

Softball head coach Trena Prater announces fully ‘bloomed’ spring schedule from sports page 1

start playing in conference. It is going to be an exciting year, and we want all our Memphis fans and alumni to come out to see what we are building.”

The season begins in Tempe, Arizona as the Tigers will take part in the **Kajikawa Classic**, where they will face Toledo (Feb. 6, Feb. 7), Texas State (Feb. 7), Northwestern (Feb. 8) and the host Arizona State Sun Devils (Feb. 8).

Memphis then returns home to host the **901 Classic**, featuring contests against Ball State (Feb. 13), Miami University (Feb. 13), Evansville (Feb. 14), Kansas City (Feb. 14) and Southern Indiana (Feb. 15).

The Tigers then hit the road for a quick midweek game at Mississippi State on Feb. 18 before hosting the **Blues City Invitational** the following weekend. Six teams will venture to Tigers Softball Complex for the weekend, with the Tigers taking on four programs. Memphis begins tournament action against Kentucky and North Carolina A&T on Feb. 21 before playing Bradley and Indiana State on Feb. 22 to finish the classic.

Memphis’ final taste of preseason tournament action will be over a three-day stretch after a nonconference game at Southern University on Feb. 26 when the Tigers travel to Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the LSU Invitational. Over the course of the weekend, Memphis will play a five-game slate that begins and ends with Iowa (Feb. 27, March 1) with two contests against the host LSU (Feb. 27, Feb. 28) and a standalone game in the middle against Nicholls (Feb. 28).

American Conference play begins with a home series against South Florida (March 6-8), followed by a home nonconference

game against North Alabama on March 11 before heading to the Lone Star State for a series against UTSA (March 13-15). The Tigers then return home to host national powerhouse Oklahoma for a midweek game on March 18. The month of March continues with back-to-back home conference series against East Carolina (March 20-22) and Tulsa (March 27-29) with a road nonconference game against Jackson State in between on March 25. Memphis’ final game of March will be its 6th game against an SEC opponent as the Tigers host Ole Miss on March 31.

April begins on the road against UAB (April 2-4) before hosting Alabama A&M for a double-header on April 7. The ensuing weekend has the Tigers traveling east for a series at Charlotte (April 10-12) before returning home for their final home midweek game against Alcorn State on April 14. Memphis then plays host to North Texas (April 17-19) and Florida Atlantic (April 23-25) with a road midweek game at Middle Tennessee (April 22) between the two series.

The Tigers finish the regular season in the first weekend of May at Wichita State (April 29-May 2) before the **American Conference Championship** begins on May 6. This season, East Carolina will serve as the host with all competitions being played in Greenville, North Carolina from May 6-9 at Max R. Joyner Family Stadium.

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Softball, visit www.GoTigersGo.com. Also, follow the team's social media channels on X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and Facebook.

TN Tennessee Titans select Page High School Coach Charles Rathbone as 2025 High School Coach of Year presented by Whataburger

Titans to Honor Coach Rathbone and 2025 Coach of the Week Winners at Saints vs. Titans Game

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 15, 2025 – Coach Charles Rathbone of Page High School has been named the 2025 Tennessee Titans High School Coach of the Year presented by Whataburger. In 2025, Coach Rathbone led his team to an undefeated season and captured the Class 5A Tennessee State Championship, marking the first-ever state football title in Page High School history.

“Coach Rathbone represents everything the Don Shula Coach of the Year Award stands for, including character, integrity, leadership and a deep commitment to his players and community. After five straight championship appearances, bringing home the first state title in Page High School history speaks to his resilience and the standard he sets for his program every day,” said Titans Vice President of Cause Marketing, Josh Corey. “His influence reaches far beyond the field as he helps shape student-athletes who believe in themselves and in each other. The Titans are proud to celebrate him as our 2025 Coach of the Year nominee.”

Rathbone has elevated Page High School football into one of

the state’s most respected programs. This season marks the 13th season for Coach Rathbone as the Head Coach at Page High School. Prior to being named head coach, he served as an assistant coach from 2001-2011. Rathbone has shown consistent commitment to the safety of his student-athletes. He implemented padded helmet caps in practices to reduce concussion risks and is widely respected for his efforts to protect and mentor his players.

“Coach Rathbone combines a principled faith, effective and inclusive leadership, authentic relational skill, a tireless work ethic and a remarkable capacity to motivate others,” said Assistant Football Coach Jay Emmons. “I am confident he is very deserving of this award. His contributions to academic endeavors, athletics as a whole and to the broader life of the community are truly a gift.”

As the 2025 Titans Coach of the Year, Rathbone received a grant in the amount of \$3,000 from the Titans and the NFL for personal and football program use.

This honor also qualifies Rathbone for the Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year



“Coach Rathbone combines a principled faith, effective and inclusive leadership, authentic relational skill, a tireless work ethic and a remarkable capacity to motivate others,” said Assistant Football Coach Jay Emmons.

Award, honoring high school football coaches who embody Coach Shula’s values – character, integrity, leadership, dedication to the community, commitment to player health and safety and on-field success.

The Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award winners will be announced in January. One winner from the AFC and one from the NFC will be chosen for this prestigious honor and receive grants over \$25,000 for personal and football program use.

The Titans High School Coach of the Year Award is an extension of the High School Coach of the Week programs, all presented by Whataburger. Each Coach of the Week (11 total) received a grant from the Titans in the amount of \$1,500 to benefit each high school’s football program. All 11 award winners – 10 Coach of the Week winners and Coach of the

Year – will be recognized at Nissan Stadium during the Saints vs. Titans game on Dec. 28, 2025.

Whataburger serves as the presenting sponsor for the Titans’ Coach of the Week and Coach of the Year programs. The company provided prizing for the honored coaches and schools.

For more information on the Tennessee Titans High School Coach of the Week program, visit tennesseetitans.com/coachoftheweek.

2025 Coach of the Week Winners:

Arcentae Broome – Antioch High School
Jeff Brothers – Nashville Christian School
Major Wright – Memphis Central High School
Justin Price – Grace Christian Academy – Knoxville
Chase Brooks – East Roberston High School
Jerome Griffin – Southwind High School
Erik Kimrey – Baylor School
Chris Simpson – Maplewood High School
Spencer Riley – Jefferson County High School
Isaac Shelby – Clarksville High School
Davey Gillum – Anderson County High School

SAF, NRA and partners file amicus brief with SCOTUS to challenge Maryland’s refusal to honor firearm carry permits

BELLEVUE, Wash. December 12, 2025— The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) and its partners have filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court urging the Court to grant certiorari in *Gardner v. Maryland*, a case challenging Maryland's refusal to honor firearm carry permits issued by other states.

The case involves Eva Marie Gardner, who was arrested for carrying a firearm without a permit after defending herself in Maryland. Ms. Gardner had a Virginia carry permit, but Maryland refuses to honor permits originating from any other state. SAF is joined in the amicus filing by the National Rifle Association, California Rifle & Pistol Association, Second Amend-

ment Law Center, Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus and the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

“The Maryland Supreme Court's ruling defies Bruen by allowing states to force visitors from other states to jump through costly and time-consuming hoops to exercise their right to carry arms for self-defense,” said SAF Director of Legal Research and Education Kostas Moros. “History shows that travelers from other states were not only allowed to carry firearms but often received special exemptions from local restrictions. We urge the Court to intervene and ensure the Second Amendment protects Americans nationwide, regardless of state borders.”

If granted review, this case could

affect millions of law-abiding Americans who face arrest and prosecution simply for carrying a firearm with a valid out-of-state permit while traveling through restrictive states like Maryland, California, New York, Illinois, and others.

“This case is essential because it impacts the fundamental right of Americans to carry firearms for self-defense across state lines without fear of prosecution,” said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. “Our Second Amendment rights don’t have borders, and SAF is committed to challenging these unconstitutional barriers so Americans can fully exercise their right to keep and bear arms.”

For more information visit

SAF.org.

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 individuals 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.



A Report from the Memphis Safe Task Force

Traffic stops by Memphis Safe Task Force remove guns, drugs & offenders

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, December 15, 2025—The Memphis Safe Task Force announces the arrests of three individuals following separate traffic stops conducted by Task Force members:

- **Reginald Strong**, 32 – charged with Possession of a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony and Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Distribute.
- **Christian Keaton**, 29 – charged with Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Possession of a Controlled Substance.
- **Marvis Ballard**, 41 – charged with Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

Weapons and narcotics were seized during these enforcement actions.

The Memphis Safe Task Force remains focused on reducing violent crime and enhancing public safety across Memphis communities. These arrests underscore the Task Force’s diligence in suppressing crime, identifying suspects, and removing illegal firearms and drugs from the streets.

The Memphis Safe Task Force continues with its commitment to working alongside local, state, and federal partners to achieve these goals. By removing dangerous offenders and contraband, Task Force operations like this, safeguard both officers and the community as a whole.

See more Military, Law, and Law Enforcement news on Military pages 2-3.

Sen. Blackburn leads TN delegation to make Greece a nation partner to Tennessee National Guard from sports-Military 2

portunities across air, land, maritime, and cyber missions, improving readiness here at home. A new partnership would also open doors for Tennessee businesses and strengthen academic collaboration, research, and student exchanges. Adding Greece

as a second partner will build on Tennessee's thirty years' success with the program, strengthen U.S. relationships abroad, and advance American interests in a strategically important part of the world.”

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune’s 31st Annual Black History Month “250” celebrating America’s Culture of ***Freedom!***



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