

Snowden's second-place finish in high jump not good enough to earn ticket to Paris

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EUGENE, OR - Four track & field athletes with black college roots made it to U. S. Olympic Trials finals over the weekend but none will represent the nation at the Paris Summer Games.

Arkansas-Pine Bluff senior high jumper **Caleb Snowden**, **Alabama State** senior sprinter **Jamarion Stubbs**, former **North Carolina A&T** hurdler **Michael Dickson** and former **Howard** and **N. C. A&T** 400 meter hurdler **Sydni Townsend** all made the finals in their respective events but could not post marks to earn a trip to the 2024 Games.

Caleb Snowden - High Jump

Snowden, the 2024 **SWAC** indoor and outdoor high jump champion who holds school and conference records, matched his career-best height of 2.27 meters (7 feet, five 1/4 inches) to take second place in the high jump final during Sunday's closing day at the week-long Trials.

He and event winner **Shelby McEwen** of **NIKE** were the only athletes to clear 2.27 meters in the competition.

Although Snowden finished second, that alone did not guarantee him an Olympic berth as he has not cleared the Olympic standard of 2.33 meters. McEwen, ranked among the top ten high jumpers in the world, entered the competition already having cleared the Olympic standard.

Snowden made three attempts to match McEwen's 2.30 winning height in the competition but was not successful.

"As a whole, I feel I'm satisfied with it," Snowden said to FloTrack after the competition. "Just coming out getting a personal best and second place, that's not too bad.

"I want to keep jumping, even after college. So that's the future right now."

McEwen cleared the height in his first and only attempt to take the gold medal. Nebraska's **Tyus Wilson** had fewer misses at 2.24 meters (7 feet, 4 1/4 inches) to beat out **JuVaughn Harrison**, the 3rd-ranked high jumper in the world, for third. Wilson has also not cleared the Olympic standard. Had Harrison finished third he would have earned a trip to Paris as he had cleared the standard.

McEwen made three unsuccessful attempts to clear 2.36 meters (7 feet, 8 3/4 in.).

Snowden, one of 12 athletes to reach the finals, entered the competition with the sixth best clearance of 2.26 meters. He surpassed that in his third and final attempt at 2.27m Sunday. Snowden along with nine others cleared 2.19 meters Thursday to advance to the high jump final. Two others reached the finals with clearances at 2.14 meters.

Snowden made history earlier this year at the **NCAA Indoor Championships** by becoming the first student-athlete in **UAPB** history to be named an All-American since joining the **NCAA**. He finished second there.

Additionally, Snowden achieved another milestone as the first high jumper from a **Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)** to secure a top-three position in both the **NCAA Indoor and Outdoor Championships** in the same year. He finished third outdoors.

Officials at **UAPB** told **Pine Bluff, Arkansas's** daily *Commercial* newspaper it was still possible Snowden could make the Olympic team.

Jamarion Stubbs - 200 meters

Stubbs, the 2024 **SWAC** 100 and 200 meter outdoor champion, earned the ninth and last spot in the men's 200 meter finals by posting a time of 20.31 seconds in Friday's semifinals.

He could not better that mark in Saturday's last event as he ran 20.60 in the 200 final to finish ninth.

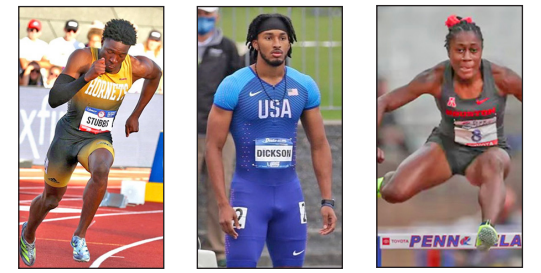
Noah Lyles won the 200 in 19.53, well off **Usain Bolt's** world record of 19.19 run in the 2009 World Championships. **Kenny Bednarek**, who finished second to **Lyles** in the 100 meters, grabbed another runners-up finish in the 200 in 19.59. Twenty-year old **Erryon Knight** was third in 19.77.

Stubbs' 20.31 time was fourth in Heat 2 of Friday's semifinals to **Bednarek** (19.96). He advanced to the finals on time.

Former **North Carolina A&T** long jumper **Brandon Hicklin**, who transferred to **LSU** and focused on sprints, ran 20.46 in Friday's Heat 1 semifinal won by **Knighthorn** (19.93). **Hicklin** tied for the 13th fastest time and missed out on the final.

Michael Dickson - 110-Meter Hurdles

Dickson, who now runs for **More Sports**



CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR: Alabama State senior sprinter **Jamarion Stubbs** (l.) former **N.C. A&T** 110-meter hurdler **Michael Dickson** (c.) and former **Howard** 400-meter hurdler **Sydni Townsend** (r.) made it to the final round of the U. S. Olympic Track & Field team Trials over the weekend.

MG, posted the fourth-best time of 13.19 seconds in Thursday's semifinal to earn one of the nine spots in Friday's final. It was **Dickson's** career-best time. He was second in that semifinal heat to **Daniel Roberts** (13.11).

He finished seventh in the finals in 13.21. World champion **Grant Holloway** won the event in 12.86 seconds. **Freddie Crittenden** was second in 12.93 with **Roberts** third in 12.96.

Dylan Beard, who finished his collegiate career running for **David Oliver** at **Howard** after stints at **Hampton** and **Wagner**, ran 13.38 to finish fifth in Thursday's first semifinal heat and not make the final. **Beard** ran 13.19 in the opening round to advance to the semis.

Sydni Townsend - 400-Meter Hurdles

Townsend, who finished her collegiate career at **Houston**, was part of the 400 meter hurdles final Sunday evening that closed out the Trials. She earned the eighth spot in the finals with a 55.26 clocking in Saturday's semifinals.

Townsend was ninth in the finals in 55.47 seconds as world record holder **Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone** set a new world mark blazing to a time of 50.65 seconds, three hundreds of a second better than her previous mark. She won the race by two seconds. It is her ninth time breaking the world record in the event. **McLaughlin-Levrone** is the only woman in the history of the event to run sub-51 seconds.

Anna Cockrell (52.64) and **Jasmine Jones** (52.77) ran personal bests to finish behind **McLaughlin-Levrone**.

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



U. S. Olympic Trials Photo

CASHING IN ON TRAINING

CALEB SNOWDEN: Arkansas-Pine Bluff high jumper interviewed after his second place finish at the U. S. Olympic Track & Field Trials.

OLYMPIC TRIALS WRAP; ONE HBCU PLAYER IN FOR NBA SUMMER LEAGUE, OTHERS HOPEFUL

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



HBCU All-Stars Photo

WILLIAMS: On right, with the HBCU All-Stars in Paris.

SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL TOUR FOR HBCU ALL-STAR HOOPERS:

The 10-member **HBCU All-Star** basketball squad successfully completed its first-ever international tour in France last week after competing in the *QUIA 54 International Tournament* and a series of friendly exhibition games.

The team, assembled by **HBCU All-Star** founder **Travis Williams** and led by **HBCU** head coaching legend **Cy Alexander**, was made up of players from all four **HBCU** conferences and **Tennessee State**.

"What an amazing and historic moment," said **Williams** on Instagram of the seven-day trip. "It was an opportunity for ten of our most esteemed **HBCU All-Star** Game alums to participate in this historic moment.

"This was truly a remarkable journey and lifetime moment for many of those young men, but more importantly, for the **HBCU** basketball culture. We are global from this moment forward and moving forward toward the future."

The team played a total of five games. It fell in its only tournament game, 42-38 in an abbreviated 18-minute format. No U. S. team has won a first round game in the years participating in the tournament.

"Had the game been 40 minutes, we would have won," said **Alexander** while not making excuses. "We got off to a very slow start but we adjusted and played better as the game wore on."

The game was played before a crowd of 5-6,000 fans. In the friendly exhibition contests, the team went 2-2 against European pro competition.

"I was very pleased with how our squad handled themselves in a very hostile environment with the fans and tough officiating," **Alexander** said. For example in the *QUIA* Tournament, the Spanish team scored 19 of its 42 points from the free throw line.

"I thought they represented their families, their **HBCUs** and the U. S. extremely well," **Alexander** said. "I think the trip was a major success."

BCSP Notes



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: Former **JC Smith** and **CIAA** champion **Danielle Williams** rests after clinching her spot on the 2024 **Jamaican Olympic** team with a second-place finish in the women's 100 meter hurdles.

Former J. C. Smith hurdler makes Jamaican national team for Paris

Former **Johnson C. Smith** hurdler and world champion **Danielle Williams** punched her ticket to Paris for her first-ever Summer Olympics after her performance in the **Jamaican Olympic Trials**.

Williams finished second in the women's 100-meter hurdles finals finishing in 12.53 seconds behind **Ackeraeter Nugent**, who set a **Jamaican** national record in 12.28.

Williams won World Championships in the event in 2015 and 2023. **Williams** has personal bests of 12.32 seconds run in 2019.

The former **Golden Bull** is looking to become the first athlete to win an Olympic medal in the women's 100 hurdles one year after winning a World Championship in the event since **Australian** athlete **Sally Pearson** did it in 2012.

G-League performance earns former Texas Southern star NBA Summer League spot

No **HBCU** player was taken in the June 26-27 **NBA Draft** but at least one former **HBCU** hooper will get to his show stuff in the **NBA Summer League**.

Former 6-9 **Texas Southern** standout center/forward **Jordan Karl Nicholas** is on the roster of the **Los Angeles Lakers** in the **Las Vegas Summer League**.

Nicholas, who last played for **TSU** in the 2022-23 season, will join a **Lakers'** roster in **Las Vegas** that includes high-profile players like **Bronny James**, the son of **NBA** legend **LeBron James**, and **Tennessee** sharpshooter **Dalton Knecht**.

The **Lakers** will start their summer league schedule by facing the **Houston Rockets'** summer league team on Friday, July 12th, at 7:30 PM EST. The game will be broadcast on **ESPN**.

The **Houston** native began his collegiate

career at **Stephen F. Austin** before transferring to **TSU** where because of **NCAA** rules, he sat out the 2019-20 season. When he did hit the court at **TSU**, he made an immediate impact. Over three seasons from 2021 to 2023, **Nicholas** helped lead the **Tigers** to three consecutive **SWAC** tournament championships.

In 88 games with the **Tigers**, **Nicholas** averaged 10.1 points and 7.2 rebounds per game while shooting 54% from the field. His standout season came in 2023 when he was named to the **All-SWAC Second Team** after averaging 10.7 points and a conference-leading 8.9 rebounds per game.

But it was during the 2021 **SWAC** tournament that **Nicholas** showed he was a true force to be reckoned with. In three tournament games, he was a dominant low-post presence, averaging 18 points per game on an incredible 69% shooting, pulling down 10.7 rebounds per contest, and adding 1.7 blocks per game. His efforts earned him a spot on the **All-SWAC Tournament** team and secured the championship for **TSU**.

This past season, **Nicholas** transitioned to the **NBA G-League** as a member of the **South Bay Lakers**, the minor league affiliate of the **LA Lakers**. In 26 games, including 14 starts, he averaged 7.9 points and 6.0 rebounds per game while shooting 50% from the field. His 19.7 minutes per game provided him with invaluable experience and exposure.

A few other **HBCU** products are waiting to hear their names announced on 2024 **Summer League** squads after stints in the **G-League**.

Six-ten center **Makur Maker**, a much ballyhooed recruit when he signed to play for **Howard** in the 2020-21 season, is one of them. After playing in **Howard's** first two games in 2020, **Maker** was ruled out indefinitely early in the season (November) due to a groin injury suffered in preseason practice.

He began playing professionally for the **Sydney Kings** of the **National Basketball League (NBL)** in 2021. He joined the **Chicago Bulls** for the 2022 **NBA Summer League** and was later signed and waived by the **Washington Wizards**. **Maker** was named to the opening night roster for the **Wizards'** **G-League** team, the **Capital City Go-Gos**. In October 2023, **Maker** signed with the **Toronto Raptors** but was waived on October 20 and later joined the **Raptors 905 G-League** team.

In 21 games and nine starts for the 905 this past season, **Maker** averaged 9.5 points and 6.4 rebounds per game while shooting 45.1% from the field and 29.8% from behind the arc.

Kong Kong is a 6-6 small forward who



G-LEAGUE PLAYERS: **Makur Maker** of **Toronto** (top. l.), **Kong Kong** of **Oklahoma City** (top. c.), **Javonte Cooke** of **Iowa** (top. r.) and **Antoine Davis** (r.) of **Portland** are looking for **NBA Summer League** spots.

played for **Rochester** and **Emporia State** before transferring to **Kentucky State** of the **SIAC** from 2021-23. As a senior at **KSU**, he averaged 10 points, five rebounds, and 1.6 assists while totalling 36 blocks and 24 steals.

After going undrafted in the 2023 **NBA** draft, **Kong** joined the **Oklahoma City Thunder G-League** team, the **Oklahoma City Blue** on October 31, 2023 but was waived on November 6. On November 23, he re-signed with the **Blue**, but was waived on December 3. On January 26, he was re-signed only to be waived five days later.

On February 12, he was back with **Oklahoma City** but was waived again on February 27 only to be re-signed two days later. Throughout the year, he made 10 appearances while averaging 2.0 points, 0.8 rebounds and 0.6 assists in 9.5 minutes, winning the **G League** title with the **Blue**.

Javonte Cooke was a 6-6 redshirt senior all-**CIAA** guard during the 2021-22 regular season and all-**CIAA** Tournament selection at **Winston-Salem State**. **Cooke** averaged 17.5 points per game at **WSSU**. He has played the past two seasons for the **Iowa Wolves** of the **G-League**.

He averaged 8.0 points per game for the **Wolves** in the 2022-23 season and 16.8 ppg. this past season while shooting 44.5% from the floor and 37.5% in 3 pointers.

Former **TSU** signee **Antoine Davis** who left the **Tigers** with his father, former **TSU** head **Mike Davis**, as he left to become the head coach at **Detroit Mercy** in 2018, was on the **Portland Trailblazers'** **Summer League** team in 2023 and on their **G-League** squad this past season.

In four years at **Detroit Mercy**, **Davis** was a two-time **Horizon League** player of the year and finished his career as **NCAA Division I's** second all-time leading scorer with 3,664 points and all-time three-point shot maker.

After going undrafted in the 2023 **NBA** draft, **Davis** joined the **Portland Trail Blazers** for the 2023 **NBA Summer League** and on October 2, 2023, he signed with them. However, he was waived on October and on October 30, he joined the **Rip City Remix** of the **NBA G League**.

In 28 games in the season with the **Remix**, he averaged 17.8 points per game, 49th best in the league, while shooting 42.4% from the floor and 38.2% from 3-point range.

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

HIGH JUMP

Caleb Snowden, Arkansas-Pine Bluff

First Round, 2.19m - Advanced

Final - 2.27m - 2nd

110 METER HURDLES

Michael Dickson, More Sports MG, NC A&T

Round 1, Heat 3 - 4th, 13.36 - Advanced on Time

Semifinal, Heat 3 - 2nd, 13.19 - Advanced

Final - 7th, 13.21

Dylan Beard, unattached, Howard

Round 1, Heat 4 - 2nd, 13.19 - Advanced

Semifinal - 5th, 13.38 - DNA

200 METERS

Jamarion Stubbs, Alabama State

Round 1, Heat 1 - 3rd, 20.44 - Advanced

Semifinal, Heat 2 - 4th, 20.31 - Advanced on Time

Final - 20.60, 9th

Brandon Hicklin, NC A&T, LSU

Round 1, Heat 2 - 5th, 20.53 - Advanced on Time

Semifinal, Heat 1 - 3rd, 20.46 - DNA

WOMEN

400 METER HURDLES

Sydni Townsend, Howard/NC A&T, Houston

Round 1, Heat 2 - 2nd, 55.72 - Advanced

Semifinal, Heat 2 - 3rd, 55.26 - Advanced on Time

Final - 9th, 55.47