

Ed Murphey Classic welcomes Olympians to Memphis from sports page 1

fully will do our part to make sure we embrace this wonderful opportunity because the real winners in all this are the kids. Through the youth component of this amazing event, our kids have the opportunity to rub shoulders with Olympians and learn from them how to be successful in life and how to stay on the right track. Come on Memphis, let's make a difference."

Among the athletes competing in the Ed Murphey Classic in 2023 are:

- Athing Mu**, two-time Olympic Champion and one time World Champion in the 400 meters
- Christian Coleman**, World Champion and Olympic Silver Medalist in the 100 meters
- Kenny Bednarek**, Olympic and World Silver Medalist in the 200 meters
- Anna Hall**, World Bronze medalist and US National Champion in the Heptathlon
- Sandi Morris**, Olympic Silver Medalist and three-time World Silver Medalist in the pole vault
- Marvin Bracy-Williams Jr.**, two-time World Silver Medalist in the 100 meters
- Jasmine Camacho-Quinn**, Olympic Champion and World Bronze Medalist in the 100 meter hurdles
- Quanesha Burks**, Ranked 3rd in the World in 2023 in the long jump
- Sam Kendricks**, two-time World Champion in the pole vault
- Steven Gardiner**, Olympic and World Champion in the 400 meters
- Andre De Grasse**, Olympic Champion in the 200 meters
- Kirani James**, three-time Olympic Medalist in the 400 meters
- Aleia Hobbs**, World Champion and Olympic Silver Medalist in the 4x100 meter relay
- Joe Kovacs**, two-time World Champion and two-time Olympic Silver Medalist in the shot put
- Maggie Ewen**, two-time US National Champion in the shot put
- Nia Ali**, Olympic Silver Medalist and World Champion in the

100 meter hurdles
 •**KC Lightfoot**, American record holder in the pole vault
 •**Omar Craddock**, multiple-time National and NCAA Champion in the triple jump

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"This meet fulfills one of my dreams for the sport, and that's to compete in the U.S. as a professional. It creates visibility and connections on the home soil. My favorite part is the entertainment aspect. Having the beer garden to enjoy during/after competition and close up fan engagement," added Triple Jumper Omar Craddock who is also making a return appearance at the Ed Murphey Classic.

Tickets sell for \$10 and at the ticket booths for \$15 on the day of the events. Visit edmurphey-classic.com/time-schedule for more information.

The Ed Murphey Classic is named after the late Ed Murphey who had an illustrious career at the University of Tennessee and was the SEC Mile champion in the mid-50s. For more on the events, programs, and Ed's career and accomplishments, visit the web site.

Golf head coach Smart announces addition of Connor Asrach to roster

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – University of Memphis head men's golf coach Blake Smart announced the addition of Connor Asrach to the 2023-24 roster.

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Asrach comes to Memphis as a grad transfer after a season at Florida Atlantic University and two seasons at the College of Charleston. A product of Atlanta, Georgia, Asrach was rostered on the Cougars 2019 NCAA Re-

gional team. Prior to his college career, Asrach was a two-time All-State selection as a member of the Woodward Academy men's golf team. He was named team captain during his senior season of high school, while also being named team MVP. Asrach won two high school tournament events and was the school record holder in career birdies.

He was also ranked as the No. 15 golfer, and No. 10 golfer from the 2018 class, in the state of Georgia, while also being placed on the top 200 nationally-ranked golfers as a senior.

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

after the games. We have even more fun family friendly things planned for this upcoming season.

Fans can reserve their seats for the 2024 season with a \$24 deposit by visiting the theUSFL.com or www.theusfl.com/2024-usfl-season-ticket-deposits.

USFL signs extension to play at Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium from sports page 1

phis that also start to bring people to our games."

It was so exciting to see how the fans embraced the team during the 2023 season even forming their own unofficial supporter groups. They took advantage of some of the unique experiences in the Fan Zone and chances for kids to get on the field before and

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Birdies & Bubbles and The Pit return to the FedEx St. Jude Championship August 9-13

MEMPHIS, Tennessee – The 2023 FedEx St. Jude Championship today announced the return of fan-favorite venues, **Birdies & Bubbles** and **The Pit**, for the FedExCup Playoffs opener. These celebrated, on-course fan spots showcase Memphis' best eats with each offering unique fan experiences to watch the PGA TOUR's top 70 players compete at TPC Southwind from Aug 9-13.

"We're proud to welcome back two beloved fan venues in Birdies & Bubbles and The Pit to the FedEx St. Jude Championship in less than two weeks," said **Joe Tomek**, executive director of the FedEx St. Jude Championship. "Our local partners represent the best of Memphis onsite, and we're excited to once again partner with **Andy Ticer** and **Michael Hudman** and **The Commissary** to bring signature items fans can only experience during championship week. Both food locations are some of the best spots at TPC Southwind to eat, hang out and watch the TOUR's best players compete during the four-day, not-cut FedExCup Playoffs opening event."

James Beard Award finalists and famed Memphis duo chefs **Andy Ticer** and **Michael Hudman** team up once again to bring back Birdies & Bubbles to the FedEx St. Jude Championship. Fans will be greeted with a distinct farm-to-table look with

ample shade to enjoy one-of-a-kind delicious signature dishes and cocktails that can only be found once a year at TPC Southwind alongside a prime view of No. 14 green. This open-to-the-public venue can be accessed off No. 16 fairway.

Stemming from Italian roots and southern inspiration, Hudman and Ticer, who were born and raised in Memphis and grew up childhood friends, have created five restaurants with unique styles, personalities, and menus. Starting in 2008, the duo partnered on their first restaurant in East Memphis, Andrew Michael Italian Kitchen. In the 15 years since, they've added four additional restaurants in Memphis – Hog and Hominy, Catherine & Mary's, Eight and Sand, and Bishop.

Located between No. 8 green and No. 9 tee in the shade of the iconic TPC Southwind Silos, The Pit is back to feature one of the most popular barbecue joints in Memphis – The Commissary. An open-to-the-public venue, The Pit offers a great spot to enjoy a delicious Memphis BBQ meal on the course while watching the best players on TOUR compete at TPC Southwind.

For more than 40 years, The Commissary has been a staple of Memphis cuisine, with locations in Germantown and Collierville, and has served their hickory-smoked, slow-cooked Memphis style BBQ ribs, World Famous BBQ Nachos (since 1982),

pulled pork plates and sandwiches to Faith Hill, Tim McGraw, Jack Nicklaus, The Eagles and Aerosmith. As they put it, with food "so good y'all slap yo' mama." The Commissary will have their signature dishes on site and available for fans to enjoy throughout the week at The Pit.

Ticket Options

Daily Grounds tickets for the 2023 FedEx St. Jude Championship are still available for all days. Tickets are dynamically priced, so fans are encouraged to purchase early to secure the lowest available price.

For an upgraded experience, the Michelob ULTRA Athletic Club is an exclusive, open-air hospitality experience with covered stadium seating on a first-come, first-serve basis overlooking the iconic No. 11 hole at TPC Southwind. Beer and non-alcoholic beverages are included in the ticket price while wine, spirits and premium food are available for purchase within the Michelob ULTRA Athletic Club.

Parking Information

Fans traveling to TPC Southwind for the 2023 championship can purchase a Lot X General Parking pass for \$20 (plus taxes and fees, limit 2 per person, per day) from Thursday, Aug. 10 through Sunday, Aug. 13. Lot X is located at the FedEx Headquarters at 3640 Hacks Cross Road. Fans must reserve parking passes in

advance; passes will not be available for purchase at the parking lot as the passes are fulfilled digitally. Pass can be purchased here.

For those looking to take advantage of the family-friendly activities on Wednesday, including the Pro-Am, fans are welcome to complimentary parking in Lot C, onsite off Winchester Road with direct access to the course via No. 17 green.

An alternative option for traveling to the 2023 FedEx St. Jude Championship is to utilize the rideshare option to TPC Southwind, located near 3400 Players Club Parkway just between No. 1 green and No. 2 tee. Enter "FedEx St. Jude Championship" as your destination and tournament guests will be dropped off near the rideshare entrance. As the day at TPC Southwind comes to an end, fans can exit the tournament grounds through the rideshare entry and follow championship signage to the designated rideshare pick-up area outside the gates.

For more information about the FedEx St. Jude Championship, please visit FedExChampionship.com. Fans are encouraged to follow the FedEx St. Jude Championship on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for tournament updates.

Fans can follow the PGA TOUR on the new PGA TOUR app and PGATOUR.COM.

NFL endorses RCX Sports Foundation's program to offer women's flag football scholarships in 2024

N.Y., N.Y. - The National Football League (NFL) is dedicated to fostering the growth of women's flag football worldwide. In support of this effort, the NFL proudly endorses the RCX Sports Foundation in presenting the International Women's Flag Football Scholarship Program, which – beginning in 2024 – aims to empower women globally by offering four scholarships for international flag football players to attend a United States-based college or university that offers women's flag football as a varsity sport. Through these scholarships, the RCX Sports Foundation seeks to encourage women to pursue their

"At RCX Sports, we're committed to increasing accessibility to sports for athletes of all ages, because sports should be available for all," said RCX Sports CEO Izell Reese. "We're proud to offer these scholarships through the RCX Sports Foundation to increase participation in flag football for women athletes around the world."

"International Women's Flag Football Scholarship provide women access to resources that assist in attaining a world class education while competing as student athletes at the collegiate level in the sport of their choice," said Troy Vincent, Sr., NFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations.

The scholarships are made possible in part due to the RCX Sports Foundation, whose goal is to develop, promote, and implement diversity and inclusion in youth sports as the non-profit arm of RCX Sports. The foundation focuses on expanding youth sports opportunities so all children can experience athletics in a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment.

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Flag football is one of the world's fastest-growing sports disciplines, played by over 20 million people in more than 100 countries, across every continent. It is the most inclusive and accessible format of football, played by people of all ages and genders, with female athletes driving some of the fastest growth.

"Flag football continues to see tremendous growth globally, with women and girls helping to drive the game forward at every level around the world," added Peter O'Reilly, NFL Executive Vice President, Club Business, Major Events & International.

"We are excited to see the introduction of the International Women's Flag Football Scholarship to help create further opportunities for talented international student-athletes to play the game, while supporting their education in the US."

The four scholarships will be offered to female student-athletes in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and Asia. To be eligible for the International Women's Flag Football Scholarship, applicants must apply and be admitted to a United States-based college or university that offers women's flag football as a varsity sport. Applicants must submit an essay of 500 words or less describing the impact flag football has had on them or why they are excited to play flag football at the collegiate level. They must also submit SAT/ACT scores, transcripts, a recommendation, and acceptable proof of graduation as defined by the district, state, or province.

The International Women's Flag Football Scholarship Program supports several United States-based colleges and universities that offer varsity flag football for women. Some of the participating institutions include:

- Baker University (Kan.)
- Bethel College (Kan.)
- Bryant & Stratton College (N.Y.)
- Campbellsville University (Ky.)
- Cottey College (Mo.)
- Florida Gateway College
- Florida Memorial University
- Fort Scott Community College (Kan.)
- Graceland University (Iowa)
- Hesston College (Kan.)
- Hocking College (Ohio)
- Kansas Wesleyan University
- Keiser University (Fla.)
- Life University (Ga.)
- Midland University (Neb.)
- Milligan University (Tenn.)
- Nassau Community College (N.Y.)
- Ottawa University (Kan.)
- Point University (Ga.)
- Pratt Community College (Kan.)
- Reinhardt University (Ga.)
- University of Saint Mary's (Kan.)
- Southwestern College (Kan.)
- Southern University at New Orleans (La.)
- St. Thomas University (Fla.)
- Talladega College (Ala.)
- Thomas University (Ga.)
- Tougaloo College (Miss.)
- Warner University (Fla.)
- Webber International (Fla.)
- Westcliff University (Calif.)
- Xavier University (La.)



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