

FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 14 - 20, 2006

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Raiders' Photo

WHAT TOOK SO LONG?

SHELL: Hall of Famer returns to NFL sidelines after 11-year snub

▼ CIAA / SIAC HOOP RACES WIND DOWN; SIAC TOPS IN D2 FOOTBALL ATTENDANCE

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BEST FOOTBALL NUMBERS: The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference has captured the NCAA Division II football attendance title for the third consecutive year in figures released by the NCAA last week.


The SIAC averaged 6,361 fans for its 46 home games which was slightly down from 2004 numbers. Five conference teams finished in the top 25 in team attendance. Tuskegee was the highest ranked SIAC team finishing second overall with an average of 11,307 for its four home games.

The Golden Tigers finished just ahead of Miles who finished third with an average of 10,214 fans for five home dates. The SIAC had five other teams finish in the top 50. Albany State (12th), Morehouse (13th), Fort Valley State (20th), Kentucky State (23rd) and Benedict (27th). West Texas A&M finished first averaging 13,089 fans per contest.

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association finished sixth among the conferences averaging 4,695 fans in its 53 home dates. Winston-Salem State was the highest ranked CIAA team finishing tenth averaging 8,051 fans for six home games. Three other CIAA teams, Virginia State (17th), North Carolina Central (18th) and Shaw (32nd) finished in the top 50.

There are 147 teams and 15 conferences in Division II. NCAA finished the 2005 season attracting the third-highest total number of fans since the organization began tracking attendance in 1948. While total attendance was up by 381,093 fans from last season, the per-game average actually dropped slightly — but it still topped the 13,000 mark for the fourth straight year.

The 615 NCAA teams totaled 43,486,574 fans for all four divisions in 2005. The all-time high of 46,114,539 was set during the 2003 season when, because of the way the calendar fell that year, Divisions I-A and I-AA institutions were permitted to play 12 games.



SIAC logo

TOPS AGAIN: SIAC wins Div. II football attendance title for third straight year.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

2005 NCAA DIVISION II FOOTBALL ATTENDANCE LEADERS

BY CONFERENCE

RANK	DIV. II	TEAMS	GAMES	ATTENDANCE	AVERAGE	IN AVG.
1.	SIAC	10	46	292,627	6,361	-528
2	Lone Star	13	68	397,678	5,848	1,298
3	Mid-America	9	47	259,735	5,526	746
4	North Central	7	41	225,177	5,492	263
5	Gulf South	12	65	321,788	4,951	298
6.	CIAA	12	53	248,850	4,695	106
7	Great Lakes	13	70	234,601	3,351	246
8	Penns. State	14	72	233,937	3,249	-256
9	South Atlantic	8	39	125,965	3,230	-345
10	Great Northwest	4	21	53,011	2,524	382
11	Rocky Mountain	9	48	112,707	2,348	-21
12	Northern Sun	8	38	68,453	1,801	74
13	Northeast-10	10	51	86,518	1,696	202
14	West Virginia	9	47	77,876	1,657	6
15	Great Lakes	5	26	42,409	1,631	1,631
16	Independent	4	19	27,369	1,440	-2,021

BY TEAM

RANK	SCHOOL	G	Attendance	Average
1	West Tex. A&M	6	78,535	13,089
2.	Tuskegee	4	45,231	11,307
3.	Miles	5	51,074	10,214
4	Angelo St.	7	66,384	9,483
5	North Dakota	7	65,980	9,425
10.	Winston-Salem	6	48,310	8,051
12.	Albany St. (Ga.)	5	40,185	8,037
13.	Morehouse	4	31,124	7,781
17.	Virginia St.	5	34,666	6,933
18.	N.C. Central	6	41,237	6,872
20.	Fort Valley St.	3	19,862	6,620
23.	Kentucky St.	4	24,270	6,067
27.	Benedict	5	28,604	5,720
32.	Shaw	5	25,976	5,195

SOURCE: NCAA

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CIAA	CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION	MEAC	MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	SIAC	SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	SWAC	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	INDEPENDENTS
DIV. I	CONF. ALL	CONF. ALL	CONF. ALL	CONF. ALL	CONF. ALL	DIV. I	CONF. ALL	W. Va. State
E. DIVISION	W. L. W. L. W. L.	W. L. W. L. W. L.	W. L. W. L. W. L.	W. L. W. L. W. L.	W. L. W. L. W. L.	E. DIVISION	W. L. W. L. W. L.	Central State
Virginia Union	7 1 11 2 18 3	Delaware State	12 1 14 11	Benedict	16 1 18 4	Southern	11 2 13 11	Cheyney
Bowie State	4 3 8 5 15 9	Coppin State	10 3 10 14	Paine	13 4 15 6	Grambling State	9 4 11 9	Tennessee State
Eliz. City State	3 4 5 7 9 12	Hampton	9 4 11 10	Soliman	12 6 15 8	Jackson State	8 5 12 13	Savannah State
Virginia State	2 4 5 7 6 17	Bethune-Cookman	8 5 12 12	Albany State	11 6 12 9	Alabama A&M	7 5 9 14	Univ. DC
Shaw	3 5 4 9 5 18	Florida A&M	7 6 11 14	Lane	10 7 12 9	Alcorn State	6 7 6 16	
St. Paul's	3 5 3 10 9 13	Norfolk State	7 6 8 15	Morehouse	9 8 12 10	Miss. Valley St.	6 7 6 16	
W. DIVISION	W. L. W. L. W. L.	SC State	6 6 8 14	Fort Valley State	8 9 11 11	Ark. Pine Bluff	5 8 8 13	
St. Augustine's	7 1 10 4 16 5	NC A&T State	4 8 4 17	Kentucky State	8 10 9 12	Texas Southern	4 8 6 18	
J. C. Smith	5 2 10 2 18 5	Morgan State	3 9 3 20	Miles	6 12 6 16	Prine View A&M	1 11 4 19	
N. C. Central	5 3 6 5 8 13	Mid E. Shore	2 10 5 17	LeMoyn-Owen	5 11 7 14			
W. Salem State	3 4 7 6 14 9	Howard	1 11 2 19	Clark Atlanta	3 14 3 20			
Fayetteville State	2 5 5 8 12 10			Tuskegee	1 17 1 22			
Livingstone	0 7 2 11 6 17							

CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
DREW JOHNSON, 6-4, Jr., F, NC CENTRAL, Raleigh, NC - Had career-high 37 points, 25 in the second half as Eagles defeated Fayetteville St. 81-61 on Feb. 11.	TYWAN MCKEE, 6-2, So., G, COPPIN STATE, Philadelphia, PA - Scored career-high 34 points on 11 of 14 shooting including 4 of 5 from 3-point range in win over Norfolk State. Had 21 points, five rebounds, three assists and two steals in win over Florida A&M.	TRAVON McGRUDER, 6-7, C/F, ALBANY STATE, Augusta, GA - A-averaged 15.3 points, 10.5 rebounds and 1.5 blocks as Golden Rams split four games.	DEFORREST RILEY-SMITH, 6-4, Jr., G, SOUTHERN, Cincinnati, OH - A-averaged 20.5 points hitting on 10 of 15 three-pointers in two wins as the Jaguars increased their conference lead. Had 19 points including 5 of 8 3-pointers and got four rebounds as Jags knocked off Miss. Valley State after getting 22 points on 5 of 9 3-point shooting and had five rebounds in win over Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

OTHER TOP PERFORMANCES	OTHER TOP PERFORMANCES
- Brandon Childs, Morehouse - Averaged 24.5 points, 3 rebounds and 2 assists in two games.	- Brandon Childs, Morehouse - Averaged 24.5 points, 3 rebounds and 2 assists in two games.
- Anthony Ward, Miles - Averaged 20.5 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists and 1.5 steals in two games.	- Anthony Ward, Miles - Averaged 20.5 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists and 1.5 steals in two games.
- Brian Harper, Paine - Averaged 18.3 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists and 1.3 blocks in 3 wins.	- Brian Harper, Paine - Averaged 18.3 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists and 1.3 blocks in 3 wins.

CIAA great Shell back as NFL head coach

Al Davis turned to a familiar face to turn the Oakland Raiders around after the worst three-year stretch since he joined the franchise more than four decades ago.

Davis re-hired Art Shell for his second stint as Raiders coach on Feb. 10, one day after Pittsburgh Steelers offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt became the latest candidate to tell the team he didn't want the job.

Shell, a long shot when the search began after Norv Turner was fired Jan. 3, first talked to Davis about taking the job last week. The 59-year-old Shell met with Davis and other team officials and was formally introduced at a news conference.

Drafted from Maryland State (now Maryland-Eastern Shore), Shell made eight Pro Bowls and won two Super Bowls as a standout offensive tackle in a 15-year career with the Raiders that led to his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He is slated for induction into the CIAA-John B. McLendon Hall of Fame on March 3.

The first black head coach in modern NFL history when the Raiders hired him in 1989, Shell becomes the seventh one currently in the league. Of the 10 openings this offseason, the only other black coach hired was Herman Edwards, who was traded from the New York Jets to the Kansas City Chiefs.

Shell, who had been working as the senior vice president of football operations and development for the NFL, hasn't been a head coach since the Raiders fired him following the 1994 season in a move Davis has said he still regrets.

Davis has gone through five coaches in 11 seasons since firing Shell, possibly scaring some candidates away from the job. Shell did have success while working with Davis. The coach had a 54-38 regular-season record with the Raiders, leading them to the AFC Championship Game following the 1990 season. But he didn't get a second chance as a head coach until now. He worked as offensive line coach for two seasons with the Kansas City Chiefs and four with the Atlanta Falcons before stepping down following the 2000 season.

The Raiders have had only three winning seasons since Shell was fired — one less than he had in five full seasons as coach.

With less than two weeks until the scouting combine begins, Shell will have to work quickly to put together his staff and set his offseason priorities. He takes over a team that has struggled mightily since going to the Super Bowl following the 2002 season. The Raiders won 13 games over the last three years, the first time they had three losing seasons in a row since 1963.

SIAC/CIAA races near completion

After this weekend, there will be only week left in the regular season for the CIAA and SIAC before they begin tournament play in the week beginning Monday, Feb. 27.

Here's how the races look.

SIAC

Benedict (18-4, 16-1) enters the last ten days of the men's SIAC regular season with a three-game lead over Paine (15-6, 13-4), but the Tigers have a rough five-game stretch, four of them on the road against its nearest competitors, to close out the season.

Benedict hosts Tuskegee Feb. 16 before hitting the road Saturday, Feb. 18 against third-place Stillman, the only conference team with a win over the Tigers, a 70-53 decision on Feb. 6. The Tigers then travel to fourth-place Albany State on Feb. 21, to Fort Valley State on Feb. 23 before closing out the season at Paine on Feb. 25.

Fort Valley State (22-1, 16-0) has a three-and-a-half game lead over the ladies of Benedict in the women's race but, unlike the Benedict men, FVSSU closes out its schedule with three of four tough games at home. The three home games are against fourth-place Albany State (Feb. 18), third-place Paine (Feb. 21) and second-place Benedict (Feb. 23). That road game is against last-place Clark Atlanta on Feb. 25.

CIAA

Virginia Union has already clinched one of the two East Division first round byes to the men's CIAA Tournament and can claim the No. 1 seed with a win in one of its final two division games. The Panthers (18-3, 7-1) had a date at Shaw (5-18, 3-5) Tuesday (Feb. 14) and finish their division schedule on Feb. 25 vs. Elizabeth City State (9-12, 3-4).

With its 75-63 upset win over then No. 1 ranked VUU on Feb. 7, Bowie State thrust itself back into the race for the second East Division bye and CIAA title. The Bulldogs (15-9, 4-3) are currently just one game ahead of Virginia State (6-17, 2-4) and ECSU in the loss column with key dates against those two coming up. BSU travelled to VSU on Tuesday, Feb. 14, hosts St. Paul's (9-13, 3-5) Thursday, Feb. 16 and closes out its division schedule hosting ECSU on Tuesday, Feb. 21. A loss by Bowie State in any of its final three division games would also give the top seed to VUU.

In the West Division, St. Augustine's (16-5, 7-1) has already clinched one of the two first round byes and can clinch the top seed with a win Tuesday at second-place Johnson C. Smith (18-5, 5-2). If the Falcons don't get it done there, they will likely do it when they close out the division schedule Saturday, Feb. 18 at Livingstone (6-17, 0-7), who is winless in the division.

Tuesday's game vs. St. Aug's was critical for JCSU as it tries to hold off N.C. Central (8-13, 5-3) for the second seed and bye. The Golden Bulls lost big Saturday (81-57) to Winston-Salem State (14-9, 3-4). JCSU hosts Fayetteville State on Feb. 21 and closes out its season hosting NCCU at a possible showdown for the bye on Feb. 25 in Durham.

On the women's side, Shaw (20-4, 8-0) has clinched one East Division bye and looked to secure the No. 1 seed Tuesday at home against Virginia Union (11-11, 4-3). Shaw closes out its division schedule hosting Virginia State on Feb. 21.

Elizabeth City State (15-7, 5-2) held a one-game lead over VUU for the second seed headed into Tuesday's games. The Lady Vikings host Virginia State on Feb. 18, travel to Bowie State on Feb. 21 and close out the season hosting VUU on Feb. 25.

J.C. Smith (16-7, 7-0) has secured one of the West Division's first round byes. NC Central (17-4, 6-2) is in position to take the other and needs either a win Feb. 21 over Fayetteville State or a win Feb. 25 against JCSU or a loss by third-place St. Aug's or FSU to claim the second bye.

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Virginia Union	4 3 7 5 11 11	UMES	7 5 9 11	Paine	12 3 16 6	Alabama A&M	7 5 9 14	Savannah State
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Livingstone	1 6 2 10 6 16							

CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
TRIFANY SMITH, 6-11, Jr., F, ELIZ. CITY ST., Cheyney, MD - Smith committed on 21 of 28 shots (80 %) for a career-high 47 points and added 16 rebounds and 5 assists in OT win vs. Livingstone.	KATREEM PALMER, 6-1, F, DELSTATE, Jamaica, NY - Averaged 15.5 points, 9.5 rebounds and 2 assists in two wins while shooting 52% from the field and 40% (12 of 28) from behind the arc. Had career-high 26 points vs. Morgan State and 18 vs. NC A&T.	MARISA JACKSON, 5-8, Jr., G, MILES, Rockledge, GA - A-averaged 13.7 points, 6.3 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 3.3 steals in Lady Golden Bears 3-0 week.	ROLANDA MONROE, 6-1, Jr., F, SOUTHERN, Jackson, MS - A-averaged 18 points and 9.5 rebounds as Lady Jags got two wins. Had 16 points, 14 rebounds and five assists in win over Miss. Valley St. and had 20 points and five rebounds in win over Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

OTHER TOP PERFORMANCES	OTHER TOP PERFORMANCES
- Shaleya Terpin, Fort Valley State - A-averaged 18 points, 5 rebounds and four steals in two games.	- Shaleya Terpin, Fort Valley State - A-averaged 18 points, 5 rebounds and four steals in two games.
- Anthony Peak, Albany State - A-averaged 13.3 points, 8.7 rebounds and 3.3 steals in 3 games.	- Anthony Peak, Albany State - A-averaged 13.3 points, 8.7 rebounds and 3.3 steals in 3 games.