

WNBA labor deal nears reality

Landmark agreement paving the way for the first million dollar players in the league

BY DOUG FEINBERG
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

NEW YORK — A landmark new WNBA collective bargaining agreement was reached in principle early Wednesday morning that will give the league its first million dollar players.

There's still a lot of work to do between now and the start of the regular season on May 8, however.

Lawyers on both sides are finalizing the term sheet for players and the league's Board of Governors to approve, which should be done in the next day or so. The union will have informational sessions with its players to walk them through key terms, answer questions and make sure they understand what the deal means for them. It will then get put to a vote with a majority needed to ratify the CBA. The league's Board of Governors will then need to approve the deal before it becomes official.

Then the sprint to the start of the season begins.

EXPANSION DRAFT

First up will be the expansion draft for the two new teams — Toronto and Portland. Rules regarding who the current teams will be able to protect and how the draft will work are still being figured out. The draft is expected to take place right around the Final Four.

The league had an expansion



Jessica Hill | Associated Press

The WNBA logo is seen near a hoop before an WNBA basketball game at Mohegan Sun Arena on May 14, 2019, in Uncasville, Conn.

draft last year for the Golden State Valkyries, but that was just one team and most of the players weren't free agents.

The 13 other teams will submit a list of players they are protecting to the Tempo and Fire, who will then figure out who they will choose.

FREE AGENCY AND COLLEGE DRAFT

More than 80% of the league are free agents this year as players had signed deals that were going to expire last year. There are only two veteran players that aren't under rookie contracts who are signed for this season.

The teams will need to understand the new CBA in realtime to figure out deals. Usually teams have a few weeks to court free agents to join their franchise and that time will be most likely cut in half. The front offices of teams will have only days to decide which

restricted free agents to extend offers to and which one to give a franchise tag.

There's a chance that many players may just re-sign with their current teams for a year and then revisit free agency a year later. They also could go after the money and accept a bigger contract from a team they might not know as much about.

The college draft is scheduled for April 13 in New York. Franchises have been doing their due diligence on draft eligible college players over the last few months. With so much turnover in rosters potentially with free agency movement, players could rise or fall on the draft board based on franchises having different needs.

TRAINING CAMPS OPEN

Teams will start training camp on April 19 and will have little time to get prepared for the regular season. There are five new coaches in the league who will be implementing their own systems as well as the potentially large movement of free agents. There also could be major roster turnover so players will have to get accustomed to each other. There's a marquee game on April 25 in New York with Caitlin Clark and the Indiana Fever facing the Liberty.

LEAGUE BUSINESS

Off the court, the WNBA has a lot to do before the season tips off. The league is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a whole host of activities. There's also new sponsorship deals to announce and broadcast schedules to put out.



Brandon Dill | Associated Press

Memphis Grizzlies guard Cam Spencer (24) handles the ball against the Denver Nuggets in the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday in Memphis, Tenn.

Jerome leads Grizzlies past Nuggets 125-118

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Ty Jerome had 21 points, nine rebounds and nine assists as the Memphis Grizzlies snapped their eight-game losing streak Wednesday night with a 125-118 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

Olivier-Maxence Prosper scored 19 points and GG Jackson added 16 for the injury-depleted Grizzlies (24-44), who are 4-15 in their last 19 games after winning for the first time since

March 1 at Indiana.

Cedric Coward provided 15 points and seven rebounds. Taylor Hendricks scored 13 off the bench and made six of Memphis' 12 steals as the Nuggets (42-28) committed 19 turnovers in the makeup of a game postponed Jan. 25 because of bad weather.

Nikola Jokic had 29 points, 14 rebounds and nine assists for Denver, just missing his sixth triple-double in the past eight games — although he did rack up 10 turnovers.

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0200 EMPLOYMENT

The City of Metropolis is accepting applications for Entry Level Police Officer.

Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and not older than 35 years of age at the time of testing. Applications may be picked up between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday at the Mayor's Office in the City Hall or the Metropolis Police Department. Applicants may also apply online through the City of Metropolis webpage at: www.metropolisil.gov (Click on 'Careers'.) Applications must be received by March 20, 2026, no later than 4 PM, and may be turned in at City Hall, 106 West 5th Street, Metropolis, IL 62960, (618) 524-4016, or the Metropolis Police Department, 1020 Broadway Street, Metropolis, IL 62960, (618) 524-2310.

Women, veterans, minorities, and certified law enforcement officers are encouraged to apply. The City of Metropolis is an EEO/ADA compliant employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, protective veteran status, or status as an individual with a disability. We embrace diversity in our people, services and ideas.

0900 LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PADUCAH PLANNING COMMISSION

On Monday, April 6, 2026 at 5:30 PM, the Paducah Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing regarding:

Case #ZON2026-0001 -- An initial zoning assignment for property located at 224 Berger Road for an R-4 High Density Residential Zone. Request is made by the City of Paducah.

Case #TXT2026-0002 -- Proposed text amendment to revise Section 126-104 Medium Density Residential Zone, R-3 of the Paducah Zoning Ordinance related to lot

0900 LEGALS

sizes and corner stores. Request is made by the City of Paducah.

The hearing will be held in the Commission Chambers of Paducah City Hall, located at 300 South 5th Street, Paducah KY 42003.

Inquires may be made to 270-444-8690 ext. 2067 or <http://www.paducahky.gov/planning-commission-and-urcda>.

Applications may be continued from time to time.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PADUCAH BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

On Monday, March 30, 2026 at 5:30 PM the Paducah Board of Adjustment will conduct a public hearing regarding:

Case VAR2026-0003 Variance request of 45.54 square feet for a total 295.54 square foot freestanding sign at 5400 Cairo Road. Request is made by Texas Republic Signs, owner's professional representative.

The hearings will be held in the Commission Chambers of Paducah City Hall, located at 300 South 5th Street, Paducah KY 42003.

Inquires may be made to 270-444-8690 ext. 2067 or <http://www.paducahky.gov/board-adjustment>.

Petitions may be continued from time to time.

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The Paducah Sun
408 Kentucky Ave., Paducah, KY

ADVERTISEMENT FOR SEALED Request for Proposal

The City of Paducah, Engineering Department, will receive sealed Proposals for the repair of a pipe at Pump Station #5 on April 3, 2026, at 2:00 P.M. CST. All proposals received will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Commission Chambers, Second Floor, City Hall, 300 South 5th Street, Paducah, Kentucky. Copies of the specifications may be obtained from Melanie Townsend, Engineering Project Manager mtownsend@paducahky.gov or at the City of Paducah's website: www.paducahky.gov under Request for Bids.

TIME FOR A NEW CAR?

The Paducah Sun Classifieds are the place to look!

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The City of Benton, KY will be accepting sealed bids for the general construction (all trades) of a new outdoor park facility of approximately 19,000 sq. ft. located at 12th and Main Streets in Benton, KY. The work includes concrete paving and sidewalks, retaining walls, stairs and railings, stone and masonry, new lighting, flag poles, decorative concrete, and a water fountain feature.

The specs and plans may be purchased for a non-refundable charge of \$200.00, which can be paid with credit card, check or charge to your River City Printing account. The electronic files may be purchased for a charge of \$100.00 from River City Printing. There will be a non-refundable shipping charge of \$65.00 for non-electronic plans.

Work is expected to begin on or around May 1, 2026, and shall be completed with the contract time of 130 calendar days.

Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades and be able to obtain insurance and bonds required for this project, to include, a performance bond, a separate labor and material payment bond, insurance (auto, GL and WC), and City of Benton business license.

Sealed bids will be accepted until 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, April 7, 2026. Bids will be, thereafter, publicly opened and read aloud. Bids may be delivered to the City Clerk at Benton City Hall, 1009 Main Street, Benton, KY 42025.

Bid security shall be submitted with each bid in the amount of five (5) percent of the bid amount. No bids may be withdrawn for a period of 30 days after opening of bids. Successful bidders will furnish and pay for Performance and Payment Bonds.

The City of Benton reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities and irregularities.

The City of Benton does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provisions of services.

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer

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