

Pickleball Kingdom, world’s largest indoor pickleball entity, announces Memphis, TN will be newest facility

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 5, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- Pickleball Kingdom, the world's largest indoor pickleball entity, announces its newest facility coming to Memphis, Tennessee, located at 3525 Riverdale, Memphis, TN 38115. The state-of-the-art facility, which will span 42,300 square feet and feature 17 professional-grade indoor courts, is targeting an opening in May/June of 2025. The franchise location, led by Bappa Mukherji, Anjali Mukherji Doria, and Jake Doria, is set to establish this facility as the premier pickleball destination in Southeast Memphis near Germantown.

"Tennessee has a deep love for pickleball, and we've loved seeing the enthusiasm at our clubs across the state," said Ace Rodrigues, Founder and CEO of Pickleball Kingdom. "We're excited to bring Pickleball Kingdom to another great community. This venue will be a central gathering spot for players across all skill levels to connect, compete, and develop their game."

The Memphis facility will offer:

- State-of-the-Art Indoor Courts: Engineered to provide the best playing conditions, combining outdoor court surfaces with indoor benefits to ensure optimal play year-round.
- Professional Coaching and Clinics: Programs designed for all skill levels, from beginners to advanced players.
- Youth Programs: Encouraging the next generation to take up and enjoy the sport.
- Leagues and Tournaments: Or-



This is a Pickleball Kingdom in Nashville, Tennessee. Memphis is slated to have a similar lay-out. Memphis’ state-of the art facility will span 42,300 square feet and feature 17 professional-grade indoor courts. (Photo/Courtesy: Pickleball Kingdom)

ganized for players seeking both casual and competitive play opportunities.

•Community & Corporate Events: Strengthening local connections through engaging pickleball events. "Pickleball is a unique activity that brings people together, regardless of age or skill level, and we're thrilled to create a space where people can connect and enjoy the game," said Bappa Mukherji. Anjali Mukherji Doria added, "Our clubs will provide the local community with a safe space to have fun and get to know each other. Pickleball is a sport that is fun for all ages and the open layout of Pickleball King-

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dom will allow players and spectators to feel fully immersed in the game when they step inside." Jake Doria echoed these sentiments, "Our clubs will offer a welcoming space for people of all ages to gather, play, and form new friendships." "We're excited to collaborate with Bappa, Anjali, and Jake, whose dedication to excellence and community-building reflects the core values of Pickleball Kingdom," said Rob Streett, President and Chief Global Officer of Pickleball Kingdom. "Their track record in fostering growth and their shared passion for pickleball

will undoubtedly elevate the player experience and play a crucial role in our continued success and expansion." Anjali is the Executive Director of the Dava Foundation where she helps open and operate charities for rural hospitals. Additionally, she is the Chairman and President of Coffee Cares, a local nonprofit organization that helps relieve medical debt in Coffee County, Tennessee. With experience in franchise start-ups and organizing successful charity events, including a pickleball tournament for Utah's youth, Anjali brings a wealth of expertise to the table.

Jake, a healthcare professional,

has extensive business experience, and currently oversees provider enrollment and financial reporting. Jake's passion for pickleball led him to create a non-profit pickleball tournament, with proceeds supporting youth suicide prevention. With a passion for pickleball and community engagement, he is determined to give back to the area and help Pickleball Kingdom become a staple in the community for years to come.

For more information and updates on the Memphis, TN location:

Website: <https://pickleballkingdom.com/germantown-tn/>
Email: info@pickleballkingdom-germantowntn.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61571644026162>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pickleballkingdomgermantown/>

About Pickleball Kingdom Pickleball Kingdom is the premier indoor pickleball franchise, dedicated to fostering community and providing world-class facilities. With a mission to create a global network of pickleball venues, Pickleball Kingdom is at the forefront of the fastest-growing sport in the U.S. Pickleball Kingdom offers franchisees the highest industry AUV (average unit volume) per location, demonstrating the strength of its business model and the comprehensive support provided to franchise owners.

As pickleball continues to surge in popularity, Pickleball Kingdom invites driven individuals to explore franchise opportunities and join this exciting growth. For more information on franchise opportunities, visit <https://pickleballkingdom.com/franchise/>.

Brayden Sanders named to NCBWA Stopper of the Year Preseason Watch List

MEMPHIS, Tenn , February 12, 2025. – University of Memphis right-handed relief pitcher Brayden Sanders was named to the 20TH annual National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Stopper of the Year Preseason Watch List, the NCBWA announced Wednesday, February 12.

Sanders was one of the nation’s top closers a season ago, locking down nine saves in 23 appearances to lead The American and rank top 20 in the country. The Olive Branch, Mississippi, native struck out 39 batters in 30.2 innings to go with an ERA of 3.82.

The right-handed senior is one of the nation’s top 76 relief pitchers to be named to the watch list. The NCBWA will announce its midseason watch list on April 23 and finalists on June 4.

The Tigers open their season with a double header vs. Southeast Missouri on Friday, Feb. 14 at FedExPark Avron Fogelman Field with first pitch scheduled for 2:05 p.m.

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

Do You Know This About Black History?

- In 1847 **Frederick Douglass** published the first issue of the North Star newspaper, an anti-slavery newspaper.
- In 1941, the **Atlanta Urban League** won the right for Black women to be addressed as “Mrs.” in predominantly white newspapers.
- On May 1, 1867, **Howard University** (Washington, D.C.) was chartered by Congress as one of the earliest institution of higher learning for African Americans.
- **The Dred Scott** decision was handed down on March 6, 1857, essentially declaring that Black slaves could be returned to their former owners, even if the slaves had managed to escape to free soil.
- On August 8, 1965, the **Voting Rights** bill becomes law.



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Flawless Afonso Quintino wins PBR Pendleton Whisky Velocity Tour event at the FedExForum in Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – As an electric Saturday night crowd watched on in inside FedExForum, Afonso Quintino (São Luis dos Montes Belos, Brazil) showed up and showed out, going a perfect 2-for-2 to win the PBR (Professional Bull Riders) Pendleton Whisky Velocity Tour’s PBR Memphis in Tennessee.

Quintino first put points on the board in Round 1, delivering the third-best score when he conquered Bolo (Hurst Ranch & Rodeo LLC) for 87 points. In the final round, Quintino then

Quintino first put points on the board in Round 1, delivering the third-best score when he conquered Bolo (Hurst Ranch & Rodeo LLC) for 87 points.

cemented his second Velocity Tour event win of 2025 when he outlasted High Road (Campbell Cattle Co./Cannon Cattle Co.) for 85.5 points.

The golden finish inside the home of the NBA’s Memphis Grizzlies garnered Quintino a crucial 117.5 points in the race to be crowned the 2025 Velocity Tour Champion. Second was Wyatt Rogers (Hulbert, Oklahoma). Rogers rode Happy Gambler (Folsom Point Bucking Bulls) for 85 points in Round 1, before covering Evil Eyes (TDS/Buentello Bucking Bulls) for 85.5 points in the championship round. The Oklahoman earned 84.5 Ve-



Afonso Quintino has reason to tip his hat and smile after winning the PBR Pendleton Whisky Velocity Tour event a the FedExForum in Memphis, TN. (Photo/Courtesy: Andre Silva and PBR))

locity Global points. As the final rider to cover both of his bovine athlete opponents, Zane Cook (Fort Gibson, Oklahoma) was third. As competition got underway, Cook rode Jim Bob (TDS/Buentello Bucking Bulls) for 83.5 points in Round 1. Tied for eighth entering the final round, Cook then scaled the event standings when he rode Sava (Folsom Point Bucking Bulls) for 85.5 points. Cook left Memphis with 68.5 Velocity Global points. Rounding out the Top 5 and tying for fourth was Joao Henrique

Lucas (Bastos, Brazil) and Yan Victor Cunha (Assis Brasil, Brazil). Lucas and Cunha tied for the Round 1 win when they delivered what proved to be the high-marked ride of the event, each awarded 88 points. Lucas rode Oreo (Dustin Dennin Bucking Bulls) in Round 1, before being denied the event win in the final round, tossed by Sunrise (Cross 33 Cattle/Daylon Swearingen) in 5.12 seconds. For Cunha, who rides for the Florida Freedom in the separate PBR Teams league, he reached the requisite 8 on Sizzled (Ober-

nagel/Sho-Me Rodeo) in the opening round but was upended in 6.85 seconds by Blonde Bomber (Lonnie & Amy Austin)

in the championship round. Both Lucas and Cunha earned 42 Velocity Global points at PBR Memphis. In the bull pen, Oreo bucked supreme, crowned the Bull of the Event. In his Round 1-winning trip with Lucas, the powerful animal athlete was marked an unrivaled 44 points.

The PBR Pendleton Whisky Velocity Tour next travels to Reno, Nevada, on Feb. 21-22, and Worcester, Massachusetts, on Feb. 22-23.

PBR Reno at Reno Events Center begins at 8 p.m. PT on Friday, Feb. 21, and 7 p.m. PT on Saturday, Feb. 22. BeatBox PBR Worcester at DCU Center gets underway at 7 p.m. ET on Saturday, Feb. 22 and 2 p.m. ET on Sunday, Feb. 23.

PBR RidePass on Pluto TV will offer re-airst and on-demand replays of PBR Pendleton Whisky Velocity Tour events and is available on desktops, laptops and mobile devices via www.pluto.tv.

Email sports news and to MSTsports@prodigy.net

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