

Sports & Entertainment

Grizzlies complete a three-team trade with the Wizards and Kings



Memphis Acquires Marvin Bagley III, Johnny Davis and Two Second Round Picks; Trades Marcus Smart and Protected 2025 First Round Pick to Wizards, Jake LaRavia to Kings

MEMPHIS, Tenn., February 10, 2025 – The Memphis Grizzlies announced the team acquired forward/center **Marvin Bagley III**, guard **Johnny Davis**, a 2025 second round draft pick from the Washington Wizards and a 2028 second round draft pick from the Sacramento Kings in a three-team trade.

As part of the deal, Memphis traded guard Marcus Smart and a protected 2025 first round draft pick to Washington and traded forward **Jake LaRavia** to Sacramento. In addition, the Kings traded center Alex Len and guard Colby Jones to the Wizards.

Bagley III (6-11, 235) has competed in 277 games (128 starts) and has averaged 12.4 points and 6.7 rebounds in 23.0 minutes for Sacramento, Detroit and Washington since he was selected by

the Kings with the second overall pick in the 2018 NBA Draft out of Duke. The 25-year-old Arizona native has averaged 4.9 points in 8.7 minutes in 19 games (one start) this season.

Davis (6-5, 195) has played 112 games (11 starts) and has averaged 3.5 points and 1.6 rebounds in 11.4 minutes for Washington since he was selected by the Wizards with the 10th overall pick in the 2022 NBA Draft out of Wisconsin. The 22-year-old Wisconsin native has averaged 2.4 points in 7.1 minutes in 34 games as a reserve this season.

Smart (6-3, 220) has played 620 games (386 starts) and has averaged 10.6 points, 3.5 rebounds and 4.6 assists in 29.8 minutes for Boston and Memphis since he was selected by the Celtics with the sixth overall pick in the 2014 NBA Draft out of Oklahoma State. The 30-year-old Texas native has averaged 8.7 points, 2.3 rebounds and 3.7 assists in 21.1 minutes in 19 games (six starts) this season.

LaRavia (6-7, 235) has appeared in 117 games (six starts) and has averaged 7.1 points, 3.4 rebounds and 1.8 assists in 18.8 minutes for Memphis since he was acquired by the Grizzlies with the 19th overall pick in the 2022 NBA Draft out of Wake Forest. The 23-year-old has averaged 7.3 points, 4.4 rebounds and 2.8 assists in 20.9 minutes in 47 games off the bench this season.

Collegiate swimmers file new lawsuit against NCAA, IVY League, and Harvard from sports page 1

“Nearly three years have passed since a man was allowed to join my women’s swim team, and while many of us have tried to move on, nothing has changed,” said plaintiff Ellen Holmquist. “I’ve decided I can no longer stay silent because future generations of female athletes deserve better.”

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Plaintiff **Margot Kaczorowski** also emphasized the broader impact of the case, stating, “This isn’t just about us — it’s about protecting every girl coming up behind us and ensuring my teammates get the chance to earn their place on the women’s record board. Women deserve respect,

fairness, and safe spaces in sports. The Ivy League and NCAA must be held accountable.”

This is the third lawsuit backed by ICONS targeting the NCAA and collegiate athletic conferences for alleged Title IX violations and harm to female athletes. In 2024, **Riley Gaines** and 18 female athletes filed a lawsuit against the NCAA in Georgia. Another lawsuit followed involving a dozen women from five universities in the Mountain West Conference over a male volleyball player’s inclusion on a women’s team.

ICONs leaders said they remain committed to pursuing legal action until the NCAA addresses past harms and corrects the ongoing injustices against female athletes. “The NCAA and Ivy League owe these women apologies, policy reforms, and the restoration of records to honor female accomplishments,” said ICONs Co-Founder and NCAA Champion Swimmer **Marshi Smith**.

Taniyah Brown tabbed as AAC Weekly Honorable Mention

IRVING, Texas — Sophomore pitcher Taniyah Brown was named as an honorable mention in the American’s Athletic Conference’s weekly awards after strong performances in the circle and at the plate, per a league release Monday afternoon.

The Montgomery, Ala. native made three appearances in the circle over the weekend, pitching two complete games with two wins on the young season. At the plate, she finished with a .563 batting average and three extra-base hits through five games.

Brown pitched the Tigers to two wins during the 901 Classic. The first was against Lindenwood on Friday night, where the sophomore recorded two strikeouts over seven innings while limiting the Lion offense to just three hits. Her second victory was against

Hampton on Saturday, where she again went the distance. This time, Brown limited Hampton batters to just two hits and one earned run over the course of the game.

Brown was also a force at the plate, as she recorded at least one RBI in each of the first five games of the season. In the third game of the 901 Classic for Memphis, Brown helped earn herself a win in the circle by hitting a walk-off single to give the Tigers their third victory of the season. In her second matchup against Hampton, Brown sent a shot over the wall in left center to plate three runs for the Tigers, providing a spark for a Memphis offense before a weather delay. After the delay, the Tigers went on to win by mercy rule by a score of 18-9.

Whisenhunt announces Memphis Showboats coaching staff to usher in United Football League season ... from sports page 1

graduate assistant at Vanderbilt (2015, 2017) and Southeastern Louisiana (2018)

- Son of Ray Horton, who played 10 years in the NFL and coached in the NFL for 24 seasons, earning three Super Bowl rings (one as a player, two as an assistant coach)

Brian Baker, Defensive Line

- First season with the Showboats
- Nearly 40 years of coaching experience, dating back to his time as an undergrad in 1984
- Has coached at the high school, collegiate and professional levels
- Experience with nine different NFL teams
- Coached Pro Bowlers DeMarcus Ware, Jay Ratliff and Anthony Spencer with the Dallas Cowboys
- Most recent position was Senior Defensive Analyst at Georgia Tech in 2023

Marc Hull, Linebackers/Special Teams

- First season with the Showboats
- Coached linebackers and special teams for the USFL’s Pittsburgh Maulers in 2022 and 2023
- Spent seven seasons coaching linebackers and special teams at Slippery Rock (Pa.), helping lead the squad to two conference championships and four NCAA D-II Playoff appearances
- Spent two seasons at Shippensburg (Pa.) as a graduate assistant prior to his time at Slippery Rock
- Coached at Kentucky Christian University in 2012
- Began his coaching career at West Los Angeles College

Steve Meyer, Defensive Quality Control



- First season with the Showboats
- Served on the staff of the USFL’s Pittsburgh Maulers in 2023
- Spent 2022 as the defensive coordinator at Saint Vincent College (Pa.) after serving on the Bearcat’s staff from 2010-13 as well
- Five years on staff with the Pittsburgh Steelers, serving as a defensive coaching assistant and scouting intern (2013-2018)
- Also brings experience from the high school ranks as well as coaching with the AAF’s Birmingham Iron

Luke Ferdinand, Running Backs

- First season with the Showboats
- Spent the last three seasons coaching at Black Hills State University (Grad Asst.-OL, 2022; Grad Asst.-RB, 2023; Asst. Coach-RB, 2023)
- Coached two all-conference players during his time at Black Hills State
- Also has experience on the football staff at South Dakota as a video coordinator

Jim Turner, Offensive Line

- Second season with the Showboats
- Nearly 30 years of coaching experience at the professional and collegiate levels
- Coached a Texas A&M offensive line that paved the way for Trayveon Smith to lead the SEC with

1760 rushing yards in 2018

- Has coached numerous offensive linemen who went on to play in the NFL
- Former infantry officer in the United States Marine Corps (1990-94)

T.J. Vernieri, Tight Ends/Wide Receivers

- Second season with the Showboats
- Coached wide receivers at Gannon University in the fall of 2023, after working as offensive quality control/tight ends coach for the New Orleans Breakers in the spring of 2023
- Spent two seasons on the coaching staff with the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League, also has three seasons of collegiate coaching experience

Lee Morris, Offensive Quality Control

- First season on Showboats coaching staff
- Played last three seasons in the USFL/UFL (New Orleans Breakers-2022-23, Memphis Showboats 2024)
- Caught 41 passes for 848 yards and 11 TDs in four years of collegiate action at Oklahoma
- His father, Lee Morris, played one season in the NFL with the Green Bay Packers in 1987
- 2018 Burlsworth Trophy Semi-finalist

The 2025 Showboats season kicks off March 30 at Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium, when Memphis hosts the Michigan Panthers. The Showboats will also play home games April 12,

May 11, May 24 and June 1.

Memphis Showboats season tickets begin at just \$100 and can be purchased at uflshowboats.com/tickets. Fans can also reach a ticket specialist by calling 901-341-7008 or sending an email to tickets@uflshowboats.com.

About the United Football League

The 2025 Showboats season kicks off March 30 at Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium, when Memphis hosts the Michigan Panthers. The Showboats will also play home games April 12, May 11, May 24 and June 1.

The United Football League (UFL) is the professional spring football league, born from the groundbreaking 2024 merger of the XFL and USFL. With the visionary backing of RedBird Capital Partners, FOX, Dany Garcia and Dwayne Johnson, the UFL is redefining the football landscape. Built on tradition and positioned to innovate and expand fan engagement and player opportunities, the league is poised for growth with its eight teams in key markets: Arlington (TX), Birmingham (AL), Detroit (MI), Houston (TX), San Antonio (TX), Memphis (TN), St. Louis (MO), and Washington D.C. The UFL is committed to pushing the boundaries of the game and delivering an elevated experience for players, fans, and partners alike.

Sen. Marsha Blackburn shows how Republicans protect women in sports



By U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn

Today [February 5, 2025] is National Girls and Women in Sports Day—a holiday that celebrates women’s many accomplishments in athletics. Since Title IX’s enactment in 1972, which requires equal resources for women’s sports, we have seen an explosion in female participation

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in athletics, improving the lives of millions with the benefits of fitness, teamwork, and leadership experience.

Yet, despite these advances for women, for four years the Biden-Harris administration waged a war on women’s sports by denying biological reality and blurring the difference between men and women.

In 2022, for example, the Education Department announced new rules that would allow biological males to participate in women’s groups and activities, including athletics. Following up

Young women across the country have suffered injuries, faced sexual harassment, and lost accolades because they were forced to share spaces designed for women with men. Together, President Trump and Republicans in Congress are working together to put an end to this assault on women once and for all.

last year, the administration extended the rulemaking to private spaces such as locker rooms and bathrooms, jeopardizing women’s safety.

Thankfully, in November, the American people rejected this radical agenda and gave President Trump a mandate to protect women, restore fairness, and bring common sense back to government rulemaking. That’s why, on Inauguration Day, President Trump issued an executive order that affirms the federal government’s position that there are only two sexes—male and female—that are grounded in biology, not gender ideology.

In effect, this order brings an end to the previous administration’s far-left effort to force schools, community centers, and any other organization that receives federal funds to allow biological men into women’s spaces.

For the more than three million

female high school and college athletes in Tennessee and across our country, this order is welcome news. But to ensure that every single one of them receives the safety, opportunity, and fairness they deserve, there is much more that Congress can do.

At the top of the list: ensuring the National Collegiate Athletic Association—the nation’s largest governing body of college athletics—prohibits biological men from competing in women’s sports. Since 2010, the organization has allowed males to compete in female-only events, endangering women’s safety and depriving them of their hard-earned records, medals, and accomplishments.

Just three years ago at the NCAA Women’s Swimming & Diving Championships, Tennessee’s Riley Gaines, then a swimmer for the University of Kentucky, competed against and shared a locker room with a biological male who ultimately took home the trophy that she had rightfully won. And in recent months, five NCAA women’s volleyball teams were forced to forfeit their matches to avoid the danger of playing against a biological male on a competing team.

To bring this unfairness and inequality to an end, I recently introduced a resolution calling on the NCAA to protect women in sports, including by revoking its policy that allows biological males to compete against women.

This move would bring the organization in line with other leading athletic associations, including the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, and more than 20 states that have taken action to preserve fair play in women’s sports.

To support young women and girls in sports, I also introduced the Fair Play for Girls Act. Among its provisions, this crucial legislation would require the U.S. Attorney General to submit a report to Congress on the harms, lost opportunities, and harassment women have faced in athletics, as well as the effectiveness of state and federal laws to prevent this abuse.

At the same time, it is imperative that we celebrate the accomplishments of the young women who practice, train, and compete every day to achieve athletic success. That’s why I introduced a resolution to designate October 10—XX, like the female sex chromosome—as American Girls in Sports Day. Specifically, this resolution calls on sports-governing bodies to protect women and girls in sports.

Young women across the country have suffered injuries, faced sexual harassment, and lost accolades because they were forced to share spaces designed for women with men. Together, President Trump and Republicans in Congress are working together to put an end to this assault on women once and for all.

A Black History quote from Marsha Blackburn, Tennessee’s first female U.S. Senator

“As so many across our state commemorate Black History Month, it is important to remember the trailblazing Tennesseans who fought to make our country a more perfect union. Among them is Nashville’s Juno Frankie Pierce, a black educator and suffragist who championed women’s right to vote at the inaugural convention of the Tennessee League of Women Voters. In many ways, her words helped pave the way for voter equality: Just three months later, Tennessee became the 36th and final state to ratify the 19th Amendment. Her life—much like Black History Month itself—is a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when Americans fight for their right to freedom and equality under the law.”