

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 24 - 30, 2007

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE

BLACK COLLEGE BEST

SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS DECIDED IN SIAC, CIAA; NFL DRAFT THIS WEEKEND



Hampton Sports Photo
DURANT: Record-setting Hampton LB most coveted of NFL Draft prospects.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NEW LIVINGSTONE COACH:

Livingstone has selected **Leah Frierson** as the Lady Blue Bears' new head women's basketball coach. She succeeds **Andrew Mitchell**, who was let go following the 2006-07 season.



FRIERSON: New Blue Bear's women's hoops coach.

Frierson, a former women's assistant at Saint Augustine's, is a 2003 graduate of Austin Peay. She began her coaching career as a recruiting coordinator and assistant at Saint Andrews Presbyterian College for two seasons. She was the director of basketball operations at Northern Illinois during the 2005-06 season before heading to Saint Aug's.

Frierson grew up in Belleville, Illinois, and played prep ball for Belleville East High School. As a 5-11 forward, Frierson helped Austin Peay capture a second straight Ohio Valley Conference Title as a valuable defensive player. The team went undefeated in the OVC and came within two points of upsetting the University of North Carolina in the 2003 NCAA first-round game in Boulder, Colorado. Prior to Austin Peay, Frierson played at Southwestern Illinois College where she became the school's all-time rebounding leader, helped the team finish second in the NJCAA Championships in 1999-2000 and earn both All-Region XXIV and Great Rivers Athletic All-Conference honors during her final two campaigns.

NFL Draft Day arrives

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

One would think after the NFL success of players like former **Howard safety Antoine Bethea**, former **Alcorn State quarterback Steve McNair** and former **Savannah State receiver Shannon Sharpe**, that NFL brass would pay attention when a black college prospect is a three-time black college all-American.

That apparently was not the case last year when Bethea, the latest to accomplish the feat, was taken as a late (sixth round) pick of the Indianapolis Colts in the 2006 NFL Draft. All Bethea did was earn a starting berth early in the season as a rookie and eventually become an integral part of a defense that helped propel the Colts to their first Super Bowl title since they moved to Indianapolis.

Indications are this year that they're paying more attention especially if you consider the way **Hampton** linebacker **Justin Durant** has rocketed up draft boards. We'll find out Saturday and Sunday (April 28-29) when the league holds its 72nd annual draft in New York at Radio City Music Hall. First through third round selections begin at 12 p.m. Saturday with fourth through seventh round selections beginning at 11 a.m. Sunday. There will be 255 total selections. ESPN/ESPN2 and NFL Network will televise the proceedings.

Durant, a 6-1, 230-pound tackling machine, is the black college poster boy for this year's draft. He won the MEAC defensive player of the

year award an unprecedented three straight years (2004, '05, '06) in addition to his black college all-American selections.

Once considered a late round pick at best, his workouts at the East-West Shrine Game, the NFL Combine and on-campus at Hampton have all but made him a sure first-day pick. Scouts love his combination of quickness and speed (4.51 in the 40), strength (25 lifts of 250 pounds), intelligence and production (355 tackles in his career). It's even enough, most say, to overcome his playing at a non-Div. I program.

Durant's story and rise up the charts is all over the media, especially the internet, as is the story of the four Hampton teammates that were invited along with him to the Combine. The five Hampton players at the Combine is thought to be a record and first for a NCAA Championship (formerly I-AA) school.

Of his teammates, MEAC career rushing leader, **RB Alonzo Coleman** and defensive back **Travarous Bain** are most likely to be picked on the second day. The others likely to go off on the second day are **Lane** wide receiver **Jacoby Jones** and **Alabama State** defensive back **Michael Coe**.

Only three black college players went off the boards in last year's draft - former **Alabama State** quarterback **Tarvaris Jackson** to Minnesota in the second round, former **Grambling** defensive lineman **Jason Hatcher** to Dallas in the third round, and **Betha**. The number was the second lowest for black college players in draft history.



Justin Durant

FIRST DAY (Rounds 1-3)

JUSTIN DURANT - Hampton standout LB finished third in voting for I-AA Defensive Player of the Year (Buck Buchanan Award) was first player to be named MEAC Defensive Player of the Year three consecutive years. Combination of speed and tenacity fits perfectly with in-vogue NFL defensive schemes
Projected Team: Cincinnati, 2nd Round

SECOND DAY (Rounds 4-7)

Jacoby Jones, 6-3, 210, WR/KR, Lane
Travarous Bain, 6-0, 185, DB, Hampton
Alonzo Coleman, 5-9, 210, RB, Hampton
Michael Coe, 5-1, 195, DB, Alabama State

Late Rounds (6-7) or Free Agents

Marquay McDaniel, 5-11, 205, WR/KR, Hampton
Onrea Jones, 5-10, 202, WR, Hampton
Calvin Bannister, 5-7, 179, DB, Hampton
Geoff Pope, 6-0, 185, DB, Howard

Spring sports results

CIAA

Virginia State defeats Shaw for baseball title; Earns conference's first NCAA berth

PETERSBURG, Va. - **Virginia State** defeated **Shaw**, 14-7, in the finals of the 2007 CIAA Baseball Championship Saturday afternoon at Whaley Colbert Field.

The Trojans (22-29) earned their 21st CIAA baseball crown as the only undefeated team in the tournament and becomes the first team in CIAA history to receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Division II Playoff which will begin May 17 at a site to be determined.

VSU scored 11 runs in the bottom of the fourth after trailing 5-2 to break the game open. Shaw (24-21) committed four errors in the inning.

VSU was paced by tournament MVP, third baseman **Andrew Holt**, who went 3-for-5 in the final game with two runs scored and two RBIs.

2007 CIAA BASEBALL ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

J.C. Cannon, Utility, SU, John Wilson, DH, ECSU; Joe Black, P, SU; Jeff Shelton, P, VSU; Averil Bryant, C, SU; Avery Bryant, LF, SU; Oliver Jenkins, CF, NCCU; Andrew Holt, 3B, VSU; Donario Fuller, 1B, SU; Jonathan Scott, C, VSU; BJ Wood, 1B, VSU; Brandon Crump, CF, VSU

St. Augustine's sweeps outdoor track and field titles

PETERSBURG, Va. - **Saint Augustine's** captured both the men's and women's CIAA outdoor track & field championships Saturday on the campus of Virginia State University.

The St. Augustine's women reclaimed the conference crown for their tenth outdoor title in the last 11 years, scoring 216 points to outdistance **North Carolina Central** (170 points) and 2006 champion **Bowie State** (122 points).

In the closest men's finish in 11 years, SAC held off NCCU by a score of 244 to 221, as the Falcons won their tenth straight CIAA outdoor championship. Host **Virginia State** took third place with 35 points.

Individual honors were presented to SAC's **Omar Wiggins** as the most outstanding male track athlete, NCCU's **Mark Davis** as the most outstanding male field athlete, SAC's **Kwonya Ferguson** as the most outstanding female field athlete, and NCCU's **Desinia Johnson** and SAC's **Johnnie Liles** as co-most outstanding female track athletes.

Wiggins won gold medals in the 1500 and 3000-meters, and placed fourth in the 800 meters. Davis won the high jump, earned a bronze medal in the javelin throw and placed fourth in the triple jump. Ferguson won gold medals in the long and triple jumps, and placed second in the high jump, third in the javelin throw and eighth in the shot put. Johnson took home gold medals in the 1500 and 3000 meters, and finished fourth in the 800 meters. Liles, who receives the honor for the third consecutive year, won both the 200 and 400 meter dashes.

Bowie State captures first-ever softball crown

PETERSBURG, Va. - Make it 20 straight victories for **Bowie State** but more importantly, the 9-4 victory over **Virginia State** Saturday, gave the Lady Bulldogs their first CIAA softball championship in school history. BSU closes out the regular season and conference championship play with a record of 27-7 and earns an automatic bid into the NCAA Regionals.

After scoring four runs in the first inning, BSU extended its lead to 9-0 after two innings in their final game win. VSU (24-16) committed six errors in the game. Senior **Christina Repecki**, junior **Erin Gray** and sophomores **Tiffany Toney** and **Heather Enders** accounted for two Bowie State hits each. Enders picked up her 13th pitching victory of the season and Toney was named the tournament's most valuable player. Other Bowie State players named to the All-Tournament Team include Gray and junior **Ashley Cook**.

Bowie State, the seventh ranked team in the most recent NCAA Division II Mid-Atlantic Region Poll, will now await a call to see who they will face and where they will play in the Regional playoffs in two weeks.

Shaw men, Fayetteville State women claim tennis titles

Etrick, Va. - **Fayetteville State** outpointed **Virginia State** to win the women's tennis team titles, placing first in eight of nine seedings. FSU's **Ines Nieves** was named most valuable player after posting a 3-0 singles record and a 3-0 doubles record with partner **Lajaquelyn Artis**. Nieves, the CIAA 2007 Player of the Year, has extended her 2007 singles streak to 26 matches. The Lady Broncos concluded the 2007 season 19-4 overall and 15-0 CIAA and won their fifth CIAA tennis crown.

On the men's side, **Shaw** narrowly defeated **Johnson C. Smith** (58-55) to take the title, finishing first in seven out of nine seedings. Shaw freshman **Ibukun Ilesanmi** of Lagos, Nigeria was 2-0 in singles and 2-0 in doubles.

Fayetteville State claims seventh straight golf crown

FORT LEE, Va. - **Fayetteville State** captured its seventh consecutive title in dominating fashion at the 2007 CIAA Golf Championships at the Cardinal Golf Course on Friday, April 20, 2007.

The Broncos recorded a two-day score of 594 to easily beat the other seven teams in the field. They were the only team to shoot under 300 both days as six Bronco golfers finished in the top 10 individually. At the tournament's conclusion, the Broncos were named CIAA champions as well as winners of the CIAA Eastern and Western Divisions for 2007. Five of the six Bronco golfers shot

under 80 on consecutive days.

Virginia State was second with a two-day total of 631 and **Saint Augustine's** was third with a two-day score of 696.

Jerel Whiting of VSU was the individual winner with a two-day total of 143 including a 70 score on the second day. Whiting was the only golfer to shoot an under par round in the tournament. **Kalani Brios** of VSU, the first day leader, was second with a two-day total of 146 and **Kevin Lyles** of FSU was third with a two-day score of 147.

The All-CIAA Golf Team consisted of the top six scorers including Whiting and Brios of Virginia State and Lyles, 2006 CIAA individual winner **Ian Milne**, **Derek Scott** and **Joel Lynn** of Fayetteville State.

FINAL TENNIS SCORES

1) Fayetteville State 299-295-594 2) Virginia State 311-320-631.3 Saint Augustine's 353-343-696 4) N.C. Central 341-357-698 5) Johnson C. Smith 372-363-735 6) Elizabeth City State 385-375-760 7) Virginia Union 423-416-839 8) Saint Paul's 413-440-853

SIAC

Clark Atlanta women, Morehouse men win tennis titles

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - **Clark Atlanta** won its seventh SIAC tennis championship in easy fashion and **Morehouse** continued its tradition of supremacy with its 25th men's title.

CAU was led by talented **Simone Greene** who didn't lose a match all tournament and who led CAU to a 5-0 victory over **Benedict**. CAU swept all of the doubles matches including a big victory by **Greene** and **Robyn McPherson**. CAU would only need two victories in singles play for the title and **Greene** ensured the victory in the No. 1 singles as she defeated **Paola Lopez**. In the consolation game Fort Valley State defeated Tuskegee 5-2 to finish 3rd in the tournament.

In men's action, **Morehouse** won their first title since 2002 as they defeated **Fort Valley State** 5-1. **Morehouse** was led by regular season MVP **Terrell Olagbegi** who went undefeated in singles and doubles play.

Both **Morehouse** and **Clark Atlanta** receive an automatic bids to the NCAA Div. II Regional and will represent the SIAC beginning April 28, 2007.

Morehouse men, Albany State women take outdoor track and field titles

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - For the second consecutive year, the **Morehouse** men and **Albany State** women took home the SIAC Track & Field Championships. With the title ASU won their fourth title and third consecutive title. **Morehouse** has won their 13th title and second consecutive.

For the women **Estella Moore** of Albany State dominated the sprint events winning the 100 meters, finishing second in the 200 meters and leading her team to a blow away victory in the 4x100 meter relay. Albany State scored 310 to easily outdistance **Benedict** College who finished second in the meet with 166 points. **Fort Valley State** finished third. **Irine Chepkoech** of Benedict scored the most points of all competitors in running events with 44. She was named the SIAC Track Most Valuable Performer. **Saisha Woodward** scored 24 field events points and was named SIAC Field Most Valuable Performer.

For the men, **Morehouse** dominated the field events en route to scoring 234 points while Albany State finished second scoring 167 points. Fort Valley State finished in third with 154 points. **Pierre Brown** of FVSU scored the most points in field events to win the SIAC Field Most Valuable Performer. **Oneil Williams** of Benedict dominated the track events winning the 10,000 meters, 1500 meters, 3000 meter Steeplechase, 5000 meters and finishing second in the 800 meters to score 48 points. Williams was named the SIAC Track Most Valuable Performer. He also received the Cleve Abbott Award given to the athlete that scores the most points in the SIAC Track & Field Championships.

Stillman prevails in baseball

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - **Stillman** defeated **Albany State** 9-7 in Saturday afternoon's tournament championship, giving Stillman its first conference baseball title in school history.

Winning pitcher **Joseph Woodley** carried a no-hitter through 5 1/3 innings. Woodley (4-3) pitched 6 2/3 innings and allowed three hits and only one earned one in his only tournament appearance. **Stillman** (26-15) won all four of its tournament games.

Stillman's Chase Wilson was named the tournament's Most Valuable Performer and Pitcher.

Albany State takes softball crown

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - **Albany State's Mindy Mager** pitched a complete game two-hitter in Saturday's SIAC final, to help her team claim a 9-0 victory over **Miles**, and the 2007 conference tournament crown.

Mager, the tournament's Most Valuable Performer, retired the game's final seven batters as the game was called after the fifth inning due to the nine run differential. Albany State (29-30) reclaimed its stake as the league best team, winning the conference title for the first time since 2005. The Golden Rams won all four of its tournament games during the week. Mager, winner of all four games, finished the tournament with a 0-41 ERA, allowing 15 hits and only one earned run throughout. She also struck out 22 batters.

Albany State's **Erica King** had an impressive tournament finishing 6-for-7, scoring three runs and driving in two more in the process. **Ta'Shela Bynum** drove in 12 runs in her four games, including one homerun and six runs scored.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

2007 NFL DRAFT FACTS

WHAT:

72nd Annual National Football League Player Selection Meeting

WHERE:

Radio City Music Hall, 1260 6th Avenue, New York City (Between 50th and 51st Streets).

WHEN:

Noon ET, Saturday, April 28 (Rounds 1-3), 11 AM ET, Sunday, April 29 (Rounds 4-7). The first three rounds will conclude on Saturday by approximately 10:00 PM ET. The draft will resume on Sunday at 11:00 AM ET for the final four rounds, ending at approximately 8:00 PM ET.

DRAFTING:

Representatives of the 32 NFL clubs by telephone communication with their general managers, coaches and scouts.

ROUNDS:

Seven Rounds - Rounds 1 through 3 on Saturday, April 28; and Rounds 4 through 7 on Sunday, April 29. There will be 255 selections, including 32 compensatory choices that have been awarded to 16 teams which suffered a net loss of certain quality unrestricted free agents last year.

TIME LIMITS:

Round 1: 15 minutes each team.
Round 2: 10 minutes each team.
Rounds 3 through 7: Five minutes each team.

PLAYERS AT DRAFT:

The following players will be at the draft at Radio City on Saturday: Clemson DE GAINES ADAMS, Georgia Tech WR CALVIN JOHNSON, Oklahoma RB ADRIAN PETERSON, Notre Dame QB BRADY QUINN and LSU QB JA MARCUS RUSSELL.

TELEVISION:

NFL Network, ESPN/ESPN2 will televise the draft both days.

BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS IN THE DRAFT:

There were three black college players selected in the 2006 Draft: QB **Tarvaris Jackson**, **Alabama State** (2nd round to Minnesota, 64th overall); DE **Jason Hatcher**, **Grambling State** (3rd round to Dallas, 92nd overall); S **Antoine Bethea**, **Howard** (6th round to Indianapolis, 207th overall)

The two first-day selections in 2006 matched the two taken on the first day of the 2005 Draft (**Bethune-Cookman** DB **Nick Collins** to Green Bay and **Howard** DB **Ron Bartell** to St. Louis, both in the second round). There were six black college players taken overall in the 2005 Draft.

The three black college players taken last year was the second lowest number since the league began drafting black college players in the late 1950s. The two black college players taken in the 2004 Draft was the lowest number ever.