

# Four administrators appointed to NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee

## Staff Report

INDIANAPOLIS — A third of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee will be made up of first-year members after four administrators were appointed to the group Wednesday. Notre Dame Athletics Director Pete Bevacqua, Ole Miss Athletics Director Keith Carter, Missouri Valley Conference Commissioner Jeff Jackson and Northwestern Athletics Director Mark Jackson will begin their terms later this year.

They will replace Sun Belt Conference Commissioner and current committee Chair Keith Gill, Alabama Athletics Director Greg Byrne and Minnesota Athletics Director Mark Coyle, whose terms expire at the end of August, as well as Syracuse Athletics Director John Wildhack, who is retiring from the university July 1.

Bevacqua will be Wildhack's replacement as the Atlantic Coast Conference representative. Bevacqua, who will serve a four-year term, will officially join the committee July 1, while the others will have five-year terms that start Sept. 1.

Bevacqua, who is a 1993 graduate of Notre Dame, returned to

campus in July 2023 as a special assistant to the president before being named director of athletics in March 2024. Before that, Bevacqua served as chair of NBC Sports, leading to its unprecedented collection of assets and platforms, and was the network's chief steward of exclusive broadcast rights agreement with Notre Dame football.

He previously served as chief executive officer of the PGA of America, global head of golf at Creative Artists Agency, chief business officer for the United States Golf Association and first managing director of the U.S. Open Championship. Bevacqua is also the eighth person to serve on the committee and the College Football Playoff management team.

The Southeastern Conference will be represented by Carter, the Ole Miss athletics director. The Perryville, Arkansas, native has been a part of the Ole Miss community since enrolling as a freshman in 1995. A four-year starter for the Rebels basketball team, Carter led the squad to a pair of SEC Western Division titles in 1997 and 1998 while earning all-conference honors twice and garnering All-America honors following his

senior season in 1999. He also played in the 1997, 1998 and 1999 NCAA tournaments, scoring 22 points and grabbing 11 rebounds in a loss to Valparaiso in the famous 1998 first-round game, and then recording 18 points and seven rebounds in a win over Villanova a year later.

Carter won a gold medal as a member of the United States national team at the 1998 Goodwill Games and also played professionally in Italy for seven years. He joined the Ole Miss Foundation in 2008 and then the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation in 2009. After three years, he was named executive director. By 2018, he was the school's deputy athletics director for development and resource acquisition, overseeing the Athletics Foundation while also serving as chief revenue officer and as the sport administrator for baseball and men's basketball. A year later, he moved to his current role, where his tenure has seen the Ole Miss athletics department reach unprecedented heights that include the school's three best finishes in the Learfield Directors' Cup.

Missouri Valley Conference Commissioner Jeff Jackson was also appointed

to the committee. Jackson has extensive basketball experience, having spent 30 years coaching, including seven years as a head coach at Furman and three more in the head position at New Hampshire. He also served as an assistant coach at Vanderbilt for seven seasons, helping the Commodores reach the Sweet 16 in 2004, and had stops at Stanford, Colorado State and St. Bonaventure.

The 1984 Cornell graduate has been at the Missouri Valley since 2021. Before that, he spent three years as the executive associate commissioner of the Big 12 Conference, which included having oversight of men's basketball and game management, coordinating the conference's post-season tournament, and working with the league's coaches, administrators and officials. He previously spent four years as deputy commissioner of the Big South Conference, overseeing external operations, championships and sports administration, with a primary focus on men's and women's basketball. Jackson was also responsible for the league's strategic plan and assisted with branding efforts and broadcast matters.

The Big Ten Confer-

ence's representative will be Mark Jackson, the director of athletics at Northwestern. Jackson had a brief stint on the committee in 2024 when he was athletics director at Villanova and was appointed by the Big East Conference to replace former Butler Athletics Director Barry Collier, who retired soon after the 2024 Men's Final Four. However, Jackson accepted his current role that September, ending his short tenure.

Jackson held positions at Southern California (senior associate director of athletics and chief innovation officer) and Syracuse (executive senior associate athletics director) before going to Villanova in 2015. While he was at Villanova, the Wildcats captured the Division I men's basketball national championship in 2016 and 2018. A native of Boston, Jackson played defensive back on the football team at Colby and received his bachelor's degree in 1995. He earned a master's degree from Trinity (Connecticut) in 1997. He also worked as a coaching assistant for the New England Patriots and as director of football development for the Oakland Raiders.

Jackson oversees

21 varsity sports with more than 500 student-athletes, plus recreational and intramural programs at Northwestern. In his two years at the school, the Wildcats won national championships in field hockey (2024, 2025) and women's golf (2025) and last month captured the women's lacrosse national title.

The 12-member committee will be the first to select, seed and bracket a 76-team field. The NCAA last month announced the expansion of the tournament from 68 teams to 76 starting in 2027. The new members will be joined by Irma Garcia, the director of athletics at Manhattan; Stu Jackson, the commissioner of the West Coast Conference; Arthur Johnson, the director of athletics at Temple; Zack Lassiter, the director of athletics at Abilene Christian; Martin Newton, the director of athletics at Samford; Lee Reed, the director of athletics at Georgetown; Chad Weiberg, the director of athletics at Oklahoma State; and Tom Wistrick, the commissioner of the Big Sky Conference. Newton will chair the committee for the 2026-27 season.

### SUMMARY OF KEVIL CITY ORDINANCE ENTITLED:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KEVIL, KENTUCKY ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD JULY 1, 2026, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027, BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT.

Adopts, by incorporated Exhibit, the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget of the City of Kevil, Kentucky as follows:

#### Estimated Revenues

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Property Taxes                 | \$149,240.00        |
| Vehicle Taxes                  | \$26,000.00         |
| Franchise Taxes                | \$52,000.00         |
| HB413                          | \$5,000.00          |
| Road Aid                       | \$8,000.00          |
| State Aid                      | \$14,500.00         |
| Misc Income                    | \$11,660.00         |
| Rentals                        | \$2,500.00          |
| Bandana Water                  | \$41,600.00         |
| Water City/County              | \$193,000.00        |
| Sewer City/County              | \$182,000.00        |
| <b>Total Estimated Revenue</b> | <b>\$685,500.00</b> |

#### Proposed Expenditures

|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Employee Wages                      | \$260,000.00        |
| Payroll Expenses                    | \$132,000.00        |
| KLC Insurances                      | \$48,000.00         |
| Sheriff Donation                    | \$7,200.00          |
| Cameras                             | \$3,000.00          |
| Utilities Expense                   | \$46,000.00         |
| Office Expense                      | \$44,300.00         |
| Shop Expense                        | \$119,000.00        |
| Road Fund                           | \$8,000.00          |
| Fire Expense                        | \$18,000.00         |
| <b>Total Estimated Expenditures</b> | <b>\$685,500.00</b> |

This summary has been prepared and certified by Stacey A. Blankenship, Kevil City Attorney, who is licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

#### PREPARED AND CERTIFIED:

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## Murray State Football receives \$100,000 investment from Racer Football Alumni Association

### Staff Report

MURRAY — The Murray State football program has received another \$100,000 investment from the Racer Football Alumni Association (RFAA) that was presented to Director of Athletics Nico Yantko and head coach Jody Wright during the organization's annual golf tournament.

This generous contribution will have an immediate impact on the program by supporting new competitive resources including roster management and other initiatives.

"This remarkable gift from the RFAA reflects the tremendous commitment that this outstanding organization has to the success of Murray State football and our student-athletes," Murray State University President Dr. Ron Patterson said. "We are deeply grateful for the leadership, generosity and passion that the RFAA continues

to demonstrate, and are appreciative of their willingness to strengthen the future of our university and football program for years to come."

"We are incredibly grateful for the continued investment that the RFAA makes in the success of Murray State Athletics and our student-athletes," Director of Athletics Nico Yantko said. "The leadership of the RFAA and all of our dedicated football alumni consistently give of their time, talents and treasures to elevate our program and create transformational opportunities for our student-athletes. This generous \$100,000 gift is another example of their unwavering commitment to our future."

Founded in 2018, the RFAA continues to have a positive impact on Racer Football through significant donations given by its membership.

Previous investments from the RFAA have allowed

the department to invest in educational benefits for football student-athletes and make much-needed enhancements to the team's facilities, including updates to the team meeting room, team lounge, coaches suit, locker room and more.

Over the last two years, Murray State has raised a school-record \$43 million dollars in support of new facilities, initiatives and championship resources. That total was made possible by 15, seven-figure gifts, which also amounts to the most in department history.

The \$43 million is committed towards the department's bold, comprehensive \$100 million fundraising campaign, Leading The Pack, which was created to further position itself for the future by investing in student-athlete success and wellness, revenue share and competitive resources and world-class facilities.



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