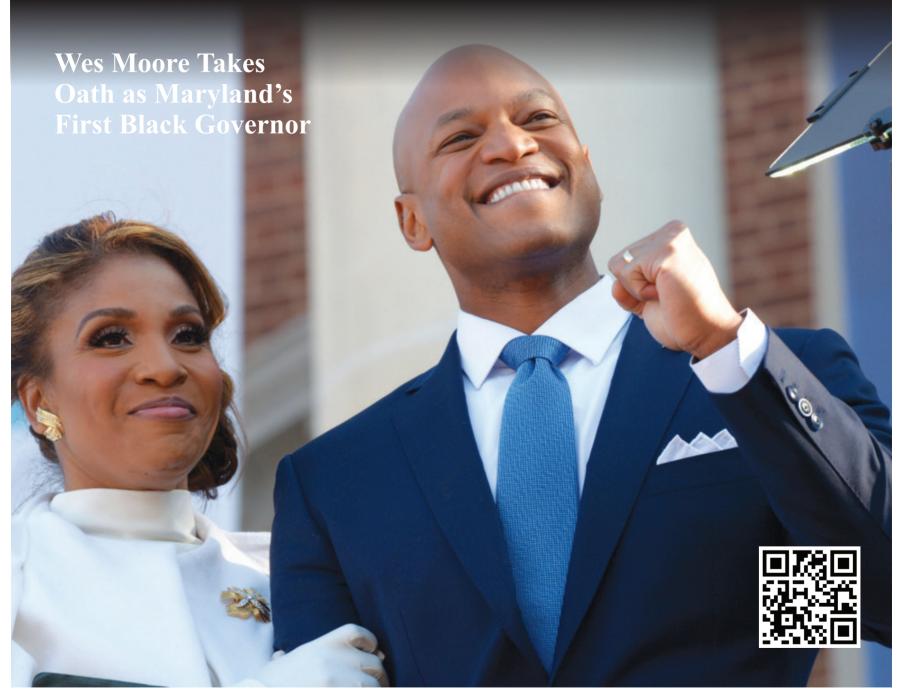


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Wes Moore took his oath of office Wednesday, January 18, 2023, in Annapolis, Maryland, becoming Maryland's 63rd governor and the first Black governor of the state. He has a diverse background as a bestselling author, businessman, nonprofit leader and U.S. Army veteran. Aruna Miller was also sworn in as Maryland's lieutenant governor. She is an immigrant who also made history after becoming the first South Asian to become Lieutenant Governor in Maryland. Photo Credit: Gar Roberts (See more on page 6)

## **CPR Expert Explains the Importance of Knowing Lifesaving CPR Techniques**

### By Andrea Blackstone

Victoria Y. Buggs, a registered nurse and Anne Arundel County resident who originally hails from Gary, Indiana, knows the importance of becoming certified in CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and First Aid. Buggs is a U.S. Army retiree and two-time combat veteran who worked in hospitals. She founded Center for Health Educators and Safety Specialists, LLC in 2015. It is located at 313 Crain Highway South in Glen, Burnie, Maryland.

But many people who are not medical professionals were reminded how important CPR is when Buffalo Bills player, Damar Hamlin, collapsed on the football field during a televised game on January 2, 2023. Denny Kellington, assistant athletic trainer for the team, performed CPR on the football player who suffered cardiac arrest.

Dion Dawkins, offensive tackle for the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League (NFL) said, "Denny Kellington —let's praise this name and person for reviving Our Brother Damar on the field. Denny gave CPR and chest compressions to get his Heart Back Beating #DennyKellington And also, thank you to all the doctors and medical professionals that have helped and assisted."

While commenting about the occurrence, Buggs mentioned that God was in total control of the situation in which Kellington was used to save Hamlin's life through performing CPR.

"CPR is a skill that everyone should learn because you never know when you're going to need it," Buggs said. "I just think that this part of medical training is undervalued. I've been in a situation where my daughter swallowed a quarter. As a healthcare provider, I was able to activate EMS (emergency medical services) and



Victoria Y. Buggs, founder of Center for Health Educators and Safety Specialists, LLC Photo credit : Ben Johnson

even tried to provide her with the Heimlich maneuver."

Buggs explained that sometimes people get nervous when a person is relying on another individual to administer lifesaving measures. She decided to teach other people how to perform CPR without being so anxious and nervous, regardless of who that person may be amid a medical emergency.

The expert noted the center of a person's chest is dense and hard. A normal CPR cycle includes 30 quality chest compressions at a rate of 100-120 beats per minute. The depth of compressions varies depending on if the individual is an adult, child or infant. A person delivering CPR must compress the chest hard and fast. Two rescue breaths, one breath per second, must follow.

Buggs provides CPR services and safety training to enable a diverse population of individuals to become certified in CPR and First Aid. Services are provided in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. Instructor courses are offered across the U.S. "I train and certify individuals in emergency safety training, which includes CPR, First Aid, active shooter, Mental Health First Aid for health care providers, childcare providers, and anyone that wants to learn the techniques of CPR, not to be certified, but they want to learn, such as individuals that are welcoming new babies. They are caregivers," she said.

Youth who typically range around 11 years old and up, graduating high school students, pharmacists, and other people who work in the healthcare field are among additional individuals who need CPR training for their professions. Buggs utilizes a video and implements hands-on training using trainee mannequins during classes that

she teaches.

The expert brought up an important point about providing CPR to strangers due to legal concerns and safety. Hands-only CPR can be administered when a barrier device, which is a form of personal protective equipment, is not available.

"This encourages individuals to participate in giving CPR to a stranger or victim that's unresponsive, in respiratory distress, or in cardiovascular distress. They would say, 'Okay, I don't have to give two

### NOTICE

Any unsolicited manuscripts, editorial cartoons, etc., sent to **The Baltimore Times** become the property of **The Baltimore Times** and its Editorial Department, which reserves the right to accept or reject any or all such unsolicited material. rescue breaths mouth-to-mouth, but I can do continuous compressions, which is very important because we will minimize interruptions of blood flow to the brain.' Every time we compress the chest, the blood is traveling throughout the body."

An automated defibrillator (AED) corrects an arrhythmia, which is an abnormal heartbeat back to a regular heartbeat, according to Buggs. She explained that oftentimes an untrained individual will not operate an AED. A typical CPR class includes AED training.

Buggs wishes that more people would realize how important knowing CPR can be in an emergency situation. She stated that time is of the essence when it comes to increasing the chances of a favorable outcome during resuscitation, although saving a person's life depends on the situation.

"CPR is impactful when the return of spontaneous circulation is achieved. We want this person to get their pulse back, we want this person to start breathing on their own, and we want them to get the post care that they need," Buggs said. "So that is impactful when you can do CPR and bring the pulse and heart rhythm back."

The Center for Health Educators and Safety Specialists, LLC's website is https://ctr4hess.com/.

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## Freedom Rides Tour Offers a New Chance to Learn About the Civil Rights Era

### By Andrea Blackstone

Student activists from the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) launched the Freedom Rides to challenge segregation on interstate buses and bus terminals in 1961. When the interracial group traveled "on buses from Washington, D.C., to Jackson, Mississippi, the riders met violent opposition in the Deep South, garnering extensive media attention and eventually forcing federal intervention from John F. Kennedy's administration," according to The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University.

Learning about the Freedom Rides remains viable in 2023. Kayce Warren, 11, is a sixth grader who embarked upon a very special trip last year. The student traveled to southern states while learning about the Civil Rights era through a Freedom Rides Tour. The hands-on geography lesson allows artists and young activists to learn more history from another lens.

"My favorite part of the trip was when we went to see Fannie Lou Hamer's grave," Kayce said. "I do believe that I care a little more about Black history now that I've been on the [Freedom] Rides because I've seen different museums that portray images of history throughout Black culture."

Carolyn Coles-Warren, Kayce's mother, remarked that Kayce remains motivated to read more books about civil rights.

Kim Poole, a teaching artist and soul fusion singer who hails from Baltimore had an idea to birth an opportunity for artists to learn techniques for social transformation. The Teaching Artist Institute was created in 2015. Poole explained that art is used as a tool for community development.

"Here in Baltimore, during the pandemic, we realized that housing was a major issue. Teaching Artist



Participants of the first Freedom Rides Tour provided by the Teaching Artist Institute in partnership with TAI Tours raise their fists in the air in Little Rock Arkansas.

Institute in Artist in Residence (TAI AIR) launched the artist in residence property in 2022," Poole said.

Offices are located on the first floor. Artist housing space is on the second.

Teaching Artist Institute operates in partnership with TAI Tours. Unique travel experiences are offered through it. Teaching Artist Institute is regarded as an internationally socially engaged art advocacy and training organization. Six of the institute's locations are on the continent of Africa.

An initiative of the Teaching Artist Institute is the Freedom Rides Tour. The journey through history was inspired by Poole's 90-year-old grandmother, Mary McClary.

"We're very committed to historybased excursion and engagement that takes history off the page, especially Black history and shows its modernday relevance," Poole said. From June 11-17, 2023, a second Freedom Rides Tour will be underway through The Teaching Artist Institute. U.S. based vouth who have been served by The Teaching Artist Institute are from D.C., Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Ohio. People who have lived experiences participate on these tours as well. Elders, high school students, activists, or artists are invited to inquire about participating. The trip cost \$3,000 per person to cover travel expenses, two daily meals, entrance into activities and accommodations. A bus will leave from Baltimore. The first tour stop will be the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. It will continue through the South.

Poole added that potential interested participants should fill out an application now. Donations will be accepted until June 1, 2023. Payment plans can be arranged. Donors are being sought to financially support individuals who cannot afford to cover the complete expense. Donations can be made through CashApp by using the \$Cashtag, TAItours. Contributions of any amount are appreciated. Donations can also be made by check, PayPal and Zelle. Volunteering to assist with spreading the word or help are other ways to lend a hand.

"In terms of our current day agenda, we want to go into the areas to not only look at what happened back then, but we go to partner with activists and curators and artists that are doing the work today to show people that the Civil Rights Movement didn't stop in the 60s,"Poole said.

Haki Ammi, an author and EMT firefighter in Baltimore, is the president of The Teaching Artist Institute. He explained that the YMCA helps to provide chaperones for the trip and financial support for youth who are members. Ammi wants churches to support the next trip. He reminded that they were the base of the Civil Rights Movement and the Freedom Rides.

"So far, we have 23 people. Last year we had 31, so we want to add at least 10," Ammi said. "The sponsors didn't contribute as much this year as they did last year. That's why we're short."

Ammi added that teaching young people the Freedom Rides story will breed a next generation of substantive leaders who have experience with traveling up and down the East Coast and understanding different cultures.

"Doing this for young people has been an amazing journey of fulfillment for me," Ammi said.

Find the Teaching Artist Institute on Facebook via https://www.facebook. com/teachingartist. Send an inbox message if you are interested in learning more about the Freedom Rides Tour. Learn more about TAI Tours by visiting https://taitours. org/homepage/. Kim Poole's music page can be located via https://www. facebook.com/kimpoolemusic.

## New Market Development Recommended for BWI/MAA Lucrative MD State Concession Contract

Why has the vote to award a contract to this minority-owned business been halted?

On May 31, 2022, BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) and the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) issued a request for proposals (RFP) for the Non-Exclusive Right to Redevelop, Renovate, Lease & Manage the Retail, Restaurant & Commercial Services at BWI Marshall Airport. During the RFP process, amendments were made to address mandatory team qualifications, and another addressed joint venture arrangements. This is a 20-year, lucrative state contract. In November, BWI/MAA recommended New Market Development, a Maryland based minority-owned business for the award. Earlier this month, MAA halted moving forward with the vote to award the contract and a lawsuit has been filed against MAA concerning the RFP process and its amendments.

By Paris M Brown Associate Publisher The Baltimore Times

### What is really at the heart of the case against BWI/MAA?

Can justice be found in seeking to overturn BWI/MAA's recommendations of this Maryland-based, Black-owned business with unquestionable experience and a history of creating opportunities for other MBE/DBE/ACDBE firms, namely the New Market Development Team? Who would this justice satisfy? Is this a fight for the status quo? Or a fight to keep a minority-owned business from winning such a lucrative contract? Is there an issue of experience? *Does not* 

> The Baltimore Times Publisher Joy Bramble Associate Publisher **Paris Brown** Editor Dena Wane **Director of Special Projects** Dena Wane Dir., Promotions/Entertain, Columnist **Eunice Moselev** Administrative Assistant Ida C. Neal Writers **Ursula Battle** Andrea Blackstone Stacy Brown Demetrius Dillard Rosa "Rambling Rose" Pryor Website **James Collins** Lavout **Chris Jones**

The Baltimore Times is a publication of The Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher Mailing Address The Baltimore Times 2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201 Baltimore, MD 21218 Phone: 410-366-3900- Fax 410-243-1627 www.baltimoretimes-online.com the New Market Development Team represent an unprecedented team with combined experience of over 100 years as opposed to 100 years of ownership? Does not the New Market Development team have a successful track record in the airport concession industry, including working at BWI Airport. In any case, is it not the experience of any team that qualifies the company?

Is it about politics? Do not all the businesses responding to the RFP have or is associated with a lobbyist or have some political relationship? Is this really justification for attempting to disqualify a business? Can a company be disqualified and not awarded a contract to move forward based on the drawing of parallels, attempts to connect political dots and suggested implications that something "must be wrong" because "these types of contracts are won by big conglomerates?" Or is the suggestion that a minority-owned company could not win such a contract fairly and based on merit, all things being equal? Can and is this a case of 'this is not how it will be' and the legal matter of ensuring that 'this is the way it must stay?'

Is the issue that a joint venture or company was created and when? Did not all companies bidding for the RFP have to create a joint venture? Is the issue that a joint venture/company was created recently? All successful bidders had to form a joint venture to respond to the RFP, which is common in response to an RFP of this size requiring mandated MBE participation. Every bidder was a joint venture company, created to bid on this procurement. This was, in fact an addendum that did not benefit just one bidder; it benefited all bidders in 2022. Is the question that of transparency and a fair RFP process for the BWI/MAA 20year Airport Concession Contract? The entire procurement process is public information and can be viewed anytime question-and-answer period to ensure a transparent and fair process and the MAA's intention to publish an addendum. You, the public, can check it out for yourself and you conclude! Was not the recommendation for the award made by a group comprised of independent professional from across the country?

Is this *really* about the RFP process or is a "new standard" being challenged? Are the multi-national corporations blindsided by a new standard that has unleveled their playing field and created an opportunity for full access for all businesses, including minority owned businesses to now be prime contractors? Has the cream risen to the top because there are no longer barriers for equal access to this local lucrative airport concession industry?

Will Maryland celebrate a Marylandbased, minority-owned firm that broke through the ranks of high-powered, foreign-based firms thereby leading in advancing economic development opportunities for MBE/DBE/ACDBE primes? Can this be considered a win for the state of Maryland and for the regional airport concession industry as BWI generates an estimated \$9 billion in annual economic impact for the region, supporting about 25,000 jobs, including more than 12,000 at the airport itself? Or will a conglomerate based outside of the United States determine how business will be conducted within the state of Maryland? Does it not appear that much is at stake for "those who have always won and continue to win" airport concession contracts?

Is it about 'race,' or money or power or well-paid lobbyists? Is this really at the core of the case being lodged against BWI/MAA: If one of the large multi-national, white-owned conglomerates companies were recommended for the award. would the legal case against BWI/MAA exist, the controversy, the articles, and op ed writing campaign, political innuendos, or would it just quietly go away? What do you think? Would there be an outcry for injustice? I dare to say, that such a case against obvious injustice would not exist. Is it because minority-owned businesses simply accept "what has always been?"

Is this an issue of American business politics and business as usual? Have the undertones of American politics seeped its way into how we do business in the State of Maryland—"what has been must always continue to be?" Does the history determine "who will win" and "who will continue to stay in power?" The history of this country has always been to challenge the advances of the "underserved," "under-represented", the "disadvantaged" and the "disenfranchised." The same fight and amendments it took to gain the advances we enjoy today will require the same addendums necessary to ensure free access for all. We must continue to fight and continue to confront the institutions and policies that challenge freedom, liberty, and justice for all, including businesses. Do we want to see what is happening in the nation's capital, happening in Maryland? I say, no!

Positive stories about positive people!

## Wes Moore Takes Oath as Maryland's First Black Governor

### *By Andrea Blackstone with Tyler Stallings*

Wes Moore, a former nonprofit executive, former Army captain and author was sworn in as Maryland's new governor on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, in Annapolis, Maryland, Moore, 44, is a Democrat. The honorable Steuart L. Pittman, Jr., County Executive of Anne Arundel County, served as master of ceremonies during Moore's inauguration. Justice Matthew Fader swore in Moore as the new governor placed his hand on a Bible that once belonged to abolitionist Frederick Douglas, a leader who also hailed from Maryland. Fader, the Maryland Supreme Court Chief Justice, also swore in Maryland's new Lieutenant Governor, Aruna Miller.

"To my friend and Maryland's 63rd Governor Wes Moore, I am humbled to join you on this journey to serve the state we love for the people we love in a place we call home," Miller said.

Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller spoke about being an immigrant who arrived in the United States at the age of seven years old. Moore made history by becoming Maryland's first Black governor. Miller broke another barrier becoming the first South Asian woman who was elected to become lieutenant governor. Moore was born in Hyderabad, India. She thanked Marylanders for helping to lead the state into the future.

A 19-gun salute, inaugural flyover and performances that included Morgan State University's choir singing "God Bless America," and Bowie High School Marching Bulldogs livening up the crowd at the top of the inauguration were a few elements of entertainment mixed with the celebratory event. Pittman, who endorsed Moore, provided a serious reminder. He explained that he was looking for a leader who would listen, and a human being that reminds people what it means to be human.



(L-R) The Honorable Matthew J. Fader, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Maryland; Mia Moore; James Moore; First Lady Dawn Flythe Moore and Governor Wes Moore. Photos: Andrea Blackstone and Tyler Stallings

"We found one and that is why we are here today," Pittman said, drawing cheers and claps.

Pittman added that he watched Moore build a team that catapulted him from single digit support when he had when he endorsed him to the most votes of any governor in the history of Maryland. Pittman stated that when the crowds disperse on Wednesday, the work begins.

Moore's remarks included acknowledging Maryland's former governor, Larry Hogan.

"We are grateful and thankful for the kindness that you and your team have shown throughout this entire transition period. Thank you for eight years of great service to a state that we both love," Moore said.

Maryland's new governor continued his inaugural address while recognizing individuals who supported him to achieve victory. He provided insightful remarks while reiterating the importance of leaving no one behind in Maryland. "Today is not an indictment of the past. Today is a celebration of our collective future. And today our opportunity to begin this future is so bright, it is blinding, but only if we are intentional, inclusive and disciplined in confronting challenges, making hard choices and seizing this opportunity in front of us," Moore said, also reminding Marylanders to serve.

Oprah Winfrey and actor Chris Tucker were among celebrities who attended the historic inauguration. Winfrey shared that she first met Moore in 2010 when she interviewed him about his bestselling book. The American talk show host, producer and philanthropist reminded that Moore has been committed to helping young people find purpose and direction in their lives. She added that the new governor "has always believed that everyone deserves an equal shot at success and opportunity to live well."

After Moore was sworn in, Tucker remarked that he felt great, privileged and honored to be in attendance during Moore's historic moments. While stopping to greet fans, he shared that he hopes to talk to Moore from time to time. He added that he will provide a smile, whenever he has an opportunity to see the busy new governor of Maryland.

Grandmother Edna Williams, a Baltimorean and storyteller who savored the moment for the African American community, joyously witnessed history. She sat in the crowd documenting and sharing it with the help of her cell phone. Williams explained that she had ridden a bus early in the morning. The 75-year-old likes to see young people working.

Williams mentioned other Black leaders who preceded Moore while making monumental steps up. She held up a program about former president Barack Obama's ball that she attended in 2009 in one hand. In the other, she beamed with pride while gripping information about Wes Moore making history.

"I'm just enjoying my day," Williams said with a wide smile.



Tyler Stallings, junior reporter for The Baltimore Times, interviews actor Chris Tucker. Photo Credits: Andrea Blackstone and Tyler Stallings

## Wes Moore Takes Oath as Maryland's First Black Governor



Aruna Miller, right, is sworn in as Maryland's lieutenant governor Photos: Andrea Blackstone and Tyler Stallings



Governor Wes Moore greets excited students who attend Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys after the inauguration. Photos: Andrea Blackstone and Tyler Stallings



Daughters of Maryland's new lieutenant governor, Aruna Miller Photos: Andrea Blackstone and Tyler Stallings



*Governor Wes Moore and Oprah Winfrey pray* Photos: Andrea Blackstone and Tyler Stallings

Rambling Rose

"LARRY "PONCHO" BROWN IS AT THE MOTOR HOUSE"



Larry Poncho Brown and CJay Philip is at the Motor House 120 W. North Avenue on Tuesday, Jan 31 8 p.m.



Sharon Clark will be performing with the Paul Carr Quartet on Saturday, Jan 21, at 6 p.m. at the Caton Castle Lounge. For more information, call 410-566-7086



Thomas Ridgley, the husband of Bishop JoJo Ridgley passed away last week. Viewing is Wednesday, January 18 from 3-6 p.m. at Vaughn Green, 4905 York Road.



Paul Carr will be performing at Caton Castle Lounge,
20 S. Caton Avenue with his quartet Bruce Barth on piano,
William "Mo Betta" Ledbetter on bass and Quincy Phillips on drums, Saturday, Jan 21 starting at 6 p.m.



Vera Newton Adams, an Edmondson High School graduate of 1963 passed away on January 9, 2023. No arrangement was made by press time.

Hello, I hope my column find you healthy and happy this week.

There is not too much going this week, but just enough to keep you a little busy. I have been extremely busy for the pass six months trying to complete my third book and get it off to my publisher before February. This book will be an extension to my last book but will be the "Mother Load" of all three because it will be the last one I will write. I just don't have the energy to start another book. I will keep you informed going forward.

This week, I am so excited to tell you about another of Baltimore's icons and a pillar of our community. I am talking about Larry "Poncho" Brown, which I am sure many of you know, especially if you are in the arts. "Poncho," as he is fondly known, is a native of Baltimore. He started his first business as a sign writer at the age of 17. He never looked back. He has been a full-time artist ever since. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art. His work has been published nationally in all the major magazines including Ebony and Essence. His art has been featured on several TV shows and movies. His work hangs on the walls of Susan Taylor, Ed Gordon, Bernard Bronner, Dick Gregory, and yours truly. Poncho's unique style combines past and present art stylizations to create a sense of realism, mysticism, and beauty, which gives his art universal appeal.

Therefore, you should check him out and enjoy his show called "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope"at the Motor House, 120 W. North Avenue on Tuesday, January 31, 2023. Cjay Philip is the director. "Poncho's" Exhibition, called "Cope" will run thru February 28, 2023.

Mark your calendar, the Elkridge Rotary Club is having their 58th Annual Bull & Oyster Roast on Saturday, February 4 from 7 to 11 p.m. at Martin's West, 6817 Dogwood. Not only will they have delicious food, but also live entertainment by the famous "Hubcaps," the oldie but goodie group. For more information call 443-271-2531. Tell them "Rambling Rose" told you!

One more thing I want to mention to you is the Caton Castle Lounge will be having their regular Saturday night show this Saturday, January 21. Showtime is 6 p.m. They are located 20 S. Caton Avenue. The show will feature the Paul Carr Quartet with Paul Carr on sax, Sharon Clark, vocalist, Bruce Barth on piano, William "Mo Betta" Ledbetter on bass and one of Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship recipient, Quincy Phillips on drums.

Well, my dear friends, I got to go. But remember if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS. BattleStage Plays presents Ursula V. Battle's Gospel Musical Dramedy

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## **Disappointed Ravens Team Still Optimistic About Their Future**

### By Tyler Hamilton

he Baltimore Ravens ended the season with a disappointing 24-17 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals. Their 10-7 record showed a two-win improvement from last season. It allowed the Ravens to advance to the postseason after missing last year's playoffs.

Various players reflected on the season as they cleaned out their lockers earlier this week.

"Just continuing to fight," tight end Mark Andrews said. "Things didn't always go our way; there were a lot of things that went wrong – when a lot of times they don't go wrong – that went wrong. So, just continuing to fight, and grow. We'll be back, and we'll be stronger."

Andrews led the Ravens with 73 receptions for 843 yards and five touchdowns last season. It was a down year for him but he never gave up.

An example of Andrews' fighting spirit showed in the playoff game when he hustled 90+ yards to try and tackle Bengals defensive lineman Sam Hubbard after he recovered a Tyler Huntley fumble at the goal line.

Andrews came up short but his hustle spoke to the grit the Ravens have inside of them.

Defensive lineman Calais Campbell entered this season hoping to secure a championship after spending 15 seasons in the NFL. Of course he was disappointed that the Ravens fell short.

"Only one team gets to go home happy," Campbell said. "That's just the nature of the business, and we don't get to be that team this year."

Next year will be his 16th season in the NFL. Campbell said there's a good chance he's back next season. Campbell once again has high hopes in the organization.

"I think there's some encouragement for the core of the team that gets to come back next year. The core of the team is in a really good spot to do some really great things going



Calais Campbell Photo credit: Patrick Smith/Getty Images.

forward," Campbell said.

"I want to be a part of a great team. It's going to be hard to walk away, that's for sure. So, we'll see. I'll talk to the front office and talk to the coaches and I'll think. There's a chance I could be back here again next year; I just have to go through that process."

The fact that Campbell is one sack short of joining the 100-sack club could have an influence as well. Campbell said it's something that he really wants.

Then you have the rookie Kyle Hamilton. He was an early draft pick last spring that was expected to yield quick benefits.

Hamilton didn't get any interceptions but he had five passes defensed to go along with a forced fumble, four tackles for a loss, five quarterback hits and 62 tackles.

"It's a long year. It's a long rookie year. You come in the draft process and don't really know who you're going to be with, but I think I came into the perfect situation. Staff, players, personnel – everybody has just been amazing to me this year, and I'm really thankful for the whole organization," Hamilton said.

As the season wore on, Hamilton was entrusted to line up in the slot at times. It was a sign of his ability to learn the defense and the trust the coaching staff had in him.

Veteran outside linebacker Justin Houston sees big things in store for Hamilton.

"It's amazing how fast [Kyle Hamilton] bounced back. I know the beginning of the season was hard on him," Houston said. "I know he gave up a couple of big plays, and it cost us. But, at the end of the season, you see the man, and it helped him grow as a person and as a player. He took that challenge head on, and he accepted that challenge and grew and became a great player. And he's still growing. I can't wait to see what his future is going to be like. He's going to be amazing."

The overall feeling was one of disappointment about the season ending. But the players are excited about their chances next season with a healthy Lamar Jackson as their quarterback. Jackson missed the postseason game and hasn't played since December 4 due to a knee injury. At 26 years old, the former MVP has played out his rookie contract including the fifth-year option.

Jackson is set to hit free agency. But the Ravens can prevent that by signing him to a long-term deal or placing the franchise tag on him. The Ravens players clearly want him back.

"I hope that he's going to be back. That's my guy. I have nothing but love and respect for 'No. 8' [Lamar Jackson] as a person, as a player and as a friend," Andrews said.

"You can't let a guy like him go," Campbell added. "You know Lamar Jackson is an incredible player. I think it's in the best interest of the Ravens organization to give him a long-term contract and make him our guy. Lamar Jackson is a star; he deserves to be paid like it and deserves the opportunity to lead his teams to hopefully multiple championships. As long as he's on the field, you know your team has a chance."

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