



Will Georgia’s stable of elite recruits mean much vs. UT?

SPORTS, 1B

Knoxville NEWS SENTINEL

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Sheriff aspirant hedges his bet

Candidate picks running mate to be chief deputy

Allie Feinberg
Knoxville News Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Bernie Lyon, a candidate to replace Knox County Sheriff Tom Spangler, announced he has a running mate who will serve as his chief deputy if he wins in 2026. It’s an unusual move that raises questions about Lyon’s campaign for the sheriff’s office.

Lyon, who is Spangler’s chief deputy, said he is running with Capt. Aaron Yarnell. As chief deputy, Yarnell would step in as sheriff if Lyon were to become incapacitated or die while in office.

Lyon said two people called him with concerns about his health after he announced his running mate, but the 67-year-old told Knox News the decision has nothing to do with his health.

“As far as I know, I don’t have any serious issues,” Lyon said. He said he was hospitalized with pneumonia this year but feels fine now.

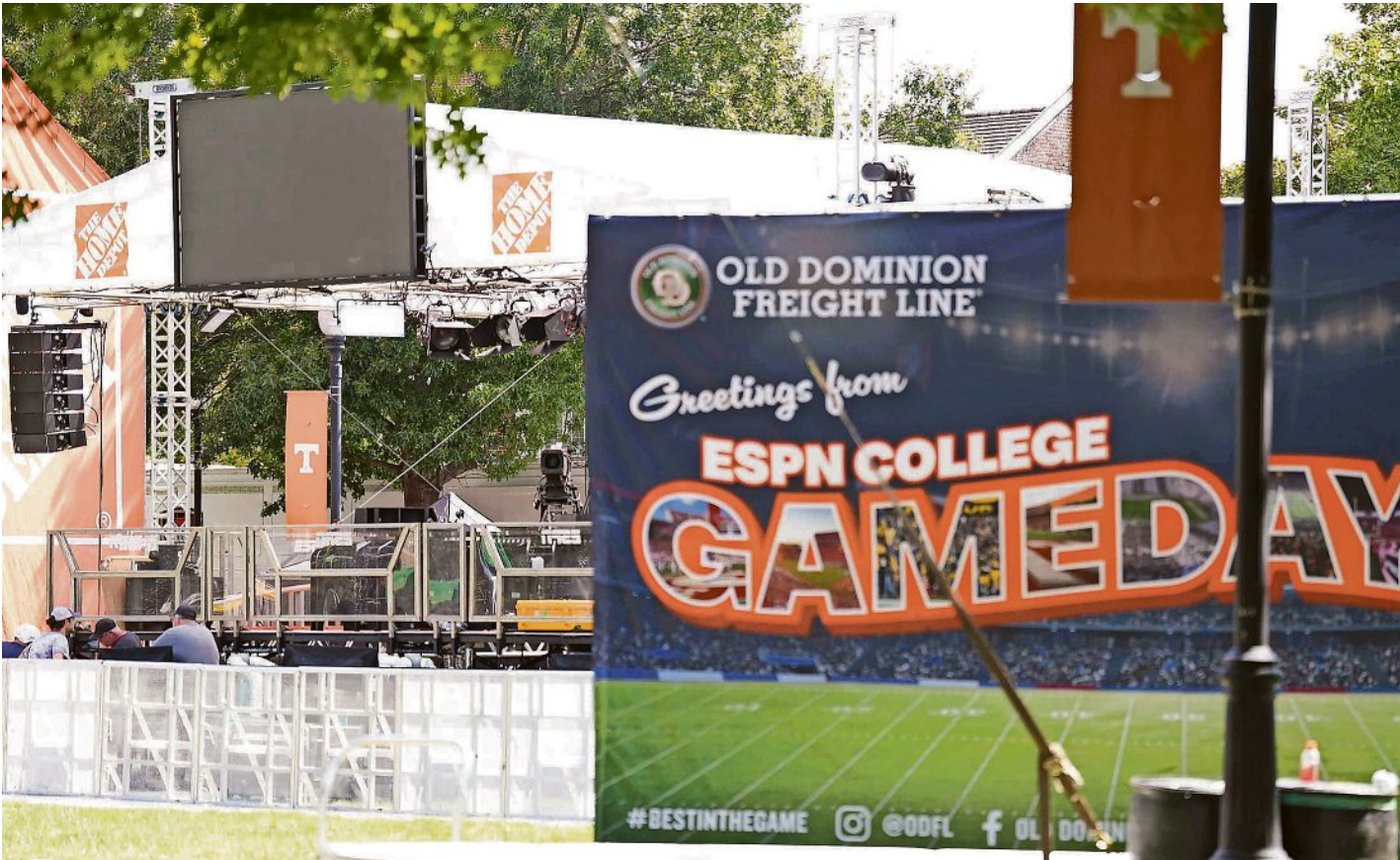
Knox County Administrator of Elections Chris Davis, when asked by Knox News, said Lyon’s appointment of Yarnell as a running mate is a first in his 13 years working Knox County elections. The office does not require or make provision for having a running mate. Yarnell will not appear on the ballot.

To qualify for the sheriff’s race, candidates must submit an affidavit and confirmation of a physical evaluation by a medical professional to the Tennessee Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission by two weeks before the withdrawal deadline, which in this case is Feb. 12. Candidates must also have served three out of the past 10 years as a POST-certified law enforcement officer.

Lyon and Yarnell are both POST certified. But if Lyon didn’t meet the other qualifications, Yarnell could file to run in his place and use some of the resources Lyon has cultivated. Lyon could donate up to \$1,900 to Yarnell’s campaign, but he could refund campaign funds to donors who in turn could give them to Yarnell.

In addition to financial backing, social capital plays a big role

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‘College GameDay’ stirs memorable UT moments

ESPN show has been on hand for some big wins by Volunteers

Tyler Whetstone
Knoxville News Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

With ESPN’s “College GameDay” arriving in Knoxville for the Sept. 13 tilt between Tennessee and Georgia, we’re taking a look back at memorable moments the other times the show has come to town.

This is the 12th time UT has hosted “College GameDay,” and the Vols are a disappointing 5-6 under ESPN’s spotlight, including a 4-5 mark for SEC games. So let’s focus instead on the positives: The Vols have won the past three games when “GameDay” came to Rocky Top, and all three are worth reliving. Call this an exercise in selective memory.

The No. 15 Vols (2-0) host No. 3 Georgia (2-0) on Sept. 13 (3:30 p.m. ET, ABC) at Neyland Stadium.

“College GameDay” will air on ESPN from 9 a.m. to noon ET

from Ayres Hall. Rece Davis is the host and is joined by analysts Kirk Herbstreit, Desmond Howard, Pat McAfee and former Alabama coach Nick Saban. Lady Vols legend Candace Parker will be the guest picker.

Sept. 24, 2016: Tennessee 38, Florida 28

Speaking of selective memories, how about that start to the 2016 season?

“College GameDay” came to Knoxville for Florida, marking the first time in four years ESPN put the Vols in its premier spot. The show had visited for the rivalry game four times previously (1996, 2000, 2002 and 2012) and the Vols were 0-4 in those games. Even worse, Tennessee hadn’t beaten Florida since 2004.

The Vols already had put

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ESPN’s “College GameDay” returns to Knoxville for the Sept. 13 game between the No. 15 Tennessee Volunteers and the No. 3 Georgia Bulldogs. Two days ahead of the live show on the University of Tennessee at Knoxville campus, crews were setting up the stage in front of Ayres Hall. CAITIE MCMEKIN/NEWS SENTINEL



See “College GameDay” setup on the University of Tennessee at Knoxville campus.

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Despite rain, Smokies’ attendance increases by 5%

Joanna Hayes
Knoxville News Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

The Knoxville Smokies closed out their inaugural season at Covenant Health Park with attendance at games up almost 5% over last season in Kodak, despite one of the most challenging seasons because of frequent rainy weather.

It’s trending in the direction the Smokies want to see, but there is always room to grow, Smokies President Chris Allen told Knox News.

There’s one major factor in attendance that was out of the control of the Double-A minor league baseball club: the rain. Weather delays and cancellations were persistent all season and depressed attendance.

The rain also forced One Knoxville SC, the city’s minor league soccer team and the stadium’s secondary tenant, to cancel two games.

“It’s not an excuse. It’s just the reality,” Allen told Knox News.

The Smokies managed 64 home starts on their 69-game schedule. They experienced five rainouts at the new Old City stadium, three of which were sel-

lout games. That cost the club more than 20,000 in attendance.

This year, the Smokies welcomed 295,460 fans in 64 openings for an average of 4,617 per game. Last season in Kodak, there were 295,564 fans in 67 openings for an average of 4,411. This marks a nearly 5% increase in attendance for the

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