

## COVER STORY

# DEJA VU

## Three months after winning the indoor nationals, St. Aug's and Alabama A&M rule the roost as Division II outdoor champs

When it comes to collegiate track and field, St. Augustine's men and Alabama A&M's women have given new meaning to the term instant replay. This year, these two black colleges dominated Division II as if it were their divine birthright.

In March, St. Aug's and A&M swept the competition to win the indoor national team titles, then followed through to produce the same results at the outdoor nationals last month at San Angelo, Tex.

Call it a clear case of *deja vu*.

On the men's side of the ledger, coach George Williams depth-laden Falcons won with ease. SAC was far ahead of the pack with 95 points, leaving a trail of smoke for second-place Abeline Christian (63 points) to choke on. In the process, St. Aug's won six events and had 12 of its athletes earn All-America honors.

A&M, in the meantime, was not outdone. The Lady Bulldogs cruised to the top spot with 112 points, winning the championship trophy by 47 points. Cal State-Los Angeles was a very distant second with 65 points.

Coach Joe Henderson's track queens won five events and placed 10 people on the All-America list. (Athletes who finish



BCSR Photo

SAC coach George Williams must have some kind of patent on winning national championships. His Falcons have won four straight NCAA Division II outdoor titles.

among the top eight in their respective events earn All-America honors. Please see page 10 for the list of black college athletes who made outdoor All-America this year.

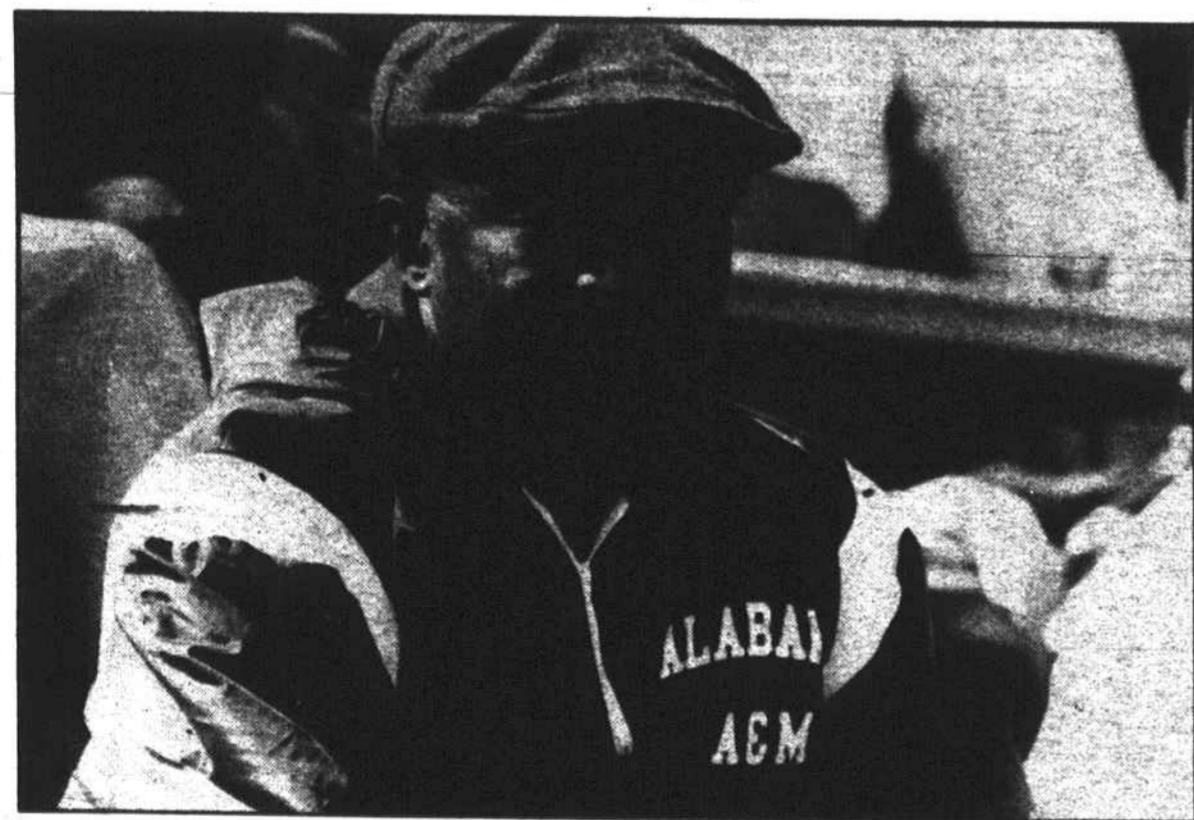


Photo by Isaac Corker

It's been a vintage year for coach Joe Henderson and women's track at Alabama A&M.

Even though the Texas spotlight belonged to the birds and lady canines, there were other black colleges that turned in some notable finishes in the team standings. In the men's competition, Johnson C. Smith, a school that has been a no-show on the national track scene in recent years, tallied 21 points to finish ninth and Alabama A&M ended the meet in the No. 10 spot with 20 points. Norfolk State's women showed well (55 points) and it paid off with a sixth place finish.

By meet's end, black colleges (men and women) had left a lasting impression, winning 15 events and producing 59 All-Americans along the way.

But enough about the overall scope of the meet. Here's a replay of what transpired at this year's outdoor nationals, which really should have been named the St. Augustine's/Alabama A&M Invitational.

### MEN'S EVENTS

On the oval, Antonio Pettigrew and Gilbert Hashan led the assault for St. Aug's. Pettigrew, a '92 Olympic contender, who won the gold medal in the 400 at last year's World Track Championships in Tokyo, breezed to victory in 45.22. Second place Devon Edwards of Cal-Poly Pomona (46.3) was Pettigrew's closest rival.

That was definitely not the case for Hashan in the 400 intermediate hurdles. Hashan hooked up with Alabama A&M's Jeffery Gibson to stage one of the meet's most exhilarating confrontations. Both battled each other from the start, but it was Hashan who hit the tape in 50.52 to Gibson's 50.57 to settle the issue.

Black colleges made a strong statement about their capabilities in the 4 x 100 relay.

SAC (Keith Holley, Byron Roile, Cedric Jackson and Pettigrew) won going away in 39.64 and was the only team to break 40 seconds. But it was J.C. Smith (Greg Clifton, Dwayne Johnson, Brian Jackson and David Buggs) that surprised a lot of folk with a 40.50 clocking. The Golden Bulls nipped Alabama A&M (Mack Rudolph, Roy Murphy, Mitchell

