

Sports & Entertainment

Memphis Athletics announces TV partnership with WREG-CBS and WJKT-FOX to air Inside Memphis Athletics and coaches shows from sports page 1

Athletics.”

As part of the partnership, Nexstar stations will become the official broadcast home for the Tigers’ weekly coaches shows, featuring Head Football Coach Ryan Silverfield, Head Men’s Basketball Coach Penny Hardaway, and Head Women’s Basketball Coach Alex Simmons. WREG’s Mike Ceide and Colin Cody will serve as co-hosts for the shows, bringing in-depth interviews and expert analysis each week.

“We are so proud to join the University of Memphis to bring the Coaches’ shows and more to our viewers every week,” said Fran McRae, Vice President and General Manager of WREG and WJKT. “The Tigers are so much more than a team. They’re a source of pride and tradition in this community, bringing people together like nothing else can. This show will give fans an inside look at the athletic programs they love and we’re excited to be the station connecting them to that.”

Additionally, Inside Memphis Athletics will air during weeks without coaches shows, delivering year-round storytelling, exclusive interviews, game

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highlights, and behind-the-scenes content to fans throughout the region. Memphis Athletics programming will debut August 24, 2025 with the Coach Ryan Silverfield Show, presented by AutoZone, airing Sundays at 10:30 p.m. on WREG and 10:00 p.m. on WJKT.

“It’s an exciting time for Memphis Athletics and this partnership will be a cornerstone in distributing exceptional coverage and engaging content for Tiger fans across the state,” said Greg Gaston, General Manager of Tiger Sports Properties.

The relationship with Nexstar Media Inc. is managed by Memphis Athletics’ exclusive multimedia rights holder, Tiger Sports Properties; the locally

based team of Learfield.

About Nexstar Media Inc. Nexstar Media Group, Inc. (NASDAQ: NXST) is a leading diversified media company that produces and distributes engaging local and national news, sports and entertainment content across its television and digital platforms, including more than 316,000 hours of programming produced annually by its business units. Nexstar owns America’s largest local television broadcasting group comprised of top network affiliates including WREG Memphis and WJKT Jackson, and more than 200 owned or partner stations in 116 U.S. markets reaching 220 million people. Nexstar’s national television properties include The CW, America’s fifth major broadcast network, NewsNation, our national news network providing “News for All Americans,” popular entertainment multicast networks Antenna TV and Rewind TV, and a 31.3% ownership stake in TV Food Network. The Company’s portfolio of digital assets, including its local TV station websites, The Hill and NewsNationNow.com, are collectively a Top 10 U.S. digital news and information property. For more information, please visit nexstar.tv

About Learfield

Learfield is the leading media and technology company powering college athletics. Through its digital and physical platforms, Learfield owns and leverages a deep data set and relationships in the industry to drive revenue, growth, brand awareness, and fan engagement for brands, sports, and entertainment properties. With ties to over 1,200 collegiate institutions and over 12,000 local and national brand partners, Learfield’s presence in college sports and live events delivers influence and maximizes reach to target audiences. With solutions for a 365-day, 24/7 fan experience, Learfield enables schools and brands to connect with fans through licensed merchandise, game ticketing, donor identification for athletic programs, exclusive custom content, innovative marketing initiatives, NIL solutions, and advanced digital platforms. Since 2008, it has served as title sponsor for the acclaimed Learfield Directors’ Cup, supporting athletic departments across all divisions.

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

200 Days of impact as Fort Bliss assumes new role in homeland defense from sports page 3

tack at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Further harm was prevented when other nearby soldiers acted selflessly to bring the attack to an end.

"The department and Secretary Hegseth would like to extend our prayers to the five service members who were wounded in

a cowardly shooting at Fort Stewart," Wilson said. "We are relieved that all five victims of the attack are in stable condition. We would also like to give our profound gratitude to the soldiers who charged into danger and subdued the shooter, potentially saving countless lives."

Watch for
The Mid-South Tribune
Agriculture *Special* Edition.

ESPN to acquire NFL Network and other assets from NFL for a 10% equity stake in ESPN ... from sports page 1

missioner Roger Goodell. “Whether it was debuting Thursday Night Football, televising the Combine, or telling incredible football stories through original shows and breaking news, NFL Network has delivered. The Network’s sale to ESPN will build on this remarkable legacy, providing more NFL football for more fans in new and innovative ways.”

“This is an exciting day for sports fans,” said Jimmy Pitaro, chairman of ESPN. “By combining these NFL media assets with ESPN’s reach and innovation, we’re creating a premier destination for football fans. Together, ESPN and the NFL are redefining how fans engage with the game—anytime, anywhere. This deal helps fuel ESPN’s digital future, laying the foundation for an even more robust offering as we prepare to launch our new direct-to-consumer service.”

Additional Details

This new relationship brings together some of the NFL’s premier media brands and fan-engagement platforms with ESPN’s deep experience in producing and distributing high-

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quality and innovative sports programming. ESPN intends to deploy its resources and expertise in the development of NFL Network, distribution of the RedZone Channel and fantasy, to expand audience reach, increase accessibility and flexibility for consumers, drive innovation, and offer even more high-quality content to fans at highly competitive prices. As a result of this sale, NFL programming will be available on more platforms than

ever before, including ESPN’s upcoming direct-to-consumer (“DTC”) service, while remaining on cable, satellite and leading streaming providers. ESPN’s DTC offering will deliver an array of NFL content to subscribers.

Under the terms of these agreements:

- NFL Network, including both linear and digital rights, would be owned and operated by ESPN and fully integrated into ESPN DTC, alongside traditional pay television distribution, increasing accessibility and flexibility for consumers and promoting innovation in sports programming.
- ESPN would own broad rights to the RedZone brand and distribute the NFL RedZone Channel to pay TV operators for continued inclusion into their sports packages.
- NFL Fantasy Football would merge with ESPN Fantasy Football, creating the official Fantasy season-long game of the NFL and one best-in-class digital experience, driving innovation and enabling broader reach to meet global demand.
- In total, ESPN’s platforms will license an additional three NFL

games per season to air on NFL Network as a result of today’s news. In addition, ESPN will adjust its overall NFL game schedule, with four games (including some from overlapping windows) shifting to NFL Network, which will continue to present seven games per season.

- The NFL will continue to own and operate its retained media businesses including properties such as NFL Films and key fan-facing platforms such as NFL+, NFL.com, the NFL Podcast Network, the NFL FAST Channel and the official sites for the league’s 32 clubs. It will also continue to own, operate, and produce NFL RedZone, and retain the rights to distribute NFL RedZone digitally.

The transactions are subject to the parties’ negotiation of definitive agreements, various approvals including by the NFL team owners, and customary closing conditions.

ESPN is 80 percent owned by ABC, Inc. (an indirect subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company) and 20 percent by Hearst.

Memphis and Mid-South mourn passing of UofM Tiger great Phillip “Doom” Haynes who was cornerstone of Tigers’ Golden era

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The University of Memphis and its basketball family are mourning the loss of one of the program’s all-time greats. Phillip “Doom” Haynes — the hometown guard whose signature bank shot, unrelenting drive and infectious spirit helped define an era of Tiger basketball — passed away on August 3. He was 63.

From 1980 to 1984, Haynes was a cornerstone of the Tigers’ golden era, donning the blue and gray during a stretch that many Memphis fans fondly remember. During his four-year career, the Tigers compiled an 86-34 overall record, strung together three-straight 20-win seasons and advanced to three-consecutive NCAA Sweet Sixteens. His contributions helped restore Memphis’ national prominence and energized a city.

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Haynes led the Cougars to back-to-back Class AAA state championships in 1979 and 1980 before heading to then-Memphis State. At 6-foot-3, he quickly became known for his high-arching bank shots and fierce compet-

itiveness — earning All-Metro Conference honors in 1981, 1983 and 1984.

He averaged double figures in scoring all four years and surpassed 1,000 career points as a junior. Haynes finished with 1,479 career points — still 13th-most in program history — along with 606 made field goals (eighth all-time) and 3,790 minutes played (top 10). He shot an efficient 50.2 percent from the field and 74.8 percent from the free-throw line in his career.

Haynes helped guide the Tigers to Metro Conference regular-season and tournament title sweeps in both 1981-82 and 1983-84.

The 1982 NCAA berth marked the program’s first in six years and just its second since the 1973 national championship game appearance. During his time, the Tigers amassed a 73-20 record from 1981-84 alone.

His well-earned nickname, “Doom,” was given to him early in life as a 9-year-old playing sandlot football and quickly caught on with Tiger fans. As his game flourished — especially his signature bank shot — crowds at the Mid-South Coliseum would erupt each time he scored, chanting his name and feeding off the energy he brought to the court. His presence became symbolic of a resurgent Memphis team in the 1980s and a favorite among fans throughout the city.

In 1984, Haynes was selected in the sixth round of the NBA Draft by the Los Angeles Clippers. He was inducted into the Memphis M Club Hall of Fame in 2009.

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.

The FedEx St. Jude Championship and Memphis congratulate Justin Rose on his win with a final-round score of 3-under 67 for a worthy cause that benefitted the St. Jude Research Hospital for Children, headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee and founded by legendary philanthropist Danny Thomas.

See wrap-up article by William M. Larsha, Jr. on sports page 1