



2023 | 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

# APSE

## Conference Guide

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Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel & Casino • July 9–12

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## Notable locations

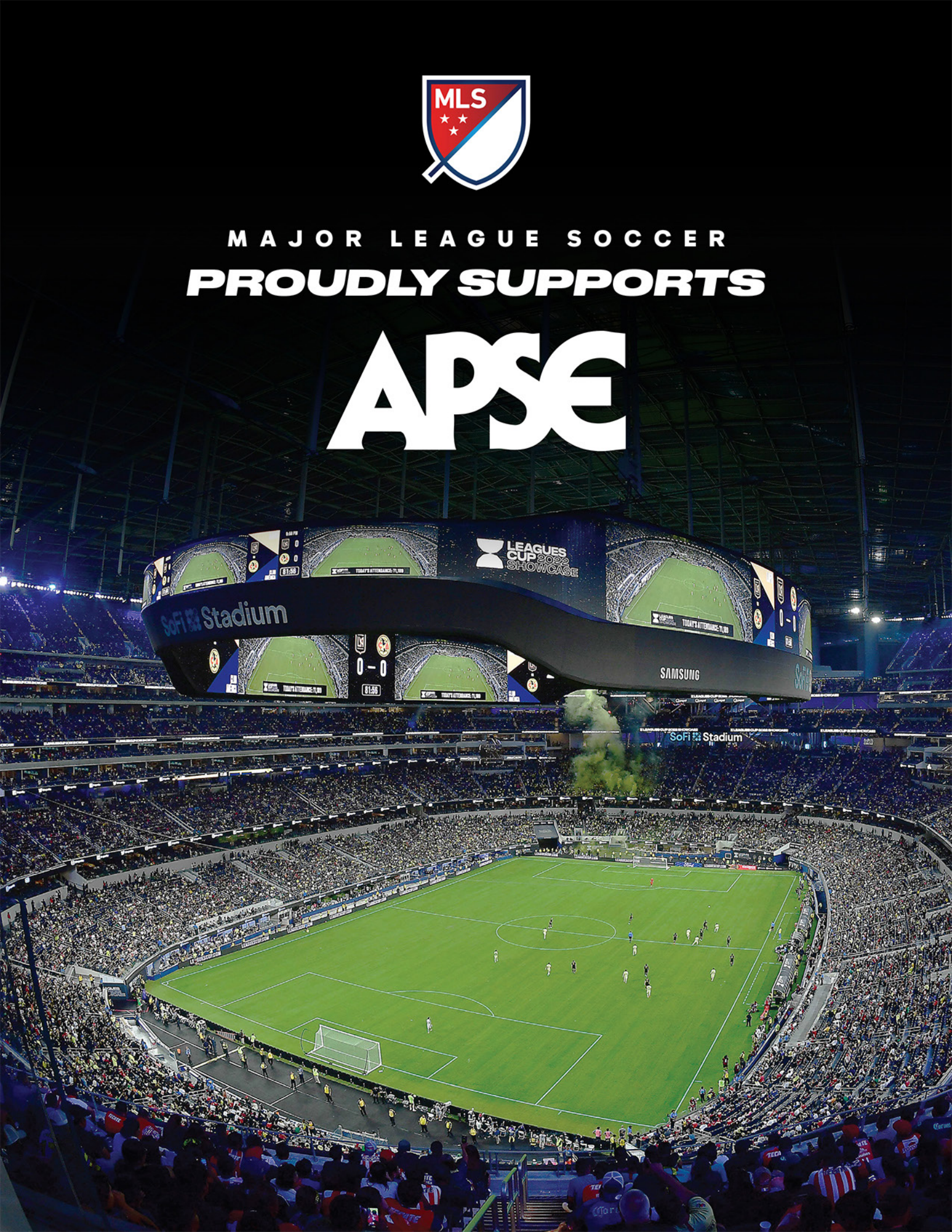
**Hotel:** The Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel & Casino | **Office:** Reno Room

**General sessions:** Laughlin I and II | **Workshops:** Laughlin III, Virginia City I and II | **Meals:** Mesquite



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# Message from the President

Jorge Rojas, The Athletic

Thank you for joining our 50th-year celebration at the 2023 APSE summer conference in Las Vegas. It promises to be hot, hot, hot!

This year's event at The Flamingo (location, location, location!) will focus on professional enrichment, APSE history and nostalgia and saluting our best work. We'll also sprinkle in a little entertainment and some entertaining speakers.

The festivities open with a bang at the Mob Museum, where we'll acquaint ourselves with Vegas lore before reconnecting, mingling and channeling our inner gangster in the museum's basement Speakeasy.

On Tuesday, you don't want to miss the Red Smith Award luncheon honoring pioneering journalist Claire Smith, the fourth woman and first Black woman to win the coveted prize. Other prominent general sessions include our keynote presentation with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver; APSE at 50; The Rise of Women's Sports; Why We Can't Ignore Gambling Anymore; and a Professional Development seminar. Our hands-on workshops will cover best practices, skills training, prioritizing workloads and more.

The biggest highlight of all? We've invited former APSE presidents to commemorate this milestone occasion. They'll impart their wisdom and tell us great stories. We'll convey our gratitude.



“This year’s event ... will focus on professional enrichment, APSE history and nostalgia and saluting our best work.”

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# Message from our Host

Bill Eichenberger, APSE  
Executive Director & Sports Editor,  
Las Vegas Review-Journal



The Las Vegas Review-Journal is honored to be hosting the APSE convention for the second time in three years. It is especially meaningful given that we're celebrating the 50th anniversary of the organization and will have some of APSE's founding members in attendance.

This year's event at The Flamingo hotel will occur during a comparatively quiet period of sports activity in Las Vegas. The NBA Summer League teams and the defending WNBA champion Aces will be in town.

But still to come in Las Vegas before next year's convention in Charlotte is a Formula 1 race in November and the Super Bowl in February. That does not include the Raiders and Stanley Cup champion Golden Knights, the arrival of the Athletics from Oakland and increasing speculation that the NBA could be placing an expansion team here in the near future.

With the stigma of legalized gambling a thing of the past, Las Vegas has become a destination spot for college and pro sporting events.

Here's hoping you enjoy all the city has to offer.

“It is especially meaningful [to host the APSE convention] given that we're celebrating the 50th anniversary of the organization.”

# Sunday, July 9

## Registration

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**When:** 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Where:** Reno Foyer

## Executive Committee & General Membership Meeting

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**When:** 3 p.m.

**Where:** Laughlin I and II

**Presiding:** Jorge Rojas, APSE president

## Opening Reception

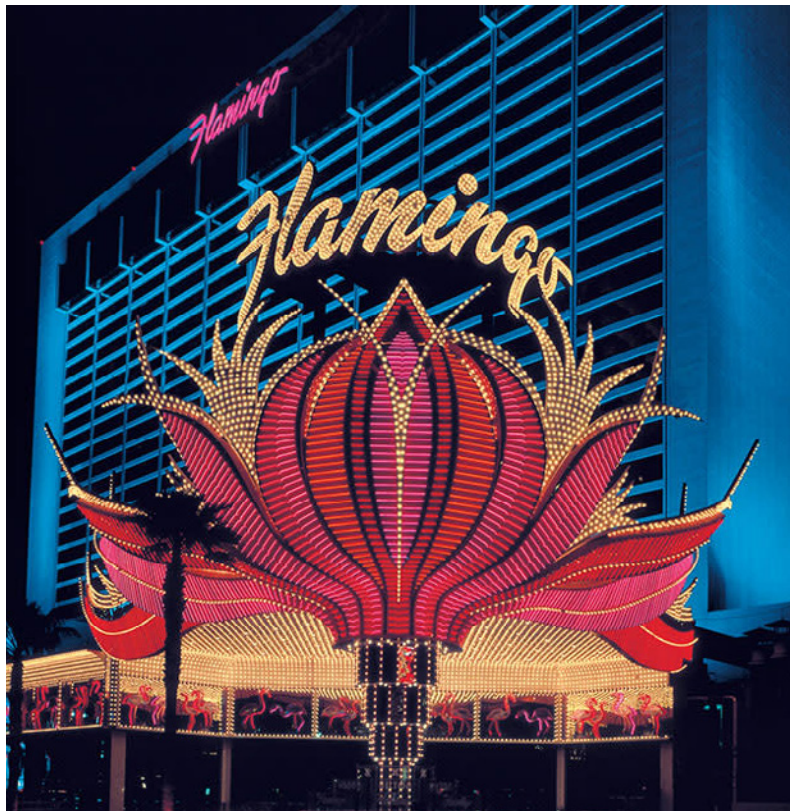
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**When:** 6 p.m.-10 p.m.

**Where:** The Mob Museum  
300 Stewart Ave. Las Vegas

**Transportation:** Buses leave at 6 p.m.  
and return at 10 p.m.

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# Monday, July 10

## Registration

**When:** 8 a.m.-5 p.m. • **Where:** Reno Foyer

## Coffee and Pastry Station

**When:** 8 a.m.-10 a.m.

**Where:** Laughlin I and II

**Sponsor:** MLB

## Workshop

### News Reporting vs. Aggregating the News: How to Prioritize and Manage Workloads

**When:** 9 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

**Where:** Laughlin III

We all want to expose the big scandal, write the in-depth investigation or the heartstring-pulling feature. But how many times have those pieces not generated the page views or subscriptions you thought or hoped for? And then there are the 5 things to know or “listicle” you threw together and it goes analytics gangbusters?

Both types of reporting need to be in a journalist’s toolbox to give your readers the meat and dessert and to keep fresh content on your digital platforms during the season and the offseason. So how do reporters maximize their time and accomplish both? How do you balance working on bigger pieces with having to produce 5 things to know, what we learned and other page-view

candy? And how do we incorporate social media into the mix? We’ll discuss what some have found works, what doesn’t, and how you juggle it all.

### Moderator

**Jim Pignatiello** is the Director/Sports for MassLive.com and The Republican, part of the Advance Local media group, where he has worked since 2013. He is currently APSE’s Northeast Region vice chair.



**J. Pignatiello**

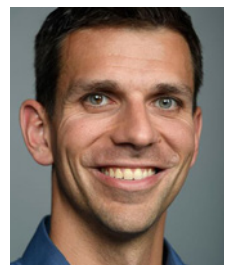
### Panelists

**Paul Barrett** has been The Seattle Times sports editor since August 2016 and is the incoming APSE Second Vice President. Since joining the Times in 2015, he has led the sports department of the second-largest newsroom on the West Coast to three APSE Grand Slams and two Triple Crowns.



**P. Barrett**

**Ben Goessling** is the lead Minnesota Vikings beat reporter for the Star Tribune. He has covered the team since 2012, first for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and then for ESPN before joining the Star Tribune in 2017. He was honored this year with a top-10 finish in the Category A beat writing competition.



**B. Goessling**

**Erik Hall** (he/him/his) is a seasoned journalist with a diverse background in sports reporting, digital strategy, and social media management. He is digital sports editor at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He has received several awards, including being named the 2017 LGBTQ+ Journalist of the Year by NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ+ Journalists.



**E. Hall**



## Workshop

### Boom of Bust: Covering Sports Business

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**When:** 9 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

**Location:** Virginia City I

**Workshop repeats:** 2:15-3:15 p.m.

You don't need to look any farther than Las Vegas to see a booming sports town. Other cities, such as Oakland, San Diego and St. Louis, have struggled to keep their teams. Kansas City, Nashville, Atlanta and Seattle have campaigned for years to build stadiums and attract new teams. The battle between public and private funding rages on. From high schools to the pros, what are some effective ways to research, report and tell the "money" stories that are important to readers but can sometimes be dry?

### Moderator

**Bill Bradley** is a sports content consultant who lives in Las Vegas. He has seen many sides of the sports business world, including working for most of the past year on sports betting content for the Action Network. From 2015-2022 he was the sports editor of the Las Vegas Review-Journal — helping them win two APSE Grand Slams and two Triple Crowns — and the host of the APSE conference two years ago. He has previously worked as sports editor of the Sacramento Bee and the Nashville Tennessean and directed a website for the NFL Network for three years.

### Panelists

**Mick Akers** covers sports business for the Las Vegas Review-Journal. He's covered sports business-related happenings in Las Vegas since 2016, getting started by breaking many of the developments during the Raiders Las Vegas relocation process. His coverage areas include all things development and operations of the growing professional and collegiate sports entities, sporting events and venues in the region. Mick also covered the building and opening of Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas Ballpark, Dollar Loan Center, the Raiders and Aces HQs and Formula One adding the Las

Vegas Grand Prix to their schedule and constructing their paddock facility.

**Josh Barnett** has been an APSE member since 2003 and the executive sports editor of The Buffalo News for six years. He previously was the director of content for USA TODAY High School Sports, Assistant Managing Editor/Publications at USA TODAY Sports, the executive sports editor of the Philadelphia Daily News and also made stops in New York State at The Post-Standard in Syracuse, Utica Observer-Dispatch and The Post-Star in Glens Falls.

**Michael Phillips** is the sports editor at the Richmond Times-Dispatch, and as player/coach, also covers the Washington Commanders for the paper. He has been with the Times-Dispatch since graduating from the University of Kansas in 2007.

## General Session

### Beating the Odds

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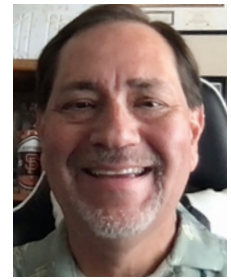
**When:** 10:30 a.m.-Noon

**Where:** Laughlin I and II

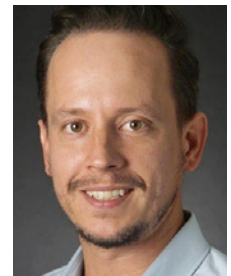
How can we cover sports betting without losing our shirts ... or our way? Sports betting is here. It is not going away. It can no longer be ignored if your coverage is to maintain relevance. We take a look at what news organizations are doing and should be doing when it comes to gambling. How much is too much ..., or not enough? Why should we treat legal gambling any differently than any other element of the game? How is it changing the way fans watch games?

### Moderator

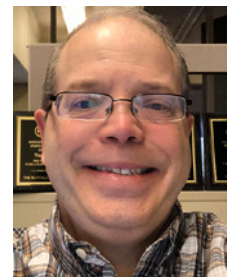
**Bill Speros** is a Senior Betting Analyst with Gambling.com Group. Speros has been active in APSE for more than 25 years, sharing in more than a dozen Top 10 Section Awards in the top-circulation category. He has held sports department leadership positions at the Orlando Sentinel, Denver Post and several other newspapers, in addition to editing positions with USA TODAY and Cox Media. He currently writes the "Obnoxious Boston Fan" column for the Boston Herald.



**B. Bradley**



**M. Akers**



**J. Barnett**



**M. Phillips**



**B. Speros**

## Panelists

**Doug Kezirian** is a sports betting insider for ESPN, where he has been since July 2012. He hosted ESPN's sports betting news and information program Daily Wager from March 2019 to September 2022. He has spent nearly two decades immersed in the betting space.

**Bill Pascrell III, Esq.** is a Partner at PPAG in New Jersey, the largest statewide lobbying firm in the United States, and a Trustee for Entain Foundation U.S. He led the successful 10-year campaign to legalize sports betting in the United States, culminating with the repeal of PASPA by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2018, and led a successful multi-year campaign to pass the first-in-the-nation Online Gaming Act in New Jersey.

**Johnny Avello** is the Director of Race and Sports at DraftKings and is a member of the Sports Betting Hall of Fame. Avello began working in Las Vegas in 1979 dealing dice for \$12 a day plus tips. He wrote betting tickets at the Las Vegas Hilton before moving to Bally's as an oddsmaker. He was Director of Race & Sports Operations at both Bally's and the Wynn Las Vegas, becoming one of the best-known bookmakers on The Strip.

**Stormy Buonantony** is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and the host of The Lombardi Line on VSiN. She joined the sports betting outlet in 2021. She is also a sideline reporter for ESPN college football and a former rink-side reporter for the Las Vegas Golden Knights.



**D. Kezirian**



**B. Pascrell III**



**J. Avello**



**S. Buonantony**

## Lunch & General Session The Rise of Women's Sports

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**When:** 12:15 p.m.-2 p.m. • **Where:** Mesquite • **Sponsor:** APSE Foundation

The numbers show audiences have been captivated by the most compelling stories in women's sports. The Women's Final Four games were arguably better than the men's and drew huge TV ratings. Soon, the popular U.S. women's national soccer team will be on center stage again at the World Cup. Whether it's LSU and Angel Reese handing a loss to Iowa and Caitlin Clark, or Brittney Griner's troubles in Russia, or Mikaela Shiffrin's struggles and triumphs, people are watching with great interest. How can the media rise to the occasion?

### PANELISTS

**Nikki Fargas** has been the Las Vegas Aces' team president since May 2021, overseeing the WNBA franchise's basketball and business operations. Prior to joining the Aces, Fargas served as the head coach of the LSU women's basketball team, which she led to six NCAA tournament appearances.

**M.A. Voepel** has written about women's college and pro basketball for ESPN.com since 1996 and has also covered additional college sports. In 2022, he received the Curt Gowdy Print Media Award from Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame for outstanding contributions to basketball.

**Roxanna Scott** is the executive editor and vice president for USA TODAY Sports, where she also helps coordinate coverage with the USA TODAY Network. She is a past president of the Association for Women in Sports Media and the current chair of the Olympic committee of APSE. She has directed coverage of eight Olympic Games at USA TODAY.



**N. Fargas**



**M. Voepel**



**R. Scott**

## Workshop Boom or Bust: Covering Sports Business

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**When:** 2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m. • **Where:** Virginia City I • Repeat from morning session

You don't need to look any farther than Las Vegas to see a booming sports town. Other cities, such as Oakland, San Diego and St. Louis, have struggled to keep their teams. Kansas City, Nashville, Atlanta and Seattle have campaigned for years to build stadiums and attract new teams. The battle between public and private funding rages on. From high schools to the pros, what are some effective ways to research, report and tell the "money" stories that are important to readers but can sometimes be dry?

## Workshop Avoiding Tunnel Vision: Planning Advice for Editors of all Sizes

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**When:** 2:15-3:15 p.m. • **Where:** Laughlin III

It doesn't take much for editors in small shops (or shrinking bigger ones) to get caught up in the day-to-day. Advance planning has really taken a step backward. Are you getting caught with events sneaking up on you that you could have had in the forefront? Have you become more of an event planner than a coverage planner? Here are some tips on how to be a better planner and how to incorporate planning into your busy workloads.

### Moderator

**Dan Spears** recently became the deputy sports strategist for Gannett's Center for Community Journalism. The incoming APSE first vice president has been in sports journalism for 28 years, including the last 17 at the StarNews in Wilmington, N.C., with previous stops in Augusta, Ga.; Hagerstown, Md.; and Anderson, S.C.



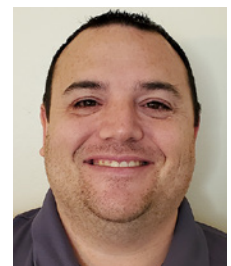
**D. Spears**



**E. Horos**

### Panelists

**Emily Horos** is the deputy sports editor at The Arizona Republic. She grew up in Pennsylvania, but her 20-year career has taken her to South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, South Dakota and finally Arizona. During her career, she has covered all levels of sports. She joined The Republic staff in 2018 as an editor. She has been involved with APSE since 2013 when she participated in the Diversity Fellowship. She has held numerous regional positions.



**A. Maluso**

**Anthony Maluso** is the Community Sports Editor for Baltimore Sun Media Group, a position he's held since January 2022. In his role he oversees sports coverage for two small daily papers, the Carroll County Times and the Annapolis Capital Gazette, as well as four weekly papers. In the 2022 APSE Contest, his properties earned Top 10 honors for breaking news, event coverage and short feature, was named honorable mention for print portfolio, and Top Five for digital coverage.

**Meredith Perri** is the Managing Producer of Sports at MassLive in Massachusetts. She joined the organization in 2014 after graduating from Boston University. Her 11-member team is responsible for MassLive's coverage of high school, college, minor league sports and more. She is a member of this year's APSE Diversity Fellowship and was part of the Association for Women in Sports Media's 2020-2021 Champions Class.



**M. Perri**

## Keynote Address

### A Conversation with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver

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**When:** 3:30-4:15 p.m. • **Where:** Laughlin I and II • **Sponsor:** ESPN

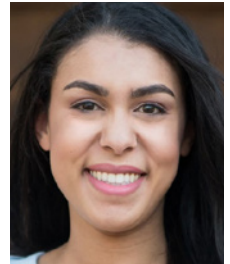
It has been another interesting year for the NBA. With LeBron James setting the all-time scoring record, a new collective bargaining agreement and the recent issues involving young star Ja Morant, there's a lot to talk about. Commissioner Silver will sit down with ESPN reporter Kendra Andrews for a one-on-one interview, and he'll take questions afterward.



**A. Silver**

## Moderator

**Kendra Andrews** joined ESPN in January 2022 as an NBA reporter, primarily covering the Golden State Warriors. She writes and reports for ESPN.com while also contributing reports to various ESPN television platforms, including SportsCenter and NBA Today, the latter of which is hosted by her sister, Malika Andrews. Prior to joining ESPN, Andrews served as Warriors reporter for NBC Sports Bay Area and co-hosted the Dubs Talk podcast. She had previously covered the Denver Nuggets for The Athletic.



**K. Andrews**

## Keynote Speaker

**Adam Silver** has been commissioner of the NBA since 2014, succeeding David Stern. The WNBA, NBA G League, NBA 2K League and Basketball Africa League are also under Silver's purview. Silver recently negotiated a new, 7-year Collective Bargaining Agreement between the league and the National Basketball Players Association. He has been outspoken about social issues and pushed inclusiveness during moments of strife around the country.



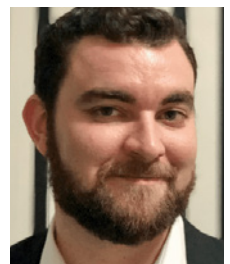
**O. Dixon**

## The Latest on AP's Evolving, Easy-to-Use Coverage

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**When:** 4:30 p.m.-5:45 p.m. • **Where:** Laughlin I and II

Learn how The Associated Press is evolving its coverage and making it easier to use its content. Also, the latest scoop on the AP Sports team's planned coverage for the Women's World Cup, the Ryder Cup, the Summer Olympics in Paris and upcoming major sports seasons.



**J. Seiner**

## Panelists

Oscar Dixon, AP deputy global sports editor, Atlanta; Jake Seiner, AP assistant sports editor; Barry Bedlan, AP global product director, Dallas.



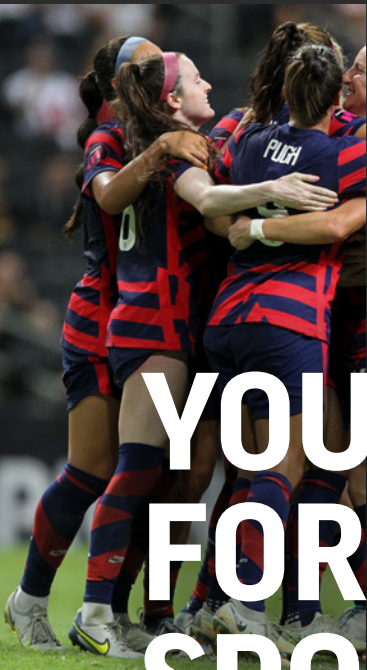
**B. Bedlan**

## AP Welcome Reception

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**When:** 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. • **Where:** Garden View Terrace • **Sponsor:** Associated Press

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# Tuesday, July 11

## Registration

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**When:** 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Where:** Reno Foyer

## Coffee and Pastry Station

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**When:** 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

**Where:** Laughlin I and II

**Sponsor:** Las Vegas Review-Journal

## General Session

### Professional Development and Self-Investment

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**When:** 9:30 a.m.-Noon

**Where:** Laughlin I and II

**Sponsor:** The Athletic

Things are moving quickly in the sports media business. Are you prepared to pivot to your next job? Have you been asked to switch to a new role in your newsroom? Or just reassigned? We'll spend the morning discussing topics such as work environments, networking, managing up, and investing in yourself. From internships to interviews to career decisions, our interactive stations will feature managers and specialists who can help you navigate any rough seas and get the training you need to ride a wave of success.

### Moderator

**Lisa Wilson** is the Editorial Director for Culture, Opinion and Talent Development

at The Athletic. A past president of APSE, Wilson is the chair of the career advancement committee and the executive director of the APSE Foundation.



**L. Wilson**

## Red Smith Award Luncheon

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**When:** 12:15 p.m.-2 p.m.

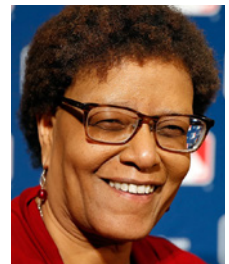
**Where:** Mesquite

**2023 Recipient:** Claire Smith

**Presenter:** Jon Pessah

**Sponsor:** Temple University and The Philadelphia Inquirer

[Click to read more on Page 22](#)



**C. Smith**

## General Session

### Golden Years: The Back Stories and Pivotal Moments That Led APSE To Greatness

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**When:** 2:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

**Where:** Laughlin I and II

As APSE celebrates its 50th year, we look back at some of the pivotal moments and great stories that shaped our organization. It hasn't been all fun and games, but expect some comical myths and truths to be revealed about such legends as Dave Smith, Ed Storin, Bill Dwyre, George Solomon, Van McKenzie, Sandy Rosenbush and Garry D. Howard. Could all the tales we've heard be accurate or were they embellished over the years? We'll stroll down memory lane, decade by decade.



**J. Pessah**

## Panelists

Distinguished leaders Dave Smith, Bill Dwyre, Henry Freeman, George Solomon, Tracy Dodds, Garry D. Howard and Michael Anastasi.



**D. Smith**



**B. Dwyre**



**H. Freeman**



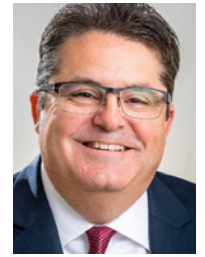
**G. Solomon**



**T. Dodds**



**G. Howard**



**M. Anastasi**

## General Session The Changing Landscape of College Sports

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**When:** 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. • **Where:** Laughlin I and II

While the games still matter, covering a college sports beat has changed dramatically in the past decade, and that change has accelerated to breakneck speed since the COVID-19 pandemic started three years ago. Not only must your reporters be able to analyze what happened on the field, but they'd also better be well-versed in recruiting, know who to talk to about the transfer portal in all sports; engage in broadening Name, Image and Likeness discussions; and be able to decipher how the university is balancing budgets that are soaring into nine figures.

What are the best practices in hitting these topics? Where can you find this information in the quickest, most efficient way? And what kinds of stories are readers responding to most? This session will include a presentation of the Knight-Newhouse College Athletics Database that shows where the public Division I schools are spending ever-increasing revenues. Journalists will learn how they can analyze it across schools and conferences, and leave with examples of story ideas they could pitch in their newsrooms.

### Moderator

**Phil Kaplan** oversees SEC coverage for the USA TODAY Network South Region for Gannett, focusing on Tennessee, Ole Miss, Mississippi State and South Carolina. He began his newspaper career in 1984. Kaplan served as APSE president in 2010-11.



**P. Kaplan**



**R. Axon**

### Panelists

**Rachel Axon** is a veteran sports reporter who has spent more than 15 years in newspapers, focusing on everything from investigations to the Olympics. Most recently, she spent a decade at USA TODAY and is currently collaborating with the Knight-Newhouse College Athletics Database at Syracuse University.

**Amie Just** is the sports columnist at the Lincoln Journal Star, and previously worked for the New Orleans Times-Picayune and the Missoulian. The 2017 University of Kansas graduate has nine APSE Top 10s to her name, including five in this year's contest.



**A. Just**

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# Wednesday, July 12

## Registration

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**When:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. • **Where:** Reno Foyer

## Coffee and Pastry Station

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**When:** 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

**Where:** Laughlin I and II

**Sponsors:** Los Angeles Times and  
The Seattle Times

## General Session

How We Did It: Examining  
the Best Work of 2022

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**When:** 10 a.m. - Noon • **Where:** Laughlin I and II

We will honor our APSE contest winners at Wednesday night's awards dinner, but on Wednesday morning we'll gather as many winners as we can to discuss their impactful stories, columns, projects and investigative pieces and what made them stand out. Like Tuesday's career development session, there will be time set aside to go to interactive stations to chat about beat writing, feature writing and much more. Among those expected to attend are: Emily Giambalvo and Michael Lee of The Washington Post's "Black Out" project; Rachel Axon of USA Today's Title IX investigation; journalists with multiple top 10 finishes like Sean Keeler of The Denver Post, David Woods of the IndyStar, Amie Just of the Lincoln Journal Star and Jane Allison Havsy of the Daily Record; and the sports editors from many of the Grand Slam- and Triple Crown-winning member organizations.

## Moderator

Naila-Jean Meyers, senior assistant sports editor for the Star Tribune in Minneapolis, was the 2022 APSE contest chair and is the incoming APSE president.



**N. Meyers**

## Closing Executive Committee Meeting

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**When:** 2 p.m. • **Where:** Laughlin I and II  
**Presiding:** Naila-Jean Meyers,  
incoming APSE president

## Awards Banquet

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### Reception

**When:** 6 p.m.

**Where:** Mesquite foyer

**Sponsor:** National Football Foundation

### Dinner

**When:** 7 p.m.

**Where:** Mesquite

**Sponsor:** Professional Bull Riders

### Closing Reception

**When:** 9:30 p.m.-11 p.m.

**Where:** Garden View Terrace

**Sponsor:** NHL



# NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

### 65<sup>TH</sup> NFF ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER PRESENTED BY LAS VEGAS -

Held on Tuesday December 5, 2023, at the Aria Resort & Casino is the place for the college community to connect. Hosts the induction of the College Football Hall of Fame Class, the recognition of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class presented by Fidelity Investments, and the announcement of the William V. Campbell Trophy® recipient.

**CHICK-FIL-A COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME** - Inducting the greatest players and coaches in the history of college football into the state-of-the-art facility in Atlanta.

**WILLIAM V. CAMPBELL TROPHY® AND NATIONAL SCHOLAR-ATHLETE PROGRAM** - Awarding the William V. Campbell Trophy® to college football's top scholar-athlete. Honoring the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class presented by Fidelity Investments. Bestowing postgraduate scholarships. Recognizing Faculty Athletics Representatives.

**FUTURE FOR FOOTBALL** - Celebrating the positive impact the game has made on millions of players, coaches, administrators, volunteers and fans nationwide.

**CHAPTER NETWORK** - Distributing \$1 million in scholarships annually and holding local events to promote amateur football through 120 chapters in 47 states.

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# APSE Leadership

## **Jorge Rojas, President**

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Jorge is Deputy Managing Editor/Opinion for The Athletic, where he has worked since 2018. Previously, he was the longtime Sports Editor at the Miami Herald, where he worked for 24 years (14 as Executive Sports Editor). Before that, he was an editor at The Sporting News and the Orlando Sentinel. Jorge served as the APSE Diversity Chairperson for more than a decade and has been a fixture on the Olympic, Commissioners and Futures committees. Along with Michael Anastasi, he helped launch the APSE Diversity Fellowship in 2011. He is a University of Florida graduate and has been a member of APSE since 2000.



**J. Rojas**

## **Naila-Jean Meyers, First Vice President**

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Naila-Jean has been senior assistant sports editor at the Star Tribune in Minneapolis since January 2020, overseeing Vikings/NFL and Olympics coverage and the department's digital and audience strategy. Prior to that, she spent 15 years at The New York Times sports department in a variety of roles, including stints as weekend sports editor, planning editor and assigning editor for NFL, tennis, hockey, golf, baseball and motorsports. She also previously worked as an online editor at The Sporting News and a sports copy editor at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Naila-Jean grew up in Ames, Iowa, and is a graduate of Northwestern University. She attended her first APSE conference in St. Louis in 2007, and has been regularly attending winter judging and the summer conference since 2017.



**N. Meyers**

## **Dan Spears, Second Vice President**

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Dan is the high school sports content editor for Gannett's 12 newsrooms in North Carolina and is based out of the Wilmington StarNews, where he's been on staff since 2006 in a host of roles, including sports editor, digital editor, photo editor and assistant news editor.

A native of Auburn, Ill., he previously was at the Anderson (S.C.) Independent-Mail; The Herald-Mail of Hagerstown, Md.; and The Augusta Chronicle after graduating from Truman State University in Missouri.

Dan has been involved in APSE for nearly 15 years, been a contest judge since 2014, and was previously chair of the Atlantic Coast region and the organization's third vice president from 2018-20.



**D. Spears**

# APSE Leadership

## Ed Reed, Third Vice President

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Ed is Deputy Sports Editor for Gannett Florida, overseeing the state's 17 daily sports sections. A transplanted Bostonian in Florida, Reed has been based out of The News-Press in Fort Myers for more than 21 years. He started as a staff writer at The News-Press and was promoted to assistant sports editor and then editor more than 13 years ago. During that time, he held additional duties as the breaking news editor. Ed shepherded The News-Press into increased digital and social media coverage as the organization moved from print-focused to mobile. Before moving to Florida, Ed worked at the Independent newspaper at Boston University, spent a year at the weekly Holyoke Sun in Holyoke, Mass., as sports editor and spent three years at the MetroWest Daily News in Framingham, Mass.



**E. Reed**

## Bill Eichenberger, Executive Director

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Bill is the sports editor at the Las Vegas Review Journal. He has also served as a senior editor at Bleacher Report, as well as New York sports editor at the Wall Street Journal and as sports editor at Newsday, the Akron Beacon Journal and Macon Telegraph. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia and was president of APSE for the 2003-04 term.



**B. Eichenberger**

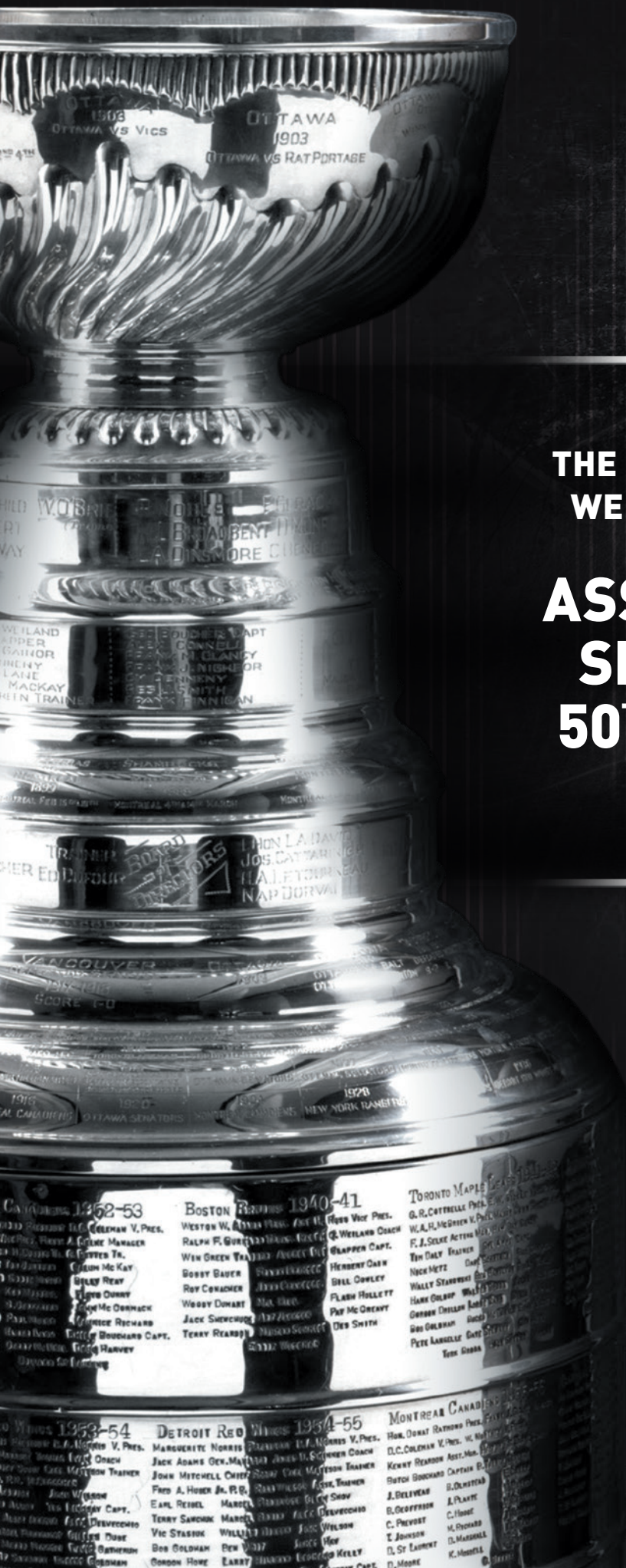
## Glen Crevier, Conference Coordinator

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Glen was assistant managing editor for sports at the Star Tribune in Minneapolis for 20 years before retiring in 2018, and he spent 43 years in daily journalism. He was previously sports editor at the News Tribune in Tacoma, Wash., and the Santa Rosa (Calif.) Press Democrat. After graduating from Hiram (Ohio) College in 1975, he was a sports columnist for the Arizona Daily Star in Tucson, Ariz., and the Sacramento Union. Glen has been involved with APSE since 1988, and he was president of the organization in 2005-06.



**G. Crevier**



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# ASSOCIATED PRESS SPORTS EDITORS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

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# Red Smith Award

Claire Smith | 2023 Recipient



By Julian Basena, University of Maryland, SJI Class of 2023

In April, Claire Smith was voted the winner of the 2023 Red Smith Award, regarded as the highest sports journalism honor in the United States. She is the first African American woman to win the award, given annually by APSE to a writer or editor who has made major contributions to sports journalism. Smith is the sixth woman and fourth Black journalist to win the award.

Her accomplishments are too many to list. Here are just a few. In 1990, Smith became *The New York Times*' first national baseball columnist and the second national baseball columnist in the country, holding that position for eight years. She moved to the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in 1998, where she served as an assistant sports editor and columnist until 2007. She then worked at ESPN from 2007 to 2021. A graduate of Temple University, Smith returned to her alma mater in July 2021 as an assistant professor with the Klein School of Media and Communications and the Claire Smith Center for Sports Media.

In July 2017, Smith received the BBWAA Career Excellence Award for her "meritorious contributions to baseball writing," considered the highest honor in baseball writing.

"I never dreamed of ... being honored with the Red Smith Award, because that's the Mount Olympus in terms of the writers who've received it."

---

## Jon Pessah, Award Presenter

Jon Pessah is a founding editor of *ESPN the Magazine* who was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for editing and writing an examination into the role of racism in Major League Baseball. A 49-year veteran of sports and business journalism in newspapers, magazines and books, Pessah was Assistant Managing Editor/Sports at *Newsday* and Sports Editor at the *Hartford Courant*. Pessah was Deputy Editor at *ESPN Magazine*, where he directed an award-winning investigation into the rise of steroids in baseball.

Pessah's first book—*The Game: Inside the Secret World of Major League Baseball's Power Brokers* (Little, Brown & Company, 2015)—is a *New York Times* bestselling portrait of the power brokers who built major league baseball into a multi-billion-dollar business. Pessah's second book is a biography of American icon and *New York Yankees* Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Berra. Pessah's work has also appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Sporting News*, *The Daily Beast*, *Newsweek*, and *Men's Journal*.

# Red Smith Award

## Past Winners

**1981**

Red Smith

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**1982**

Jim Murray

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**1983**

Shirley Povich

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**1984**

Fred Russell

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**1985**

Blackie Sherrod

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**1986**

Si Burick

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**1987**

Will Grimsley

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**1988**

Furman Bisher

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**1989**

Edwin Pope

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**1990**

Dave Smith

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Dave Kindred

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Ed Storin

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**1993**

Tom McEwen

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**1994**

Dave Anderson

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**1995**

Richard Sandler

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Bill Dwyre

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**1997**

Jerome Holtzman

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**1998**

Sam Lacy

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**1999**

Bud Collins

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Jerry Izenberg

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**2001**

John Steadman

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**2002**

Dick Schaap

**2003**

George Solomon

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**2004**

Jimmy Cannon

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**2005**

Mary Garber

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Joe McGuff

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**2007**

Van McKenzie

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**2008**

W.C. Heinz

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**2009**

Vince Doria

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**2010**

Mitch Albom

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**2011**

Bill Millsaps

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**2012**

Frank Deford

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**2013**

Dan Jenkins

**2014**

Wendell Smith

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**2015**

Bob Ryan

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**2016**

Leigh Montville

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**2017**

Henry Freeman

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**2018**

Terry Taylor

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**2019**

Sandy Rosenbush

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**2020**

Christine Brennan

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**2021**

Sally Jenkins

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**2022**

Leon Carter

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**2023**

Claire Smith

# Diversity Fellows

## Patrick Bernadeau

Patrick is a sports reporter for the Pensacola News Journal. With more than a decade of experience, Bernadeau has worked for various newspapers across Florida, North Dakota and Minnesota. He was born and raised in Brockton, Mass. He graduated from Florida Atlantic University.



## Meredith Perri

Meredith is the high school sports editor for MassLive in Massachusetts. Originally from New York, Meredith moved to Massachusetts to attend Boston University and joined the MassLive team after graduating in 2014. She is a former AWSM Champion.



## Zach Powell

Zach is the sports editor at The Express in Lock Haven, Penn. He is a native of Manassas, Va., and graduated from Wilson College in Pennsylvania. Powell was a three-year captain for the basketball team and obtained his master's degree at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI).



## Alex Vejar

Alex is a sportswriter at The Salt Lake Tribune in Utah covering BYU men's and women's basketball, trending topics, women's sports overall, and everything in between. When he's not working, you can find him watching every film imaginable or arguing why Taylor Swift is more talented than Beyoncé.



## Damon Sayles

Damon is the senior editor for culture at The Athletic. He has worked at ESPN, The Dallas Morning News and Rivals.com, Sayles was named part of the inaugural class of Who's Who in Black Dallas in 2012.



## Kelly Ward

Kelly is an assistant sports editor at The Seattle Times, overseeing coverage of the Mariners and Seahawks. She is an avid Star Trek fan and knuckleball enthusiast. Pronouns are she/her.





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REVIEW-JOURNAL**



**Los Angeles Times**

**The Seattle Times**

# APSE Bulletin & SJI Class of 2023

News and information about APSE and the summer conference, produced and reported by the Sports Journalism Institute Class of 2023 can be found by [clicking here](#) or by going to [sportsjournalisminstitute.org](https://sportsjournalisminstitute.org) and clicking on the “latest news” tab.

## SJI Class of 2023 Roster

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- Julian Basena, The Tennessean, University of Maryland, Sr.
- Damon Brooks, The Washington Post, University of Maryland, Sr.
- Nathan Canilao, Southern California Newspaper Group, San Jose State University, Jr.
- Michael Chavez, The Seattle Times, New Mexico State University, Sr.
- Jordan Davis, The Clarion-Ledger, North Carolina A&T, Sr.
- Lanie De La Milera, Knoxville News Sentinel, University of South Florida, Sr.
- Sarah Effress, The Charlotte Observer, Northwestern University, Sr.
- Noah Furtado, Star Tribune, Arizona State University, Soph.
- Christina Huang, Yahoo! Sports, University of Texas
- Jerry Jiang, The Commercial Appeal, Pepperdine University, Sr.
- Kobe Mosley, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Butler University, Sr.
- Lawrence Price, The Kansas City Star, Northwestern University, Jr.
- Peter Rauterkus, The Dallas Morning News, Louisiana State University, Jr.
- Tia Reed, ESPN, Arizona State University, Soph.
- Anish Vasudevan, Baltimore Banner, Syracuse University, Jr.

# Conference Dates & Locations

## APSE Convention Sites

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1974..... New York	1992..... San Francisco	2010..... Salt Lake City
1975..... Kansas City	1993..... New Orleans	2011..... Boston
1976..... New Orleans	1994..... Dana Point, CA	2012..... Chicago
1977..... Chicago	1995..... Atlanta	2013..... Detroit
1978..... Dallas	1996..... Cleveland	2014..... Washington/ Arlington, VA
1979..... Minneapolis	1997..... St. Petersburg, FL	2015..... San Diego
1980..... Washington	1998..... Richmond, VA	2016..... Charlotte
1981..... Denver	1999..... Phoenix	2017..... New Orleans
1982..... Tarpon Springs, Fla.	2000..... Chicago	2018..... Nashville
1983..... Santa Monica, CA	2001..... Baltimore	2019..... Atlanta
1984..... Philadelphia	2002..... Seattle	2020..... Canceled due to Coronavirus pandemic
1985..... Kings Island, Ohio	2003..... Dallas	2021..... Las Vegas
1986..... Phoenix	2004..... Philadelphia	2022..... Indianapolis
1987..... Orlando	2005..... Orlando	2023..... Las Vegas
1988..... St. Louis	2006..... Las Vegas	2024..... Charlotte (June 20-22)
1989..... Portland, OR	2007..... St. Louis	
1990..... Boston	2008..... Minneapolis	
1991..... San Antonio	2009..... Pittsburgh	

## 2024 APSE Dates

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**Feb. 25-28:** Winter conference and judging, Doubletree Suites, Lake Buena Vista, FL.

**June 20-22:** Summer conference, Marriott South Park, Charlotte, N.C.

## Plaques

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To order additional plaques, contact Bunkie Trinite Trophies, 12 E. Grace Street, Richmond, VA 23219; (804)-648-2416 or [Chris.Bunkie@globalweb.net](mailto:Chris.Bunkie@globalweb.net)