

Sports & Entertainment

MENTOR and Memphis Grizzlies host Third Annual three-day event of Mentoring Matters Summit of Tennessee April 25-27

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — With the support of MENTOR and the Memphis Grizzlies Foundation, MENTOR Memphis Grizzlies will host the third annual, three-day Mentoring Matters Summit of Tennessee from Thursday, April 25, through Saturday, April 27.

The summit will feature two days of virtual sessions for mentoring practitioners on Thursday, April 25, and Friday, April 26, with an opening night reception for all participants to conclude the first day. Virtual sessions will feature local speakers, special guests and experts in positive youth development from across the country.

The virtual sessions will be fol-



lowed by an in-person Youth Day on Saturday, April 27, where mentors and mentees can participate in an entirely free day of panel discussions and various, fun-filled activities at Tom Lee Park. Activities and panel topics are organized by the MENTOR Memphis Grizzlies Youth Advisory Council, comprised of 10 youths ranging in age from middle school to college who are affiliated with mentoring programs in the Grizzlies Foundation Net-

The summit will feature two days of virtual sessions for mentoring practitioners on Thursday, April 25, and Friday, April 26, with an opening night reception for all participants to conclude the first day. Virtual sessions will feature local speakers, special guests and experts in positive youth development from across the country.

work.

Themed "The Mentoring Puzzle: Cross-Sector Collaboration for a Stronger Community," this

year's Mentoring Matters Summit focuses on corporate engagement and advocacy, college and career exploration, mentoring best practices and storytelling.

Through the annual summit, MENTOR Memphis Grizzlies strives to create empowering and inspiring educational opportunities for mentors and mentees, provide a platform for youth in the Mid-South to demonstrate leadership in their community and provide quality mentoring.

Participants interested in attending this year's event can now register by visiting grizzlies.com.

Fans who want to support the

Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2023-24 single game tickets can do so now by going online to grizzlies.com/tickets. For more information on the Grizzlies, visit grizzlies.com, 'like' Memphis Grizzlies on Facebook or follow @memgrizz on Twitter/X and Instagram.

ABOUT THE MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES FOUNDATION:

Harnessing the power of sport to transform lives, the Memphis Grizzlies Foundation is dedicated to closing the Opportunity Gap for children in underserved communities and, since 2004, has focused on finding, funding and creating youth mentoring and de-

velopment programs that prepare students for success in college and career.

Through the Foundation, the Grizzlies have invested more than \$54.1 million in schools, community organizations and innovative projects that give students the tools to achieve their full potential. In 2012, the team earned the prestigious Beyond Sport Sports Team of the Year award in acknowledgment of its commitment to meaningful community service. The team was named to the 2013 President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition. In 2017, the Foundation was named a finalist for ESPN Sports Humanitarian Team of the Year.

Star-studded red carpet dazzles at 10th Annual Influencers Brunch, hosted by Chris Spencer and Tarek Terk Stevens

LOS ANGELES – The 10th annual Influencers Brunch, hosted by **Chris Spencer** and **Tarek Terk Stevens** on March 9 , proved to be an unforgettable celebration of Black excellence, industry insight, and collaboration. This distinguished luxury experiential platform, held at the prestigious SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills, gathered influential culture curators, tastemakers, and a star-studded lineup that left attendees buzzing.

Among the notable celebrities, producers, and influencers in attendance were multi-talented personalities such as **D-Nice**, the iconic celebrity DJ who set the perfect vibe for the occasion. **Yvette Nicole Brown**, a beloved actress, added her charm and grace to the event. The esteemed **Judge Greg Matthis** showcased his acting chops on and off the

bench. **Tobias Truvillion**, **Adrian Holmes**, **Affion Crockett**, **Malcolm D. Lee**, **Shannon Wallace**, and more illuminated the red carpet with their presence.

However, the true shimmer of the night occurred when music legend **Stevie Wonder** made a surprise guest appearance, stunning attendees with his unparalleled talent and warm spirit.

The brunch featured captivating moments, including an awe-inspiring performance by singer and songwriter **Shelea**, who delivered a soul-stirring rendition of Sam Cooke's timeless classic, "A Change Is Gonna Come." The audience was captivated by the power and emotion in her voice, leaving them with chills.

The charismatic Chris Spencer,

comedian, writer, and producer, engaged in an illuminating conversation with the accomplished producer and executive, **Jesse Collins**. Collins served up fascinating tales from his early days in radio to his groundbreaking work producing the BET, Grammy, and Academy Awards shows. He also touched on his personal experience with imposter syndrome when he was chosen to produce the Super

Bowl, inspiring the audience with his resilience and dedication to excellence.

Cedric the Entertainer, the acclaimed comedian, writer, and actor, had attendees roaring with laughter as he shared his remarkable journey through the comedy world. He emphasized the importance of negotiating deals when booking shows and films, offering valuable insights and

wisdom to aspiring entertainers in the room.

The Influencers Brunch has evolved into a premier gathering that unites influential leaders from Capitol Hill, Hollywood, Silicon Valley, and Wall Street. Its monumental 10-year anniversary celebration symbolized a significant milestone in celebrating Black excellence and fostering meaningful industry

connections. Esteemed sponsors for the event included AD Council, BET Studios, Channing Capital Management, Morgan Stanley Global Sports and Entertainment, and Octet Productions.

To discover more about the remarkable Influencers Brunch and the electrifying highlights from its 10th-anniversary edition, please visit <https://www.theinfluencersbrunch.com/>.

Email entertainment news and photos to MSTentertainment@prodigy.net

UFL and Under Armour announce partnership and special collection

Collection now available at shop.theufl.com

ARLINGTON, Texas – March 8, 2024 – The United Football League announced a partnership with Under Armour ahead of its upcoming season, which kicks off on March 30. The announcement is an extension of an expansive, multi-year agreement signed in 2023 with the XFL.

An industry leader in innovative, high-performance athletic apparel production, Under Armour will continue to provide resources, services, and support for UFL business and football initiatives, including:

"We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Under Armour and appreciate their commitment to both the League and the future of spring football," said Russ Brandon, President and CEO of the UFL. "Under Armour has football in their DNA and a phenomenal history working across the high performance and professional sports ecosystem..."

- Official Uniform Partner
- Official Sideline Apparel Partner for Players and Coaches
- Official Performance Apparel Partner
- Official Licensed Fan Gear Partner
- Official Youth Football Partner

"We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Under Armour and appreciate their commitment to both the League and the future of spring football," said Russ

Brandon, President and CEO of the UFL. "Under Armour has football in their DNA and a phenomenal history working across the high performance and professional sports ecosystem. We are committed to delivering only the best for our athletes, staff, and fans, and we know Under Armour will provide best-in-class products to represent the UFL."

In addition to Under Armour's involvement on the field, the company is now an officially licensed fan gear partner of the UFL, allowing fans and consumers to shop and wear the same apparel that their favorite players are wearing. The collection will go on sale at shop.theufl.com and ua.com and will be available from local retailers beginning March 15.

In addition, Under Armour will participate in the League's hospitality offerings by hosting fan activations to bring fans closer to the action and enhance the game-day experience.

The UFL and Under Armour will also continue to expand their work with the National Coalition of Minority Football Coaches through a program that was successfully piloted in 2023 with the D.C. Defenders and San Antonio Brahmas. The program pairs high school football coaches with UFL teams to offer hands-on coaching experience at the professional level and expand diversity and opportunity within the sport.

Under Armour has also been granted the rights to league-wide

Please see sports page 4

