

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Norfolk State Sports photo

END OF SEASON CHANGES

ALABAMA STATE, PRAIRIE VIEW WOMEN, ALABAMA A&M, ALLEN MEN LOSE COACHES; HOWARD SHINES IN UFL DEBUT

STAYING PUT: Coming off MEAC regular season and tournament titles and a third NCAA Tourney berth, Norfolk State inks men's head coach Robert Jones for seven more years.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

A GREAT START IN THE UFL:

Former **Alcorn State** star running back **Jarveon Howard** had a big performance in his United Football League debut Friday.



Howard

Howard rushed for 115 yards on 13 carries including a 74-yard touchdown as his St. Louis Battlehawks downed the Houston Roughnecks 31-6.

His 115 rushing yards set a Battlehawks single-game record and his 74-yard touchdown set a UFL record (since broken) for the longest run in regular season history. Howard also caught three passes for 18 yards

As a team, the Battlehawks rushed for a UFL record 273 yards and gained 460 yards total (second-most in UFL history).

Howard transferred to Alcorn State in 2022, having previously played three seasons at Syracuse. He spent two seasons with the Braves and was named to the **All-SWAC** team each season.

This includes the 2022 season, during which he was named SWAC Newcomer of the Year after leading the conference with 1,273 rushing yards.

Upon going undrafted in the 2024 NFL Draft, Howard signed as an undrafted free agent with the Green Bay Packers.

TOURNAMENT RECAPS

WOMEN'S NATION INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (WNIT) - SECOND ROUND

Cleveland State 72, **Coppin State** 70, OT
CLEVELAND, OH - Cleveland State, down nine (52-43) early in the fourth quarter, stormed back to force overtime at 58 and outscored MEAC member **Coppin State** 14-12 in the extra period to prevail 72-70 in a second round WNIT game here Tuesday evening. CSU was the final black college team alive in postseason play.

It was a fitting end to a game that was close throughout. The teams were tied at 32 at halftime with CSU (19-15) leading 44-43 entering the final period.

Junior guard **Angel Jones** did all she could do, leading the Lady Eagles with 27 points, four rebounds, four steals and three assists. **Cire Worley** had 13 points. All-MEAC first team center **Laila Lawrence** had 9 points and a team-best 10 rebounds before fouling out in the last minute of regulation.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL STARS IN THE TRANSFER PORTAL

MEN

Blake Harper, 6-8, Fr., G, **Howard** - 19.5 ppg. (1st), 6.2 rpg. (4th), .447 FG (8th), 82.5% FT (5th), 3.4 apg. (4th), 1.5 a/to (5th), 34.5 mpg. (2nd) - MEAC PLAYER AND ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Sterling Young, 6-1, Sr., G, **Florida A&M** - 17.0 ppg. (T1st), 44% FG (2nd), 35% 3FG, 81% FT (2nd), 2.1 3pg. (5th), SWAC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Brian Moore Jr., 6-2, Gr., G, **Norfolk State** - 18.1 ppg. (2nd), 54.5% FG (2nd), 81.5% FT (6th), 3.0 apg. (7th), 1.9 a/to (2nd), 1.3 spg. (T5th), 31.3 mpg. (8th) - 1ST TEAM ALL-MEAC, NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Drayton Jones, 6-9, So., C, **SC State** - 13.0 ppg., (12th), 5.5 rpg. (10th), 1.7 bpg. (1st), 1ST TEAM ALL-MEAC

Tanahj Pettway, 6-2, Sr., PG, **Prairie View A&M** - 17.0 ppg. (T1st), 44.1% FG (1st), 68.5% FT (11th), 1.7 3pg (10th), 31.1 mpg. (8th) - 1ST TEAM ALL-SWAC

Amarr Knox, 6-3, ??, G, **Alabama State** - 14.5 ppg. (6th), 40.1% FG (4th), 75.5% FT (3rd), 1.7 spg. (3rd) - 1ST TEAM ALL-SWAC

Po'Boigh King, **NC Central**, 16.7 ppg. (5th), 43.7% FG (9th), 2.2 3pg (5th), 1.2 spg. (9th), 30.7 mpg. (10th) - 2ND TEAM ALL-MEAC

Kavion McClain, 5-10, Sr. G, **Texas Southern** - 13.9 ppg. (9th), 2.2 3pg. (4th), 4.4 apg., (1st), 1.7 spg. (2nd), 31.4 mpg. (4th) - 2ND TEAM ALL-SWAC

A. C. Bryant, 6-3, Jr., G, **Alabama A&M** - 14.0 ppg. (8th), .667 FT% (8th), 1.6 3pg (12th), 1.4 spg. (11th) - 2ND TEAM ALL-SWAC

Ketron "KC" Shaw, 6-5, Jr., G, **Maryland-Eastern Shore** - 18.0 ppg. (4th), 5.9 rpg. (5th), 45.4% FG (5th), 3.1 apg. (6th), 35.1 mpg. (1st) - 3RD TEAM ALL-MEAC

Kaseem Watson, 6-9, So., F, **Delaware State** - 15.5 ppg. (8th), 5.8 rpg. (8th), 50.9% FG (3rd), 32.4 mpg. (5th) - 3RD TEAM ALL-MEAC

Brandon Weston, 6-5, R-Jr., G, **Tennessee State** - 16.0 ppg (5th, OVC), 84.2% FT (3rd) - OVC ALL-NEWCOMER TEAM

Jahnathan Lamothe, 6-4, So., G, **NC A&T** - 13.8 ppg. (19th in CAA)

WOMEN

Kierra Wheeler, 6-1, Sr., F, **Norfolk State** - 15.8 ppg. (3rd), 8.9 rpg. (2nd), 48.0% FG (2nd), 2.4 bpg. (1st), 1.9 spg. (4th), 31.6 mpg. (8th) - 1ST TEAM ALL-MEAC

Naya Ojukwu, 6-1, R-Fr., F, **Morgan State** - 17.1 ppg. (2nd), 9.0 rpg. (2nd), 48.9% FG (2nd), 1ST TEAM ALL-MEAC

Anjanae Richardson, 5-8, So., G, **Norfolk State** - 9.7 ppg. (16th), 3RD TEAM ALL-MEAC

Hoops News

Men's and women's HBCU all-star games tip off this weekend during men's Final Four

The fourth annual Men's Basketball HBCU All-Star Game and the first-ever Women's Basketball HBCU All-Star Game are set to be played this Sunday (April 6) in San Antonio, site of this year's Men's Final Four.

The doubleheader will feature 24 of the nation's top HBCU men's and women's graduating senior hoopsters from the four HBCU conferences - the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA), the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC), the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) and the **Southwest Athletic Conference** (SWAC) and players from HBCUs not in HBCU conferences - **Hampton, Tennessee State and North Carolina A&T**.

The games will be played at Freeman Coliseum with the men's game beginning at 12 noon and the women's game immediately following. The CW Network is the new broadcast partner to the all-star game and will carry the men's game live.

The games are scheduled between Saturday's men's Final Four and the Monday, April 7, men's championship game.

"This is a history in the making, a truly game-changing moment for black college basketball, and hosting the first-ever women's HBCU All-Star Game is special to us," *HBCU All-Stars LLC* Founder and CEO **Travis L. Williams** told *HBCU Legends*.

"It is long overdue that female athletes receive visibility, greater equality, and coverage during this epic HBCU All-Star Game. On Sunday, Apr. 6, we will honor and celebrate the rich history, tradition, and contributions of HBCUs to the sport of college basketball.

"We are grateful to celebrate black excellence at the highest level on and off the basketball court during college basketball's biggest weekend when all eyes around the world are on the great city of San Antonio during Final Four Weekend. These players that have been selected from our 2024-25 basketball season and top 100 Watch List represent the best in college basketball at our country's esteemed black colleges and universities."

The men's teams are named for former black college and NBA Hall of Famers **Al Attles** of **North Carolina A&T** and **Golden State Warriors** fame and **Bob Love** of **Southern University** and the **Chicago Bulls**. The women's teams are named for prolific black college and NCAA scorer **Patricia Hoskins** of **Mississippi Valley State** and **Yolanda Laney** a groundbreaking hoops star and coach at **Cheyney University**.

The Love team, made up of players from the CIAA and SWAC, will be coached by **Southern** head coach **Kevin Johnson** and **Luke D'Alessio** of **Fayetteville State**. The Attles squad, consisting of players from the SIAC and MEAC will be led by **South Carolina State** head coach **Erik Martin** and **Morehouse** head coach **Doug Whittler**.

The Hoskins team of players from the CIAA and SWAC will be coached by SWAC women's champion head coach **Carlos Funchess** of **Southern** and **Virginia State** women's head coach **Nadine Domond**. **Larry Vickers**, who led **Norfolk State** to its third straight MEAC title and **Clark Atlanta** head coach **Tony Bailey** will lead the Laney squad of MEAC and SIAC talents.

The rosters:

TEAM AL ATTLES - Erik Martin (SC State) and Doug Whittler (Morehouse) - Coaches Kameron Hobbs, Morgan State; Alvin Miles, Miles; Evan Johnson, UMES; Christian Ings, Norfolk State; Martaz Robinson, Delaware State; Marcus Dockery, Howard; Jalen Williams, Clark Atlanta; Omar Croskey, SC State; Davion Everett, SC State; Jesus Carralero Martin, Bethune Cookman; Ahmir Langlais, Tennessee State; Tyrel Bladen, Norfolk State

TEAM BOB LOVE - Kevin Johnson (Southern) and Luke D'Alessio (Fayetteville State) - Coaches Robert Smith, Delaware State; Tairrell Fletcher, Fayetteville State; Kevin Sesberry, Tuskegee; T.J. Madlock, Alabama State; Jordan Hinds, Bluefield State; Derrick Tezeno, Southern; Bakir Cleveland, Lincoln (PA); Wayne Bristol Jr., Hampton; Ernest Ross, Grambling State; Kenny Hunter, Texas Southern; Romelle Mansel, Jackson State; 12. Shannon Grant, Jackson State

TEAM YOLANDA LANEY - Larry Vickers (Norfolk State) and Tony Bailey (Clark Atlanta) - Coaches Diamond Johnson, Norfolk State; Iemyiah Harris, Miles; Zamara Haynes, UMES; Jordyn Dorsey, NC A&T; Saniah Parker, Tennessee State; Tailah Wesley, Allen; Maleia Bracone, NC A&T; Kaiya Creek, Howard; Makoye Diawara, Norfolk State; Morgan Callahan, NC Central; Corriana Evans, Clark Atlanta; Laila Lawrence, Coppin State

TEAM PATRICIA HOSKINS - Carlos Funchess (Southern) and Nadine Domond (Va. State) - Coaches Destiny Ryles, Bowie State; Kahia Warnsley, Grambling State; Keayna McLaughlin, Fayetteville State; Lauryn Pendleton, Alabama A&M; Zoe Cooper, Jackson State; Soniyah Reed, Southern; Lyric Cole, Tennessee State; Amehsa Miller, Virginia State; Treasure Thompson, Texas Southern; Alisha Wilson, Alabama A&M; Kayla Clark, Bethune Cookman; Lydia Freeman, Grambling State

Norfolk State head coach Robert Jones receives contract extension

NORFOLK, Va. - **Norfolk State** director of athletics **Dr. Melody Webb** announced Saturday that head men's basketball coach **Robert Jones'** contract has been extended through the 2031-32 season.

"We are ecstatic to announce this contract extension," Webb said. "Coach Jones has been a part of every historic milestone this program has accomplished at the Division I level, building a winning culture that stands alone at the top of the MEAC. I am confident that his team will not only maintain the prestigious standard that Coach Jones has set in place but continue to grow and reach unprecedented heights."

Accumulating over 230 wins across 12 seasons, Jones has guided the Spartans to their greatest run of the team's NCAA Division I era. Most recently, NSU defeated **South Carolina State** 66-65 to win the 2025 MEAC Tournament Championship and advance into the NCAA Tournament.

"With success comes suitors but I'm happy to be a Spartan," Jones said. "Thank you to Dr. J and AD Webb for their continued support. Also, thank you to Spartan Nation for their unwavering desire to keep making this program great. Let's do it again next year! BEHOLD!"

Three of the Spartans' four MEAC Tournament titles have come during Jones head coaching tenure, and the other (2011-12) came while

BCSP Notes

Tennessee State freshman standout leads exodus following Eddie George's departure

Sanders Ellis, who starred as a freshman linebacker at **Tennessee State** in the 2024 season, has transferred to Big Ten member, **Purdue**.

The 6-2, 225-pound Nashville native registered 86 tackles, 15.5 tackles for loss (including 2.5 sacks), while also recovering three fumbles and breaking up two passes. He was a finalist for the **Jerry Rice Award**, given to the top freshman in FCS football. He was also named the 2024 Big South-OVC Football Association defensive freshman of the year. According to *On3's* Pete Nakos, Auburn, Tennessee and Virginia Tech were all major contenders to land Ellis.

Moving forward, Ellis will hope to be a major player for Barry Odom in his first season as the Purdue head coach, as he was hired as the

Jones served as the team's associate head coach. Norfolk State has won five MEAC regular season crowns under Jones, owning a record of 135-45 in league play.

Jones continues to rack up both team and individual accolades. CollegeInsider.com named him a finalist for three prestigious accolades this season - the **Hugh Durham, Ben Jobe, and Skip Prosser Coach of the Year** awards. He also earned MEAC Tournament Most Outstanding Coach honors following the victory over SCSU.

Jones led Norfolk State to its first non-conference postseason championship in the program's Division I history in the 2023-24 season, defeating Purdue Fort Wayne 75-67 in the CollegeInsider.com Tournament (CIT) championship game. **Christian Ings** earned MVP honors for the event, helping the Spartans erase an 18-point deficit in the championship showdown.

Jones has been a frequent finalist for the Hugh Durham Award, winning the accolade in 2022. The Hugh Durham Award is presented annually to the top mid-major coach in college basketball.

Jones has received the MEAC Coach of the Year award three times - 2019, 2022, 2024.

Alabama State's Freeman-Jackson retires

Freda Freeman-Jackson, who won multiple **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) championships and was inducted into the conference's Hall of Fame during a 27-year head coaching career at **Alabama State**, has decided to retire.



Freeman-Jackson

"As I stand here, reflecting on this incredible journey at Alabama State University, my heart is full of gratitude," she said Tuesday when making her announcement. "This program, this university, and this community have been my home, family, and purpose for so many years.

"Hornet Nation, you are one of a kind. Your energy, passion, and unwavering support fueled us every step of the way. This program is what it is because of you."

Freeman-Jackson led the program to 373 wins, three SWAC regular season titles, four conference tournament titles, and three trips to the NCAA tournament. She also led one team to the WNIT.

In 2019, Freeman-Jackson was inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame, joining her husband, **Lewis**, as the only active member still coaching in the conference at the time. Four years later, she was inducted into the Alabama State Athletics Hall of Fame.

Sandy Pugh steps down at Prairie View

Prairie View A&M's seventh year head coach **Sandy Pugh** has announced her resignation.

"As I step into the next chapter of my life, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible journey at Prairie View A&M University," Pugh said in a statement.

"Coaching for over 30 years - the last seven as head coach of the PVAMU Women's Basketball team - has been an honor. Through victories and challenges, the resilience and dedication of this community have shaped me in ways I will forever cherish. To my staff, fellow coaches, and the athletes I've had the privilege to lead, thank you for the camaraderie and unwavering support. The memories we've built together will remain with me always."

Before Prairie View, Pugh spent 18 years at **Southern**, where she led the Jaguars to four SWAC tournament titles and NCAA tournament appearances. Her career record as a coach is 387-339. She was 81-114 in her tenure as Panthers head coach.

A national search for the next Prairie View women's basketball coach will begin immediately, per the university.

Hughley resigns at Alabama A&M

Alabama A&M Athletics Director **Paul A. Bryant** announced last week that **Otis Hughley Jr.**, who has led the Bulldogs' men's basketball program for the past three seasons, has resigned.

During his three-year tenure, Hughley led the Bulldogs to a cumulative record of 37-63 overall and 25-29 in **Southwestern Athletic Conference** play.

Hughley had coaching stints overseas in Nigeria, Chinese Taipei, and Taiwan, as well as experience as an assistant coach with the Sacramento Kings and Golden State Warriors in the NBA. He was hired by Alabama A&M in 2022, bringing a unique blend of international and professional coaching experience to the collegiate level.

Shawn Walker out at Allen; No official word on Montez Robinson at Fort Valley State

Allen University Director of Athletics **Phillip Wallace Jr.** confirmed Tuesday that head men's basketball coach **Shawn Walker** has resigned after two years leading the Yellow Jackets. He had compiled a 6-21 overall record, 2-19 against **SIAC** competition while at Allen.

Walker formerly was head men's coach at **Grambling State** and **Voorhees** and served two stints at **Elizabeth City State**. His resignation was first reported by *Hoop Dirt*.

Hoop Dirt also reported last week that **Fort Valley State** head men's basketball coach **Montez Robinson** would resign. The university said on Tuesday that all questions about Robinson's status should be referred to Athletics Director **Daphnie Johnson** who was unavailable at press time. FVSU was 12-17 overall and 11-10 in SIAC play this season.

Robinson led FVSU for four seasons and had served as an assistant and interim head coach at UT Martin and head coach at **Alcorn State**.

program's 38th full-time head football coach earlier this offseason. Last season was a major disappointment for the proud program, and Odom is hoping to return the Boilermakers to a competitive level.

Ellis hit the portal last month following the departure of TSU head coach **Eddie George** to Bowling Green. George was the Big South/OVC Coach of the Year in 2024. Sanders was one of several players to leave the program following George's departure, including George's son junior defensive lineman **Eriq George**, a second team all-Big South/OVC selectee.

Others in the transfer portal include prolific redshirt junior wide receiver **Karate Brenson**, a second team all-Big South/OVC selection, senior running back **Jaden McGill**, junior tight end **Gerard Bullock**, redshirt junior wide receiver **Bryant Williams**, tight end **Adam Damante**, senior defensive lineman **Jalen Bell**, redshirt senior safety **Tyler Jones**, redshirt freshman cornerback **Syncere Safeullah** and redshirt senior safety **Tyler Jones**