

Sports & Entertainment

Grizzlies acquire Stewart, Johnson, and D’Angelo Russell ... from sports page 1

League’s Wisconsin Herd, Capital City Go-Go and Texas Legends and has averaged 15.1 points, 3.6 rebounds and 3.9 assists in 29.1 minutes.

The Fresno, Calif., native was selected by Milwaukee with the 23rd overall pick in the 2024 NBA Draft after he played the 2023-24 season professionally for the Illawarra Hawks in Australia’s NBL.

Russell (6-3, 193) has played 655 games (539 starts) over 11 seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers, Brooklyn Nets, Golden State Warriors, Minnesota Timberwolves and Mavericks and has averaged 17.0 points, 3.3 rebounds and 5.6 assists in 29.4 minutes. The 30-year-old Louisville, Ky, native, who made 26 appearances for the Mavericks last season before a midseason trade to the Wizards, was named an NBA All-Star during the 2018-19 season as a member of the Nets.

Aldama (6-11, 224) appeared in 278 games (82 starts) over five seasons with the Grizzlies and averaged 10.4 points, 5.4 rebounds and 2.1 assists in 23.4

minutes. The 25-year-old, who averaged career highs with 14.0 points and 6.7 rebounds in 27.9 minutes last season, also competed in 10 playoff games (one start) and averaged 9.1 points, 5.0 rebounds and 1.4 assists in 22.2 minutes.

The Las Palmas, Spain, native was acquired by Memphis with the 30th overall pick in the 2021 NBA Draft following his sophomore year at Loyola Maryland, where he was named to the 2020-21 All-Patriot League First Team. A member of the Spanish national team, Aldama was the MVP of the 2019 FIBA U18 European Championship and represented Spain at the 2025 FIBA EuroBasket.

Biberovic (6-7, 218) was selected by the Grizzlies with the 56th overall pick of the 2023 NBA Draft and has played the past eight seasons professionally for Fenerbahçe in Türkiye. The 25-year-old native of Bosnia and Herzegovina averaged 12.6 points, 3.5 rebounds and 2.0 assists in 24.0 minutes in 34 games (30 starts) last season in the Turkish BSL.

American Pachuco: The Legend of Luis Valdez from sports-Ent. 6

sity, and created El Teatro Campesino alongside the United Farm Workers, helping to inspire a broader Chicano theater movement.

Following a sold-out run of his landmark play “ZOOT SUIT” in Los Angeles (1978), Valdez became the first Chicano director to have a play presented on Broadway when it made its New York premiere in 1979. The hit film “LA BAMBÁ” (1987), written and directed by Valdez, was also a cultural phenomenon and the first Hollywood blockbuster to focus on a Hispanic family’s experience. The film adaptations of “ZOOT SUIT” and “LA BAMBÁ” were both selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the National Film Registry.

“I was 21 when I heard Luis Valdez speak, and it rearranged what I thought was possible for my life,” said director Alvarado. “Twenty years later, putting his story on the big screen is the best way I know to pay that forward. This film is about who gets to be American, and a movie theater is one of the last rooms in this country where strangers still sit together in a room and experience something new and something wonderful. Everybody in that room belongs.”

“Luis Valdez built El Teatro Campesino on the back of a flat-bed truck, performing for farmworkers in the towns where this film will now play,” Alvarado said. “Booking theaters in Salinas, Fresno, and Bakersfield mat-

tered to us as much as booking the Film Forum in New York City. Luis has spent 60 years proving that Chicanos aren’t on the margins of the American story. We are the American story.”

FROM THE SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Acclaimed playwright and director Luis Valdez recognized early on the profound impact of seeing one’s own humanity reflected onstage and on screen. He used theater to ignite change while working alongside farmworkers and Cesar Chavez, and he made films that amplified Chicano experiences. His work expanded audiences, bringing in people who had rarely seen their stories told before. Now, director David Alvarado reveals the fuel behind his legendary career.

His feature documentaries include THE IMMORTALISTS (2014), BILL NYE: SCIENCE GUY (2017), WE ARE AS GODS (2022), and AMERICAN PACHUCO: THE LEGEND OF LUIS VALDEZ (2026). For television, he directed BLOOD SUGAR RISING (2020) for PBS, directed and produced the NOVA films WHO’S IN CONTROL (2023) and SECRETS IN YOUR DATA (2024), and produced the three-part Independent Lens series MATTER OF MIND (2023-2025). He also hosted and produced an eight-part Audible Original podcast on environmental technologist Stewart Brand.

Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC) announces Judge Roger Benitez as keynote speaker ... from sports-Military 2

tions about all things related to our right to keep and bear arms. GRPC 2026 is sponsored by USCCA, Silencer Shop, Vortex, Credova, U.S. Law Shield, Volquartsen, Trijicon, Colt, NSSF and Taurus.

The Second Amendment Foundation (saf.org) is the nation’s oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing and legal action group dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the fundamental rights of in-

dividuals enshrined in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. SAF engages in aggressive legal action to ensure the principles of armed self-defense, personal liberty, and the ownership of arms are defended, secured, and restored.

Through public education initiatives, SAF teaches the importance of the Second Amendment to promote a society that values and exercises the right to keep and bear arms.

NFL Flag Championships presented by Toyota set for July 23-26 under newest theme of “Be The Story” ... from sports page 1

consumer marketing. "From NFL Flag Championships this summer to the sport's Olympic debut in 2028, flag football has incredible momentum right now, and we're more excited than ever to keep building pathways for more kids to play, compete and lead at every level of the game."

Flag football has experienced extraordinary global momentum, with opportunities emerging for athletes at every level of the sport. In the U.S. alone, there are now more than 4.1 million youth flag football athletes – a more than 50% increase since 2020. Flag football is now offered at a high school level in 40 states and jurisdictions. More than 250 colleges and universities across the country offer women's flag football programming, and the NCAA has recently taken important steps toward establishing flag football as a national championship sport. Globally, the sport is played by more than 20 million people across 100 coun-

Brand Spot Featuring Rising Stars and Global Flag Standouts, including Ashlea Klam, Liz Lomu Stewart and Arved Mohr; Debuts Ahead of the NFL Flag Championships Presented by Toyota, July 23-26 in Westfield, Indiana

tries and is set to make its Olympic debut at the LA28 Olympic Games.

“This sport has grown so much in the past few years,” said Ashlea Klam, U.S. National Flag team member. “There are more opportunities, especially for women. That is what we’ve been fighting for, for so long, and it’s been amazing to see all the growth that this sport has brought. It has opened so many doors.”

"Whether you're on the field, creating content or chasing something you're passionate about, it's all about having the confidence to be yourself and put

SAF files briefs in NFA cases following Supreme Court Rulings ... from sports page 1

“When the Supreme Court rightly ruled in favor of Landor, Wolford and Hemani, the precedent set had a direct impact on SAF’s ongoing NFA challenges,” said SAF Senior Director of Legal Operations Bill Sack. “With those rulings in hand, we are now able to better explain to the courts exactly why the remaining registration scheme left in the NFA lacks constitutional authority and is a direct violation of Americans’ Second Amendment rights. We are hopeful these cases will move expeditiously and rightfully restore the full constitutional rights of gun owners across the nation.”

SAF itself is a named plaintiff in the NFA lawsuit Brown v. ATF and is also backing two ad-

There is no doubt the Supreme Court’s rulings this past term have direct bearing on our current challenges to the NFA’s remaining registration scheme,” said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. “The relevant district courts should recognize the rulings for what they are – binding precedent that bolsters SAF’s arguments in these three cases.

ditional challenges – Jensen v. ATF and Roberts v. ATF. All three cases seek the removal of the NFA’s remaining registration requirements since the \$200 tax on the affected arms was eliminated last year.

your story out there," said RaKai. "It's amazing to see so many young flag athletes making their mark and showing what's possible."

The NFL recently announced that it is partnering with TMRW Sports to develop and operate a professional flag football league for women and men. The new league has support from an influential investor pool spanning the sports, entertainment, and business worlds, and is expected to launch prior to the sport’s Olympic debut at the Los Angeles 2028 Games.

The third annual NFL Flag Championships presented by Toyota, the world’s largest youth flag football tournament, will take place July 23-26 at Drop-light Grand Park Sports Campus in Westfield, Indiana, in the greater Indianapolis area. This year’s event marks the biggest iteration yet, with more than 350 teams of girls and boys from

around the world set to compete. ESPN will provide live coverage of the tournament, bringing the excitement of youth flag football to fans everywhere. Starting Friday, July 24, through the championship games on Sunday, July 26, games will be available on ESPN, ABC, ESPN2, NFL Network, ESPN Deportes, NFL+ and the ESPN app, with select games also available on Disney+, Disney Channel, Disney XD, and YouTube. Games will also be available in select international markets.

The sport’s momentum continues at IFAF World Flag 26, taking place August 13-16 in Düsseldorf, Germany, where the world’s top men’s and women’s national teams will compete in the premier international flag football tournament and the first direct Olympic qualifying event for the Los Angeles 2028 Games.

For more information about flag football, visit NFLFLAG.com.

EKKL Entertainment sets Aug. 14 as theatrical release for faith-based ‘Elijah Peel’, inspired by true story from sports-Ent. page 6

“Elijah Peel” was shot on location in and around Memphis, Tennessee.

Filmmaker Kevin D. Sepe

Stars Robert Malcolm Cumming & Evelyn Grace Kite

Suggested interview topics include the real-life themes behind ELIJAH PEEL, including addiction, recovery, second chances, faith, and spiritual renewal; why Willie and Korie Robertson were drawn to the story; Kevin Sorbo’s role in the film and his perspective on hope-driven storytelling; and why faith-based films continue to connect with audiences seeking meaningful, family-friendly theatrical experiences.

About ELIJAH PEEL:

Inspired by a true story, ELIJAH PEEL follows a stadium-filling rock star whose life of fame and

Music also plays a central role in the film. The original soundtrack was produced by filmmaker Kevin D. Sepe and published by Harris Sepe Music, with standout tracks including “Life Too Short, Story Too Old,” “River Deep,” “Can You Feel It,” “The Wild Ones,” and “Not an Ordinary Love.” Blending rock, soul, and faith-driven themes, the music serves as a powerful extension of Elijah’s inner life.

addiction comes to a sudden halt after a heart attack nearly costs him everything. During his recovery, Elijah encounters a remarkable young girl whose unwavering faith, radiant spirit,

and wisdom beyond her years begin to break through the walls he has built around his heart. Through their unexpected bond, her extraordinary hope inspires Elijah to begin a powerful journey toward healing, reconciliation, and faith.

ELIJAH PEEL opens exclusively in theaters August 14, 2026.

About EKKL Entertainment:

EKKL Entertainment is a faith-and-family entertainment company dedicated to bringing audience-friendly, values-driven stories to as many people as possible. Founded by entertainment pioneer Michael Scott, co-founder and former CEO of Pure Flix, whose work in inspirational cinema has generated more than

\$200 million at the global box office, EKKL champions meaningful, inspiring, and emotionally resonant storytelling for audiences and families seeking films with purpose.

EKKL’s growing theatrical slate includes ELIJAH PEEL, opening exclusively in theaters August 14, 2026; DANIEL AND THE FIERY FURNACE, opening exclusively in theaters September 18, 2026; and SHE DANCES, a father-daughter drama starring Steve Zahn, Audrey Zahn, Ethan Hawke, Rosemarie DeWitt, Mackenzie Ziegler, and Sonequa Martin-Green.

For more information, please visit EKKL.com.

Complimentary military tickets are available for FedEx St. Jude Championship, August 12-16. For more information, visit FedExChampionship.com/military.



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