

# SPORTS

## NCCU'S WILKINS AMONG CSN'S FABULOUS FIFTY FCS ALL-AMERICANS

*Sophomore Return Specialist Selected to FCS All-America Team as a Kickoff Returner*

CHICAGO - North Carolina Central University sophomore Adrian Wilkins has been announced as one of the best 50 student-athletes in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) by his selection to the College Sporting News (CSN) 2013 Fabulous Fifty FCS All-America Team as a kickoff returner.

A native of Forest City, Wilkins finished the 2013 season as the only student-athlete in the NCAA Division I-FCS with five special teams return touchdowns with scores on three kickoff returns (100, 96, 91 yards) and two punt returns (89, 73 yards).

He topped the MEAC in punt returns (13.4 yards per return) and ranked second in kickoff returns (30.3 yards per return). As a receiver, Wilkins led the Eagles with 37 catches for 427 yards and two touchdowns.

Not only did he top the conference in all-purpose yards (123.5 yards per game), but he became the only Eagle in the NCCU record books with a kickoff return touchdown, a punt return touchdown and a receiving touchdown in the same season.



NCCU MEN'S TENNIS TEAM

## NCCU Men's Tennis Opens 2014 Season With Two ACC Road Battles

By Andrea Wheeler, Assistant Sports Information Director

After a noteworthy performance during the 2013 HBCU National Fall Tournament, finishing third place overall, the HBCU preseason ranked No. 3 North Carolina Central University men's tennis team looks to carry the momentum from the fall into the 2014 spring season.

The Eagles opened 2014 action this traveling to the neighboring Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) schools, North Carolina State and Duke.

The opening two matches are two-of-four where the Eagles will face ACC opponents this season. NCCU will also travel to the University of North Carolina (Feb. 9) and Wake Forest (March 30) marking the first time in school history the program has competed against four schools from the ACC.

"This year not only will we play N.C. State, Duke and UNC but we will also play Wake Forest," said NCCU men's tennis head coach Curtis Lawson. "This is a first for any NCCU program to compete head-to-head versus four ACC schools in the same season. Each of these schools are nationally-ranked, giving us strong non-conference competition on our schedule."

Since NCCU's transition to Division I in 2008, the Eagles have battled against at least one of the four in-state ACC schools each season. "There is historical significance in these matches," said Lawson. "Once upon a time any one of our neighboring schools would not have given NCCU the time of day if asked to schedule a regular-season match. In the early days (1960s, 1970s), social and political stigmas would have ruled out the possibility of competing against an ACC team, and in the modern era our NCAA Division II status was a disincentive. In recent years, I believe that our program has developed to a level that there is a sincere respect in the tennis community for our pursuit of excellence. As a result, strong relationships have been fostered with our colleagues at Duke, UNC, N.C. State and Wake Forest."

During fall action at the 2013 IFA Men's Regionals (Oct. 17-21) in Cary, NCCU's Stephan Charles-Donatien defeated an UNC opponent for the first time in school history, knocking off Connor Daly (6-4, 7-5). In addition, the Eagles finished third during the HBCU National Tennis Championship out of 17 competing teams, marking the highest finish for the program at the event (Sept. 20-22) in Atlanta, Ga. Rounding out fall highlights, the Daniil Gerasimov and William East duo advanced to the championship round of the men's flight-A doubles finals of the UNC Wilmington Fall Invitational (Sept. 6-8), as well as the A-2 doubles draw at the Elon Fall Invitational (Oct. 25-27).

"Each year we strive to show steady progression, not only against the likes of the Duke, UNC, N.C. State or Wake Forest, but throughout the season," Lawson said. "We said at the beginning of our fall season, this year has all the components to be 'history in the making'. Several of the high points from the fall suggest we're on the right track: Daniil (Gerasimov) and William (East) winning the back-draw doubles at the UNCW Fall Tournament and finalist in the main draw of the Elon Fall Tournament, Stephan beating an UNC opponent in the IFA Carolinas Fall Regional Tournament, the team finishing in third place in the HBCU National Fall Tournament and recently receiving a HBCU preseason national rank at No. 3. I believe that our student-athletes benefit greatly from the experience of playing against these nationally-ranked programs and will help us reach our goal of advancing to the conference tournament."

## VUU Names Mark James Head Football Coach



Mark James

Virginia Union University has named Mark James as the 26th Head Football Coach in the school's history. It was announced at a press conference held on Tuesday, January 21, in the Belgium Building on the VUU campus in Richmond, Va.

James had served as the Panthers' defensive line coach for the past two seasons.

James has made several coaching stops along his way to Virginia Union. He was a Head Coach for nine years at two major high schools in south Florida. James was able to build powerhouse programs that gained national recognition for producing some of the top division I prospects and several NFL players.

In his tenure he has worked with a number of successful coaches and future and present NFL players. His list of NFL players coached includes Patrick Simms, Louis Holmes, Stanley Meglover, Leonard Hankerson, Major Harris, Hanik Milligan, Daryl Meglover and Super bowl winning Josh Byrnes.

He started his coaching career as a high school defensive assistant at Coconut Creek in 1997. In 1998, James made the decision to attend Virginia Union University after transferring from University of Louisville. Upon graduation from Virginia Union University in 2000, he

returned to the south Florida area to return to his coaching pathway.

James was the Head coach at Dillard High in 2004-2005. From 2005-2011 he was the Head coach at Boyd Anderson where James won three district championships and lead the team to become the school's all-time winningest football coach.

James has also had short stints at Norfolk State University (Linebackers) and St. Paul's College in 2011 (Offensive Coordinator). His thumb print in south Florida athletics is that he is known for placing the most players in college in an eight-year period than any other program in the state of Florida.

James was a defensive lineman at University of Louisville from 1990-1993 and Virginia Union University from 1998-2000.

He earned a degree in history from VUU in 2000. James was named the National VUU Alumni of the Year in 2007. He earned his Masters degree in educational leadership from Florida Atlantic University and is scheduled to earn his Ph.D. in higher education administration in June of 2014.

James is married to Adia Middleton-James (Former two-sport athlete at VUU '99). He and his wife Adia have three children, Dane, Malik, and Mark Jr.

## LADY EAGLES ZAP HORNETS, MOVE TO 2-1 IN MEAC

By Andrea Wheeler, Assistant Sports Information Director

The North Carolina Central University women's basketball team collected its second Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference victory during the Lady Eagle's (7-9, 2-1 MEAC) best shooting performance of the season, as NCCU defeated the Delaware State Hornets (4-14, 0-5) for the first time in school history, 75-61 on Sat., Jan. 18 inside McDougald-Melendon Gymnasium.

Junior Khyra Conerly (Oakland, Calif.) earned her first double-double of the season as she shot 7-for-11 from the field and 1-for-2 from the charity stripe, collecting 15 points while pulling down a season-best 10 rebounds.

In addition to Conerly, offensively, the Lady Eagles were led by redshirt senior Jessica Freeman (Charlotte) who scored her fourth game with 20+ points, earning a team-best 21. Freeman shot 8-for-13 from the field and 5-for-9 from behind the arc while on the defensive end, sophomore Tisha Dixon (Kinston) dominated on the glass pulling down a season-best 17 boards and added seven points. DSU took its only lead of the contest, scoring first during the opening seconds of the game.

After a layup from Conerly tied the score at two, Freeman connected on three shots in a row from behind the arc for the Lady Eagles, putting them on top of the Hornets 11-7 with 15:44 left in the first frame.



ADRIAN WILKINS

## Register to Vote



### LEGAL NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

#### Chemical Purchase for Durham County Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant (IFB NO. 14-015)

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-129, the County of Durham will accept sealed bids for Chemical Purchase for Durham County Wastewater Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant (IFB NO. 14-015), in the Durham County Purchasing Division, 200 East Main Street, 4th Floor Conference Room, Durham, North Carolina 27701, until 2:00 P.M., on February 18, 2014, at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Only sealed bids will be accepted. No bids will be accepted after the official time and date.

Copies of the solicitation may be obtained in the Durham County Purchasing Division, County Administrative Complex, 200 East Main Street, 4th Floor, Durham, North Carolina, from 8:30 A.M. until 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. An electronic copy of this IFB can be obtained by sending your request to [purchasinggroup@dcconc.gov](mailto:purchasinggroup@dcconc.gov). Questions concerning administrative matters should be directed to Hilda W. Williams, Senior Buyer, at (919) 560-0054.

The County reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, such bids as appear in its judgment to be in the best interest of the County.

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