

April 3rd, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Major Announcement: World Shot Put Series Comes to Beale Street as Part of the *Ed Murphey Classic*

Memphis, TN — The Ed Murphey Classic is proud to announce the addition of the **World Shot Put Series**, created and headlined by world record holder Ryan Crouser, set to take place on **Saturday, July 11, 2026**, at **Handy Park on Beale Street** in Memphis, Tennessee.

This exciting addition will be held alongside the fan-favorite **Beale Street Pole Vault**, expanding the Beale Street Games into a dynamic, multi-event street showcase that brings elite track and field competition directly to the fans in a high-energy, accessible environment. The addition of the World Shot Put Series reflects the continued evolution of the Ed Murphey Classic and its mission to bring world-class athletics to unique, fan-friendly environments.

A Global Star Comes to Beale Street

Ryan Crouser, one of the most dominant athletes in track and field history, will headline the event. Crouser holds the current world record in the shot put at **23.56m (77-3.56 ft)** and is a **three-time Olympic Champion** and **three-time World Champion**. His presence is expected to draw significant national and international attention to Memphis.

Eddie Murphey, President of the Ed Murphey Classic, shared:

"This idea has been percolating since I attended the 2023 Diamond League finals in Zurich. They held all of the field events for the Zurich City games on the night before the meet in the downtown promenade by the opera house. I immediately thought, "Why not do this on Beale Street."

Max Paquette, Meet Director, added:

"Bringing the shot put to Beale Street alongside the pole vault transforms this into a true street athletics festival. The hope is to continue to expand in future years with the addition of a women's long jump event on Beale Street. It's about energy, accessibility, and bringing the sport in front of new fans."

Building Momentum: Ryan Crouser to Attend the Houston Classic

Ahead of the July event, Crouser will make a special promotional appearance at the **Houston Classic**, the region's largest high school track and field meet:

- **Date:** Saturday, April 11
- **Time:** 12:15 PM – 1:45 PM
- **Location:** Houston High School (Memphis, TN)

Fans and athletes will have the opportunity to meet Crouser, take photos, and learn more about the upcoming World Shot Put Series. This activation aims to build early excitement and generate media coverage leading into the summer.

Scott Hamlett, Houston Classic Meet Director, stated:

“The Houston Classic draws some of the best athletes and competition in the area. Giving these athletes the opportunity to meet someone on the level of Ryan Crouser is an unmatched experience, and allows them to be a witness to what can happen when true dedication to sport and talent combine.”

Ed Murphey Classic 2026: A Premier Global Event

Celebrating its **10th anniversary**, the Ed Murphey Classic continues to rise as one of the premier track and field meets in the United States and globally. Last year, the meet ranked 23rd globally among an elite group of cities including Paris, London, Monaco, and Zürich. The event also ranked third in the United States and this year, proudly joined the inaugural USATF Tour alongside iconic meets like the Drake Relays, Penn Relays, and Mt. SAC. This isn't just a milestone for our event—it's Memphis on the global stage.

Event Schedule:

- **Friday, July 10:** In-stadium competition at the Billy J. Murphy Soccer & Track Complex (University of Memphis)
- **Saturday, July 11:** Beale Street Games featuring:
 - Beale Street Pole Vault
 - **NEW:** World Shot Put Series (Ryan Crouser)

A Defining Moment for Memphis Sports

With its continued growth, the Ed Murphey Classic is positioning itself as a key lead-in to the **2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games**, while elevating Memphis as a destination for elite athletics. The Ed Murphey Classic is uniquely positioned at the center of this momentum, with more than 200 Olympic-level athletes expected to compete in Memphis in the lead-up to 2028.

The combination of world-class talent, innovative event presentation, and community engagement makes this a can't-miss moment for fans, media, and the sport of track and field.

Media Opportunities

Media are encouraged to attend the Houston Classic on April 11 to capture early coverage, interviews, and promotional content leading into July. Images of Ryan Crouser are available upon request.

For media inquiries, interviews, or additional information, please contact:

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