

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 25 - MAY 1, 2006

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



JSU Sports Photo
2006 SWAC CHAMP
Shasta Averyhardt led the Jackson State women's team to its 11th SWAC title in 12 years.

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

▼ HOPEFULS IN NFL DRAFT; GOLF TOURNEY GETS NEW NAME; SPRING CHAMPS CROWNED

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BOZEMAN IN AT MORGAN STATE? :

Former Cal head coach **Todd Bozeman**, who has been out of college coaching since 1997, may have landed his first job back on the collegiate level at **Morgan State**. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, Bozeman, 41, was one of three finalists the school was considering as a replacement for **Butch Beard**, who resigned after this season. Current **Bowie State** head coach **Luke D'Alessio** and Toledo assistant **Michael Grant**, a former head coach at **Southern**, were reportedly the other two finalists. The school is expected to make a decision and name a new coach this week. Bozeman was hired as the head coach at Cal at 29 years old and led the Bears to three consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances while recruiting the likes of Jason Kidd and Sharief Abdur-Rahim to the program. That was before he was given an unprecedented eight-year "show cause" ban by the NCAA after admitting to paying \$30,000 to a recruit's family. The ban ended in July of 2005 and Bozeman has been seeking to return to the bench since. He has spent time as an NBA scout, as a summer league and AAU coach in the Washington, D.C./Baltimore area, while working the last few years as a pharmaceutical salesman. D'Alessio has built an impressive record in seven years at **Bowie State**. The Bulldogs, CIAA doormats before he arrived, have posted a 144-65 record under his tutelage including winning the 2003 CIAA title and making to the NCAA Div. II national semifinals. Grant, 42, served two years as **Southern's** head coach compiling a 26-31 record after seven years at **Central State** where he led the Marauders to a 126-94 mark.

Bozeman, who has been out of college coaching since 1997, may have landed his first job back on the collegiate level at **Morgan State**. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, Bozeman, 41, was one of three finalists the school was considering as a replacement for **Butch Beard**, who resigned after this season. Current **Bowie State** head coach **Luke D'Alessio** and Toledo assistant **Michael Grant**, a former head coach at **Southern**, were reportedly the other two finalists. The school is expected to make a decision and name a new coach this week. Bozeman was hired as the head coach at Cal at 29 years old and led the Bears to three consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances while recruiting the likes of Jason Kidd and Sharief Abdur-Rahim to the program. That was before he was given an unprecedented eight-year "show cause" ban by the NCAA after admitting to paying \$30,000 to a recruit's family. The ban ended in July of 2005 and Bozeman has been seeking to return to the bench since. He has spent time as an NBA scout, as a summer league and AAU coach in the Washington, D.C./Baltimore area, while working the last few years as a pharmaceutical salesman. D'Alessio has built an impressive record in seven years at **Bowie State**. The Bulldogs, CIAA doormats before he arrived, have posted a 144-65 record under his tutelage including winning the 2003 CIAA title and making to the NCAA Div. II national semifinals. Grant, 42, served two years as **Southern's** head coach compiling a 26-31 record after seven years at **Central State** where he led the Marauders to a 126-94 mark.

NEW SPONSOR, NEW NAME:

The PGA of America has been granted full operation and management of the National Minority College Golf Championship for the first time in its history, along with a name change to the PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship. Thirty-five colleges and universities will participate in the Championship at The PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla., on May 4-7, 2006. Nine schools are participating for the first time.

Twenty years ago, following the Jackson State University Tournament in 1986, Coach **Eddie Payton** of JSU joined with **Dr. John Saundra**, the late **Dr. Herschel Cochran**, former president of the National Negro Golf Association; **Rose Elder**, of the Sports Management Institute of Washington D.C.; and **William (Bill) Dickey**, president of the National Minority Junior Golf Association and the 1999 PGA Distinguished Service Award winner, to form the National Minority College Golf Championship.

The first Championship was contested on May 17-19, 1987, at the Highland Park Golf Course in Cleveland, under the direction of the newly formed National Minority College Golf Scholarship Fund (NMGCSF). The Championship was conceived to focus national attention on the crisis of minority college golf, to stimulate the development of golf programs at the intercollegiate level and to create a 36-hole national Championship for America's finest minority college golfers.

"The PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship is a key part of our Association's strategy to bring more people of color into the business of golf," said Joe Steranka, PGA of America chief executive officer. "The PGA of America is excited to host this for the ninth year, and the additions to the field will make it the premier golf competition among minority college athletes."

The 34-hole stroke play competition will be contested on The PGA Golf Club's South Course and consist of an expanded field of more than 140 men and women student-athletes who will comprise of one of six divisions.

Participating schools include:

MEN'S DIV. I:
Bethune-Cookman, Grambling State, Hampton, Jackson State, Savannah State, Southern, Tennessee State, Texas Southern, South Carolina State

MEN'S TEAM DIVISION I:
Benedict, Fayetteville State, Johnson C. Smith, Lincoln (Mo.), Morehouse, N. C. Central, St. Augustine's

WOMEN'S TEAM DIVISION:
Bethune-Cookman, Hampton

MEN'S INDEPENDENT DIVISION:
Bethune-Cookman, Edward Waters, Florida A&M, Kentucky State, Virginia State

WOMEN'S INDEPENDENT DIVISION:
Alabama A&M, Benedict

Jackson, Bethea best hopes for NFL Draft

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

Two black college players were taken on the first day of last year's NFL Draft, both in the second round, but the prospects for the 2006 draft could be shut out of opening day action this weekend.

That's because while there appears to be at least two solid prospects for the middle rounds, neither of the hopefuls has gotten the kind of attention or ink that would usually merit first-day, or first three-round selection.

The seven rounds of this year's NFL Draft will be held Saturday and Sunday (April 29-30) at New York's Radio City Music Hall.

Alabama State quarterback **Tavaris Jackson** and Howard safety **Antoine Bethea** are the two black college players projected to go off the boards first, and both have come quite a ways.

Jackson, who in three years as a starter passed for over 7,000 yards at Alabama State, started an impressive post-season by earning a start and performing well at the Shrine Bowl. The 6-2, 225-pounder went on to again open eyes after being invited to the Combine, impressing scouts with his size, speed, mobility and particularly his arm strength, which measured considerably above QBs ahead of him on most boards. He proved to them that he can make all the NFL throws.

Betha, who had an outstanding

four-year career at Howard, earning three all-MEAC designations and three black college all-American honors, also started his rise with a strong Combine showing. Bethea led Howard in tackles in each of the last three years and projects as the kind of tough, physical safety plenty of teams seek. His best time of 4.39 in the 40 also opened some eyes.

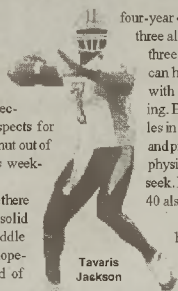
Both Jackson and Bethea have been brought in for personal workouts and visits by a number of teams which has increased speculation that they could be early round picks.

Jackson and Bethea have come on in a similar manner to last year's early round picks, **Ronald Bartell** (Howard/St. Louis) and **Nick Collins** (Bethune-Cookman/Green Bay), who worked their way into the second round. Both earned significant playing time as NFL rookies.

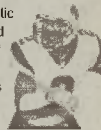
But the star of last year's draft proved to be **Hampton** speedster **Jerome Mathis**, taken in the fourth round by Houston, who went on to earn a spot in the Pro Bowl after finishing second in the NFL in kickoff returns (28.6 ypr., 54 returns) bringing back two for TDs.

So it's not how early or how high you go, it's what you do when you get there.

Among the players that could likely go in the later rounds this year is **Grambling's** record-setting quarterback **Bruce Eugene**. Though Eugene struggled with his weight in college



Tavaris Jackson



Antoine Bethea

Looking for their shot

MIDDLE ROUND PICKS (3 thru 5)

▼ **TAVARIS JACKSON:** Productive Alabama State QB has size (6-2, 225) and arm strength (55 mph at Combine, 3rd best) to rate high on many draft boards, possibly just inside or outside the top ten QBs. Opened eyes at the Combine and with a good showing at the Shrine Bowl. Thought to have a tremendous upside. Projected Pick: Fourth or fifth round

▼ **ANTOINE BETHEA:** Howard safety has athletic and hitting ability, size (5-11, 203) and speed (4.42), coveted for safeties. Played in the kind of Cover 2 system at Howard now in vogue in the league. Not considered to be as hot a prospect as former Howard DB Ron Bartell, who went in the second round of last year's draft. Projected Pick: Fifth round

LATE ROUNDERS (6 and 7)

Jason Hatcher, DE, Grambling St.
Joe Sykes, DE, Southern
Bruce Eugene, QB, Grambling St.
Clotis Gordon, KR, Jackson St.
Ricky Williams, KR, B-Cookman
Walter Stith, OT, NC A&T

OTHERS

Narcus Wright, DE/KR, Kentucky St.
Willie Shine, OT, Howard
Albert Shinn, OT, Jackson
Calvin Russell, WR, Tuskegee
Keldrick Williams, RB, Alabama St.
Moo Thompson, DE, Grambling St.
Jesse Hayes, DT, Howard
Kelvin Dickson, WR, Morgan State

ballooning to almost 300 pounds after knee surgery, he got down to about 260 for the Combine and for personal workouts. He tied for the highest score on the Wonderlic intelligence test given at the Combine with a 41 and also showed impressive ball speed. With the productivity he showed at Grambling (over 13,000 passing yards, 140 TDs), he'd be a nice steal for somebody in the sixth or seventh rounds.

Eugene's teammate, defensive end **Jason Hatcher** also had some intriguing numbers — his size — 6-6, 285 pounds and his ability to play either rush end, tackle or linebacker. Following Mathis's success, look for kick returners **Clotis Gordon** (Jackson State) and **Ricky Williams** (B-CO) to get looks.

CIAA, MEAC and SWAC crown spring champs

CIAA

Bowie State ladies
upset winners in Track & Field

PETERSBURG, VA — The **Bowie State** Lady Bulldogs captured the 2006 CIAA women's track & field championship as they defeated the runner-up and perennial power **Lady Falcons of Saint Augustine's** by 18 points, 176 to 158.

The Lady Bulldogs placed in the top five in 14 of the sixteen events that would be scored in the championships en route to the title. St. Aug's would stay near the Lady Bulldogs throughout the track events, but it would be the Lady Bulldogs stellar performance in the field events that would propel BSU to victory.

The Lady Falcons had won the last nine championships. Bowie State finished second in 2005.

St. Aug's Falcons win
ninth straight men's Track & Field title

PETERSBURG, VA — **Saint Augustine's** Falcons easily captured the 2006 CIAA men's track and field championship as they defeated the runner-up **Eagles of North Carolina Central** by an astounding 69 points, 212 to 143 on Sunday.

The heavily-favored Falcons showed why they are one of the nation's top track and field programs as they placed in the top ten in all 17 of the 17 events that would be scored in the championships en route to the title. The title is the Falcons ninth straight.

N.C. Central prevails in Softball

PETERSBURG, VA — The **North Carolina Central** Lady Eagles earned a 7-4 victory over **Bowie State** to capture the 2006 CIAA women's softball championship title on the campus of Virginia State University.

The Lady Eagles, led by CIAA Rookie of the Year **Sophia Blue**, needed to defeat the Lady Bulldogs only once in the double-elimination championship to claim the 2006 title. Bowie State advanced to the title game from the consolation bracket after defeating the Lady Rams of **Winston-Salem State**, 3-0 earlier in the day. NCCU had defeated **Bowie State** 5-2 earlier in the tournament. **Clarisse Steans** earned the win for the Lady Eagles as she pitched a complete-game seven hitter, striking out two batters en route to All-Tournament Team honors.

Shaw repeats in Baseball

PETERSBURG, VA — The **Shaw** Bears tallied five runs over the final four innings to break open a 2-2 tie game en route to defeating **Virginia State** 7-2 Sunday in the championship game of the 2006 CIAA Men's Baseball Championships.

The Bears, who came into the double-elimination format championship needing to only defeat the Trojans once, were hammered 15-4 in the first championship game as Virginia State forced a second, and final, championship matchup.

Shaw's **Casey Welch** turned in seven solid innings as he allowed only five hits and two runs while striking out four VSU batters. **Jeffery Cannon** earned the save for the Bears as he pitched two innings, allowing two hits, no runs and recorded a pair of strikeouts.

The Bears scored two runs in the sixth inning and one run in each of the final three innings en route to their second consecutive CIAA baseball title.

... and in men's tennis

PETERSBURG, VA — The **Shaw** men's tennis team swept the championship singles round of the CIAA Men's Tennis Tournament and came away with their second consecutive title, scoring 72 points to outscore second-place **Johnson C. Smith** by ten points. Host **Virginia State** finished third with 48 points.

The Golden Bulls and Shaw Bears met in all three doubles finals matches on Wednesday and met in five of the six singles finals on Sunday.

Shaw's No. 1 singles player, **Kabiru Ibrahim** extended his three-year win streak to 57, winning three straight matches in the tournament. Ibrahim was also named tournament MVP for the second straight year. Ibrahim defeated **Justin Stuckey** of J.C. Smith 6-2, 6-4 to win the No. 1 singles title.

... and snaps Fayetteville State's run in Women's Tennis

PETERSBURG, VA — The **Shaw** Lady Bears snapped **Fayetteville State's** four-year hold on the CIAA women's tennis league as the Lady Bears earned a four-point victory over the Lady Broncos to capture the 2006 CIAA women's Tennis championship.

The Lady Bears and Lady Broncos met in all three championship matches in doubles action on Wednesday and met in six singles championships on Sunday in a rain-extended championship that stretched over five days of play.

SU won five of the six singles match championships in the tournament to squeak out the title over FSU, 55-51. FSU won the regular season dual match between the two tennis powers 5-4.

Tournament MVP **Ffion Fletcher** of Shaw extended her two-year win streak to 44 matches, winning the No. 1 singles championship over FSU's **Ines Nieves** 6-7, 6-2, 6-2.

Fayetteville State prevails in Golf

CHESTER, VA — The **Fayetteville State** Broncos captured the 2006 CIAA men's golf championship on Friday at River's Bend Golf Course as individual medalist **Ian Milne** recorded a round of 65 that led the Broncos to a two-day total of 592 en route to the CIAA Golf title. The Eagles of **North Carolina Central** finished only 17 strokes behind the front-running Broncos as NCCU recorded a two-day total of 609.

The Rams of **Winston-Salem State**, behind **Joshua Vogler's** round of 74 turned



IBRAHIM



CRUZ



WARE

in a two-day total of 641. Vogler's round of 74, coupled with his tournament-leading round of 70 on Thursday earned him All-Conference golf honors, the first WSSU golfer to do so in 19 years.

Joining Vogler on the All-CIAA Men's Golf Team were **Milne** (FSU), **Dustin McCrary** (NCCU), **Keathan Stewart** (SAC), **Brandon Smith** (FSU), and **Dell Barber** (FSU). **Elizabeth City State's** **Lavern Jones** was named the 2006 CIAA Men's Golf Coach of the Year following the conclusion of the tournament.

MEAC

South Carolina State sweeps tennis

RALEIGH, NC — **South Carolina State** defeated **Florida A&M**, 4-3, to earn their third consecutive MEAC men's tennis championship and sixth overall on Monday at the Millbrook Tennis Center. The Bulldogs were led by **Parantr Chaturvedi**. Chaturvedi was named the tournament's outstanding performer after posting an undefeated record in tournament play.

Head Coach **Hardeep Judge** (S.C. State) was named the outstanding coach for the second consecutive year. Hardeep guided his team to a 3-0 record in tournament play and upset both the number two (**Norfolk State**) and number one (**Florida A&M**) seeds to capture this year's title.

South Carolina State defeated **Bethune-Cookman**, 4-0, to earn their second consecutive MEAC women's tennis championship Sunday at the Millbrook Tennis Center. The Lady Bulldogs were led by **Mirian Cruz**. Cruz was named the tournament's outstanding performer after posting an undefeated record in tournament play.

SWAC

Jackson State sweeps golf

PHILADELPHIA, MS — The **Jackson State** Tigers captured the 2006 SWAC men's golf championship played at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Course here. The title gives head coach **Eddie Payton's** Tigers their 19th consecutive conference title. Payton, in his 20th season, has coached every JSU Tiger team which has claimed a title during the era. **Southern** finished second.

JSU's **Kortland Ware** was awarded top individual medalist with a three-round total of 217. After a first round 76, he finished the event with two rounds under par — a 70 (2-under par) in the second round and a 71 (1-under par) in the final round. Jackson State also had two players tie for second as **Michael Bailey** (75-81-73) and **Raul Cortes** (74-78-77) each shot a 229 for the three-day event. Texas Southern's **Jacob Striven** also had a good weekend finishing tied for second with a 229 (87-73-69). **Arkansas-Pine Bluff's** **Daron Kirkenald** rounded out the top five individual performances with a 230 (81-76-73).

Following the lead of **Shasta Averyhardt**, the **Jackson State** Lady Tigers captured the 2006 SWAC women's golf championship. Averyhardt, a sophomore from Grand Blanc, Mich., fired a sizzling 69 (3-under par) for the second consecutive day for a 138 total to claim individual medalist honors. She was the only player to finish under par for the tournament. The JSU Lady Tigers completed the two-day event with a 632, 33 strokes ahead of second-place **Alcorn State** (665). **Texas Southern**, **Southern**, and **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** rounded out the top five. Individually, **Southern's** **Josephine Ainley** shot a 154 (second overall) while **Arkansas-Pine Bluff's** **Christa Spahmann** shot a 156 for the third-best score of the event.

Texas Southern sweeps tennis

The **Texas Southern** tennis teams pulled off the daily double as they captured the 2006 SWAC men's and women's tennis championships Sunday in Alexandria, Louisiana. The women defeated defending champion **Southern**, 4-2 in a competitive contest. TSU's **Janet Namutebi** was named the tournament's MVP.

The Tigers downed the **Braves of Alcorn State**, 4-0 to claim the men's title. TSU's **Francisco River** off was the MVP. **Texas Southern** head coach **Alberto Jimenez** was named coach of the year following the tournament.