

Sports & Entertainment

Memphis Athletics mourns the loss of Joye Lee-McNelis who served as women’s basketball head coach from 1991 to 2024

HATTIESBURG, Miss. June 25, 2025— Joye Lee-McNelis, head coach of the Memphis women’s basketball program from 1991 to 2004, passed away on Tuesday at the age of 63.

In lieu of flowers and in honor of her fight against lung cancer, the family asks for donations to her personal charity, the Forrest General Patient Navigation Fund. Friends and family interested in sharing their memories of Coach McNelis, including photos, can email mcnelismemories@yahoo.com.

Visitation took place on Friday, June 27 at Temple Baptist Church (5220 Old Highway 11, Hattiesburg, MS 39402) in Hattiesburg. A funeral service was held there on Saturday, June 28, followed by a graveside service at Lee’s Chapel Baptist Church No. 2 (27015 Leetown Road, Picayune, MS 39466).

The second-winningest coach in program history, McNelis led the Tigers to six conference championships, four NCAA Tournament berths and four WNIT appearances, including a WNIT semifinal run in 1999. She won four consecutive conference titles and recorded five consecutive 20-win seasons from 1994 to 1999. She was a finalist for National Coach of the Year in 1995, and her Memphis record was 229-156. Her head coaching record between Memphis and Southern Miss, where she coached from 2004 until her retirement after the 2024-25 season, was 568-464.

On Monday, the Memphis Sports Hall of Fame announced McNelis would be the first member of the 2025 class. She also recently received the 2024 Pat Summitt Most Courageous Award and the 2025 USA TODAY Mississippi Woman of the Year honor.

A former student-athlete at Southern Miss, McNelis was an

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assistant coach for the Lady Eagles before signing on as the head coach at Memphis at just 28 years old. She coached the only two Tigers to ever play in a WNBA game, LaTonya Johnson and Tamika Whitmore. Whitmore was inducted into the Memphis Sports Hall of Fame in 2023 and saw her No. 44 retired at Elma Roane Fieldhouse in March of this year.

“[There’s] not a word to describe how much this lady meant to so many, not just on her team, but in the Memphis community,” Whitmore said on Instagram Tuesday. “Coach left her mark in every room she ever entered. I would not have wanted to be coached by anyone else.”

A native of Leetown, Mississippi, McNelis accumulated 339 wins as head coach of her alma mater. The Lady Eagles reached the WNIT five times, including as recently as 2023-24 when they reached the Super 16 and achieved back-to-back 20-win seasons.

McNelis is survived by her brothers Louis Dempsey Lee, Jr., and Rico (Trudy) Alphas Lee; her husband Dennis McNelis; her daughter Whitney (Michael) McNelis Wilkinson; her son Connor Lee McNelis; and her two grandchildren Emma Grace Wilkinson and Caroline Lee Wilkinson.

Tennis coach Doerr adds Obrad Markovski to roster

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 25, 2025 – University of Memphis men’s tennis coach Chris Doerr continues to add power to his roster with the signing of Obrad Markovski to the 2025-26 squad.

“We are very excited about Obrad,” Doerr said. “He has a wealth of experience on the pro tour as well as playing high for his team. His has a very solid lefty game with the ability to be explosive from the baseline. He will be a great addition for Memphis I am particularly excited to see him give our fans something to cheer about.”

Markovski comes to Memphis after playing one season at Di-

vision II powerhouse Limestone. The 66th-ranked Markovski finished last season with a 12-1 record at the No. 1 position as a freshman and helped the Saints to a top 35 ranking in the ITA team rankings.

Along with his breakout collegiate career, Markovski has competed in the Davis Cup for Macedonia and, just recently, made the finals in a pro event in doubles last week in Serbia.

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

Grizzlies select Javon Small no. 48 overall in 2025 NBA Draft

MEMPHIS, Tenn. June 26, 2025 – The Memphis Grizzlies announced the team selected West Virginia guard Javon Small with the No. 48 overall pick in the second round of the 2025 NBA Draft.

Small (6-1, 190) started all 32 appearances last season during his senior year at West Virginia and averaged 18.6 points, 4.1 rebounds, 5.6 assists and 1.5 steals in 36.1 minutes. He was named to the 2024-25 All-Big 12 First Team after ranking second in the conference in scoring and third in assists.

The 22-year-old Indiana native spent his junior year at Oklahoma State, where he was selected All-Big 12 Honorable Mention, after transferring from

East Carolina. He shot 87.1 percent from the free throw line during his collegiate career, placing fourth in the Big 12 during the 2023-24 season (86.6 percent) and third in the conference last season (88.0 percent).

Dain Dainja earns spot on Miami Heat’s Summer League roster; Cisse signs exhibit contract with Mavericks... from sports page 1

ing camp performance.

Cisse returned to Memphis this past season and averaged 5.7 points, 6.5 rebounds, and 1.6 blocks per game, leading the Tigers in shot-blocking and ranking second in rebounding behind Dainja.

A native of Conakry, Guinea, Cisse began his collegiate career at Memphis in 2020-21, earning AAC Freshman of the Year honors. He went on to be named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year at Oklahoma State before a one-year stint at Ole Miss. In one of his best performances this past season, Cisse logged 13 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks against Ole Miss, earning AAC Player of the Week recognition.



Moussa Cisse

Cisse concluded his career with 254 career blocks, cementing his status as one of college basketball’s premier rim protectors. He

Under Penny Hardaway, the Tigers have become a launchpad to the pros — with 10 players under his tutelage reaching the NBA in just seven seasons. That list of big men includes James Wiseman (No. 2 overall pick), Jalen Duren (No. 13), Precious Achiuwa (No. 20), and Nae’Qwan Tomlin (undrafted).

ranked third nationally in offensive rebounding percentage and 21st in block percentage, according to KenPom.

As Dainja steps onto the Summer League stage and Cisse

begins his NBA journey in Dallas, the tradition of elite front-court talent coming through Memphis keeps growing.

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Memphis Grizzlies announce 2025 full Summer League schedule... from sports page 1

be available on the ESPN App.

For the most up-to-date and exclusive coverage of the Grizzlies’ participation in the 2025 Salt Lake City Summer League and NBA2K26 Summer League 2025, Grizzlies fans are encouraged to visit grizzlies.com, “like” Memphis Grizzlies on Facebook or follow @memgrizz on

Twitter/X and Instagram. Grind City Media will provide up-to-the-minute analysis, exclusive video and live shows throughout both summer leagues for fans who visit GrindCityMedia.com, like Grind City Media on Facebook or follow on YouTube, Twitter/X and Instagram (@GrindCityMedia).

Fans who want to support the Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2025-26 Season Tickets can do so now by going online to grizzlies.com/tickets.

About Kiswe

Kiswe is an award-winning technology company that builds and

powers D2C streaming platforms and events used by the biggest entertainment and sports brands.

With best-in-class streaming technology and a unique partnership business model, Kiswe helps content owners maximize their revenue and engage every fan on every screen.

2025 SALT LAKE CITY SUMMER LEAGUE (SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH)						
Date		Opponent	Time (CT)	Time (MT)	Site	Broadcast
Saturday	July 5	Oklahoma City Thunder	6 p.m.	5 p.m.	Jon M. Huntsman Center	ESPNU/GCM/FDSN
Monday	July 7	Utah Jazz	8 p.m.	7 p.m.	Jon M. Huntsman Center	NBA TV/GCM/FDSN
Tuesday	July 8	Philadelphia 76ers	6 p.m.	5 p.m.	Jon M. Huntsman Center	NBA TV/GCM/FDSN
NBA2K26 SUMMER LEAGUE 2025 (LAS VEGAS)						
Date		Opponent	Time (CT)	Time (PT)	Site	Broadcast
Friday	July 11	Boston Celtics	3 p.m.	1 p.m.	Pavilion	NBA TV/GCM/FDSN
Saturday	July 12	Portland Trail Blazers	9:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Thomas & Mack	ESPN2/GCM/FDSN
Tuesday	July 15	Golden State Warriors	9:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Thomas & Mack	NBA TV/GCM/FDSN
Thursday	July 17	Atlanta Hawks	5 p.m.	3 p.m.	Pavilion	NBA TV/GCM/FDSN

NFL Flag Championship presented by Toyota returns to Canton from July 17-20 ... from sports page 1

Sports, operating partner of NFL FLAG. “It’s where the nation’s top youth athletes unite to compete at the highest level, with all 32 NFL clubs represented in one place. This year’s event reflects the growing support for the sport — with more partners, greater visibility, and expanded global reach — creating even more opportunities for young athletes to shine. We’re proud to help bring this experience to life in Canton.”

The tournament structure will begin with pool play on Thursday, July 17. On Friday, there will be a round of 16 for four age groups and pool play for designated age groups and the international division. On Saturday, there will be quarterfinals and playoffs for multiple age groups as well as the semifinals and finals of the international tournament. Sunday, July 20, will include semi-finals for four age groups and finals for all age

groups.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced in October 2023 that flag football will be included in the 2028 Summer Olympic Games program in Los Angeles. The inclusion puts flag football on the world’s largest stage. Eight 14u co-ed teams will travel from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Great Britain, Mexico and Puerto Rico to compete against one another at the 2025 NFL Flag Championships. All teams will have qualified for the tournament by winning national NFL Flag tournaments in their home countries. Flag football’s rapid growth and popularity also is reflected in an exhibit inside the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Flag football is one of the world’s fastest-growing sport, played by over 20 million people in more than 100 countries, across six continents. It is the most inclusive and accessible

format of football, played by people of all ages and genders, with female athletes driving some of the fastest growth.

For more information on NFL FLAG and to find a league in your neighborhood, please visit here.

About NFL FLAG

NFL FLAG is an NFL-licensed property of more than 2,000 locally operated leagues and over 765,000 youth athletes across all 50 states. NFL FLAG is a fun and accessible non-contact program available for girls and boys ages 5-17. Players benefit by being physically active through non-contact, continuous action while learning the fundamentals of football as well as lessons in teamwork and sportsmanship. RCX Sports is the official operator of NFL FLAG. Learn more at nflflag.com.

About RCX Sports

RCX Sports is the leader in youth sports experiences, operating and partnering with leagues, events, and brands to engage and empower the next generation of athletes. As the official youth sports operator for the NFL, NBA, WNBA, NHL, MLS, MLB, and USTA, RCX is the only multi-sport organization trusted by pro leagues and governing bodies to represent them. RCX Sports delivers officially licensed uniforms, comprehensive resources, and full support, empowering league operators to create the best youth sports experiences in their communities. Committed to making youth sports accessible and inclusive, RCX Sports creates opportunities for all athletes to play and benefit from the transformative power of sports. For more information, visit rcxsports.com.



Happy Fourth! Happy Freedom! Be Safe!