

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Albany State Sports photo

WRAPPING UP SPRING SCHEDULES

KIBREN MOORE: Albany State junior has the second fastest 100-meter time as NCAA Div. II Outdoor Track & Field Championships go off in Kansas.

NCAA OUTDOOR TRACK UNDERWAY; NEW HOOPS COACHES AT EWU, ECSU; BASEBALL CLASSIC SET

Former Benedict coach gets HOF nod

Story and photo courtesy Benedict College Athletics

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- **William Partlow** is one of 10 of the newest inductees into the prestigious South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame. Primarily recognized as a ground-breaking high school basketball coach, Partlow also served as head basketball coach and Athletic Director at **Benedict College** for seven years.

"It was a great time at Benedict, because they had all those buildings going up, and they had a marvelous president back then in **Ben Payton**," Partlow said during Monday's press conference prior to the induction banquet at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

After eight successful years as head basketball coach at Booker T. Washington High School, where he won five state championships, he was recruited to come to Benedict as head men's basketball coach and athletic director.

Booker T. Washington was playing its rival C.A. Johnson at the University of South Carolina's large Carolina Coliseum, as a lead-up to another big rivalry basketball game between Benedict and **Allen**. Payton watched Partlow's team and was impressed.

"He was making a change in coaches, so he liked the system we were running and he called me over for an interview, and we reached a deal," Partlow said.

"I'd say I had moderate success," Partlow said. "First of all, we didn't have a gym for two years.



PARTLOW: Former Benedict hoops coach and AD hired Andy Reid and Mike Holmgren at San Francisco State.

They tore the old gym down and opened up the new one in 1974, I believe. But I had some good years there. I beat **South Carolina State** twice, and lost to them by one point the last time we played them. We were competitive."

He also remembers having the nation's top rebounder in **Roscoe Wilson**, a Benedict College Athletic Hall of Fame member, who also later coached the Tigers.

"Roscoe Wilson, A'ja's (former South Carolina and now WNBA star Aja Wilson) daddy I call him now, played for me for four years. We were NAIA, and he led the nation in rebounding. I said, 'Roscoe, why do you go to the boards so hard?' He said, 'Coach, you've got all those New York boys down here, and I wouldn't be on the floor if I didn't go get the ball.' But Benedict was a good experience, and it prepared me for San Francisco, because I was Ath-

letic Director and basketball coach there."

Partlow left Benedict to become the first African-American athletic director at San Francisco State, where he served for 18 years before retiring.

During his successful high school coaching career, Partlow is known for coaching players who later themselves went on to be very successful coaches. The long list includes South Carolina legendary high school coach **George Glymph** (a Benedict grad who coached future NBA star Jermaine O'Neal in high school), and Carl Williams (who coached future NBA standouts Xavier McDaniel and Tyrone Corbin), who won three high school championships at three different schools.

At San Francisco State, he hired two young football coaches who later went on to great success in the NFL -- Andy Reid, who has won three Super Bowls, and Mike Holmgren, who won one Super Bowl with the Green Bay Packers.

Partlow attributes much of his success as a coach and administrator to his organizational skills. He earned his undergraduate degree in mathematics from **Johnson C. Smith**, so structure and organization were important.

He was offered his first job at C.A. Johnson to be a math teacher. Coaching basketball was secondary. After several good years at C.A. Johnson, he was offered the job at Booker T. Washington. Against the advice of friends and co-workers, he took the job.

"The best move I ever made was to take the job at Booker T. Washington High School. I was advised not to take the job by my friends and co-workers at C.A. Johnson High School, where I was working then, because they said those kids were so tough and unruly, you won't be able to handle them. But I said, 'No, that background pretty much is like my background, coming from a single-parent home.' So I went over there, where we sat down, and decided that my players would go to all their classes, you would be there on time, they would respect their teachers, and respect their fellow students and the administration."

"They adhered. We went on in my first year and won the first state championship in boys basketball at Booker T. Washington in the 44-year history of the school. I had 12 seniors on that team. We had George Glymph, who was a starter. We were able to send all 12 of them to college, and nine graduated. Our teams in the future did the same thing, we won state championships in five of the next eight years. And we had kids playing college basketball all across the country. I'm very, very happy I took that job."

After a lifetime of impacting the lives of young people, the now 90-year old Partlow is honored to be a member of the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame.

"It's been a beautiful ride, and this induction is icing on the cake."

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

JACKSON NEW W-HOOPS COACH AT EWU:

JACKSONVILLE, FLA - **Edward Waters** announced Saturday that **Eric Jackson, Jr.** is the new women's basketball head coach.

Jackson comes to Edward Waters after leading the women's basketball program at **Rust College** to their most successful era in its history.

In seven seasons in charge at the NAIA, HBCU program based in Holly Springs, Mississippi, Jackson, a Rust graduate, led the Lady Bearcats to a 148-43 mark, four straight **Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC)** regular season championships, three straight GCAC Tournament titles, including the 2023-24 conference title, and four consecutive appearances at the NAIA Women's Basketball Tournament.

While at Rust, Jackson also received four GCAC Women's Basketball Coach of the Year accolades.

Before Rust, Jackson spent three years as women's head coach at Concordia College in Selma, Alabama finishing with a record of 59-26. In 2014, Concordia won the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) Division I national championship as an 8th seed. During his final season at Concordia, Jackson's team finished 26-4 and broke school and USCAA national records with 26 consecutive wins. Additionally, Jackson was the first recipient of the USCAA Women's Coach of the Year Award.

NEW ECSU WOMEN'S HOOPS COACH:

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. - **Elizabeth City State** announced **Ebony Tanner** last week as the Viking's interim head women's basketball coach.

The Garner, NC native has over 15 years in the collegiate ranks. She served three years as women's head coach at fellow **CIAA** member **Saint Augustine's** where she led the Falcons to their best conference record since 2012 and their best overall record since 2011.

Tanner also has served as an assistant coach at her alma mater University of Richmond from 2009 to 2016. She also had multiple stints with CIAA member **Shaw** and at the University of Hartford, as an assistant and associate head coach.

Tanner was an assistant on the CIAA Championship team at Shaw that earned a berth in the NCAA Division II Tournament.

BCSP Notes

HBCU Swingman Classic set for July 12 during MLB All-Star Week

The **HBCU Swingman Classic** presented by T-Mobile & powered by the MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation (YDF) is an annual All-Star experience for baseball student-athletes from Division-I programs at **Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU)**.

The philanthropic & educational event, which will center around an HBCU "All-Star Game," will be held during 2024 MLB All-Star Week on Friday, July 12, at Globe Life Field, home of the World Champion Texas Rangers.

The **HBCU Swingman Classic** will highlight the history and legacy of HBCU baseball programs while also providing 50 HBCU players with the opportunity to showcase their talent

on a national stage. The student-athletes will be selected by a committee that will include YDF Ambassador & Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr. alongside representatives from MLB and MLBPA, as well as scouts.

A first-ever **Battle of the Bands** involving the **Texas Southern** and **Prairie View A&M** Marching Bands is also being planned to coincide with the Classic. Details are forthcoming.

NCAA D1 and D2 Outdoor Track competition this week

The 2024 Div. II men's and women's outdoor track and field championships began with selections on May 14 via a press release on NCAA.com. The championships will run from this Thursday, May 23 to Saturday, May 25 at Welch Stadium in Emporia, Kansas, hosted by Emporia State. See HBCU qualifiers in the STAT CORNER.

Each day of the D2 championships can be

seen on NCAA.com. Coverage of throwing events will also be available on the MIAA Network.

Saint Augustine's under retired legendary coach **George Williams** has won 16 men's D2 championships, the first in 1989 and last in 2017, with **Norfolk State** (1973), **Kentucky State** (1971), and **Maryland-Eastern Shore** (1963) each having one title. **Lincoln (Mo.)** under head coach **Victor Thomas** has won nine women's D2 Outdoor titles, the last in 2019. St. Aug's under Williams has won four. **Alabama A&M** won back-to-back D2 Outdoor titles in 1992 and 1993.

East and West Regional competition begins Wednesday, May 22 and runs thru Saturday, May 25 in the NCAA Div. I Outdoor Track & Field Championships. The East Regionals are at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Ky. The West Regionals are at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Ark.

BCSP Spring Round-Up

SWAC baseball championship tournament begins

ATLANTA, Ga. - **Florida A&M** (22-8) is the top seed from the East Division and **Texas Southern** (18-6) is the West top seed as the **SWAC** Baseball Championship began Wednesday, May 22 and runs thru Saturday, May 25 at Russ Chandler Stadium here.

Only the top four teams from each division are in the eight-team tournament. The tournament will be played in a double-elimination format with **SWAC Digital Network** action set to start at 9:00 a.m. EST on Wednesday, May 22nd with game broadcasts slated to run through Saturday, May 25th.

FINAL STANDINGS	CONF		ALL	
	W	L	W	L
EAST				
Florida A&M	22	8	27	25
Bethune-Cookman	19	10	29	25
Alabama State	18	12	28	25
Jackson State	16	12	33	18
WEST				
Texas Southern	18	6	22	23
Grambling State	18	8	21	25
Prairie View A&M	18	9	29	24
Southern	15	12	22	27

Opening round games on Wednesday, May 22:
 Game 1 -- (E2) Bethune-Cookman vs. (W3) Prairie View A&M, 9:00 a.m.
 Game 2 -- (W2) Grambling State vs. (E3) Alabama State, 12:00 p.m.
 Game 3 -- (W1) Texas Southern vs. (E4) Jackson State, 3:00 p.m.
 Game 4 -- (E1) Florida A&M vs. (W4) Southern, 6:00 p.m.

Morgan State, Jackson State bow out in NCAA Div. I Softball Regionals

DURHAM, N.C. -- **MEAC** champion **Morgan State** battled gamely but dropped two relatively close contests to bow out of the NCAA Div. I Softball Championship Durham Regional over the weekend.

The Bears (35-20) fell 6-1 Friday to the host and top seed in the region, ACC champion and No. 10 nationally Duke Blue Devils in a game that went scoreless until the fifth inning. MSU then fell to Utah in a tight 1-0 decision on Saturday.

Duke used three home runs in the fifth to take a 4-0 advantage in the Bears first game. MSU answered in the top of the sixth inning with an RBI single from **Mia Ewell** that drove in **Nia White** who pinch ran for **Victoria Fletcher**. MSU had two other runners on the bases but back-to-back strikeouts left the runners stranded.

Emil Raubuch (3-2), who surrendered 10 hits and four earned runs, took the loss for MSU. Duke all-American pitcher and starter Jala Wright (18-1) gave up just two hits over five innings to get the win.

In the 1-0 decision that ended their season, Fletcher (8-6) threw a complete game giving up just one run on eight hits with one strikeout. Four Bears players recorded a hit throughout the game, but MSU was not able to send a run across the plate.

The Utes scored in the bottom of the third inning as the game's lone run came home on an RBI single.

BATON ROUGE, La. - No. 4 seed **Jackson State** was shutout in two

games as the **SWAC** champion bowed out in the NCAA Div. I Softball Championship Baton Rouge Regional.

The Tigers fell to host and top seed LSU 5-0 on Friday and had its season come to a close in an elimination game loss to No. 2 seed California, 15-0 on Saturday.

JSU (33-19) managed just two hits and five base runners in the opening loss to LSU. **Victoria Salazar** gave up six hits and five runs in the complete game loss. Left fielder **Gabrielle Willis** and pinch hitter **Samiyah Huckabee** managed the only hits for the Tigers.

Willis had the lone JSU hit in the loss to California. The Tigers threatened in the bottom of the fourth with a pair of runners in scoring position before a groundout ended the inning. **Sofia Gonzalez** (7-7), the first of four pitchers, suffered the loss in the start.

Savannah State out at Tampa NCAA Div. II Baseball Regional

TAMPA, Fla. - **SIAC** representative **Savannah State** put up good offensive numbers but surrendered too many runs in bowing out in two games of the 2024 NCAA Division II Baseball Championship South Regional here over the weekend.

The Tigers finished 31-17 on the season after a 16-7 loss to Tampa Friday and a close 9-8 loss in ten innings to Auburn Montgomery on Saturday.

SSU took a 1-0 lead on UT in the top of the first inning when **D'Sean Prinkleton** hit a solo home run. UT responded with seven runs off SSU starter **Andrew Mann** in the bottom of the inning and added two more runs in the second inning to increase their lead to 9-1.

In the third, Tampa scored five times on three hits to push their advantage to 14-2. From there, SSU scored three runs in the sixth inning and added two more in the seventh on a two-run home run by left fielder **Hakem Smith**. Tampa (44-7), the No. 1 seed and host, scored twice in the eighth for the final runs of the contest. Starter Mann (3-5) took the loss.

Pinkleton had three hits and Smith two hits in the loss. On Saturday, SSU fought back from a 7-3 deficit to Auburn Montgomery thru five innings, getting three runs in the seventh inning and one in the eighth to tie the score at 7. After going down 8-7 thru eight innings, an RBI single by **Jadon Oden** in the top of the ninth tied the game at 8-8 while SSU pitchers held the Warhawks scoreless to force extra innings.

In the bottom half of the tenth, AUM (32-23) scored on a single to end the game.

Pinkleton had three hits including a triple vs. AUM. Third baseman **Desmore Joseph II** also had three hits. Center fielder **Kendal Spencer** had two hits including a double and drove in three runs. **Brevin Smith**, who pitched five innings in relief, took the loss.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

2024 HBCU NCAA DIV. II OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS (Top 24 Qualifiers)

MEN			
100 METERS			
2	Kibren Moore	SO-2	Albany State 9.93
15	Terrell Robinson, Jr.	SO-2	St. Augustine's 10.28
20	Ed Gilbert	SR-4	Albany State 10.30
200 METERS			
3	Ed Gilbert	SR-4	Albany State 20.58
8	Kibren Moore	SO-2	Albany State 20.67
23	Alpha Balde	FR-1	Virginia Union 20.86
400 HURDLES			
7	Sean Kalawan	SR-4	St. Augustine's 50.89
13	Sharim Hamilton	JR-3	Lincoln (Mo.) 51.58
15	Jaevon Riley	SO-2	Cliffin 51.69
22	Isaiah Chapman	SR-4	St. Augustine's 52.18
24	Kewani Campbell	SR-4	Lincoln (Mo.) 52.19
4 x 100 RELAY			
4	Albany State	Hutchinson, Moore, Smith, Gilbert	39.74
4 x 400 RELAY			
13	St. Augustine's	Hampton, Kalawan, Walls, Harrell	3:09.12
14	Cliffin	Riley, Anderson, Flemister, Murry	3:09.30
20	Lincoln (Mo.)	Hamilton, Rowolomiya, Bruce, Campbell	3:10.26
LONG JUMP			
16	Markus White	FR-1	Virginia State 7.59m
TRIPLE JUMP			
5	Rajaun Ricketts	SO-2	Benedict 15.47m
WOMEN			
100 METERS			
15	Shantae George	JR-3	Lincoln (Mo.) 11.44
200 METERS			
22	Hayleigh Bryant	FR-1	Winston-Salem St. 23.66
400 METERS			
16	Shevanae Thomas	JR-3	Lincoln (Mo.) 53.97
400 HURDLES			
3	Odeshvia Nanton	SO-2	Lincoln (Mo.) 58.82
4	Shevanae Thomas	JR-3	Lincoln (Mo.) 58.88
15	Maria Diamond	SR-4	Lincoln (Mo.) 100.07
4 x 100 RELAY			
14	Lincoln (Mo.)	George, Thomas, Carey, Anderson	45.32
4 x 400 RELAY			
10	Lincoln (Mo.)	Clarke-Giddings, Thomas, Nanton, Diamond	3:40.53
22	St. Augustine's	Kelly, Smith, Miller, Johnson	3:42.93
LONG JUMP			
5	M'Smyra Steward	SR-4	Fayetteville St. 6.30m
TRIPLE JUMP			
16	Annalisa Barclay	JR-3	Lincoln (Mo.) 12.40m
DISCUS			
7	Sydney Blackburn	SR-4	Albany State 50.01m
14	Yassine Kamara	SR-4	Bowie State 47.72m