

Sports & Entertainment

“Spirit of America” fills the air with Kody Norris Show from sports page 1

title track "Spirit of America," the Mary Rachel Nalley-Norris instrumental "Declaration of Independence," the Kody Norris and Larry Chunn original "Good Ol' USA," and the group's new take on Phil Ochs' classic American folk anthem "The Power and Glory."

"‘Spirit of America’ is our way of tipping our hat to country music, bluegrass music, and everyday people who made us who we are," shares Kody Norris. "When you think about America at 250 years, you think about big history, but you also think about the farmers, truckers, soldiers, coal miners, families, churches, small towns, and front porches that still carry that history forward. We wanted this album to feel proud, joyful, respectful, and full of life - the way we feel when we get to carry this music across the country every night."

The album includes two originals written specifically for the project: "Good Ol' USA," penned by **Kody Norris** and Grand Ole Opry performer **Larry Chunn**, and "United We Stand," written by **Mary Rachel Nalley-Norris** and **Conrad Fisher**. It also marks a milestone for the group with Mary Rachel's first-ever instrumental composition, "Declaration of Independence."

•spotlighting the band's signature musicianship and dynamic lyrical style.

- ‘Spirit of America’ Track Listing:**
1. Good Ol' USA

2. Spirit of America

3. A Purple Heart

4. Back in the Country

5. The Power and Glory

6. The Bible on the Table and the

- Flag Upon the Wall
7. Declaration of Independence
8. Waving Ol' Glory
9. Davy Crockett
10. United We Stand
11. The Battle of New Orleans
12. Do Unto Others

Some Tour Dates

- 07/11 MOUNTAIN CITY, Tenn. / Backyard Breakdown
- 07/17 BOONE, N.C. / Doc and Rosa Lee Watson MusicFest
- 07/24 LIVINGSTON, Mt. / Music Ranch Montana
- 07/26 LYONS, Co. / Rocky-Grass
- 07/29 HIGHLAND PARK, Ill. / Ravinia Festival
- 07/30 SHADE GAP, Pa. / Shade Gap Picnic
- 07/31 FARMERS BRANCH, Texas / Farmers Branch Bluegrass Festival
- 08/01 FARMERS BRANCH, Texas / Farmers Branch Bluegrass Festival
- 08/08 TAYLORSVILLE, N.C. / Alexander Central H.S. Auditorium
- 08/13 CHEROKEE, N.C. / North Carolina State Bluegrass Festival
- 08/15 RUSSIAVILLE, Ind. / Winding Creek Bluegrass Festival
- 08/16 COLUMBUS, Ohio / Bluegrass Ramble at the Barn
- 08/21 LODI, N.Y. / Pickin' in the Pasture
- 08/22 TRENTON, Ohio / Trenton Community Park
- 08/23 GRUNDY, Va. / Southern Gap Trails & Tunes Festival

For full schedule and additional tour dates, visit thekodynorris-show.com.

Grizzlies exercise contract options on GG Jackson II and Olivier-Maxence Prosper



MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 29, 2026 – The Memphis Grizzlies today announced the team exercised 2026-27 contract options on forwards GG Jackson II and Olivier-Maxence Prosper.

Jackson II (6-9, 215) appeared in 55 games (28 starts) for the Grizzlies last season and averaged 12.5 points, 4.3 rebounds and 1.5 assists in 21.4 minutes while shooting a career-high 49.6 percent from the field. He scored in double figures in all of his final 23 games and shot at least 50 percent from the field 14 times during that stretch.

The 21-year-old has appeared in 132 games (49 starts) and averaged 12.1 points, 4.0 rebounds and 1.3 assists in 21.7 minutes while shooting 44.7 percent from the field. The Columbia, S.C.,

native was named to the 2023-24 All-Rookie Second Team after being selected by the Grizzlies 45th overall in the 2023 NBA Draft out of South Carolina.

Prosper (6-8, 215) appeared in 53 games (24 starts) for the Grizzlies last season and averaged career highs across the board with 10.0 points, 3.5 rebounds and 1.0 assists in 18.6 minutes while shooting 54.9 percent from the field and 40.5 percent from 3-point range. He averaged 14.8 points on 59.3 percent from the field and 44.2 percent from long range over his final 26 games.

A native of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Prosper has appeared in 145 career regular season games (29 starts) and has averaged 5.9 points and 2.7 rebounds in 13.1 minutes while shooting 48.1 percent from the field in three seasons with the Grizzlies and Dallas Mavericks after being selected by the Sacramento Kings 24th overall in the 2023 NBA Draft out of Marquette.

Grizzlies acquire Jerami Grant and Kris Murray from sports page 1

bounds, 8.1 assists and 1.0 steals in 28.5 minutes over 20 games last season.

The 26-year-old won the NBA Rookie of the Year award and garnered unanimous All-Rookie First Team honors during the 2019-20 season. He received All-NBA Second Team and Most Improved Player accolades during the 2021-22 season and was selected an All-Star starter twice (2022, 2023) during his time with the Grizzlies. He scored a

The Dalzell, S.C., native leaves Memphis ranked first in franchise history in scoring average and triple-doubles (12), second in assists per game and third in total assists (2,428). He started all 22 playoff appearances and averaged 26.0 points, 6.2 rebounds and 8.1 assists in 36.8 minutes.

Texas Southern University’s Ocean of Soul Marching Band featured in Vogue Magazine to celebrate Juneteenth

Houston's Historic HBCU Band Appears in Vogue's Summer 2026 Issue on June 19 — A Full-Band Spread Celebrating Excellence, Legacy, and the Power of the HBCU Tradition

HOUSTON, June 19, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- Texas Southern University is proud to announce that its celebrated marching band, the Ocean of Soul, is featured in the Summer 2026 issue of Vogue Magazine, released for print on June 19, 2026 — Juneteenth. The full-band spread includes the Ocean of Soul marching band, drum majors, and dance team, marking a historic moment for the university, the HBCU community, and the city of Houston.

The release date carries profound significance. Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when enslaved people in Galveston, Texas — just miles from Texas Southern's Houston campus — first received word of the Emancipation Proclamation, making Texas and Houston the birthplace of what is now a federal holiday. For an HBCU marching band rooted in Houston's cultural heritage to appear in one of the world's most recognized publica-



tions on this date is, by any measure, a full-circle cultural moment.

"This moment does not just belong to our students and the University, but to Houston and to every HBCU in this country," said J.W. Crawford III, President of Texas Southern University. "To be in Vogue is incredible, and for this to happen on Juneteenth, in the region where Juneteenth began, is revelational. The

University's presence in such a renowned publication is an acknowledgment of sustained excellence, cultural roots, and a band program that has been revolutionary in its approach to communicating with and relating to diverse audiences while performing on the largest stages." The feature arrives during Black Music Month, the federally recognized celebration of June as a tribute to Black musical heritage,

tradition, and contribution to American culture - a tradition the Ocean of Soul embodies with every performance.

Under the direction of Brian Simmons, now in his fifth year and entering his sixth season as Director of Bands, the Ocean has built one of the most remarkable runs of national visibility in its history.

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Memphis Grizzlies announce full Summer League schedule presented by Pinnacle

– *Grizzlies to Play in Both Salt Lake City and Vegas Summer Leagues* –
– *Seven Non-Playoff Games to be Broadcast on the Grind City Media Mobile App* –
– *Grizzlies Summer League Presented by Pinnacle Financial Partners* –

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 30, 2026 – The Memphis Grizzlies announced their full 2026 Summer League schedule, spanning seven games across two cities. The Grizzlies’ Summer League is presented by Pinnacle Financial Partners.

All seven non-playoff games from Salt Lake City and Las Vegas will be broadcast throughout the Grizzlies TV broadcast region including Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri and Mississippi on the Grind City Media Mobile App and grindcitymedia.com. Grind City Media and Grizzlies Broad-

cast crew personalities will host a Pregame & Halftime Show, presented by Ford and your Mid-South Ford Dealers, each game live from FedExForum and on-site in Salt Lake City and Las Vegas. Grizzlies Summer League Broadcasts are presented by Pinnacle Financial Partners and will be powered by direct-to-consumer streaming company Kiswe.

The Grizzlies will tip-off their summer play with three games in the 2026 Salt Lake City Summer League, held at the University of Utah’s Jon M. Huntsman Center in Salt Lake City, facing the Oklahoma City Thunder on Saturday, July 4, at 2 p.m. (all times Central). The Grizzlies will play the Utah Jazz on Monday, July 6, at 8 p.m. and the Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday, July 7, at 6 p.m.

The Grizzlies open their NBA Summer League 2026 schedule in Las Vegas against the Chicago Bulls on Friday, July 10, at 7

p.m. at the Thomas & Mack Center on campus at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Full schedules for both the 2026 Salt Lake City Summer League and NBA Summer League 2026 are below. The Grizzlies’ summer league roster will be announced at a later date.

The NBA Summer League 2026 in Las Vegas will showcase all 30 NBA teams playing five games each. After every team plays four games from July 9-16, the top four teams will advance to the playoffs, beginning with a semifinal doubleheader on July 18 on Prime Video. The two winning teams from the semifinal games will meet in the championship game on July 19 on ESPN. The four playoff teams will be determined by winning percentage in each team’s first four games, along with tiebreaker criteria. The 26 teams that do not advance to the four-team playoffs will play a fifth game on either July

17, July 18 or July 19. All games during the 11-day competition will air live on ESPN platforms (ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPNU) or Prime Video.

For the most up-to-date and exclusive coverage of the Grizzlies’ participation in the 2026 Salt Lake City Summer League and NBA Summer League 2026, Grizzlies fans are encouraged to visit grizzlies.com, ‘like’ Memphis Grizzlies on Facebook or follow @memgrizz on Twitter/X and Instagram. Grind City Media will provide up-to-the-minute analysis, exclusive video and live shows throughout both summer leagues for fans who visit GrindCityMedia.com, ‘like’ Grind City Media on Facebook or follow @GrindCityMedia on YouTube, Twitter/X and Instagram. Fans who want to support the Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2026-27 season tickets can do so now by going online to grizzlies.com/tickets.

2026 SALT LAKE CITY SUMMER LEAGUE (SALT LAKE CITY, UT)					
Date	Opponent	Time (CT)	Time (MT)	Site	Broadcast
Saturday, July 4	Oklahoma City Thunder	2 p.m.	1 p.m.	Jon M. Huntsman Center	GCM
Monday, July 6	Utah Jazz	8 p.m.	7 p.m.	Jon M. Huntsman Center	GCM
Tuesday, July 7	Atlanta Hawks	6 p.m.	5 p.m.	Jon M. Huntsman Center	GCM

NBA SUMMER LEAGUE 2026 (LAS VEGAS)					
Date	Opponent	Time (CT)	Time (PT)	Site	Broadcast
Friday, July 10	Chicago Bulls	7 p.m.	5 p.m.	Thomas & Mack	Prime/GCM
Monday, July 13	Dallas Mavericks	6 p.m.	4 p.m.	Thomas & Mack	ESPN/GCM
Tuesday, July 14	Golden State Warriors	6 p.m.	4 p.m.	Pavilion	ESPN/GCM
Thursday, July 16	Atlanta Hawks	7 p.m.	5 p.m.	Thomas & Mack	Prime/GCM



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