

David Jones named Oscar Robertson National Player of the Week with big score



David Jones

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 12, 2023— A day after earning his first American Athletic Conference Player of the Week honor, senior David Jones added to his mantle Tuesday as the U.S. Basketball Writers Association tabbed the forward an Oscar Robertson National Player of the Week.

The Dominican Republic native averaged 26.0 points, 7.5 rebounds, 3.0 steals and 1.5 blocks per game last week, helping

Memphis to road wins over VCU and No. 21 Texas A&M.

He dropped 23 points, eight rebounds and four thefts Wednesday at VCU, then poured in 29 points with seven boards, a pair of steals and two blocks against the Aggies on Sunday.

It was the first true road win over an AP-ranked team for Memphis since Feb. 2022 at Houston.

Jones, the leading scorer in the AAC at 20.1 points-per game, has recorded three-consecutive 20-point games and has five outings this season with 20-plus points, the most in the league.

The Tigers (7-2) are back home for the first time in a month this Saturday when they welcome No. 13 Clemson to town for a 2 p.m. tip on ESPN+.

General single-game tickets with the full map can be purchased by visiting www.gotigersgo.com.

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.

NFL launches ‘Leaders’ program for minority businesses... from sports page 1

The NFL-licensed merchandise created under Leaders will highlight each brand's individuality and distinctive product offering. Blitz Champz is a Black-owned card game for all, created by Adrienne Smith, Boston Renegades wide receiver, football advocate, spokesperson and entrepreneur. Under Leaders, Smith created a Blitz Champz NFL Collection featuring eye-catching, stylized designs that capture the essence of each of the NFL's 32 teams.

NFL partners in the program to share our vast platform and fandom with."

The NFL-licensed merchandise created under Leaders will highlight each brand's individuality and distinctive product offering. Blitz Champz is a Black-owned card game for all, created by Adrienne Smith, Boston Renegades wide receiver, football advocate, spokesperson and entrepreneur. Under Leaders, Smith created a Blitz Champz NFL Collection featuring eye-catching, stylized designs that capture the essence of each of the NFL's 32 teams.

Anhia Zaira Santana, also known as Distortedd, is a Latina visual artist, illustrator and animator. As part of Leaders, Distortedd produced a t-shirt and hoodie collection inspired by NFL team mascots and logos through the lens of engineering and machinery.

Hedley & Bennett is a Los Angeles-based, female-owned kitchenware company, founded by Ellen Bennett, a Mexican and English cook, designer, author and mom. Hedley & Bennett offers pro-grade cooking essentials to inspire creativity and con-

fidence in every kitchen and with the NFL license, will produce NFL-themed kitchen accessories. S.T.A.B.L.E. Goods is a Black-owned independent luxury luggage and bag brand. Founded by Rashad Lyons, S.T.A.B.L.E. draws creative inspiration from urban culture and uses it as fuel for product development. As part of Leaders, S.T.A.B.L.E. Goods will create NFL-themed luxury bags including duffel bags, cross-body bags and backpacks.

"Leaders is an integral continuation of the NFL's commitment to supporting diverse companies throughout every aspect of our business," said Jonathan Beane, senior vice president and chief diversity & inclusion officer at the NFL. "We are proud to partner with these four brands to ensure that diverse entrepreneurs get their fair share of the league's resources and influence, and to ensure that the league's brand reaches new audiences."

In addition, the NFL has collaborated with No Caller ID, a sports and media intellectual property marketplace that offers a racially, ethnically and gender-diverse group of brands and artists opportunities and access to valuable intellectual property across the sports and media landscape. No Caller ID will help manage Leaders as well as source brands for the program.

"No Caller ID is privileged to partner with NFL on the Leaders Program," said Matthew Fine and Arsen Salatinjants, co-founders of No Caller ID. "We look forward to working with such an esteemed group of collaborators, facilitating their NFL-licensed collections and assisting in telling their inspiring stories."

Merchandise created under Leaders will be available on NFLshop.com/leaders. For more information on the program and its licensees, visit NFL.com/causes/leaders.

SAF wins lawsuit from sports-military 2

after SAF sued to allow people such as plaintiff Jimmie Hardaway to carry in his church. In both cases, SAF was joined by the Firearms Policy Coalition.

There was another major win for gun rights in the lengthy decision, in a case not involving SAF. The court struck down a requirement to allow government access to private social media accounts in order to apply for a carry license.

"Our challenges were narrowly constructed, allowing us to win a

small but significant victory in the Christian case," noted SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "Because the legislature changed the law after our lawsuit was filed in the Hardaway case, we consider that a victory as well."

"These are just two more examples of SAF carrying out its mission to win firearms freedom, one lawsuit at a time," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb.

NFL and clubs announce 32 Inspire nominees ... from sports-Ent. 5



with The Urban Farm (TUF). Rodriguez has been Executive Director of TUF since 2019 and works with the organizations' Cultivating Change in Youth diversion programming, which supports justice-involved and at-risk youth with various life skills.

Detroit Lions: Khali Sweeney – nominated by the Detroit Lions for his work with Downtown Boxing Gym (DBG). As Founder and CEO of DBG, Sweeney helps youth recognize their full potential through comprehensive programming, including life coaching, academic support, health and nutrition, transportation, and athletics.

Green Bay Packers: Pearl Webster – nominated by the Green Bay Packers for her work with Safe Shelter. Safe Shelter is a first-of-its-kind shelter for families in crisis to improve their housing and lifestyle situations. In her role as Vice-Chairwoman and Executive Director, Webster serves both the local minority community, the Oneida people, as well as the greater Green Bay area.

Houston Texans: Sylvester Turner – nominated by the Houston Texans for his work as the 62nd Mayor of the City of Houston. Mayor Turner has launched several programs to empower the community including the Hire Houston Youth Program connecting thousands of local youth to local jobs, the Complete Communities program, a city-wide initiative to revitalize Houston's most under-resourced neighborhoods, and the One Safe Houston initiative to combat violence.

Indianapolis Colts: Eric Muller – nominated by the Indianapolis Colts for his work with DREAM Alive. Muller has worked with DREAM Alive for 14 years and currently serves as Executive Director, helping to break the cycle of poverty for youth by helping them discover career paths and offering mentorship.

Jacksonville Jaguars: Reggie Fullwood – nominated by the Jacksonville Jaguars for his work with Operation New Hope. Fullwood is the President and CEO of Operation New Hope, which provides support, life and job skills training, employment services, and case management to returning citizens starting before the time of release.

Kansas City Chiefs: Deidre Anderson – nominated by the Kansas City Chiefs for her work with EarlystART. Anderson has served as Executive Director of EarlystART for over a decade and works to ensure school readiness of children from low-income families and also provide health, nutrition, and social services unique to each family's needs.

Las Vegas Raiders: Angela Cook – nominated by the Las

Vegas Raiders for her work with Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. As an attorney with the LASCN Children's Attorney Project program, she represents children who have suffered from abuse and neglect, and provides holistic representation, advocating for the child's interest both in and outside the courtroom.

Los Angeles Chargers: Alex Tonner and Jon Grobman – nominated by the Los Angeles Chargers for their work with Paws for Life (PFL) K9 Rescue. Tonner founded PFL in 2014, which works with Los Angeles city shelters and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to save and transform the lives of animals and people through innovative canine-centered programs. Grobman serves as Chief Operating Officer after originally being sentenced to life in prison and becoming the state's "first-ever beneficiary of a 'Recall of Commitment' from the California Department of Corrections."

Los Angeles Rams: Marc Maye – nominated by the Los Angeles Rams for his work with Watts Rams, 4wrdrProgress and Project Blue. Maye currently serves as the Senior Branch Director of the Southside Village Boys & Girls Club and ushered in a new model of Club programming that focused on age-specific and foundational learning needs.

Miami Dolphins: Edward Garza – nominated by the Miami Dolphins for his work with Mexican American Council (MAC). In his role as Executive Director of MAC, Garza helps to provide music and education programming to underserved youth in South Miami-Dade through two flagship programs: College & Career Prep (CCP) and The Homestead-Miami Mariachi Conservatory.

Minnesota Vikings: Mark Graves – nominated by the Minnesota Vikings for his work with Southside Village Boys & Girls Club. Graves currently serves the Senior Branch Director of the Southside Village Boys & Girls Club, which he turned into a food pantry offering fresh food, dry goods, and hygiene products at no cost.

New England Patriots: Shawn Brown – nominated by the New England Patriots for his work with Youth Guidance Boston. Brown currently serves as the Executive Director of Youth Guidance Boston, a leading provider of outcomes-driven programs and capacity-building initiatives, directly serving about 14,000 youth.

New Orleans Saints: Robert Jackson – nominated by the New Orleans Saints for his work

with the Caddo Parish School System. In 2003, Jackson began The High School Voters Project, a voter program in the Caddo Parish School System. He also worked to get the Louisiana High School Senior's Voter Registration Day Act signed by Louisiana Governor John Bell Edwards.

New York Giants: Daonese Johnson-Colon – nominated by the New York Giants for her work with the Giants' Touchdown Fellowship program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and PushBlack. Johnson-Colon has served as the faculty mentor for fellows in the Giants' Touchdown Fellowship program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice since the program's inception in 2019 and currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer at PushBlack, the nation's largest nonprofit media organization for Black Americans.

New York Jets: Patricia Thompson – nominated by the New York Jets for her work with the NYC Department of Education and Brooklyn Community Services (BCS). Thompson is an educator with BCS, and she has taught three generations of East New York residents while planning various community gatherings and food distribution initiatives.

Philadelphia Eagles: Jamila Harris-Morrison – nominated by the Philadelphia Eagles for work with ACHIEVEability. Harris-Morrison has worked with ACHIEVEability for 17 years, currently serving as Executive Director. In this role she works to break the generational cycle of poverty for low-income, single-parent, and homeless families through higher education, affordable housing, supportive services, community and economic development, and accountability.

Pittsburgh Steelers: Kathi Elliott – nominated by the Pittsburgh Steelers for her work with Gwen's Girls. Elliot currently serves as Executive Director of Gwen's Girls, where she leads programs that offer school and community services, after-school and summer programs, STEM Initiatives, career and workforce readiness, tutoring, and mental health services.

San Francisco 49ers: Christian Huang – nominated by the San Francisco 49ers for his work with Mobilize Love. Huang is co-founder of Mobilize Love, which provides for the community by deploying a fleet of trucks directly to where children and families are to deliver mobile human services and mobile after-school programs. Through Huang's leadership, Mobilize Love has grown from providing one laundry truck serving the community to a fleet of six trucks with varying purposes.

Seattle Seahawks: Mia Williams – nominated by the Seattle Seahawks for her work with Seattle Public Schools (SPS). Williams currently serves as

Executive Director of SPS and is committed to educational justice by supports the brilliance and excellence of young Black males. In this role, she has curated initiatives including Kingmakers of Seattle and WHOLE Mentoring.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers: Thomas Mantz – nominated by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for his work with Feeding Tampa Bay. Mantz joined Feeding Tampa Bay as President and CEO in October of 2012. Throughout his tenure, meals distributed throughout the community have grown from 15 million per year to almost 90 million per year.

Tennessee Titans: Glenda Glover – nominated by the Tennessee Titans for her work with Tennessee State University. Since 2013, Glover has served as the President of Tennessee State University where she has made a significant impact on the university, HBCUs across the country and higher education. She has advocated on behalf of HBCUs and minority students at both the state legislative and White House levels.

Washington Commanders: Tony Lewis Jr. – nominated by the Washington Commanders for his work with the DC Reengagement Center. For the past 21 years, Lewis has worked to empower men, women, and children impacted by mass incarceration. Working with the DC Reengagement Center, he has assisted former prisoners on their re-entry into the world and served as an advocate and champion for children with incarcerated parents.

Throughout Inspire Change Weeks, which start this week and conclude on December 25, the NFL will continue to raise awareness for its support of social justice, in addition to highlighting stories from individuals and organizations inspiring change in their communities across the country.

Inspire Change is a year-round initiative that highlights the impactful social justice work taking place throughout the NFL Family alongside grant partners to break down barriers to opportunity and end systemic racism. Since 2017, the NFL Family has provided \$300 million to advance social justice causes in the areas of education, economic advancement, police-community relations, and criminal justice reform. To date, the NFL Foundation has provided more than 1,950 Inspire Change matching grants to current NFL players and Legends for nonprofits of their choice to help reduce barriers to opportunity. For more information on the 2023 Changemaker recipients, visit NFL.com/causes/inspire-change/changemakers.

To learn more about the NFL's Inspire Change initiative and to view the 2023 Social Justice Impact Report, visit www.nfl.com/inspirechange.

