

Sports & Entertainment

Showboats announce Ken Whisenhunt as new head coach ... from sports page 1

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Championship and a berth in Super Bowl XLIII following the 2008 season. In addition, he served as head coach of the Tennessee Titans in 2014 and 2015.

Whisenhunt earned a Super Bowl Championship ring as offensive coordinator for the Pittsburgh Steelers, who won Super Bowl XL (following the 2006 season). He was on the Steelers' staff for six seasons, beginning as the tight ends coach from 2001-03 before being promoted to offensive coordinator in 2001, a role he held through the 2006 season.

Most recently, Whisenhunt served as Special Assistant to the Head Coach under Nick Saban at the University of Alabama for the 2023 season. He also spent two seasons (2021-22) with Penn State University as an offensive analyst.

His most recent stint in the NFL was as offensive coordinator for the Chargers from 2016-2019 and served in that capacity for the Chargers in 2013. He has also coached for the New York Jets (2000, special teams); Cleveland Browns (1999, tight ends); and Baltimore Ravens (1997-98, tight ends). Whisenhunt got his start in coaching with Vanderbilt University, where he coached special teams, tight ends and H-backs in 1995 and 1996.

Whisenhunt was an eight-year player in the NFL, playing tight end/H-back for Atlanta (1985-

88), Washington (1989-90) and the New York Jets (1991-92). He played his collegiate football at Georgia Tech, where he was a two-time First Team All-ACC selection at tight end and earned Honorable Mention All-America honors as a senior in 1984.

New Showboats' general manager Monos is no stranger to professional football, with experience in the NFL and in spring leagues.

Monos served as Senior Director of Football Operations with the XFL in 2022 and 2023. He was also the Director of Player Personnel for the San Diego Fleet of the Alliance of American Football.

Monos served as Director of Player Personnel for the Buffalo Bills from 2013-2017. Among the players drafted during Monos' time with the Bills were: Sammy Watkins, Matt Milano, Dion Dawkins and Tre'Davious White.

"Thank you to Russ Brandon and Daryl Johnston for this special opportunity," Monos said. "I am looking forward to helping Coach Whisenhunt build the best team we possibly can to represent Memphis."

Earlier in his career, Monos served as an area scout for the New Orleans Saints, where he earned a Super Bowl ring following the 2010 season. Previously, he served in the same role with the Philadelphia Eagles.

The 2025 United Football League Kickoff Weekend begins March 28. Memphis Showboats season tickets go on sale to the general public on October 15. For more information or to make a deposit toward seats prior to the on-sale date, visit www.TheUFL.com/tickets.

Grizzlies host open practice on October 6 for fans from sports page 1

autographed player photo upon entry. Seating is first-come, first-serve. Free parking is available for fans in the Gossett Motors Garage.

Military appreciation and the importance of mentoring will be prevalent throughout Open Practice, with the Grizzlies hosting the 164th Airlift Wing of the Tennessee Air National Guard for the event. In addition, the team will participate in a half-court shot competition, with proceeds going to Beauty for Ashes and STS Enterprise mentoring programs.

Prior to Open Practice, MVP Season Ticket Members are invited to attend an exclusive State of the Franchise with Memphis Grizzlies President of Basketball

Operations and General Manager Zach Kleiman, President Jason Wexler and Head Coach Taylor Jenkins. MVPs should check their inbox for an official invite and RSVP details. To become an MVP Season Ticket Member and enjoy perks like this and more, call (901) 888-HOOP.

Fans who want to support the Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2024-25 season tickets or partial plans can do so now by calling (901) 888-HOOP or going online to grizzlies.com/tickets. For single game tickets and more information on the Grizzlies, visit grizzlies.com, 'like' Memphis Grizzlies on Facebook or follow @memgrizz on Twitter/X and Instagram.

Ray Charles' impact on country music from sports-Ent. 5

only "True Genius" in music, Charles' staggering achievements over a 58-year career include 17 GRAMMY Awards; induction into both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Country Music Hall of Fame; a Lifetime Achievement and the President's Merit Award from The Recording Academy; the Presidential Medal for the Arts; France's Legion of Honor; the Kennedy Center Honors; the NAACP Image Awards' "Hall of Fame Award"; and numerous other music Halls of Fame, including those for Jazz and Rhythm & Blues, all testament to his enormous influence.

Ray Charles was equipped with a keen sensibility to the needs of others. It was this selfless generosity that motivated him when he founded, The Robinson Founda-

tion for Hearing Disorders, Inc in 1986. The mission and purpose of the foundation was to provide financial support in the area of hearing disorders and support institutions and make donations to organizations for educational purposes. Charles thought "the inability to hear was a handicap, not the inability to see." In 2006, the official name of the foundation became The Ray Charles Foundation in order to bring awareness to his name but the mission remained the same.

Ray Charles often made contributions anonymously to help fund cochlear implants for those who could not afford the operation, and shortly thereafter started supporting educational institutions for those who could not afford an education.

TN Titans travel to Miami for Monday Night Football to take on the Dolphins

*Tennessee Titans (0-3) at Miami Dolphins (1-2)
Monday, Sept. 30, 2024 • 7:30 p.m. EDT/6:30 p.m. CDT • Hard Rock Stadium • Miami Gardens, Fla. • TV: ESPN & WSMV-4*



NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Titans (0-3) return to Miami this week for their second Monday Night Football game at Hard Rock Stadium (64,992) within a 10-month span. Kickoff against the Dolphins (1-2) is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. EDT/6:30 p.m. CDT.

The two teams last played in front of a national Monday night audience on Dec. 11, 2023. In a thrilling comeback led by then-rookie quarterback Will Levis, the Titans scored 15 points in 51 seconds, erasing a 14-point deficit to win 28-27. They became the first NFL team since the Oakland Raiders in 1976 (vs. Pittsburgh) to win in regulation after trailing by 14 or more points with less than three minutes to go in the fourth quarter.

The Titans own a 26-19 all-time record on Monday Night Foot-

ball, including nine wins in their past 12 appearances. Against the Dolphins, they are 3-0 in Monday night games.

This week's game will be nationally televised on ESPN. In Nashville, fans also can watch on WSMV Channel 4. The game will be streamed on ESPN+ and NFL+, which offers access to local games and all primetime games on phones and tablets. More information on ways to watch NFL games can be found here. The broadcast team for Monday night includes play-by-play announcer Chris Fowler, analysts Louis Riddick and Dan Orlovsky, reporter Laura Rutledge, and rules analyst Jerry Bergman.

The Titans Radio Network and Nashville flagship 104.5 The Zone carry all Titans action across the Mid-South with the "Voice of the Titans" Mike Keith,

analyst Dave McGinnis, sideline reporter Ramon Foster, executive producer/gameday host Rhett Bryan and co-host Amie Wells. Additionally, Westwood One will broadcast the game to a national radio audience. Play-by-play announcer J.P. Shadrick and analyst Ross Tucker have the call.

In Week 3, the Titans played at home for the second consecutive week, hosting the Green Bay Packers at Nissan Stadium. The Packers used three takeaways and eight sacks on defense and 188 rushing yards on offense to secure a 30-14 victory.

Levis, making his 12th career start, completed 26 of 34 passes for 260 yards. He threw for a pair of touchdowns: a one-yarder to tight end Nick Vannett and an 11-yarder to wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins. On defense, the Titans generated three sacks. Inside linebacker Kenneth Murray Jr. set a career high with a pair of sacks, and defensive tackle Jeffery Simmons added another.

THE DOLPHINS

The Dolphins opened the season

with a victory against the Jacksonville Jaguars, followed by a loss at the hands of the Buffalo Bills. Last week at Seattle, they made their first road appearance of the season and fell by a final score of 24-3.

Featuring quarterback Tua Tagovailoa and wide receiver Tyreek Hill, the Dolphins produced the NFL's top-ranked overall offense (401.3 total yards per game) and passing offense (265.5) in 2023. However, Tagovailoa is currently on injured reserve after leaving the Bills contest with a concussion.

With Tagovailoa out for a minimum of four games, quarterback Skylar Thompson registered his third career start last week at Seattle. He passed for 107 yards before leaving the contest in the third quarter with an injury of his own. His replacement was Tim Boyle, who finished the game with 79 passing yards.

Head coach Mike McDaniel is in his third campaign with the Dolphins. In 2023, he led his team to an 11-6 record and its second consecutive playoff appearance.

NFL Smart Heart Sports Coalition launches AEDs for Youth program ... from sports page 1

ing Avive Connect AEDs to schools and youth sports programs throughout the country," said Sameer Jafri, the Chief Executive Officer of Avive Solutions, Inc. "Our mission to empower everyone to save a life from Sudden Cardiac Arrest aligns seamlessly with the Coalition's dedication to enhancing lifesaving measures in schools and sports. By joining forces, we aim to elevate standards of emergency preparedness and ensure that effective and reliable AEDs are accessible nationwide and that every individual has access to cutting-edge AED technology when and where it is needed most. We are eager to collaborate on initiatives that promote awareness, training, and the deployment of AEDs, fostering a safer environment for all students, staff, athletes, and the broader community."

According to the American Heart Association, 70% of chil-

dren survive cardiac arrest in schools with properly placed AEDs – seven times the overall survival rate. However, only about half of all states require AEDs in schools, and these laws vary widely, often lacking comprehensive guidelines on placement, access, and training. Even fewer states mandate AEDs at school athletic facilities and events, despite the fact that sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death among young athletes and four in ten sudden cardiac arrest events among young people occur during sports or other vigorous physical activities.

Coalition members shared their support for the program and the difference it can make in schools and communities:

"On January 2, 2023, I went into cardiac arrest and was fortunate to have professionals around me who used an AED and performed CPR to save my life,"

said Damar Hamlin, Buffalo Bills safety and founder of the Chasing M's Foundation. "It was a tough experience, but I'm proud it inspired so many across our country to learn CPR and how to use an AED. Not long after, the NFL launched the Smart Heart Sports Coalition, and I was honored to be part of that effort and work with great partners to push for laws to protect kids. The AEDs for Youth program is a perfect example of what we can accomplish together to help save lives. School by school and state by state, the AEDs for Youth program will make sure that more schools have access to the same care I received – because every kid deserves a chance."

"The American Heart Association is a founding member of the Smart Heart Sports Coalition, which is working in each state to improve survival from cardiac arrest," said Nancy Brown, chief executive officer of the American Heart Association. "Thanks to the work of this coalition, 13 states have already passed policies requiring cardiac emergency response plans in schools and/or school athletic facilities and events and the 'AEDs for Youth' program will support schools as they implement these plans that include training in CPR and AEDs, ultimately leading to more lives saved."

"As an organization dedicated to preventing sudden cardiac arrest and death in children and young adults, we understand the importance of having access to AEDs in safeguarding lives," added Martha Lopez-Anderson, Executive Director of Parent Heart Watch. "By providing discounted

pricing on AEDs, accessories and AED program management, we are removing barriers and enabling schools and youth sports organizations to fully prioritize cardiac emergency preparedness. This program is a proactive step toward preventing tragedies and creating safer environments for our youth."

Nicole Ward, the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Make Them Know York Name Foundation and mother of Denzel Ward, Cleveland Browns defensive back shared, "My family and I live with the enduring feeling of disbelief and heartache from losing a loved one due to sudden cardiac arrest. The mission of our foundation is to help prevent families around the country from a similar, avoidable tragedy. This program certainly advances that goal by giving school communities across the country the life-saving devices, awareness, and skills to help protect students, teachers and families from preventable fatalities." The "AEDs for Youth" program is available through December 31, 2025, and is open to both public and private schools from kindergarten to 12th grade and youth sports organizations. Discounts on AED bundles range from 20% to 60%, depending on the brand, model, and quantity (in the case of the Avive Connect AED) selected. There is no minimum or maximum purchase requirement for schools, school districts or youth sports organizations must purchase in order to participate in the program.

To learn more about the program and to purchase an AED bundle, visit the coalition's website at www.smartheartsports.com.

Chenier and Smith place 2nd at Rhodes Invitational

MEMPHIS, Tenn. -- Seniors Vincent Chenier and Jalyssa Smith of Memphis cross country both earned second-place finishes at the Rhodes Invitational on Saturday morning. It marked the best-ever finish in any event in their collegiate careers.

Chenier, who earned his best-ever cross country finish of sixth earlier this season, topped it with a time of 25:07.46 in the 8K. Smith finished the 5K with a time of 22:57.85 to earn her second finish of second place (Wash U Distance Carnival in March 2023).

As a team, both the men and women earned third out of 18 and 19 schools, respectively.

The duo was not the only top-10 runners for the Tigers at Shelby Farms: Ann-Marie Braese finished fifth with a time of 23:28.27, and Robert Randall finished seventh, finishing the 8K in 25:41.64. Reezon Eke placed ninth with a time of 23:46.94.

The Tigers will be back in action on October 18, competing in the final regular season meet of the year at the Crimson Classic in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

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EARLY VOTING

State/Federal &
Municipal General Election

October 16 - October 31