

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 21 - 27, 2019

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



COLE: Howard soph guard and MEAC player of the year departs for UConn.

GONE TOO SOON

REFEREE PIONEER BURCH PASSES; DUNN OUT AT TUSKEGEE; SWAC, MEAC CROWN BASEBALL CHAMPS

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

MEAC HOOPS STARS TRANSFER:

Two-time first team all-MEAC guard **R. J. Cole** of **Howard** and 2019 all-MEAC guard **Nic Thomas** of **Norfolk State** have both decided to transfer.

Cole (6-1), the 2017-18 MEAC Freshman of the Year and 2018-19 MEAC Player of the Year who led the conference in scoring in both years, is taking his talents to UConn.

Cole averaged 21.4 points and 6.4 assists (2nd) this season and 23.7 ppg. and a league-best 6.1 assists a year ago. At UConn, he will be playing for Danny Hurley, the son of his high school coach, Bobby Hurley of the famed St. Anthony's (N. J.) program. By rule, Cole will sit out the 2019-20 season. He'll have two seasons of eligibility remaining. He could also apply for a waiver to be eligible immediately for this upcoming season.

Thomas (6-2), the leading scorer (14.3 ppg.) for the 2018-19 MEAC regular season champ Spartans, is leaving as a grad transfer to join new coach Ron Hunter at Tulane.

BROWN REJOINS SWAC AT UAPB:

Dawn Brown has been named head women's basketball coach at the **University of Arkansas At Pine Bluff**. She succeeds **Nate Kilbert**.

Brown, who won the 2014 Southwestern Athletic Conference Tournament Championship while leading **Prairie View A&M** and is a former SWAC student-athlete, comes to UAPB after spending the previous season as associate head coach at Jacksonville University. In 2017-18, Brown was head coach at Division II Shorter University of the Gulf South Conference.

She spent six seasons at **Prairie View A&M** (2010-16) as an assistant coach as the Lady Panthers won SWAC Tournament Championships in 2011, 2012 and 2013, advancing to the NCAA Tournament every year.

Upon being named interim head coach prior to the 2013-14 season, Brown led the Lady Panthers to their fourth consecutive SWAC Tournament Championship and NCAA Tournament berth. She was named full-time head coach after the season, and in three seasons as head coach, PVAMU won 41 games, including 30 victories in SWAC play.

A Jackson, Miss. native, Brown began her collegiate coaching career as recruiting coordinator at **Tougaloo College** (2008-09). As a player, after a junior college career, she completed her playing career at **Jackson State**, leading the Lady Tigers to a SWAC Regular Season Co-Championship. Brown earned her bachelor's degree in sociology and her master's degree in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation from Jackson State.

TUSKEGEE DECLINES TO RENEW DUNN:

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — The **Tuskegee University** Department of Athletics announced last week that it has chosen not to renew the contract of men's head basketball coach **Jerry Dunn**. A national search will begin immediately to identify his successor.

Dunn, a former head coach at Penn State (1995-2003) who also served as an assistant at Penn State, Michigan and West Virginia, spent five seasons at the helm of the TU program and led the Golden Tigers this past season to a 13-15 overall record — finishing 8-10 in the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC). He concludes his Tuskegee coaching career with a 52-87 record and two winning seasons: 2014 and 2015.

SMITH LEAVES LINCOLN (MO) FOOTBALL:

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - **Steven Smith** has resigned as the head coach of the **Lincoln (Mo.)** football team to pursue an opportunity in professional football.

Malik Hoskins, who served as the team's offensive coordinator the past two seasons, has been elevated to the position of interim head coach for the 2019 season.

"I'd like to thank Coach Smith for his work building the Lincoln football program the past two years," said **John Moseley**, Lincoln's Director of Athletics. "The team made some positive strides last season, and Coach Hoskins' familiarity with the program and our players should allow that development to continue this fall."

Pioneering official Jim Burch passes

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

Black college sports lost a legend this weekend as pioneering basketball official **James T. Burch** passed on Sunday at his home in Apex, N.C..

Burch, 91, first began his officiating career in the black high school ranks and then moved to the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** in 1959. In 1969, he became the first African-American game official in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC).

Throughout his career, Burch officiated in the CIAA, ACC, **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC), and Southern Conference and worked 14 NCAA tournaments.

He trained and mentored hundreds of officials with many going on to prestigious careers in the profession. Burch was twice featured in the **NCAA Champions Magazine**, first in 1994 and again in 2014.

"He was the pioneer in this officiating world for blacks," said retired veteran official **Larry**

Rose, who became the first African-American to referee an ACC tournament championship game in a 36-year career that included 11 CIAA Tournaments and 19 NCAA Tournaments. Rose is now the coordinator of basketball officials for the MEAC.

"He showed all of us young guys the way," said Rose. "That's why we called him 'Daddy B.' He was always there to help us move to the next level.."

"He was the father and I was the son. He's going to be missed."

Burch most recently served for 18 years as the CIAA Coordinator of Officials until retiring in 2018.

Veteran broadcaster **Charlie Neal**, who worked as an official before beginning his career in the media, has known Burch since the 1970s. "He was a consummate professional in every shape and form, not only as a referee on the floor but as a coordinator," said Neal.

Burch was inducted into eight different halls of fame with the most recent being the **CIAA John B. McLendon Jr. Hall of Fame** in February 2019.



Burch

"We have lost another CIAA angel," said CIAA Commissioner **Jacque McWilliams**. "His contributions to the CIAA and across the country left a legacy and a mark on us all. I'm grateful the CIAA celebrated his life while he was here.. He was an amazing storyteller, no-nonsense caring leader, with a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh."

In an interview at his CIAA Hall of Fame induction ceremony in February, Burch was asked by Neal, who was the greatest player

he had seen in his long career.

"That's easy," Burch said. "Earl 'The Pearl' Monroe of **Winston-Salem State**."

Asked about the greatest game he officiated, "That's easy too," said Burch. "The 1968 CIAA Championship game between **Norfolk State** and **North Carolina A&T**, (won by NSU) 134-132 in triple overtime."

A former teacher and administrator for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, he also served on numerous civic boards, including becoming the first African American to serve on the Charlotte Housing Authority board.

A native of Raleigh but raised in Larchmont, NY, Burch was a 1949 graduate of **Fayetteville State University**, where he was a two-sport athlete and would later serve on its board of trustees

He went on to establish the **James T. Burch Scholarship** to recognize student-athletes who exemplify the qualities of academic excellence, involvement in public service, and love of athletic competition.

BCSP Notes

Virginia State sweeps CIAA All-Sports awards

Virginia State earned both the **Loretta Taylor** and **C.H. Williams All-Sports Awards** as the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) held its annual Spring General Assembly Meeting and End-of-Year Awards Reception last week in Baltimore, MD. Both recognitions are awarded annually to the CIAA institution with the top women's and men's athletic programs, based on a points system.

The VSU women won a championship in indoor track & field while finishing third in softball and outdoor track & field helping them earn their second straight Taylor award. The Trojan men won men's basketball and cross country titles and runners-up finishes in indoor and outdoor track to capture the Williams award for the fifth consecutive year.

In addition to its All-Sports Awards, the conference announced its highest administrative and team awards.

Bowie State's Clyde Doughty, Jr. and **Virginia State's Peggy Davis** were named CIAA

Co-Athletic Directors of the Year. **Jolisa Williams** of **Shaw** was named **CIAA John Holley Sports Information Director of the Year**. **Dr. LaWanda Miller** of **Fayetteville State** was voted by her SWA peers as the CIAA Senior Woman Administrator of the Year. **Claffin** softball student-athlete **LaKaylin Lee** was named CIAA Female Scholar Athlete of the Year while senior basketball standout **Tyre Gathright** of **Saint Augustine's** earned CIAA Male Scholar Athlete of the Year.

Joe Taylor, Felicia Johnson promoted at Virginia Union

(RICHMOND, Virginia) — **Virginia Union University** President & CEO **Dr. Hakim J. Lucas** has announced the promotion of National College Football Hall of Fame Coach **Joe Taylor** to Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics and the appointment of **Felicia Johnson** as athletics director.

In his new role, Taylor will oversee VUU's comprehensive intercollegiate athletics division, leading a range of programs that support and de-

velop approximately 240 student-athletes playing in 15 NCAA sports.

VUU has won 15 divisional, conference and regional championships while completing a student-athlete graduation rate of over 60% since Taylor was appointed Athletics Director in December 2014. During his 40 years of coaching, Taylor posted a win-loss record of 233-96-4.

Johnson spent the past 11 years as the associate athletics director for compliance /Senior Woman Administrator. She joined the staff in July 2007 as Director of Compliance. Since then, she has been awarded additional responsibilities as the Senior Woman Administrator and Associate Athletic Director.

The Mappsville, Virginia, native is a 2003 honors graduate of VUU, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems. Johnson was a student-athlete at VUU, lettering in volleyball, bowling and earning All-CIAA honors in softball.



Johnson

Spring Sports Update

Southern takes SWAC Baseball title

NEW ORLEANS, La -- After a 10-year hiatus, **Southern University** baseball claimed the program's first **Southwestern Athletic Conference** tournament title since 2009 with a dominant 15-0 shutout of **Alabama State** Sunday afternoon at Wesley Barrow Stadium.

Tyler LaPorte, a senior third baseman who shared the league's Player of the Year award with Alabama State's **Yasil Pagan**, capped a phenomenal SWAC tournament with a 2-of-4 performance, which included three runs scored and a three-RBI home run in the top of the sixth inning.

Southern pitcher **Eli Finney** made his second start of the tournament and baffled Hornet hitters from the start, pitching 8 and 1/3 innings, allowed no runs and scattered three hits. Finney fanned six hitters while the SWAC's 2019 Relief Pitcher of the Year, **Connor Whalen**, entered in the bottom of the ninth to close the game. Whalen forced Alabama State shortstop **Eriq White** to groundout to **Malik Blaise** at short to ignite a post-championship dogpile that was 10-years in the making.

Finney only allowed five Alabama State baserunners and Alabama State failed to land a runner in scoring position until shortstop **Cristopher DeGuzman** reached second base on a passed ball in the bottom of the eighth.

Centerfielder **Javeyan Williams** and second baseman **Johnny Johnson** led Southern with four hits each and combined to score five runs and plate four RBIs. Catcher **Bobby Johnson** finished 3 of 5 at the plate and hit a two-run blast over the left field wall to spark Southern's offensive onslaught. The Jaguars belted out 16 hits in the win.

Head coach **Kerrick Jackson** engineered a worst-to-first Southern turnaround in his second season as coach. Southern was 9-33 last year.

Southern (32-22) will head to Chicago for a post-season exhibition tune-up in the inaugural **HBCU World Series** against **North Carolina A&T** Thursday afternoon before learning where they will play in NCAA Regional on May 31.

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Jahmoi Percival, Drexler Macaay, GSU; Daniel Lingua, Tyler Gordon, PVA&M; O.J. Oloruntimehin, Texas Southern; Nic Garza, TSU; Terrell McCall, Jeremy Rivera, Santiago Garcia, ALS; Eli Finney, Javeyan Williams, Tyler LaPorte (MVP), Southern



Jackson

Florida A&M escapes with MEAC baseball title

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.—**Florida A&M's** motto of "grind to greatness" resonated during an incredulous run to the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) Baseball Championship on Saturday.

Five runs down in one elimination game, and down to the final pitch in another, the Rattlers somehow went from surviving to thriving as they downed **Norfolk State** 5-4 and 8-1 to win their eighth conference championship overall (and first since 2015) at Jackie Robinson Ballpark.

The Rattlers (27-32) will learn their NCAA Regional destination and opponent next week (the Selection Show will air on ESPNU on Monday, May 27 as 12 p.m.). Norfolk State concluded its season 24-26.

Brett Maxwell's two-out, two-run single in the ninth gave the first game to the Rattlers, who found themselves down 4-2 after Norfolk State launched back-to-back home runs in the seventh.

In the second game, Florida A&M capitalized on three Spartans errors to put six runs on the board, seizing complete control after being one strike away from going home.

Even Florida A&M head coach **Jamey Shoupe** thought his team's four-game run through the elimination bracket was "an all-timer." But it fit in with what he preached to a team that started 0-6 and went through a seven-game skid midway through the season.

Shoupe got two complete games from pitcher **Kyle Coleman** in the tournament, the second in the championship game on just two days' rest. He scattered six hits, walked one and struck out nine while keeping the Spartans off-balance after they registered their lone run in the first inning.

Outstanding Tournament Performer honors went to **Kaycee Reese**, who batted .455 with six runs scored and six RBIs in the tournament. The senior was the batter for FAMU with two strikes and two outs the ninth inning of Saturday's first game.

He kept alive, fouling off four pitches before drawing the walk to keep the inning going. Maxwell followed with his game winner.

Outstanding Performer: Kaycee Reese, FAMU
Outstanding Coach: Jamey Shoupe, FAMU



Reese

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Miguel Rivera, John Weglarz, DSU; Kyle Coleman, Willis McDaniel, Tucker Rayburn, Kaycee Reese, FAMU; Chase Anderson, Jonathan Mahoney, Caleb Ward, NSU; Zach McLean, Brandon Melendez, NCA&T, Dwayne Franklin, SSU

Another honor for St. Aug runner Shannon Kalawan

RALEIGH, N.C. (May 17) — **Saint Augustine's University** standout **Shannon Kalawan** (Jr./Westmoreland, Jamaica) was named NCAA Division II Atlantic Region Women's Outdoor Track Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) on Friday.

Kalawan captured the award for the second straight year after another outstanding season. She ranks first nationally in Division II in the 400 hurdles (57.37) and 400 dash (52.97), and is part of the nation's top-ranked 4x400 relay squad (3:35.03).

The SAU junior will defend her national titles in all three events at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Championships in Kingsville, Texas, this week on May 23-25.

Highlights from this season include a 400 hurdles victory in the Penn Relays for the second straight year, running her season-best time in the event. She also was the CIAA Women's Outdoor Runner of the Year for the second consecutive season.

A gifted sprinter and hurdler for the Lady Falcons, Kalawan will try to duplicate last year's success when she won the 400 dash, 400 hurdles and 4x400 relay in the national championship meet after winning regional honors.

Her performance at the meet earned her the NCAA Division II Women's Outdoor Track Athlete of the Year award in 2018.



Kalawan