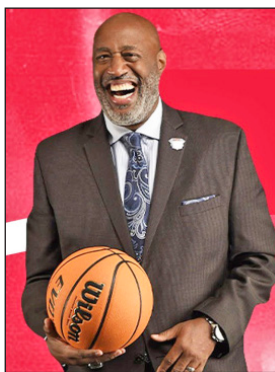


# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Winston-Salem State Sports photo

**ON THE MOVE:** Cleo Hill Jr. gets his fourth HBCU head coaching job moving to Maryland-Eastern Shore after stints at WSSU, Shaw and Cheyney.

## BEGINNINGS & ENDINGS

NEW HOOPS COACHES AT UMES, ALBANY STATE; VENERABLE HOWARD COACH PASSES; EOY AWARDS

**CIAA MEN**  
Cross Country - Fayetteville State  
Golf - Virginia Union  
Football - Virginia Union  
Basketball - Lincoln (PA)  
Indoor Track & Field - Claflin  
Outdoor Track & Field - Virginia State

**CIAA WOMEN**  
Cross Country - Fayetteville State  
Volleyball - Shaw  
Basketball - Fayetteville State  
Bowling - Fayetteville State  
Tennis - Shaw  
Indoor Track & Field - Fayetteville State  
Outdoor Track & Field - Fayetteville State  
Softball - Bowie State

**MEAC MEN**  
Cross Country - Norfolk State  
Football - Howard  
Indoor Track - Norfolk State  
Basketball (Reg. Season) - Norfolk State  
Basketball (Tournament) - Howard  
Tennis - South Carolina State  
Outdoor Track & Field - Norfolk State

**MEAC WOMEN**  
Cross Country - Norfolk State  
Volleyball - Coppin State  
Indoor Track - Howard  
Basketball (Reg. Season) - Norfolk State  
Basketball (Tournament) - Norfolk State  
Bowling - Maryland-Eastern Shore  
Tennis - South Carolina State  
Outdoor Track & Field - Howard  
Softball - Morgan State

**SIAC MEN**  
Cross Country - Morehouse  
Baseball - Edward Waters  
Golf - Miles  
Volleyball - Fort Valley State  
Football - Benedict  
Basketball - Clark Atlanta  
Tennis - Benedict  
Outdoor Track & Field - Benedict

**SIAC WOMEN**  
Cross Country - Benedict  
Volleyball - Spring Hill  
Basketball - Miles  
Tennis - Tuskegee  
Outdoor Track & Field - Albany State  
Softball - Spring Hill

**SWAC MEN**  
Cross Country - Texas Southern  
Football - Florida A&M  
Indoor Track - Texas Southern  
Basketball - Grambling State  
Golf - Arkansas-Pine Bluff  
Tennis - Alabama State  
Outdoor Track & Field - Texas Southern  
Baseball - Grambling State

**SWAC WOMEN**  
Cross Country - Florida A&M  
Soccer - Jackson State  
Volleyball - Jackson State  
Indoor Track - Florida A&M  
Basketball - Jackson State  
Bowling - Alabama State  
Golf - Alabama State  
Tennis - Alabama State  
Outdoor Track & Field - Alabama State  
Softball - Jackson State

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### CLEO HILL JR. MOVES TO UMES:

Winston-Salem State Head Men's Basketball Coach Cleo Hill Jr., who led the Rams to two CIAA tournament titles in six seasons at the helm, will be moving to Maryland-Eastern Shore of the MEAC.

After an exhaustive search, the school in Princess Anne, Maryland hired the 17-year head coaching veteran as the Hawks' new head man last week.

"During our national search, the hiring committee received an influx of interest from qualified candidates," UMES Vice President of Athletics Tara A. Owens said. "After a thorough and timely review of each candidate, Coach Hill stood out as the right person to lead our men's basketball program."

"I am ready for the opportunity to lead our men's basketball program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore," Hill said.

"My past experiences and success as well as my passion for building programs have prepared me for this next step in my coaching career. Our goal is to build Hawk basketball into a perennial championship contender while winning in the classroom and positively representing UMES in the community. I am enthusiastic about the future and look forward to developing a team that our alumni, student body and fans will be proud of."

Hill will have his hands full turning around the fortunes of the Hawks. He takes over a UMES program coming off a 9-20 2023-24 season with a 4-10 mark in MEAC play under head coach Jason Crafton. Crafton was 43-76 in four seasons guiding UMES.

The Hawks have produced just two winning seasons in men's basketball since 2000, the last coming in the 2022-23 season under Crafton when they finished 19-13.

In addition to his 95-72 overall record including two NCAA Div. II Atlantic Regional appearances at WSSU, Hill was 116-67 leading Shaw University from 2008-2015. The Bears made it to the finals of the Div. II Atlantic Region in 2011-12.

Hill's head coaching career began at Cheyney where he served as head coach of the Wolves from 2003 to 2008. He has also served as an assistant at Shaw (2000-2002), at Nebraska (1998-2000) and at Mount Zion Christian Academy following a successful playing career as a sharpshooting guard at North Carolina Central.

### FORMER HOWARD HOOPS COACH

#### A. B. WILLIAMSON PASSES:

A. B. Williamson, who ushered Howard University men's basketball into NCAA Div. I success, passed Sunday. Williamson, 81, had recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

He coached at Howard from 1976 to 1990, achieving a program-best 241 wins. He led the Bison to back-to-back MEAC Tournament championships in 1980 and 1981. The 1981 squad earned the first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance by an MEAC team. Williamson had a 108-62 record against MEAC competition. His best season was 25-5 in 1986-87 with a 13-1 conference record. He was named MEAC Coach of the Year in 1980, 1983, 1987. During his time as Howard's head man, the Bison lost an unprecedented seven straight MEAC Tournament titles (1982-88) to Williamson's alma mater, N. C. A&T.

Howard struggled to find success following Williamson's departure in 1990, winning just one MEAC title in the next 30 years. It has returned to prominence under head coach Kenneth Blakeney, who has led the team to back-to-back 2023 and 2024 MEAC titles and NCAA Tournament appearances.

"It is with profound respect and heartfelt sorrow that we acknowledge the passing of Coach AB Williamson, a distinguished figure in Howard University's history," Blakeney said in a statement. "His contributions to our men's basketball program and the impact he made on countless lives are immeasurable."

"Coach Williamson began his journey with Howard in 1975, leading our team to significant milestones, including our historic appearance in the 1981 NCAA tournament. This achievement, the first in our school's history, exemplifies his dedication and the indomitable spirit he instilled in his players."

"We remember Coach Williamson as more than a coach; he was a builder of character and a pillar of our community. His legacy as the winningest coach in Howard's history is reflected in the countless lives he touched and the enduring spirit of excellence he fostered."



Williamson (L.) and Blakeney (R.)

## BCSP Spring Round-Up

### Alabama State claims 2023-24

#### SWAC Commissioner's Cup

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - The Alabama State University Athletics Department claimed two of three Southwestern Athletic Conference 2023-24 all-sports awards winning the James Frank Commissioner's Cup and the Sadie Magee/Barbara Jacket Award for the second consecutive year.

The Texas Southern University Athletics Department claimed the C.D. Henry Award to round out the list of institutional winners.

Alabama State claimed the James Frank Commissioner's Cup signifying overall excellence after amassing 154.8 total points. Jackson State (141.8 points) and Prairie View A&M (138.5) claimed second and third place respectively.

Alabama State claimed the Sadie Magee/Barbara Jacket Award finishing with 92.8 points in the women's final standings. Florida A&M (82.8 points) and Jackson State (79.3 points) finished in second and third place respectively.

Texas Southern won the C.D. Henry Award for the first time since the 2014-15 academic year after accumulating 67.5 points in men's sponsored sports. Jackson State (62.5 points) and Prairie View A&M (62.5 points) finished tied for second place overall.

The all-sports awards are determined by program finishes in league sponsored sports. Each respective sports program finish is awarded a point value and the member institutions with the highest point totals at the conclusion of the athletic season are named the all-sports awards winners.

A complete listing of final standings and individual program point totals for the three awards can be found below.

#### JAMES FRANK COMMISSIONER'S CUP AWARD

1) Alabama State - 154.8; 2) Jackson State - 141.8; 3) Prairie View A&M - 138.5; 4) Florida A&M - 131.3; 5) Southern - 130.0; 6) Texas Southern - 124.0; 7) Alabama A&M - 105.0; 8) Grambling State - 105.0; 9) Arkansas-Pine Bluff - 103.0; 10) Alcorn State - 88.0; 11) Bethune-Cookman - 74.5 12) Mississippi Valley State - 35.0

#### MAGEE/JACKET AWARD

1) Alabama State - 92.8; 2) Florida A&M - 82.8; 3) Jackson State - 79.3; 4) Southern - 76.0; 5) Prairie View A&M - 76.0; 6) Alabama A&M - 65.5; 7) Grambling State - 58.0; 8) Texas Southern - 56.5; 9) Arkansas-Pine Bluff - 52.5; 10) Alcorn State - 41.5; 11) Bethune-Cookman - 39.0; 12) Mississippi Valley State - 18.0

#### C.D. HENRY AWARD

1. Texas Southern - 67.5; 2. Jackson State - 62.5; 3. Prairie View A&M - 62.5; 4. Alabama State - 62.0; 5. Southern - 54.0; 6. Arkansas-Pine Bluff - 50.5; 7. Florida A&M - 48.5; 8. Grambling State - 47.0; 9. Alcorn State - 46.5; 10. Alabama A&M - 39.5; 11. Bethune-Cookman - 35.5; 12. Mississippi Valley State - 17.0

### Norfolk State men, Howard women

#### win MEAC All-Sports Awards

NORFOLK, Va. -- The MEAC has announced that Norfolk State University captured the Talmadge Layman Hill Men's All-Sports Award, while Howard University won the Mary McLeod Bethune Women's All-Sports Award for the 2023-24 season.

The awards were presented during the MEAC All-Sports Award Dinner hosted at the Walt Disney World Resort, in association with Disney on the Yard, held in conjunction with the conference's annual spring meetings. The all-sports awards are indicators of the overall strengths of the conference's men's and women's athletic programs. Norfolk State and Howard were each presented with a \$20,000 check.

In addition, Maryland Eastern Shore was honored academically, posting the MEAC's highest academic progress rate (APR). For its efforts, the Hawks' athletic department received a check for \$10,000.

Coppin State was recognized as the 2024 recipient of the MEAC's Highest Graduation Success Rate (GSR). The Eagles' 83-percent GSR is the highest among MEAC institutions spanning the 2013-16 cohorts, and they received a check for \$25,000 from the conference.

In the men's tally, NSU, thanks to a regular-season championship title in basketball, as well as the champions title at the cross country, indoor and outdoor track & field championships, tallied 47 points to edge out second-place Howard (37). Howard won the conference title in football, while recording runner-up finishes in indoor track & field, basketball and outdoor track & field. North Carolina Central (32) was third in the men's all-sports standings, and South Carolina State (28.5) finished fourth.

## BCSP Notes

### Akia Stanton to lead Albany State women's hoops

ALBANY, Ga. — Albany State University Director of Athletics, Dr. Kristene Kelly, has announced that Akia Stanton will assume the women's basketball head coaching duties for long-time coach Robert Skinner, effective June 1, 2024.

Stanton has been head women's basketball coach at Talladega College (Ala.) for the past two seasons.

The energetic and self-motivated new Lady Rams' head coach brings eight years helping lead three different programs, including head coach at Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference member Allen University along with two seasons as associate head coach at South Carolina State and three campaigns as assistant coach at her alma mater Paine College. Stanton played for and later coached under

current Paine Director of Athletics Selina Kohn, who herself was a legendary basketball player at Albany State under Coach Skinner and previously served as a Lady Rams' assistant.

In the last two seasons, Stanton guided Talladega to a four-game improvement.

"I am honored and humbled to be the next head women's basketball coach at Albany State University," Stanton said. "I am committed to upholding the University's values, as well as continuing the legacy and building on the foundation Coach Robert Skinner has already laid for this great institution."

Prior to her stint as South Carolina State associate head coach, Stanton guided Allen (2018-20) to a 54-38 record over three seasons.

Coach Stanton's first head coaching stop came at Jarvis Christian College where her teams had the athletic department's highest team GPA of 3.5 for four straight years, as well

as student-athletes garnering both All-Conference and All-Academic honors. Most impressively is Stanton's 100% graduation rate.

While an assistant coach at her alma mater Paine College, Stanton saw at least one of her student-athletes voted all-SIAC from 2011 through 2017.

Under Paine College AD and then Head Coach Kohn, Stanton produced a collegiate playing career in both volleyball and basketball where she earned a 2015 induction into the Lady Lions Hall of Fame.

In basketball, Stanton helped Paine to back-to-back hoops SIAC titles in 2005 and 2006, and trips to the NCAA DII Tournament. She also recorded the second-best hitting percentage in Div. II volleyball the in 2006.

Howard finished first in the women's all-sports award with 56.5 points. The Bison secured the indoor track & field and outdoor track & field championships while finishing as runner up in cross country, volleyball, women's basketball, tennis and softball during the regular season.

Norfolk State (44) was second in the women's all-sports standings, winning the championship in cross country. The Spartans claimed the basketball regular-season title and finished as runner-up in both indoor and outdoor track & field.

This is Norfolk State's second Talmadge Layman Hill award in the last three years and the Spartans' 13th overall. Howard picked up its third consecutive Mary McLeod Bethune award and its seventh overall.

### Virginia Union men, Fayetteville State women take CIAA End-of-the-Year Awards

RICHMOND, VA (May 14, 2024) - The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) held its annual Spring General Assembly meeting and end-of-year awards reception here and



announced its highest administrative and team awards at the reception on Tuesday afternoon.

Virginia Union University won the C.H. Williams Men's All-Sports Award, while Fayetteville State University secured the Loretta Taylor Women's All-Sports Award. Both recognitions are annually awarded to CIAA institutions with the leading men's and women's athletic programs, determined by a points system.

VUU clinched 2023-2024 conference championships in football and golf. Meanwhile, FSU's women's teams seized five conference crowns during the 2023-2024 athletic year, dominating in cross country, basketball, bowling as well as indoor and outdoor track and field.

The Virginia State athletic department was recognized with the award of Most Positive Game Environment. Selected by members of the CIAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), the award is given to the school that exhibits good sportsmanship by student-athletes and coaches during both home and away contests.

Anii Harris of Bowie State University was selected as the 2023-2024 CIAA Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year while Daylin Lee of Winston-Salem State University was voted as the CIAA Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Harris led CIAA women's basketballers in scoring this season (19.5 ppg) while averaging 2.1 assists per game and recently eclipsed a career milestone of scoring her 1,000th career point. Lee recorded 1,845 total yards, with 18 touchdowns, and five rushing touchdowns for WSSU football and had a 3.93 GPA as a pre-computer science major.

Tony O'Neal of Claflin University was named CIAA Athletic Director of the Year for his efforts overseeing several facility improvements. Lawanda Miller of Fayetteville State received the Jeanette Lee Athletic Administrator of the Year Award for servant leadership. Matisse Lee of Claflin was voted CIAA Senior Woman Administrator (SWA) of the Year while Dr. Jolisa Williams of Bowie State was named CIAA John Holley Sports Information Director (SID) of the Year.

### Grambling State bows out in NCAA Div. I Baseball Regional

COLLEGE STATION, TEX - After being shutout on nine hits in an 8-0 loss to host and top seed Texas A&M on Friday, SWAC champion Grambling State was eliminated from the NCAA Div. I baseball playoffs in a 12-5 loss to Louisiana Saturday. The Tigers, seeded fourth in the College Station Regional, finish the season with a 36-38 record.

Leadoff leftfielder Tiger Borom, first baseman Ashton Inman and catcher Demarckus Smiley each had two hits vs. Texas A&M but the Tigers left 13 runners on base. Starter Mason Martinez (12-3) took the loss after giving up five hits and six earned runs thru 1 1/2 innings.

Starter Miguel Baez (0-2) gave up four hits and four runs and five walks thru 1 1/2 innings vs. Louisiana. Both Grambling third baseman Cameron Bufford and right fielder Trevor Hatton homered.



Stanton