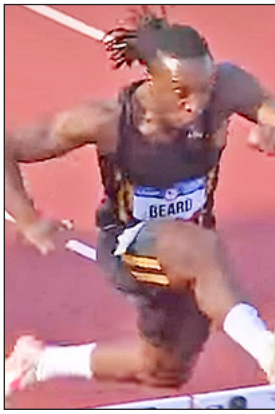


BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



NBC Track Photo

DYLAN BEARD: Howard product runs 13.19 seconds to advance to Thursday's semifinal of the 110-meter hurdles at U. S. Olympic Trials.

OLYMPIC TRIALS

TWO HBCU PRODUCTS MAKE OLYMPIC TRIAL FINALS; NSU'S COLE OUT; TROUBLE AT FAMU

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

PARKER NAMED 2023 BCFHOF TOP COACH:

Virginia Union University's head football coach, **Dr. Alvin Parker**, was named the **2023 Black College Football Hall of Fame National Coach of the Year**, by the Black College Football Hall earlier this month.

Parker completed his sixth year leading his alma mater and turned in one of the best seasons in school history. Virginia Union went 10-2, won the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)** title and appeared in the **NCAA Division II** playoffs.

A former running back for the Panthers, Parker began his coaching career at VUU in 1999 as an offensive assistant. He coached running backs for two years, then became the offensive coordinator for the 2003 season. In January of 2024, Parker was named to the Board of Trustees of the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA). He then was co-head coach for the **2024 Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl**.

"Thank you to the Black College Football Hall of Fame for this extremely prestigious award," said Parker. "It is all made possible by having the best administration, the best Staff, and of course the best student-athletes. To be mentioned with some of the greats who have won this award is truly a blessing. As I always say I'm Just Doing my part for #PLAY411."

VUU will kick off the 2024 football season when the Panthers travel to Frankfort, Ky., to face **Kentucky State** at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 31.

SWAC MEDIA DAY ATHLETES ANNOUNCED:

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.- The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** has announced the student-athletes set to participate in the league's annual **SWAC Football Media Day** on Tuesday, July 16 at 10:00 am CST at the Sheraton-Birmingham.

All twelve SWAC head football coaches will also be in attendance to address media about the upcoming 2024 football season. The athletes are:

ALABAMA A&M - RB Donovan Eaglin; DB Emari Pait **ALABAMA STATE** - QB Andrew Body; DB James Burgess **ALCORN STATE** - TE Tavarious Griffin; DL Malachi Bailey **BETHUNE-COOKMAN** - DB Raymond Woodie III; OL Trevaris Hammond **FLORIDA A&M** - DB Kendall Bohler; RB Kelvin Dean Jr. **GRAMBLING STATE** - QB Myles Crawley; DB Quintin Talley **JACKSON STATE** - DB Esaias Guthrie; OL Evan Henry **MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE** - WR Kerrick Ross; DL Jordan Bussey **PRAIRIE VIEW A&M** - DE CJ Presley; WR Shemar Savage **SOUTHERN** - WR Chandler Whitefield; DE Ckelby Givens **TEXAS SOUTHERN** - LB Jacob Williams; OL Mehdi Torrence **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF** - DE Elijah Jenkins; WR Daemon Dawkins

Current and former HBCU athletes perform well at U. S. Olympic Team Track & Field Trials

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

EUGENE, OR - Athletes with HBCU roots at the U. S. Olympic Track & Field Trials made game efforts but came up short this past week in making the team for this summer's Paris Olympics.

Former **Livingstone** and **CIAA** standout **Quanera Hayes** and former **North Carolina A&T** sprinter/long jumper **Brandon Hicklin** impressively advanced to the finals in their respective events.

Hayes, 32, the senior member of the HBCU contingent made the 400 meter finals and finished fifth in 50.55 seconds behind winner Kendall Ellis (49.46).

Hayes was second (50.94) in her first round heat and finished third (50.46) in her semifinal heat to advance to the finals on time.

She was the 400 meter champion in 49.78 at the 2021 Olympic Trials. She finished seventh in the event at the Tokyo Olympics. The 2017 U.S. 400 meter champion, had her second child after the Tokyo Olympics.

Hicklin, who won **MEAC** and **CAA** long jump titles before transferring to LSU and focusing on sprints, made the finals of the 100 meters and finished seventh in 10.03 seconds. World champion Noah Lyles won the event in 9.83 seconds.

Hicklin entered the Trials with the fifth best 100 meters time of 9.94 seconds. He ran 10.18 seconds to win his heat in round one and was second in 9.95 to Christian Coleman's 9.86 in the his semifinal heat.

Based on their finishes, both Hayes and Hicklin have shots at making U. S. relay teams - Hayes for the women's 4x400 meter relay squad and Hicklin for the men's 4x100 meter relay team

Former NC A&T sprinter and two-time NCAA sprint champion **Cambrea Sturgis** made it through to the semifinal round of the women's 100 meters. She finished sixth in 11.34 seconds in the fourth heat of round one behind SheCarri Richardson (10.88) to advance on time to the semifinal round. Sturgis was again paired with Richardson (10.86) in the first heat of the semis but finished eighth in 11.35 seconds to miss the finals.

Richardson ran 10.71 seconds to win the event.

One HBCU athlete has advanced while other have not started their competition.

Dylan Beard, who finished his collegiate career running for **David Oliver** at **Howard** after stints at **Hampton** and **Wagner**, ran 13.19 seconds in his 110-meter hurdles opening round to finish second behind Trey Cunningham (13.12) and advance to Thursday's 5:01 p.m. semifinals.

Beard, who appeared recently on NBC's *Today Show*, currently works at a WalMart deli in the Raleigh/Durham, N. C. area and is sponsored as a professional.

Former NC A&T hurdler **Michael Dickson** (13.36) was nipped for third place by Devion Wilson (13.34) in the same heat as Beard and did not advance.

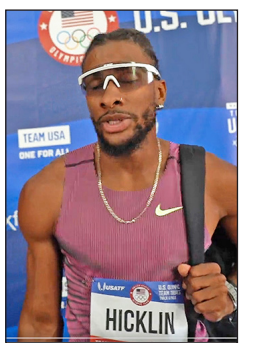
The 110-meter final is Friday at 7:50 p.m. The men's high jump with **SWAC** champion and **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** product **Caleb Snowden** in the field gets started with the qualifying round Thursday at 5 p.m. The high jump final is Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

Snowden enters with the sixth best jump at 2.26 meters (7.0 feet, 4.98 inches).

SWAC 100- and 200-meter sprint champion **Jamarion Stubbs** of **Alabama State** begins his quest to make the Olympic team Thursday (5:51 p.m.) in round one of the men's 200 meters. The semis follow Friday at 7:28 p.m. with the finals on Saturday at 6:49 p.m.

Three HBCU products are in the competition for the women's 400-meters hurdles competition that begins Thursday at 6:49 p.m.

Sydni Townsend, who has collegiate stints at NC A&T and Howard, will be joined in the competition by Howard products **Jessica Wright** and **Simone Watkins** chasing world champion and world record holder Sydney



NBC Track Photo

IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCES: Livingstone product Quanera Hayes (top. l.) finished fifth in the 400 meter finals and former NC A&T sprinter Brandon Hicklin (top r.) was seventh in the 100 meters final at the US Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon.

McLaughlin Legrone.

The 400 hurdles semis are set for 5:41 Saturday with the finals scheduled for 5:29 p.m. on Sunday's final day of the Trials.

Wright was also in the field for the women's 400 meters but did not advance as she finished seventh in 52.76 in the first heat or round one.

Non-USATF sanctioned MEAC track title costs NSU's Cole shot at Olympics

NORFOLK, Va. — **Norfolk State** sprinter **Kai Cole** won the **MEAC** Outdoor 100 meters in a time that qualified him for the 2024 U. S. Olympic Trials over the past week in Eugene, Oregon. But that opportunity was taken away from him due to the conference's championship



Cole

not behind sanctioned by the governing body of USA Track & Field.

Cole, who was also the MEAC's outdoor 200-meter and indoor 60-meter champion, ran a Olympic Trials qualifying time of 10.05 seconds in winning the MEAC Outdoor 100 title. The MEAC championships however are not a USATF-sanctioned event meaning that his time did not meet the USATF requirements.

The USATF, in response to a request from **HBCUSports.com**, released the following statement:

"Beginning with the 2023 USATF Outdoor Championships, USATF implemented qualifying criteria by which athletes now must achieve a legal mark in a USATF-sanctioned meet and/or an event which appears on the WA Global Calendar to qualify for USATF Championships and Olympic Trials," the statement said. "This updated requirement has been posted under Qualifying Information on the event pages for the 2023 USATF Outdoor Championships, 2024 USATF Indoor Championships, and 2024

US Olympic Team Trials.

"This change was in line with the implementation of the World Athletics Global Calendar, which was implemented in 2023 to ensure fair and equitable competition worldwide. USATF is committed to ensuring fair competition for all athletes at the USATF Championships and Olympic Trials and this means athletes must qualify at meets operating under USATF/World Athletics Rules."

The MEAC issued the following statement on their website:

"The MEAC was recently informed that our multiple appeals submitted last week to have Kai Cole approved to compete at this year's USATF Olympic Trials were denied by USATF, despite his posting an automatic qualifying time at the MEAC Outdoor Track & Field Championship. Although the MEAC Outdoor Track and Field Championship remains an official NCAA Division-I championship event, USATF policy changes implemented this year resulted in the event not being officially sanctioned by USATF, making all competition results ineligible for Olympic Trial qualification. We understand Kai's frustration and took all available steps to rectify the situation so he could compete in the Olympic Trials - an opportunity he clearly deserves. The MEAC fully supports our member institutions and student-athletes as they pursue their dreams and strive for excellence. We are disappointed by the decision from USATF and are working to ensure our track and field championships are sanctioned USATF events moving forward."

BCSP Notes

MEAC announces 2024 Football Schedule on ESPN Platforms

NORFOLK, Va., June 18, 2024 – The **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** announced last week its football schedule for the 2024 season across ESPN platforms, including games on linear networks (ABC and ESPNU) and ESPN+, the leading sports streaming service.

The schedule is highlighted by a bookend of non-conference matchups in Atlanta on ABC – **Cricket MEAC/SWAC Challenge** (Saturday, Aug. 24) and the postseason **Cricket Celebration Bowl** (Saturday, Dec. 14).

Of the conference's 55 regular season games, MEAC teams are slated to make 45 appearances in televised/streamed games – 81.8 percent of the schedule. Additional broadcast dates and times will be announced at a later time.

MEAC teams will be featured in seven nationally televised games on ESPNU. In addition, all conference matchups will be streamed live on ESPN+.

The MEAC ESPNU "Game of the Week" begins on Saturday, Oct. 26, as a part of a wildcard matchup to be announced in early October. A series of televised wildcard matchups continues each Saturday and concludes with the conference's regular-season schedule on Nov. 23. All matchups will be announced at least 12 days ahead of the game.

A pair of conference games to be aired on ESPNU on Thursday and Friday night. The first is set for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31 when **North Carolina Central** travels to **South Carolina State**, while the second features **Howard** and **North Carolina Central** at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15 in Durham, N.C.

The **Cricket MEAC/SWAC Challenge** kickoff is scheduled for Week 0's opener between **Norfolk State** and **Florida A&M** on Saturday, August 24. The game will air for the first time on ABC, beginning at 7:30 PM ET.

For more information on MEAC football, visit MEACSports.com.

List of 2024 MEAC games on ESPN Football Schedule

SATURDAY, AUG. 24

Florida A&M vs. Norfolk State, ABC, 7:30 p.m.
Delaware at Hawaii, CBS, TBD

THURSDAY, AUG. 29

Howard at Rutgers, Big Ten Network, 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUG. 31

Morgan State at Hampton, FloFootball, 6:00 p.m.
Norfolk State at East Carolina, ESPN+, 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 1

NCCU vs. Alabama State, ESPN, 3:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 7

Mercyhurst at Howard, ESPN+, TBD
South Carolina State at The Citadel, ESPN+, 12:00 p.m.
Virginia State at Norfolk State, ESPN+, 2:00 p.m.
Elon at North Carolina Central, ESPN+, 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 14

Hampton at Norfolk State, ESPN+, 2:00 p.m.
Wagner at Delaware State, ESPN+, 3:00 p.m.
Morehouse Coll. vs Howard, CNBC, 3:00 p.m.
Morgan State at Ohio Univ., ESPN+, 3:30 p.m.
NC Central at UNC-Chapel Hill, ESPN+/ACC Network, 6:00 p.m.
South Carolina State at Georgia Southern, ESPN+, 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 21

Hampton at Howard, ESPN+, TBD
Virginia Univ. of Lynchburg at Morgan State, ESPN+, TBD
Richmond at Delaware State, ESPN+, 6:00 p.m.
North Carolina A&T at North Carolina Central, ESPNU, 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 28

North Carolina Central at Norfolk State *, ESPN+, 3:00 p.m.
North Carolina A&T at South Carolina State, ESPN+, 6:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 5

Saint Francis at Delaware State, ESPN+, 1:00 p.m.
Lincoln Univ. (Pa.) at Morgan State, ESPN+, 1:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 12

Sacred Heart at Howard, ESPN+, TBD
Merrimack at Morgan State, ESPN+, TBD
Towson at Norfolk State, ESPN+, 2:00 p.m.
Virginia-Lynchburg at NC Central, ESPN+, 2:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 19

Tennessee State at Howard, ESPN+, TBD
Fort Valley at South Carolina State, ESPN+, 2:00 p.m.
OCTOBER 26 (ESPNU wild-card matchup to be announced)
Delaware State at SC State *, ESPN Platforms, 1:30 p.m.
Howard at Norfolk State *, ESPN Platforms, 2:00 p.m.
Morgan State at NC Central *, ESPN Platforms, 3:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 31

NC Central at South Carolina State *, ESPNU, 7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2

Delaware State at Howard *, ESPN+, TBD
Norfolk State at Morgan State *, ESPN+, TBD

NOVEMBER 9 (ESPNU wild-card matchup to be announced)
Morgan State at Delaware State *, ESPN Platforms, 1:00 p.m.
South Carolina State at Howard *, ESPN Platforms, 3:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 15

Howard at North Carolina Central *, ESPNU, 8:00 p.m.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

2024 U. S. OLYMPIC TEAM TRIALS HBCU TRACK & FIELD RESULTS

June 21-30, Eugene, Oregon

MEN

100 METERS

Brandon Hicklin, LSU, NC A&T

Round 1, Heat 3 - 10.18, 1st - Advanced
Semifinal - Heat 3 - 9.95, 2nd - Advanced

Final - 7th - 10.03

110 METER HURDLES

Dylan Beard, unattached, Howard

Round 1, Heat 4 - 2nd - 13.19 - Advanced
Semifinal - Thursday, 5:01 p.m.

Final - Friday, 7:50 p.m.

Michael Dickson, More Sports MG, NC A&T

Round 1, Heat 4 - 4th - 13.36 - DNA

WOMEN

400 METERS

Quanera Hayes, NIKE, Livingstone

Round 1 - Heat 5 - 50.94, 2nd - Advanced
Semifinal - Heat 2 - 50.46, 3rd - Advanced on Time

Final - 5th - 50.55

100 METERS

Cambrea Sturgis, adidas, NC A&T

Round 1, Heat 4 - 11.34, 6th - Advanced on Time
Semifinal, Heat 1 - 11.35, 8th - DNA

400 METERS

Jessica Wright, Howard

Round 1, Heat 1 - 52.76, 8th - DNA