

# A&T baseball falls to Bethune-Cookman

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

It was a heartbreaking, disappointing and melancholy ending in an otherwise wonderful showing in the 2007 MEAC Baseball Tournament at Norfolk State's Marty L. Miller Field. Bethune-Cookman scored four runs in the bottom of the eighth to rally and defeat North Carolina A&T 6-4 in the MEAC Baseball Championship Game. The win earned the Wildcats their ninth MEAC Championship in the last 10 seasons. They will represent the MEAC in the NCAA Regionals for the seventh time in the last eight seasons.

"Coming out of the loser's bracket is taxing on your pitching staff, but that's what happens in a baseball tournament," said N.C. A&T head coach Keith Shumate. "I'm proud of our guys, they showed mental toughness, we used guys over and over again and they pitched well. But we just lost to a deserving champion tonight."

The Aggies went to the loser's bracket after losing to Norfolk State last Friday. They came back on Saturday and defeated Delaware State and Norfolk State. They then took the first game on Sunday against the Wildcats to earn a chance at winning their second championship in three seasons.

Sluggers Charlie Gamble and pitcher John Primus earned all-tournament honors for the Aggies.

The Aggies held a 4-2 lead going into the bottom of the eighth in Game No. 2. Luis Gonzalez started the Wildcats rally by singling through the right side to score



A&T head coach Keith Shumate talks strategy with Joe McIntyre.

Patrick Jones. Angel Negron tied the game at 4 with another single, and Chris Brown gave the Wildcats their first lead of the game when he singled off of Aggies reliever Ron Phelps.

After C.J. Beatty led off the ninth with a walk, the Wildcats brought in MEAC Pitcher of the Year Francisco Rodriguez to close things out. He retired the next three Aggies to seal the victory and earn his first save of the season. Francisco Gomez earned the win (1-2), while Marquis Frink (1-1) took the loss.

"It took a lot of determination and effort to do what we did in the tournament," said Shumate. "I'm proud of our players. They believed in themselves, they gave a very good team a very good fight. But give Bethune credit, they won the game, we didn't give it to them."

Matters looked so positive for the Aggies in the first game of the double-header.

Gonzalez gave the Wildcats a 1-0 lead in the second with a home run to right field in the first game. But Joe McIntyre tied the game for the Aggies with an RBI single to center. Nelson Santos' sacrifice fly to center gave the Aggies a 2-1 lead. Jeremy Jones' RBI single in the fifth put the Aggies up by two and McIntyre, who leads the MEAC in RBI, earned another RBI single as he brought home Jones for a 4-1 lead.

Gamble hit his 300th hit during a go-ahead home run that led the Aggies to a 4-3 win over the Wildcats, forcing another championship game because it was only the Wildcats first loss of the double-elimination tournament.

# NCCU sweeps regional track and field awards

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

North Carolina Central University swept the men's regional coach and athletes of the year for the Division II outdoor track and field season as chosen by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

NCCU freshman Karjuan Williams was selected as the USTFCCA Southeast Region Men's Track Athlete of the Year, while fellow NCCU freshman Mark Davis, a native of Cape Coral, Fla., was named the USTFCCA Southeast Region Men's Field Athlete of the Year.

Williams won the 800-meter run and placed second in the 400m dash at the



Williams

Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Championship meet. He enters this week's NCAA Championships as

the second-seeded qualifier in the 800m run (1:49.17) and ranks fifth in the 400m dash (46.64). Williams also runs on NCCU's fifth-seeded 4x400m relay (3:10.10).

Davis won the CIAA championship in the high jump with a 7-3 clearance. He qualified for the NCAA Championships in the high jump and long jump (24-6).

NCCU head coach Michael Lawson was picked as the Southeast Region Men's Coach of the Year after guiding the Eagles to a second place finish at the CIAA Championships and qualifying 10 student-athletes for this weekend's NCAA Division II National Championships in Charlotte.

# PrepChamps Elite to host combine on June 9

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

PrepChamps Elite Combines announced a regional combine and scouting opportunity on June 9 at the D1 Greenville Sports Training Complex in Greenville, SC.

PrepChamps, Inc., headquartered near Raleigh, and Elite Combines, located near Nashville, TN, will conduct NFL style football combines for the best-of-the-best from high schools throughout the nation. At these events, regional high school athletes will perform a variety of core strength and agility drills, and will also compete in position-specific activities and scoring. All results will be recorded, certified, and made available to coaches and scouts looking for scholarship athletes.

"This Greenville combine will allow college coaches to see how the top high school athletes in South Carolina and the Southeast region measure up," said PrepChamps CEO Dean Bundchu. "And that's our goal with the PrepChamps Elite Combines: to give athletes around the country the opportunity to showcase their skills to collegiate-level coaches and

scouts."

The combines will take place at D1 Sports Training Complex of Greenville at 1334 Miller Rd., Greenville, SC 29607 - where professional athletes from the NFL and MLB regularly train and hone skills. Workouts will take place from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

High school athletes attending the combine will participate in the 40-yard dash, 185-pound bench press, long jump, vertical leap, pro-agility and L-cone drills. Each player will be weighed and their height and reach measured.

After the combine, the companies will produce individual combine videos for each athlete who will have a free player profile posted on www.PreChamps.com with their combine video and highlight reel. This will allow all athletes, coaches and fans from around the country to view the videos at no charge.

For athlete registration forms or more information, contact Elite Combines Founder - a former strength and conditioning coach for collegiate powerhouses like Florida State and Notre Dame - Kevin Fitzgerald at (615) 497-1563.

## Mayo

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total points. Gabby Mayo and S.E. Raleigh followed with 70 points. Fayetteville E.E. Smith finished third. They were followed by Southern Durham (42), Raleigh Athens Drive (36) and Charlotte Vance (32). There were 48 schools scoring points in the women's championships.

East Forsyth's Dylan Ferris impressed during the meet, taking both the 800-meter and 1600-meter races. He finished the 800 meter in a time of 1:51.48. Ferris finished the 1600-meter in 4:14.12. East Forsyth also finished third in the 3,200-meter relay race with a time of 7:59.95.

Reynolds senior track star Charlton Rolle finished the 110-hurdles in second with a time of 13.53. Teammate Korel Mack, finished seventh place with a time of 14.36.3. The pair finished third and fourth in the 300-meter hurdles. Rolle finished with a time of 37.72 while Mack finished with a time of 38.64. Rolle also finished fifth in the long jump event. Reynolds finished sixth in the 1600-meter relay race.

Reynolds' talented pole vault specialist, Joanna Wright, continued her dominance. She captured a state championship in the pole vault after clearing 11-6. Brooke Miller, of Watauga, finished second after clearing 10-6. Mt. Tabor's very talented freshman, Taylor Dewberry, finished fourth in the 400-meter race with a time of 58.14. East Forsyth's Amanda Jones finished third in the state in the 800-meter race, with a time of 2:17.35. Reynolds' standout, Shanice Jones, finished sixth in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 47.31. North Forsyth's Michaela McGriff finished fifth in the state in the discus after clearing 108-11.

Reynolds' 800-meter relay girl's team finished third with a time of 1:42.87. Mt. Tabor's 1600-meter relay girl's team finished eighth, with a time of 4:04.10. East Forsyth's girl's finished sixth in the 3200-meter relay race. The Lady Eagles finished in 9:49.47.

Despite respectable performances from many area athletes, all eyes were still

on West Charlotte's Trenton Guy, Jr., and Gabby Mayo, of S.E. Raleigh. Both had tremendous meets to earn Most Valuable Performer honors.

Guy earned the Most Valuable Performer award for the men as he won the 100, finished second in the 200 and anchored both of the state champion relay teams in the 100 and 200. Mayo captured MVP honors for the women as she won the 100, 200 and the 100 hurdles.



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