

Sports & Entertainment

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Statements on the passing of Fred Smith, FedEx founder and philanthropist

From Memphis Athletics

MEMPHIS, Tenn, June 22, 2025- “We are deeply grateful to Fred Smith and his family for their unwavering support of Memphis Athletics. Our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones, including the entire FedEx family, during this difficult time.

Fred was more than a visionary businessman — he was an icon and a servant leader whose impact on the Memphis community is immeasurable. Without his foresight and extraordinary generosity, neither Memphis Athletics nor the City of Memphis would be what they are today.

On a personal note, over the past 11 months, Fred has been both a mentor and a friend to me. Tiger Nation will forever remember Fred Smith and the legacy he leaves behind. We look forward to honoring his remarkable contributions in the days ahead.”

UofM Senior Vice President and Director of Athletics  
Ed Scott, Ph.D.

From United Football League (UFL) and The Memphis Showboats

MEMPHIS, June 22, 2025 -“The Memphis Showboats of the United Football League are deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Fred Smith. Mr. Smith's love and devotion for the city of Memphis and this country were both unwavering and ardent. He was instrumental in bringing the Showboats back to Memphis, and our city, our team, and our league will miss him dearly. We offer our most heartfelt condolences to the entire Smith family, as well as all of those he touched in our Memphis community. His legacy in Memphis and the world is immeasurable.”

Andy Seeley  
UFL/Memphis Showboats Communications

Memphis Athletics announces updates on Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium renovations

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – University of Memphis Senior Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Ed Scott, Ph.D. outlined exciting updates on the renovation of Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium in a press briefing, Friday afternoon at the Isaac Bruce Recruiting Lounge. Scott announced that the project, which officially began in May of 2024, is currently on time for the start of the 2026 football season. The transformative project that was ignited by the Fred Smith Family Challenge has entered Phase Two following the demolition of the West Side Tower and the completion of upgrades to the East Side Suites. The stadium is

officially under ownership of the University of Memphis' Auxiliary Services Foundation (now recognized as the Memphis Athletic Foundation) which originally announced a budget of \$220 million for the three-phase project. In partnership with firms MFA, Barton Malow and Populous, the renovation has since been condensed into two phases to expedite major features of the project. By consolidating the project into two phases, Scott announced an increased budget of \$226.5 million after developing strategic updates to the initial design. Memphis Athletics has gener-

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Registration now open for aspiring players to get chance to try out at UFL Player Showcase on Sept. 14

Register at [www.showcases.theufl.com](http://www.showcases.theufl.com)

ARLINGTON, Texas – June 23, 2025 – The United Football League announced the dates for its upcoming player Showcases, scheduled to kick off this fall. These events provide aspiring football players with the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in front of UFL coaches and personnel directors.

Position players will be evaluated based on performance for potential free agent opportunities with UFL teams at these seven events. Specialists will have an opportunity to show their skills at a separate event.

The first showcase will take place in Atlanta, Georgia on Sunday, September 14.

Additional showcases will be held throughout the fall in Washington D.C., Sunday, September



**UFL Washington D.C. Showcase**

Kell High School

Sunday, September 28, 2025

George Mason University

**UFL Dallas Showcase**

Friday, October 12, 2025

Choctaw Stadium

**UFL San Diego Showcase**

Sunday, October 19, 2025

San Diego Specialist Showcase

Maranatha Christian School

**UFL Orlando Showcase**

Sunday, October 26, 2025

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**UFL SHOWCASE LOCATIONS AND DATES**

**UFL Atlanta Showcase**

Sunday, September 14, 2025

28; Dallas, Sunday, October 12; San Diego - Specialist Showcase, Sunday October 19; Orlando, Sunday October 26; Phoenix, Sunday, November 9; Houston, Sunday, November 23 and Los Angeles, Sunday, December 7.

Information on each of the showcases can be found below.

Special Olympics celebrates one year countdown to 2026 with three-year Bank of America partnership grant



WASHINGTON, June 23, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- Special Olympics International and Bank of America (BoFA) announce a \$5 million grant expanding programs that help empower athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to serve as leaders in their communities, seek competitive employment, and realize their full potential. The three-year grant will support the infrastructure and growth of Special Olympics Athlete Leadership and Unified Leadership programming at the local, regional, national, and global levels, including expansion of the programming to Special Olympics' Asia Pacific, Africa, and Latin America regions.

The funding will specifically enable Special Olympics to grow and scale the delivery of their workforce readiness trainings, Athlete Leadership programming, and Unified Leadership, a training co-developed and facilitated by people with IDD that is designed to develop inclusive mindsets to facilitate a more accepting and inclusive workplace for people of all abilities. To

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Meet some of BIHMST Sports Correspondents



William M. Larsha, Jr.



Ashley Braun Gendek

BIHMST Travelers, join correspondents William M. Larsha, Jr. and Ashley Braun Gendek in their sports coverage of University of Memphis Tigers, Memphis Grizzlies, TN Titans, Southern Heritage Classic, FedEx St. Jude Championship, Memphis Showboats, UFL, NFL, Soccer and more on The Mid-South Tribune and the Black Information Highway at [blackinformationhighway.com](http://blackinformationhighway.com) Welcome, Travelers!

STOP

Entertainment Attorney John Mason Releases Memoir “Crazy Lucky” with Foreword by Priscilla Presley [see sports-Ent. 4](#)

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Pres. Trump Raises Big Beautiful Flags at White House [see sports-Military 2](#)

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SAF Files Brief to Fight for 18-20 Year Olds to Have 2nd Amendment Rights [see sports-Military 2](#)

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Ed Van Put’s Memoir “A Fly-fisher’s Revelations” Now Available [see sports page 3](#)

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Cesar Sancho Promoted to Assistant Soccer Coach [see sports-Ent. 5](#)



2025 - 2026

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MEMPHIS ATHLETICS

