

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Arkansas-Pine Bluff Sports photo

## STARS OF SPRING

**CALEB SNOWDEN:** Arkansas-Pine Bluff high jumper enters next week's NCAA Div. I Outdoor Track & Field Championships at the top of his event.

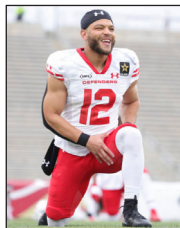
**NCAA D1 AND D2 TRACK RESULTS; GRAMBLING WINS SWAC BASEBALL, ADVANCES; A UFL STAR**

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### CHRIS ROWLAND STARRING IN UFL:

Former Tennessee State standout **Chris Rowland** is making his mark in the UFL.



Rowland

In the DC Defenders 36-21 win over the Memphis Showboats Sunday, Rowland racked up 209 all-purpose yards. He rushed for 10 yards on two carries and added 49 receiving yards on three catches including a 35-yard TD reception in the first quarter.

Rowland posted another 97 yards on three kickoff returns including a 37-yarder and two punt returns for 53 yards including a 27-yarder.

Rowland is in his first season playing for the 4-5 Defenders. He currently leads the league with 1,341 all-purpose yards thru nine games. He averages 149.0 all-purpose yards per game, second in the league. His league-leading 950 kick return yards broke the Defenders' record of 336 yards held by former Howard standout **Jequez Ezzard** set in 2023. On the season, the 5-8, 179-pounder has 17 receptions for 235 yards (13.8 ypc.) and three TDs.

Rowland is playing for head coach **Reggie Barlow**, the former Alabama State and NFL standout and former Alabama State and Virginia State head coach who was the 2023 XFL Coach of the Year. Rowland was on the roster of the USFL's Philadelphia Stars in 2022 and 2023.

During his time at TSU, Rowland was a terrific all-purpose offensive threat. He won the Ohio Valley Conference Offensive Player of the Year Award in 2019 after piling up an HBCU record 104 receptions for 1,437 yards and 8 TDs. The single-season receptions mark broke the record of 103 set by Pro Football and Black College Football Hall of Famer **Jerry Rice** in 1984. In 2019, Rowland was also the only player in Division I to record a touchdown via a kick return, punt return, reception, and rush. He also won the *Deacon Jones Award* as the top HBCU player.

After being signed as a rookie free agent out of TSU in 2020 by the Atlanta Falcons, Rowland also had a stint with the Tennessee Titans in the NFL.

# BCSP Notes

## SIAC unveils 2024 Hall of Famers

ATLANTA – The SIAC will honor seven individuals for their notable contributions to its member institutions during the 2024 Hall of Fame Induction on July 10 at the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta.

### – Willie Washington | Administrator | Benedict College

Washington has led Benedict athletics for 36 years, including 10 years as the head men's basketball coach and athletic director. As such, Washington coached the team to four NAIA national tournament appearances and multiple undefeated seasons. As athletic director, he expanded the institution's athletics programs from eight sponsored sports to 14. Most notably, under his leadership, Benedict has experienced continued success, winning the most men's and women's SIAC Commissioners Cup titles to date.

### – Harold 'Bobo' Hubbard | Men's Basketball | Savannah State University

Hubbard dominated the hardwood at SSU in the late seventies, becoming one of the top scorers and rebounders in men's basketball history, earning All-Conference, All-American, and conference MVP selections.

### – Dr. Kimberly Dugger | Women's Basketball | Fort Valley State University

Dugger lettered in women's basketball at FVSSU from 1986 to 1989, helping the team to a 73-37 record over four seasons. She

averaged a double-double every season, ending her career with 2,068 points and 1,448 rebounds. She averaged 21.2 points per game her senior year and led NCAA DII in rebounding at 15.1 rebounds per game.

### – William King, Jr. | Men's Tennis | Tuskegee University

King was a men's tennis standout for TU from 1968 to 1971 and 1974 and later became a founding member of The Commodores. As the band's popularity grew, King took a break from his studies and tennis to pursue music endeavors with his band before returning to the courts in 1974 to claim the SIAC singles title for the Golden Tigers.

### – Mabel Sanders | Women's Basketball | Savannah State University

Sanders lettered in women's basketball at SSU from 1988 to 1992. In 1991, she led the nation in rebounding with 14.5 rebounds per game and she maintained her dominance, leading the nation with 14.7 rebounds per game her senior year. She was a three-time all-conference selection, 1991 Black College Sports Information Directors All-America selection, and 1992 SIAC Player of the Year.

### – Frank Walker | Football | Tuskegee University

Walker was a defensive standout for TU football in the early 2000s before being drafted by the New York Giants in the sixth round of the 2003 NFL Draft. He contributed to the Golden Tigers winning three consecutive SIAC football championships from 2000 to 2002, and he was honored with a jersey retirement in 2013. Walker signed contracts with the New York Giants, Green Bay Packers, Baltimore Ravens, Minnesota Vikings, Tennessee Titans, and Dallas Cowboys, competing in 113 NFL games from 2003 to 2011 during his professional career.

### – Jacoby Jones | Football | Lane College

Jones was pivotal for Lane football from 2003 to 2006. As an all-purpose performer, he was named SIAC Offensive and Special Teams Player of the Year, and first-team all-SIAC in 2006. Jones was selected by the Houston Texans in the third round of the 2007 NFL Draft where he played for five seasons. In his remarkable 2011-12 season with the Baltimore Ravens, Jones recorded a 70-yard game-tying touchdown catch in the AFC Divisional playoff game, keeping the team's Super Bowl campaign alive. A few weeks later, he recorded the longest play in Super Bowl history with a 108-yard kickoff return TD in the Ravens' Super Bowl XLVII victory over San Francisco. In that game, Jones also scored on a 56-yard TD reception and set the record for the most all-purpose yards in a Super Bowl with 290 yards – a record that still stands. He should have been named the game's MVP. That season, he received his first NFL Pro Bowl selection. Jones spent nine seasons in the NFL with the Houston Texans, Baltimore Ravens, San Diego Chargers and Pittsburgh Steelers. In 2018, he returned to his alma mater to coach wide receivers for two seasons.



Jones

The SIAC Hall of Fame was established in 1992 to preserve the esteemed history of the conference and celebrate the accomplishments of former student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and contributors. Since its inception, the SIAC Hall of Fame has inducted 161 distinguished honorees.

# BCSP Spring Round-Up

## Grambling State takes SWAC baseball title; To play Friday in NCAA College Station Regional

ATLANTA, Ga. - The Grambling State Tigers, the second seed from the West Division, pushed across two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning Sunday to defeat East fourth-seed Jackson State 6-5 and earn the title in the 2024 SWAC Baseball Tournament.

Grambling (26-26) trailed 5-4 entering the bottom of the ninth inning and loaded the bases. **Trevor Hatton** hit a ball that went five feet from home plate. A Jackson State player could not field the ball cleanly and threw the ball away from the catcher at home plate. The throw went toward the Jackson State dugout and allowed two runs to score.

Tournament MVP **Cameron Bufford**, a GSU redshirt senior third baseman, scored the game winning run on the throwing error.

Rightfielder Hatton paced the GSU offensive attack vs. JSU contributing three RBIs on two hits including a double. **Kyle Walker** and **Chris Marcellus** each drove in one run. Jackson State (36-20) was led at the plate by **Myles White** who tallied two RBIs. JSU's **Christian Womble** was charged with the loss after pitching 1.1 innings and allowing one earned run. GSU's **Javier Martinez** was credited with the win for vs. JSU after pitching 2.2 innings and allowing one earned run.

Grambling got a three-run home run in the top of the ninth inning by Bufford Saturday to defeat East top seed Florida A&M 14-11 in an elimination game that forced the Sunday title game match up with JSU. Bufford was 9 for 17 with seven runs scored and nine RBIs with a triple and three home runs in the tournament.

The title marked the Tigers first since the 2010 season. It also marked the first league title for GSU head coach **Davin Pierre**.

With the win the Tigers clinched a berth in the 2024 NCAA Baseball Tournament and will play as a No. 4 seed in the College Station Regional on Friday, May 31 (12 noon) vs. top seed and host Texas A&M (43-13). Texas A&M is ranked third nationally in the tournament.

No. 2 Louisiana (40-18) and No. 3 Texas (35-22) are also in the regional.

## SWAC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

### Wed., May 22

Jackson State 17, Texas Southern 4  
Bethune-Cookman 16, Prairie View A&M 1  
Grambling State 6, Alabama State 3  
Florida A&M 8, Southern 5

### Thurs., May 23

Texas Southern 3, Prairie View A&M 2  
Alabama State 11, Southern 8  
Jackson State 11, Bethune-Cookman 6  
Florida A&M 17, Grambling State 7

### Fri., May 24

Bethune-Cookman 16, Texas Southern 0  
Grambling State 11, Alabama State 10  
Bethune-Cookman 4, Jackson State 3  
Grambling State 9, Florida A&M 3

### Sat., May 25

Jackson State 4, Bethune-Cookman 2  
Grambling State 14, Florida A&M 11

### Sun., May 26 - Championship

Grambling State 6, Jackson State 5

### SWAC ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Juan Cruz, ALST; Ty Jackson, FAMU; Ramses Cordova, B-CU; Arjun Huerta, Lenny Montesano, Je-andrick Lourens, Christian Womble, JSU; Kyle Walker, Trevor Hatton, Mason Martinez, Cameron Bufford, GSU

### MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Cameron Bufford, GSU

## NCAA DIV. II OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP HBCU RESULTS

### MEN

**4 x 100 METER RELAY**  
Albany State - 4th - 39.70 - 5 points  
Jayvon Hutchinson, Kibren Moore, Jordan Smith, Ed Gilbert - 5 pts.

### 100 METERS

Kibren Moore - Albany State  
3rd - 10.13 - 6 pts.  
Ed Gilbert - Albany State  
6th - 10.25 - 3 pts.

### 400 METER HURDLES

Sharim Hamilton - Lincoln (Mo.)  
3rd - 50.65 - 6 pts.  
Sean Kalawan - St. Augustine's  
4th - 50.92 - 5 pts.  
Jaevon Riley - Claflin  
6th - 51.13 - 3 pts.

### 200 METERS

Ed Gilbert - Albany State  
3rd - 20.65 - 6 pts.  
Kibren Moore - Albany State  
5th - 20.80 - 4 pts.

### TRIPLE JUMP

Rajaun Ricketts - Benedict  
6th - 15.69m - 3 pts.

### LONG JUMP

Markus White - Virginia State  
8th - 7.52m - 1 pt.

### TEAM RESULTS

**MEN**  
1 Pittsburg State 78 pts.  
T9 Albany State 24 pts.  
T34 Lincoln (Mo.) 6 pts.  
T38 St. Augustine's 5 pts.  
T46 Benedict 3 pts.  
T46 Claflin 3 pts.  
T60 Virginia State 1 pt.

### WOMEN

**LONG JUMP**  
M'Smrya Seward - Fayetteville State  
5th - 6.17m - 4 pts.

### DISCUS

Sydney Blackburn - Albany State  
4th - 50.58m - 5 pts.

### 400 METER HURDLES

Odeshia Nanton - Lincoln (Mo.)  
2nd - 57.62 - 8 pts.  
Maria Diamond - Lincoln (Mo.)  
4th - 59.46 - 5 pts.

### 4 x 400 RELAY

Lincoln (Mo.) - 3rd place -3:34.35  
Shoneal Clarke-Giddings, Shevannae Thomas, Odeshia Nanton, Shantae George - 6 pts.

### TEAM RESULTS

**WOMEN**  
1 Pittsburg State 100 pts.  
T13 Lincoln (Mo.) 19 pts.  
T40 Albany State 5 pts.  
T45 Fayetteville State 4 pts.

# THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

## 2024 HBCU NCAA DIV. I OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS

### WEST REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

#### MEN

#### HIGH JUMP

T1 - Caleb Snowden - Ark.-Pine Bluff - 2.20m

### EAST REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

#### MEN

#### 200 METERS

T2nd - Jamarion Stubbs - Alabama State - 19.95

#### 100 METERS

9th - Jamarion Stubbs - Alabama State - 10.07

#### 110 METER HURDLES

2nd - Jason Holmes - NC A&T - 13.40  
6th - Samuel Bennett - Howard - 13.52  
11th - Thomas Smith - NC A&T - 13.65

#### 400 METER HURDLES

12th - Noah Langford - Howard - 50.55

#### LONG JUMP

6th - James Brown - Grambling State - 7.61

#### TRIPLE JUMP

11th - Malachi Alken - Maryland-Eastern Shore - 15.77m

#### 4x100 METER RELAY

8th - NC A&T - 39.24

#### WOMEN

#### 4x100 RELAY

7th - Howard - 43.55

#### 400 METER HURDLES

5th - Simone Watkins, Howard - 55.92



Albany State Sports Photo

**GILBERT & MOORE:** Albany State sprinters Ed Gilbert (l.) and Kibren Moore (r.) had a hand in all 24 points the Golden Rams scored in the NCAA Div. II Outdoor Track & Field Championships.