

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS
STILL IN THE ARENA
 CHARLOTTE GETS CIAA GRID TITLE GAME; JSU'S JOHNSON ON HEAT SQUAD

FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 3 - JULY 9, 2007



WYMAN: Former black college lineman is a first team Arena League player and plays this weekend in AFL playoffs.

AFL Photo

CIAA title game moving to Charlotte

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association officially announced last week that its football championship will be going to the city where its basketball tournament is enjoying unprecedented success, Charlotte.

The 2007 title game will be played on Saturday, November 10 at American Legion Memorial Stadium in Charlotte and marks the first time the event has been played in the Queen City since 1982. The game kicks off at 1 p.m.

"We look forward to our premier football event moving to Charlotte," CIAA Commissioner **Leon Kerry** said in a press release from the conference. "Without question, the 2007 season is poised to be one of the best ever. The Championship Game has been great for our fans who have watched the game all over the country, whether at the stadium or on television."

Last year, in front of a record crowd of nearly 13,000, **North Carolina Central** kicked a last-second field goal to defeat **Elizabeth City State** in a 17-14 thriller. The last three championship games including both the 2004 and 2005 games have been decided by three points.

The CIAA football championship game, re-instituted in 2000, has been played in Durham and Winston-Salem over the past seven seasons. Durham's O'Kelly-Riddick Stadium hosted the first game in 2000 and the last four. The game



Charlotte Memorial Stadium

was played in Winston-Salem at Bowman-Gray Stadium in 2001 and 2002.

The move from Durham was all but necessitated by the departure of NCCU, host of the past four title games and winner of the last two, from the CIAA. NCCU is seeking re-classification to NCAA Division I status. Their official relationship with the CIAA ended June 30.

"I'm excited that the CIAA championship game is coming to Charlotte," said Harry Jones, Mecklenburg County manager. "Speaking for the citizens of Mecklenburg County, it will be a pleasure hosting the CIAA championship. We have proven that we are outstanding hosts, and look forward to laying out the red carpet for CIAA fans on November 10."

The ultra-successful CIAA basketball tour-

namment has been played in Charlotte for the past two years and has set attendance and revenue records each year. CIAA officials are hoping the football championship can generate excitement of its own.

Several all-America candidates return for the 2007 campaign including electrifying quarterbacks **Lamar Little** of **Virginia Union**, **Curtis Rich** of Eastern Division champ **Elizabeth City State** and 2005 **Jay Autry** of **Fayetteville State**.

The 2006 season was arguably the most exciting in CIAA history. Two teams (NCCU and ECSU) were invited to the NCAA Division II playoffs. It was the first time since 1991 that the conference had two teams in the playoffs. Johnson C. Smith earned a Pioneer Bowl berth.

Since the Eastern-Western Division format was put in place in 2000, CIAA regular season attendance has continued to grow. Simultaneously, the championship game has grown into one of the league's most anticipated events.

"Charlotte and American Legion Memorial Stadium are proud to be chosen as the home of the CIAA Football Championship for the first time in 25 years," said Jeff Beaver, Executive Director of the Charlotte Regional Sports Commission. "The student-athletes, their families, and the fans of the football teams will also be warmly welcomed by all the citizens of Charlotte."

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BROWN TAKES OVER AT AAMU:

After filling the position a year ago, **Kentucky State University** is now searching again for a head women's volleyball coach.



Nedra Brown, who came to KSU after a seven-year stint at **LeMoyne-Owen**, is leaving the Thorobrettes to take over the program at **Alabama A&M**. In just one season, Brown's team went 18-15 overall and finished 10-0 in the **SIAC** Western Division. The Thorobrettes lost to **Paine**, defeated **Tuskegee**, then were eliminated by **Benedict** in the 2006 **SIAC** Volleyball Tournament. "I depart with mixed emotions," said Brown. "The kindness displayed by the institution has been overwhelming. I have enjoyed my time here." Brown will succeed **Betty Austin**, who gave up the volleyball coaching job at A&M in March after being named permanent athletic director. Austin had served as interim athletics director since March 2006. Austin leaves some big shoes to fill. During her 30-year tenure, all at her alma mater, Austin's teams were 604-235 making her only the 12th Division I coach in the history of the sport to reach 600 career wins. Austin's teams had won six of the last seven **SWAC** volleyball championships. "We wish Coach Brown much success as she continues her career at **Alabama A&M**," said KSU Athletics Director **Derita Ratcliffe**. "Though her time at KSU was brief, her bright smile will be missed."

KSU Sports Photo

BROWN: Moves to **SWAC** volleyball power **Alabama A&M** from **Kentucky State**.

NEW SOCCER COACH AT HU:

Howard University has named **Joseph Okoh** as its new men's soccer coach. The new coach comes to the Bison from **NCAA** Division II **Shepherd University**. At Shepherd, Okoh led the Rams to their first ever national ranking, ending the 2004 season ranked 24th in the nation. Since the 2003 season, under his leadership the Rams had three consecutive winning seasons peaking with an 11-5-4 record in 2004. A native of the Washington, D.C. area, Okoh had coaching stints on the high school level in the DC area, coaching both boys and girls at **Potomac**, **Bishop O'Connell**, **Wakefield** and **T.C. Williams High Schools**. Okoh also played on the professional level with the **Colorado Foxes**, receiving first team all-league honors on three occasions. Okoh's son, **Michael**, is a member of the Bison squad. He will replace longtime Bison head coach **Keith Tucker** who had held the position since 1980. The Bison finished 3-13-1 in the 2007-08 season.

ALL-ARENA LEAGUE:

Former **Kentucky State** and current **Dallas Desperados** offensive lineman **Devin Wyman** and former **Norfolk State** and current **San Jose SaberCats** wide receiver **James Roe** were both named to the 2007 All-Arena League teams. Wyman was named to the first team, a recognition that puts him in the running for Lineman of the Year. The award was to be announced on July 3. Wyman is in his fifth AFL season and was part of an offensive line that allowed only four sacks and enabled **Desperados** quarterback **Clint Dolezel** to throw for 107 touchdowns. Wyman and the **Desperados** will continue their season in the AFL playoffs as they host a game in the Divisional Round on July 7, at 8 p.m. ET on ESPN. Roe, in his eighth AFL season, had 1,560 receiving yards and hauled in 40 TD passes for the **SaberCats**. The team's career leader in receptions, receiving yards, scoring and TDs scored, Roe enjoyed his third straight 1,000-yard receiving season, and fourth overall. Wyman and Roe were both drafted in the sixth round of the 1996 NFL Draft. Roe by the **Baltimore Ravens** and Wyman by the **New England Patriots**.



ROE: Former **NSU** receiver is a second team all-AFL player.

AFL Photo

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BCSP Notes

Johnson to play for the Miami Heat Summer League team

One day after being snubbed in the two-round, 60-pick 2007 NBA Draft, **Jackson State**'s high-scoring guard **Trey Johnson** has agreed to play for the **Miami Heat**'s summer league team.

"Obviously, I still feel like I should have been drafted," Johnson told the *Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger*. "But if it had to be like this, I'm glad I was picked up by **Miami**. Now, I'm just preparing to do the best I can."

The Heat, one of the teams that had shown a lot of interest in Johnson before the draft, will play five games in the **Orlando Summer League**. NBA summer league teams are usually comprised of rookies and other players trying to find a spot on an NBA roster. Though nothing is guaranteed, good play can often materialize into an invite to training camp for undrafted players and eventually a spot on the team's regular season roster. **Miami**'s summer league games are scheduled for July 9-13 at the **RDV Sportsplex**.

Johnson finished his senior season at **Jackson State** as the second leading scorer in the nation, averaging 27.1 points per game. He was also named the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** player of the year, **SWAC** tournament most valuable player and a *College Insider.com* Mid-Major All-American. Johnson led the **JSU Tigers** to a **SWAC** championship and their first **NCAA** tournament appearance since 2000. Johnson had gotten quite a bit of pre-draft publicity that his skills and abilities would likely have him taken in the second round.

"You knew teams respected **Trey**'s game because so many teams invited him for a workout," **JSU** coach **Tevester Anderson** told the *Clarion-Ledger*. "I don't know why he fell out of the draft, but I still think there's plenty of interest."

Jackson State had even planned a press conference on campus for the hours following his selection. Neither materialized.

With the Heat, Johnson will look to find space on a guard roster that includes star **Dwayne Wade**, veterans **Gary Payton**, **Eddie Jones** and **Jason Williams** along with draftee **Daquan Cook** (**Ohio State**) and **Chris Quinn**, who just finished his rookie season out of **Notre Dame**. According to multiple reports, Payton has been leaning toward retirement. Jones will turn 36 years old before next season starts.

"They've got a lot of veterans to learn from so I think it's a great situation," Johnson told the newspaper. "Hopefully, I can find some room on the roster and grow as a player."

NFL Hall of Famer Harry Carson to kick off 2007 SWAC Football Media Day

Former **NFL** All-Pro and 2006 **NFL** Hall of Fame inductee **Harry Carson**, who had a **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** Hall of Fame career at **South Carolina State**, will be the keynote speaker at the 2007 **Southwestern Athletic Conference** Football Media Day on Tuesday, July 24.

The former **New York Giants** standout will speak during the kickoff luncheon at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel located on Richard Arrington Boulevard in downtown Birmingham.

Carson spent 13 seasons with the **New York Football Giants** and during his tenure, the former All-Pro served as team captain for ten seasons. One of those magical seasons came in 1986 when the **Giants** dominated the **Denver Broncos** 39-20 to capture **Super Bowl XXI**.

His career was filled with accolades and honors. He ended his first professional season being named to the **NFL** All-Rookie Team. Subsequently, during his **NFL** career, he was named to the All-NFL Team seven times, the All-NFC Team eight times, and **NFC** Linebacker of the Year twice. He once made an amazing 25 tackles in a Monday Night Football game against the **Green Bay Packers**. With performances like that he was selected by his peers to play in the **NFC-AFC Pro Bowl** nine times and is among the top 300 players to ever play in the **National Football League**.

Carson is CEO and president of **Harry Carson Inc.**, a sports consulting and promotions company. In that role, his company consults with media outlets, educational sources and corporations on sports as well as non-sports related issues. **Harry Carson Inc.** provides expert television, radio, print media and internet commentary on sports matters as well as motivational and inspirational speakers to schools and corporations.

He is also a member of the **New York Football Giants** pre-season broadcasting team and is a regular season broadcast analyst and co-host of **Giants GamePlan**. Carson also serves as Executive Director of the **Fritz Pollard Alliance**, an organization dedicated to creating racial diversity within non-player roles within the **National Football League**.

The 2007 **SWAC** Media Day activities will begin at 9 a.m. with interview sessions from the head coaches and student athletes from all ten conference institutions. Following the interview sessions, the kickoff luncheon will begin at 11 a.m. with remarks from the Conference Office

and the announcement of the preseason honors and predicted order of finish.

Limited tickets are available to the public for \$30 and can be obtained by contacting **Duer Sharp** at the **SWAC** Office (205) 251-7573. Media registration forms can be found on the conference website and requested from the **SWAC** Media Relations office.

In conjunction with the kickoff luncheon, the fourth **SWAC** Youth Football clinic will take place on Monday, July 23, 2007 at Birmingham's Legion Field from 9:00a to 12:00n. The three-hour event will contain drill and instruction for Birmingham-area youth and will be conducted by **SWAC** football coaches. Scheduled to appear are **Alabama A&M** head coach **Anthony Jones** and new **Alabama State** head coach **Reggie Barlow**. West, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.



CARSON

Blackcollegebaseball.com announces 2007 Elite Team

BlackCollegeBaseball.com released its fourth **Black College Baseball Awards**. Candidates were taken from the nineteen Division-I programs which included the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference**, **Southwestern Athletic Conference**, and Independent programs **Chicago State** and **Savannah State University**.

The 2007 Coach of the Year is **Bethune Cookman**'s head coach **Mervyl Melendez**. Melendez has earned the award for the second straight year and continues to run the tables on **MEAC** opponents. During the regular season, Bethune only lost one conference game and has a two year conference record of 31-1. As a player for **Bethune Cookman** and as a coach, Melendez has won nine **MEAC** titles.

BCB Player of the Year award goes to **Prairie View A&M** shortstop **Michael Richard**. This is the second straight year the award went to a dominating **SWAC** shortstop. Before being drafted in the 11th round in the 2007 **MLB** draft by **Oakland**, Richard was named **SWAC** Player of the Year and Most Outstanding hitter. Richard accounted for almost 15% of **Prairie View**'s runs scored.

Pitcher of the Year goes to **Norfolk State** hurler **Luke Foss**. Foss finished the season at with a 10-2 record and an amazing 2.28 ERA. Some of his notable wins this season were against **Savannah State**, **Villanova** and **Seton Hall**. Foss was also named to the 2007 **American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA)** All-East Region second team.

For the men and women behind the scenes that usually receive no recognition, **Sports Information Directors** and their baseball contacts are the ones that get the information out. **Bryan Harvey** of **Bethune Cookman** stayed busy sending press releases and game notes on his 2007 **BCB** Champion Wildcats. Bryan also helps Wildcat fans stay in touch with their team during games by using **Gametracker** and by keeping the Wildcat website fresh and current.

The **Black College Baseball Elite** Teams are comprised of athletes from the Independents, **Mid-Continent**, **MEAC**, and **SWAC** conferences. **Bethune Cookman** and **Prairie View** landed 4 players on the squad. **Alcorn State** was next with three on the **Elite Team** followed by **Norfolk State**, **North Carolina A&T** and **Jackson State** at two apiece. The remaining schools had one representative on the **BCB Elite Team**: **Alabama State**, **Delaware State**, **Florida A&M**, **Maryland Eastern Shore**, **Mississippi Valley State**, **Savannah State** and **Southern**.

FIRST TEAM POSITION PLAYERS

- C Lyall Foran, Norfolk State
- 1B Johnathan Stevens, Alabama State
- 2B Shawn Taylor, Alcorn State
- SS Michael Richard, Prairie View A&M
- 3B Charlie Gamble, North Carolina A&T
- OF Marcus Davis, Alcorn State
- OF Joe McIntyre, North Carolina A&T
- OF Angel Mercado, Bethune Cookman



MELLENDEZ

FIRST TEAM PITCHERS

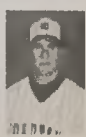
- SP Luke Foss, Norfolk State
- SP Francisco Rodriguez, Bethune-Cookman
- SP Matt Chase, Prairie View A&M
- R Josh Schmitt - Delaware State



RICHARD

SECOND TEAM POSITION PLAYERS

- C John Keene, Savannah State
- 1B Sean Bard, Mississippi Valley
- 2B Spencer Dennis, Prairie View A&M
- SS Chris Henault, Bethune Cookman
- 3B Chris Stamps, Jackson State
- OF Darryl Evans, Florida A&M
- OF Joel Gonzalez, Maryland Eastern Shore
- OF Anthony McIn, Jackson State



FOSS

SECOND TEAM PITCHERS

- SP Wrandia Taylor, Prairie View A&M
- SP Dustin Blackwell, Bethune Cookman
- SP Roydrick Merritt, Southern University
- RP Lee Johnson, Alcorn State