

FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 6 - 12, 2006

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



School mascot logos

CLOSE CALLS

▼ B-CC, PRAIRIE VIEW DROP CLOSE DECISIONS TO D1 BASEBALL TOP SEEDS

'CATS REPRESENT: SWAC and MEAC champs did HBCUs proud in Div. I baseball playoffs.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BACK IN THE SWING:

State golfer Tim O'Neal played his best golf in weeks at the Nationwide Tour's Rex Hospital Open in Raleigh, N.C. last week finishing in the money for the first time in six outings. O'Neal played himself into contention with a five-under-par opening round 66 on Thursday. He shot a one-over 72 on Friday to make the cut at four-under 138. He came back to shoot even-par 71 on Saturday before making a push into the top 20 finish of the young season.

Kevin C. Cox / WireImage

O'Neal: Former JSU golfer tees off in Saturday's third round of the Nationwide Tour's Rex Hospital Open. He finished in a tie for 17th at 8-under 276, his third top-20 finish of the young season. The high-light of his final round was an eagle-3 on the par 5 finishing hole that landed him in a five-way tie for 17th at eight-under 276. South African Brendan Pappas birdied the final hole to post a one-shot win over Charlie Wi at 16-under 268 and take home the \$81,000 top prize. O'Neal took home \$6,300 for his efforts and moved to No. 64 on the tour's money list with \$29,560. The top 20 money winners at the end of the year on the Nationwide Tour earn exempt status to the PGA Tour. The talented Savannah, Ga. native had missed five straight cuts after earning \$23,000 in his first three tournaments of the year including two top 20 finishes. The missed cuts followed a layoff that included the birth of his second child, nearly three-month old son, Timothy Jayden. O'Neal and wife Melody are also parents of a five-year-old daughter, Jordan.

MATHIS, WIMBUSH SIDELINED:

It was learned recently that two of the most productive black college rookies from the 2005 NFL season will be on the shelf for a while.

Houston Texans' kick returner extraordinaire **Jerome Mathis** out of Hampton University and **Derrick Wimbush**, the former Fort Valley State University standout running back who distinguished himself as a kick returner, back-up fullback and special teams ace for the Jacksonville Jaguars, both were diagnosed with injuries that will cause them to miss some time possibly into the 2006 season. Mathis, who earned Pro Bowl status in his rookie year after finishing second in the NFL in kickoff returns, underwent surgery Friday for an injury to his left foot that is expected to cause him to miss at least the first month of the 2006 season. Mathis was drafted in the fourth round of the 2005 draft and averaged 28.6 yards on 54 returns and was the only NFL player to bring back two kickoffs for touchdowns last season. The scintillating speedster had a league-high five returns of over 40 yards and added five receptions for 65 yards and one touchdown as a receiver. Mathis said he first experienced pain in the foot during workouts for the Pro Bowl. After four months of rest and treatments, the pain persisted and team doctors uncovered a stress fracture that mandated the surgery. He will be off his feet for at least a month following the surgery and will require four months of rehabilitation.

MATHIS

Wimbush, who made the Jaguars' squad as an undrafted free agent last season, apparently broke a bone in his left arm during voluntary workouts last week that will require surgery. He was sporting a heavy cast from his fingertips to his left elbow after the final day of veterans' camp Friday. He could possibly miss training camp and the preseason. Wimbush set the team's single-season record for kickoff returns with 955 yards including a 91-yard return for touchdown against Arizona in November. He also led the Jags with 18 special teams tackles and had one of the team's two blocked kicks. He took over at fullback when starter Greg Jones replaced the injured Fred Taylor at tailback late in the season.



WIMBUSH

Bethune-Cookman, Prairie View tough outs in NCAA baseball

Both give top seeds real battles before bowing out



B-CC head coach Mervyl Melendez

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

It's hard to tell who did better in the NCAA Div. I baseball playoffs this past weekend, MEAC champion Bethune-Cookman or SWAC champion Prairie View A&M.

Both squads faced top seeds in their respective regions and, as is starting to become a pattern in such affairs, they didn't do so badly.

After grabbing a 2-1 lead in the seventh inning, B-CC dropped an opening round game to the region's top-seed and host, SEC champion Mississippi, 3-2 on Friday afternoon in Oxford, Ms.

Prairie View held a 5-1 lead early on Conference USA champ Rice, the No. 1 team in the nation, the tournament's No. 2 overall seed and host of the Houston Region, but the Owls got a big break on a controversial call in the eighth and scored in the bottom of the ninth to pull out a dramatic 6-5 win Friday night.

Both B-CC and Prairie View went on to lose in elimination games Saturday but not before shaking things up a bit with their Friday performances.

"Today (Friday) was our opportunity to show the world that we can play that caliber of baseball in a tough environment against the No. 1 team in the nation," said **Wrandall Taylor**, the Prairie View starting pitcher vs. Rice in a quote to the *Houston Chronicle*. "And we just missed it by one run." Taylor allowed seven hits and three runs over six tough innings.

B-CC coaches and players felt the same way.

"To be honest with you, I totally expected to win this game, and I believe you all saw that we very well could have," said B-CC head coach **Mervyl Melendez** after the loss to Ole Miss. "I love this group of guys, and we never back down to competition. Our motto since I took over this program has always been 'We will play anyone, anywhere, anytime.' We love being the underdog because there is absolutely no pressure, and we played like that tonight."

RECAPS

Ole Miss 3, Bethune-Cookman 2
B-CC pitcher **Richard Rodriguez** (8-5) gave up a run in the second inning and then shut down Ole Miss (41-20) until back-to-back home

runs in the seventh knocked him and the Wildcats (30-26) out of the opener.

Trailing 1-0 before a crowd of over 7,000 at the Ole Miss home field, B-CC (30-26) scored their runs with one out in the seventh.

Alejandro Jimenez singled through the left side and then advanced to third on a single to right field from **Rob Caruso**. Jimenez then scored on a single through the right side by **Colin Irvine** to even the score at one and leave runners at the corners. **Spencer Hill** then doubled to left center to drive in Caruso, as Irvine was thrown out at third trying to advance from first on the play. Ole Miss starter Will Kline (5-2) then struck out **Jose Almonte** to end the inning.

B-CC reliever **Francisco Rodriguez** shut down the Rebels on three hits after Rodriguez, who gave up five hits and three runs in six innings, gave up the home runs. Garrett White struck out the side in the ninth to get his ninth save for Ole Miss.

Ole Miss outthit B-CC eight to six and both teams played errorless ball.

Tulane 12, Bethune-Cookman 7

In the elimination game Saturday, B-CC (30-27) fell behind 6-0 after two innings and despite rallying late in the game could not get past the Green Wave (42-20).

The 'Cats scored two third inning runs but then gave up a single run in the fourth and five more in the sixth to trail 12-3. After getting a single run in the eighth on a one-out RBI-single by **Nabil Sagbini** hammered a three-run homer to right center off of Tulane reliever **Matt Goebel** to cut the led to five. Goebel walked the next two batters he faced, but bounced back to get Caruso to hit into a 3-6-1 double play and Irvine to fly out to left to end the game.

B-CC used seven pitchers who gave up 13 hits. Starter **Dustin Blackwell** (7-7) who surrendered four hits and five runs in just an inning and a third, took the loss.

Rice 6, Prairie View 5

A controversial double-play call with the bases loaded and nobody out in the eighth inning with Prairie View leading 5-3 was crucial in the Panthers' (33-21) opening round loss to top-ranked Rice (51-10).

PVA&M third baseman **Wilford White** grounded to Rice shortstop **Brian Friday**, who

PVA&M head coach Michael Robertson



fired home to erase **Roshard Shorter**. Catcher **Danny Lehmann** threw to first, but the ball clipped White on the left foot and rolled into right field. First-base umpire **Danny Everett** called White out for running inside the baseline. Two Panthers were sent back to their bases, and after a pitching change, Bryce Cox (4-1) struck out **Michael Richard** to keep the deficit at two runs.

"The key play of the ballgame was that critical call by that umpire," Panthers coach **Michael Robertson** told the *Chronicle* of Everett's call. "I didn't go to umpiring school, but I believe that's the home plate umpire's call. I know these officials are well trained, and they did a good job up until that point. It was critical, because it gave Rice the momentum."

Rice tied the game at 5 on a two-run homer in the eighth and won in on an RBI single in the ninth.

Prairie View DH **Arthur Christal** had the big blow cracking a three-run home run in the Panthers' five-run third. PV starter **Wrandall Taylor** walked off of several jams on the mound and surrendered seven hits and three runs in six innings. Reliever **Joshua Terrell** took the loss.

Prairie View was trying to match the shocker SWAC champ **Texas Southern** pulled when they knocked off Rice in an opening round game in 2004.

Arizona State 13, Prairie View 4

In the Panthers' elimination game, Arizona State (37-20) batted around in the second and third innings scoring five runs in each to build an insurmountable lead and send Prairie View (33-22) home.

Panthers starter **Matthew Chase** (6-6) took the loss, allowing 10 runs - six earned - and 10 hits in three innings. Prairie View got on the board with two runs in the fifth thanks to an error by Sun Devils' first baseman. Panthers reliever **Adrian Canales** restored some order to the game, retiring 12 straight from the fourth through the seventh innings. The Panthers closed the gap to 11-4 in the seventh with an RBI double from **Brandon Whitby** and a run-scoring groundout from **Wilford White**. Arizona State responded with two more in the eighth for the final margin.

BCSP Notes

Bethune-Cookman dismisses track coach

Bethune-Cookman Director of Athletics, **Lynn W. Thompson**, announced that the school has elected not to renew the appointment of current head women's and men's track & field head coach **Walter McCoy** for the 2006-07 academic term.

McCoy took over as men's and women's track coach in September of 2003. This season McCoy's teams finished seventh (men) and 10th (women) in outdoor competition. Indoors, the B-CC women were last (11th) while the men finished ninth. McCoy, a native of Daytona Beach, was a five-time all-American quarter-miler at Florida State.

The announcement was made on Monday, June 5, and the screening process for new candidates is set to begin immediately.



MCCOY

Salter out as Jackson State baseball coach

After six years guiding the Jackson State baseball program, head coach **Mark Salter** will not have his contract renewed.

The Tigers were leading the SWAC a month ago with an 18-6 conference mark before they were forced to forfeit four games for using an ineligible pitcher. Five days later, JSU had to forfeit most of its SWAC wins when it was found that two academically ineligible players had played throughout the season. The forfeits knocked JSU to the bottom of the SWAC standings, forced them out of the conference tournament and ended the season.

SALTER

Former longtime head baseball coach and current Athletic Director **Robert Braddy** however told the *Jackson Clarion-Ledger* that the recent debacle had nothing to do with Salter's dismissal. Salter was 147-129-1 during his tenure. He was 22-17 overall and had the top Div. I hitting attack (.359) this season.

"Regardless of how it looks, this decision had nothing to do with the ineligible players," Braddy told the newspaper. "It had to do with performance on the field. I wanted to go in a different direction and concluded that Mark (Salter) was not in those plans."

When I think of success, I think of championships and we haven't had any of those lately," Braddy said. "I realize a championship could have happened this year before the forfeits, but that's just how it was."

Braddy said a nationwide search for a replacement would begin immediately. Assistant coach **Omar Johnson** was named interim coach after Salter was suspended on May 10.



BRADDY

Cheyney names new women's basketball coach

Cheyney University Director of Athletics **Patric D. Simon** has announced that **Darryl Brown** will take over as interim head women's basketball coach. Brown replaces **Jada Pierce** who left after two seasons to become an assistant coach at a Division I program.

"Brown demonstrated a tremendous work ethic since his arrival on campus two years ago," said Simon. "I expect him to turn this program

back around to the glory days of the late 70's and early 80's when Cheyney was competing for the national championship. I look forward to Coach Brown's long tenure as a guiding force for the Cheyney women's basketball program."

"Growing up in Pennsylvania, becoming the head coach at Cheyney University has always been a dream of mine," said Brown who began his coaching career working with youth in the Police Athletic League and had stints as an assistant at Norristown Area High School and on the collegiate level. Brown is a graduate of Overbrook High School and The Fox School of Business at Temple University.



BROWN

Grambling makes three head coaching changes

Grambling State University is looking for three new head coaches. Baseball coach **James Randall**, softball coach **Connie Garce** and soccer coach **Cesar Martinez** have all been let go.

Six HBCU student-athletes selected for USOC Leadership Program

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The United States Olympic Committee has selected 32 minority student leaders from colleges and institutions across the country, including six from HBCUs, for the USOC's Finding Leaders Among Minorities Everywhere (F.L.A.M.E.) program.

The F.L.A.M.E. program will be held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, June 9-11, 2006, and is presented by Tyson Foods, Inc., an official sponsor of the United States Olympic Team and official supplier to the U.S. Olympic Training Centers.

For the first time, the program will focus on educating and developing youth at the college level, specifically, freshman and sophomore student leaders. This new shift from mentoring high school students as done in years past is part of the program's goal to provide career opportunities for minorities within the U.S. Olympic Movement.

Each of the 32 participants will travel to Colorado Springs and live among the athletes in training by residing in dormitories and eating alongside U.S. Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls.

Participants in this year's program represent 30 colleges and universities and hail from 20 states across the U.S. HBCUs represented were **Clark Atlanta University**, **Fisk University**, **Fort Valley State University**, **Florida A&M University**, **Morehouse College** and **North Carolina Central University**.

HBCU students in the 2006 F.L.A.M.E. class are: **Markeisha Cassidy Dawson**, 18, Clark Atlanta, Riverside, Calif. **Steven Jackson**, 20, Fort Valley State, Warner Robins, Ga. **Jason Julien**, 20, Florida A&M, Hampton, Ga. **Alexander Lakes**, 19, Morehouse, Atlanta, Ga. **Reginald Oziozu**, 20, North Carolina Central, Durham, N.C. **Jeshua Rahming**, 18, Fisk, Corona, Calif.