

# WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

## Welcome to the Command Post!

*ICYMI: Commanders Fans Select Their Seats for 2023 Season as FedExField Scores Major Stadium Upgrades, Diversity in Sports Medicine Initiative Celebrates Inaugural Year, Coach Jennifer King Speaks at NFL Women's Forum, HBCU Legacy Bowl Kicks off in New Orleans and Team Relaunches Commanders Read Initiative*

**In Case You Missed It:** This past week FedExField announced major upgrades to the stadium's video boards and audio systems ahead of the 2023 NFL season. Fans had a chance to select their seats for next season, which marked an approximate 20% increase for the Commanders in season ticket holders. Howard Medical students Justin Moore and Jessica Smith celebrate one year with the Commanders under the NFL Diversity in Sports Medical Pipeline Initiative. Assistant Running Backs Coach Jennifer King spoke at the NFL Women's Forum in Indianapolis on her own barrier-breaking career. The HBCU Legacy Bowl played its second inaugural game in New Orleans, providing top HBCU athletes the chance to make an impression ahead of this year's NFL draft. Commanders also piloted the Commanders Read initiative at a local Maryland school with the goal of helping students across the DMV develop grade-level reading proficiency skills.

### FedExField Scores Major Upgrades to Video Boards and Audio Systems

On Thursday, March 2, the Washington Commanders announced upgrades to the stadium's video boards and audio systems for the upcoming 2023 NFL Season. "The upgraded video displays and audio systems are the next steps in modernizing our stadium to create an exciting and immersive gameday experience," said Trista Langdon, SVP of Operations & Guest Experience. Fans across the DMV will have front-row access to the tech and information they need for an immersive gameday experience and atmosphere at FedExField. Upgrades will give fans better visibility of game footage and improved audio, stats, play-by-play engagement, graphics, and more. **To see more of what's in store at FedExField this fall, visit the full press release [HERE](#).**



### **Commanders Host Select-A-Seat Event**

Over the weekend, the Commanders hosted the annual Select-A-Seat event, welcoming thousands of prospective new season ticket holders to FedExField to pick their seat of choice and enjoy locker room tours, meet-and-greets with Washington Legend Gary Clark, and complimentary snacks and beverages. The week prior, approximately 1,000 current season ticket holders were treated to a seat relocation event, where they had the opportunity to upgrade their seating for 2023. At the conclusion of the weekend, the team celebrated an approximate 20% increase in season ticket holders compared to the 2022 season, a testament to the Commanders investments on and off the field.

### **Diversity in Sports Medicine Initiative Celebrates Inaugural Year**

The NFL Diversity in Sports Medical Pipeline Initiative was created in 2022 by the NFL and NFL Physicians Society (NFLPS) to increase and diversify the pipeline of students interested in pursuing careers in sports medicine. Under the leadership of Commanders Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anthony Casolaro and Chief Brand & Strategy Officer Amina Bulman, the talent pipeline program launched in Washington in collaboration with Howard University's College of Medicine with the goal of giving young students at HBCUs the chance to start a career in the NFL.

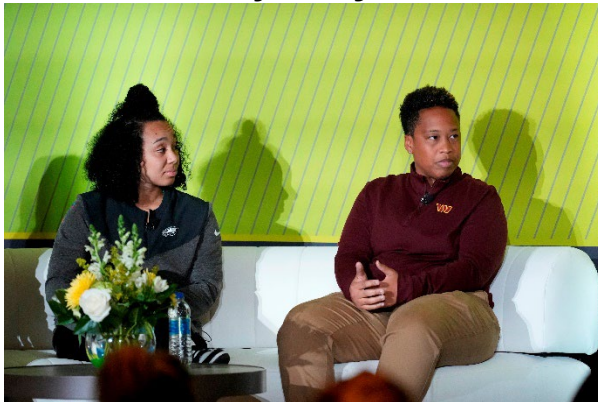
This year, the Commanders welcomed two Howard University College of Medicine students into the program: Jessica Smith and Justin Moore. Justin recently sat down with the NFL to talk about his experience and said, "I think it's super important to have more minority positions. I think some players might be a little bit more comfortable or able to relate on a different level." ***To learn more about the NFL's pipeline initiative visit [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and the [NFL.com](#).***



### **Coach Jennifer King Joins NFL Women's Forum Panel**

The NFL recently hosted its seventh annual Women's Forum in Indianapolis. As part of the event lineup, the 41 attendees, all of whom are working in sports, heard from a panel of the League's first women coaches, including the Commanders' very own Assistant Running Backs Coach Jennifer King, who became the first Black woman to be hired as a full-time NFL coach in 2021. More than forty women sports professionals attended the discussion, which focused on providing more opportunities for female

coaches in the NFL. Click [HERE](#) for a recap from the TODAY Show. **To learn more about Jennifer's journey click [HERE](#).**



[Images courtesy of the NFL]

### **HBCU Legacy Bowl Showcases Black Collegiate Talent**

On February 25, the city of New Orleans hosted the second annual HBCU Legacy Bowl, which featured 99 of the best draft-eligible players from more than 40 different HBCUs playing in front of 30 NFL scouts. Players were broken up into two teams, Team Gaither and Team Robinson, in honor of legendary former coaches Jake Gaither and Eddie Robinson. The bowl game was part of a week-long celebration of Black culture and history, providing invaluable exposure for HBCU students to prospective teams.

The HBCU Legacy Bowl was created by the Black College Football Hall of Fame under the leadership of former Washington Commanders quarterback Doug Williams. In 1978, Williams became the first Black quarterback to be drafted in the first round of an NFL draft. In a recent interview with Sports Illustrated, Doug shared, “The most important thing from this whole experience, to be honest, is not just the game itself but to give a lot of guys an opportunity to be seen.” **To read the full interview and learn more about the Legacy Bowl, visit [HERE](#).**





### **Commanders Read Kicks Off at Kenilworth Elementary**

Last month, the Commanders Read program was piloted at Kenilworth Elementary School in Bowie, Maryland. Washington Legends Ken Harvey and Josh Wilson read a chapter of a book focused on African American Culture to 135 students in recognition of Black History Month. After the read-aloud, Harvey and Wilson participated in a Q&A and surprised the students with a special announcement, letting them know they will receive a classroom set of diversity, equity, and inclusion books provided by Heart of America and the Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation. Commanders Read is designed to encourage a love of reading for 4th to 5th graders with the goal of helping students develop grade-level reading proficiency skills by the time they graduate elementary school. The Commanders Read series features Commanders players and Washington Legends (Alumni) reading popular Scholastic books in a fun "read along" style for students to help them engage and learn. Stay tuned for future Commanders Read events in the coming months. **Check out downloadable photos and video from Commanders Read [HERE](#).**

