

Sports & Entertainment

Honda Battle of the Bands reveals full marching band lineup for first-ever showcase in Los Angeles at SoFi Stadium; Nick Cannon of ‘Drumline’ fame named host

•Hampton University and University of Arkansas Pine Bluff selected by fans as final two bands in 2025 HBOB lineup

•Nick Cannon, star of the classic film "Drumline," will serve as HBOB celebrity host

TORRANCE, Calif., Sept. 12, 2024 /PRNewswire/ -- Honda Battle of the Bands (HBOB), the nation's premier showcase for Historically Black College and University (HBCU) marching bands, today revealed the full lineup of participating schools and announced that multi-hyphenate entertainer and entrepreneur Nick Cannon will serve as the celebrity host for the event's first-ever West Coast show on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California. Watch the reveal video of the full marching band lineup at <https://honda.us/HBOB2025Lineup>.

HBOB fans have made their voices heard, casting votes online to select the final two bands to perform at the live event: Hampton University and University of Arkansas Pine Bluff.

The full HBOB 2025 lineup includes:

- Alabama A&M University – Marching Maroon and White Band
- Alabama State University – Mighty Marching Hornets
- Hampton University – The Marching Force
- North Carolina A&T University – Blue and Gold Marching Machine
- Southern University – Human Jukebox Marching Band
- University of Arkansas Pine Bluff – Marching Musical Machine of the Mid-South

Honda will provide an institutional grant to each of the six schools for their respective music education programs and support the bands' travel expenses to the Invitational Showcase in Los Angeles. All 52 bands that participated in the voting process will also be awarded an HBOB Legacy Grant from Honda.

"Honda is thrilled to continue our longstanding support of the HBCU community through HBOB which is a core part of our

Tickets for HBOB 2025 are on sale now at www.hondabattleofthebands.com.



Drive the Legacy initiative," said Jasmine Cockfield, the project leader for Honda Battle of the Bands at American Honda Motor Co., Inc. "We congratulate each of this year's participating HBCU

bands and are confident that they will put on a memorable show for HBOB fans that promises to be a showcase for the ages." Honda has supported HBCUs for over 35 years, recognizing their

critical role in providing higher education and opportunities for advancement to the Black community. This support includes scholarships, programming, and initiatives that celebrate the

dreams and potential of HBCU students, helping shape them into future leaders. Through HBOB and the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge, Honda has awarded over \$14 million in grants in support of HBCU education programs and facilities improvements, impacting the lives of more than 300,000 students.

Honda launched a public voting phase on July 16 and invited fans to help determine the final two bands in the lineup. Fans could vote for their favorite band once per day through August 15. The two bands receiving the highest number of votes from a roster of 52 eligible schools were awarded the final two spots in the HBOB 2025 lineup.

"We are so excited to partner with Honda Battle of the Bands, changing lives by providing access and opportunities to higher education," said NCRF founder and CEO Dr. Theresa Price. "It is heartwarming to work with an organization that shares the same vision as NCRF."

For the latest HBOB news, including exclusive content, follow along on social media and join the conversation using #HBOB.

•Instagram – [@the_honda](https://www.instagram.com/the_honda) / Instagram.com/the_honda

•Facebook – Facebook.com/HondaBattleoftheBands

•X – [@The_Honda](https://twitter.com/The_Honda) / Twitter.com/The_Honda

To advance its leading investment in HBCUs, Honda also is a member of the HBCU Partnership Challenge, a Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus initiative. Learn more at <https://www.honda.com/community/diversity-reports>.

NFL and Voldex team up for Universe Football on Roblox from sports page 1

the NFL. "NFL Universe Football will enable fans on Roblox to play as their favorite NFL teams and foster a deeper connection with the brand."

NFL Universe Football is leveling up featuring all 32 NFL teams, iconic uniforms and more to make every moment feel like fans are in the midst of the NFL action. Fans can dive into the ultimate NFL experience as they take part in action-packed in-game events, thrilling challenges and fun game modes that bring all the excitement of the NFL. Whether they're throwing touchdown passes, kicking game-winning field goals or leading their favorite team to victory, the game brings the on-field action of the NFL right to their fingertips.

"We know from search data that Roblox users are looking for sports content - particularly football," said Lisa Willett, head of sports partnerships at Roblox. "Sports fandom is rooted in community, which is a big part of shared experiences on Roblox already. By bringing together the prestige of the NFL and Voldex's expertise in spearheading communities and revamping popular experiences on the platform, people across the world can enjoy their favorite NFL teams with their friends in new immersive ways."

Within NFL Universe Football,

users will enjoy a fully customizable and immersive NFL football experience, where they can personalize their gameplay by unlocking and earning NFL-branded items. Through completing in-game challenges, participating in special events and achieving milestones, users can collect exclusive NFL-themed gear and merchandise. These branded items allow users

to showcase their team pride and style, adding a personal touch to their characters and enhancing their overall experience in the game. Users will be able to participate in action-packed six-vs-six matches, sharpen their skills in practice mode, trade gear at the trade hub and play various match types in park mode. "Partnering with the NFL is a significant milestone for us," said

Alex Singer, Founder & CEO of Voldex. "We are thrilled to bring the unparalleled excitement and prestige of the NFL to Roblox. This collaboration underscores our commitment to providing our players with the most engaging and authentic gaming experiences."

The rebranded NFL Universe Football will be available on Sept. 13. Fans can look forward

to regular updates, special events and exclusive content that will enhance their gaming experience and keep them engaged throughout the NFL season.

For more information, visit Voldex's website or follow Voldex on LinkedIn.

Voldex is a leading developer on the Roblox platform, known for creating immersive and engaging gaming experiences.

Email entertainment news and photos to MSTentertainment@prodigy.net

Phillips announces 2025 Rifle Team schedule from sports page 3

Nov. 17 – vs. Army* (Lexington, Ky.)

Nov. 22 – at Jacksonville State

Jan. 19 – at Withrow Invitational

Jan. 20 – vs. Kentucky* (Murray, Ky.)

Jan. 25 – vs. Murray State

Jan. 26 – at Ole Miss*

Feb. 15 – vs. Jacksonville State

Feb. 22 – NCAA Qualifier (Memphis, Tenn.)

March 1-2 – GARC Championships (Morgantown, W.V.)

March 14-15 – NCAA Championships (Lexington, Ky.)

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

