

Sports & Entertainment

Alcorn State stuns Arkansas Pine Bluff with a double overtime comeback win from sports page 1

filling the role previously anchored by long-time participants Jackson State and Tennessee State.

Alcorn State's offense posted 699 total yards of offense with a large chunk of it coming through the air courtesy of senior quarterback Jaylen Tolbert. Conversely, UAPB had 425 yards of offense with a very run-heavy focus as they rushed for 258 yards.

The game itself was just part of the broader Southern Heritage Classic Cultural Celebration, which brought tens of thousands of alumni and fans to the Mid-South area:

Battle of the Bands: A high-energy youth showcase took place at Whitehaven High School Stadium, leading up to the iconic Classic Fifth Quarter stadium battle between Alcorn State's "Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite" and UAPB's "Marching Musical Machine of the Mid-South"

Community Events: The multi-

Despite throwing 2 4th quarter interceptions, Alcorn quarterback kept his composure and threw 3 touchdowns after the 10-minute mark." There were some ups and downs throughout the game," Tolbert said of his performance. "But my team kept me composed, coaches kept me composed throughout the whole thing, so I just kept going through it and fighting to the end."

faceted weekend featured the legendary Orange Mound Parade, a massive tailgate drawing over 10,000 supporters, a formal Classic Fashion Show, and a dedicated college and career fair

All and all, the event was a success and will only get better.

Hunter Tipton named John Mackey Award Player of the Week



Hunter Tipton

BALTIMORE, September 15, 2026 – University of Memphis tight end Hunter Tipton was named the John Mackey Award Player of the Week for the top performance by a tight end, the organization announced Tuesday morning.

Tipton's career night at Boise State, finishing with nine catches for 229 yards and a touchdown, was not just one of the best by a Memphis tight end, but one of the best of any tight end in the history of college football.

His 229 receiving yards were just five shy of tying the FBS record, set by Dalton Kincaid (234) of Utah in 2022. His total sits third all-time in single-game receiving yards by a tight end, and he is just the fourth tight end in college football history with 200-plus receiving yards on less than 10 catches.

According to Pro Football Net-

work, Tipton was the highest-graded tight end in all of college football last week with a 98.9, also being named to the Pro Football Focus (PFF) Team of the Week. Tipton also currently stands as the second-highest rated tight end at the FBS level at this point in the season with a 97.3 grade.

Memphis (2-1) returns to Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium for a matchup with in-state FCS program UT Martin (1-2) on Saturday, Sept. 19, with kickoff scheduled for 6 p.m. on ESPN+.

BUY TICKETS NOW

Season tickets for the 2026 Memphis Football season can be purchased by visiting www.gotigersgo.com

Single-game tickets can be purchased online at [THIS LINK](#) or by calling the Memphis Ticket Office at (901) 678-2331. For group tickets and experiences, please contact the Memphis Ticket Office at (901) 678-2331.

For premium seating experiences, please contact the Memphis Athletic Fund at MAFPremium@memphis.edu.

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

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune Mid-Terms Election Special Edition

Memphis Grizzlies and DAZN announce exclusive broadcast partnership; DAZN to televise preseason and 78 regular games



– DAZN Will Broadcast 15+ Games Free, Most Since 2001-02 Season –
– Subscriptions Are Available for Purchase –

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – **The Memphis Grizzlies** and **DAZN** (pronounced Da-ZONE) announced a multi-year partnership naming the leading global sports entertainment platform as the exclusive home for Grizzlies basketball for fans across the Mid-South. As the new direct-to-fan destination for Grizzlies games and storytelling, DAZN will stream all 78 available of the 80 announced 2026-27 regular season games, all four preseason matchups, and team-produced original programming, including Grind City Media, and select Memphis Hustle games.

DAZN's modern, digital-first viewing experience and multi-device capabilities will enable Grizzlies fans to seamlessly access games, programming and additional team content across virtually all connected devices, including smart TVs, mobile devices, web browsers and partner

"The way fans consume sport is changing. They expect every game, on any screen, with an experience that's flexible, personalized, interactive, and digital-first," said Shay Segev, CEO of DAZN Group. "That's exactly why we've partnered with the Memphis Grizzlies and become the exclusive home for Grizzlies basketball for fans across the Mid-South."

streaming platforms. For select games, DAZN will allow fans to customize their viewing experience in the app with alternative broadcasts and a personalized multi-view experience – creating customized viewing combinations to follow key matchups and other team content in real time.

"The way fans consume sport is changing. They expect every game, on any screen, with an experience that's flexible, personalized, interactive, and digital-first," said Shay Segev, CEO of DAZN Group. "That's exactly why we've partnered with the Memphis Grizzlies and become the exclusive home for Grizzlies basketball for fans across the Mid-South. From free-to-view games and alternative broadcasts to multi-view experiences and premium live and on-demand content, we're creating a richer destination for Grizzlies fans every day of the season."

As part of the Grizzlies' and DAZN's commitment to expanding access to fans across the region, 15 regular season games will be available for free on the DAZN app and simulcast locally over-the-air, the most available free over-the-air games since the 2001-02 season, the Grizzlies' inaugural season in Memphis. In addition, all four preseason games will be available for free on the DAZN app.

All available Grizzlies preseason and regular season games on DAZN will be produced for the first time in 1080i and broadcast across the NBA's largest geographic broadcast territory, including Tennessee, Mississippi, Kentucky, Alabama, Missouri, Central and Southern Illinois and Eastern Arkansas.

All Grizzlies Season Ticket MVPs will receive a free Season Pass subscription for the Grizzlies on DAZN this season. Fans can choose from four subscription options:

- Monthly Pass** – \$19.99/month, two streams in one location , includes downloads.
 - Monthly Pass Ultimate** – \$24.99/month, five streams in two locations, includes multi-view, downloads, alternate angles and feeds, and a one-time 20% discount to Grizzliesstore.com.
 - Season Pass** – \$119.99/season two streams in one location and includes downloads.
 - Season Pass Ultimate** – \$139.99/season, five streams in two locations, includes multi-view, downloads, alternate angles and feeds, and a one-time 20% discount to Grizzliesstore.com.
- All fans who sign up for Season Pass subscriptions before November 1 will receive two free regular season Big River Steel Terrace Level tickets to one of the following games (while supplies last): Monday, Nov. 2 vs. New Orleans; Wednesday,

"Teaming up with an industry leader in DAZN allows us to deliver the modern broadcast experience Grizzlies fans across the Mid-South and our seven-state broadcast footprint deserve," said Jason Wexler, President of the Memphis Grizzlies. "This partnership guarantees 15 regular season games free on the DAZN app and locally over-the-air, the highest number since the Grizzlies arrived in Memphis in 2001..."

Nov. 4 vs. Indiana; and Wednesday, Nov. 11 vs. Denver. All fans who sign up for Season Pass Ultimate subscriptions will have the opportunity to win a pair of floor seats for Opening Night on Oct. 21 vs. Utah and March 25 vs. Chicago.

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The Grizzlies' beloved broadcast crew will return with Pete Pranica entering his 23rd season as the Grizzlies' TV play-by-play announcer, Brevin Knight entering his 17th season as the TV analyst, and Rob Fischer entering his 20th season as the sideline reporter. Fischer will host the pregame and postgame show for all broadcasts alongside Pranica and Knight.

Grind City Media's Chris Vernon, who will join the pre- and postgame show for all home games, and Michael Wallace, who will join the postgame show for select games, enter their 14th and 11th seasons, respectively.

In addition to live game coverage, a DAZN subscription will provide access to extended highlights, condensed games and more following each game. To learn more about the Grizzlies on DAZN and receive updates about subscription access in advance of the 2026-27 season, visit www.dazn.com/grizzlies. The DAZN app is available to download on 100+ devices, making it easy to watch games on your Smart TV, mobile phone, tablet, computer or game console. .

Grind City Media, the official digital content and media network of the Grizzlies, also will distribute team-produced original programming – including The Jessica Benson Show, The Gary Parrish Show, The Chris Vernon Show and Grizz Beat – on DAZN for free in addition to its regular distribution.

Grizzlies fans also can tune into Grind City Media's The Warm Up Show 30 minutes before Grizzlies pregame at every Grizzlies game, with guests joining Lang Whitaker courtside to update fans on the latest news and storylines for home and away games, and The Double Post postgame show with Jessica Benson, Jon Roser and Bennett Doyle providing live reactions at the conclusion of each home game.

DAZN also will broadcast select games for the Grizzlies' NBA G League affiliate, the Memphis Hustle, during the 2026-27 season with Eli Savoie and Jon Roser on the call as the play-by-play announcer and analyst, respectively.

Stephen Wilson, Jr. commemorates dad and releases news single “Cornerman” from sports-Ent. 5

the ACM Award for Visual Media of the Year in May.

Recently, Wilson Jr. released his latest single “Hardwired” featuring Miranda Lambert, which Billboard hailed as an “ode to blue-collar workers of all stripes.” “Hardwired” followed this summer’s release of “Gary” (Live From CMA Fest 2026) and “Preacher’s Kid,” which was named a Song You Need To Know by Rolling Stone.

Throughout the rest of the year, Wilson Jr. will tour the US and Europe on his headline Gary The Torch Tour that will culminate with two shows at The Truth in Nashville, TN on December 11 and 12. It was announced Wilson Jr. will return to Stagecoach for a mainstage performance on April 24. Find a full list of tour dates visit his website.

ABOUT STEPHEN WILSON JR.

Stephen Wilson Jr.'s journey from the hollers of southern Indiana to Nashville, Tenn. has been a winding road that's taken many detours: He's been an Indiana State Golden Gloves boxing championship finalist, a scientist, and a lead guitarist and songwriter in an indie rock band. In 2016, he ditched his laboratory 9-to-5 and signed a publishing deal with BMG Nashville where his alchemic songcraft immediately made waves, leading to cuts from Caitlyn Smith, Old Dominion, Tim McGraw, Sixpence None the Richer, Leigh Nash and more. 2023 proved to be Wilson Jr.'s breakthrough year, signing with Big Loud Records and releasing his critically-acclaimed debut double album son of dad: a triumphant, genre-spanning set

of 22 songs dedicated to his late father and given to the world on the five-year anniversary of his passing. In 2024, Stephen's star grew as he made his network television debut on NBC's Late Night with Seth Meyers, followed by performances on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert's #LateShowMcMusic series and Later...with Jools Holland. Ahead of the one-year anniversary of son of dad, Wilson Jr. was also profiled in an extensive feature for CBS Saturday Morning, and last year, he released a deluxe edition of the album which featured a moving interpretation of “Stand By Me” that has been streamed tens of millions of times.

Last November, he earned his first CMA Award nomination for New Artist of the Year.

Give Like Dolly Day set for September 25 to honor Dolly Parton’s commitment to children and Imagination Library programs ... from sports-Ent. page 6

tions helping children where they live.

"For Dolly, giving was always personal and from her heart," said Jeff Conyers, President of The Dollywood Foundation. "She believed deeply in helping people, especially children, and she always felt if you are in a position to help, you should help. Give Like Dolly Day is an opportunity for people everywhere to not only support their local Imagination Library Partners but also other local nonprofits helping children."

Dolly founded the Imagination

Library in 1995 in honor of her father, who could not read or write. What began in her home county in East Tennessee has grown into the largest early childhood book-gifting program in the world, serving children and families through these local partnerships in five countries: U.S., Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and Republic of Ireland.

The program is made possible through the continued support of Dolly's Estate and The Dollywood Foundation, which invest in the partnerships, resources

and systems that empower thousands of Local Program Partners. These local partners build awareness and provide the funding needed to cover the wholesale cost of the books and mailing for children in their communities. Together, this unique partnership helps place books into the homes--and hearts--of millions of children around the world.

On Give Like Dolly Day, the public will be encouraged to:

- Give directly to their local Imagination Library Partner to help more children in their community receive books.

- Help bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to their community if a local program is not currently available.
- Share how they Give Like Dolly and encourage others to support children in their own communities using #GiveLikeDolly. The Dollywood Foundation will direct people to ImaginationLibrary.com, where they can find the Imagination Library program serving their community by selecting "Check Availability" and entering their ZIP code. For communities without an

Imagination Library program, Dolly's Foundation encourages the public to explore how they can help start a program in their area--or support another local nonprofit organization doing meaningful work for children.

Give Like Dolly Day will be celebrated annually on September 25--a new tradition honoring the way she lived her life: inspiring children to dream more, learn more, care more and be more. TM

About Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Launched in 1995, Dolly Parton's

Imagination Library is the world's leading early childhood book-gifting program and the flagship initiative of The Dollywood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Since its founding, the program has gifted more than 300 million free books to children across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland.

For more information, visit imaginationlibrary.com.