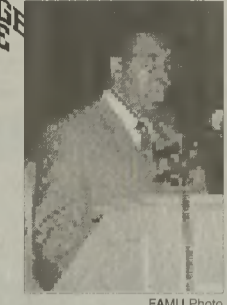


FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 3 THROUGH FEB. 9, 2004

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



FAMU Photo

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

▼ FAMU PREXY SPRINGS TO ACTION; NEW COACH IN THE WINGS AT VIRGINIA UNION

GAINOUS: Florida A&M president may be calling halt to IA football move, pulling plug on Rattler's TV deal.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

JONES TO VA. UNION?:



WSSU Photo

JONES: Likely to leave WSSU for head coaching job at Va. Union.

Richmond native **Arrington Jones**, current offensive coordinator at **Winston-Salem State**, has been offered the head coaching job at **Virginia Union**. In the report, Jones, who was a star running back at **WSSU** in the late '70s and a former assistant at **Virginia State**, said he is likely to accept the job this week. "We are going to go over some of the terms and things like that, and we'll talk some more, but it's looking like I'm going to accept it," Jones said. He did not reveal the terms of the contract but it is believed to be a three-year contract with an annual salary around \$75,000. Jones makes \$48,000 at **WSSU** and has played an integral part in helping Head Coach **Kermit Blount** recruit and revamp the Rams' offense. Jones said he talked with **Michael Bailey**, the athletics director at **Virginia Union**, and had an interview with **Belinda Anderson**, the school's interim president. Jones, 44, has been climbing the coaching ladder since 1986 when he was hired at **Virginia State** as a part-time assistant. While completing his degree requirements at **Virginia State**, he became a full-time assistant and eventually offensive coordinator. He left **Virginia State** in the summer of 2001 to become the offensive coordinator at **WSSU**. Jones will likely take over for **Willard Bailey**, who was reassigned in December despite being the **CIAA's** all-time wins leader with 211.

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TIME TO VOTE ON ONNIDAN:

The top Black College NFL players of the 2003-04 season are listed on *Onnidan's Black College Sports Online* (hbcusports.com) and waiting for your vote to choose the BCSP Black College NFL Players of the Year. Fifteen (15) players, seven on offense and eight on defense, are nominated for the awards based on their outstanding accomplishments this season. The players' ballot is separated by offense and defense. You may cast one vote for an offensive player, submit your vote, and then cast another for a defensive player. Through Tuesday (Feb. 2, 2004), nearly 1,000 votes had been cast with former **Alcorn State** and current **Tennessee Titans** QB **Steve McNair** leading the offensive voting and former **Fort Valley State** defensive back **Nick Harper** of the **Indianapolis Colts** leading the defenders. The player profiles, ballot and results can be seen or accessed through the **Onnidan** home page or by going to the following address.

PLAYER PROFILES (with stats)
<http://www.onnidan.com/bcsp/nflpoy04/nflpoy04.htm>
 TO CAST YOUR VOTE
 Click on "Submit Vote"
 TO SEE TABULATIONS
 Click on "View Results"

Voting will end on Sunday, Feb. 8 and the winner will be announced next week in the BCSP.

BOYCOTT AA&M

A report in the *Anniston (Ala.) Star* says that Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner **Jon Steinbrecher** has reportedly told athletic directors at all 11 OVC schools to not schedule **Alabama A&M** for any athletic events after A&M broke a contract to play a football game next season against **Jacksonville State**. **Steinbrecher** sent the letter to the ADs, OVC chancellors and **Southwestern Athletic Conference** Commissioner **Robert Vowels** saying A&M acted in an "unprofessional and noncollegial manner." "From my perspective, when another institution treats one of our member institutions poorly, it treats all of our member institutions poorly," **Steinbrecher** wrote. "Alabama A&M's athletics program do nothing to enhance the quality of non-conference competition in the Ohio Valley Conference. Given that, please do not schedule them." A&M reportedly paid \$30,000 to buyout the contract with **Jacksonville State** so that the **Bulldogs** could play another OVC team, traditional rival **Tennessee State** on Sept 4 of this year in the *John Merritt Classic* in Nashville's Coliseum. **Steinbrecher** says A&M did not communicate with JSU about the change. A&M Athletic Director **Jim Martin** did not comment on the story.

2003-04 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Men's Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

SCORES	CIAA	MEAC	SIAC	SWAC	INDEPEND.
<p>MONDAY, FEB. 2 MEAC B-CC 71, UMES 70, 2 OT CSC 72, NSU 69 Howard 61, NC A&T 60 MSU 84, Hampton 63 SCSU 60, DSU 42 SWAC Alab. St. 88, PV A&M 42 AA&M 60, TSU 54 GSU 83, MVSU 69 JSU 66, UAPB 48 Tx PA 74, Alcorn St. 52</p> <p>SATURDAY, JAN. 31 CIAA Shaw 65, ECSU 62 JCSU 73, LC 71 VSU 87, SPC 79 VUU 80, SAC 76 WSSU 78, NCCU 68 MEAC DSU 74, NC A&T 61 FAMU 79, UMES 74 Hampton 75, CSC 72 NSU 89, MSU 65 SCSU 78, Howard 67 SWAC Alab. St. 70, TSU 51 AA&M 72, PV A&M 68 GSU 76, UAPB 55 MVSU 50, JSU 41 SU 84, Alcorn St. 73 IND TTU 77, Tenn. St. 76</p>	<p>DIV ALL W L W L E. DIVISION Bowie State 4 1 16 3 Virginia Union 4 1 14 3 Shaw 3 2 9 11 St. Paul's 2 4 3 16 Eliz. City St. 2 4 10 11 Virginia State 1 4 9 9 W. DIVISION N. C. Central 4 1 9 8 St. Augustine's 4 2 14 6 Fayetteville State 3 2 11 8 J. C. Smith 3 2 10 10 W-Salem State 2 3 14 7 Livingstone 0 6 2 17</p> <p>CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK PLAYER JONATHAN HARRIS, Sr., G, ECSU, Charlotte, NC - Averaged 22.6 pts., 9 rebs., 2.3 assists and 2 steals in 2-1 week. In upset of Bowie St., Harris had 30 points, 10 rebounds. ROOKIE AUDLY WENNER, Fr., F, WSSU, Fayetteville, NC - Fifth straight week winner after averaging 21 pts., 5.5 rebounds and 2.5 assists. Had 26 pts., and 5 rebounds in win over NCCU. COACH SHAWN WALKER, ECSU - Led Vikings to 2-1 week including win over Bowie State.</p>	<p>CONF ALL W L W L SC State 8 2 11 8 Delaware State 7 3 8 10 Coppin State 7 3 9 12 Florida A&M 6 3 7 11 Hampton 6 4 8 13 Morgan State 6 4 7 10 Norfolk State 5 5 6 13 Bethune-Cookman 3 6 4 14 Howard 3 7 5 14 Maryland-E. S. 2 8 3 15 NC A&T State 1 9 1 18</p> <p>MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK PLAYER THOMAS YEE-TROTTER, Sr., G, UMES, Las Cruces, NM - Had four games of 20 or more last week, including a season-high 36 in a tough loss to FAMU. Finished the week averaging 27 points, 3.5 rebounds, 3.2 assists, 18 of 27 from the field, 26-29 from the free throw line. ROOKIE SEAN BOOKER, Fr., F, NCA&T, Louisville, KY - Had season-high 29 points on 10 of 11 shooting as Aggies got their first win of season. Averaged 18.6 points, 4.0 rebounds and 4.0 assists in 1-1 week.</p>	<p>CONF ALL W L W L E. DIVISION Benedict 10 2 10 5 Morehouse 7 4 12 5 Albany State 6 4 9 7 Paine 7 5 8 9 Fl. Valley State 4 6 6 10 Clark Atlanta 3 7 5 11 W. DIVISION Tuskegee 7 3 9 8 Lane 9 5 10 8 Miles 6 6 9 10 Kentucky State 3 11 4 13 LeMoyn-Owen 1 10 1 16</p> <p>SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK NA</p>	<p>DIV ALL W L W L Miss. Valley State 7 2 13 6 Jackson State 7 2 9 9 Texas Southern 5 4 9 10 Southern 5 4 8 10 Alabama A&M 5 4 7 10 Alcorn State 4 5 5 13 Alabama State 4 5 6 12 Grambling State 4 5 6 13 Prairie View 3 6 3 15 Ark. Pine Bluff 1 8 1 17</p> <p>SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK PLAYER BRON RUSH, So., G, GSU, Shreveport, LA - Led G-Men to 2-0 week, averaging 25.5 points per game, 7.5 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 1.5 steals. In an upset of top-ranked MVSU, he tallied 31 points on 9 of 16 shooting, grabbed seven rebounds, dished out seven assists and had one steal. For the week he was 9-9 from the charity stripe and 6 of 13 from three-point range.</p>	<p>W L West Virginia State 14 4 UDC 12 7 Cheyney 13 5 Central State 9 7 Savannah State 2 21 Tennessee State 4 15</p> <p>PLAYERS OF THE WEEK PLAYER NA NEWCOMER NA</p>

Alexander has formula for success at Tennessee St.



All Pro Photo

ON THE PROWL: Former S.C. State coach turned the Bulldogs into an MEAC power is trying to work the same magic with Tennessee State of the OVC.

ED HILL

Special to the BCSP
 When **Cy Alexander** was hired to take over as head men's basketball coach at **Tennessee State**, he knew it would be a difficult task. Prior to his arrival, the once-proud Tiger program was wracked with a myriad of on- and off-court problems accentuated last season by charges of bringing a gun on campus that ended the tenure of his predecessor. Amidst the turmoil, TSU's athletic director, a female, made history by coaching the men's team for two games last season but could stop a 21-game losing streak that lasted through the end of last season. But the confident Alexander is no stranger to restoring respectability to a basketball program as he did at **South Carolina State**. During 13 years, he won 277 games that included five **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** Tournament titles, five 20-win seasons and five NCAA Tournament appearances. The Bulldogs had captured just one MEAC title prior to his arrival. "The first order of business was to restore some discipline in the program from an image standpoint," explains Alexander. "Secondly, we wanted to be organized, both coaches and players. And third, we want to re-condition the thinking on learning how to win." A season-opening win over **Trevecca** proved to be an aberration as the Tigers reverted back to what they were used to, as they dropped 10 games in a row, five coming after having double-digit leads in the second half. "When you have lost as much as

the players had, you find yourself looking for ways to lose rather than believing you can win," says Alexander. But Alexander did not panic and he decided to take a basic approach to turn things around. "We decided to eliminate all the non-conference games from our minds and focus on the Ohio Valley Conference games," explained Alexander, always the master motivator. "I told the players and coaches we were going to focus on one game and that was our conference opener. They bought into it and we defeated Jacksonville State at home. It was the first time that TSU had won an OVC game in two years." The mind-set continued for Alexander and his team two nights later when they came from behind to defeat **Samford** and go 2-0 in the OVC. The Tigers are currently 3-5 in the conference, but what is important to Alexander is the improvement he has seen. "We are playing hard and competing every night. We do not yet have the talent level to win consistently. But the fans are beginning to come out again and they appreciate our efforts." TSU features two very talented players in **Bruce Price** and **Roshaun Bowers**, who average almost 34 points between them. Price is an outstanding 6-3 freshman guard who Alexander feels has a very strong chance of being the conference rookie of the year. **Bowers** is a 6-6 junior forward who has multiple skills. But Alexander says that more help is on the way. Four top level players including 6-7 **Eric King**, a

transfer from **St. John's** and **Andre Belton**, a 6-4 shooting guard have Alexander excited about the future. "We have some players coming here in the next two years that are difference-makers and have the ability to play at a high level," he says confidently. For the immediate future, Alexander says the plan is to finish in the Top eight (there are 11 teams in the conference) in the OVC regular season in order to make the tournament. That would be a significant accomplishment since the Tigers have not made the tournament since 2000. Having been successful in the MEAC and the challenge of competing in the OVC, Alexander notes the differences. "First of all, the facilities are of a higher quality in the OVC," says Alexander. "The 1, 2 and 3 positions are of the same quality. It is at the 4 and 5 positions where the OVC has an advantage." "And then there is the exposure factor. Select OVC games are televised on both ESPN2 and the Fox Sports Channel. The MEAC is underexposed. People don't get to see some of the outstanding players and coaches they have in the conference." After doing such an outstanding job at **South Carolina State**, Alexander was passed over for several head coaching jobs in the past, but he says he is not bitter and is in fact in the right place at the right time. "I am getting unbelievable support from the president, athletic director and the fans here at **Tennessee State**," says Alexander. "In the next two years, we are going to be a force to be reckoned with."

GAMES THIS WEEK

SAT., FEB 7	
CIAA	JCSU @ WSSU 7:30pm
	FSU @ SAC 7:30pm
	VSU @ VUU 7:30pm
	Shaw @ BSU 7:30pm
	SPC @ ECSU 7:30pm
	LC @ NCCU 7:30pm
MEAC	CSC @ FAMU 4:00pm
	HAM @ SCSU 4:00pm
	MSU @ B-CC 4:00pm
	NSU @ NC A&T 7:30pm
	UMES @ DSU 7:30pm
	B-CC @ SSC 7:30pm
SWAC	AA&M @ UAPB 7:30pm
	Alcorn St. @ JSU 7:30pm
	SU @ GSU 7:30pm
	Alab. St. @ MVSU 7:30pm
	TSU @ PV 7:30pm
MON., FEB 9	
CIAA	Col. Union @ SPC 7:30pm
MEAC	Morgan St. @ FAMU 7:30pm
	Norfolk St. @ SCSU 7:30pm
	UMES @ HOW 8:00pm
	CSC @ B-CC 8:00pm
	HAM @ NC A&T 8:00pm
SWAC	Alab. St. @ UAPB 7:30pm
	Alcorn St. @ GSU 7:30pm
	SU @ JSU 7:30pm
	AA&M @ MVSU 7:30pm
TUES., FEB 10	
CIAA	VUU @ Shaw 7:30pm
	LC @ WSSU 7:30pm
	BSU @ VSU 7:30pm
	SAC @ JCSU 7:30pm
	Benedict @ FSU 7:30pm
	NCCU @ ECSU 7:30pm
WED., FEB 11	
CIAA	Barber-Scolia @ SPC 7:30pm
THUR., FEB 12	
CIAA	VUU @ UDC 7:30pm
	Col. Union @ BSU 8:00pm

Times are for men's games. Women's games usually start two hours before men's contests.

BCSP Notes

FAMU Update
 According to stories in the *Tallahassee Democrat*, **Florida A&M** President **Fred Gainous** has taken the first steps towards severing the school's relationship with its television partner, Harlem-based **Urban Broadcasting Company**, and says he is no longer in favor of a move to **Div. IA** football right now. **Gainous** scheduled a meeting with the entire athletic department for Wednesday (Feb. 4) morning at 8 a.m., the same day as National Signing Day for budding college football athletes. The *Democrat* reported that **Gainous** sent a memo on Thursday of last week to the school's Board of Trustees indicating that UBC was unlikely to generate any revenue for the athletic department after broadcasting six Rattler football games this year. When the deal was signed with UBC in June of last year, FAMU interim Athletic Director, **Dr. J.R.E. Lee III** said the deal would bring a minimum of \$1.5 million annually for the athletic department. **Gainous's** memo says UBC has until March 1 of this year to make fourth quarter payments and to submit an accounting statement. "This pace is intended to conclude our relationship with UBC," **Gainous** reportedly says in the memo. UBC signed a five-year deal to broadcast selected

FAMU athletic events, including football and basketball games, but has not made any payments to the school and has also not paid the vendors who produced the games for the network. The memo also reportedly says that **Gainous** is recommending a delay in the decision to move the Rattlers football program from **NCAA Div. I-AA** to **Div. IA** status. The school received permission from the NCAA to pursue the upgrade last summer-but **Gainous** said a number of campus issues and academic programs need to be addressed before tackling the costs of a football upgrade. The **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** has given FAMU a March 15 deadline to return its football program to the conference or have all sports expelled by June 30. One trustee member, **Rev. J. B. Holmes**, says he supports the idea of rescinding **Lee's** decision to pull out of the MEAC in all sports and has recommended that the school develop a 7- to 10-year master plan to upgrade facilities and get alumni support. **Lee**, who has been quoted as saying he has had several discussions with conferences about FAMU's membership, has been under increasing criticism about the haste of his decision to seek an upgrade. He took over as interim AD in November of 2002 and announced five months later that the school would move to **Div. IA** in football.

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