



SPRING INTO ACTION

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

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

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

**SWAC** 

SOUTHWESTERN

ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

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 State0 Albany State 7, Spring Hill 3 **SUNDAY. MAY 5 (CHAMPIONSHIP** 

Savannah State 7, Albany State 6

Edward Waters 10, Savannah State 5

**EAST** W 18 23 23 Florida A&M Bethune-Cookman Jackson State 11 Alabama A&M Mississippi Valley State 23 WEST Texas Southern 23 23 24 Grambling State Prairie View A&M 10 19 Southern Arkansas-Pine Bluff Alcorn State

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

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

SWAC BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP May 22-26 • Chandler Stadium • Atlanta, GA

#### CAA ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION 11th NC A&T 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

COLONIAL

(.583) with 5 runs scored in the series CAA BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Brooks Field

Wilmington, NC

scored in 4-2 Game 2 win and 1 of 3 with a run

scored in 13-3 loss in Game 3. Finished 7 foir 12

# **UNDER THE BANNER**

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

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

JACKSON, Miss. - With all the pomp and circumstance that accompanied the rousing introduction of head football coach



**Richards** 

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

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

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

"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 firstclass 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,

### PRUNTY OUT AS HAMPTON FOOTBALL COACH:

**Hampton** Director of Athletics **Anthony Henderson** 



announced last Tuesday that Robert **Prunty** is no longer the head footbal 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 explana-

tion 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 Prunt'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.

# **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 Presligh Braxton and designated hitter/pitcher Lindsey George – went a combined 8 of 11 at the plate with eight runs scored as the Bulldogs downed Claffin 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 Claffin to enter the championship round unde-

Claffin 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 - Alaijah 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; !B - 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 Claffin (152) and Virginia Union (93). Claffin 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.

SAU's Malaysia Johnson was named

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.



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

**Kirwa** 

WOMEN'S TRACK ATHLETE OF THE YEAR: MEN'S TRACK ATHLETE OF THE YEAR: WOMEN'S FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:

5000 meters.

MEN'S FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:

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-

SC State

Delaware State

Maryland ES

Norfolk State

ball Championship final to take home its second conference title in program history at the South Commons Softball Complex on Wednesday.

Bailey Cox, Amanda Glowacki and Rycca Hinton led the Badgers with two RBIs apiece in the first game of the day, an 8-4 extra-inning win that forced the rubber match. Oscha Carter contributed with a 3-for-4 performance at the plate with a run scored and a walk.

Meadow Villar, Taylor Pittman, Kayla Coley-Drayton and Macy Holt each tallied an RBI in the 4-3 win for Spring Hill in the evening game. Coley-Drayton and Carter both went 2-for-4 at the plate and crossed the plate once to help secure the Badgers' second SIAC tournament title in program history. Leighanna Turk took the win in the final game after tossing 3.2 scoreless innings and striking out three batters.

The championship marked the first since 2019 and the first under Head Coach Hanna Lythberg.

#### **Edward Waters wins first baseball title**

Ferante Cowart's grand slam in the bottom of the eighth inning sparked Edward Waters to a 10-5 come-from-behind victory over Savannah State to win the program's first SIAC Baseball Championship on Sunday afternoon.

Down 2-0, Edward Waters (31-18, 21-11 SIAC) tied the score at 2 before falling behind 5-3. In the bottom of the eighth inning, **Torry Jones** had a pinch-hit RBI on a bases-loaded walk to bring the Tigers within a run at 5-4. Erickson Matos also earned an unconventional RBI after being hit by a pitch with bases loaded to tie the contest at 5-5. Then, with one out in the inning, Cowart sent a pitcher over the left-center field wall for a grand slam to give EWU a 9-5 lead. John Nobles would later add an insurance run on an RBI fielder's choice, giving EWU a 10-5 lead.

Due to EWU being in the final year of its three-year transition to the NCAA from the NAIA, Savannah State will earn the SIAC's automatic bid to the NCAA Division II Baseball Tournament.

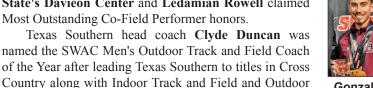
Edward Waters will next turn their attention to the 2024 Tyson Foods Black College World Series, which will take place May 8th-11th at Riverwalk Stadium in Montgomery, Alabama.

### Texas Southern men, Alabama State women take Outdoor Track & Field titles

BATON ROUGE, La.- The **Texas Southern** Tigers claimed the 2024 SWAC Men's Outdoor Track and Field Championship title with 161 points. Jackson State was second with 133 points followed by Arkansas-**Pine Bluff** with 102 points.

TSU's Jose Gonzalez won the 1500 and 5000 meters to earn the Men's Most Outstanding Track Performer. Jackson State's Davieon Center and Ledamian Rowell claimed

Most Outstanding Co-Field Performer honors. Texas Southern head coach Clyde Duncan was named the SWAC Men's Outdoor Track and Field Coach of the Year after leading Texas Southern to titles in Cross



Track and Field. The TSU win marked the first time since

2011 that a SWAC men's program has swept cross country and track and field titles in a calendar year.

The Alabama State Lady Hornets claimed the 2024 SWAC Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championship title with the Lady Hornets' **Shamia Jones** winning the 1500 meters to earn the Most Outstanding Track Performer. Florida A&M's Breanna Brown-Marshall claimed Most Outstanding Field Performer honors.

Alabama State finished with 139.3 points with Florida A&M claiming second place with 129 points and Prairie View A&M third with 121 points. Alabama State head coach Ritchie Beene was named the Women's Coach of the Year after leading ASU titles in both Indoor Track and Field and Outdoor Track and Field.

# MEAC

### South Carolina State fals in first round of NCAA tennis tournament

RALEIGH, N.C., May 4, 2024 - MEAC champion South Carolina State women's tennis season ended in the first round of the 2024 NCAA Women;s Tennis Tournament with a 4-0 loss to No. 15 North Carolina

S.C. State finished the 2024 season with a 16-5 record after claiming its fourth consecutive MEAC championship, the program's 18th overall.

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

#### CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CIAA 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 Claflin 9. Lincoln (PA) 3 Fayetteville State 4, Shaw 3 Lincoln (PA)10, Virginia Union 3 Bowie State 7, Virginia State 6 Claflin 12. Winston-Salem State 9

SATURDAY, MAY 4 Winston-Salem State 10, Fayetteville State 0 Virginia State 10, Lincoln (PA) 7 Bowie State 5, Claflin 4 Claflin 8. Virginia State 1 SUNDAY, MAY 5 (CHAMPIONSHIP) Bowie State 11, Claflin 8

#### MID EASTERN MEAC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE CONF W Morgan State 18 30 17 Howard 32 20 16 15 5 11 Coppin State 20 NC Central 14 32

MEAC SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP May 8-12, 2024 Norfolk State Softball Field Norfolk, VA

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5 16 11 14

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16

18

#### Southern Intercollegiate SIAC 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 Vallely State 7, Miles 6 Edward Waters 8, Savannah State 0 Lane 4, Spring Hill 3 Fort Valley State 10, Albany State 6 Tuskegee 13, Miles 4 TUESDAY, APRIL 30 Spring Hill 9, Fort Valley State Edward Waters 9, Miles 2 Lane 2, Tuskegee 0 Spring Hill 6, Edward Waters 1 Spring Hill 6 , Tuskegee 3 Spring Hill College WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 (CHAMPIONSHIP) Spring Hill 8, Lane 4

Spring Hil 4, Lane 3

#### SOUTHWESTERN **SWAC** ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FINAL CONF W Florida A&M 23 18 17 30 27 27 29 18 25 Jackson State 8 Bethune-Cookmar 16 Alabama State 9 Alabama A&M 23 Miss. Valley Sta WEST 23 13 28 19 17 17 25 Prairie View A&M Texas Southern 12 Southern Arkansas-Pine Bluff 14 19 28 30 34 **Grambling State** 16 17 19 10

SWAC SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP