

# Sports & Entertainment

## Gold Strike Casino Resort welcomes legendary country artist Montgomery Gentry featuring Eddie Montgomery

TUNICA, Miss. -Feb. 4, 2025 – Gold Strike Casino Resort, one of the Mid-South's premier casino resort destinations, will welcome legendary country artist Montgomery Gentry featuring Eddie Montgomery at 8 p.m. on Friday, July 25 to the Gold Strike Theatre inside the casino.

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In 2017, Montgomery tragically lost his bandmate and close friend, Troy Gentry, in a helicopter crash. Honoring a promise they made to one another, Montgomery has kept the Montgomery Gentry legacy alive, continuing to tour and release music that resonates with fans. His latest release, "Home Run," is a six-song EP blending heartfelt stories, anthems for the working class and collaborations with renowned songwriters like Ashley Gorley and Bobby Pinson. The EP includes a 25th-anniversary reimagining of "Hillbilly Shoes," Montgomery Gentry's debut single, as well as a touching duet with his brother, John Michael Montgomery, titled "Brotherly Love." Montgom-

ery's deep-rooted passion for authentic country music shines through in every song, including fan favorites like "Cost of Being Me" and "My Son."

Tickets start at \$39.50 and go on sale Feb. 7. For more information on Montgomery Gentry and Eddie Montgomery, visit [montgomerygentry.com](http://montgomerygentry.com).

Gold Strike Casino Resort, located in Tunica, Mississippi, is a premier entertainment destination offering world-class gaming, dining, and live performances. Tickets may be purchased by calling 888-747-7711 or by visiting [goldstrike.com](http://goldstrike.com).

### About Gold Strike Casino Resort

Gold Strike Casino Resort is located on the Mississippi River, approximately 30 minutes from downtown Memphis. With more than 1,100 luxury guest rooms, a theater, high-limit gaming, award-winning dining and a sportsbook, it is the Mid-South's source of energy and excitement. To learn more, visit [GoldStrike.com](http://GoldStrike.com).

### About Cherokee Nation Entertainment

Cherokee Nation Entertainment is the gaming and hospitality company of the Cherokee Nation. With three decades of expertise in providing exceptional gaming experiences, the company owns and operates Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa and nine Cherokee Casinos in Oklahoma, including a racino, three resort hotels, three golf courses and other retail operations. CNE operates Gold Strike Casino Resort in Tunica, Miss., one of the most recognizable gaming destinations in the region. For more information, visit [www.HardRockCasinoTulsa.com](http://www.HardRockCasinoTulsa.com), [www.CherokeeCasino.com](http://www.CherokeeCasino.com) and

## Tigers crowned AAC champions for the regular season after take down of UTSA from sports page 1

**The Tigers will close out the regular season at home Friday night at 8 p.m. on senior night. A win will secure the AAC regular season title outright for Memphis.**

points, before knocking down five of the last seven shots to take a 41-36 advantage into the break.

Memphis came out of halftime on fire, using an 8-0 run to extend the lead to 13 points.

Memphis maintained its lead until UTSA started capitalizing off the Tigers' turnovers going on a 6-0 run to cut the deficit to two.

Both teams fell into a scoring drought for nearly three minutes down the stretch, before Haggerty stepped up to the charity stripe and knocked down six free throws in the final 10 seconds to seal the AAC crown.

UTSA (11-18, 5-12) had four players in double figures, led by 18 points and seven rebounds from Jonnivius Smith.

### POSTGAME NOTES

- Memphis used the starting

lineup of PJ Haggerty, Tyrese Hunter, Colby Rogers, Nicholas Jourdain and Dain Dainja for the 13th time this season.

- They are 12-1 on the year with that group.

The Tigers moved to 13-3 this season on courts away from home, including 11-2 in true road games.

- The 11 road wins are the 2nd-most in a season in program history. The 1951-52 team had 14.

Memphis improved to 3-0 all-time against UTSA.

- Memphis dominated the boards, 45-25, against a team that ranked 11th in the country in rebounding (40.4).

It's the sixth-straight game the Tigers have pulled down 40 or more boards, and the fourth time they've held a team to 25 or fewer.

- The Tigers outscored the Roadrunners, 32-24, in the paint.

The Tigers had 12 assists and a season-high 22 turnovers.

UTSA outscored them 19-16 off turnovers.

- Dain Dainja just missed his fourth-straight double-double with 18 points, eight rebounds.

The big man was 8-of-12 from the floor and has now scored at least 16 points in nine of the last 11 games.

- Dainja is averaging 20.5 points, 11.5 rebounds and 2.5 blocks over the last four games.

PJ Haggerty finished with 18 points, six rebounds and three dimes.

- It's his 29th game of the year in double figures.

He was clutch at the free throw line, matching his season high with a 12-of-13 night.

- Nicholas Jourdain continued his recent surge with 13 points, eight rebounds, two assists and two blocks in 33 minutes.

He's third on the team in the last three games averaging 13.7 points, 7.3 rebounds while leading the Tigers with a 72.7-percent

mark.

- He and Dainja led the team with four offensive rebounds.

Colby Rogers was in double figures for the third time in four games with 10 points.

- He and Jourdain led the team with two triples each.

Tyrese Hunter finished with eight points and six boards, while Moussa Cisse hauled in seven boards.

- Five players finished with six or more rebounds.

The Tigers will close out the regular season at home Friday night at 8 p.m. on senior night. A win will secure the AAC regular season title outright for Memphis.

For complete information on Memphis Tiger Men's Basketball, visit [www.GoTigersGo.com](http://www.GoTigersGo.com) and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

## PJ Haggerty named one of five finalists for Jerry West Shooting Guard of the Year ... from sports page 1

ence with 20 games of 20-plus points and is coming off 25 points, four assists and two rebounds in Sunday's 88-81 road win at league preseason favorite UAB.

Fans are encouraged to participate in Fan Voting starting on Friday, March 7, on [hoophallawards.com](http://hoophallawards.com). The Fan Vote will count as one committee vote during the finalist selection process.

Later this month, the finalists will be presented to West and the Hall of Fame's selection committee.

The Selection Committee for the Jerry West Award are composed of top men's basketball personnel, including media members, head coaches, sports information directors, and Hall of Famers.

The winners of the 2025 West and Meyers Drysdale Awards will be presented on a to-be-determined date, along with the other four members of the Men's Starting Five. Additional awards being presented include the Bob Cousy Award (Point Guard), Julius Erving Award (Small For-

ward), Karl Malone Award (Power Forward), and the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award (Center).

Previous winners of the Jerry West Award are RJ Davis, North Carolina (2024), Marcus Sasser, Houston (2023), Johnny Davis, Wisconsin (2022), Chris Duarte, Oregon (2021), Myles Powell, Seton Hall (2020), RJ Barrett, Duke (2019), Carsen Edwards, Purdue (2018), Malik Monk, Kentucky (2017), Buddy Hield, Oklahoma (2016), and D'Angelo Russell, Ohio State (2015).

For more information on the 2025 Jerry West and Ann Meyers Drysdale Awards and the latest updates, visit [hoophallawards.com](http://hoophallawards.com) and follow @hoophallu, #WestAward, and #MeyersDrysdaleAward on X and Instagram.

For complete information on Memphis Tiger Men's Basketball, visit [www.GoTigersGo.com](http://www.GoTigersGo.com) and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

## Armando Bacot named NBA G League Player of Week for first time... from sports page 1

Single-game tickets for all regular season Hustle games are on sale now. Tickets start as low as \$15 and are available for purchase at [Ticketmaster.com/Memphis-Hustle-Tickets](http://Ticketmaster.com/Memphis-Hustle-Tickets) or by calling (901) 888-HOOP. In addition, all-inclusive floor seats and tables are still available for purchase,

and the Hustle are accepting \$50 deposits for groups of 10-or-more.

For more information on the Memphis Hustle, visit [memphishustle.com](http://memphishustle.com), follow the team on Twitter/X and Instagram (@MemphisHustle) or 'like' Memphis Hustle on Facebook.

## Grizzlies' Jaren Jackson, Jr. diagnosed with ankle sprain

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 4, 2025 – The Memphis Grizzlies announced the following medical update for forward/center Jaren Jackson Jr.:

Jackson Jr. has been diagnosed with a Grade 2 left ankle sprain,

which he sustained in the first quarter of the Grizzlies' game against the Atlanta Hawks on March 3. He is considered week-to-week, and further updates will be provided as appropriate.

*Highlighted by Broadcast & Media Workshop, programs introduce active players and Legends to opportunities outside of football*



NEW YORK—NFL Player Engagement announced the launch of a series of dynamic offseason programs designed to support player development and expand career opportunities for current players and Legends. These programs, aimed at inspiring, educating and empowering players, will provide valuable resources for both on-field and off-field success.

The NFL-NCAA Coaches Academy took place from Saturday, Feb. 22, to Monday, Feb. 24, in Indianapolis. During the program, coaches engaged with industry experts and insightful peers across a wide variety of topics that will enhance their capabilities to serve effectively and lead student athletes both on and off the field.

Career development opportunities will continue in March with the NFL x Hidden Empire x Skydance Career Tour in Santa Monica, California from March 4-6, where participants will have the opportunity to create, write, film, act, and produce a short film while working alongside top industry professionals. The NFL x EA Sports Career Tour in Orlando on March 11-12, will provide participants with hands-on experience in the creation and execution of video games while exploring career opportunities in

the gaming industry.

The NFL Bizweek Workshop in New York from March 26-28 will focus on personal finance and career growth beyond sports. The NFL x LVMH Career Tour in New York on March 31 and April 1 will provide an inside look at career opportunities in the luxury brand industry, with a special focus on branding and management.

The Broadcasting & Media Workshop will take place from April 8-10 in Los Angeles. The activation will equip participants with media skills for careers in sports broadcasting, including on-air presentation and production. Open to current players and legends, this program provides participants with the opportunity to develop media skills and explore careers in sports broadcasting under the guidance of industry experts. Through hands-on training and expert mentorship, participants will gain valuable experience in storytelling, on-air presentation and production. By the end of the program, they will be equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to pursue a successful career in sports media.

The NFL will also continue its commitment to social impact with the Social Justice Town Hall

on April 22 at the 2025 NFL Draft in Green Bay, where current and former professional athletes, educators, thought leaders, seasoned businesspeople, and entrepreneurs engage in dialogue focused on creating strategies and plans to directly impact Green Bay and the surrounding metro area.

Additionally, a series of virtual webinars—including the Philanthropy Webinar on May 6, the Venture Capital Webinar on May 13, and the Technology Webinar on May 20—will offer expert

guidance in philanthropy, investment, and innovation, helping players build lasting legacies.

The Personal Branding & Social Media Workshop in Inglewood, California, on July 12-13, will conclude the offseason programs, offering participants the opportunity to learn how to enhance their personal brand and maximize their social media presence.

For more information on these programs, visit [NFLPrograms.com](http://NFLPrograms.com).

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Finding cures. Saving children.  
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Watch for The Mid-South Tribune's Juneteenth/Fourth of July Edition. Email events to [MSTnews@prodigy.net](mailto:MSTnews@prodigy.net) or [BlackInfoHwy@prodigy.net](mailto:BlackInfoHwy@prodigy.net), or [MSTentertainment@prodigy.net](mailto:MSTentertainment@prodigy.net)

**KICK IT PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT**  
Benefitting **Kosten Foundation**  
for Pancreatic Cancer Research and Support  
Presented by: **BAPTIST**  
**May 16 – 18, 2025**  
Shadowlawn Park  
Bartlett, TN  
REGISTER HERE: [PickleballTournaments.com](http://PickleballTournaments.com)  
\$65 - Early Bird Discount - Ends March 7  
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Don't miss the fun charity auction!  
Scan Here

**Kosten** Since 2003, the Kosten Foundation has donated more than \$3 million to pancreatic cancer research. Let's continue to make a difference together!