

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



Jackson State Sports photo

## SPRING INTO ACTION

**PRUNTY OUT AT HAMPTON; RICHARDS IN FOR JSU WOMEN'S HOOPS; SOME SPRING RESULTS IN**

**FIRED UP:** New Jackson State women's basketball coach Margaret Richards promises to not disappoint the Tiger faithful and continue championships.

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### RICHARDS TAKES REINS OF JSU WOMEN'S HOOPS:



Richards

JACKSON, Miss. – With all the pomp and circumstance that accompanied the rousing introduction of head football coach **Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders** in 2020, **Margaret Richards** was introduced Monday as **Jackson State's** new women's head basketball coach.

The occasion featured a police escorted motorcade entrance with sounds of the school's legendary "Sonic Boom of the South" Marching Band providing the bouncing musical backdrop for the packed press conference held at the Lee E. Williams Athletic and Assembly Center.

Richards was announced by **Jackson State** Vice President & Director of Athletics **Ashley Robinson** as the seventh head coach of the women's basketball program last week.

She has a big job ahead following in the footsteps of former JSU head coach **Tomekia Reed** who won five **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) regular season championships and three SWAC Tournament titles and the NCAA Tournament berths that go with them in six years leading the Lady Tigers. Reed left after this season and was announced two weeks ago as the head coach at Charlotte.

Richards was greeted by a fired-up and enthusiastic JSU crowd.

"Since I stepped off that plane yesterday morning, it's been nothing but love," Richards said. "This is a true blessing and a dream for me to be able to lead this first-class program. And the support is unmatched, unlike any other I've ever seen."

Richards, a 19-year collegiate coaching veteran comes to Jackson State from Mercer where she joined the staff after an eight-year run as head coach at **Alabama A&M** where she paced the Bulldogs to nearly 100 wins.

Richards has served as an assistant at **Kentucky State**, a graduate assistant at Louisville and head coach at **Saint Augustine's** (2008-09). She led the Falcons to a 33-24 clip across two seasons, highlighted by an 18-10 record and a **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) Western Division championship in 2009-10.

Richards also has had roles as an assistant coach at North Texas (2010-11) and Weber State (2011-12), Western Kentucky and Clemson (2015-16) season before being named as Alabama A&M's fifth head coach on June 2, 2016.

### PRUNTY OUT AS HAMPTON FOOTBALL COACH:

**Hampton** Director of Athletics **Anthony Henderson** announced last Tuesday that **Robert Prunty** is no longer the head football coach of the Pirates.

The abrupt announcement came at a press conference just before the transfer portal closed and some time after the team finished spring practice in early March. No explanation was given for Prunty's dismissal.

Running backs and special teams coach **Trent Boykin** will serve as the interim head coach for the 2024 season, Henderson announced in the release. A Hampton spokesperson said a press conference with Boykin is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8.

Prunty had served as the Pirates' head coach since 2018. He went 26-29 in five seasons while navigating the program from FBS independence, to the Big South, and finally to the Colonial Athletic Association. Hampton went 5-6 in 2023, 3-5 in CAA play.

In Prunty's final season he was 3-1 against HBCU opponents with wins over SWAC member **Grambling State** (35-34), MEAC champion **Howard** (35-34) and fellow former MEAC, Big South and now CAA member **North Carolina A&T** (26-24). The Pirates lost to **Norfolk State**, 31-23.

### JACKSON RELEASED BY LAS VEGAS ACES:

Two-time SWAC Defensive Player of the Year, 6-7 center **Angel Jackson** of **Jackson State**, the only HBCU player taken in the 2024 WNBA Draft, was released by the two-time champion Las Vegas Aces this week. General manager Natalie Williams made the announcement

Jackson averaged 9.6 points and 7.0 rebounds in her two seasons at JSU, while blocking 171 shots in 64 games. Jackson transferred to JSU after playing her first three seasons at the University of Southern California.

She was taken with the 36th overall pick in the third round of this year's draft. Jackson helped lead JSU to back-to-back SWAC regular-season titles in her two seasons, going 35-1 in conference play.

## 2024 BLACK COLLEGE BASEBALL (Tournaments, Standings and Tournament Dates)

### SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

#### BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

##### THURSDAY, MAY 2

Edward Waters 12, Lane 5  
Spring Hill 4, Morehouse 3  
Albany State 8, Kentucky 2  
Savannah State 4, Miles 3

##### FRIDAY, MAY 3

Edward Waters 4, Spring Hill 3  
Lane 7, Morehouse 4  
Kentucky State 14, Miles 4  
Savannah State 19, Albany State 3  
Spring Hill 6, Kentucky State 5  
Albany State 7, Lane 5

##### SATURDAY, MAY 4

Edward Waters 9, Savannah State 0  
Albany State 7, Spring Hill 3

##### SUNDAY, MAY 5 (CHAMPIONSHIP)

Savannah State 7, Albany State 6  
Edward Waters 10, Savannah State 5

### SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

EAST	CONF		ALL	
	W	L	W	L
Florida A&M	18	6	23	23
Bethune-Cookman	17	7	27	21
Alabama State	16	8	25	21
Jackson State	12	11	29	16
Alabama A&M	7	16	11	34
Mississippi Valley State	1	23	9	31
WEST	CONF		ALL	
Texas Southern	15	5	19	21
Grambling State	16	6	19	23
Prairie View A&M	13	8	24	23
Southern	12	10	19	24
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	5	17	14	31
Alcorn State	5	19	6	36

#### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

##### HITTER

**Manny Souffrain**, Jr., INF, B-CU - 3-for-3 with a HR and five RBI and two runs scored in 9-3 win over FAMU.

##### PITCHER

**Drew Lasseigne**, Sr., RHP, SOU - Pitched seven innings giving up 5 hits and one earned run with 9 Ks in 10-1 win vs. Alcorn State.

#### SWAC BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

May 22-26 • Chandler Stadium • Atlanta, GA

### CAA COLONIAL ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

11th NCA&T	CONF		ALL	
	W	L	W	L
	7	14	23	24

#### PLAYER OF THE WEEK

**Tre Williams**, Jr., 2B, NC A&T - In 2-1 series win over Northeastern, Williams had hits in all three games. He was 4 for 5 with a double and 3 runs scored in 13-5 win in Game 1, 2 for 4 with a run scored in 4-2 Game 2 win and 1 of 3 with a run scored in 13-3 loss in Game 3. Finished 7 for 12 (.583) with 5 runs scored in the series.

#### CAA BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

May 22-25  
Brooks Field  
Wilmington, NC

# BCSP Spring Round-Up

## CIAA

### Bowie State takes 2024 softball title

Glen Allen, VA – The three players at the top of the **Bowie State** lineup – centerfielder **Coreena Dunham**, left fielder **Presleigh Braxton** and designated hitter/pitcher **Lindsey George** – went a combined 8 of 11 at the plate with eight runs scored as the Bulldogs downed **Clafin** 11-8 to claim the 2024 CIAA Softball title.

Braxton had a home run and Dunham had a double, the only extra base hits for BSU (20-21), who came in as the third-seeded team from the Northern Division. Dunham also had four stolen bases. Dunham and Braxton were 3 for 4 in the title game while George wen 2 for 3.

The Bulldogs beat S. Div. second seed **Fayetteville State** 10-4 and N. Div. top seed **Virginia State** 7-6 in Friday's first round. They dispatched S. Div. third-seed Clafin to enter the championship round undefeated.

Clafin defeated VSU 8-1 Saturday to set up the championship match Sunday with BSU.

#### 2024 ALL-CIAA FIRST TEAM

P - Kara Green, Sr., VSU; C - Ellianna Henneberg, Jr., BSU; 1B - Mylia Knight, Fr., VSU; 2B - Jaya Diggs-Hagwood, Jr., VSU; 3B - Miranda Wilson, Jr., WSSU; SS - Alajah Pratt, Jr., VSU; OF - Jayla Hill, Jr., BSU; Aliya Rose, So., LINC; Hailey Darrington, Jr., VSU; DH - Bella Coffman, Sr., BLST; UTL - Jaelyn Jackson, Sr., CLAF

#### 2024 ALL-CIAA SECOND TEAM

P - Jaelyn Jackson, Sr., CLAF; C - Jenna Nicolski, So., VUU; 1B - Tia Brown, Jr., LINC; 2B - Zeta Brown, Sr., ECSU; 3B - Skye Corum, So., VSU; SS - Cydney Cooper, So., CLAF; OF - Paige Whittington, So., BLST; Alicia Carrington, So., WSSU; Malia Simmons, Jr., WSSU; DH - Akirra Pullen, Sr., BSU; UTL - Malia Simmons, Jr., WSSU

### Fayetteville State women, Virginia State men take Track & Field titles

The **Fayetteville State** Broncos led both days of the two-day women's track and field championship collecting a total of 174 points to claim the league championship over runner-up **Winston-Salem State** (106), and **Saint Augustine's** (79.5).

**Virginia State** clinched the victory for the men with 160 points to take an 8-point win over runner-up **Clafin** (152) and **Virginia Union** (93). Clafin held a 15-point lead over VSU until the Trojans captured three of the top five spots for the discus throw; the final scoring event of the meet. The trio of **Mark Banberger**, **Jabari Blake**, and **Rayquan Smith** were first, third, and fourth, respectively.

Head Coach **Inez Turner** of Fayetteville State was named women's coach of the year and VSU's **Frank Hyland** was men's coach of the year.

FSU's **M'Smrya Seward** captured the Women's Field MVP award contributing 30 points with first-place wins in the long, triple, and high jump events. VSU's Banberger's won the Men's Field MVP Award with 28 points from winning the shot-put and discus throw. He placed second in the javelin throw.



Seward

SAU's **Malaysia Johnson** was named the Women's Track MVP with her 21-point contribution from first place in the 400 meters and second place in the 200 meters and a leg on the 4x100 relay. The Men's Track MVP went to the VSU's **Desmond Kirwa** who accumulated 28 points by winning the 1500 and 800 meters. He also finished second in the 5000 meters.



Kirwa

**WOMEN'S TRACK ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:** Brianna Benloss, Fr., Winston-Salem State  
**WOMEN'S FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:** M'Smrya "Shea" Seward, Fayetteville State

**MEN'S TRACK ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:** Desmond Kirwa, Virginia State  
**MEN'S FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:** Markus White, Virginia State

Benloss posted a personal best time of 11.75 in the 100 meters ranking her first in the CIAA, third in the Atlantic Region, and 34th nationally. Similarly, her personal best time of 24.02 in the 200 meters places her third in the CIAA, third in the Atlantic region, and 24th nationally. In addition, her contribution to the 4x100 relay resulted in a fourth-place finish with an NCAA qualifying time of 46.37.

Seward broke the FSU high jump record with a height of 1.65 meters. In the conference, she's ranked first in both the high jump and the long jump. In the Div. II Atlantic Region, she is ranked second in the high jump and third in the long jump.

Kirwa has earned NCAA provisional qualifier in the 800 meters, while also securing the top spot in the CIAA rankings for both the 800 and 1500 meters. Adding to his impressive list of accolades, Kirwa also broke VSU's 1500 meter record.

White is currently tenth in the NCAA for the long jump, securing the top spot in both the Atlantic region and the CIAA and third in the CIAA for the triple jump.

## SIAC

### Spring Hill captures second softball title

COLUMBUS, Ga. – The **Spring Hill** softball team defeated West Div. third-seed **Lane** in a pair of games in the 2024 Cricket SIAC Soft-

## 2024 BLACK COLLEGE SOFTBALL (Tournaments, Standings and Tournament Dates)

### CIAA CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

#### SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

##### FRIDAY, MAY 3

Virginia State 10, Shaw 1  
Bowie State 10, Fayetteville State 4  
Winston-Salem State 8, Virginia Union 2  
Clafin 9, Lincoln (PA) 3  
Fayetteville State 4, Shaw 3  
Lincoln (PA)10, Virginia Union 3  
Bowie State 7, Virginia State 6  
Clafin 12, Winston-Salem State 9

##### SATURDAY, MAY 4

Winston-Salem State 10, Fayetteville State 0  
Virginia State 10, Lincoln (PA) 7  
Bowie State 5, Clafin 4  
Clafin 8, Virginia State 1

##### SUNDAY, MAY 5 (CHAMPIONSHIP)

Bowie State 11, Clafin 8

### MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

#### FINAL

	CONF		ALL	
	W	L	W	L
Morgan State	18	3	30	17
Howard	16	5	32	11
Coppin State	15	6	20	20
NC Central	14	7	18	32
SC State	8	13	11	28
Delaware State	5	16	14	28
Maryland ES	5	16	11	33
Norfolk State	3	18	4	42.

#### MEAC SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

May 8-12, 2024

Norfolk State Softball Field  
Norfolk, VA

### SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

#### SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

##### MONDAY, APRIL 29

Spring Hill 5, Savannah State 0  
Lane 6, Edward Waters 1  
Tuskegee 13, Albany State 2  
Fort Valley State 7, Miles 6  
Edward Waters 8, Savannah State 0  
Lane 4, Spring Hill 3

##### TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Spring Hill 9, Fort Valley State 1  
Edward Waters 9, Miles 2  
Lane 2, Tuskegee 0  
Spring Hill 6, Edward Waters 1  
Spring Hill 6, Tuskegee 3

##### WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 (CHAMPIONSHIP)

Spring Hill 8, Lane 4  
Spring Hill 4, Lane 3

### SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

#### FINAL

EAST	CONF		ALL	
	W	L	W	L
Florida A&M	19	5	23	18
Jackson State	15	8	29	17
Bethune-Cookman	16	8	18	30
Alabama State	15	9	25	27
Alabama A&M	5	19	9	27
Miss. Valley State	1	23	3	34
WEST	CONF		ALL	
Prairie View A&M	23	1	28	17
Texas Southern	13	8	19	17
Southern	12	12	16	25
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	8	14	19	28
Grambling State	8	16	17	30
Alcorn State	5	19	10	34

#### SWAC SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

May 7-10 - Gulfport (MS) Sportsplex