

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 8 THROUGH APRIL 14, 1997

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



CIAA Photo

## NORFOLK STATE PONDERING OPTIONS

PRICE: Norfolk State AD to meet with Big South officials.

▼ SCHOOL SAID TO BE BALKING AT \$100,000 ENTRY FEE TO JOIN MEAC

## BLACK COLLEGE BASEBALL

CIAA		CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION	
Norfolk State	5-1	.830	20-12-1 .620
St. Augustine's	5-2	.710	8-12 .400
Bowie State	7-3	.700	8-7 .530
Virginia State	4-3	.570	7-7 .500
Shaw	3-3	.500	3-3 .500
Elizabeth City	0-4	.000	0-4 .000
St. Paul's	0-8	.000	1-11 .080

SIAC		SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	
Kentucky State	5-1	.833	6-12 .333
Paine	10-3	.769	23-11 .676
Savannah St.	11-4	.733	25-14 .641
Alabama A&M	13-5	.722	21-13 .617
Tuskegee	2-11	.153	3-19 .136
Miles	2-6	.250	8-11 .421
Clark Atlanta	0-18	.000	0-22 .000

SWAC		SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	
East Division			
Jackson State	13-3	.813	17-11 .607
Alcorn State	10-6	.625	20-14 .588
Alabama State	8-9	.471	13-22 .371
Miss. Valley	1-14	.067	2-21 .087
West Division			
Southern	15-3	.833	20-12 .625
Grambling State	11-7	.688	21-8 .724
Texas Southern	7-9	.438	14-16 .467
Prairie View	1-15	.063	3-27 .100

## MEAC

NORTH		MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	
Coppin State	6-1	.857	9-13 .409
Howard	4-3	.571	8-24 .250
Delaware St.	3-3	.500	8-19 .296
Md. Eastern-Sh.	1-7	.125	3-22 .120
SOUTH			
Florida A&M	6-2	.750	18-21 .462
Bethune-Ckmm.	5-3	.625	17-22-1 .438
N. Carolina A&T	0-6	.000	4-24-1 .155

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**  
**BATTER - CORNELL GRAY** - 6-0, 190, Sr., OF, Texas Southern - Went 5-6 with a home run, double, four RBIs, five runs and two stolen bases vs. Prairie View  
**PITCHER - TYSON TAPLIN** - 5-10, 180, Sr., LH, Alcorn State - Pitched five innings, allowing one hit, no runs and striking out six vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

**DAVIS TO SMITH:** Bill Davis, who led the Tennessee State football program for three years before resigning at the end of the 1995 season, will be the new head football coach and athletic director at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC. The announcement was made at a press conference at the school April 3. Davis replaces Daryl McNeill as the Golden Bulls grid coach. McNeill resigned last week to become the new coach at Savannah State University. Davis posted a 11-24 record at Tennessee State and owns a career record of 113-71-1 in 17 years as a head coach at South Carolina State (1979-85, 48-19-1), Savannah State (1986-92, 41-20-0) and TSU. Davis has won six different coach of the year awards including the top coaching award in the SIAC (1986, '88), MEAC ('82) and Sheridan Black Network (1980, '81 and '89). Davis replaces basketball coach Steve Joyner in the AD's chair.

**JUST REWARDS:** Ron "Fang" Mitchell, who led Coppin State to unprecedented success in the NCAA basketball tournament last month, was given a seven-year contract extension April 3. The deal calls for Mitchell to serve as both the Eagles' athletic director and head basketball coach for the next eight years. The contract calls for a \$100,000 annual salary, plus incentives and a rollover clause giving him the option to renew each year. Mitchell led the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference champions to a 78-65 upset of sixth-ranked South Carolina in the opening round of the NCAA tournament. It was the first time a MEAC team ever won a game in the national tournament, and marked only the third time a No. 15 seed beat a second seed. Coppin State then came tantalizingly close to advancing to the round of 16, but fell to Texas by one point in the second round. Mitchell guided the Eagles to a 22-9 record this season. He has a career mark of 205-120 in 11 seasons at the school and is only seven wins shy of becoming the Eagles' winningest career coach. The Eagles have recorded five 20-win seasons under his direction and have won seven of the last eight MEAC regular-season titles, including the last five.

**CORRECTION:** The NAFEO panel discussion on black college sports will be on April 10 instead of April 13 as reported last week. National Rainbow Coalition Commission on Fairness in College Athletics Chairman, Charles S. Farrell, will moderate the panel. Panel members include Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Commissioner, Dr. James Frank, Florida A&M University President, Dr. Frederick Humphries and Grambling State University Head Football Coach, Eddie Robinson.

## THE STAT CORNER

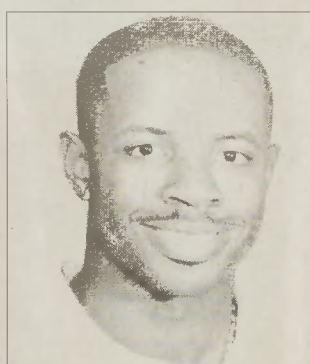
WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### NFL FIRST ROUND DRAFT ORDER

The 1997 NFL Draft will be conducted Saturday and Sunday, April 19-20, at New York's Madison Square Garden.

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. N.Y. Jets                               | 15. Miami                      |
| 2. Oakland (from New Orleans)              | 16. Tampa Bay (from San Diego) |
| 3. Seattle (from Atlanta)                  | 17. Washington                 |
| 4. Baltimore                               | 18. Kansas City                |
| 5. Detroit                                 | 19. Indianapolis               |
| 6. St. Louis                               | 20. Minnesota                  |
| 7. N.Y. Giants                             | 21. Jacksonville               |
| 8. Tampa Bay                               | 22. Philadelphia               |
| 9. Arizona                                 | 23. Buffalo                    |
| 10. New Orleans (from Oakland)             | 24. Pittsburgh                 |
| 11. Atlanta (from Chicago through Seattle) | 25. Dallas                     |
| 12. Seattle                                | 26. San Francisco              |
| 13. Houston                                | 27. Carolina                   |
| 14. Cincinnati                             | 28. Denver                     |
|  | 29. New England                |
|  | 30. Green Bay                  |

## Another golfing "Tiger" on the loose



Jackson State Sports Photo

**O'NEAL:** Jackson State golfer has led Tigers to three SWAC championships and first-ever NCAA appearance by a black college.

On the professional golf circuit, Tiger Woods has taken the sport by storm, currently ranked among the top five money-winners on the PGA Tour after winning two tournaments in his young career.

On the collegiate level, a Tiger of a storm has been raging in the Southwestern Athletic Conference for four years and he's also a Tiger—a Jackson State University Tiger that is. His name is Tim O'Neal and he's one of the hottest commodities not only at JSU and in the SWAC but in all of college golf.

A senior from Savannah, Ga., O'Neal is ranked among the top 30 golfers in America. While he may not yet be a Tiger Woods, it's a consensus opinion that he's not far off.

"I don't like to be compared to any-

body," said O'Neal. "Tiger has so much more experience. I have my own game and he has his own game."

O'Neal's game has been an awesome one right from the start of his career at JSU. He holds or shares all of Jackson State's records. He was named SWAC freshman of the year in 1994 and he's been the league championship medalist in 1994, 1995 and 1996 winning All-SWAC honors every season and landing league player of the year honors the last two seasons.

Like many successful golfers, O'Neal got his start at an early age. In fact, he was just five years old when his parents, Eva and James O'Neal, introduced him to the sport.

"I used to let Tim hit from the women's tees," Eva O'Neal once recalled.

"He has always had a love for the game."

"I tear him up," Tim's mom added. "When he plays me, he can't play around. I play him real tight. He has to keep his head on straight."

Eddie Payton, O'Neal's college coach at JSU, said his prized golfer has indeed kept his head on straight during his career.

"Tim has very few weaknesses," noted Payton, whose teams have won six national minority titles and earned their first NCAA tournament appearance last year. "He drives well, he has a great short game and he's an excellent putter. He's a bulldog competitor who likes to win."

— Lonza Hardy

SWAC Assistant Commissioner for Media Relations

## Spring Championships set

MEAC	SIAC	CIAA	SWAC
Tallahassee	Savannah	Norfolk	New Orleans
<b>Outdoor Track and Field (Men and Women)</b> April 17-19 Track and Field Complex Florida A&M University	<b>Baseball</b> April 17-19 Sav. State Field	<b>Baseball</b> April 17-19 NSU Field and Barraud Park	<b>Baseball</b> April 18-20 Kirsch Rooney Stadium (Delgado Comm. College)
<b>Tennis (Men and Women)</b> April 17-19 Gaither Athletic Complex Courts	<b>Outdoor Track and Field</b> April 18-19 Sav. State Track	<b>Softball</b> April 18-19 NSU Field and Poplar Park	<b>Golf (Women)</b> April 16-17 Ponchartrain Park
	<b>Tennis</b> April 18-19 Sav. State Courts	<b>Golf (Men)</b> April 18-19 Lake Wright	<b>Golf (Men)</b> April 16-18 Eastover Country Club
		<b>Tennis</b> April 18-19 NSU Courts and BT Wash. HS Courts	<b>Outdoor Track and Field</b> April 18-20 Tad Gormley Stadium
		<b>Outdoor Track and Field</b> April 18-19 NSU Track	<b>Tennis</b> April 18-20 Wisner Tennis Complex

## BCSP Notes

### Norfolk State puts on the brakes

▼ According to a news story in the April 5 *Virginia Pilot*, Norfolk State University's planned move from the Div. II Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) to the Div. I Mid Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) is no longer a sure thing.

In the story, NSU Athletic Director, Dick Price, says he will be meeting with officials of the Big South conference April 23 in Charlotte to discuss membership in that Div. I conference. Price confirmed that the school has Big South membership materials in hand but has not yet returned them to the conference's Myrtle Beach, S. C. headquarters. The Big South presently does not play football.

The story quotes anonymous sources at Norfolk State saying that the

MEAC is seeking to charge NSU approximately \$100,000 — thought to be more than twice what it charged former CIAA member Hampton University when it officially joined the conference in July 1995. Norfolk State hosted the recent MEAC basketball championships at their on-campus arena.

The NSU decision to consider other options is similar to Hampton, which explored membership in several comparable conferences before settling on the MEAC. Regardless of which conference they choose, Price said the school still has funding and scheduling minimums to reach before meeting NCAA certification requirements.

Norfolk State is on the recently released 1997 football schedule of every MEAC school except N. C. A&T.

▼ Hampton University has made it official, women's basketball coach Fred Applin is out. Applin's official resignation was announced March 31 by Hampton Athletic Director, Dr. Dennis Thomas. Applin did not coach the Lady Pirates team after Christmas and was replaced by his assistant, Carolyn Guyton. His dismissal was thought to follow comments made in a local Hampton newspaper critical of the school's support of his program. The official release says his resignation was a "mutual agreement between the University and Coach Applin". The university will immediately begin accepting applications for the position.

▼ It appears that the Florida Classic football game has found a new home.

News reports indicate that the annual matchup between Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M is moving from Tampa, its home for the past 17 years, to Orlando. This year's game is set for November 22 and will be played at the Florida Citrus Bowl. Orlando is very familiar with Florida A&M having hosted the Rattlers in several *Citrus Weekend Classic* games over the years. The Florida Classic is one of the largest black college classic games in the country rivaling the *Bayou Classic* in New Orleans, *Circle City Classic* in Indianapolis, *Atlanta Football Classic* and newly established *Carolinas Classic* in Charlotte. Since 1925, the two schools have met 51 times at sites like the Citrus Bowl, the Daytona International Speedway and Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee.

## Woodson cautious as Draft Day '97 nears

**LUT WILLIAMS**  
BCSP Editor

He was clearly the top player at his position in black college football and undoubtedly one of the best at his position in all of college football. And he's smart to boot.

Yet as National Football League Draft Day (April 19-20) approaches, Jackson State safety Sean Woodson is not reeking with confidence about his draft position.

"I hope for the best but prepare for the worst," said Woodson, a Jackson, Mississippi native who was a JSU honor graduate last year in English, but returned for his final year of eligibility.

His outlook is understand-

able given the potential for draft-day disappointment. Many a college all-star has spent agonizing hours waiting by the phone on draft day for the call that never came or came long after it was expected.

For his part, he's done all the right things this year.

The 6-1, 215 pounder won the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Defensive Player of the Year Award, and captained his team to a league championship and post season playoff berth. He performed well before pro scouts in two all-star games and at the Combine in Indianapolis. He had an interception in the East-West Shrine Game.

But he won't be lured into

projecting his spot in next weekend's draft. He's too smart for that.

"I've worked out for 12 or 13 teams (since the Combine) and I think they've been positive. I had a real good Combine even though I slipped running the 40 (yard dash) and didn't post my best time. But you never really can tell," he said.

Scouts and prognosticators have rated him among the five best safeties in the draft and expect him to be a third or fourth round pick. Former JSU safety Eric Austin was taken a year ago in about the same place, going to Tampa Bay with the ninth selection in the fourth round, 129th overall.

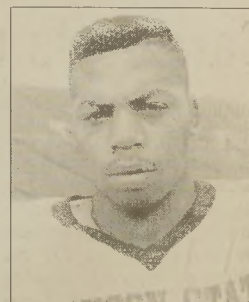
That would be fine for

Woodson who's just looking for a chance to prove himself.

JSU head coach James Carson says Woodson has a golden opportunity.

"He played well for us at both strong and free safety and has shown leadership on and off the field," Carson said. "He had scouts drooling when he ran two consecutive 4.4's last year. It's unfortunate that he got hurt (an ankle injury) at the end of the season. I think that slowed him down. He's not as big a hitter as Eric (Austin) but he has more range."

Woodson ran a 4.7 at the Combine, but has run a consistent 4.5 in his workouts. His best workout time was a 4.49 for the San Diego Chargers.



JSU Sports Photo

**WOODSON:** Should be among first black college players to go.

He has no idea when or where he might go. He plans to take in the draft at home in Jackson with his family and hope for the best.