

Sports & Entertainment

Peyton and Eli Manning to serve as head coaches for Pro Bowl Games from sports page 1

ney family of ESPN and ABC, and Peyton Manning's Omaha Productions. Peyton and Eli Manning will also be the head coaches for the AFC and NFC teams, respectively. Fans can buy tickets to Sunday's event at Camping World Stadium, which will also be televised starting at 3 p.m. ET on ESPN and ABC. Ticketholders will get to witness all the impressive player feats live, including the final day of skills competitions and flag football between the league's best players. Visit probowl.com/tickets to buy tickets, which start as low as \$29. A staple of the annual all-star competition, the NFL's top players are set to participate in the following new and fan-favorite skills competitions that showcase their football and non-football skills: Thursday, Jan. 30: •**Passing The Test:** Quarterbacks try to hit targets at various distances around the field worth different point values in 40 seconds. Before the challenge, each quarterback will select a Pro Bowl Games teammate to answer five trivia questions about current Pro Bowl players. For every correct answer, the quarterback gets an additional 10 seconds. The winner of the competition is the team with the quarterback who scores the most points. •**Satisfying Catches presented by SNICKERS®:** One wide receiver, tight end and defensive back from each conference will compete in a challenge obstacle course, including catches from a jugs machine at three different distances, to test every aspect of catching a football. Each teammate will complete the course back-to-back with the lowest combined time winning the challenge. •**Relay Race:** A simultaneous relay-style event where four players from each conference complete a 40-yard dash before handing a football to the next athlete on their team, continuing until the fourth and final leg crosses the finish line. The conferences will compete in three rounds, with the fastest team winning. •**Helmet Harmony:** A game show to test player knowledge of their teammates, with every cor-

rect answer worth one point. The team with the most correct answers wins. •**Dodgeball presented by Bud Light:** A three-round tournament of classic dodgeball featuring six teams of five players. Teams will be a mix of AFC offensive, defensive and special teams players competing against a mix of NFC offensive, defensive and special teams players. Sunday, Feb. 2: •**Punt Perfect:** Two players (one punter, one non-punter) from each conference punt from the 35-yard line, attempting to place as many punts as possible into a set of six buckets in the end zone. Each bucket is worth one point, with every fifth punt worth three points. The two players with the highest combined score will be the winners. •**The Great Football Race:** Six players from each conference will face off in a relay race consisting of five different challenges, culminating with a sled push. The team to cross the finish line first wins. •**Tug-of-War:** A five-on-five demonstration of teamwork, strength and strategy, and positioned above a foam pit, players are challenged to pull backwards on the rope, attempting to move the opposing team in their direction. The competition will be the best of three, and the winner who pulls the opposing team into the foam pit twice wins.

Fans can visit ProBowl.com/tickets to buy tickets. For more information on the event, visit https://www.nfl.com/pro-bowl-games/event-info/. Fans looking to further immerse themselves in the 2025 Pro Bowl Games can explore hospitality packages from the Official Hospitality Provider of the NFL, On Location, that combine premium tickets with world-class service, exclusive entertainment, and one-of-a-kind experiences. Go behind-the-scenes with exclusive access to team practices, see the Pro Bowl stars up close as they arrive at the stadium, secure post-game field passes and more. For more information, visit onlocationexp.com/probowl.



Grizzlies to honor Smith, Stoudemire and Miller with National Civil Rights Museum Sports Legacy Award from sports page 1

legend who made history as the first player to win Rookie of the Year straight out of high school. Over his illustrious career, he became a six-time NBA All-Star, a U.S. Olympian and a 5-time All-NBA player. At just 21 years old, Amar'e founded the Amar'e Stoudemire Foundation, dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty through education. He has also served as a Goodwill Ambassador for Sierra Leone and is the author of the acclaimed S.T.A.T. book series. As an African American Jewish man, Amar'e lives by the principles of the Torah, embodying its values in his daily life. Olympic gold medalist, head coach, sportscaster, and one of the top five women's collegiate basketball players in NCAA history, Miller is a basketball legend who helped popularize and elevate the women's game. Miller led the USC Trojans to a 112-20 record, alongside two back-to-back NCAA titles in 1983 and 1984, an NCAA first, and was named tournament MVP both years. In the international arena, Miller led the U.S. women's basketball team to gold medals in the 1983 Pan American Games, the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles and the 1986 Goodwill Games in Moscow as the U.S. team broke the Soviet Union's 152-game winning streak. When knee injuries cut her professional career short, Miller turned to coaching, including as head coach for USC, Langston University, Cal State LA, and the WNBA Phoenix Mercury, where

she also served as general manager, becoming the first person to serve in both capacities in the history of the professional leagues. She also served as a basketball analyst and commentator for ABC, ESPN, TBS, and TNT, becoming the first female analyst to call a nationally televised NBA game in November 1996. Miller's recognition includes induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, the FIBA Hall of Fame and the California Hall of Fame.

HONOREE FEATURES THROUGHOUT MEMPHIS

Honoree Cheryl Miller, former honoree Grant Hill and Grizzlies Head Coach Taylor Jenkins will appear at various local events leading up to the award ceremony, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Junior Grizzlies Coaches Forum, presented by OrthoSouth, on Sunday, Jan. 19. Honorees will also attend a VIP tour of the National Civil Rights Museum, presented by BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, later that day. Fans can tune in to Grizzlies social channels for coverage of these events and more through @memgrizz and @grindcitymedia.

The three recipients will be honored throughout the day of the game, on Monday, Jan. 20, beginning with morning features on Grind City Media's Jessica Benson Show and Gary Parrish Show. Later in the day, honorees

will appear at the 20th Annual Earl Lloyd Sports Legacy Symposium, presented by the Hyde Family Foundation. Taking place at the Built Ford Tough Practice Facility inside FedExForum, the event will feature a youth panel, moderated by National Civil Rights Museum President Dr. Russ Wigginton, followed by an honoree panel discussion, moderated by Grizzlies television play-by-play announcer Pete Pranic. Fans can tune into both panels through FanDuel Sports Network Southeast beginning at noon. Fans attending the game are encouraged to attend the Earl Lloyd Sports Legacy Symposium, which runs from 12-1 p.m., with doors opening at 11:30 a.m.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Festivities in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day will begin throughout the first three weeks of January, as the Intersection of Race & Sports Conversations Series, presented by BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, airs across multiple outlets. Available on the Grizzlies' Instagram, Twitter/X and YouTube social channels, the series will feature National Civil Rights Museum President Dr. Russ Wigginton and each of the honorees. The Grizzlies will host their annual Martin Luther King Jr. FedEx Day of Service, a youth basketball event with special appearances by Grizzlies players, on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

Additional details will be shared at a later date.

MENTOR Memphis Grizzlies will host Visualizing the Dream 2025 at Contemporary Arts Memphis on Tuesday, Jan. 14, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Supported by the Brooks Museum and National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis teens, alongside former Grizzlies player Tony Allen, will paint basketballs to be displayed throughout FedExForum during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Game.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day Mentoring Recruitment Fair, located throughout the concourse at FedExForum, will begin at noon on Monday, Jan. 20, and last through halftime of the Grizzlies vs. Timberwolves matchup. Community partners will be set up on Plaza Level and Big River Steel Terrace Level to answer questions and discuss volunteer opportunities.

Fans who want to support the Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2024-25 season tickets or this year's six-game holiday pack can do so now by calling (901) 888-HOOP or going online to grizzlies.com/tickets.

For single game tickets and more information on the Grizzlies, visit grizzlies.com, 'like' Memphis Grizzlies on Facebook or follow @memgrizz on Twitter/X and Instagram.

The Swansons named Duo of Year Award at 10th Annual Josie Awards at Grand Ole Opry



The Swansons comprised of husband and wife duo Angie and Joe Finley hold the Josie Award for Duo of the Year. (Photo/Courtesy: Josie Awards)

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 17, 2024 /PRNewswire/ -- Award winning music group The Swansons received the multi-genre Duo of the Year award at the 10th annual Josie Music Awards. The Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN was filled with a sold-out audience on Sunday, October 27th, 2024, as the duo accepted their award in the sacred Circle on stage. **The Swansons receive Duo of the Year Award** This award comes on the heels of The Swansons releasing their sixth full album "Wake Up" in 2024 which is already gaining traction on digital play lists and radio stations. The project was recorded in Nashville, TN with top session musicians backing up the talented duo. Songs are currently being written for another album that will be released in 2025. The Swansons recently appeared in the Holiday Light Parade & Tree Lighting in Ontario California on Saturday December 7th. The duo will be headlining the World-Famous Whiskey a Go Go in Hollywood, CA with their full band on Saturday January 18th. January 21st through 25th The Swansons will be attending

The duo will be headlining the World-Famous Whiskey a Go Go in Hollywood, CA with their full band on Saturday January 18th. January 21st through 25th and making appearances at the NAMM Show (National Association of Music Merchants). The largest music industry show is held in North America yearly in Anaheim, California. The Swansons are a talented husband-and-wife duo comprised of Angie and Joe Finley. The band originally formed in California in 2012. They have a weekly live streaming show that has aired every week for the past four years. "Live Worldwide with The Swansons" airs weekly Friday nights at 6pm Pacific time on The Swansons YouTube channel and is available on Rumble & Facebook. The Swansons are a talented husband-and-wife duo comprised of Angie and Joe Finley. The band originally formed in California in 2012. The duo has released six albums and has shared the stage with numerous A-list artists. Including Wayne Newton (Mr. Las Vegas), Corey Feldman, among others.

Guard PJ Haggerty is named AAC Player of the Week for 2nd time

IRVING, Texas , December 23, 2024– University of Memphis guard PJ Haggerty has been named the American Athletic Conference Player of the Week for the second time this season, the league office announced Monday. It's his second player of the week award this season, and his fourth weekly honor overall. Haggerty, a 6-3 guard out of Crosby, Texas, led the Tigers in a split week, with a road win over Virginia and a home loss against Mississippi State. He averaged 25.5 points, 4.5 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 1.5 steals in 38.7 minutes per game. The redshirt sophomore shot 53.6% from the floor (15-28) and 42.9% from deep (3-7), while going 18-of-22 (81.8%) at the free throw line. In Memphis' first-ever road contest at UVA, he dropped 27 points (21 in the 2nd half) with five boards and five dimes to lead the Tigers in a comeback 64-62 win that saw them trail by

nine at the half. He was 8-15 shooting in the win and 10-11 at the stripe. On Saturday, Haggerty poured in 24 points with four boards and two steals. He went 7-13 overall and 8-11 at the stripe. Haggerty recorded his ninth game of 20+ points and his fifth with 10+ free throw makes. He also has seven games with 10+ free throw attempts. Haggerty ranks among the nation's best in multiple categories: •1st - FT made (96) •3rd - FT attempts (115) •4th - Minutes per game (36:57) •6th - Scoring (22.5) •9th - Total points (270) The Tigers will return from the holiday break to welcome No. 17/16 Ole Miss at 1 p.m. on Dec. 28 in a matchup on ESPN2. Fans can purchase tickets by visiting www.GoTigersGo.com. Follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Happy New Year! Drive Safely and Drink Responsibly!