

# HBCU SPORTS BRIEFS

# Furr dominates weekend track meet

**Shaw athlete graduates while hospitalized**  
Members of the Shaw University Administration traveled to Greenville, N.C., on May 22 to "officially" and personally present an academic degree to Edgar Huff, an athletic scholar injured in a serious car accident days before his scheduled May 9th graduation. The driver of the other vehicle was killed immediately.

Since Huff was unable to physically attend the commencement exercises at the Raleigh Convention Center, the University made arrangements to take the graduation exercises to Huff, a magna cum laude graduate and star baseball player on the university's baseball team.

In full regalia to conduct the ceremony were Shaw University's Herman Thomas, vice president of academic affairs, professor Irene Perry, and Martel A. Perry, executive vice-president of the university.

**St. Augustine's men win track title**

Saint Augustine's College claimed the 4x400 relay in the last event to knock off seven-time defending champion Abilene Christian University and win the men's national crown Saturday (May 23) at the 2009 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Angelo State University.

The Falcons won their 10th outdoor men's title and 31st overall under head coach George Williams. This is their first outdoor men's crown



Edgar Huff

since 2001, when they beat Abilene Christian.

The Falcons, who practiced without a track on campus this season, also won the 2009 Division II national indoor men's championship in March. They swept both indoor and outdoor men's national crowns for the first time since 2001.

"This is one of the most amazing championships that we've won," Williams said. "We didn't have a track and the talent pool wasn't there like in the past but everything paid off."

**Johnson C. Smith official feted**

Johnson C. Smith University's Stephen Joyner Sr., a Winston-Salem native, was named Athletic Director of the Year by the CIAA at the annual spring meeting.

JCSU athletics earned numerous accolades in 2008-09 under Joyner's watch. The Golden Bulls claimed the CIAA Tournament titles in women's and men's basketball. The men's team repeated as champions, while the

women's team won their first championship in school history.

Johnson C. Smith athletics is home to the reigning women's track and field athlete of the year (Shermaine Williams), the women's tennis conference player of the year (Cameron Chatman), the conference male scholar athlete of the year (Leford Green), and the women's outdoor track and field coach of the year (Lennox Graham).

Additionally, Golden Bulls student-athletes have also excelled in the classroom. Thirty one student-athletes at J.C. Smith had a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Twenty seven student-athletes graduated this past May — including the salutatorian — which represents 84 percent of those eligible to graduate.

Stephen Joyner has been at the helm as JCSU athletic director since April 2005.

**ECSU basketball crowds among D-II's largest**

The Elizabeth City State University men's basketball team ranked sixth overall for attendance in NCAA Division II for the 2008-09 school year.

In 11 home games last season, the Vikings hosted an average 2,848 fans at the R.L. Vaughan Center. ECSU boasted a CIAA-best of 31,324 people. Of the top 15 teams ranked, ECSU hosted the fewest home games (11) last season. As a conference, the CIAA ranked third overall in the nation, with four schools ranking in the top 30.

**St. Augustine's jumper named D-II's best**

Joe Kindred of Saint Augustine's College was chosen as the 2009 Division II outdoor men's field athlete of the year by U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association on Wednesday.

That means Kindred, named 2009 Division II indoor men's field athlete of the year in March, swept both national awards this season. He also was the nation's top outdoor male field athlete in 2008.

Kindred competes in the high jump, long jump and triple jump.

Earlier in the week, Kindred was named 2009 Atlantic Region outdoor men's field athlete of the year. He claimed the same award for indoor events in March.

**ESPN magazine recognizes UMES bowler**

Kristina Frahm, a member of the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore bowling team, was selected to be a member of the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Team. Frahm carries a 3.94 GPA in business administration.

Frahm was also solid athletically. Coming out of a National Tenpins Coaches Association (NTCA) Rookie of the Year and First-Team All-American honors in 2008 when UMES was National Champions, she was named an Honorable Mention All-American again in 2009 and was also named a second-team All-Conference performer.

- Compiled by Chad Roberts

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Local high school athletes collided with some of the best in the state Saturday at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 4-A State Championship track & field meet.

The meet was held at the Irwin Belk Track on the campus of North Carolina A&T in Greensboro.

Hunter Furr, a sprinter from Mount Tabor who has signed to play football at UNC-Chapel Hill in the fall, was three-for-three in his events on the day.

Furr ran the anchor leg of Mount Tabor's first-place 4x100-meter relay team and also won the 200-meter dash. He also had the top finish in the 100-meter dash, winning with a time of 10.65 seconds.

In 2008, a false start cost Furr the chance of a title in the 100 meters.

The Mount Tabor boys team finished second overall with 40 points. The New Bern boys team won the state title with 46 points.

Lamont Jackson, a senior hurdler from R.J. Reynolds, took home two second-place finishes for his efforts in the 110-meter hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles.

The Reynolds boys team finished the meet tied for 11th place with 20 points. East Forsyth senior



Furr

Aaron Zakula won the state title in the pole vault.

Among area girls, Mount Tabor sophomore Margaret Leak finished third in the 1,600 meters.

Andrea Beck, a Mount Tabor senior, placed third in the high jump.

West Forsyth senior Ashley Wyatt tied for third in the pole vault.

The Mount Tabor 4x100-meter relay team of Destiny Dalton, Arielle Moore, Mary Katherine Delmonico and Shenita Martin placed sixth.

The Mount Tabor 4x400 team of Martin, Moore, Alexis Pitts and Taylor Dewberry finished 10th. As a team, the Mount Tabor girls finished the meet in 16th place.

The 4-A State Championship was the final track event of the 2008-09 school year.

**Choir**

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poignantly related to the choir's plight.

"I am a promise, I am a possibility," sang the children.

Tiffany Hailston directed the choir that gave the local performance on Sunday. She called the performance "a little taste of what worship will be like in heaven," explaining that Christians of all cultures will worship together in heaven.

There are three World International Children's Choirs that World Help has touring the United States. She said the children have fun on the tour in between giving more than 150 concerts in 10 months. The young performers are well aware of their mission to worship through song and raise awareness and money for needy children.

"They're just like normal children; They're energetic," said Hailston. "(But) they know why they're here."

The children, who return to their home countries after the tour, all have high aspirations, said Hailston. She told the audience that some of the kids in her group have told her they want to be pilots, engineers and police officers. One girl wants to be queen of her native Uganda, but if that doesn't



Photos by Todd Luck

**Galilee members perform during the program.**

Right: The kids listen as a group leader addresses the congregation.

work out, she has a fall-back plan to be a nurse.

Jonathan, a 12-year-old who is also from Uganda, said he wants to be a lawyer. He ended up in one of World



Help's Children's Homes after losing his father in an accident. He said he's glad to be raising money for kids by doing something he enjoys.

"I like touring cause it's fun to sing," said Jonathan.

During the performance the audience was asked to donate money and buy CDs or DVDs to benefit World Help. Congregates were also asked to sponsor a child, providing him or her with food, clothing, education and medical care. World Help has also provided more than 31,000 sponsorships to children in 22 countries.

World Help has focused much attention on kids orphaned by AIDS in Africa. Between songs performed by the choir, a brief video played, illustrating the effects the disease has had on the continent.

Galilee Pastor Dr. Nathan Scovens brought the issue of HIV/AIDS closer to home when he asked those in the pews to stand if they knew someone affected HIV/AIDS. Nearly half of those in attendance stood. He asked his congregation to dig that much deeper to give to World Help.

"I'm touched and moved by what they're doing," said Scovens.

For more information on World Help or to donate, go to [www.worldhelp.net](http://www.worldhelp.net).

**Boxing**

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thing for those who come to train is dedication.

"It's not a part-time sport. You have to be mentally strong to come every week," he said.

Out of perhaps 30 individuals who may start learning how to box, Lowery estimates, the number that remain consistently coming to the gym is "maybe five. But those are the ones that are gonna be your fighters. They're mentally strong," he said.

The four-day-a-week training routine consists of two phases. On Mondays and Wednesdays, Lowery focuses the boxers on exercise. There's no sparring, but they practice their footwork in the ring and also jog outside to improve their conditioning.

On Tuesdays and

Thursdays, the gloves and headgear go on and the boxers spar with each other while Lowery and other coaches supervise.

Lowery said the sparring part is often what keeps some from coming back to the gym.

"Them gloves will make you stay home," Lowery said with a laugh. "It's pretty tough when you first get in there. But if you get past that, you'll be all right."

Lashawn Pearson, a mother whose three young sons box at the 14th Street gym, said she was at first afraid of seeing them get in the ring and fight. She said the boys have an older brother that boxed, and the idea then trickled downward beginning four years ago, first to now-11-year-old Isaiah, and then later to now-9-year-old twins Adrian and Andre, nicknamed "Thunder" and "Lightning" respectively.

"They've been doing it ever since. They just love boxing," Pearson said.

It helps, Pearson said, that the boys' father is also with them at ringside.

"He's their coach and he's their daddy. I know he's got their best interest at heart," she said.

Lowery said he likes what he's seen from the boys, and the twins are "two of the best 9-year-olds" that he's seen.

But among the boys themselves, the question of who's the best is settled, at least for the time being.

"It's Andre," 11-year-old Isaiah said. "I can't lie."

Adrian agrees. "Every time he gets in the ring, he knocks people out," the twin known as "Thunder," said.

Andre, or "Lightning," as he is called, is equally blunt when he's asked about what makes him the best of the boys.

"It's because I work hard," he said.



Andre, Adrian and Isaiah Pearson pose with belts they won recently.

Submitted Photo