

Sports & Entertainment

Grizzlies’ Jaren Jackson Jr. named Western Conference Player of the Week to mark his first time in category

MEMPHIS, Tenn. January 27, 2025– The NBA announced that Memphis Grizzlies forward/center Jaren Jackson Jr. was named the Western Conference Player of the Week for games played Monday, January 20, through Sunday, January 26.

This marks the first career Player of the Week award for Jackson Jr., who guided Memphis to a 4-0 record with averages of 25.8 points, 6.3 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 1.5 blocks in 31.2 minutes. The Grizzlies were the only NBA team to go 4-0 this week, extending the NBA's longest active winning streak to six games and tying the team's longest winning streak of the season.

Memphis swept a four-game home stand this week with victories over the Minnesota Timberwolves, Charlotte Hornets, New Orleans Pelicans and Utah Jazz. The Grizzlies won those games by an average of 12.3 points with Jackson Jr. placing second in the league in total points in the paint (56) over that span.

Jackson Jr. led the West in plus-

minus per game (+17.5) and ranked third in the NBA in net rating (+24.6) among players who averaged at least 25 minutes per game (behind only teammates Jaylen Wells and Ja Morant). The 25-year-old scored at least 20 points and shot 50 percent or better in all four games, recorded his fourth double-double of the season in the Grizzlies' Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Game victory on January 20 vs. Minnesota and tied a career high with seven assists in a win on January 24 vs. New Orleans.

Jackson Jr., who earlier this month was named the Western Conference Defensive Player of the Month for December, is scoring a career-high 22.9 points per game as the leading scorer for the Grizzlies, the NBA's highest scoring offense (123.7 points). Memphis, currently third in the West, also leads the league in field goals and free throws made and ranks second in rebounds and assists, third in blocks, fifth in field goal percentage and seventh in 3-point field goal percentage.

The New Orleans Saints sanction Girls High School Flag Football in Mississippi from sports page 1

“We are thrilled to partner with the MHSAA and bring the excitement of girls’ flag football to the state of Mississippi,” said Gayle Benson, Owner of the New Orleans Saints. “This is just the beginning, and we look forward to seeing the league grow, offering more young women the chance to experience the joy and empowerment that sports bring.”

the MHSAA and bring the excitement of girls’ flag football to the state of Mississippi,” said Gayle Benson, Owner of the New Orleans Saints. “This is just the beginning, and we look forward to seeing the league grow, offering more young women the chance to experience the joy and empowerment that sports bring.” As the pilot season is preparing to launch, the Saints and

MHSAA remain committed to expanding the program in the years to come, ensuring more schools and student-athletes across the state can be part of this exciting new chapter for Mississippi’s young student-athletes.

“This is an amazing milestone in our quest to sanction all 50 states for girls flag football,” said Stephanie Kwok, NFL Vice President of flag football. “Mississippi makes the 14th state that has sanctioned flag football as an official girls’ high school varsity sport. We have seen tremendous increase in participation in the sport, but it would not happen without NFL Club support like the New Orleans Saints.”

Flag football will officially be included in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games program, led by efforts of the International Federations of American Football (IFAF) and supported by the NFL.

For more information, visit NewOrleansSaints.com.

Touchdown at Icon Entertainment & Hospitality’s Super Bowl Watch Parties across Nashville for one day only on February 9 ... from sports-Ent. 5

ern Turf Lofts and Music City Threads merchandise line. Icon's newest ventures include Show Pony, the Southern Turf Club and East Nashville neighborhood bar Schulman's, as well as a special pop-up, Tanya Tucker's Tequila Cantina on Broadway.

Since opening the Johnny Cash Museum in 2013 – the first component of a presence in downtown Nashville that is now comprised of more than 100,000 square feet of commercial real estate – Icon has welcomed millions of patrons from around the

world to its dining and entertainment establishments.

USA Today, Forbes, Time, Rolling Stone, Condé Nast Traveler, National Geographic, Southern Living, Marie Claire, AAA, and TripAdvisor are just a few of the

outlets and organizations that have honored and awarded Icon's establishments with distinction, solidifying their status as “must-visit” Music City attractions and dining experiences.

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.
- African American filmmaker **Oscar Micheaux** is born on Jan. 22, 1884.

Haggery grabs 4th AAC Player of Week honor ... from sports page 3

percent overall (17-27), hit 3-of-4 from long distance and 8-of-11 at the free throw line.

Haggerty recorded his 13th and 14th games of the year with 20-plus points.

Against the Shockers, he put up 22 points, five rebounds, four assists and four thefts while shooting 8-11 overall. On Sunday

against UAB, he got 23 points, a career high-tying nine assists, six rebounds and three steals while going 9-16 overall from the floor.

With the victories, the Tigers climbed to No. 19 in the Associated Press poll and No. 16 in the USA Today Coaches Poll, both were announced Monday morning.

Memphis will head to Houston for their first visit to Rice as AAC members on Sunday for a 2 p.m. tip.

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

Email Black History Month photos and news to MSTnews@prodigy.net or BlackInfoHwy@prodigy.net

Toyota launches the ‘You Can’t Stop My Drive’ campaign to focus on celebrating Black men through the power of mobility



Rising star Westin Workman, GR Cup Racer, is making tracks in Toyota's racing program. (Photo/Courtesy: Toyota)

"We at Toyota are truly excited to embark upon this journey with our valued customers and the Black community, celebrating mobility as one of the key anchors of their progress and achievement," said Mike Tripp, Group Vice President of Toyota Marketing.

paign, we want Black men to feel seen, valued, heard and appreciated by our brand, fostering a genuine emotional connection that goes beyond just our vehicles," he added.

The new brand campaign taps into what's at the forefront of Black men's minds—the power of their unique culture, the impact of their experiences, their

personal passions and how all intersect with mobility.

The effort underscores Toyota's on-going commitment to supporting the community's desire to manifest new realities and create a progressive future together. It prominently features the voices of Toyota GR Cup racer Westin Workman and fashion influencer **Devan on Deck**. NBA star Damian Lillard also lends his iconic voice to the campaign's content, further amplifying the message.

•**Westin Workman**, GR Cup Racer: As a rising star in Toyota's racing program, Workman embodies the determination and forward-thinking mindset that defines the campaign.

•**Devan on Deck**, Style and Fashion Influencer: Known for

his unique approach to merging style and purpose, Devan on Deck connects with younger audiences, sharing how mobility fuels self-expression and progress. His contributions include Instagram Stories, branded stills and creative digital content.

•**Damian Lillard**, NBA Superstar: Lending his iconic voice to all of the campaign storytelling elements, Lillard—also a Toyota dealership owner himself—underscores the power of mobility as a means of breaking barriers and achieving dreams.

Together, these influencers showcase the multifaceted ways in which mobility drives success, self-discovery and life-changing optimism. Toyota's "You can't Stop My Drive" champions the intangible element of movement to uplift individuals and communities.

America needs a youth sports revival for kids’ mental and physical health from sports page 1

Sports remain one of our best tools for combatting the crisis in youth health. All sports need to look for opportunities to expand their reach through custom tailoring to meet players where they are.

Importantly, wheelchair tennis has made a major breakthrough and is an exciting variant of the

mental, or age-related challenges.

Tennis recognizes that not everyone needs to play on the same size court and by the same rules.

All the way down to beginner youth (and all the way up to the elderly), adaptations are available, ranging from the speed and size of the ball, the size and weight of the racket, the size of the court, rules of service, scoring, and the length of a match.

game that's widely available.

Tennis is also a game young people can play into adulthood. There are leagues and competitions across the country for players 18 and over, 40 and over, and even 95 and over.

Sports remain one of our best tools for combatting the crisis in youth health. All sports need to look for opportunities to expand their reach through custom tailoring to meet players where they are.

Brian Hainline, MD is Chair of

the Board and President of the United States Tennis Association and recently transitioned from the NCAA as their Chief Medical Officer.

He co-chaired the International Olympic Committee Consensus Meetings on both Pain Management in Elite Athletes and Mental Health in Elite Athletes.

Dr. Hainline is Clinical Professor of Neurology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

This piece first appeared in the Boston Herald.

Watch for
The Mid-South Tribune’s 30th
Annual Black History Month Edition.
Coming in February 2025!

