LOCALiQ

Observer-Dispatch | Daily Messenger
Times Telegram | New Jersey Herald
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PO Box 631202 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1202

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Brianna Louton
Not specified
17110 Gunn HWY
Odessa FL 33556-1909

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

The New Jersey Herald, a newspaper printed, published and of general circulation in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issues dated on:

02/06/2025

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 02/06/2025

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

8-21-26

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NICOLE JACOBS
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

The City of Houston is soliciting competitive bids for Background Checks and Identity Verification. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted www.houstontx.gov/bizwithhou or www.coretrustpg.com/public-sector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm March 7, 2025.

2/5/2025

Richmond Times-Dispatch

See Proof on Next Page

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Florida, County of Orange, ss:

Alison Farmwald, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: That (s)he is a duly authorized signatory of Column Software, PBC, duly authorized agent of Richmond Times Dispatch, a newspaper printed and published in the City of Richmond, State of Virginia, and that this affidavit is Page 1 of 2 with the full text of the sworn-to notice set forth on the pages that follow, and the hereto attached:

PUBLICATION DATES:
Feb. 7, 2025

NOTICE ID: lvRcF5zPa6Fr6v3jysel
PUBLISHER ID: COL-7003369
NOTICE NAME: Background
Publication Fee:
Ad Size: 2 X 9 L
Category: General Legal Notice

Under penalty of perjury, I, the undersigned affiant swear or affirm that the statements above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Alison Farmwald
(Signed)_____

VERIFICATION

State of Florida
County of Orange

JESSICA GORDON-THOMPSON
Notary Public - State of Florida
Commission # HH301656
Expires on August 17, 2026

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me on this: 02/10/2025

_____
Notary Public
Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

Request for Proposals

The City of Houston is soliciting competitive bids for Background Checks and Identity Verification. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted www.houstontx.gov/bizwithhou or www.coretrustpg.com/public-sector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm March 7, 2025.
COL-7003369

McClatchy

The Beaufort Gazette
The Belleville News-Democrat
Bellingham Herald
Centre Daily Times
Sun Herald
Idaho Statesman
Bradenton Herald
The Charlotte Observer
The State
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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

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Attention: Kim Ridgeway

MCA Russell John
17110 Gunn Hwy
Odessa, FL 33556

kridgeway@russelljohns.com

Request for Proposals

The City of Houston is soliciting competitive bids for Background Checks and Identity Verification. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted www.houstontx.gov/bizwithhou or www.coretrustpg.com/public-sector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm March 7, 2025.
IPL0215726
Feb 5 2025

State of South Carolina

County of Richland

I, Mary Castro, makes oath that the advertisment, was published in The State, a newspaper published in the City of Columbia, State and County aforesaid, in the issue(s) of

1 insertion(s) published on:
02/05/25

Mary Castro

Mary Castro

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of February in the year of 2025

Amy Robbins

Notary Public in and for the state of South Carolina, residing in Beaufort County

AMY L. ROBBINS
NOTARY PUBLIC
SOUTH CAROLINA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 11-03-32

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My Classified ads
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PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of San Bernardino

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of The Sun (San Bernardino), a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of San Bernardino*, County of San Bernardino, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of County of San Bernardino, State of California, under the date of 06/20/1952, Case No. 73084. The notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

02/05/2025, 02/12/2025

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at San Bernardino, California

On this 12th day of February, 2025.

Peggy Harmon

Signature

*The Sun (San Bernardino) circulation includes the following cities: [UNKNOWN LIST]

The City of Houston is soliciting competitive bids for Background Checks and Identity Verification. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted www.houstontx.gov/bizwithhou or www.coretrustpg.com/public-sector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm March 7, 2025.
The Sun (San Bernardino)
Published: 2/5, 2/12/25

Albany Times Union
News Plaza
Box 15000
Albany, New York 12212

MCA RUSSELL JOHNS

17110 Gunn Hwy

Odessa FL 33556

Account Number: 600133349
Order Number: IPLATU0069474

STATE OF NEW YORK)
:SS.:
COUNTY OF ERIE)

The undersigned, being duly sworn, says that he/she is a Authorized Custodian of Records of THE TIMES UNION, a daily newspaper printed in the county of Albany, Town of Colonie, and Published in the County of Albany, Town of Colonie and the City of Albany, aforesaid and that notice of which a printed copy is annexed has been regularly published in the said ALBANY TIMES UNION on the following dates:

02/07/2025

George Hearst, Publisher

By: Nora Hewson

Nora Hewson

Authorized Designee of George Hearst, Publisher of the Times Union

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 10th day of February 20 25.

Sarah A Perez

Notary Public Signature

Sarah A. Perez
Notary Public – State of New York
No. 01PE0006459
Qualified in Erie County
Commission Expires: 4/27/2027

IPLATU0069474

The City of Houston is soliciting competitive bids for Background Checks and Identity Verification. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted www.houstontx.gov/bizwithhou or www.coretrustpg.com/public-sector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm March 7, 2025.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

IN THE MATTER OF
The City of Houston - Background Checks and Identity Verification

STATE OF HAWAII }
} SS.
City and County of Honolulu }

Doc. Date: FEB 12 2025 **# Pages:** 1
Notary Name: COLLEEN E. SORANAKA First Judicial **Circuit**
Doc. Description: Affidavit of Publication

FEB 12 2025
Notary Signature Date

COLLEEN E. SORANAKA (Affix Seal) NOTARY PUBLIC No. 90-263 STATE OF HAWAII

The City of Houston is soliciting competitive bids for Background Checks and Identity Verification. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted www.houstontx.gov/bizwithhou or www.ceretrustpg.com/public-sector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm March 7, 2025. (SA1482503 2/5, 2/12/25)

Lisa Sakakida being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is a clerk, duly authorized to execute this affidavit of Oahu Publications, Inc. publisher of The Honolulu Star-Advertiser, MidWeek, The Garden Island, West Hawaii Today, and Hawaii Tribune-Herald, that said newspapers are newspapers of general circulation in the State of Hawaii, and that the attached notice is true notice as was published in the

Honolulu Star-Advertiser 2 times on:
02/05, 02/12/2025
MidWeek 0 times on:
The Garden Island 0 times on:
Hawaii Tribune-Herald 0 times on:
West Hawaii Today 0 times on:
Other Publications: 0 times on:

And that affiant is not a party to or in any way interested in the above entitled matter.

Lisa Sakakida

Subscribed to and sworn before me this 12th day of February A.D. 20 25

Colleen E. Soranaka, Notary Public of the First Judicial Circuit, State of Hawaii
My commission expires: Jan 06 2028

COLLEEN E. SORANAKA NOTARY PUBLIC No. 90-263 STATE OF HAWAII

Ad # 0001482503

ICSP NO.: _____

February 12, 2025

Affidavit of Publication

To Whom It May Concern:
I am a duly authorized representative of MCA Russell Johns Associates LLC, the company handling the advertising matters for USA Today, a daily newspaper distributed within the United States.

A public notice ad was placed by Coretrust (Background Checks and Identity Verification) and was published in said newspaper within the marketplace section of the National USA Today Marketplace on February 5, 2025 and February 12, 2025.

Anthony Pacini

On this 12th day of February, I attest that the attached document is a true, exact, complete, and unaltered tearsheet.

Notary

ELISABETH KIDWELL
Notary Public - State of Florida
Commission # HH 517131
My Comm. Expires Apr 17, 2028
Bonded through National Notary Assn.

CAPITAL CITY PRESS

Publisher of
THE ADVOCATE

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

The hereto attached notice was published in THE ADVOCATE, a daily newspaper of general circulation published in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the Official Journal of the State of Louisiana, City of Baton Rouge, and Parish of East Baton Rouge or published daily in THE TIMES-PICAYUNE/THE NEW ORLEANS ADVOCATE, in New Orleans Louisiana or published daily in THE ACADIANA ADVOCATE in the following issues:

2/6/2025, 2/13/2025

Joy Newman, Public Notices Representative

Sworn and subscribed before me, by the person whose signature appears above

19 Feb 2025

M. Monic McChristian,

Notary Public ID#88293

State of Louisiana

My Commission Expires: Indefinite

M. MONIC McCHRISTIAN NOTARY PUBLIC NOTARY NO. 88293 STATE OF LOUISIANA

Ad No: 126057

RUSSELL JOHNS
Brianna Louton
17110 GUNN HWY
ODESSA, FL 33556

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Houston is soliciting competitive bids for Background Checks and Identity Verification. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted www.houstontx.gov/bizwithhou or www.centrusbid.com/public-sector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm March 7, 2025.

126057 Feb. 6, 13, 2t

LocaliQ
Arizona
GANNETT

PO Box 632099, Cincinnati, OH 45263-2099

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Kim Ridgeway,
Russell Johns
17110 Gunn HWY
Odessa FL 33556-1909

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

The Arizona Business Gazette, a newspaper published in the city of Phoenix and general circulation in the counties of Maricopa, Coconino and Pinal, State of Arizona, and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issue:

02/06/2025

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 02/06/2025

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

9/19/25

My commission expires

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VICKY FELTY
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

Request for Proposals

The City of Houston is soliciting competitive bids for Background Checks and Identity Verification. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted www.houstontx.gov/bizwithhou or www.coretrustpg.com/public-sector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm March 7, 2025.

February 6 2025

LAZS0232780

STATE OF WASHINGTON -- KING COUNTY

--ss.

435693 No.

MCA RUSSELL JOHNS

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

BCSB:BACKGROUND CHECKS

was published on

02/05/25

NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF WASHINGTON
JENNIFER A. BARNES
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
OCTOBER 24, 2027
COMMISSION NO. 96736

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

02/05/2025

Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

State of Washington, King County

City of Houston

Background Checks and Identity Verification

Responses Due: March 7

The City of Houston is soliciting competitive bids for Background Checks and Identity Verification. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted www.houstontx.gov/bizwithhou or www.coretrustpg.com/public-sector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm March 7, 2025.

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, February 5, 2025.

2/5(435693)

Florida State basketball coach to resign

Jim Henry
Tallahassee (Fla.) Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK

Leonard Hamilton – the all-time winningest men's basketball coach in Florida State University history who also played a notable role in breaking the color barrier in the sport both as a player and coach – is resigning as the Seminoles head coach effective at the end of the season, his 23rd at the school, the Tallahassee Democrat has learned.

After months of discussion with FSU leadership, Hamilton, 76, announced his resignation Monday afternoon.

"I am deeply thankful for the tremendous support of our fans, alumni, and everyone associated with Florida State throughout my time here," Hamilton said in a statement released by the university. "I am proud of the quality of the young men that it was my privilege to lead, for their faith in this program and in their belief in the philosophy that we tried to instill in them over the years. I have been blessed beyond words for the opportunity and the experience we've had here."

Hamilton's resignation comes two days after the Seminoles tumbled to their fourth consecutive defeat as they squandered an eight-point lead in the final minute and lost at Boston College 77-76. FSU is 13-9 overall and 4-7 in Atlantic Coast Conference play heading into Tuesday.

Hamilton, in the final year of a five-year contract extension that pays him $2.25 million annually plus bonuses, has been a mainstay in Tallahassee and college basketball. He has also coached during an era at FSU that featured fellow iconic coaches Bobby Bowden in football and Mike Martin in baseball.

"My family and I truly love this place, this institution, and its people. I'm very fortunate to be able to have given this job my all with no regrets," Hamilton said. "Every head coach inherits a legacy and is obligated to leave the job better than they inherited it. I'm very proud of what we have been able to accomplish here over the last 23 seasons. We were a consistent contender, and we created success for our players during their time here. So many of them have gone on to be successful in life. I hope that it will be remembered as my legacy. I look forward to working with our administration during this transition and being as helpful as possible through this process."

It appears Hamilton is keeping his options open for the future as he did not mention retirement in the university's release. Hamilton could also remain involved as an adviser to athletics on men's basketball issues, according to FSU sources.

FSU Vice President and Director of Athletics Michael Alford said the university will immediately begin a national search for Hamilton's successor.

"Leonard Hamilton's personal character and integrity, and his leadership, set a tremendous standard for all of FSU Athletics," Alford said. "Few people have been as important in building the positive reputation of Seminole Athletics as he. FSU's stature as one of the leading brands in college sports has been possible, in part, to his leadership of our men's basketball program.

"He steadily developed a culture of excellence that reflects his personal values: commitment to academic success, competitive success, community service, leadership, and ongoing personal excellence. The success of the men who have been part of our basketball program is proof of that legacy."



Florida State men's basketball head coach Leonard Hamilton will walk away from coaching the team at the end of the season, his 23rd at the school.
JOE RONDONE/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

10th in wins among active coaches

FSU opened this season with plenty of promise at 13-5. However, the Seminoles have been unable to sustain their momentum. They have nine regular-season games remaining, five of them home games.

Earlier this season six former FSU players sued Hamilton, alleging he failed to make good on a promise to get each of them $250,000 in NIL (name, image and likeness) compensation. The lawsuit is the latest in a growing number of NIL legal battles.

As head coach at FSU, Hamilton has compiled an overall record of 434-290, including a mark of 196-186 in ACC regular-season games. Hamilton has led the Seminoles to 16 postseason appearances and 12 20-win seasons.

He currently ranks 10th on the NCAA's list of winningest active Division I coaches and is fifth all time in the ACC behind Mike Krzyzewski of Duke, Roy Williams and Dean Smith of North Carolina and Gary Williams of Maryland.

Hamilton is the longest tenured men's basketball coach in the ACC and second-oldest active Division I coach, leading the Seminoles to three NCAA Tournament Sweet 16s (2011, 2019, 2021) and one Elite Eight (2018).

"Leonard Hamilton is a beacon of class and integrity whose leadership serves as an indelible example that competitive excellence, academic achievement and community service are attainable at a leading public institution," FSU President Dr. Richard McCullough said.

"Coach Hamilton's legacy extends far beyond Tallahassee and college basketball. He is one of the most respected and beloved ambassadors of FSU across the nation and in his profession."

Alford is confident the Seminoles will attract a quality candidate to replace Hamilton.

"I'm excited for the future of men's basketball at Florida State," Alford said. "Thanks to Coach Hamilton's excellent stewardship and leadership, it has been proven that Florida State can be a contender in the ACC and nationally. I'm looking forward to continuing to build on what he has accomplished here as we identify the next leader of our program."

Hamilton: 'I was built for this'

In his 37th season as a college coach, Hamilton – a native of Gastonia, North Carolina – boasts a career record of 634-500 (.559 winning percentage) to rank among the top 100 winningest across all NCAA levels.

Hamilton led FSU to its first ever ACC championship in 2012 and guided the Seminoles to a school-record four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances (2009-12). During a five-year span from 2015 to 2020, FSU went 124-48, punctuated by the program's first ACC regular-season title in 2019-20.

Previous stops include Oklahoma State (1986-1990) and Miami (1990-2000), where he was the UPI National Coach of the Year in 1995. Hamilton has earned three national Coach of the Year honors and was named the conference Coach of the Year five times. He is the only person to earn multiple Coach of the Year honors in both the ACC and the Big East.

Hamilton also coached the Washington Wizards during the 2000-01 season with Michael Jordan as the team's president of basketball operations.

While Hamilton has preferred to look at his accomplishments as a trailblazing Black coach and player in a different way, his impact has been significant.

He was the first Black player at Tennessee-Martin and was the SEC's first Black assistant when Joe B. Hall hired him at Kentucky in 1974. Hamilton was a part of Kentucky teams that won a national championship in 1978 and went to the Final Four in 1984.

"I've always been reluctant to put labels. Some kinds of labels mean certain things to different people," Hamilton told the Democrat in a previous interview. "I just think I was very fortunate to come along at a time when opportunities were not as available for African American guys, but I always seemed to have been able to slide into situations that were available I've always felt a hedge of protection around me. I've always felt that my steps have always been ordered. ... I was built for this."

Teams known for defense

Hamilton's Florida State teams have been known for stingy team defense, athleticism, winning mentality and academics.

Nineteen players have been NBA draft selections, with nearly half (nine) going in the first round, led by No. 4 overall selection Patrick Williams in 2020 and Scottie Barnes in 2021. He has coached 24 All-ACC selections, 13 ACC All-Defensive Team selections, four ACC Sixth Man of the Year recipients and two ACC Defensive Players of the Year.

And 97% of Hamilton's players who have stayed four years at FSU have graduated. His team produced a program-record 3.16 grade-point average in the spring of 2023, highlighted by 10 individual GPAs of at least 3.0.

Hamilton's legacy also extends nationally as 12 of his former assistants have been head coaches at the Division I level.

Hamilton earned his bachelor's degree in physical education from Tennessee-Martin in 1971 and received his master's in physical and health education from Austin Peay State in 1973. He has been inducted into seven Halls of Fame, including Miami and FSU.

Outside of basketball, two of Hamilton's greatest passions are his family and gospel music. When asked how he measures success, Hamilton quickly points to his players.

"I have a lot of trophies, awards and rings, but what I enjoy most is attending (player) weddings, getting calls on Father's Day, guys seeking advice on major decisions. Those are the coaching rewards," Hamilton told The Florida Times-Union in a previous interview.

"If I only evaluate my success with NCAA trips and Coach of the Year awards, then I can't look at myself in the mirror. If I'm not impacting young men to grow with the tools I've been given, I haven't done my job. You're taking people at the most important part of their life – teenagers going into adulthood – and trying to develop not just basketball players, but good husbands, fathers and citizens.

"That part of the process goes unnoticed."

MARKETPLACE TODAY

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For advertising information: 1.800.397.0070 www.russelljohns.com/usat

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NOTICES — PUBLIC NOTICE

The city of Houston is soliciting competitive bids for Machine Based Comprehensive Vending Services. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted www.houstontx.gov/bizwithhou/ or www.coretrustpg.com/public-sector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm February 28, 2025.

San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC),
San Diego, California is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide:

Landscaping, Irrigation, Tree Trimming Services, and/or Related Products and Services (RFP No. PM-25-13)

In order to be considered, the Offeror must complete and submit a proposal to SDHC in accordance with the solicitation documentation available at: **https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/39471/bo/bo-search** or from the Procurement Services office.

VIRTUAL PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE:
Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 12:00 pm local time.

PROPOSAL DUE DATE:
MARCH 18, 2025, BEFORE 2:00 PM LOCAL TIME.
CONTACT: Mark Rivaldi, Senior Procurement & Contract Specialist, markr@sdhc.org

The city of Houston is soliciting competitive bids for contingent labor, all categories. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted https://www.houstontx.gov/bizwithhou/ or http://www.coretrustpg.com/publicsector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm March 7, 2025.

The Springfield Public Schools Purchasing & Distribution Department is soliciting competitive bids for Employee Healthcare Navigation and Decision Support AI. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted spsebids.ionwave.net/Login.aspx or www.coretrustpg.com/public-sector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm February 28, 2025.

NOTICES — PUBLIC NOTICE

Onondaga County NY is soliciting competitive bids for language accessibility & services, interpretation, and translation services. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted http://www.ongov.net/purchase/index.html or http://www.coretrustpg.com/public-sector/solicitations. A copy may be obtained at Onondaga County Division of Purchase, 14th Floor Onondaga County Civic Center City of Syracuse, New York, 13202. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm February 28, 2025.

The City of Houston is soliciting competitive bids for Background Checks and Identity Verification. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted www.houstontx.gov/bizwithhou or www.coretrustpg.com/publicsector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm March 7, 2025.

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NOTICES — PUBLIC NOTICE

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The City of Houston is soliciting competitive bids for Uniforms, Service Apparel, and Textile Rentals. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted www.houstontx.gov/bizwithhou/ or www.coretrustpg.com/publicsector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 2:00 pm February 28, 2025.

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Naylor knows he has big shoes to fill



Bob Nightengale
Columnist
USA TODAY



Former Cleveland Guardians first baseman Josh Naylor bats against the Los Angeles Dodgers during a 2024 spring training game. MARK J. REBILAS/IMAGN IMAGES

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – Josh Naylor didn't ask to be in the Arizona Diamondbacks camp and, quite honestly, was perfectly content staying in Cleveland.

He didn't volunteer to be the one to replace three-time Gold Glove first baseman Christian Walker on the field, or his leadership in the clubhouse, but now he has no choice.

Naylor, one of eight first basemen to switch teams during the winter when he was traded by the Guardians in December for reliever Slade Cecconi and a Competitive Balance Round B draft pick, knows that if he can replicate the power he displayed a year ago when he hit a career-high 31 homers and 108 RBIs, everything will take care of itself.

He's not going to bring the same defense as Walker and might not be as popular with the fans, but he can certainly follow Walker's lead.

Walker was the one who replaced All-Star Paul Goldschmidt, their perennial MVP candidate and fan favorite, in 2019. He took the opportunity and capitalized on it, receiving a three-year, $60 million free agent contract with the Houston Astros.

"He's a phenomenal player," Naylor, 27, said Monday, "and I know he was a popular leader, too. I would love to fill that role and step in those shoes and become that leader that he was in the locker room. Maybe a little bit of a voice and players that someone could come to in confidence and talk to when things are going rough or whatever, just be a good friend.

"I'm not going to change the player I am. I'm just going to be myself and grow the most I can."

Certainly, Naylor did that as a hitter last year. He hit a career-high .308 in 2023 with 17 homers and 97 RBIs with a .842 OPS, and then decided he wanted to hit more homers. His home run total leaped, but his batting average plummeted by 65 points to .243.

"I went into last season trying to hit more homers, knowing my average would fluctuate a little bit," Naylor said. "My goal (now) is just to put both together. I want to be a complete hitter, have the .300 average, have the 30-plus homers, 100-plus RBI. I want to put all of those numbers together and have a great year."

The Diamondbacks will gladly take that kind of production. They haven't had a first baseman hit at least .300 with 30 or more homers since 2015. They have the potential to get 60 homers from their corner infield spots with third baseman Eugenio Suarez having hit at least 30 homers in five of the past six full seasons.

Who knows, maybe he'll be able to stick around awhile, too? Naylor, who says he didn't pay attention to the Pete Alonso saga with the Mets, or really the entire free agent first base market at all, is eligible for free agency after the season. It's too early to know where he'll be playing in 2026, but he sure likes what he sees so far in the D-backs camp.

"This team is phenomenal," he said, "extreme talent level here. Everyone is great in their own way. I'm looking forward to just learning everyone and learning how they play, fit into their game style. ... Great team, great players, young squad, too. Hopefully, I'll fit right in."

Of course, Naylor thought he was in an ideal situation in Cleveland, too. The Guardians stunned everyone last season by winning 92 games, winning the American League Central title, knocking off the Detroit Tigers in then AL division series round, before losing to the New York Yankees in the AL championship series.

Instead of building off that success, the Guardians scaled back and lowered their payroll, trading three-time Gold Glove second baseman Andres Gimenez to the Toronto Blue Jays in a $100 million salary dump and sending Naylor to Arizona.

Was Naylor, who will earn $10.9 million this year, surprised he was traded?

"I kind of had a feeling," he said, who was never approached by the Guardians about a contract extension. "Maybe the last few offseasons I kind of had a feeling. It happens. Baseball is a business. Kind of get used to this. It's the fourth organization I've been with since I started playing pro ball. The first few trades are hard, but you get used to it.

"God plans things for you, and you never know what it's going to be or where you're going to be. Just go to roll with the punches, continue to grow and make the best out of opportunities."

OK, so not surprised Gimenez was dumped, either?

"Now him?" Naylor said. "Yes. Very surprised."

It's now the Guardians' problem to figure out a way to repeat as AL Central champions after cutting their payroll to $89 million. For the Diamondbacks, they're going all in with a payroll exceeding $190 million, highest in franchise history, after signing ace Corbin Burnes to a club-record $210 million contract.

"It's great, what a phenomenal pitcher," Naylor said. "This team, they clearly want to win. I'm very thankful to be part of it."

While Naylor will definitely miss playing together with his 24-year-old brother Bo, the Guardians' catcher, the brothers can at least stay together in the same house in spring training, along with 19-year-old brother Myles, a third baseman in the Athletics organization.

And together, they share a dream.

"Our parents, they really made all this happen for us," Naylor said, "and we owe them a lot. I think that's why we work so hard, to give back to them. One day, hopefully, (we'll) be able to retire them and have them come out to every single game that they can. They did a phenomenal job raising us, and we're very thankful."

US Open shakes up mixed doubles format

Dan Wolken
USA TODAY

The US Open is making a big bet on the potential of mixed doubles, fundamentally changing the format of the tournament in ways that will draw significant curiosity and controversy when the final Grand Slam of the tennis season kicks off in late August.

Here are the four major changes the USTA announced on Tuesday:

- Instead of 32 teams, the draw will be limited to 16 with eight of those teams getting in on the basis of combined singles rankings and eight wild cards to be given out by the tournament.
- The mixed doubles matches will be played on Arthur Ashe and Louis Armstrong stadiums the week before the main singles and doubles draws begin while the qualifying tournament is taking place on the outside courts, effectively extending the US Open to a full-fledged three week event.
- The matches will be played in a so-called "Fast Four" format, with short sets (first-to-four games with a tiebreaker at 4-4 instead of first-to-six), no-ad scoring and a 10-point tiebreaker instead of a full third set. Only the final will be played with a first-to-six format.
- Prize money is being bumped up to $1 million to the winning team as opposed to last year's $200,000 top prize.

Why are these changes being made? For one primary reason: To encourage more highly ranked singles players to participate in mixed doubles.

Star power could boost interest

Long an afterthought at the Grand Slams, mixed doubles is generally relegated to the outside courts and rarely have teams with enough star power to generate much buzz. But anecdotally, there's clear interest in the concept when players whom fans recognize participate.

At last year's US Open, for instance, there was standing room only seating on Court 11 when the boyfriend-girlfriend team of Stefanos Tsitsipas and Paula Badosa played (and lost) to Santiago Gonzalez and Giuliana Olmos of Mexico. Andy Murray and Serena Williams teamed up at Wimbledon in 2019 and won a couple of rounds.

"It truly is something unique in sport where you have the best athletes, male and female, competing on the same field of play at the same time against one another," USTA executive director Lew Sherr told The Athletic. "It doesn't exist in other professional sports."



Paula Badosa and Stefanos Tsitsipas watch the mixed doubles during the BNP Paribas Open last year.
JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/IMAGN IMAGES

But it only happens rarely in tennis because the WTA and ATP tours don't intersect other than at the Grand Slams and a few other 1000-level events, which very rarely offer mixed doubles other than some exhibition play due to a variety of factors including scheduling and court availability.

At the Grand Slams, though, players generally focus on singles or doubles.

There have also been situations where top players may enter mixed doubles but then withdraw as they advance in singles.

Changes criticized by purists

The changes will have some detractors, though, particularly among the tour's doubles specialists who will be largely shut out of an opportunity to play for a Grand Slam title.

Former doubles No. 1 Paul McNamee slammed the decision, writing on X that the US Open "will not produce a bona fide mixed doubles winner. Devalued from a Grand Slam title to an (exhibition). Let's just say I'm in shock."

While McNamee's criticism will resonate with some purists, it's not hard to understand why the USTA views mixed doubles as prime ground for experimentation and growing the game – not to mention selling some tickets.

It's been proved over and over again that mixed doubles can be a big hit with fans when the right players are in the draw. By incentivizing their participation, the US Open believes it can turn an afterthought during Slam weeks into a big event on its own.

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} SS:
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CITY OF HOUSTON
a printed copy of which is hereto annexed, was published in the entire issue of said newspaper 1 time(s) in the following issues:
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Nicholas Bjork
Notary Public, State of OR
No. 1044188
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