

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 11 - 17, 2006

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE

MO' FOLKS, MO' DOUGH

▼ HOOPS TOURNEY BREAKS RECORDS; NEW GRID COACH AT SAVANNAH STATE



Bobby Parker / All Pro Photo
THE PLACE TO BE: New home of the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats was perfect fit for 2006 CIAA Basketball Tournament.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

ROLLE HAS B-CC TIES THAT BIND:

Baltimore Ravens defensive back Samari Rolle didn't play a down of football for Bethune-Cookman, but there's still a strong connection between the Historically Black College and the NFL star.



Ravens Photo

ROLLE: NFL DB makes generous gift to B-CC's \$13m grid training center.
Over 20 of his cousins, including current B-CC Director of Athletics **Lynn Thompson**, have graduated from B-CC as well.

Even though Rolle played his collegiate football for Florida State University in Tallahassee—almost a four hour drive from the Daytona Beach home of B-CC, Rolle is a frequent visitor to the *Walt Disney World Florida Classic* football game between Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M University, despite it regularly being held on the same day as the intrastate football contest between Florida State and the University of Florida.

Rolle further strengthened his connection to Bethune-Cookman College earlier this week with a generous \$50,000 contribution to the Football Training Center initiative to build and maintain a state-of-the-art home for the Wildcats' football program.

The eight-year National Football League veteran will also serve as an ambassador for the initiative, which has a goal of raising \$13 million.

"It's a great project and I'm thrilled to be a part of it," Rolle acknowledged. "Bethune-Cookman has always been a part of my life, and I hope I can help out."

A 2000 Pro Bowl performer, Rolle spent seven years with the NFL's Tennessee Titans, registering 23 interceptions. To date, he has played in over 100 games, including an appearance in Super Bowl XXXIV.

"There's always been some great football played at B-CC," Rolle admitted. "Just because you're not at a Florida or a Florida State—well, maybe Florida State—doesn't mean you can't play at the next level. I played with Steve McNair when I was with the [Tennessee] Titans and he came from a small school [Alcorn State]. Look at what [former B-CC star] Rashean Mathis is doing with the Jacksonville Jaguars."

"This project is all about giving football players the necessary environment to be successful both on the field... and in the classroom, and I'm all about that," said Rolle.

The Football Training Center will include locker rooms and showers, a weight room, coaches' offices, meeting and film rooms and a reception area featuring a B-CC Football Hall of Fame. The 19,000 square-foot football building will serve the football program's approximately 90 student-athletes, 25 coaches and support staff, as well as approximately 600-700 young student-athletes throughout Florida participating in the National Youth Sports Program (NYSPP) and summer camps hosted by B-CC each year.

"Samari will be a big addition to our initiative," stated Thompson. "He will open new doors for our efforts."

ALBANY STATE AD: Albany State has announced the appointment of Dr. Joshua W. Murfree, Jr. as interim director of athletics. A professor and the chairman of the Department of Psychology, Sociology and Social Work, Murfree serves as the NCAA faculty athletics representative for Albany State. He is also the director of the Center for the African-American Male and former director of the ASU Honors Program. As Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Murfree will oversee and manage the operations of Albany State's 11-sports programs, which include football, volleyball, baseball, softball, women's tennis and men's and women's basketball, cross country and track and field. Murfree plans to enhance the athletics program to ensure and improve student-athletes' academic and athletic success. In addition to his duties, Murfree serves as the national/international mentoring chairman and vice chairman of Programs for 100 Black Men of America, Inc., and is a well-known motivational speaker throughout the country.

2006 BLACK COLLEGE BASEBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA					MEAC					SIAC					SWAC					INDEPENDENTS		
CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION					MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE							
DIV					CONF					CONF					CONF					W L		
W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	
Virginia State	8	2	12	10	Bethune-Cookman	6	0	18	20	E. DIVISION	8	4	18	12	Jackson State	11	4	15	12	West Virginia State	26	3
Shaw	6	4	11	13	Norfolk State	7	2	16	17	Albany State	7	5	19	25	Alcorn State	13	5	18	12	Savannah State	19	14
Eliz. City State	7	5	16	14	Delaware State	3	2	11	18	Paine	8	5	14	14	Miss. Valley St.	12	5	16	15	PLAYERS OF THE WEEK		
St. Augustine's	3	3	3	18	Maryland E. S.	4	5	7	23	Morhouse	7	7	12	19	Alabama State	4	9	9	18	MICHAEL ZEWICKI, West Virginia State, Jr., Cheek/Kawaga, NY, Zewicki blanked #7 Ashland over an eight inning to help West Virginia State prevail in a battle of nationally ranked Top 10 clubs. He struck out five and did not walk any while only giving up a pair of hits.		
St. Paul's	0	12	0	19	Coppin State	3	5	7	28	Clark Atlanta	2	1	2	5	Alabama A&M	1	17	5	23	PLAYERS OF THE WEEK		
CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK							
PLAYER					PLAYER					PLAYER					PLAYER							
NA					NA					NA					NA							
OFFENSE					OFFENSE					OFFENSE					OFFENSE							
NA					NA					NA					NA							

Record numbers for CIAA tournament

The 2006 CIAA Basketball Tournament, held in Uptown Charlotte this past Feb 27 – March 3, was the conference's largest event ever in terms of attendance for the tournament and its ancillary events.

CIAA fans came in record numbers to Charlotte and Mecklenburg County to experience the Tournament activities resulting in over \$10 million in direct spending and an economic impact of \$15.4 million. The city also experienced high hotel occupancies with CIAA fans using more than 25,000 hotel rooms during the week.

Over 124,000 CIAA fans attended game sessions and Super Saturday festivities at the Charlotte Bobcats Arena during Tournament week. This represents a thirteen-percent (13%) increase from last year's tournament held in Raleigh and was driven by increased attendance for the early round sessions and a record crowd for the Super Saturday activities.

"The 2006 Tournament was our best ever and was certainly our largest in the history of the conference," said Commissioner **Leon Kerry**. "The city of Charlotte really proved themselves as a big-time event town and our fans had a great experience this year. And I can't say enough about the Charlotte Bobcats Arena which proved to be an absolute perfect fit for this event."

This year, besides the basketball tournament itself, fans enjoyed The CIAA Fashion Show, CIAA's Showtime at the Apollo and Whispers concert events, the CIAA Super Saturday activities, the CIAA step show and many business socials, after-parties and reunions.

New to the 2006 Tournament was the CIAA Fan Experience, which offered free admission and included interactive activities and performances that drew fans to the Charlotte Convention Center throughout the week. The CIAA Fan Experience was completely underwritten by the CIAA sponsors.

In addition to basketball tournament action, accessible only through the purchase of week-long tickets books, another 35,000 fans attended the additional CIAA ticketed or free events. Attendance at the three-day Fan Experience surpassed 20,000.

Traditional CIAA events such as the Fashion Show, Step Show and after-party also enjoyed record attendance.

"Throughout each phase of planning for this tournament and the events surrounding it, I promised Commissioner Kerry and his team that this tournament in Charlotte would be the very best in CIAA history," said Lenny Springs,



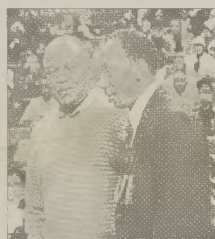
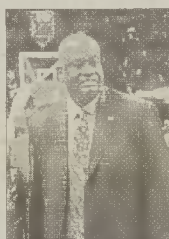
Bobby Parker/All Pro Photo

ATTRACTIONS: Natty dressed Mr. CIAA wows the crowd at a packed CIAA Basketball Tournament in Charlotte this year. The 60th tourney broke records for attendance and revenue.

Chairman of the Charlotte Tournament Committee. "I believe we succeeded."

Ticket sales, sponsor revenues and media fees for all CIAA-sponsored events, combined with the host city financial commitments, offset the CIAA's operating costs and ultimately provide a contribution to the CIAA scholarship fund and its twelve institutions.

For more information about the CIAA conference or the 2007 Tournament to be held February 25 – March 3, 2007 in Charlotte, please visit www.ciaatournament.org.



All photos by Bobby Parker / All Pro Photo

CIAA PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS: (From L) CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry pleasantly scans full house of over 18,000 fans that attended the 2006 Basketball Tournament in Charlotte. Charlotte Bobcats' Head Coach and General Manager Bernie Bickerstaff (J) shares a moment with ESPN's Stephen A. Smith before Smith called the men's championship game for the network. Bobcats' owner Robert Johnson takes a bow after his introduction during men's title game. Comedian and talk show host Steve Harvey waves to the crowd after his appearance at the championship game. Harvey hosted his morning show at the tournament, one of many attractions that drew 35,000 fans to ticketed events and 20,000 to the new CIAA Fan Experience.

BCSP Notes

Lemon leaves Central State for Savannah State

One year after helping one black college football program get off the deck, **Theo Lemon** has taken on a similar assignment.

Lemon, who as head coach returned Central State to the gridiron in 2005 after an eight-year absence, was named Monday as the new head man at Savannah State, an NCAA Div. I-AA program that has won three of its last 43 games over the past four seasons. **Al West**, a former CSU player and assistant coach and the school's Dean of Students, was named Lemon's replacement.

SSU Athletic Director **Robert "Tony" O'Neal** introduced Lemon as the school's 20th head coach replacing **Richard Basil** who resigned in March.

"We felt that Theo Lemon's skills and collegiate coaching experience will help kick start our football program," O'Neal said. "It is great to be in a position to bring in a coach with the credentials of Theo Lemon. He has a winning attitude and has been a part of a number of successful programs."

Lemon has over twenty years of coaching experience on the colle-

giate level and four years of collegiate head coaching experience. He was named head coach at Central State in 2003. He reestablished a Central State football program that had been dormant since 1996. With a team of walk-on players, Central State played its first full season in 2005 and finished with a 1-5 record. CSU's only win was over Savannah State, 28-27. Savannah State finished the 2005 season 0-11.

"I am excited about the chance to come to Savannah State as the head football coach," Lemon said. "The opportunity to compete and coach on the Division I-AA level is something I have been looking forward to my whole career. I know it will be a challenge, but I plan on it also being a rewarding experience."

Prior to coaching at Central State, Lemon served as the head football coach at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Ill., from 2001 to 2002. From 1996-2000 he was an assistant football coach at Wake Forest. Lemon's collegiate coaching career also includes stints at Rutgers, East Carolina, Northeastern, Kentucky State and a graduate assistantship at Ohio University. From 1985 to 1990, Lemon was the defensive coordinator, offensive line coach and running backs coach at Central State. He helped lead the school to six consecutive postseason appearances and the 1990 NAIA National Championship.

2006 BLACK COLLEGE SOFTBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA					MEAC					SIAC					SWAC					INDEPENDENTS		
CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION					MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE							
DIV					CONF					CONF					CONF					W L		
W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	
Elizabethton City	3	1	8	10	Florida A&M	14	0	31	21	E. DIVISION	7	1	15	16	E. Div.	11	1	13	20	West Virginia State	24	14
Virginia State	4	2	8	15	Beth-Cookman	10	4	26	24	Albany State	11	3	23	21	Miss. Valley State	11	1	13	20	Tennessee State	14	23
Shaw	5	5	8	12	Delaware State	6	3	17	18	Fl. Valley State	9	5	22	17	Jackson State	9	6	20	17	Savannah State	1	13
Virginia Union	2	2	3	15	Howard	6	5	17	18	Clark Atlanta	5	11	18	31	Alabama State	9	7	11	29	PLAYERS OF THE WEEK		
St. Paul's	0	5	2	16	NC A&T State	7	7	15	20	Paine	0	12	5	14	Alabama A&M	0	0	2	2	NA		
CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK							
PLAYER					PLAYER					PLAYER					PLAYER							
NA					NA					NA					NA							
OFFENSE					OFFENSE					OFFENSE					OFFENSE							
NA					NA					NA					NA							