MEN'S INDOOR TRACK

St. Aug's wins sixth straight title



For the second year in a row, SAC's Mark Mason won the indoor long jump title, beating his closest competitor by four-and-a half inches.

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It was business as usual for St. Augustine's coach George Williams as his flying Falcons swooped to their sixth straight team title at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field Championships at Saginaw State University (Mich.). last month.

SAC was far and away the class of the field, accumulating 81 points, which was way beyond the reach of second-place Abeline Christian's 24 points. Norfolk State also tallied 24 points to tie for second place. The Spartans were the only other black college team to place in the top 10 of the standings.

The Falcons wiped out the field by winning five events. SAC was particularly impressive in the long jump and triple jump, as six of its athletes earned All-America honors. Here's a report on how SAC and the other black colleges fared at this year's indoor nationals.

On the track, SAC's Antonio Pettigrew dominated as expected. Pettigrew, the '91 world champ and U.S. TAC champ at 400 meters, won the open 400 title and anchored the victorious 4 x 400 relay team.

In the open 400, the outcome was never in doubt as Pettigrew covered the distance in 47.02, easily beating South Dakota's Roger Nathan (48.33). Pettigrew's clocking tied the meet record which was set by Ian Morris of Abeline Christian in '88.

Norfolk State's Harold McCants barely missed finishing second. He was third with a 48.34 clocking.

Pettigrew and friends wrapped up the relay with ease, winning handily in 3:18.13. Gilbert Hashan, Larry Sanders and Darron Bodie teamed up with Pettigrew for the victory. South Dakota placed

second at 3:19.06.

Norfolk State showed its strength in the 55-meter hurdles. Leo Simmons was third (7.46) and Marvin Ricks finished fourth (7.65).

In the field events, the Falcons soared to greater heights thanks to an abundance of depth in the triple jump and long jump.

SAC flexed its considerable muscle in the triple jump by placing 1-2-3. Keith Holley won the national title with an effort of 52-0 1/2. Emmitt Higgins was second (51-7 1/4) and Chris Coleman nailed down third place at 49-7 3/4. Norfolk's Thomas Brown placed fourth (49-6 1/4).

The long jump wasn't much different as SAC took first, second and sixth. Mark Mason ruled the field with a leap of 26-0 3/4 and Holley was No. 2 at 25-8 1/4. Kentucky State's Masai Troutman ensured a black college clean sweep of this event by jumping 24-9 1/4 for third place. SAC's Jeffrey Gary's 23-9 was good enough for sixth place.

James Shelton continued the Falcons reign in the field events. Shelton ruled the competiton with a 7-1 3/4, winning by four inches over second-place Terry Karn of Northwest Missouri State (6-9 3/4). Elgonda Hicks of Norfolk State also jumped 6-9 3/4, but finished in fourth place because he had more misses than the second-place and third-place jumpers.

Burnice Cross provided additional joy for SAC with a second place finish in the shot put (54-8 1/4). Cross pushed Minnesota-Diluth's Kerrick Johnson to the limit for the national title. Cross was only inches better at 55-3 3/4.

- Walton Dunn

Men's All-America list

Listed below are black collegians who earned All-American status in the NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field Championships. All-America status is attained by finishing among the top eight in the respective events. The asterisk (*) denotes national champion in that event.

St. Augustine's
Antonio Pettigrew – 400 meters*,
4 x 400 relay*
Gilbert Hashan – 4 x 400 relay*
Larry Sanders – 4 x 400 relay*
Darron Bodie – 4 x 400 relay*
James Shelton – High jump*
Mark Mason – Long jump*
Keith Holley – Triple jump*,
long jump
Jeffrey Gary – Long jump
Emmitt Higgins – Triple jump
Chris Coleman – Triple jump
Burnice Cross – Shot put

Norfolk State
Leo Simmons - 55 meter hurdles
Marvin Ricks - 55 meter hurdles

Harold McCants - 400 meters Elgonda Hicks - High jump Michael Morris - Long jump

Kentucky State Masai Troutman - Long jump

Hampton University
Thomas Brown - Triple jump