

# Classic puts all-stars on big stage

By Rory Sharrock  
SPECIAL TO THE POST

The history of HBCU sports will add yet another chapter to its enduring legacy when the top hoopsters gather to participate in the 2004 Black College All-Star Game. This athletic showcase, which features male and female players, will convene on April 24 at Morehouse in Atlanta.

Forty-eight seniors from the CIAA, MEAC, SIAC and SWAC compete for bragging rights and the chance of a lifetime. Several pro scouts are scheduled to be in the building from the NBA, WNBA, NBDL and WBA, which is the host sponsor for the weekend.

"There are so many talented athletes that are not getting a fair chance because they're not exposed," said Leroy McMath, president

and founder of the World Basketball Association. "We don't want the fact that an athlete who attended a HBCU to be a reason that they don't get an opportunity to play on the professional level. We want to make it ok to play for Historically Black Colleges."

Among the athletes on this year's roster is CIAA Player of the Year Desmond Peoples of St. Augustine's College. Peoples concluded his senior season ranked fifth in the conference in scoring with 20.2 and first in rebounding at 11.4. He also led his squad to a 19-9 record and a Western Division title.

Players from six N.C. schools will travel to Atlanta including Joi Surratt (Johnson C. Smith), Anthony Greenup (Shaw), Jonathan Harris (Elizabeth City State), Kenny Haywood (Fayetteville State), David

Young and Melvin Whitaker (N.C. Central). The EIAC contingent includes players of the year Ronald Roundtree and Tamikey Hindsman of Barber-Scotia.

The CIAA, MEAC and EIAC will comprise the East squad, while the SIAC and SWAC will make up the West. Calling the plays from the sidelines for the men's Eastern All-Stars is former NBA player and Hampton standout Rick Mahorn. Mahorn was a standout all-CIAA player at Hampton and helped the Pistons capture consecutive titles in the late 1980s.

Mahorn's counterpart is NBA scout and World Basketball Association coach Harold Ellis, a Morehouse graduate who currently serves as a scout for the Atlanta Hawks. He will make his coaching debut for the WBA's Rome

Gladiators.

Additional festivities include a slam-dunk competition, 3-point shootout and free-throw contest. During halftime fans will hear performances by Nivea, Lil Scrappy and 4 Shades. The weekend closes out with the inaugural WBA draft taking place at the ESPN Zone in Buckhead.

"The WBA is there to show our support and give athletes an opportunity to play in our league. Their participation will give them that first hand experience as what to expect in pursuing a professional career in basketball," said McMath.

The women's game is set to tip off at 5:30 p.m. followed by the men in the nightcap at 7:30 p.m. For information on the game and a schedule of events, log onto [www.atlantablackcollegeall-stars.com](http://www.atlantablackcollegeall-stars.com).

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## CIAA favorites continue winning ways

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Championships in Walnut, Calif., May 27-29. An automatic berth is extended to teams qualifying at 45.50 seconds or better, but teams running 47.90 or better can also earn a place. JCSU recorded a time of 47.42.

St. Aug's Larry Marshall topped the first place Falcons with a repeat performance in the 1500 and a runaway victory in the 5,000, taking top male track athlete.

Livingstone's Patrick Wright repeated as outstanding field athlete by capturing victories in the shot put and discus throw, and placing fifth in the javelin throw.

There were two three-peat performances, with St. Augustine's Adrian Findley winning the men's 400 hurdles for the third straight time and Livingstone's Jordan Vaden capturing his third consecutive win in the men's 200 meters.

• The CIAA championships was the first stop of the "farewell tour" for Livingstone track coach Clifton Huff, who is retiring to focus on his responsibility as director of athletics.

Huff, a Livingstone graduate, built the Blue Bears track program into a conference and national contender. During his tenure, Huff produced 35 NCAA All-Americans, 110 all-CIAA performers and 25 CIAA individual-event champions.

His teams has been CIAA runner-ups 15 times and has placed among the conference's top three 21 times. At the NCAA Division II National Championships, his teams have placed in the top 25 five times.

"I know people think that I am too young to retire," he said. "I feel that I need to focus more on the overall development of our athletic programs. I have a very supportive president and administration. Now is the best time to try to rebuild and return our athletic programs to the prominence we had in the late '90s."

Assistant coach Adrian Ferguson will succeed Huff.

## Tyson returns to heavyweight mix

By Tim Dahlberg  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Don King had so many heavyweight champions clustered around him early Sunday morning at Madison Square Garden that even he couldn't keep them straight. They were nameless champions with alphabet titles, unlike the interested spectator sitting only a few feet away. Mike Tyson has no gaudy green belts to wrap around his waist. He hasn't fought in more than a year, and his skills are deteriorating.

But in a heavyweight division starved for a star, he's the biggest one around. And that had King salivating at the prospect of reuniting with his former champion.

"You can change the globe, baby," King told Tyson. "Let's do it again and see if we can reclaim the glory of yesteryear."

Tyson wasn't quite ready to bite, presumably because his lawyers believe he will win far more from King in the \$100 million lawsuit he filed against the promoter for allegedly stealing money than he will ever earn from King in the ring.

That Tyson is being courted so brazenly, though, says a lot about the state of a heavyweight division whose cupboard appears nearly bare after Lennox Lewis' retirement.

Just minutes before King made his latest pitch for Tyson, he watched as IBF champion Chris Byrd and Andrew Golota fought to a draw in an interesting yet not very satisfying bout. Just before that, John Ruiz and Fres Oquendo engaged in a WBA heavyweight title fight so ugly that Ruiz's sudden ending of it in the 11th round was greeted mostly by relief, not cheers.

The heavyweight division is fractured, and fighters with crowns wear them uneasily.

There's Byrd, who is slick but undersized and lacking in power. He and Golota had the 15,195 fans at the Garden on their feet, though primarily because Ruiz-Oquendo was so bad that their fight looked like Ali-Frazier III all over again.

Then there is Ruiz, who might be the most unappealing heavyweight champion ever inside the ring, though he's a nice enough guy outside it. He and Oquendo clinched, held and posed before Ruiz finally landed a series of punches that prompted the referee to put a merciful end to a terrible fight.

There is still some hope for the division. Next Saturday, Vitali Klitschko can make a claim for a title of his own when he and Corrie Sanders fight in Los Angeles for the crown vacated by Lewis.

## Volkswagen combines luxury, toughness in the V8 Touareg

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Volkswagen wants everyone to know it is not just a manufacturer of bargain basement cars. Yes, this is the company that builds Jetta and Beetles, but it's also the company associated with Audi and Porsche and also owns Bentley and Lamborghini.

So what's the need for Volkswagen to build a vehicle like the Touareg (pronounced Tour-regg'), a luxury SUV? Some would say none considering there is a fine thing called a Porsche Cayenne.

But that Porsche. It's become apparent that each division of a car company must sell some sort of truck or face extinction.

Well, the Touareg isn't just

any kind of truck - it's a great one. Volkswagen has successfully combined the best of both genres - the luxury of a high performance sedan and the toughness of a go-hither truck.

The Touareg's exterior borrows a bit from the high-dollar Phaeton sedan. It's elegantly understated without being bland. The huge wheel well openings are filled with 17-inch wheels on the six-cylinder model, or 18" if you choose the V8. If you must floss, 19" wheels are optional on the V8 model.

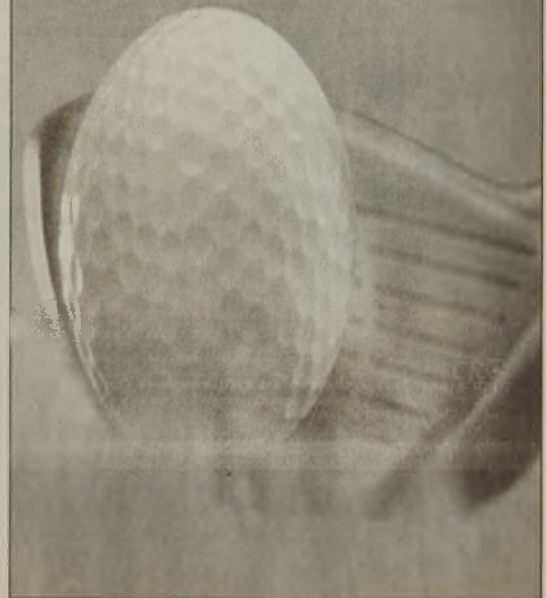
The interior is a thing of beauty, with plenty of wood leather and chrome. The front seats are big and comfy with multiple power adjustments. The rear seat will accommodate three people. Thankfully, Volkswagen resisted the temptation of adding a third seat. The vehicle isn't big enough for such and it isn't missed. There is 31 cubic feet of storage space with the seats up. Lower them and the space increases to a cavernous 71

cubic feet.

The optional air suspensions allows this vehicle to ride like a luxury sedan, a sports sedan or a truck. It will also raise the vehicle's ride height by almost four inches. This allows you to trek through some rough terrain or even deep snow with ease.

My time with both the V6 and V8 models were well spent. The 220 hp V6 was OK, but the 310 hp V8 would be my choice. The 302 pounds-feet of torque makes this thing a beast.

This is an expensive beast. My fully dressed V8 Touareg was \$48,955. The V6 was 43,965. Both included the air suspension, navigation system, killer stereo, sunroof and six-speed transmission. I think a rear seat DVD system would be icing on the cake but none is available. Killing some of the goodies makes both a bit more affordable but why bother? The full-tilt versions are as good as the SUV category gets.



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