

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 19 THROUGH MAY 25, 1998

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Howard Sports Photo
SINGLETARY: Howard sharpshooter seeking greener pastures.

TWO-TIME LOSERS

▼ HOWARD LOSES TOP COACHING CANDIDATES AND TOP SCORING ACE

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

COPPIN STATE LOSES KING:

Coppin State College announced last week that head women's basketball coach **Britt King** resigned to take the head coaching position at Fresno State and that her top assistant, **Jennie Hall**, would take over as interim head coach. King guided the Lady Eagles to a 10-18 record and a fifth place finish in her first year leading the team in the Mid Eastern Athletic Conference this year. A native of Glenarden, Md., King came to Coppin State from the University of the District of Columbia where she compiled a 64-57 record in five seasons as head coach and women's administrator. She played collegiately at Providence from 1982-86, averaging 19 points and 11 rebounds. She was twice named to the Kodak District 2 All-America team. As a senior, she was first team All-Big East and Providence's Woman Athlete of the Year. Hall is a 1983 Rutgers University graduate and former All-Atlantic 10 performer who helped that school to the 1982 AIAW National Championship. She has played professionally in Finland, Sweden, Italy and New Zealand. She just completed her first year as King's top assistant.



Coppin State Photo
KING: Takes job at Fresno State.



Coppin State Photo
HALL: Takes over on interim basis.

TRACK LEGEND PASSES:

A memorial service is scheduled for May 18 in Tallahassee, Fla., for former Florida A&M track coach **Pete Griffin**, who died May 13 at age 81 after a lengthy illness. Griffin developed Olympic sprinter **Bob Hayes** when Hayes ran for the Rattlers. Hayes, 55, cried when he heard of his coach's death. "I loved him," Hayes said. "I have lost a good friend and a mentor and a father." Griffin played center on A&M's undefeated and unscorred-upon 1938 football team.

VETERAN MOVE:

Washington Redskins cornerback **Darrell Green**, who left Texas A&I University in 1983 as a No. 1 draft choice, picked up his college diploma May 10 from St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Va. Green, 38, received his bachelor's degree in general studies/social science from the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) school. The 15-year veteran is a six-time Pro Bowl selection who has 53 career interceptions, the most in Redskins history.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

SOUTHERN, HOWARD FALL IN NCAA BASEBALL PLAY-IN

Southeast Missouri State, the Ohio Valley Conference champ, moved on to the NCAA Div. I Tournament by sweeping SWAC champ Southern over two days in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

In game one, Southern came back from a 4-1 deficit in the top of the third to tie the game on back-to-back home runs by **Franco Blackman** and **Alva Thompson**. SE Missouri scored the winning run in the seventh inning for the 5-4 win.

In game two, Southern tied SE Missouri at three in the sixth inning behind a three-run home run from Thompson, the Jags only runs of the game. Southeast scored three in the seventh, one in the eighth and three in the ninth to post the 10-3 win. Southern could manage only four hits and committed five errors in the game.

Atlantic 10 champion, Fordham advanced to the NCAA Div. I baseball tournament by sweeping MEAC champion, Howard in two games played in the Bronx, NY.

In the first game, Fordham exploded for eight runs in the bottom of the seventh inning after the Bison pulled to within 7-5, to post a 15-5 win. **Herbert Wheat** had a two-run home run for the Bison.

In game two, Wheat hit his second home run of the day, a solo shot, to pull the Bison within 3-2. Bison outfielder **Chris Warren**, whose dropped fly ball led to Fordham's three early runs, atoned with a two-run home run in the fifth to give the Bison a 4-3 lead. The Rams tied it in the ninth on a home run and won 7-4 as the Bison gave up four walks and a hit batter in the inning. Howard made two errors and walked nine batters in the game.

1998 NCAA BASEBALL PLAY-IN RESULTS

MEAC

MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

BASEBALL NCAA DIV. I PLAY-IN

Howard (MEAC champion)
vs. Fordham (Atlantic 10 champion)

Fordham 15
Howard 5

Fordham 7
Howard 4

Fordham wins best 2 of 3, 2-0
Howard ends season at 27-53

SWAC

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

BASEBALL NCAA DIV. I PLAY-IN

Southern (MEAC champion)
vs. S. E. Missouri (OVC champion)

SE Missouri 5
Southern 4

SE Missouri 10
Southern 3

S. E. Missouri wins best 2 of 3, 2-0
Southern ends season at 31-16

Central State football faces long road back

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Central State alumnus **Hugh Douglas**, the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles fourth-year defensive end, wants to see his school bring back football. But it's not that simple.

The Wilberforce, Ohio institution, a dominant force in NAIA football over the last 15 years winning three NAIA championships and six Sheridan black college titles under ex-coach **Billy Joe** (now at Florida A&M), dropped the sport a year ago amid sanctions and financial turmoil that threatened to shut down the entire school.

With some critical help from the state and an infusion of new blood, the school has made progress towards getting its financial act together. Bringing back football, however, is not in the immediate plans.

"It's not a priority right now," said Athletic Director **Theresa Check**, who took over those duties a year ago and doubles as the women's basketball coach. "But it (football) is

down the road."

How far, she said, will be determined by the school's new president, **John Garland**, a Central State grad who returned to his alma mater from the University of Virginia. Garland was not available for comment.

Clearly, however, the school, through a host of new administrators, has a lot of other fires to put out long before re-considering football.

"We have to manage our finances, rebuild the academic programs, and focus on improving existing buildings and facilities on campus," said Public Relations Director **Jim Cleveland**. "We have a new president, new board and new cabinet. And we've had a balanced budget since July 1997."

Financial administrators from the state Office of Management and Budget ran things at the school for the last year before turning the reins back over the school personnel on March 1.

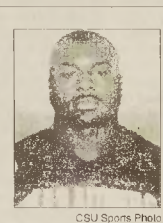
The athletic priority now, according to Check, is to restore

sports lost because of financial problems.

"Track and volleyball, the sports we lost because of funding problems, we will bring back next year," Check said explaining that baseball and football were eliminated as a result of the funding problems and NAIA sanctions. She said golf will also be added next year. "It (football) is down there but we have to get the program stabilized and do things like increase enrollment."

"Football is a funding issue. We have to look at our sources and certainly outside sources are a part of that process." That's where people like Douglas and former Marauder and all-NFL offensive tackle **Erik Williams** of the Dallas Cowboys, come in.

A two-time NAIA All-American, Douglas registered 42 sacks in the 32 games of his Central State career. He was taken in the first round by the New York Jets in the 1995 NFL Draft and was named Defensive Rookie of the Year after leading



CSU Sports Photo



Dallas Cowboys Photo

KEYS TO THE FUTURE: Former players like Hugh Douglas (l.) and Erik Williams (r.), both now in the NFL, could play key roles in returning football to Central State.

the Jets in sacks. He quickly earned a reputation as one of the league's premier pass rushers. New Jets coach **Bill Parcells** switch to a 3-4 defensive alignment this year limited his pass rushing opportunities and precipitated his trade to the Eagles in March. He wants to help.

"I couldn't make it to the pros without playing football at Central State," Douglas said. "I certainly want to see the program return. I think it can bring a lot to the school in terms of

recruiting, not only football players but students as well.

"I didn't hear from a lot of colleges about playing football, the Mansfield, Ohio natives said. "Central State gave me a chance to play the game. That's why I want the program back. I really liked it. I appreciate everything I've received since coming into the NFL. I play hard on every down. That's how we used to play at Central State."

BCSP Notes

THREE UP, THREE DOWN:

It's back to the drawing board for **Howard University** after Temple assistant **Nate Blackwell** turned down their offer to become the school's head basketball coach. His decision means that all three of the finalists for the position have withdrawn.



Coppin State Photo
BLACKWELL: Staying at Temple.

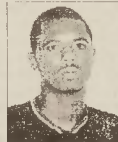
Blackwell, 33, a former star at Temple and former assistant to **Ron "Fang" Mitchell** at Coppin State, said after consulting with his wife he had decided to remain at Temple under **John Chaney**, his college coach. Blackwell was reportedly offered a five-year guaranteed contract worth between \$450,000 and \$500,000. Blackwell was offered the job Wednesday by Howard President **Patrick Swygert**, who was Temple's vice president when Blackwell was a star guard at the school. Meanwhile, **South Carolina State** Coach **Cy Alexander** said he sent Howard a letter last Wednesday withdrawing himself from the running. Alexander, a former Howard assistant, later signed a new contract with SC State for a reported \$120-130,000. A Washington Post story last week by **Mark Asher** said Howard, which declined to renew the contract of **Mike McLeese** after the season, interviewed eight candidates on campus. A screening committee sent three names to Swygert, ranking Alexander first, Tulane assistant **Julius Smith**

second and Blackwell third, according to sources.

Smith, a Washington native who did not play high school or college basketball, withdrew his name on Sunday saying "the process is taking too long." Former University of California head coach **Todd Bozeman** and NBA Hall of Famer **Nate "Tiny" Archibald** were among the eight that were interviewed and may be called back.

HOWARD LOSES STAR:

Howard University sophomore guard, **Xavier Singletary**, a first team All-MEAC selection who averaged 22.3 points per game for the Bison, 11th best in the nation this year, has been granted a release to transfer from the school. Singletary, the 1996 MEAC Rookie of the Year said the release "will allow me to talk to my family and explore my options with other universities." The University of Connecticut, which will likely lose all-American sophomore guard **Richard Hamilton** to the NBA next year, is reportedly high on Singletary's list. The 6-foot-6 Singletary's decision follows the dismissal of his high school coach, **Mike McLeese**, whose contract was not renewed after a four-year stint. Singletary did not say whether his decision to transfer was related to McLeese's release.



Howard Sports Photo
SINGLETARY: 11th in nation in scoring.

CIAA names first All-Academic team

HAMPTON, VA -- Twenty student-athletes from the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association have been named to the first annual CIAA Commissioner's All-Academic Team, the CIAA announced May 15.

"This team exemplifies the best in the CIAA," said CIAA Commissioner **Leon G. Kerry**. "They have worked hard on and off the playing fields throughout the year and deserve this recognition. It is my hope that this recognition will spark the interest of other student-athletes and inspire them to be a part of the team in the years to come."

The 1998 CIAA Commissioner's All-Academic Team consists of 20 student-athletes, ten on the First Team and ten on the Second Team, as voted on by the CIAA Sports Information Directors' Association. The average grade point average of the First Team is a 3.857 and the average for the Second Team is a 3.591 GPA (on a 4.00 scale).

The 1998 CIAA Commissioner's All-Academic First Team consists of **Ansel Brown** and **Robert Ruster** of North Carolina Central, **Sabrina Jones** and **Frederick Omondi** of Fayetteville State, **Denise Brown** of Livingstone, **Lisa Elizabeth Louis** of St. Augustine's, **Jermaine McClees** of St. Paul's, **Stefanie McComb** of Virginia Union, **Brandon Owens** of Bowie State, and **Alicia Washington** of Johnson C. Smith (see attachment).

The 1998 CIAA Commissioner's All-Academic Second Team includes **Michelle Harrison**, **Yolanda McDowell** and **Stephanie Spindler** of NCCU; **Abigail Davis** and **Benjamin Moyd** of JCSU; **Doris Monette** and **Desmond Thornton** of Virginia State; **Rodrick Dunlap** of Livingstone; **Natasha Hinds** of St. Paul's College; and **Monica Jacobs** of Fayetteville State.

To be eligible, a student-athlete must have completed one full academic year, earned a minimum 2.0 overall grade point average, and played as a starter or important reserve in a CIAA sanctioned sport.

Heart attack claims life of NCCU grid coach

DURHAM, NC -- **Anthony Price**, an assistant football coach at North Carolina Central University and a 1980 graduate of NCCU, died Monday morning (approximately 11 a.m.) of apparent heart failure. Price was 42.

A Durham native and former head football coach at Durham High School (1991-94), Price was named offensive line coach at NCCU in 1995. "We are grieved, first and foremost, for his family, and also for the University and this athletic pro-

gram," said **Dr. William Lide**, NCCU Athletic Director. "Anthony Price was an outstanding individual and a good friend. We will miss him."

"Knowing him over the last four years, I am pleased to have had him as a member of our coaching staff, and happy to have had the opportunity to get to know him as a friend," Eagle Head Football Coach **Larry Little** said. "My heart goes out to his wife and two children."

A 1973 graduate of Durham High, Price continued his edu-

cation at NCCU, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation in 1980.

He lettered three seasons (1975-77) as an offensive lineman on the Eagle football team.

Price began his coaching career in 1986, as an assistant football and track coach at West Brunswick High School (Shallotte, NC). In 1989, he was named assistant football and track coach and head wrestling coach at South Brunswick High School (Boiling Springs Lake, NC). In July 1991, Price re-

turned to his hometown to serve as a teacher and coach at Durham High School.

During his four-year tenure at Durham High, he coached football, wrestling and track. In 1994, his fourth season as head football coach at Durham H.S., Price was recognized as the Crescent Conference Coach of the Year. Prep News named him Coach of the Year in 1995. The Press State named him Coach of the Year in 1996.



PRICE: Former offensive line coach at NCCU.