

Memphis Showboats have reason to show off: Darius Victor named UFL Sportsman of Year ... from sports page 1

It's truly an honor for me to represent the league as the Sportsman of the Year," Victor said. "I'm truly grateful for the opportunity the UFL provides to give back to the community, and I don't take it for granted. I was raised that if you aren't doing something to improve someone else's life, you aren't living right. If I can spread a little light in the world, I will do it. At the end of the day, I just truly enjoy putting smiles on other people's faces."

During the 2024 season, Victor was a regular participant in the UFL's community initiatives both in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area and Memphis. "It's truly an honor for me to represent the league as the Sportsman of the Year," Victor said. "I'm truly grateful for the opportunity the UFL provides to give back to the community, and I don't take it for granted. I was raised that if you aren't doing something to improve someone else's life, you aren't living right. If I can spread a little light in the world, I will do it. At the end of the day, I just truly enjoy putting smiles on other people's faces." Victor is recognized throughout the league for his sportsmanship

and leadership on the field. Before the season, he was recognized by his Showboats teammates as a team captain. Victor started 9 of the Showboats' 10 games and led the team in rushing yards and rushing touchdowns.

"The Sportsman of the Year Award is a testament to the incredible athletes in the UFL who go above and beyond to make an impact in their communities," said **Daryl Johnston**, UFL Executive Vice President for Football Operations. "We're proud to have Darius represent the UFL as its inaugural Sportsman of the Year Award winner. Darius exemplifies all the best qualities of the young men who play in the United Football League."

The 2024 UFL season will conclude with the United Football League Championship Game, presented by the U.S. Army, on June 16th, hosted at The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis. For more information, visit theufl.com.

About the United Football League
The United Football League (UFL) is set to launch as the premier spring football platform, formed by merging the XFL and USFL in 2024. The UFL has eight teams in Arlington (TX), Birmingham (AL), Detroit (MI), Houston (TX), San Antonio (TX), Memphis (TN), St. Louis (MO), and Washington D.C.

HBO and NFL Films announce 'Hard Knocks In Season with the AFC North'

An All-New Version of the Decorated Sports Series



NEW YORK — June 17, 2024 — For the first time ever, television's most acclaimed sports documentary franchise will chronicle an entire NFL division with "Hard Knocks: In Season with the AFC North," debuting Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on HBO and available to stream on Max. New episodes, featuring the Baltimore Ravens, Cincinnati Bengals, Cleveland Browns and Pittsburgh Steelers, will premiere on subsequent Tuesdays through the end of the NFL regular season and continue into the NFL playoffs in January 2025.

"Hard Knocks: In Season with the AFC North" will document the battle for the AFC North crown during the final six weeks of the NFL season, as well as a playoff run for the division-winner and any AFC North Wild Card teams. The 18-time Emmy-winning series will deliver its signature all-access coverage as it follows the Mike Tomlin-

coached Pittsburgh Steelers, who have never been featured on "Hard Knocks" in the history of the series, as well as coach John Harbaugh's Baltimore Ravens, coach Zac Taylor's Cincinnati Bengals and coach Kevin Stefanski's Cleveland Browns. Quarterbacks Lamar Jackson, Joe Burrow, Deshaun Watson, Russell Wilson and Justin Fields will share the "Hard Knocks" spotlight with Derrick Henry, Ja-

Marr Chase, Myles Garrett, TJ Watt and an array of other AFC North star players.

"Last season the AFC North became the first division ever to have all four teams finish with a winning record, making it the perfect place to launch this new approach to 'Hard Knocks,'" said Keith Cossrow, NFL Films vice president and head of content. "We thank the Bengals, Browns, Ravens and Steelers for the opportunity to showcase some of the greatest rivalries in football and present the intensity of a playoff chase from all four corners of this incredibly competitive division."

"We are ecstatic to expand the 'Hard Knocks' universe with our partners at NFL Films to the always thrilling AFC North division race," said **Nancy Abraham** and **Lisa Heller**, co-executive vice presidents, HBO Documentary and Family Programming, and **Bentley Weiner**, vice president, HBO Sports Documentaries. "In 2024, 'Hard Knocks' will feature the Pittsburgh

Steelers, Baltimore Ravens, Cincinnati Bengals, Cleveland Browns, New York Giants and the Chicago Bears. What a year it will be on HBO and Max for football fans everywhere."

The Baltimore Ravens were the first team featured on the original "Hard Knocks" training camp series in 2001. Since then, the Cincinnati Bengals have starred in the summer show in 2009 and 2013, and the Cleveland Browns in 2018, while the Pittsburgh Steelers will be making their debut appearance.

Last month it was announced that "Hard Knocks" will now be covering the NFL offseason with "Hard Knocks: Offseason with the New York Giants," debuting Tuesday, July 2, and will feature the Chicago Bears on the long-running training camp edition of the show, "Hard Knocks: Training Camp with the Chicago Bears," debuting Tuesday, Aug. 6. With this announcement, "Hard Knocks" will officially cover every part of the NFL season: offseason, training camp, regular season and playoffs.

Maverick City Music brings the 'Good News Tour' to FedExForum on Nov. 21

— General Public Onsale Friday, June 21, at 10 a.m. —

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Grammy Award winning music group Maverick City Music announced its Good News Tour, stopping at FedExForum on Thursday, Nov. 21. Joined by Tasha Cobbs Leonard and JWLKRS, the tour will also feature special guests **Tim**

Godfrey, Stephen McWhirter and Sam Rivera.

Tickets for the show will go on sale to the general public at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 21, and are available through Ticketmaster or the FedExForum Box Office. A FedExForum presale will be available from noon-10 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, for current Memphis Grizzlies MVP Season

Ticket Members, recipients of FedExForum Event Alert e-mails and texts and subscribers of Grizzlies e-News.

FedExForum has a clear bag policy that limits the size and types of bags that may be brought into the venue for all events. Only clear bags made of plastic, vinyl, or PVC no larger than 6x8x2 inches will be al-

lowed inside FedExForum. Clear bags may not have an all-over print or decoration that prohibits full view of its contents. Clear bags may contain a strap, but metal or chain straps are prohibited. Guests will be limited to one (1) clear bag per person. For more information, visit fedexforum.com/arena-policy-updates.

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Negro Leagues Rickwood Field Bobbleheads feature four legends unveiled in conjunction with Tribute Game in Birmingham and Juneteenth celebration for historic event

MILWAUKEE – The National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum unveiled four limited-edition Negro Leagues Rickwood Field Bobbleheads in conjunction with Juneteenth Day and the "MLB at Rickwood Field: A Tribute to the Negro Leagues" game. The collection features bobbleheads of four Negro Leagues star players standing in front of the historic Rickwood Field façade: Hall of Famers **Hank Aaron** and **Satchel Paige** as well as Negro Leagues legends **Artie Wilson** and **Bill Perkins**.

A portion of the proceeds of each sale is being donated to the Negro Southern League Museum located in Birmingham and to the Friends of Rickwood. The special edition bobbleheads are being produced by the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum in conjunction with Baseball Art LLC. The MLB at Rickwood Field game between the San Francisco Giants and St. Louis Cardinals is set to be played on Thursday, June 20th at Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama, the former home of the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro Leagues.

Standing on a base bearing their names, the Aaron, Paige, Wilson, and Perkins bobbleheads are wearing their respective Negro Leagues uniforms. The backing of the base features a replica of the historic Rickwood Field fa-

"We are excited to release these four bobbleheads in conjunction with the Negro Leagues tribute game at Rickwood Field," National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum co-founder and CEO Phil Sklar said. "The famous stadium has witnessed a lot of history in over 100 years, and this anticipated game will certainly add to it. These bobbleheads are must-haves for baseball fans everywhere!"

çade. The Aaron bobblehead is standing with his legs crossed while leaning on a bat with his hand on his hip. The Paige bobblehead is positioned as if he just unleashed a pitch, while the Wilson bobblehead is taking a mighty left-handed swing, and Perkins is in a catcher's fielding pose.

Each bobblehead will be individually numbered to 2,024 and they are available exclusively through the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum's Online Store. The bobbleheads, which are expected to ship in November, are \$40 each or \$150 for the set of four plus a flat-rate shipping charge of \$8 per order. Rickwood Field, the oldest pro-

fessional ballpark in the United States, is named after industrialist Rick Woodward, who built the stadium with help from legendary manager Connie Mack. Modeled primarily after Forbes Field in Pittsburgh, it opened on August 18th, 1910, and became the home field of the Black Barons of the Negro Leagues in 1921. The Black Barons, who played in the Negro Leagues until 1960, shared the field with the white Birmingham Barons as the teams alternated home stands. Over the years, the diamond dazzled with play by some of the greatest players in baseball history. Since 1992, the ballpark has been under the care of the "Friends of Rickwood," who have been restoring the facility to its former glory. Rickwood Field is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Among the countless notable players to play at Rickwood Field were Hank Aaron, Satchel Paige, Artie Wilson, and Bill Perkins. Aaron, a native of Mobile, Alabama, played at Rickwood against the Barons as a member of the Mobile Black Bears before embarking on his Hall of Fame career in the majors. The well-traveled Paige was also from Mobile and spent four seasons in Birmingham and won more games for the Black Barons than for any other professional team per baseball-refer-



Editor's Note: Baseball great Willie Mays died on June 18 before he was to be honored at the Negro Leagues tribute game. Mays was 93.

The game will honor Hall of Famer Willie Mays, a Birmingham native who began his professional career with the Barons as a 16-year-old high school junior in 1948. Mays is generally considered baseball's greatest living player.

ence.com. Wilson, an Alabama native, was a seven-time All-Star at shortstop in eight seasons for the Black Barons. In 1948, Wilson mentored a young Willie Mays, who was just breaking into baseball. Perkins, who was born in Georgia, but spent much of his life in Alabama, caught for

Paige early in their careers and became Paige's favorite catcher joining him on multiple teams over the decades.

As part of a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first Negro League World Series and in observance of Juneteenth, MLB is holding a special Negro Leagues tribute game on Thursday, June 20th between the St. Louis Cardinals and San Francisco Giants. It will be the first regular-season MLB game played in the state of Alabama. A sellout crowd of 10,800 is expected. The game will honor Hall of Famer Willie Mays, a Birmingham native who began his professional career with the Barons as a 16-year-old high school junior in 1948. Mays is generally considered baseball's greatest living player. To pay homage to San Francisco and St. Louis' histories in the Negro Leagues, the Giants plan on wearing the San Francisco Sea Lions uniforms, while the Cardinals plan on wearing St. Louis Stars uniforms.

"We are excited to release these four bobbleheads in conjunction with the Negro Leagues tribute game at Rickwood Field," National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum co-founder and CEO **Phil Sklar** said. "The famous stadium has witnessed a lot of history in over 100 years, and

this anticipated game will certainly add to it. These bobbleheads are must-haves for baseball fans everywhere!"

About the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum:

The National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum, which is located at 170 S. 1st St. in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, opened to the public on February 1st, 2019. The HOF and Museum also produces high quality, customized bobbleheads for retail sale as well as organizations, individuals, and teams across the country. Visit us online and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

About Baseball Art, LLC

Baseball Art, LLC specialized in creating products and traveling exhibits based on original art. They have the largest collection of Negro Leagues art in the country, many of which are featured in an exhibit and book entitled Black Baseball in Living Color. In August 2024, they will be releasing a 67-card set commemorating the centennial of the Negro Leagues first World Series in 1924 between the Hilldale Club and the Kansas City Monarchs. Visit them at baseballartllc.com.

An Editorial Comment from The Mid-South Tribune:
"Real women should play in women's sports!"

We will NOT LIE to our CHILDREN. There are only two sexes.

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