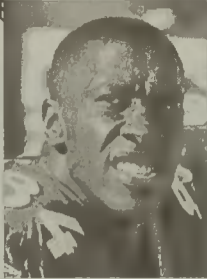


FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 18 THROUGH MAY 24, 2004

**BLACK COLLEGE
SPORTS PAGE**


Denver Broncos Photo

SHARPE MOVES

▼ CIAA EXPANSION, HEADQUARTERS MOVE LIKELY ON HORIZON; JSU GETS TOP RECRUIT

SHARPE: Former SIAC, NFL star calls halt to outstanding gridiron career for shot at broadcasting.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

OLIVER OLYMPIC QUALIFIER:

Howard University senior 110-meter hurdler **David Oliver**



Howard University Photo

OLIVER: Shows his form in winning Georgia Tech Invitational.

has qualified for the 2004 Olympic Trials which will be held in Sacramento, Calif., on July 18. Oliver clocked in at a time of 13.55 in the 110-meter hurdles to capture first place at the Georgia Tech Invitational this past weekend. It was a personal best for Oliver, a two-time All-American and school and Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference record holder in the event. His previous best was

13.81. "It was the best feeling I have ever felt," said an excited Oliver. "After the race, I was on Cloud Nine trying to soak everything in." Added Howard track and field coach **Michael Merritt**, "David has competed against much better competition this season and it has certainly helped improve his times. And I think last year's success has also played a role in his confidence and preparation." Oliver, who earned All-American honors in last year's NCAA Outdoor championships and indoors this year, will compete in the NCAA East Regionals on May 28-29 in Gainesville, Fla. He becomes the first Olympic qualifier for Howard in 16 years.

SHARPE TURN:

Record-breaking tight end **Shannon Sharpe**, a former three-time SIAC player of the year at Savannah State, has decided to end his football playing career to take a job replacing Deion Sanders on CBS's "The NFL Today" pregame show. Sharpe, 35, announced last month that he would return to the Denver Broncos for his 15th season but apparently changed his mind after the network offered him Sanders' spot opposite Jim Nantz, Boomer Esiason and Dan Marino on the popular show. Sanders, who had collected \$1 million in the final year of his deal, recently turned down the network's offer of \$1.3 million to continue on the show. Sharpe, who was scheduled to make \$760,000 with the Broncos this year will earn between \$800,000 and \$900,000 annually from the network over the next three seasons. "Shannon Sharpe has a great opportunity in television and I know he will be a great success because of his intelligence, attitude, preparation and perseverance," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said Monday. "He has always been outstanding on and off the football field, and he'll be a great addition to CBS." Sharpe is one of the most outspoken and loquacious players in the league and has also been one of its best on the field. He owns all-time NFL records for tight ends in receptions (815), reception yardage (10,060) and touchdowns (62) and has three Super Bowl rings, two with Denver and another with Baltimore. The future Hall of Famer was again outstanding last season, getting 62 receptions for 770 yards and eight touchdowns, second only to Kansas City's Tony Gonzalez in the AFC.

VSU PREZ TO D-2 COUNCIL:

Eddie N. Moore, president of Virginia State University since 1993, has been elected to serve on the NCAA Division II Presidents Council. Moore's term began with the Council's April meeting in Indianapolis. Before becoming Virginia State's 12th president, he served as treasurer of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Moore began his career in the private sector in 1971 with Gulf Oil Corporation. During his 14-year tenure with Gulf Oil, he rose to direct major components of the corporation's accounting and budgeting functions. He entered the public sector in 1985 as the assistant comptroller for accounting and reporting for the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 1988, he was selected to serve concurrently as the university comptroller for the College of William and Mary and the treasurer of its endowment association. In 1990, Moore was appointed state treasurer.

VSU Photo

MOORE: To assume spot on NCAA Division II President's Council.

CIAA says expansion in its plans

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) has decided to open its doors to expansion.

The 12-member conference's Board of Directors completed a strategic plan at its May 11-12 meeting in Duck, N.C., that effectively set the table for the league to attract more teams.

Along with increased television and media exposure and academic enhancement, the board identified expansion as a major priority for the immediate future. The vote for expansion was unanimous.

"We thought we needed to strengthen the conference and position it for more success and growth," said **Dr. Mickey Burnim**, chancellor of Elizabeth City State University and chairman of the CIAA Board of Directors.

Burnim said the conference is looking at adding up to four institutions.

"We want to attract institutions that will add value to and contribute to the long-term viability of our conference," he said. "As we evaluate potential members, the conference will only consider

inviting institutions who share similar academic standards, athletic progress and values."

With a significant alumni base spanning the East Coast, expansion plans will be focused geographically northward as far as Pennsylvania and as far south as Georgia. Burnim added that gaining a foothold in markets like Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia would fit the profile.

"We currently have one of the most successful basketball tournaments in the NCAA - Division I or Division II," said Burnim. "Most of our tournament games and some of our regular season games are already on television. If we want to be more attractive to TV networks, we need more games in more populated markets."

The CIAA is comprised of 12 colleges and universities located in Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia.

At least two conference schools, **North Carolina Central University** in Durham and **Winston-Salem State University** have publicly expressed interest and an intention to pursue NCAA Division I classification, which would include I-AA status in football. That would effective-

ly end their association with the CIAA which plays at the Division II level.

The plans of those schools did not really effect the decision to pursue expansion, said Burnim.

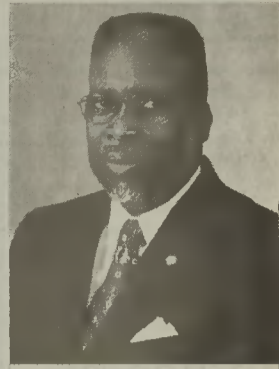
"We've been working on the strategic plan for over a year. We watched the ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) last year as they actively recruited schools that they thought would add value to their conference. They had specific criteria.

"Rather than react, we wanted to be proactive. Over the last decade we've lost two great institutions, **Hampton** and **Norfolk State**. We realize that other schools are looking to move up to I-AA, but the main thing for us is to know where we're going and how we're going to get there."

Burnim noted that there have been inquiries by other institutions about joining the CIAA.

The proposed expansion may spark the interest of several Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) that are similar to CIAA institutions.

The **University of the District of Columbia** in Washington, D.C., **Lincoln University** or **Cheyney**



ECSU Photo

BURNIM: Elizabeth City chancellor and conference board chairman is the designated spokesperson for the CIAA on the expansion issue.

University in Pennsylvania and **Benedict College** in Columbia, S.C., could be at or near the top of that list.

Barber-Scotia, a member of the Eastern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (EIAC), may also be interested.

Benedict reportedly sought membership in the CIAA before joining the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC), another Division II conference, in 2002.

Also seeking CIAA headquarters, Hall of Fame

Raleigh plans expanded fundraising for CIAA

ERIC N. MOORE
Special to the BCSP

Raleigh Mayor **Charles Meeker** and the city's CIAA Tournament Steering Committee have announced plans for an expanded fundraising effort for activities related to the Hampton-based conference, including the relocation of the conference headquarters.

Plans call for the construction of a CIAA Hall of Fame and headquarters office in Raleigh and for funds to cover financial commitments and operations costs for the 2005 CIAA Basketball Tournament in Raleigh.

Contributions from the City of Raleigh, Wake County and private donations from area businesses, organizations and citizens have covered expenses for hosting the tournament.

The Steering Committee has fallen short in its local private fundraising efforts for the tournament, so they are asking the City Council to allow it to enter into an agreement with Sports Properties Inc. (SPI) to conduct the fundraiser.

"We'll let (Assistant City Manager) **Lawrence Wray** and his staff call on local folks while SPI goes after regional sponsors," said Meeker at a Tuesday morning press conference in his office.

Steering Committee members estimate they will need to raise \$5.7 million. Of that amount, \$4.7 million would go toward construction of the Hall of Fame and headquarters office with the remaining \$1 million used to fund expenses associated with hosting the 2005 Tournament. The Tournament has been held in Raleigh since 2000 and will complete its current commitment at the RBC Center in February, 2005.

CIAA Commissioner **Leon Kerry** could not be reached for comment involving the office relocation.

City officials expect Raleigh to be a strong candidate to host the event from 2006-2008 when the CIAA considers bids for future tournaments.

"The Hall of Fame and headquarters office

proposal is not tied to the bid for the 2006-2008 tournaments," said Meeker. "We just feel that it is good business sense to have the CIAA."

The CIAA Basketball Tournament's economic impact on the area has grown to an estimated \$11.5 million making it the largest income generator among sports entertainment events and conventions held in Raleigh. The tournament's total economic impact over the last five years was an estimated \$47.8 million. Tax revenue generated over this period is estimated at \$3.8 million, including \$983,304 from the 2004 tournament.

The CIAA headquarters has been in Hampton since moving from Richmond in 1976 under the leadership of **Bob Moorman**, the CIAA's first full-time commissioner.

"A headquarters is a headquarters is a headquarters," said Steering Committee member **Lewis Myers**. "We see spring championships and other conference activities coming to the area with the headquarters located in Raleigh."

BCSP Hoop Notes

Jackson State coup

Jackson State University of the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** has officially signed a hometown product considered one of the state of Mississippi's most coveted basketball players.

Provine High School standout guard and 2003 Mr. Basketball, **Charlie White**, officially signed with the Tigers Monday. After months of speculation and amid several rumors, the 5-10 point guard chose Jackson State over SEC power Mississippi State.

"Most big-time players from Jackson always seem to leave to go to bigger schools," said White, whose home is 10 minutes from the JSU campus.

"That doesn't mean it's the right decision for me. Sometimes they go off to another school and things don't go so well. I want to stay home, play at Jackson State and make a name for myself, the school and the SWAC."

White averaged 15 points, seven assists, four rebounds and four steals during his senior season. A two-time all-state selection and Mr.

Hoopscoop ranks White as the 66th-best senior in the country. **Bob Gibbons** and his All Star Sports lists him as one of the top 12 point guards in the land.

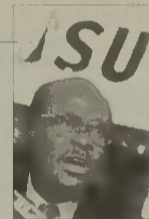
"Charlie is a big step in bringing back the pride in Jackson State men's basketball," said JSU head coach **Tevester Anderson**, who just completed his first year leading the Tigers.

"He is not only an outstanding player but an outstanding person. He has great leadership and athletic skills on the court."

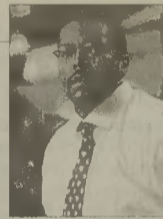
Anderson had served as an assistant at Georgia and Auburn of the SEC before spending five years as the head coach at Murray State. He was recognized as one of the top recruiters in the country during his days in the SEC, recruiting the likes of **Charles Barkley**, **Chuck Person**, **Chris Morris**, **Willie** and **Shannon Anderson** and **Litterial Green**.

He's brought the same kind of deft recruiting touch in landing White.

White averaged 15 points, seven assists, four rebounds and four steals during his senior season. A two-time all-state selection and Mr.



JSU's Anderson



Hampton's Collins

Basketball in 2003, White was All-Metro and Metro Player of the Year as a junior.

With the Rams, White led the metro-area school to two consecutive 4A state championships (32-6 in 2003-04 and 26-5 in 2002-03). He had a career-high 33 points against Lanier (Jackson, MS) High School. He also played in the Alabama/Mississippi All-Star Game, arguably outplaying **Ronald Steele**, an Alabama signee and his state's two-time Mr. Basketball.

White headlines a group of newcomers that will look to rebuild the Tigers' program that finished 12-17 overall, but came on strong late in the season.

HU hoops tour

While most college basketball programs must wait until the middle of October to begin their season, the **Hampton** men's basketball team

will tip-off its 2004-05 campaign with practice on August 2 in preparation for a summer tour through British Columbia.

"This summer tour will give us a chance to see where we stand early on and develop some team chemistry and unity," stated coach **Bobby Collins**, who will be entering his third season as the overseer of the Pirate program. "We have several new players who will have the opportunity to play and compete while getting five games under their belts."

Following ten days of practice, the Pirates will embark on a five-game tour that begins Friday, August 13 through Thursday, August 19.

"We had our choice of several places to tour, but we felt that this trip provided us with the best competition," added Collins who guided Hampton a record of 13-17 during the 2003-04 season.

Spring Sports Round-Up

SWAC, MEAC tennis shut out

The Texas A&M women's tennis team cruised to a 4-0 victory over **SWAC** champion **Southern** in the first round of the NCAA Women's Tennis regional in College Station, Texas Saturday.

The Aggies, who are the No. 1 seed in the regional, took a business-like approach against Southern and quickly clinched the doubles point against the Lady Jaguars. The Aggies won, 8-1, at both the No. 2 and No. 3 lines and was leading 5-3 at No. 1 when the point was decided.

Southern completes its season with a 10-13 record.

Top-seeded Florida (23-0) raced past **MEAC** champ **Hampton** 4-0 in the first round of the NCAA Women's Tennis Regionals Friday in Gainesville, Fla.

"We have four freshmen girls and we drew the nation's No. 1 team," Hampton head coach **Dr. Robert Screen** said.

Hampton (17-6) ends its season in the first round of the NCAA Championships against a team from the Southeastern Conference for the third consecutive year.

The University of North Carolina men's tennis team, the tournament's 11th seed, handled **MEAC** champion **South Carolina State** with a 4-0 NCAA first-round victory on Saturday at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center in Chapel Hill.

In the first ever meeting between the two schools, Carolina won the doubles point from the Bulldogs 8-3 and 8-4 and got wins in Nos. 1, 2 and 4 in singles.

LSU followed a similar path in knocking off **SWAC** men's champ **Southern** Saturday, 4-0, in the first round of the NCAA Men's Regional in Baton Rouge.

LSU won the doubles matches 8-1 and 8-2 before getting wins in Nos. 1, 2 and 4 in singles.

Softball pairings

MEAC champ **Bethune-Cookman** and **SWAC** titelist **Mississippi Valley State** have received automatic bids to the NCAA Division I Softball playoffs. The Lady Wildcats (44-26) will face Oregon (38-19) Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in Tallahassee.

The **Delta Devils** (31-13) plays at defending champion **UCLA** (39-9), Thursday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. in the double-elimination regional tournament.