinthians Arena — home to Brazilian soccer team the SC Corinthians — the first in South America.

Madrid is the first new market to be confirmed for the 2025 International Games and will be the fourth European city to host a regular season game (London, Frankfurt, Munich).

Following the expansion of the NFL schedule in 2021, up to four of the teams from the conference whose teams are eligible for a ninth regular-season home game were designated to play a neutral-site international game each

The Miami Dolphins and the Chicago Bears have international marketing rights in Spain, as part of the NFL’s Global Markets Program, an initiative that grants global marketing rights to clubs in markets outside of the U.S. to build brand awareness and fandom. 21 teams participate in the program and have rights across 14 markets.

year. In 2023, NFL clubs voted to increase league-operated international game inventory from four (4) to up to eight (8) games a season beginning in 2025. Those eight (8) league-operated

For the second year, a new coaching-centric track was implemented, which encouraged coaches to partner with data scientists on a submission. Three of our finalists are women in this year’s contest which is the highest on record.

The Big Data Bowl is hosted by Kaggle, the world’s largest community of machine learning practitioners, learners and researchers.

2024 Big Data Bowl Finalists:

Ben Davis and Nidiyan Rajendran (coaching track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/bendavis71/pull-the-plug>

Matthew Chang, Katherine Dai, Daniel Jiang and Harvey Cheng (metric track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/mathewchang/uncovering-missed-tackle-opportunities/>

Quang Nguyen, Larry Jiang, Meg Ellingwood, Ron Yurko (metric track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/tindata/momentum-based-fractional-tackles>

Shane Hauck, Marion Haney, Devin Basley and Vinay Maruri (coaching track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/devinbasley26/no-edge-no-chance?scriptVersionId=158207073>

Smit Bajaj and Viren Bhatia; New York University (undergraduate track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/smitbajaj/set-a-framework-to-evaluate-edge-setters/notebook>

Aidan Cook (coaching track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/amcook/optimization-of-weak-side-schemes-vs-read-option>

Ajay Patel, Rohit Kumar, Ben Wieland and Sam Hoppen (coaching track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/luckyprophet5/scouting-opponents-through-expected-yac>

Allan Paiz (undergraduate track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/allanpaiz/defensive-stopping->

power **Hassan Inayatli, Aaron White, Jaden Majumdar and Daniel Hocevar** (undergraduate track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/hassaaninayatli/every-step-you-take-measuring-a-defender-s-moves/notebook>

Nick Gurol, Tom Bryan, Ben Dominguez and Ben Wolbransky (metric track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/hassaaninayatli/every-step-you-take-measuring-a-defender-s-moves/notebook>

Honorable Mentions: **Ben Jenkins and Steve Jenkins** (metric track), <https://operations.nfl.com/gameday/analytics/big-data-bowl/2024-big-data-bowl-finalists/>

Danielle Cabel (coaching track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/daniellecabel02/making-the-tackle-line-backer-trading-cards>

Jesse Fischer (coaching track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/jessefischer/nfl-bdb-2024-missed-tackles-and-player-fatigue>

Lauren James (metric track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/laurenjames10/no-edge-no-chance-analysis-on-setting-the-edge/notebook>

Nick Bachelder (metric track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/nickbachelder125/spatial-density-estimation-for-tackles-eyes-pfi?scriptVersionId=161830638>

Raunaq Singh, Arham Habib and Anvit Rao (undergraduate track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/anvitrao/it-takes-a-village-tackle-contributions>

Robert Bajons, Jan-Ole Koslik, Rouven Michels and Marius Ötting (metric track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/robbwu/pep-a-metric-for-evaluating-tackles/report>

Sam Kirschner, Tim Keller and Andrew May (metric track), <https://www.kaggle.com/code/slayerpark/predator>

international games do not include club-operated games, such as the Jaguars hosting a game at Wembley Stadium in the U.K.

In addition to the game in São Paulo, Brazil, four other regular season games will be played as part of the 2024 NFL International Games. London will host three — two at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and one at Wembley Stadium — and the NFL will head to Germany for a third consecutive year, returning to the Allianz Arena, Home of FC Bayern Munich, for one game.

With the upcoming 2024 International Game in South America, the NFL will have played a game (preseason or regular season) in five of the seven continents

around the world.

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For news about the NFL 2025 Madrid Game and to sign up for ticket information, visit nfl.com/madrid.

Follow Mundo NFL across X, Instagram, YouTube and Mundo NFL.com.

AFTCO x B.A.S.S. Nation grant program continues to support conservation projects

SANTA ANA, Calif. — The AFTCO x B.A.S.S. Nation Conservation Grant Program continues in 2024 to support conservation initiatives throughout the country. The Conservation Grant Program was created in 2018 to help provide funds to approved freshwater bass conservation projects proposed by B.A.S.S. Nation clubs. To date, AFTCO’s total contribution to this program has exceeded \$120,000 in grants. This partnership with B.A.S.S. Nation Conservation has actively contributed to the shared goals of AFTCO and B.A.S.S., fostering community and youth-oriented conservation projects that positively impact local fisheries.

The Grant Program provides financial support for stocking bass, habitat enhancements and ensuring that bass are properly cared for and returned to lakes and rivers in the best possible condition for future generations to enjoy. These efforts are coordinated locally with the aid of B.A.S.S. Nation chapters, governmental fishing agencies, local businesses, and the valuable support of volunteers and youth organizations contributing their time and labor to the cause. “These grants are a great example of the efforts our B.A.S.S. Nation clubs are putting forth to enhance the fishing in their local lakes and reservoirs. Our state chapters are blessed to be associated with a

company like AFTCO that takes conservation to heart. That continued commitment to the B.A.S.S. Nation and to the fishery resources that our sport depends on is unmatched,” said Gene Gilliland, B.A.S.S. Conservation Director

You can submit your conservation proposal. The deadline for entries is March 31, 2024. Proposals will be judged by a panel that includes representatives from B.A.S.S. and AFTCO. Please direct any questions to Gene Gilliland at ggilliland@bassmaster.com.

About AFTCO
Family-owned and operated by three generations of the Shedd

family, the American Fishing Tackle Company (AFTCO) represents unparalleled quality, performance, and reliability when it counts most. Worn across the globe, AFTCO’s fishing clothing is designed to handle the harshest elements. AFTCO products are field tested from our Southern California offices where many of our core saltwater fishing tackle products are still proudly hand-crafted and manufactured in our U.S. based machine shop. Marine conservation has been a brand focus since 1973. Through our 10% Pledge to Protect and Conserve, we give 10% of profits back to causes for the resource and angling rights.

Do You Know This About Black History?

- In 1847 Frederick Douglass published the first issue of the North Star newspaper, an anti-slavery newspaper.

- In 1941, the Atlanta Urban League won the right for Black women to be addressed as “Mrs.” in predominantly white newspapers.

- On May 1, 1867, Howard University (Washington, D.C.) was chartered by Congress as one of

the earliest institution of higher learning for African Americans.

- Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi and Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland were founded by the Methodist Episcopal Church; and Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee was founded by the American Missionary Association. All three were founded in 1866, making them among the oldest Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).