

# Cosmic baseball comes to Indy

By Olivia Pastrick  
MANAGING & FEATURE EDITOR

Cosmic Baseball will bring black lights and excitement to Indianapolis as it partners with the Indianapolis Indians in May 2025 as part of the Cosmic Takeover Tour.

Cosmic Baseball is an exhibition-style team that was formed from the Tri-City Chili Peppers, which plays in the Coastal Plain League, a collegiate summer league. According to founder and owner of the Tri-City Chili Peppers Chris Martin, the team was formed in 2019 and began playing after the COVID-19 pandemic. Martin said Chili Peppers games combine high-quality baseball and entertainment.

“We have players that are looking to play at the next level, have fun and compete and grow, and hopefully they do well enough where at some point they’re getting drafted and playing professional baseball,” Martin said. “So our atmosphere has always been entertainment-focused and focused on fan experience and providing an atmosphere where you don’t have to necessarily be a massive baseball fan, but you

can have a great entertainment experience and enjoy time with the family and friends.”

Martin said Cosmic Baseball is separate from the Tri-City Chili Peppers and the Coastal Plain League and features exhibition games. He said the concept of playing baseball under black lights came from fan experiences from Chili Peppers games. Cosmic Baseball played for the first time this summer at



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Shepherd Stadium in Colonial Heights, Va. After selling out games in under 24 hours, Martin said he realized there was an opportunity to take Cosmic Baseball on tour to reach more fans.

“We honestly never thought it would blow up worldwide the way that it has,” Martin said. “The concept was always, ‘Hey, we’re just going to play at home, and if this does great and our fans like it, we’ll just keep doing it.’ And what happened was, when all the games sold

out in 24 hours at home last year, we had to add more games... We had people flying in internationally coming to see it, and we just felt like if we’re going to continue to do this, we want to take it on tour and give the opportunity for everybody in different cities to have the same experience.”

Martin said one of the coolest parts of being a spectator for Cosmic Baseball games is that fans can wear UV reflective gear and the black light will make everyone on the field and stands glow. He added that there are events and experiences in between and half way through innings to keep everyone engaged the entire time.

“I think the environment would be the first one with this high energy, a lot of stimulus and music and a ton of energy,” Martin said. “It’s almost like the game is a little bit altered, in a sense.”

The Cosmic Takeover Tour is visiting five cities in 2025, and will be announcing more games soon, according to the team’s Instagram. The only way to get tickets is to enter the Cosmic Lottery, and Martin said he expects those tickets to sell out within 24 hours as well, so fans should act fast.



Photo contributed by Matthew Bowman

#3 Matthew McGovern high fives First Base Coach Nick Windom as he approaches the plate during a game in the Cosmic Baseball 2024 season.



Photo contributed by Matthew Bowman

Colby Motley stands in front of home plate with the crowd behind him during a cosmic baseball game in the 2024 season. The atmosphere of the games focuses on the experience of the fans.



Photo contributed by Matthew Bowman

Cosmic Baseball players line up in the dugout during a cosmic baseball game. The team was formed from the Tri-City Chili Peppers, which plays in the Coastal Plain League.

## The beginning of a new era

### UIndy basketball enters the 2024-25 season with two new head coaches leading



Photo contributed by Makenna Maschino

UIndy Women’s Basketball Head Coach Jama Sharp during an Oct. 16 practice for the upcoming 2024-25 season. She was hired at the end of May.



Photo contributed by Dylan Euler

UIndy Men’s Basketball Head Coach Scott Heady during an Oct. 4 practice. The team has an entirely new coaching staff this year.

By Livia Lytle  
BUSINESS MANAGER

The 2024-25 UIndy basketball season is kicking off a new era for the men’s and women’s teams with both debuting new head coaches. The women’s and men’s basketball teams open their seasons with a double-header on Nov. 8 at 5 and 7:30 p.m., respectively.

UIndy Men’s Basketball Head Coach Scott Heady was hired in April and started recruiting immediately. According to Heady, the team has 10 new players—three freshmen and seven transfers—and an entirely new coaching staff. Because of his late start, Heady said he built this year’s team mostly from the transfer portal. When he was hired, the team only had four returning players and an empty staff.

Heady was previously the head coach for men’s basketball at Marian University for seven years. During his transition to UIndy, he brought two players with him. One is a freshman who followed Heady to UIndy and the other is senior, Brody Whitaker, who Heady said averaged about 20 points per game last season at Marian. Heady said one of his goals for the UIndy men’s basketball program is to compete for conference and national titles year after year.

“From a standpoint of goals,” Heady said, “There is no question

that we want to be contenders for GLVC and for our Division 2 championships every year. That is the possession battle and we want to play fast, but we also want to play smart. On the offensive end, we want to be a team that is balanced and very aggressive. We want to play in attack mode all the time and feel that we are dictating the tempo of the game.”

Heady said the players to watch out for this season are Whitaker and UIndy returners Zac Szul and Dylan Ingram. He said transfer Pierce Thomas, who played at Butler University and Eastern Kentucky University, could also be a name to watch for.

UIndy Women’s Basketball Head Coach Jama Sharp was hired in May, after coaching in Florida, and started recruiting upon her arrival. Graduate and transfer student Amyrah Sapenter said there are three returning players this season.

Sharp said she is excited to bring women’s basketball to the forefront and to see the team can grow this

season and to build the program.

“The biggest goal is getting us back to a winning season, a winning record and competing in our conference tournament,” Sharp said. “I want us to compete on the national level. There are a lot of sports at UIndy that already have that, and I think women’s basketball has fallen behind.”

Sapenter said she is excited to experience what this conference holds. She attended Northeastern University as an undergraduate and played on its basketball team for three and a half years before graduating. Sapenter had three different coaches throughout her time at Northeastern, which she said helped her navigate which school and team she was going to transfer to.

“When I spoke with Coach Sharp on the phone her enthusiasm really stood out to me and I could tell immediately that she genuinely cared about what she was looking for in her players and her program,” Sapenter said.

Sapenter said it is a non-negotiable for the team to make it to the tournament. On top of that, she said she wants UIndy to be one of the top four best defensive teams in the GLVC.

“It is definitely a process, having so many new pieces, new coaches and lots of new people, but I feel like we have the potential to be great,” Sapenter said. “I am really excited to see how that comes to fruition.”