



STATE GAMES

35

MISSISSIPPI

1991 - 2026

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State of Mississippi
TATE REEVES
Governor



June 5, 2026

Dear Friends:

As Governor of the Great State of Mississippi, it is my pleasure to welcome each of you athletes, coaches, families, and visitors to this year's State Games. This event represents the very best of our state: determination, sportsmanship, community, and pride.

The State Games of Mississippi are more than just a competition. They are a celebration of hard work, perseverance, and the unifying power of sports. From seasoned athletes to first-time participants, each of you contributes to the spirit that makes this event so special. Your dedication inspires us all and shows the strength and character of Mississippians.

As you compete, I encourage you to give your very best, support one another, and enjoy every moment. Take time to build friendships, experience our hospitality, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

We are proud to host this tradition and grateful to the organizers, volunteers, and sponsors who make it possible year after year. Your commitment ensures that the State Games continue to thrive and positively impact communities across our state.

Again, welcome to the 2026 State Games of Mississippi and thank you for being a part of this event. I wish you the best of luck in your competitions and hope you have a safe, enjoyable, and unforgettable experience. May God bless you, and may God bless the State of Mississippi.

Sincerely,

Tate Reeves
Governor



CITY OF MERIDIAN

Mayor

PERCY BLAND, III
(P) 601.485.1927
(F) 601.485.1911

City Council

ELLIOT BREWER
Ward 1

DWAYNE DAVIS
Ward 2

TRACY V. TIMS
Ward 3

ROMANDE WALKER
Ward 4

DUSTIN HILL
Ward 5

COUNCIL CLERK
(P) 601.485.1959
(F) 601.485.1913

March 18, 2026

State Games of Mississippi
P. O. Box 5866
Meridian, MS 39302

Dear State Games of Mississippi,

On behalf of the City of Meridian, it is my great pleasure to welcome all athletes, coaches, families, and visitors to the State Games of Mississippi. We are honored to host this exciting celebration of athleticism, competition, and community spirit.

Meridian is proud to open its doors to you for this special event. Our city has a long tradition of hospitality, and we are committed to making your experience both memorable and enjoyable.

The State Games represent more than just competition; they embody dedication, perseverance, and the unifying power of sport. Whether you are here to compete, cheer, or simply take in the excitement, we celebrate your commitment and support of the State Games. As you participate in the games, I encourage you to explore all that Meridian has to offer. Enjoy our beautiful parks, hotels, museums, and fabulous restaurants.

Welcome to Meridian, and we wish every athlete the very best of luck.

Sincerely,

Percy L. Bland, III
Mayor

PLB/bk

City Departments

Chief Administrative Officer
(P) 601.485.1929
(F) 601.485.1911

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(F) 601.484.6813

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(F) 601.485.1979

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(P) 601.485.1822
(F) 601.485.1035

Public Safety
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(F) 601.484.6895

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TO ALL ATHLETES, PARTICIPANTS, VOLUNTEERS, FAMILIES, AND FANS OF THE 2026 STATE GAMES OF MISSISSIPPI:

On behalf of the Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors and the citizens of Lauderdale County, we extend a warm welcome and commend you for your participation in the 35th annual State Games of Mississippi.

To those of you returning, we are glad to have you back. If this is your first visit, we hope you enjoy your stay as much as we enjoy hosting you. Our community is proud to go the extra mile to make this a memorable weekend for everyone.

Sports offer so much—whether you are competing, coaching, cheering, or simply watching. They teach valuable lessons and bring people together in meaningful ways. We are especially proud to see so many families participating together. In our eyes, every participant in the State Games of Mississippi is a winner.

We know your schedule will be full, but we invite you and your families to visit us again when you have more time to explore all that Lauderdale County has to offer. From outdoor recreation to cultural events, there is something here for everyone. We look forward to welcoming you back as part of our community.

We wish each of you the very best in your competitions. It is our hope that your experience at the 2026 State Games of Mississippi will be one you cherish for years to come.

Sincerely yours,

Josh Todd, President
Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors



**VISIT
MERIDIAN**

Dear Athletes,

Welcome to Meridian! On behalf of Visit Meridian Tourism, we are thrilled to have you here for the State Games of Mississippi.

Your dedication, discipline, and passion for competition are truly inspiring, and we are honored to host you as you showcase your talents and represent your communities from across the state. Whether you're competing for a personal best, a podium finish, or simply the love of the game, we celebrate your commitment and wish you the very best.

While you're here, we invite you to explore all that Meridian has to offer—from our rich history and vibrant arts scene to our local dining and welcoming Southern hospitality. We hope you take time to enjoy the experience both on and off the field.

Be sure to check out our website, visitmeridian.com for a full list of attractions, restaurants, events and shopping. From the state's oldest restaurant to live music venues, there's something fun for everyone in Meridian!

Thank you for being part of this exciting event and for bringing your energy and spirit to our city. We hope your time in Meridian is memorable, successful, and filled with great moments.

Best of luck in your competitions! We hope to see you again soon.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Carmichael". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Laura Carmichael
Executive Director
Visit Meridian Tourism

200 22nd Avenue • Meridian, MS 39301 • 601-482-8001

2026 Individual Sports

2 Gun Competition - June 14

Battlefield Shooting Club - Collinsville

5K Road Race & Walk - June 6

Bonita Lakes - Meridian

Archery - Youth Championship - June 13

Lauderdale County Ag Center - Meridian

Bowling - June 27 & 28

Event Zona - Meridian

Chess - June 20

MCC Riley Workforce Development Center - Meridian

Cornhole - June 27

Phi Delta Kappa - Meridian

Cycling/Time Trial - June 20

John Stennis Drive - Meridian

Disc Golf - June 13 (Singles) June 20 (Doubles)

B&W Disc Golf Course - Collinsville

Equestrian Events - Barrel Racing & Pole Bending - July 4

Lauderdale County Ag Center - Meridian

Fencing - June 13 & 14

Oxford Fencing Club - Oxford

Junior Golf - TBD

Bay Pointe Golf Course - Brandon

Martial Arts - May 16

Meridian Community College Gym - Meridian

Mountain Bike - May 17

Ridgeland Trails - Madison

Pickleball - June 12-14

The Picklr Biloxi - Biloxi

Paddle Race - April 25

Bonita Lakes - Meridian

PCC/Pistol Competition - June 13

Battlefield Shooting Club - Collinsville

Powerlifting - June 13

Meridian High School Weight Room - Meridian

Pumpkin 5K Run & Mini Run - October 24

Bonita Lakes - Meridian

Swimming Masters - June 6

Meridian Community College - Meridian

Swimming Youth - June 27-28

Meridian Community College - Meridian

Table Tennis - June 6

Velma Young Community Center - Meridian

Junior Tennis - June 5-7

Northeast Tennis Center - Meridian

Track & Field - June 20 - Meridian

Ray Stadium - Meridian High School

Trail Run - June 27

Bonita Lakes - Meridian

2026 Team Sports

All Star Baseball - Tryouts June 3

District 1 - Northeast Community College - Booneville

District 2 - Northwest Community College - Senatobia

District 3 - MS Delta Community College - Moorhead

District 4 - East MS Community College - Scooba

All Star Baseball - Tryouts June 2

District 5 - Jones College - Ellisville

District 6 - Hinds Community College - Raymond

District 7 - Copiah-Lincoln Community College - Wesson

District 8 - MS Gulf Coast Community College - Perkinston

All Star Baseball Tournament - June 15-18

Meridian Community College - Meridian

Baseball - Junior High School - May 26-29

Central - Southeast High School - Meridian

South - Biloxi High School - Biloxi

Baseball - High School - June 1-4

Central - Southeast High School - Meridian

South - Biloxi High School - Biloxi

Baseball Youth - Grand Slam - May 29-31

Center City - Pearl and The Quarry - Brandon

Basketball Youth & Adult - May 29-31

Various Gyms - Vicksburg

Softball Youth Recreational Teams - May 2

Northeast Park Softball Complex - Meridian

Softball Youth Fast Pitch Rec Teams - September 12

Northeast Park Softball Complex - Meridian

Softball - High School - Fast Pitch - June 1-4

South - Biloxi High School - Biloxi

Soccer High School 7v7 - June 20

Northeast Park

Soccer Youth - June 6 & 7

Jaycee Park, QV Skyes Park, MCC, Sammie Davidson - Meridian

Stickball - June 10-13

Choctaw Central High School - Choctaw

Ultimate Flying Disc - May 30

Freedom Ridge Park - Ridgeland

Volleyball - 2 Person - June 20

John Moss Volleyball Courts - Meridian

Volleyball - 4 Person - June 27

John Moss Volleyball Courts - Meridian

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A healthy community begins with the health of its people — and when you thrive, we all do.

It's good to be **blue.**



MISSISSIPPI



State Games 2025 Ochsner Rush Athletes of Year

Three standout competitors from the 2025 State Games of Mississippi have been named Ochsner Rush Health Athletes of the Year, recognized for their achievements, dedication and sportsmanship across multiple sports.

This year's honorees are Aubrey Atchison of Biloxi (Youth Athlete of the Year), Kaytelyn Harris of Quitman (Female Athlete of the Year) and Daniel Wile of Meridian (Male Athlete of the Year).

The 2025 State Games of Mississippi welcomed more than 5,000 amateur athletes competing in more than 40+ sports. "It has been amazing to witness the levels of competition and spirit throughout this year's events," said Missye Dozier, Executive Director of the Games. "We're deeply thankful for our sponsors and volunteers who continue to support our mission and help celebrate the achievements of Mississippi's amateur athletes."

Modeled after a national program, the State Games of Mississippi Athlete of the Year awards were created to honor athletes who embody the true spirit of the Games. Coaches, officials, athletes, volunteers and spectators submitted nominations from each sport, highlighting individuals who demonstrate outstanding participation, sportsmanship, character, achievement and positive attitude. From those nominees, three overall winners were selected — one male, one female and one youth athlete — to receive the program's highest honor.

The State Games also named the 2025 Volunteer of the Year, Gene May of Collinsville.

A long-time supporter of the Games, Gene has volunteered at both the 4.6 Trail Run and the Sunfish Triathlon at Bonita for several years. His commitment to community and fitness extends far beyond volunteering. After retiring 18 years ago, Gene began running marathons — completing the full Magnolia Marathon in Meridian in 2016 at the age of 70. Since then, he has participated in multiple half marathons in Meridian and Hattiesburg.

Gene is a proud grandfather to seven grandchildren and shares



his home with three beloved cats. In January of 2025, he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. Despite this challenge, Gene and his wife Debbie remain active and positive, starting each day with a walk together.

Aubrey Lynn Atchison — 2025 Youth Athlete of the Year

Aubrey Atchison of Biloxi is a senior at Biloxi High School and has been playing softball for 13 years, including 3 years competing in the State Games of Mississippi. In the 2025 Games, she posted a .636 batting average, scored 4 runs, and tallied 5 RBIs. Her performance capped off a standout season that included First Team All-Region 4-7A honors, selection to the Mississippi Gulf Coast All-Stars Futures Game and recognition as Biloxi High School's Offensive Player of the Year.

Aubrey's path to success hasn't been easy. After breaking her ankle in 2022, she faced a long road to recovery, eventually returning to the varsity team while still in 8th grade. Two more injuries followed, but Aubrey never gave up — showing up to

train, support her teammates and lead through adversity. She says the challenges taught her patience, resilience and how to lead with grace.

“Softball is so much more than just a sport to me,” Aubrey said. “It’s where I found my passion, my people and my purpose.”

Kaytelyn Harris — 2025 Female Athlete of the Year

Kaytelyn Harris of Quitman has only been playing disc golf for a year and a half, but she’s already earned back-to-back gold medals in the State Games of Mississippi and placed in ten tournaments across the region.

This year, she reached a personal milestone by shooting her best tournament round at just four strokes over par. She said the biggest challenge isn’t physical, but mental: “I work at getting out of my head and just throwing. Each round, I make a conscious effort to just have fun and enjoy the sport, no matter the score.”

As a single mom to three young children, Kaytelyn found disc golf during a difficult time — and with it, a supportive community. “She’s out there every chance she gets — rain or shine,” said Disc Golf Commissioner Bruce Bullock. “Her dedication and improvement have been incredible to watch.”

Daniel Wile — 2025 Male Athlete of the Year

Daniel Wile of Meridian has been involved in endurance sports for more than a decade. He has participated in the State Games of Mississippi twice, earning one gold and one silver medal in cycling, as well as two gold and two silver medals in Masters Swimming.

A passionate cyclist, Daniel posted a remarkable time of 00:55:14.76 in this year’s cycling event — just milliseconds behind the gold medalist. His love of the sport began through triathlon training and over the years he has completed three Ironman races, including the prestigious 2022 Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii. He was also named the 2021 Heart o’ Dixie Triathlon Champion.

Daniel said he enjoys the opportunity to focus solely on cycling during the State Games: “When you don’t have to save your energy for the run, you really get to empty the tank and see what you can do.” Off the course, he balances training with a busy life and credits his wife and family for their continued support and encouragement.

Other nominees for the 2025 Ochsner Rush Health Athlete of the Year included:

- 2 GunMichael Lang
- 5K Road Race.....Diego Suarez Reyes
- Youth ArcheryHunter Martin
- All-Star Baseball.....Ethan Dodson
- High School BaseballConnor Lofton
- Jr High School BaseballEaston Stewart
- Youth BaseballT.K. Rutledge
- BowlingDarrell Cooper
- Chess.....Leo Steinbach
- Cornhole.....Nathan Perkins
- Equestrian: Barrell RacingMadalyn Showes
- Equestrian: Pole BendingDalton Abston
- FencingAdam Ray
- Martial ArtsJolee Staring
- Mountain BikePaul Graham
- Paddle Race.....Jeb Berry
- Pistol CompetitionLes Pogue
- Youth SoccerKailynn McMullan
- Youth Soccer.....William Addington
- Soccer High School 7v7Annisten Snider
- Youth Softball Recreational.....Adalynn Haney
- Sporting Clays.....Garreth Barham
- Stickball.....Edka Charlie
- Masters SwimmingAlison Davis
- Table TennisMario Scott
- Junior TennisHolly Young
- Trail RunCalvin Green
- Ultimate Flying Disc.....Lee Kleyla
- Volleyball 2 PersonKenneth Turner
- Volleyball 4 PersonPatrick Cook



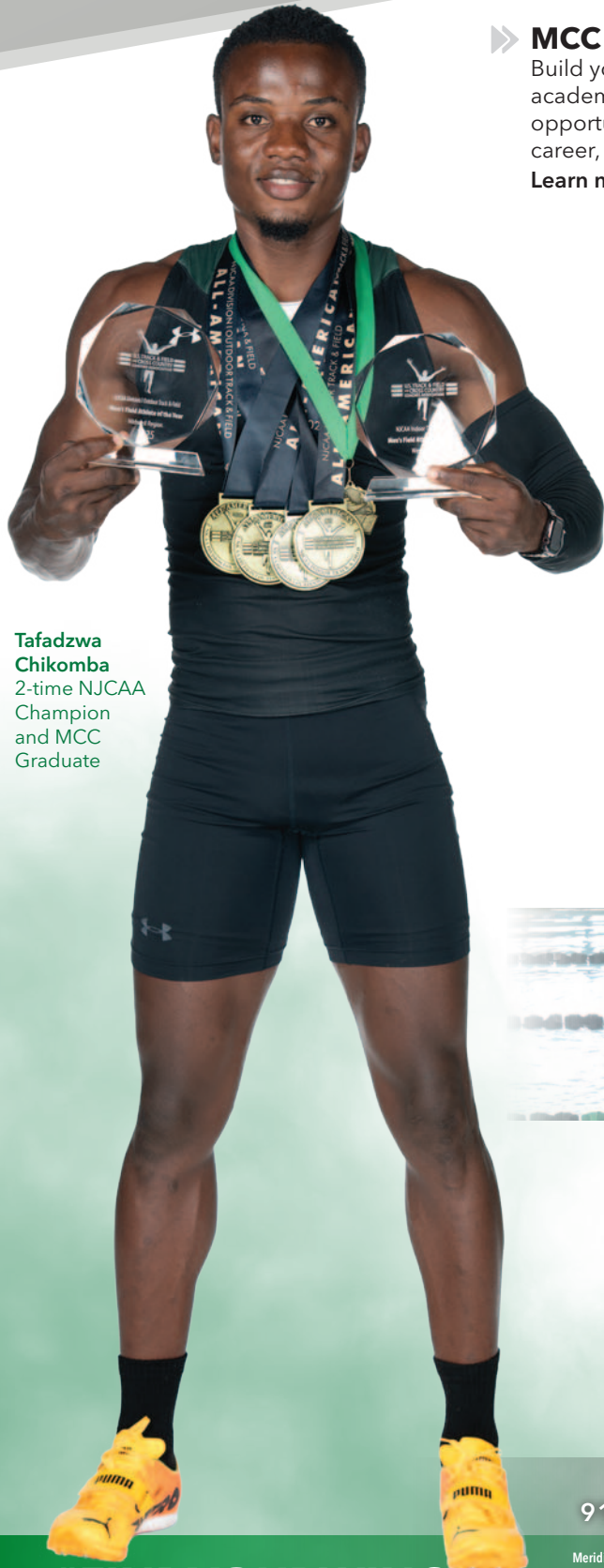
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Meridian Community College is proud to be part of a community that supports and grows together. Through education and athletics, MCC and Lauderdale County continue to build a stronger future for generations to come.



MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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The traditional Choctaw game of stickball is one of the fiercest field sports in America. Its roots go back centuries, when warriors gathered together to play a game to promote peace and unity, rather than fight a war that would create divisions.

Today's Choctaw warriors play the game for sport. But they take pride in keeping an important part of the Choctaw legacy alive.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is proud to be a part of the State Games of Mississippi. As a proud sponsor, we wish each participant the best of luck in competition.

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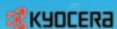
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State Games — Celebrating 35 Years

The State Games of Mississippi began in 1991 with 1,200 athletes competing in 12 sports. The 2025 State Games consisted of 40 sports with more than 5,000 athletes competing. This year, 40+ sports will again attract amateur athletes from across the state for top competition.

The State Games of Mississippi is a privately-sponsored, non-profit organization that promotes amateur athletics and healthy lifestyles for Mississippians of all ages and abilities.

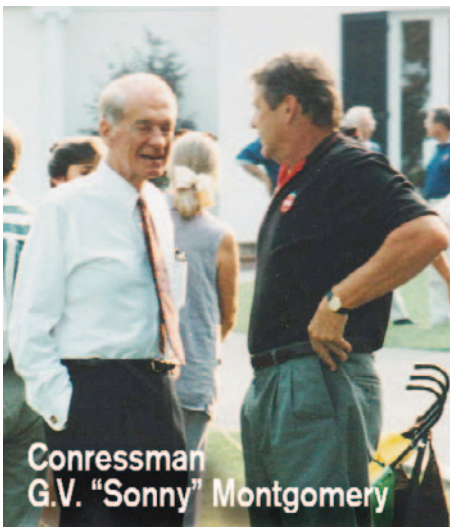
The State Games of Mississippi is a member of the National Congress of State Games and is affiliated with the U.S. Olympic Committee. Mississippi is one of 35 states that hold State Games competitions each year.

The State Games of Mississippi is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors. A five-person staff conducts the day-to-day activities of the organization.

The State Games of Mississippi is a non-profit organization funded by sponsorships, donations and entry fees. It is our many sponsors who help us keep entry fees affordable.



In the first years of the State Games, the Opening Ceremonies were held at Meridian High School's Ray Stadium.



Congressman
G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery



1996
Brenda Hiatt

Opening Ceremony • June 5, 2026



Food, fun, parade of athletes, lighting of the State Games torch and spectacular fireworks!

Festivities kick-off at 5:30 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies begin at 7:00 p.m.

Downtown Meridian, Mississippi



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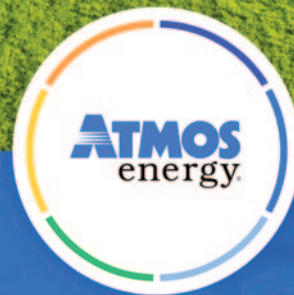
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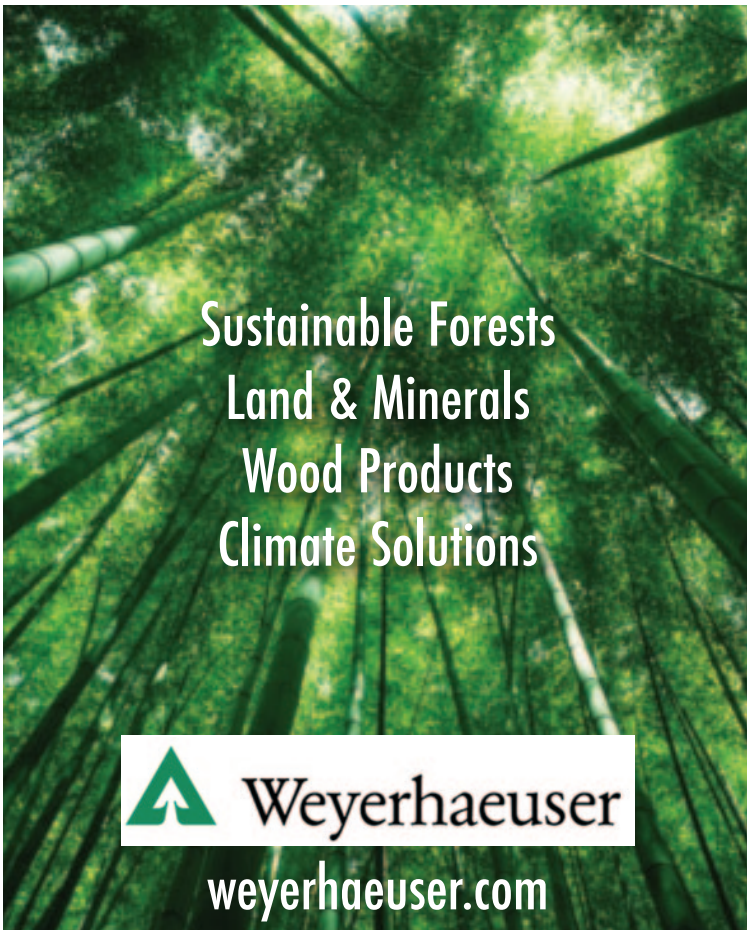


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Shining bright

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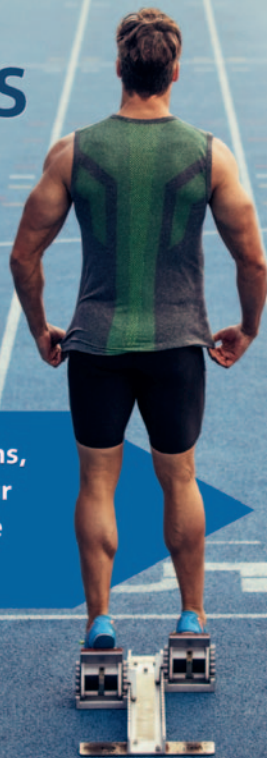
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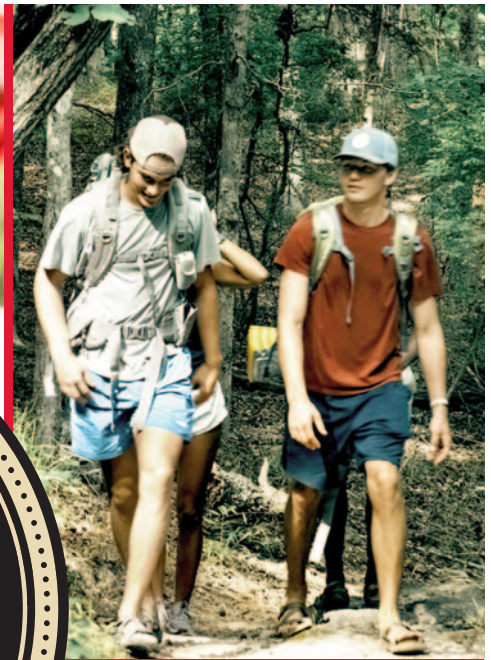
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