

PRESS RELEASE



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
SALUKIS



Banterra®

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BANTERRA BANK CONTINUES SIU NIL PARTNERSHIP WITH FOUR SALUKI ATHLETES WITHIN THEIR FOOTPRINT

Marion, IL – Banterra Bank, one of the nation's largest community banks and based in Southern Illinois, continues their NIL (name, image and likeness) partnership with Southern Illinois University with the announcement of four SIU Saluki athletes as ambassadors for this school season. The athletes have hometowns within Banterra's footprint and will be promoting the Banterra brand, the Banterra-SIU Saluki Visa® Debit Card, and the Southern Illinois region. Athletes include Mikaela Coburn (Women's Softball), Caden Hawkins (Men's Basketball), Damien Mayo, Jr. (Men's Basketball) and Luke Walsh (Men's Basketball).

"We learned last year that the best way to kick off this partnership is by hosting a dinner with the athletes at Banterra Center," said Jeff May, President and CEO of Banterra Bank. "It's an opportunity to get to know these individuals and for them to get to know our team. These young athletes have a passion for performing at their best and supporting their communities. These values, combined with their Saluki spirit, is something that they share with Banterra and we see value in promoting that partnership."

The NIL arrangement is part of Banterra's overall commitment to SIU through their naming rights agreement for Banterra Center. The agreement includes an exclusive affinity debit card, which is the official Banterra-SIU Saluki Visa Debit Card. Banterra is committed to providing a portion of debit card transaction revenue to SIU Scholarships and NIL efforts for Saluki athletes.

"We are thankful for Banterra's continued support of NIL, Saluki Athletics and SIU," said Tim Leonard, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics for SIU. "Banterra was ready to jump on board last year as one of our first NIL corporate partners. We look forward to the branding opportunities these athletes will bring to promoting Banterra, SIU and Southern Illinois."

Banterra plans to utilize the athletes in television, radio and social media (including the athlete's personal platforms as well as Banterra's platforms), print materials and other promotional opportunities.

About The Athletes

Mikaela Coburn (Women's Softball, Outfield) – Mikaela is from Paducah, Kentucky and is majoring in Marketing. She is a junior and returning softball player for SIU, where she started in 41 games as a sophomore, saw action in 50 games and was named All-MVC First Team at the end of the season. Prior to SIU, Mikaela played one season at John A. Logan College (JALC) in Carterville, Illinois earning a .467 batting average, First Team All-Great Rivers Athletic Conference (GRAC), First Team All-Region, the GRAC Freshman of the Year, and JUCO All-American Third Team.

Caden Hawkins (Men's Basketball, Guard) – Caden is from Carterville, Illinois and is majoring in History Education. He is a junior and a new player for SIU. Caden played his last two seasons at John A. Logan College helping the team to a 23-10 finish in the 2024-25 season. Caden made 22 starts for JALC and averaged 7.9 points last season earning him GRAC All-Conference Team. He was also a First Team All-State player at Carterville High School with a career 1,087 points. Caden's father, Shane Hawkins, is a former Saluki assistant coach and member of the Saluki Basketball All Century Team.

Damien Mayo Jr. (Men's Basketball, Guard) – Damien is a returning NIL ambassador for Banterra. He is from St. Louis, Missouri and is majoring in Industrial Management & Applied Engineering. He is a senior and returning guard for SIU, where he played in 31 games while making 24 starts. On January 15, 2025, Damien had a career-high six assists and ten points against his former team, Missouri State, where he spent two seasons (2022-24). At Missouri State, he saw action in 60 games and starting line-up for 38 games. Damien was also a stand-out in the classroom at Missouri State, named honorable mention for MVC Scholar-Athlete team, and named to the MVC Honor Roll and MSU Athletics Director Honor Roll. Damien spent his 2021-22 season at Link Year Prep in Branson, Missouri, a gap year program for graduating high school students prior to entering college that focuses on building their faith and maximizing their potential.

Luke Walsh (Men's Basketball, Guard) – Luke is from St. Louis, Missouri and is majoring in Marketing. He is a freshman and just starting his collegiate career. He completed high school at St. John Vianney High School with program records in career points (2,614), 3-pointers made (408), free throws made (488) and others. He was named Gatorade Player of the Year and a McDonald's All-American nominee his senior season while also being a three-time Missouri All-State honoree, a two-time Missouri Catholic Conference Player of the Year award winner and earned First Team All-District three times.

About Banterra

Banterra Bank, which began as a single bank in Ridgway, Illinois, in July 1975, is celebrating their 50th anniversary. Today, Banterra has more than \$3 billion in assets and is ranked in the top eight percent of U.S. Charter Banks and the top five percent for Illinois Charter Banks by asset size. Banterra, which employs more than 500 people, has 40 locations in Arizona, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Utah, as well as specialty lending divisions that serve customers nationwide and includes Aircraft Finance, Machine Tool Finance, and RV and Marine Lending. You can view [Banterra's Company Highlights](#) or for more information on Banterra, call 866-BANTERRA (226-8377) or go to www.banterra.bank.

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