

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 6 THROUGH MAY 12, 1997

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE

**THANKS, BUT NO THANKS**

▼ JACKSON STATE GOLFER DECLINES NCAA INVITATION AFTER TEAM SNUBBED



Jackson State Sports Photo  
**O'NEAL:** Tops all college golfers in scoring average.

## BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL PLAY-INS

### MEAC

MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

at Cleveland, OH  
Fri., May 9

**GAME ONE**  
Florida A&M 4,  
Cleveland State 2

**GAME TWO**  
Cleveland State 8  
Florida A&M 0

Sat., May 10

**GAME THREE**  
Cleveland State 12  
Florida A&M 0

(Cleveland State wins best 2 of 3)

### SWAC

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Southern University will play at West Coast Conference champion Santa Clara in the NCAA Baseball Play-in game

Best 2 of 3  
Friday, May 16 - one game  
Saturday, May 17 - doubleheader

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

**PAID OUT:** Alabama State product, Eddie Robinson, now a linebacker with the Jacksonville Jaguars is



W-S State Sports Photo  
**THIGPEN:** Former W-S State star makes just over \$1 million.

the highest paid black college player in the National Football League's (NFL) American Football Conference (AFC) according to a listing of salaries in last Wednesday's (May 7) *USA Today*. Robinson's take totals \$2,351,900, just above Pittsburgh all-pro linebacker Greg Lloyd's \$2,325,000. Lloyd played at Fort Valley State. The two are the only black college AFC players whose salaries exceed the \$2 million mark. Ten players make over \$1 million. Next week we'll give a list of black college player's salaries in the National Football Conference. Here is the list ranked according to salary:

| PLAYER, COLLEGE, TEAM                  | BASE SALARY | BONUS     | TOTAL SALARY |
|--|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Eddie Robinson, Alab. St.-Jacksonvl    | 1,500,000   | 851,900   | 2,351,900    |
| Greg Lloyd, Ft. Valley St.-Pittsburgh  | 1,400,000   | 925,000   | 2,325,000    |
| Steve McNair, Alcorn State-Houston     | 1,228,800   | 760,900   | 1,989,700    |
| Orlando Brown, S. C. State-Baltimore   | 1,100,000   | 462,500   | 1,562,500    |
| Ben Coates, Livingstone-New Engl.      | 1,300,000   | 206,000   | 1,506,000    |
| Shannon Sharpe, Sav. State-Denver      | 1,350,000   | 110,400   | 1,460,400    |
| Howard Ballard, Alabama A&M-Seattle    | 355,000     | 1,058,000 | 1,413,000    |
| Dwayne Harper, S. C. State-San Diego   | 950,000     | 496,000   | 1,446,000    |
| Ashley Ambrose, Miss. Valley-Cinn      | 700,000     | 500,400   | 1,200,400    |
| Yancey Thigpen, W-S State-Pittsburgh   | 775,000     | 273,300   | 1,048,300    |
| Eddie Anderson, Ft. Valley St.-Oakland | 553,800     | 400,500   | 954,300      |
| Hugh Douglas, Central State-NY Jets    | 512,500     | 425,000   | 937,500      |
| Albert Lewis, Grambling-Oakland        | 196,000     | 740,500   | 936,500      |
| Jimmy Smith, Jackson St.-Jacksonvl     | 540,900     | 367,200   | 908,100      |
| Jamain Stephens, N. C. A&T-Pittsburgh  | 458,000     | 245,000   | 703,000      |
| Wally Williams, Florida A&M-Baltimore  | 372,000     | 283,300   | 655,300      |
| James Brown, Virginia St.-Miami        | 600,000     | 53,100    | 653,100      |
| Robert Massey, NC Central-Jacksonvl    | 480,000     | 21,400    | 501,400      |
| Anthony Cook, S. C. State-Houston      | 327,500     | 173,800   | 501,300      |
| Herman Arvie, Grambling-Baltimore      | 196,000     | 290,600   | 486,600      |
| Bryant Mix, Alcorn State-Houston       | 260,500     | 210,000   | 470,500      |
| Roger Jones, Tenn. State-Cincinnati    | 350,000     | 67,100    | 417,100      |
| Dan Land, Albany State-Oakland         | 275,000     | 50,000    | 325,000      |
| Marlo Perry, Jackson State-Buffalo     | 229,500     | 88,900    | 318,400      |
| Richard Dent, Tenn. State-Indianapolis | 275,000     | 25,000    | 300,000      |
| Jaime Brown, Florida A&M-Denver        | 164,000     | 62,500    | 226,500      |
| Everett McIver, Eliz. City-Miami       | 200,000     | 22,500    | 222,500      |
| Reggie Barlow, Alab. State-Jacksonvl   | 131,000     | 72,000    | 203,000      |
| Earl Holmes, Florida A&M-Pittsburgh    | 136,000     | 65,000    | 201,000      |
| Randy Fuller, Tenn. St.-Pittsburgh     | 196,000     | 1,700     | 197,700      |
| Rupert Grant, Howard-New England       | 164,000     | 3,600     | 167,600      |
| Marcus Hinton, Alcorn St.-Oakland      | 164,000     | 2,200     | 166,200      |
| Emanuel Martin, Alabama St.-Buffalo    | 164,000     | 900       | 164,900      |
| Jose White, Howard-Jacksonville        | 164,000     | 0         | 164,000      |
| Devin Wyman, Ky. State-New England     | 143,000     | 8,200     | 151,200      |
| James Roe, Norfolk State-Baltimore     | 131,000     | 15,500    | 146,500      |
| Clarence Benford, Albany St.-Seattle   | 131,000     | 5,000     | 136,000      |
| Jerry Wilson, Southern-Miami           | 131,000     | 0         | 131,000      |
| Kendall Shello, Southern-Indianapolis  | 131,000     | 0         | 131,000      |

**SPRING FINISH:** The Mid Eastern Athletic Conference will hold its annual Spring Meeting May 28-30 (Wednesday - Friday) in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida at the TradeWinds Resort. MEAC Commissioner Charles S. Harris will welcome the governing body including the Council of Chief Executive Officers (Presidents and Chancellors), the Faculty Representatives, the Directors of Athletics and the Senior Women Administrators. The MEAC All-Sports Awards winners will be announced and honored during the meetings.

## THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### MORE BLACK COLLEGE NFL ROOKIE FREE AGENT SIGNINGS

OAKLAND RAIDERS  
Chris Thompson, LB, Bowie State

ST. LOUIS RAMS  
Billy Jenkins, DB, Howard

BALTIMORE RAVENS  
Tony Lanier, WR, Virginia State

## Jackson State golf team denied NCAA bid, again

LUT WILLIAMS  
BCSP Editor

It's deja vu all over again for the Jackson State men's golf team and head coach Eddie Payton.

Despite posting an excellent 298.21 stroke average, winning their ninth consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) title and three other tournaments along the way, and posting rather decisive wins over two teams that received bids, the Tigers were snubbed by the three-member NCAA selection committee for entry to the 21-team field for the Central Regional Championship. The committee selects the top eight in the district for entry to the Regional. The top ten teams in regional play advance to the national championship.

"That's the way it goes," said Payton, resigned to the fact that there is no appeals process available. He said he has turned his focus to the National Minority Golf Championship scheduled for next week in Cleveland.

"I thought we played well enough to get in. We played a strong schedule and we played pretty well. We soundly beat two teams that got in (Southwestern Louisiana and Rice) in head-to-head competition. I think we should have gotten in."

But he doesn't blame the selection committee. He blames the process.

## Top JSU golfer says no to NCAA

Jackson State senior golfer, Tim O'Neal, ranked as the nation's number one golfer by Golfstat Inc., is choosing not to play for the NCAA individual championship because his team didn't receive an invitation to the NCAA Central Regional beginning this week. Instead, he will join his team in the National Minority Golf Championship, May 19-21 in Cleveland.

O'Neal, who leads the nation with a 71.83 stroke average is the frontrunner for the Golfstat Cup awarded each year to the men's collegiate golfer with the lowest scoring average adjusted for conditions. Last year's winner was Tiger Woods, then of Stanford whose average was 70.61.

Golfstat is the company hired by the NCAA to admin-

ister the NCAA Collegiate Golf Rating system, which is used by the NCAA for selections for their Championship.

"Tim is a strong team player with real strong convictions," said Jackson State golf coach Eddie Payton who spoke with BCSP Monday while his team practiced for the Minority Championship. "To put the team's goals ahead of individual goals in this day and age is rare."

O'Neal said in interviews published last week that the selection process that left his team out is political.

"I think the (selection) committee feels it they send me, it will shut up the coach," said O'Neal in a story published in the *Jackson Clarion-Ledger*. "It hurt me when I found out we didn't make it because the two teams ahead of us (Rice and

Southwestern Louisiana), we beat them like a drum. It's all politics, I guess."

Payton would not discuss when O'Neal would turn pro saying his star and the team is only concentrating on the tournament coming up in Cleveland. Jackson State has won the title six times in the ten years the tournament has been played.



Jackson State Sports Photo  
**O'NEAL:** Jackson State star says if team doesn't go he won't either.

### MEN'S GOLFSTAT CUP Rankings

|                 |                    |       |       |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| Tim O'Neal      | Sr., Jackson State | 71.83 | -0.43 |
| Alberto Ochoa   | So., TCU           | 71.81 | -0.36 |
| Chris Hanell    | Sr., Arizona State | 71.61 | -0.29 |
| Chris Wollmann  | Sr., Ohio State    | 71.13 | -0.28 |
| John Rollins    | Sr., Va. Comm.     | 71.62 | -0.15 |
| Joel Kribel     | Jr., Stanford      | 71.81 | -0.10 |
| Brad Elder      | So., Texas         | 72.19 | -0.07 |
| Richard Couglin | Sr., Clemson       | 72.54 | -0.02 |
| Michael Connell | Jr., Miss. State   | 71.70 | 0.08  |
| Robert Russell  | Sr., Mo. KC        | 72.21 | 0.16  |

The low scoring average is figured on scoring average versus par, adjusted for conditions. The Golfstat cup will be awarded after the NCAA Championship.

"The process itself is unfair," he said. "These teams get in more on reputation than performance. Because of their conference affiliations and friendships they've established over the years, it's hard for them to vote my team in when I'm not up there."

Payton served three years on the selection committee and watched them bypass his squad two years ago despite another

sterling season. Last year, JSU became the first black college ever to receive a bid to the tournament. His team finished 16th in the Central Regional.

"We are judged differently because we are a historically black college," said Payton. "It's like we're not supposed to be playing on that level so we don't get in."

The best system said Payton would be to give automatic

berths to conference champions as is done in NCAA basketball, baseball and tennis with additional at-large berths. Another method could be to split the districts in half for playoffs and take the top four teams from each section. Currently, selections are supposed to be based on head-to-head competition, overall winning percentage in the District and stroke differential.

JSU beat Rice twice by a combined three strokes and beat SW Louisiana twice by 13 strokes. The selection committee includes SW Louisiana coach Bob Bass, Southwest Texas State coach Jim Bob Jackson and David Foster, coach at North Texas State. Go figure.

## 11th Minority Golf championship tees off

Sixteen black college golf teams will descend on the Highland Park Golf Course just outside Cleveland through the weekend for the 11th Annual Minority Golf Championships staged amid a flurry of activities over the four-day event.

The 36-hole golf course located in Highland Hills, Ohio, is the staging ground for four days of golf for black college teams, high schoolers and celebrities with a mixture of corporate schmoozing and job recruitment. The par-71 Red Course covering 6,090 yards and the par-71 Blue Course which is 6,562 yards are the city-run public courses frequented often by blacks in the Cleveland area, said Brown.

Begun by local physician, the late Dr. Herschel Cochran as a United Negro College Fund fundraiser, the event has grown into a major fundraiser for the black college golf programs.

"We give between \$3-4,000 each year directly to the black college programs that participate," said Margaret Brown, the local tournament director. "We don't charge the teams to participate. We take care of meals, all the greens fees for practice rounds and tournament fees and we give each of them grab bags." All the teams have to do is get to the tournament.

The colleges will play a six-man 54 hole tournament (27 holes each day) while the high schoolers play a 36-hole format May 19-20. Seventy-five (75) high schoolers are entered this year. Black college golfers not on teams are allowed to compete for the individual championships. The total field this year is 196.

Celebrities, led by actor Clifton Davis, play a Scramble May 19 on another course. Celebs pay \$1,000 for four-man teams. Individual players pay \$250. The celebrity field is full at 193, Brown said.

Other activities include a Job Fair where 10-12 major golf companies will be recruiting young golfers for various non-teaching pro positions in the golfing industry. Brown said this year Softspike, a shoe company will be replacing all the teams metal spikes with the new soft spikes which are slowly becoming the footwear of choice for many golf courses.

A United State Golf Association (USGA) professional will conduct a Rules Seminar for the players to acquaint them with all the new rules and rule changes in golf. A banquet, sponsored by Pizza Hut, begins the activities on Saturday. On Sunday, Golf World/Golf Digest will sponsor a barbecue.

"With the high schoolers here, it gives the college coaches a chance to replace some of the talent they may be losing to graduation and perhaps offer some of the young people scholarships to their programs," said Brown. "It also gives these young people a chance to understand the golf business."

Teams scheduled to play this year include: Clark Atlanta, Bethune-Cookman, Alabama State, Florida A&M, Kentucky State, South Carolina

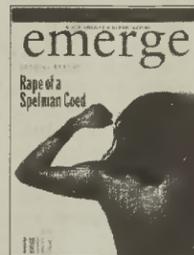
State, Hampton, Texas Southern, Southern, Jackson State, Fayetteville State, St. Augustines, Virginia Union, Talladega and Tennessee State.

The colleges compete in Div. I and Div. II formats. Fayetteville State is the reigning Div. II champion. Hampton defeated Florida A&M on the first hole of a sudden death playoff to win last year's Div. I title.

For more information on the tournament, contact the Highland Park Golf Course at 216-3489-7273.

## BCSP Notes

▼ "Rape of a Spelman Coed" is the cover story of a Special Report in the May 1997 issue of *Emerge* magazine on rape. The story, written by Lori Robinson, examines the alleged rape of a female student of Spelman College by four members of the Morehouse College basketball team on the Morehouse campus last Fall and the subsequent division that the incident has caused on the neighboring Atlanta University Complex campuses. The four student/athletes were suspended initially for one year but were reinstated for the Spring semester. The story explores attitudes towards rape and has a sexual violence



An alleged rape by four Morehouse basketball players is the Cover story of the May issue of *Emerge Magazine*.

▼ Speculation about the fate of the football program at Central State (Ohio) continues to abound. Word is that the school has cancelled a date with Virginia Union in the 1997 football season. The Wilberforce, Ohio school

has been experiencing severe financial difficulties that may jeopardize their fielding a team this year. Officials could not be reached for comment.

▼ While on the subject of football an intriguing matchup has been scheduled in the opening weeks of the 1997 football season. Howard University, the defending Mid Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) champ, is scheduled to play Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) champ Jackson State in Jackson on Sept. 6 at 7 pm. The game not only pits the two black college Div. I-AA conference champs but brings together the top two signal callers perhaps in all of I-AA football. Howard's Ted White led the Bison to the Heritage Bowl championship last year while being tabbed as the MEAC Offensive Player of the Year. Jackson State's Grailyn Pratt won the same award in the SWAC while leading the Tigers to a I-AA playoff appearance. Early estimates are that the matchup could fill up Jackson Memorial Stadium's 60,000 seats.