

FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 18 - 24, 2006

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE

COMINGS AND GOINGS

▼ O'NEAL SCORES; NEW TUSKEGEE, STILLMAN, ALBANY STATE HOOP COACHES



OUT AND IN: "Big" Ben out to Chicago, Ronald Murray, Lindsey Hunter in with the Detroit Pistons.

Shaw's Flip Murray now a Piston

Former Shaw University guard and CIAA Player of the Year **Ronald "Flip" Murray**, a free agent who played for Seattle and Cleveland this season, has agreed to terms with the Detroit Pistons on a two-year \$3.6 million contract.

Murray, the NCAA Div. II player of the year during his senior year at Shaw (2002), finished out this season as a combo guard for the Cleveland Cavaliers after a trade from Seattle. He averaged 11.2 points for the year. The Cavs were 18-7 with Murray in the starting lineup after he was acquired when starting off-guard Larry Hughes went down with an injury. Murray averaged 13.8 points for the Cavs.

Detroit had been looking for a combo guard who could penetrate to the basket and produce instant offense off the bench and Murray appears to be a perfect fit. Murray made a name for himself two years ago in Seattle when he was inserted into the starting lineup on opening night after Ray Allen suffered an injury and scored 20 or more points in 10 of his first 11 games.

Last week, Murray decided to accept Detroit's two-year offer.

"We really feel like Flip is going to be able to step in and give us depth, scoring and toughness," said Pistons' General Manager Joe Dumars. "We think Flip is going to continue to get better as a player for us."



MURRAY: Signs two-year deal to play for Detroit.

"Flip really helped us win games when we needed to," Cleveland general manager Danny Ferry said after last season.

Even more perfect for the Pistons was the price at which they got him. The Pistons originally offered the majority of their mid-level exception to Murray, but Murray hesitated to take it, hoping to get a more lucrative deal elsewhere.

In the meantime, the Pistons found out that they were losing **Ben Wallace** and made Nazr Mohamed an offer. When Mohammed accepted, Murray was left without a big suitor.

In the end, the Pistons were able to fill both their needs—adding a center to replace Wallace and adding some scoring punch to their backcourt.

While no one is pretending that the Pistons are going to be better without Wallace, they are adding some depth to what once was a paper thin rotation.

OTHER PROS

Murray was not the only former black college player making headlines in the NBA, nor was he the only one involved with the Pistons.

—Former Virginia Union center and CIAA standout, **Ben Wallace**, a four-time NBA defensive player of the year with Detroit, accepted a four-year \$60 million free agent contract to join the Chicago Bulls. Wallace averaged 7.3 points

and 11.3 rebounds per game for the Pistons.

—Former Jackson State guard and SWAC standout **Lindsey Hunter** inked a two-year \$4.5 million contract to remain with the Pistons. Hunter averaged 2.9 points per game last season but was valuable as a back-up point guard and on-ball defender.

TRYING TO MAKE IT

• Former Hampton guard **Devin Green**, who made the Los Angeles Lakers squad as an undrafted free agent last year, averaged 9.0 points and 4.0 rebounds last for the Lakers' squad in the Long Beach Summer Pro League.

• Former Prairie View center **Roderick Riley**, playing for Cleveland in the Toshiba Las Vegas Summer League averaged just four minutes per game over five games. The 6-11 pivot man scored just one point.

• Former Virginia Union standout **Wayne Wallace**, like his uncle Ben a former center for the Panthers, and former University of the District of Columbia guard **Rasheim Wright**, saw limited playing time with Detroit in the Vegas Summer League. Wright averaged 7.8 minutes over the Pistons' four games while Wallace logged just 2.7 (min.) per game. Wright had a total of seven points while Wallace did not score.

• Former North Carolina Central guard **David Young**, playing for New Jersey in the Orlando Summer League averaged about 10 minutes per game and scored at a 2.8 ppg. clip.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

O'NEAL FINISHES THIRD:

Former Jackson State golfer **Tim O'Neal** put together his best finish and best payday on the Nationwide Tour this year with a tie for third at last week's Scholarship America Showdown at Somerby.



BCSP Photo

O'Neal carded an eagle-3 on the 72nd hole at the Somerby Golf Club in Byron, Mn., to top off his final round 69 and finish two strokes behind Jeff Quinney and Brandt Snedeker, who tied for the top spot. Snedeker won the title on the second hole of the sudden death playoff.

O'Neal shot 67-70-68-69 for a 14-under 274 total, tied with Kyle Thompson for third. They both took home \$31,900. It was O'Neal's biggest finish and payday this season, topping his tie for eighth and the \$11,300 he took home at last month's Chattanooga Classic. His outing increased his money total this year to \$78,133, now 35th on the Tour's money list.

The top 20 money winners on the Nationwide Tour at the end of the year gain full exemption to the PGA Tour. The next Nationwide event is this week's Price Cutter Charity Championship in Springfield, Missouri.

SAVANNAH STATE ON HOLD:

According to the *Savannah Morning News*, The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference has placed the Savannah State University athletic department's application for admission on hold until 2009, when the SSU football program's three-year NCAA probation ends.

"We recently received a letter from the MEAC dated July 5, in which Commissioner **Dennis E. Thomas** informed us that the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference has decided not to act upon our application until we have completed the NCAA probationary period," SSU sports information director **Opio Masharik** wrote in an e-mail Friday, responding to an inquiry by the *Savannah Morning News*.

Thomas and **Dr. William Harvey**, Hampton's president and chairman of the MEAC's Council of Chief Executives, which made the decision, did not respond to *Savannah Morning News* requests seeking an explanation for the decision.

SSU's football program was put on probation May 19 for NCAA violations following an investigation that began Oct. 18, 2004. SSU is on probation through May 18, 2009.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS AT MSU:

More than 7,000 youth athletes from around the nation will descend on the campus of **Morgan State University** on July 25, 2006 for the USA National Junior Olympics Track and Field Championships.

Morgan State is the first historically black institution to host this annual athletic event.

"Morgan has one of the finest track facilities in the nation, and we're proud to be able to partner with USA Track and Field for this great event," says Tanya V. Rush, chairperson of the local organizing committee for the Junior Olympics. "Morgan joins with the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland in welcoming these outstanding young athletes."

One of the most visible developmental athletic programs in the world, USA Track and Field holds 200 preliminary meets, 57 association championships, and 16 regional championships to determine the field for the Junior Olympics.

The championships, scheduled from July 25-30, will crown champions from ages 7-18 in the traditional track and field events and the heptathlon, pentathlon, decathlon and race walk. Some of the winners from this year's Junior Olympics will be selected to participate in the International Association of Athletics Federation's World Youth Championships in August of this year.

No stranger to athletic achievement in track and field, the Morgan State women's track and field team won the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Outdoor championships in 2005. In 1996, Morgan alumnus **Rochelle Stevens**, a guest speaker for the Junior Olympics opening ceremony, was a member of the American 1600 meter relay team which won the gold medal in the Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

BCSP News

Tuskegee pegs former hoops standout Douglas to lead basketball fortunes

Tuskegee University has named 2005-06 SIAC Basketball Tournament Championship coach and former Detroit Piston **Leon Douglas** as its new head men's basketball coach.

Douglas spent the 2004-2006 seasons coaching at Stillman College, where he led the team to victory in the 2005-06 SIAC championship. Over the two years he had an impressive 34-24 record.

"I am excited about the opportunity to become a part of the Tuskegee University family," said Douglas. "My vision is that we be competitive and my goal is that we win national championships."

The Alabama native, earned a degree in social work from the University of Alabama after an outstanding playing career with the Crimson Tide. He was a four-time All-SEC selection, the first Alabama player to achieve that distinction since Jerry Harper earned it in 1953-56. During Douglas' career, he was a first team All-American selection by the United States Basketball Writers Association in 1975 and 1976, and SEC Player of the Year in 1975 and 1976. Douglas was also a member of the Gold Medal 1976 United States Pan American Team that played in Mexico City. He was Alabama's first, first round NBA draft pick, selected fourth overall by the Detroit Pistons in 1976.

Douglas played four years with the Pistons and then joined the Kansas City Kings from 1980 to 1983. He went on to play in the Italian Basketball League from 1984 - 1992 with Venice, Bologna, Pistoia, Florence, and Siena. In 1985, was a member of the French Championship team. Douglas' stellar career led to his being inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1995.

"I am impressed with Coach Douglas' thorough knowledge of the techniques and broad aspects of basketball," said Tuskegee President **Benjamin F. Payton**. "He knows and has championship experience with playing, coaching and recruiting. His professional experience, coupled with his proven leadership and mentoring of student-athletes, makes him a strong choice to lead the Tuskegee Golden Tigers."

Brown to lead Stillman hoopsters

The Stillman College Athletics Department has named **Angelyne Brown** as its new women's basketball coach last week.

Brown, who takes over the positions that was previously filled by **Sherri Hartis**, becomes the sixth women's basketball head coach in nine years. Brown takes over the Lady Tiger program after a year coaching hiatus to work on a master's degree.

BCSP Notes

NC A&T drops men's tennis

Effective immediately, **North Carolina A&T State University** will discontinue its men's tennis intercollegiate athletics program. All current men's tennis scholarships will be honored for the 2006-2007 school year. Players will not lose a year of eligibility, allowing transfers to play immediately.

"In light of the challenges facing our athletics budgets, it was felt that the discontinuation of men's tennis would assist us in realizing a more competitive budget for other sports," said Director of Athletics **Dee Todd**. Without men's tennis, N.C. A&T has 15 varsity sports. The NCAA requires 14 for Division I status.

"This was an extremely difficult decision; no athletics director enjoys eliminating a sport." "The department will investigate the possibility of adding men's golf in the near future. We thank the members of the men's tennis team for all they have done for North Carolina A&T."

Shaw drops baseball, indoor track and golf

Shaw University has dropped its CIAA championship baseball program and is also

"I am very excited about coming to Stillman," said Brown. "All of the people that I have met during the interviewing process and after I accepted the job have been very nice and helpful. You have to have a good working environment. Also, I will be getting an experienced team that has been competitive in the SIAC. We have some talented athletes and I want to help them grow on the court and in the classroom."

Brown's last coaching experience was at **Morgan State University** where she led that program from 2002-2005 posting an 8-76 record. Her career coaching record is 159-175.

Before becoming the head coach at Morgan State, she coached in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC), spending eight years as the head coach at **Clark Atlanta University** posting a 151-99 record (.799) while winning the postseason tournament in 1999. She had no losing seasons at CAU and reached the SIAC tournament semifinals in 2002, and was the 2001 tournament runner-up.

Prior to taking over at Clark Atlanta, she was an assistant coach at **Tuskegee University** and **Selman College**. Brown graduated from Clark College in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in physical education.

Albany State promotes assistant to interim head basketball position

Albany State named former assistant basketball coach, **Chris Cameron**, as the men's basketball coach on an interim basis. Cameron has spent four of the last five seasons as the Rams assistant coach, and is ready to get started with his first head coaching position. The position had been empty since **John I. Davis** stepped down at the end of the school year. The Rams never brought in any other candidates to interview for the job, but Cameron says he didn't take anything for granted.

"I prayed that it would happen," says Cameron. "Once Davis resigned, I knew I was the front-runner to be the head coach, so I just prayed everything would work out in my favor, and just continue to work." Cameron says the school hasn't given him any requirements to meet to earn the position permanently.

"No one has talked to me about that. My main thing is just try to be successful. As long as I'm successful, I'm sure I'll fulfill any expectations they have."

The Rams return all five starters and nine of their top players from last year. ASU finished 16-13 during the 2005-2006 season and bowed out in the semifinals of the SIAC tournament.

This is Cameron's first time as a head coach though he has compiled a 1-1 record while filling in for Davis.

eliminating indoor track and golf in an overhaul of its athletic programs.

According to a story in the *Raleigh News and Observer*, the moves are a way to "roll money into other programs ... roll money into basketball and football," said Shaw Associate Athletic Director, **Dianthia Ford-Kee**.

FAMU's Hargrett captures Gold

Florida A&M sprinter **Chris Hargrett** captured two medals last weekend for Team USA at the 2006 North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACAC) U-23 Track and Field Championships at the Panamerican Stadium in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Hargrett, the 2006 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference champion in the 100 and 200 meters and the anchor for the victorious FAMU 4x100 meter relay team, won gold here as part of the victorious Team USA 4x100 meter relay team, while capturing bronze with a third place finish in the 100 meter final.

The Orlando native, who will be a senior for Coach **Rey Robinson's** Rattler Track team in 2006-07, turned in the fastest time in the qualifying rounds of the 100 meters on Friday,

with a 10.42, before turning in a 10.28 time for third in the final.

In the 4x100 meter relay, Hargrett ran the third leg for Team USA's combo, which included Gary Jones, Carlos Moore and Florida State's Greg Bolden, which sizzled to a 39.38 gold medal finish.

Hargrett is the third straight Rattler to clinch to compete in national and international competition, following sprinter **Sheldon Morant** (2004) and 800 meter phenom **Kevin Hicks** (2005).

Five hundred athletes from 28 countries competed in the fourth edition of the championships. The NACAC Athletic Association's U23 Championships are held every two years in one of the 32 member nations of the North America, Central America and Caribbean Athletic Association, one of six regional athletics associations affiliated with the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).



Stillman Sports Photo
BROWN: Takes over at Stillman



TU Sports Photo
DOUGLAS: Former Alabama star to lead Golden Tigers.



FAMU Sports Photo
HARGRETT: Takes relay gold and sprint bronze at NACAC meet.